

UA 257/02

Fear for**INDONESIA Abdullah Ahmad (m), aged 55**

Amnesty International has just learnt that Abdullah Ahmad has been held in military detention in Aceh Province without access to family or lawyers since July 2001. Torture and ill-treatment is widespread in military detention in Aceh and there are serious concerns for his safety.

Abdullah Ahmad was arrested at his home in Teulaga Meuku I village, Bendahara Sub-district, East Aceh District, by members of the Infantry Battalion 111 (Yonif 111) on 17 July 2001. They searched his house and detained him and four of his relatives. The four were released two days later, but Abdullah Ahmad is still being held at the Yonif 111 military post in Tualang Cut village, Banyak Payed Sub-district, East Aceh District.

Abdullah Ahmad is accused of being a member of the armed opposition movement, Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM). AI does not know if the allegation is true, but is concerned that regardless of his involvement in GAM or not, he is being held illegally by the military which does not have authority to arrest or detain people.

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. Reliable figures are not available for this year, but it is thought that unlawful killings of civilians by both the Indonesian security forces and GAM are taking place on a similar, if not higher, scale.

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 provide guarantees for Abdullah Ahmad's safety, including that he is not subjected to torture or other human rights violations;
- calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Abdullah Ahmad unless he is to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence, in which case he should be transferred to police custody;
- urging that he is given immediate access to his family, lawyers and medical attention.

APPEALS TO:

Commander, Kodam / Iskander Muda
Maj. Gen. M Djali Yusuf
Pangdam/ Iskander Muda
Markas Besar
Jl. Ahmad Yani
Simpang Lima

Banda Aceh
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam
Indonesia

Telegrams: Pangdam Iskander Muda, Banda Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 651 27063 (if someone answers ask for the fax, "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Major General

COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES

Lt. Gen. Endriartono Sutarto
Markas Besar TNI
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Telegrams: Panglima TNI, Markas Besar TNI, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 356404/62 21 4584 6165/62 21 520 1636

Salutation: Dear Lt. 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 (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 1 October 2002.