

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/031/2003

UA 197/03

Fear of torture

08 July 2003

INDONESIA

**Gustaf Ayomi (m)
John Hilipok (m)
Welmus Asso (m)
Elias Asso (m)**

Killed:

Iyut Heselo (m)

The four men named above, were arrested during a pro-independence ceremony on 7 July in the town of Wamena, Jayawijaya District, Papua province. One man, Iyut Heselo, was killed whilst Welmus Asso and Elias Asso were shot and are now in the local hospital.

Gustaf Ayomi and John Hilipok were arrested and taken to the Wamena Police Resort (Polres). They have not had access to lawyers and their families are said to be too frightened to visit them. They are also believed to be at risk of torture or ill-treatment, which is commonplace in police custody in Indonesia.

The men had been participating in the pro-independence ceremony at around 3am outside the local parliament building at which the Morning Star flag – a symbol of support for Papuan independence – was raised. A police patrol is reported to have arrived and tried to break up the ceremony. According to the police version of events they opened fire after the demonstrators attacked them.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, “disappearances”, torture and ill-treatment and arbitrary detentions, have taken place for many years in Papua Province (formerly known as Irian Jaya) in the context of an independence struggle.

There have been a number of violent incidents in Wamena in the recent past. In October 2000, a series of raids by the police on command posts which had been established as centres for political discussion and where Morning Star flags were being flown resulted in the death of one person and arrest of over 80 people. Revenge attacks by locals on non-Papuan residents of Wamena resulted in the deaths of some 24 people, while around a dozen Papuans were killed when security forces opened fire on the crowds. Many of those arrested were subjected to torture, and one person died as a result. Twenty-two Papuans were brought to trial and sentenced to terms of imprisonment in relation to the violence. Amnesty International believed many of them to have been prisoners of conscience. A joint police and military operation has been underway in the area since 4 April 2003, when a group of people broke into the local District Military Command (Kodim), killing two soldiers and stealing weapons and ammunition. At least 30 people were arrested one of whom died in custody reportedly as a result of torture.

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 that Gustaf Ayomi, John Hilipok, Welmus Asso and Elias Asso will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the four men have access to lawyers of their own choosing, to adequate medical treatment and to members of their families;

- urging the authorities to charge the four men with a recognizably criminal offence without delay or to release them;
- calling upon the authorities to initiate an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the police shooting and killing of Iyut Heselo and injuring of Welmus Asso and Elias Asso.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police - Kapolda Papua

Insp. Gen. Budi Utomo

Head of Regional Police Papua

Jl. Sam Ratulangi No. 8

Jayapura, Papua

Indonesia

Telegram: Kapolda, Papua, Indonesia

Fax: +62 967 531717 (if someone answers, please ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

National Police Chief

General D'ai Bachtiar

Kapolri

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

Jl. Trunojoyo 3

Kebayoran Baru

Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

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

Fax: +62 21 7201402

Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO:

The Chairman

National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM)

Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara

Jl Latuharhary No. 4B

Menteng

Jakarta Pusat 10310

Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 3925227

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 19 August 2003.