

INDONESIAUp to eight university students in custody

Syaiful, student
Andi Sultan, student
Adnan, student

Up to eight university students are currently believed to be in military detention in Ujung Pandang, on the island of Sulawesi, following riots there in recent days. Given the risk of torture facing individuals in military detention, Amnesty International fears for the safety of any still held. The organization is also seriously concerned by allegations that three students have been killed during the protests, possibly as a result of beatings and ill-treatment. The protests were continuing on 25 April.

Protests, sparked by a rise in public transport fares, broke out in Ujung Pandang on 22 April. The protests, involving mainly university students, led to clashes between the local military and thousands of students. Casualties were reported among both the students and the security forces. On 24 April, the military entered four university campuses in Ujung Pandang in a bid to quell the protests. In the confrontations which followed, military vehicles were set alight and 212 students and members of the security forces were believed to have been wounded.

It is not clear precisely how many individuals were detained or how many are still held, although local human rights lawyers have reported that up to 70 people were originally taken into custody. Reuters news agency quoted a military spokesperson as saying that the military did not arrest anyone, but another military spokesman, quoted in an Indonesian newspaper, admitted that four were detained following the protests. Independent lawyers believe that eight may still be being held at the District Military Command (KODIM) in Ujung Pandang. It does not appear that they have yet had access to independent legal counsel, heightening concern for their safety.

There have been reports that the military used excessive force in their handling of the protests. Students have alleged that soldiers originally fired warning shots but that following this, shots were fired at the demonstrators. It is thought that some of the students wounded in the riots have bullet wounds. It is also believed that three, possibly four, people are dead as a result of the protests, including Syaiful, Andi Sultan and Adnan. The military have admitted that one student, who AI believes to be Andi Sultan, drowned after allegedly attempting to flee police custody. Independent eyewitnesses, who saw his body, allege that it showed signs of ill-treatment. A lawyer from the Legal Aid Institute, quoted in *Agence France Presse*, has stated that witnesses claim to have seen Andi Sultan being beaten in the head with rifle butts by soldiers before he died. The bodies of two other students, reportedly found in a canal, are also alleged to show signs of beating and ill-treatment, including head wounds.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members of the Indonesian Armed Forces frequently use excessive force in dealing with both violent and peaceful protests. Individuals engaged in protests and demonstrations have been subjected to beatings, and in some cases shot and killed by members of the armed forces. Those who have been detained following

their alleged involvement in protests have reported beatings and torture in detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:

- urging that any individual still detained for their alleged role in the protests in Ujung Pandang be provided with prompt access to independent legal counsel and be informed of any charges against them;
- seeking assurances that all detainees are being treated humanely;
- calling for a prompt and impartial inquiry concerning the deaths of the three students and the reported excessive use of force;

if possible, also:

- call on the authorities to ensure that strict guidelines on the use of lethal force, in accordance with international standards, are adhered to by the security forces, who should be informed that perpetrators of any human rights violations will be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI)
General Feisal Tanjung
Panglima ABRI
Markas Besar ABRI
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

Telegrams: Panglima ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear General Tanjung

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION VII/WIRABUANA (covers Sulawesi)
Maj. Gen. Soelatin
Pangdam VII/Wirabuana
Markas Besar KODAM VII/Wirabuana
Ujung Pandang
Sulawesi, Indonesia

Telegrams: Pangdam VII, Ujung Pandang, Sulawesi, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Maj. Gen. Soelatin

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ali Alatas S.H.
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6
Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes: +62 21360 517 / 380 5511 / 345 7782

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 May 1996.