

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/65/99

EXTRA 92/99

Possible "disappearance" / Fear of torture or ill-treatment

INDONESIA Jamaluddin Umar, aged 33, private security guard

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Jamaluddin Umar who has "disappeared" since he was arrested on 20 July 1999 in the province of Aceh, northern Sumatra. He could be at risk of torture, ill-treatment or death.

Jamaluddin Umar, from Meuria Paloh Village, Muara Dua Sub-district, North Aceh, was arrested at PT Arun NGL, a natural liquified gas refinery in Blang Lancang, near the town of Lhokseumawe in North Aceh, where he works as a security guard.

He was arrested by a joint team of soldiers from the Indonesian National Army (TNI) and members of a riot control police unit, the PPRM (*Petugas Penindak Rusuh Massa*). The reason for his arrest is not clear. All the security guards working at the post apparently ran away as the joint security forces team approached except for Jamaluddin Umar.

The following day his family went to the police headquarters in Lhokseumawe but were told that he was not being detained there.

Concerns for his safety are heightened by reports that the body of a young man who "disappeared" after he was arrested on 1 July was found by the roadside in Meurah Mulia Sub-district in North Aceh on 5 July. Nazaruddin, 25, a trader from Blang Ara, Kuta Makmur Sub-district, North Aceh, was arrested by PPRM as he was on his way to his village by motorbike from Lhokseumawe. He was apparently beaten and forced into a PPRM truck. His wife reported his arrest to a PPRM Commander in Lhokseumawe on 3 July.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Serious human rights violations in Aceh, including "disappearances" and unlawful killings, have increased since the end of 1998 in the course of TNI counter-insurgency operations against the armed separatist group, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), Free Aceh Movement. In February 1999 at least seven people were unlawfully killed by the TNI who fired on a march in Idi Cut, East Aceh. On 3 May, human rights monitors claimed that at least 40 people were killed in Krueng Geukueh, Dewantara Sub-District, Aceh Utara District, when the TNI fired on a demonstration. GAM have also been accused of committing human rights abuses.

Dozens of people have been arrested in recent months on suspicion of links to GAM. Suspects detained by the TNI are often denied access to lawyers of their choice and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Under Indonesia's Code of Criminal Procedures, only the police - and not the TNI - have the authority to arrest, detain and investigate suspects.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately establish and make public the whereabouts of Jamaluddin Umar, and to provide guarantees for his safety;
- urging the authorities to ensure that, if he is found to be in custody, he always has regular access to human rights lawyers, his family and to medical professionals, and that he is immediately released if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO (if you are unable to obtain a fax tone for General Wiranto please try later):**

Minister of Defence and Security  
Gen. Wiranto  
Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14  
Jakarta 10110  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: General Wiranto, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Faxes: + 62 21 381 4535 / 384 5178**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Military Commander Region I/Bukit Barisan  
(covers North & West Sumatra and Aceh)  
Major General Abdul Rahman Gaffar  
Pangdam I/Bukit Barisan  
Markas Besar KODAM I  
Medan  
Sumatra Utara  
Indonesia

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 19 August 1999.