

EAST TIMORCesar Dos Santos Martins, student leader

Amnesty International is very concerned for the safety of Cesar Dos Santos Martins who has gone into hiding after hearing that pro-integration militias have issued an order for him to be assassinated.

Cesar Dos Santos Martins, student leader of the Aileu District branch of the *Dewan Solidaritas Mahasiswa Timor Timur* (DSMTT), Student Solidarity Council of East Timor, has been repeatedly threatened and intimidated since he organized a demonstration in Aileu in September 1998. At the time he was believed to be on a list of people at risk of arrest by the Aileu Kodim (District Military Command). His house has also been monitored and visited by militias and the *Tentara Nasional Indonesia* (TNI) Indonesian National Army several times. On one of these visits a letter was left that threatened to kill him and his family.

Students have been particularly vulnerable to human rights violations because of their prominent role in the fight for independence for the region. They have frequently been at the forefront of pro-independence demonstrations and many have been members of underground political groups or groups providing support for the armed opposition group, Falintil.

The DSMTT is a student group which represents and has members from all districts of East Timor. Its' Viqueque office was attacked by militia group 59/75 Juniors on 10 August and again the next day during which two students were killed when the militia opened fire. The DSMTT have said that the police took no action even though their office is only 300 meters from a police station.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", arbitrary arrests, threats and intimidation have continued to take place in East Timor following the vote on 30 August 1999 on whether to accept or reject special autonomy inside Indonesia. The majority of the victims have been those supporting or those perceived to be supporting independence for East Timor.

At least four local staff from the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) have been killed since the ballot. On 30 August, two, possibly three local UNAMET staff were killed when militias attacked them as they prepared to transport ballot boxes from the village of Baboe Leten to Atsabe, Ermera District. Two local UNAMET staff members were also killed on 2 September in Maliana Sub-district, Bobonaro District.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telexes/express/airmail letters in Indonesian, or your own language:

- calling on the authorities to take action to guarantee the safety of Cesar Dos Santos Martins;
- expressing serious concern for the safety of members of the DSMTT;
- requesting that the Indonesian authorities take immediate action to disarm and disband pro-integration militias.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for East Timor
Col. GM Timbul Silaen

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Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili
East Timor
Indonesia
Fax/Tel: + 62 390 321 544
Salutation: Dear Colonel

COPIES TO:

General Wiranto
Panglima TNI
Markas Besar TNI
Jl. Merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 21 36 1471 (Armed forces HQ) / 37 8144 / 35 6404 / 384 5178

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 8 October 1999.