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Fear of t

INDONESIAM Yusuf (40), Human rights activist

A human rights activist believed to be in police detention in Aceh is at serious risk of torture.

M Yusuf was detained by the Indonesian security forces at around 11.30am on 1 November during a stop and search operation near Bagok, Nurussalam Sub-district, East Aceh. He is thought to be held at Nurussalam Police Sector (Polsek). A representative at East Aceh Police Resort (Polres) told local human rights monitors that there is no record of the arrest.

M Yusuf is helping to organize the People's Congress for Victims of Human Rights Violations in Aceh, which is due to take place in Banda Aceh, the provincial capital, from 4-6 November. He was reportedly detained because he was carrying documents relating to the conference.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There has been opposition to Indonesian rule in Aceh for many years, including by the armed opposition group *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), the Free Aceh Movement. The security forces have perpetrated gross human rights violations in the last decade in the context of operations against GAM. GAM is also responsible for human rights abuses.

On 2 June the Indonesian government and GAM agreed to suspend armed operations for three months to allow humanitarian aid to be distributed in Aceh. The agreement was recently extended to 15 January 2001.

At first the agreement appeared to have 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. The situation has deteriorated since the middle of August, and extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, torture and "disappearances" are widespread.

Human rights activists are often subjected to human rights violations, and in recent months human rights and political activists have reported an increase in the level of intimidation they experience. During this period of time, Amnesty International has recorded a number of instances in which activists have been arbitrarily detained, tortured or killed.

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

- asking the authorities to guarantee that M Yusuf will not be tortured;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release, unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence, and urging that he is given prompt access to independent legal representation, members of his family and medical attention;
- urging the authorities to ensure that human rights monitors have full, secure and unimpeded access to all areas of Aceh.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR ACEH
Brig. Gen. Chaerul R. Rasyidi

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Kapolda Aceh
Jl Cut Meutia No 3
Banda
Aceh
Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Brigidiar General
Fax: + 62 651 26689

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF
Commissioner-General Bimantoro
(Acting Police Chief)
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 3
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Salutation: Dear General
Fax: + 62 21 720 7277

COPIES TO:

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Dr Alwi Abdurrahman Shihab
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Pejambon No.6
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 3805511/360517/363750/3457782/360541/7245354

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 13 December 2000.