

UA 240/02

Fear for

**INDONESIA** Zulkarnain Ismail (m) aged 19, fisherman  
Abdul Muthaleb Abdullah (m) aged 25, fisherman

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Zulkarnain Ismail and Abdul Muthaleb Abdullah were arrested in the early hours of 25 July by military and police in Pidie District, Aceh Province. They are being detained at Mereudu Police Sector, (Polsek Mereudu), where both have reportedly been tortured.

The two men were arrested by troops from the Siliwangi Military Command and members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob), from the village of Rehng Krueng in Mereudu Sub-district, Pidie, Aceh. They were arrested on suspicion of being members of the armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Both are believed to have been beaten and one is said to be suffering from head injuries as a result. They do not have access to lawyers.

Members of human rights organizations in Pidie investigating this and other cases of human rights violations in the district have themselves been subjected to intimidation and harassment. The home of one human rights defender was raided by troops from Siliwangi Command and police from Polsek Mereudu on 29 July. Another human rights activist, Zikrillah, is detained in Polsek Mereudu (see UA 224/02, ASA 21/025/2002, 22 July 02).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and detention without charge, are continuing in Aceh where military and police operations are being carried out against the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Local human rights groups have reported that at least 1,500 people were killed as a result of these operations during 2001. Many of those killed are believed to be civilians.

Anyone detained by the police or the military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. Human rights defenders have been the target of human rights violations. At least nine are thought to have been unlawfully killed since 1999; others have been unlawfully detained and tortured. As with most other human rights cases in Aceh, no investigations have taken place and perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:**

- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that Zulkarnain Ismail and Abdul Muthaleb Abdullah are not subjected to torture or other human rights violations, and to ensure that they have access to lawyers, medical assistance and members of their families;
- calling on the authorities to charge the two with a recognizable criminal offence or release them;
- urging the authorities to investigate allegations that the two men have been tortured in police custody and make the results of the investigation public;
- reminding the authorities of their obligation to protect human rights defenders in carrying out their legitimate, peaceful activities.

**APPEALS TO:**

Resort Police Chief - Pidie

Heru Budi Ersanto

Kapolres Aceh Pidie

Markas Polres Resort Aceh Pidie

Jl Chik Ditiro

Sigli, Pidie

Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Indonesia

**Telegram: Kapolres Pidie, Sigli, Pidia, NAD, Indonesia**

**Fax:+ 62 653 22655 (if someone answers, ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

National Police Chief

Gen. D'ai Bachtiar

Kapolri

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

~~Jl~~

Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

**Telegram: Kapolri, Markas Besar Kepolisian RI, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Fax:+ 62 21 7201402**

**Salutation: Dear General**

**COPIES TO:**

Coordinating Minister For Politics And Security

Lt Gen (rtd) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15

Jakarta Pusat 10110

Indonesia

**Fax: + 62 21 345 0918/344 1751 (Please keep trying this number. If someone answers, ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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 10 September 2002.