

PUBLIC

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Fear of t

INDONESIA Saifullah AR (45)

Julianda (22)

Fisherman Saifullah AR was arrested with Julianda during a joint police and army operation to capture suspected armed opposition group members in East Aceh. Amnesty International is concerned that the two are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The two men were arrested early in the morning of 4 September, when soldiers and Police Mobile Brigade (*Brigade Mobil - Brimob*) officers searched their home village of Keude Blang for members of the armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka - GAM*). They were taken from the village, in Idie Rayeuk Sub-district, East Aceh District, to the Idie Rayeuk police command (*polisi sektor - polsek*).

Torture or ill-treatment of detainees is routine in both police and military custody in Aceh. Access to lawyers is also frequently denied. It is not known whether Saifullah and Julianda have yet been visited by lawyers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Indonesian government and GAM began a three-month suspension of armed operations in Aceh on 2 June, known as the "humanitarian pause", to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered in the province. This has now been extended in principle, and the two sides are now negotiating the exact terms of the extension.

At first this agreement appeared to have had a positive impact on the human rights situation in Aceh. However, both sides have continued to commit human rights violations since the agreement came into effect and, in the last few weeks, local NGOs report that the situation has deteriorated again.

Extrajudicial executions continue, some during police and military operations to find members of GAM. Arbitrary arrests, torture and "disappearances" also continue to be reported. In recent weeks human rights defenders have also reported an increase in threats against them.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to ensure that Saifullah AR and Julianda are not tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to allow both men access to independent legal counsel, medical attention and their families;
- urging that they be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or else immediately released.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR ACEH
Col. Sumantyan Hadidojo Soedardjo
Kapolda Aceh
Jl Cut Meutia No 3
Banda
Aceh

2

Telegrams: Kapolda Aceh, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 651 26689

Salutation: Dear Colonel Soedardjo

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

Gen. Rusdihardjo

Kapolri

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

Jl. Trunojoyo 3

Kebayoran Baru

Jakarta Selatan

Fax: + 62 21 720 7277

Salutation: Dear General Rusdihardjo

COPIES TO:

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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 17 October 2000.