

UA 178/01

Fear for**INDONESIA** Yohanes Bonay, human rights defender

Yohanes Bonay, the Director of the Institute for Human Rights Study and Advocacy (Elsham) in Papua (Irian Jaya), received two death threats by telephone on 18 July. In a climate of increased reports of threats and intimidation against human rights activists in the province, Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

Yohanes Bonay received one of the calls as he was working in his office in Jayapura. The caller threatened: "You listen carefully Mr Bonay, you haven't got long to live". Earlier the same day someone identifying himself as Marthen telephoned Yohanes Bonay's home saying: "Tell Mr Bonay that he is looking for death" and "Tell Mr Bonay that sooner or later he is going to die".

Elsham is one of the most prominent human rights non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Papua. In December 2000, Yohanes Bonay was summoned for questioning by police because Elsham had publicised the deaths of students at the hands of the police. He was released without charge after 24 hours.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since late last year the Indonesian authorities have taken an increasingly hardline stance against pro-independence activities in Papua. The level of human rights violations in the province has escalated, with peaceful as well as armed independence supporters being killed unlawfully, or facing 'disappearance', torture and arbitrary detention.

Amnesty International has received reports of intimidation and threats against other human rights defenders in Papua. Elsham monitors based in the town of Fak Fak have been harassed and intimidated by members of a pro-integration militia group, while Elsham volunteers in Nabire have been threatened by other unknown armed individuals.

In June 2001 Fredy Sapari, an Elsham staff member based in Nabire, was summoned twice for questioning by the police in connection with his human rights activities. When he complied with the summons, the police reportedly denied having summoned him and told him to forget the matter.

Military operations in a number of districts have made it difficult for human rights activists to carry out their work. In May 2001, human rights defenders were denied access to Wasior Sub-district, Manokwari District, where security forces were reportedly conducting operations against members of an armed pro-independence group (UA ASA 21/018/2001). Access to the area remains restricted.

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

- urging the authorities to take immediate and concrete measures to guarantee the safety of Yohanes Bonay and other human rights defenders in Papua;
- calling on the authorities to carry out an immediate investigation into the origin of the threats directed against Yohanes Bonay and ensure that the perpetrator is brought to justice;

- urging the authorities to ensure that human rights defenders in Papua and other parts of Indonesia can carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of human rights violations, including threats and intimidation.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for Papua

Brig. Gen. Made Mangku Pastika

Head of Regional Police Papua

Jl. Sam Ratulangi No. 8

Jayapura, Irian Jaya

Fax: + 62 967 531717

Telegrams:Police Chief Pastika, Jayapura, Indonesia

Salutation:Dear Brigadier General

National Police Chief

Kapolri

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

Jl. Trunojoyo 3

Kebayoran Baru

Jakarta Selatan

Fax:+ 62 21 7201402

Telegrams:Police Chief, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation:Dear Sir

[Note: the name of the police chief is not included as the post is currently disputed]

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Mahfud

Menteri Kehakiman

Jl. H.R Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7

Kuningan

Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

Fax:+ 62 21 525 3095/310 4149/522 5036

Telegrams:Justice Minister Mahfud, Jakarta, Indonesia

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.