

9 April 1998

Further information on EXTRA 23/98 (ASA 28/06/98, 27 March 1998) and follow-up (ASA 28/07/98, 31 March 1998) - Fear of forcible refoulement of Acehese asylum-seekers / Fear of excessive use of force during repatriation of asylum-seekers and immigrants / Medical and health concerns / Incommunicado detention / Fear of torture

**MALAYSIA/INDONESIA**Ishak Daud, member of Acehese Refugee Committee in Malaysia (ARCM)

Iqlil Hyas Leube, ARCM member

Zahizi Tengku Ubaidullah

Musanna Tengku Abdul Wahab

Muhammad Diah Badai

Burhan Syamaun, member of the Aceh/Sumatra National Liberation Front

Syahrul Syamaun

Ali

Effendi

A Qader Hasan

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Four of the above-named Acehese have been released by the Malaysian authorities. Fears remain, however, that they may still be at risk of repatriation to Indonesia.

Iqlil Hyas Leube, Zahizi Tengku Ubaidullah, Musanna Tengku Abdul Wahab and Muhammad Diah Badai detained at Rawang police station in Selangor State, were reportedly released on or around 4 April. Their identity cards, which grant them special permission to remain in Malaysia, have been confiscated though the authorities have assured they will be issued with new ones. They are apparently under instructions to report again to the police and are not believed to have been charged with any offence.

The fate and whereabouts of the remaining six Acehese men, named above, are still unknown.

Concern remains for the safety of at least 500 Acehese who remain in incommunicado detention at Rancung military detention camp in Lhokseumawe, Indonesia, since their arrival in the country. The detainees are still being denied access to human rights lawyers while they undergo a screening process by the military. According to a report in the *Jakarta Post* an Indonesian military source has been quoted as saying that 50 members of the group are believed to have links to the outlawed separatist movement *Aceh Merdeka*.

Amnesty International continues to receive reports of Acehese being treated in Indonesian hospitals for injuries suffered during the deportation. A number are said to have had limbs amputated because of gunshot wounds.

On 30 March the *Jakarta Post* reported that Muladi, the Indonesian Minister of Justice, had stated that the deaths of Indonesians during the deportation operation conducted by the Malaysian authorities on 26 March constituted a "violation of human rights". The Indonesian authorities are known, however, to have collaborated closely with the Malaysian government in preparation for the repatriation and to have sent Indonesian naval vessels to the Malaysian ports to transport the deportees back to Aceh.

**Please continue action as specified in original UA taking into account the latest information. In addition please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language: (To the Malaysian government):**

- urging the authorities not to repatriate any Acehnese with special leave to remain in Malaysia;
- continuing to urge the authorities to clarify the whereabouts of the remaining Acehnese in detention;

**APPEALS TO: (Malaysian government)**

**Please note that fax tones can be difficult to obtain**

Prime Minister  
Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad  
Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs  
Jalan Dato' Onn, 50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
**Faxes: + 60 3 238 3784 / 298 4172**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**APPEALS TO: (Indonesian authorities)**

Commander of the Armed Forces (ABRI)  
General Wiranto, Panglima ABRI  
Markas Besar ABRI, Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13  
Jakarta Timur, Indonesia  
**Telegrams: General Wiranto, Jakarta, Indonesia**  
**Faxes: + 62 21 36 1471 / 37 8144 / 35 6404**  
**Salutation: Dear General Wiranto**

**COPIES TO: (of letters to Malaysian Government only)**

Deputy Prime Minister  
Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
Jalan Dato' Onn, 50502 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**Faxes: + 60 3 230 1051**

and to diplomatic representatives of Malaysia accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 May 1998.