

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/164/99

23 September 1999

Further information on EXTRA 127/99 (ASA 21/140/99, 9 September 1999) and follow-up (ASA 21/151/99 14 September 1999) - Fear for safety

EAST TIMORThe population of East Timor

Amnesty International remains concerned for the security of the entire population of East Timor, and has particular fears for up to 200,000 East Timorese currently in refugee camps in West Timor.

Pro-Indonesian militias are operating with impunity in West Timor, and are searching the refugee camps for independence supporters, human rights defenders, priest and nuns. Amnesty International has received reports that Indonesian soldiers are also involved in these operations. Several independence supporters have been threatened and killed; the fate and whereabouts of scores of others is unknown.

Tens of thousands of East Timorese have been forcibly evacuated to West Timor by the Indonesian army and the pro-Indonesian militias. Access to the camps by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) staff, other humanitarian agencies and independent monitors has been severely limited. Conditions in the camps are precarious, with food and water supplies limited and very little medical care. On 22 September 1999 the Indonesian authorities agreed to allow UNHCR access to the camps, but this has yet to take place.

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

- urging the Indonesian authorities to grant full, secure and unimpeded access to the refugees to UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies;
- asking that all Indonesian soldiers and police in West Timor are under clear instructions to ensure the refugees are protected and not subjected to threats, harassment or physical harm;
- urging the authorities to take immediate steps to disarm and disband the militias;
- requesting that those East Timorese refugees who wish to leave Indonesia are able to do so safely, and that the UNHCR be allowed to facilitate this.

APPEALS TO:

President Jusuf Habibie
Presiden RI
Istana Negara
Jl. Veteran
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Telegrams: President Habibie, Jakarta, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 526 8726 / 380 5511 / 345 7782 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Telex: 44283 BIGRA IA; 44469 DEPLU IA

Salutation: Dear President Habibie

COPIES TO: your own government, asking them to take all possible steps to pressure the Indonesian authorities to implement the recommended actions above.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 October 1999.