

UA 175/01

Fear for

**INDONESIA** Indra P Keumala (alias Iin) [m], aged 21  
**Happy (alias Lalok) [m], aged 22**

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Two human rights activists have been detained by the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) in Southeast Aceh District, Aceh Province. Amnesty International believes they are at serious risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Indra P Keumala and Happy, together with two colleagues, were stopped by the police on 17 July as they were returning from Central Aceh where they had been investigating serious allegations of human rights abuses. The police searched Indra P. Keumala, confiscated his research information and took him to the Rikit Gaib Police Sector (Polsek) in Southeast Aceh District.

Happy and one of the other members of the group immediately went to the Polsek to inquire about Indra P Keumala. They were detained, and all three were brought to the nearby Police Mobile Brigade post in Ampa Kolak for further investigation. The third person was released later the same day, but Indra P Keumala and Happy continue to be detained at the Ampa Kolak Brimob post.

Indra P Keumala volunteers with the Aceh branch of the *Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence* (Kontras), a non-governmental human rights organization. Happy is a member of the *People's Crisis Center* (PCC), an Aceh-based volunteer organization, which distributes aid and monitors human rights violations.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Serious human rights violations, including unlawful killings, torture and arbitrary arrests, are continuing in Aceh during military and police operations against the armed opposition group, the *Free Aceh Movement (Gerakan Aceh Merdeka, GAM)*. New military operations began in May 2001, and hundreds of extra troops have been sent to the province. Local human rights groups estimate that over 1,000 people - many of them civilians - have been killed in the conflict so far this year. Anyone detained by the police or military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture or other human rights violations.

In recent weeks, there have been reports of serious human rights abuses in Central Aceh. Over 100 people are believed to have been killed there in the last month alone. Thousands of others have reportedly been forced to flee their homes. There are unconfirmed reports that militia groups have been established in the region to defend Javanese migrants who have come under threat from GAM.

The level of threats and intimidation directed against human rights defenders in Aceh has intensified in recent months. Several activists have had to leave the province for their own safety. These include members of *Kontras* who have been accused of kidnap by the police for their role in assisting five women who claimed to have been raped by Brimob officers in South Aceh. The truth of these allegations remains unclear. Amnesty International is concerned that the police accusations against the activists linked to this case are intended primarily to intimidate them and discourage them from continuing with their human rights work.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that Indra P Keumala and Happy will not be tortured or subjected to other human rights violations;
- asking the authorities why the two have been detained and calling for their immediate release, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that they are given immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR ACEH  
Senior Commissioner Ramli Darwis  
Kapolda Aceh  
Cut Meutia No.3  
Banda Aceh  
Aceh  
Indonesia

**Telegram: Senior Commissioner Ramli Darwis, Cut Meutia No.3, Banda Aceh, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 651 26689 / 22488 / 46864**

**Salutation: Dear Senior Commissioner**

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF  
Kapolri  
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI  
Jl. Trunojoyo 3  
Kebayoran Baru  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: National Police Chief, Jl. Trunojoyo 3, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 21 7201402**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security  
Lt.Gen. Agum Gumelar  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.15  
Jakarta Pusat 10110  
Indonesia

**Fax: + 62 345 1064 / 345 0918 / 344 1751**

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 29 August 2001.