

UA 294/94

Fear of torture / "Disappearance"

10 August 1994

EAST TIMOR

- (1) Francisco Malac
Geronimo Comisari
Geronimo Etnou

 - (2) Abilio da Costa
Ambrosio Tilman
Ana Bela Guterres
Aniceto das Neves
Antonio Fernandes
Antonio Neves
Bartholomeu Carvalho (known as Arnold)
Cipriano Oliveira
Emilia
Francisco Leão
Francisco de Jesus
Jaime Martins
Manuel Sarmento
Osorio Florindo
Tito dos Santos

 - (3) Mateus Afonso

 - (4) Antonio
Florentino
Maya
-

Amnesty International is urgently concerned for the safety of those named above, all of whom were arrested in July 1994. Their current whereabouts are unknown and they are at risk of torture or "disappearance". Amnesty International calls upon the Indonesian Government to clarify their whereabouts immediately and to guarantee their safety.

The three named in (1) above were reportedly arrested on 10 July after they had organized a demonstration during a visit by the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary executions. According to sources in East Timor the three briefly unfurled pro-independence banners as the Rapporteur travelled by and were subsequently arrested and taken away by soldiers. They have not been seen since then.

The 15 people named in (2) above were reportedly arrested after police and military broke up a peaceful student demonstration which started out from the campus of the University of East Timor in Dili on 14 July. Eyewitnesses said that dozens of students were severely beaten by police and military and some were seriously injured. **Mateus Afonso** was reportedly arrested on 23 July after admitting that he was one of the organizers of the 14 July demonstration. Witnesses reported that he was publicly beaten by soldiers over a three-hour period, after which he was taken away. Indonesian military authorities have stated that 14 people were held for questioning after the demonstration, but have not released their names or said where they are being held.

Since the demonstration Amnesty International has learned that three others, named in (4) above, may have also "disappeared". They were apparently detained on suspicion of having spoken with foreign journalists and they are reportedly

being held in a secret military detention centre in Becora (East Dili).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The arrest and possible "disappearance" of the 22 East Timorese are consistent with a long-standing pattern of human rights violations against real or alleged political opponents of Indonesian rule in East Timor. In the past two years alone, hundreds of East Timorese political suspects have been held by military authorities for periods ranging from a few hours to several days, before being released without charge; others are known to have been held in military custody without trial for several months. Many of those detained are known to have tortured or ill-treated and some have "disappeared". (For a fuller account of the July 1994 events see *East Timor: Protesters beaten, detained, "disappeared"* (ASA 21/34/94, August 1994).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in Indonesian or in your own language:

- expressing urgent concern for the safety of all those named above (where possible please list names and give dates of arrest);
- urging the government to act immediately to protect them from torture or ill-treatment and to clarify their whereabouts;
- calling upon the government to permit all political detainees to have immediate access to legal counsel of their own choosing;
- urging the government to release immediately all those held for their non-violent political activities.

APPEALS TO:

1. MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX

- covers Bali, Lombok and Nusa Tenggara including East Timor

Brigadier-General R. Adang Ruchiatna

Pangdam IX/Udayana

Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana

Denpasar

Bali, Indonesia

Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Brigadier-General Adang Ruchiatna

2. COMMANDER RESORT MILITARY COMMAND (KOREM) 164 (East Timor)

Colonel Johny Lumintang

Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma

Dili

East Timor

(Indonesia)

Telegrams: KOREM 164, DILI EAST TIMOR (INDONESIA)

Salutation: Dear Colonel Lumintang

3. MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.

Menteri Kehakiman

Jl. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7

Kuningan

Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

Faxes: +62 21 3141 625

Telexes: 44404 ditjenim ia

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister Utoyo Usman

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Lt. Gen. (Ret) Ali Said
Chairman, National Commission on Human Rights
c/o Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan
Jl. Veteran No. 11
Jakarta Pusat
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 21 September 1994.