

PUBLIC

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Fear for

INDONESIA Marzuki Bin Nurdin (20)

Fajri Bin Hasyim (18)

Zarkasyi Bin Pram (20)

Nurdin Ibrahim (42)

Fachrullah Bin Rusli (22)

Salamuddin Bin Alamsyah (19) - possible death in custody

The six men named above were reportedly arrested by the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) in Aceh Province on 17 November. All are at risk of torture or ill-treatment, and one has reportedly died in custody.

Marzuki Bin Nurdin, Fajri Bin Hasyim and Zarkasyi Bin Pram were reportedly among the thousands who attended a pro-independence rally in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, on 10-11 November. They were apparently arrested shortly after they returned to their homes, in Batee Sub-district, Pidie District, by Brimob and local police. It is not clear why they were arrested. They are believed to be held in Batee Police Sektor (Polsek).

Fachrullah Bin Rusli, Nurdin Ibrahim and Salamuddin Bin Alamsyah, all from Genteng Barat village, Batee Sub-district, were reportedly arrested by Brimob officers. They were taken to Pidie Police Resort (Polres) in Sigli Sub-district, Pidie District. There are unconfirmed reports that Salamuddin Bin Alamsyah has died in custody, but the circumstances are unclear.

According to reports, none of the detainees has been allowed access to lawyers or their families.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious and widespread human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, torture and unlawful killings, are continuing in Aceh as the struggle continues between the Indonesian security forces and the armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM) over Indonesian rule in Aceh. Over recent months, human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and political activists have reported facing increasing intimidation.

The rally in Banda Aceh called for a referendum on independence for the province. However, the security forces blocked people from travelling to the rally, opening fire on convoys of vehicles. There are reports from local NGOs that more than 20 people died, but the final death toll is not confirmed.

In May 2000 the Indonesian authorities and GAM signed an accord under which both agreed to halt offensive operations to allow the distribution of humanitarian aid and prepare the ground for further negotiations on ending the conflict. Known as the Joint Understanding on Humanitarian Pause for Aceh, it came into force on 2 June 2000 for a period of three months and has recently been extended for a further three months until 15 January 2001. The accord is now in jeopardy because of human rights abuses by both sides.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that the detainees named above will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging the authorities to ensure that they are given immediate access to their families, lawyers and medical treatment;
- calling for them to be released immediately and unconditionally, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to launch a prompt, immediate and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the reported death in custody of Salamuddin Bin Alamsyah.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for Aceh
Brig. Gen. Chaerul R. Rasyidi
Kapolda Aceh
Jl Cut Meutia No.3
Banda Aceh
Indonesia
Salutation:Dear Brigadier 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 Commissioner-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 3 January 2001.