

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/43/95

UA 207/95

Fear of imminent execution / Legal concern 23 August 1995

INDONESIA Seven unnamed prisoners

Two long-term political prisoners are among seven people who face imminent execution in Indonesia, according to Minister of Justice Haiji Utoyo Usman.

Responding to questions from reporters on 17 August 1995, the Minister refused to reveal the names of the seven or when their executions are due to take place, but said that three are detained in Surabaya and four, including two political prisoners, are in Cipinang prison, Jakarta.

On 22 August, the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Alatas, publicly denied that any executions would take place in the immediate future and that the Minister of Justice's statement had simply been misinterpreted. Utoyo Usman also qualified his earlier statement that the executions would take place soon, but did not deny that they would be carried out. "No order for execution has yet been issued for the execution of the two political prisoners... What is certain is that the execution order will be issued at the earliest two or three days before the date of execution..." he said.

Informed sources say that the two political prisoners are Bungkus and Nataneal Marsudi. They are among a group of five prisoners sentenced to death for their alleged involvement in the abortive 1965 coup who are still detained. Four of them are in Cipinang prison. All five were convicted after unfair trials and have been in detention for up to 30 years. Bungkus was informed at the beginning of July 1995 that his appeal for presidential clemency had been turned down, thereby removing the last legal obstacle before execution. It is believed that Marsudi's appeal for clemency was also rejected recently. The identities of the other two prisoners in Cipinang who are due to be executed are not known.

The three prisoners referred to by the Minister as being in Surabaya are believed to be Djais Adi Prayitno, Nyonya Sumiarsih and Sugeng who were sentenced to death in 1988 for the murder of a family of five. Sugeng is being held in isolation in prison on the island of Nusa Kambangan, East Java (see EXTRA 89/95, ASA 21/38/95, 4 August 1995, and follow-up ASA 21/40/95, 16 August).

Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It is particularly concerned that the prolonged detention of some of the seven prisoners due to be executed has increased their suffering and greatly exacerbated the cruelty of the punishment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fear for prisoners on death row in Indonesia has been greatly heightened by the fact that three people - Kacong Laranu, Chan Ting Chong and Karta Cahyadi (alias Yonki) - have already been executed in 1995. Prior to this there had been no executions in Indonesia since 1992. The last executions of political prisoners took place on 16 February 1990 when four men accused of involvement in the 1 October 1965 coup attempt were executed.

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

- seeking clarification of the names of the seven prisoners who the Minister of Justice has said will be executed;

- appealing to President Suharto to commute the death sentence of all seven prisoners and of any prisoner sentenced to death in Indonesia;
- expressing serious concern that the two political prisoners mentioned by the Minister are believed to be among those who were convicted after unfair trials, and as such their executions would be summary and arbitrary;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; expressing particular concern that in the case of the two political prisoners, this cruelty has been greatly exacerbated by their prolonged detention.

APPEALS TO:

President

President Suharto
Istana Negara, Jl. Veteran
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Telegrams: President Suharto, Jakarta, Indonesia

Faxes: +622 1 345 0517 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs) or + 622 1 360157

Salutation: Dear President Suharto

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice

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Director General of Corrections

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COPIES 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 12 October 1995.