

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/64/95

EXTRA 157/95 Arbitrary detention / Fear of torture /
Fear for safety

7 December 1995

INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR Martinho Pereira and 12 others in East Timor

Up to 20 protesters at the French and Thai Embassies in Jakarta

In separate incidents over recent days, some 30 individuals associated with East Timor are reported to have been taken into custody by the Indonesian authorities.

Given that opponents of Indonesian rule in East Timor and those seeking to publicise the human rights situation there are at risk of torture, there is serious concern for the safety of all those in detention.

On 4 December, former political prisoner Martinho Pereira, who is East Timorese, was arrested by military personnel on his way to Jakarta, after arriving in Surabaya, East Java, by boat. He was returning from a visit to Dili, East Timor's capital. His exact whereabouts are unclear; his family have not been allowed to visit him; and he is not known to have had access to a lawyer. Amnesty International is gravely concerned that he may be tortured or ill-treated in an attempt to force him to disclose details of his activities.

Twelve other East Timorese are also reported to have been arrested in connection with the visit to East Timor by the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights. No further details are available on the 12, but Amnesty International is concerned for their safety, in view of the fact that those who seek to draw international attention to the situation in East Timor are frequently at risk of arbitrary arrest - and in many cases torture - for engaging in wholly peaceful actions. Activities such as the dissemination of human rights information are seen by the authorities as seeking to tarnish Indonesia's image abroad and are not tolerated by the authorities.

Amnesty International is also concerned for the safety of about 19 individuals, arrested as they were protesting outside the French Embassy in Jakarta and currently being held in police custody. One other person is believed to have been arrested by the military outside the Thai Embassy. In gatherings coinciding with the protests at the French embassy, some 58 and 47 others also remain at the Dutch and Russian embassies respectively. It is believed they are seeking a meeting with Indonesian government representatives, as well as the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, who until late 7 December was in Indonesia. None of the groups is seeking asylum. Amnesty International fears that when they eventually leave the embassies, they may be subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention - and hence be at risk of torture or ill-treatment - for exercising their right to freedom of expression and association as guaranteed under international human rights standards and Indonesia's constitution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since 1975, when Indonesian forces invaded East Timor, Amnesty International has continued to document serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including imprisonment, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. These violations have been directed mainly against opponents of Indonesian rule. Although the organization does not take a position on East Timor's political status, it believes that any political solution or discussion must be informed by a full understanding of the human rights situation in the territory. The organization further

believes that those engaging in peaceful acts of opposition to Indonesian rule should be able to do so in an atmosphere free from the threat of intimidation and arrest.

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

- urging the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of Martinho Pereira and the 12 other East Timorese;
- urging the authorities to clarify the current situation of the 19 arrested at the French embassy in Jakarta;
- seeking assurances that all those detained are being treated humanely in accordance with international standards; that they are being given access to lawyers of their choice; that their relatives are informed of their whereabouts; and that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is allowed regular unrestricted access to their place of detention;
- requesting that, unless they are charged with recognizably criminal offences, they be immediately released;
- seeking assurances that no one will be subjected to arrest simply for engaging in peaceful opposition activities to Indonesian rule in East Timor.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE
Maj. Gen (Pol.) Banurusman Atmosumitro
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 13
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

Telegrams: National Police Chief, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Major General

COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI)
General Feisal Tanjung
Panglima ABRI
Markas Besar ABRI
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

Telegrams: Commander Armed Forces, General Tanjung, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ali Alatas S.H.
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6
Jakarta
Indonesia

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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 10 January 1996.