

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/051/2004

24 November 2004

UA 321/04

Fear for safety/intimidation

INDONESIA

Suciwati (f)  
Activists with the human rights organisation Imparsial

---

Death threats have been sent to Suciwati, whose husband, human rights defender Munir, was poisoned in September, and to the human rights organisation he headed, *Imparsial*. Amnesty International believes the lives of Suciwati and the staff of *Imparsial* could be in danger. It is vital that the Indonesian government takes concrete measures to guarantee their safety immediately.

On 20 November, a decapitated and dismembered chicken was sent to Suciwati at her family home, with a note warning, "Be careful!!!! Do not connect the TNI [Indonesian military] to the death of Munir. Do you want to end up like this?" On 23 November, an identical package was sent to the office of Imparsial, addressed to Suciwati. The source of threats is unknown.

Munir, 38, died on a flight from Singapore to the Netherlands on 7 September. The results of a Dutch autopsy, released on 11 November, revealed that he had died from arsenic poisoning. In light of this, the threats sent to Suciwati and Imparsial are particularly concerning.

Indonesian police have started an investigation into Munir's death. The investigation will be undermined if potential witnesses are too frightened to come forward. There is no effective witness protection program in Indonesia at present.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Munir was one of Indonesia's most prominent human rights campaigners. During the last months of the Suharto government in 1998, he took up the cause of dozens of activists who had "disappeared", and co-founded an NGO, the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (Kontras). He was also involved in investigations into human rights violations in Timor-Leste in 1999. At the time of his death, he was the head of Imparsial, which carries out investigations and monitoring of human rights violations, lobbying and human rights education.

Munir received numerous threats as a result of his human rights work. In August 2003, a bomb exploded outside his home in Jakarta. In 2002 and 2003, the Kontras office where he worked was attacked by a mob, who destroyed office equipment and took files containing information about ongoing human rights investigations.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Suciwati and the staff of Imparsial, and urging the government to take immediate, concrete measures to guarantee their safety;
- calling on the government to investigate the threats and intimidation against Suciwati and the staff of Imparsial, and to take immediate and appropriate action against those responsible;
- urging the government to establish a witness and victim protection program, to guarantee the safety of those giving evidence, and to ensure the credibility of the investigation into Munir's death;
- calling on the government to ensure that all police officers are made aware of the legitimate role of human rights defenders and their responsibility to protect human rights defenders under the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

**APPEALS TO: (Fax numbers may be difficult to get through to. Please keep trying)**

President

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono  
President RI  
Istana Merdeka  
Jakarta 10110  
Indonesia

**Fax:** +62 21 345 2685  
+62 21 526 8726  
+62 21 345 7782

**Salutation:** Dear President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

National Police Chief

Gen. Da'i Bachtiar  
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI  
Jl. Trunojoyo 3  
Kebayoran Baru,  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Fax:** +62 21 720 1402

**Salutation:** Dear General

**COPIES TO:**

Chairman, Komnas HAM

Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara  
Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia  
Jl Latuharhary No. 4B  
Menteng  
Jakarta Pusat 10310  
Indonesia

**Fax:** +62 21 392 5227

**Salutation:** Dear Chairman

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 5 January 2005.