

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Imminent arrest as prisoner of conscience**

**6 October 1994**

**INDONESIA**

**Dr George Aditjondro, academic**

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Dr George Aditjondro, a prominent Indonesian academic at Satya Wacana University in Salatiga, Central Java, faces imminent arrest for his peaceful academic and political activities. On 5 October 1994 police authorities issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of insulting a government official. If detained, Dr Aditjondro would be a prisoner of conscience.

The arrest warrant, which requires Dr Aditjondro to report to Yogyakarta police at 10am on 8 October, was delivered to his wife in Salatiga on 5 October. According to the warrant, Dr Aditjondro is suspected of violating Article 207 of the Indonesian Criminal Code which states that it is a criminal offence for any person to insult a government official or institution, either orally or in writing. If convicted under this article, Dr Aditjondro faces a maximum imprisonment of 18 months.

The pretext for the charge of insulting a government official appears to arise from comments made by Dr Aditjondro during a panel discussion at the Islamic University of Indonesia in Yogyakarta in August. During that discussion, Dr Aditjondro, among others, commented on the question of the Presidential succession. This would explain why the arrest warrant has been issued by the police in Yogyakarta, and why it refers to a police report dated 31 August.

However, Amnesty International believes that the arrest may be an attempt to punish Dr Aditjondro for his past criticism of government policy relating to human rights and environmental concerns in Indonesia and East Timor and, further, that it may be intended to prevent him from taking part in peaceful activities prior to and during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings which will be held in Jakarta in mid-November.

Dr Aditjondro has been subjected to intimidation in the past for his criticism of the Indonesian Government. In March 1994, he received publicity in Australia and Indonesia for research he conducted on human rights and environmental concerns in East Timor. In the following days his house in Salatiga was stoned and he was questioned by local military authorities.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The imminent arrest of Dr George Aditjondro is symptomatic of a marked escalation in official harassment and intimidation of alleged government critics in recent months. These measures have included prevention or breaking up of meetings and seminars, the arbitrary arrest of human rights activists, and the torture or ill-treatment of some political detainees. Amnesty International believes that the use of these measures has increased in preparation for the APEC meetings in November, which will attract considerable international and domestic media coverage. Many non-government organisations are believed to be stepping up their peaceful protests prior to the APEC meetings. It is understood that some will attempt to raise human rights and environmental concerns with high level participants at the meetings, including United States President Bill Clinton.

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

- expressing concern that Dr George Aditjondro is in imminent danger of arrest for the peaceful expression of his views;
- urging that the charges against Dr Aditjondro be immediately and unconditionally dropped;
- expressing concern about the current level of intimidation and harassment of alleged government critics, including academics, lawyers, journalists and human rights activists.

#### **APPEALS TO**

##### 1. Minister of State

Drs Moerdiono  
Menteri Negara  
Jl Veteran No 17  
Jakarta  
Indonesia

**Faxes: (c/o Foreign Ministry) + 62 21 36 0517 or 7781 or 7782**

**Telegrams: Menteri Negara, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Minister Moerdiono**

##### 2. Military Commander Region IV/Diponegoro

Brig Gen Soerjadi  
Pangdam IV/Diponegoro  
Markas Besar KODAM IV Diponegoro  
Semarang  
Jawa Tengah  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: Pangdam IV/Doponegoro, Jawa Tengah, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Brig Gen Soerjadi**

##### 3. Chief of Police for Yogyakarta

Gen (Pol) Drs Madra S Banurusman  
Kapolda Yogyakarta  
Markas Besar Kepolisian DIY  
Yogyakarta  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: Kapolda Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Gen (Pol) Banurusman**

#### **COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

##### 1. Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ali Alatas SH  
Menteri Luar Negeri  
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6  
Jakarta  
Indonesia

**Faxes: (62 21) 36 0517 or 7781 or 7782**

##### 2. National Commission on Human Rights

Ali Said SH  
Ketua Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia  
Jalan Veteran No 11  
Jakarta  
Indonesia

**Faxes: (c/o Ministry of Justice) + 62 21 314 1625**

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 November 1994.