

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/76/96

15 November 1996

Further information on UA 198/96 (ASA 21/55/96, 7 August 1996) and follow-ups (ASA 21/58/96, 12 August; ASA 21/59/96, 14 August; ASA 21/61/96, 16 August; ASA 21/62/96, 19 August; ASA 21/64/96, 13 September; ASA 21/65/96, 16 September; ASA 21/66/96, 20 September) - Fear for safety / Possible prisoners of conscience / Torture / Medical concern / Prisoner of conscience

INDONESIA I Gusti Anom Astika
Wilson
Nia Damayanti (f)
Wulan (f) (previously listed as Bulan)
Atok (name not previously known)
Agus (name not previously known)
Budiman Sudjatmiko
Petrus Haryanto
Kendar Kusumandaru (previously listed as Kusmandar)
Benny Sumardi
Garda Sembiring
Ignatius Pranowo
Ignatius Putut Arintoko
Jacobus Kurniawan
Suroso
Victor da Costa

Amnesty International has learnt that five of the above people have been released. The other nine individuals are still in custody and are facing subversion charges.

Nia Damayanti, who was arrested in Surabaya, has been released and is not believed to be facing charges. Amnesty International has learnt that two other men, not one as previously believed, and a woman, Wulan, were arrested with her; Atok and Agus. All four were arrested by the military and held in military custody without being given access to independent lawyers. They are believed to have been held for several days before being released without charge.

Benny Sumardi was released on 21 August. He is believed to be still facing charges for "harbouring criminals", for his alleged role in offering sanctuary to suspected members of the People's Democratic Party (PRD) which has been blamed by the Indonesian Government for instigating riots which broke out in Jakarta on 27 July 1996.

The remaining 11 people, all of whom are accused of involvement with the PRD, I Gusti Anom Astika, Wilson, Budiman Sudjatmiko, Petrus Haryanto, Kendar Kusumandaru, Garda Sembiring, Ignatius Pranowo, Ignatius Putut Arintoko, Jacobus Kurniawan, Suroso and Victor da Costa are all still in custody and are facing charges under Indonesia's Anti-subversion Law. With the exception of Wilson and I Gusti Anom Astika, the others are known to have been held incommunicado in military custody during which they were denied access to independent lawyers. They are all currently being held under the custody of the Attorney-General in Jakarta. Amnesty International remains concerned that those in detention may be prisoners of conscience.

This is for information only. No further action by the UA Network is requested as other parts of the AI membership will be working on the detainees' behalf. Thank you to all who sent appeals on this UA.