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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **INDONESIA AND EAST TIMOR** (This item is being sent to specialist media by the IS on the day of the launch.)
INDONESIA AND EAST TIMOR (This is an external background paper which can be sent to media with the main news release. It carries the same embargo time).

INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Indonesia - 0400 hrs GMT 28 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 215 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PANEL AT PRESS CONFERENCE LAUNCH

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - 25 October - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

APEC - 3 November -SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

AI INDEX: ASA 21/WU 13/84

EMBARGOED FOR 0400 hrs GMT 28 SEPTEMBER 1994

INDONESIA CAMPAIGN ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING PILOT PROJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GOES ON-LINE

EMBARGOED FOR 0400 hrs GMT 28 SEPTEMBER 1994

As a pilot project, Amnesty International is making the full text of all materials for its current campaign on Indonesia available, free of charge, on global computer networks.

Publications for the Indonesia Campaign, launched today, include a 90-page Report and an eight-page Briefing as well as an archive of all the campaign photos for which the organisation holds copyright. The information is available to computer network users in English, Indonesian, French and Spanish in a variety of different computer formats.

Normally Amnesty International offices around the world charge for the hard copy versions of these materials. One of the aims of the pilot project is to assess the impact of free electronic distribution on sales and campaigning activities. The movement hopes to get an indication of whether hard copy income does actually drop or whether the increased exposure of material on computer networks stimulates sales and increases the effectiveness of the human rights campaign. This electronic publishing pilot project also aims to help the human rights organization to assess the potential that on-line electronic publishing tools offer for campaigning work in the future.

Computer networks, such as the Internet, are notoriously difficult for governments to monitor so Amnesty International will also be studying the impact of making campaign materials easily available in the Indonesian language to computer users inside Indonesia.

The material is available via e-mail, ftp, gopher and WWW on the Internet. These services are available through a Canadian Internet access provider, Internex, that is working in partnership with the Canadian English-speaking Section of Amnesty International on this project. Documents are also available from members of the Association for Progressive Communications (such as GreenNet in England and PeaceNet in the US) and the GeoNet network. Additionally the material is being circulated on Fidonet networks in South East Asia, including the Pactok network.

Computer network users who want to receive electronic copies of the Indonesia Campaign material or to find out more about the electronic publishing pilot project should send an e-mail to amnesty-I-request@io.org with the one line message 'info amnesty-I' (without the quote marks) in the body of the message. ENDS\

News Service 222/94

AI INDEX: ASA 21/WU 14/94

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INDONESIA/EAST TIMOR: MARKED DETERIORATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN RECENT MONTHS

Government intimidation of lawyers, journalists and activists has escalated in Indonesia and East Timor in recent months in the run up to the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) meeting being held in Jakarta in November. Amnesty International found during a research trip to the country last week.

The deterioration in the human rights situation has also affected alleged criminals as the government has resorted to arbitrary killings and the death penalty in an apparent attempt to control rising crime.

During the trip (20 - 25 September), Amnesty International's researcher on Indonesia and East Timor, Dr Geoffrey Robinson, interviewed victims of human rights violations, and also met local human rights lawyers, pro-democracy activists and journalists.

He also visited Medan, North Sumatra, to observe one session of the political trial of the national chairman of the independent trade union SBSI (Indonesian Prosperous Workers Union).

CLIMATE OF INTIMIDATION AND FEAR

In recent months there has been a marked escalation in official harassment and intimidation of alleged government critics, and in particular of human rights activists and members of non-governmental organizations. Despite continuing claims of a commitment to "political openness" and international human rights standards, the government has displayed increasing contempt for basic civil and political rights, including the rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of the press.

1) Freedom of Assembly

Using a law directly inherited from the Dutch colonial era, police and government officials have intervened on numerous occasions to prevent or break up seminars, cultural events and professional meetings. Within the past five weeks alone, the authorities have broken up or prevented: a speech at a university seminar by the director of the leading human rights organization (Indonesian Legal Aid Institute) LBH, Dr Adnan Buyung Nasution (29.8.94); a seminar on land rights organized by the LBH in Jakarta (7.9.94); a poetry reading and a speaking engagement on freedom of expression by the well-known Indonesian poet, Emha Ainun Najib (2.9.94 and 30.8.94); a meeting between an LBH lawyer and a group of workers who are his clients in Malang, East Java (19.8.94); and a discussion of a draft Presidential Decree that would impose severe restrictions on Indonesia's non-governmental organizations (22.9.94).

Where they have referred to the law at all, the authorities have invoked Article 510 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP), which stipulates that any gathering of more than five people requires police permission. Within the past two weeks the LBH has filed a legal suit against the government and armed forces, in which it argues, among other things, that the article is unconstitutional and that its use contradicts government claims about its commitment to political openness.

2) Freedom of the Press

The banning of Indonesia's three leading news magazines - *Tempo*, *Editor*, and *Detik* - in late June has contributed to a deepening climate of fear among journalists and editors, resulting in the widespread practice of self-censorship. Limitations on the freedom of the press have also further restricted the channels available to human rights activists and other peaceful critics of the government to air their views.

The climate of fear has been exacerbated by the heavy-handed response to peaceful protest against the bans. (See Amnesty International document, Indonesia: Free Speech Protestors Detained and Beaten, (ASA 21/27/94), 29 June 1994).

3) Attack on NGOs

A draft Presidential Decree imposing severe restrictions on all domestic non-governmental organizations -- now in its final stages of official approval -- has been denounced by Indonesian NGOs as an unacceptable attempt by the government to restrict their lawful activities.

The draft decree will require all NGOs to adopt the official ideology Pancasila and to report all their activities and financial arrangements to the powerful Ministry of Home Affairs.

The draft decree stipulates the fields of activity which NGOs are permitted to be involved in and explicitly forbids involvement in any political activity. Any NGO which in the government's view does not comply with the provisions of the decree could be disbanded or refused official recognition.

The draft decree was published in February this year, and because it is a Presidential decree rather than a law the opportunity for public debate has been severely restricted.

RECENT INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

1) Pro-democracy activists

Military and police intervention in recent months has led to serious human rights violations, including the arbitrary arrest, torture and ill-treatment of peaceful human rights demonstrators.

During Dr Robinson's trip, he met with three men shortly after their release from military custody, where they had been interrogated and tortured for more than two days.

They were among four men who were arrested on 21 September in Jakarta after releasing balloons bearing pro-democracy messages, such as "Uphold the Rights of Workers", "The 1945 Constitution Guarantees Freedom to Organize", and "Free Mughtar Pakpahan".

The men -- an artist, lawyer, human rights activist, and law student -- were seriously ill-treated while being interrogated about their political activities and beliefs, with the worst treatment meted out at the regional military intelligence headquarters (Bakorstanasda).

There, military officers forced the men to strip to their underwear, beat and kicked them, and administered electric shocks -- both with an electrified baton about two feet long, and through a hand-operated generator from which bare copper wires were attached to the detainees thumbs. Two of them were threatened with execution and another had a pistol held to his head.

The interrogation and torture took place under the supervision -- and in some cases with the direct involvement -- of high ranking military intelligence officers.

2) Labour activists

Violations against labour leaders and workers also continue unabated, as witnessed by Dr Robinson during the trial of trade union leader Mughtar Pakpahan last week.

Dr Pakpahan, the chairman of the independent trade union SBSI, is one of 10 labour activists currently on trial in Medan, North Sumatra accused of "inciting" workers to demonstrate and to strike. Scores of workers have already been sentenced or are awaiting trial for allegedly committing acts of violence during widespread labour unrest in the Medan area in April this year.

Dr Robinson attended the second session of Dr Pakpahan's trial on 21 September, during which he read his initial defence statement before collapsing due to illness. In that statement, Dr Pakpahan said that "what is on trial here are not my actions but my ideas".

After examining the prosecution's charge sheet, and discussing the case with defence lawyers, Dr Robinson confirmed Amnesty International's earlier concern that the allegations against Dr Pakpahan were politically-motivated, even though the charges brought were criminal.

The actions described as "incitement" by the prosecution -- such as urging workers to protest peacefully to demand an increase in the daily minimum wage and calling for official recognition of the SBSI -- are, in principle, guaranteed in Indonesia's Constitution (Article 28), and in ILO (International Labour Organization) conventions to which Indonesia is a party.

Based on this assessment, Amnesty International has concluded that Dr Pakpahan is a prisoner of conscience and is urging his immediate and unconditional release.

The other nine labour activists currently in jail or awaiting trial have been charged with similar offenses. Though Amnesty International has not yet been able to examine their trial documents, it believes that they too may have been held for their non-violent political or labour rights activities.

3) Pro-Independence/Political Activists

Pro-independence activists in East Timor, Aceh and Irian Jaya continue to be subjected to serious human rights abuse, while the military authorities responsible for past abuses have yet to be brought to justice.

During his visit to Indonesia, Dr Robinson gathered evidence indicating that at least six East Timorese had been sentenced to between 20 months and two years in prison for their part in a peaceful pro-independence demonstration in front of a delegation of foreign journalists in April 1994. According to reliable reports, none of the six was accompanied by a lawyer during his trial or while under interrogation.

4) Death penalty

Like some of its ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) neighbours including Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines, the Indonesian government has in recent months begun to use the death penalty with increasing frequency to tackle rising violent crime and drug abuse -- despite evidence that the death penalty does not deter crime.

During the week that Dr Robinson visited Indonesia three people were sentenced to death (two of them Thai and one an Indian national) while at least four others (one a Thai and another a Malaysian) have recently had their appeals for Presidential clemency rejected. This means they could be executed at any time.

Human rights lawyers in Indonesia have expressed concern that those sentenced to death may have had unfair trials -- and that they may in fact not be guilty of the crimes for which they were convicted.

6) "Operation Cleansing"

Official efforts to tackle crime and to ensure a "clean and stable" environment for the forthcoming APEC talks in Jakarta, have resulted in an increase in human rights violations against alleged or suspected criminals.

The military-led campaign, called "Operation Cleansing" (Operasi Bersih) has entailed the deployment of some 15,000 special troops in the city. Operasi Bersih units - drawn from both police and military forces - have used excessive force in breaking up peaceful demonstrations.

During the same period, scores of alleged criminals have been shot dead in Jakarta in suspicious circumstances. The killings have given rise to fear of a return to the officially-sponsored death squads which left some 5,000 people dead in the mid-1980s. In 1989 President Suharto referred to the "mysterious killings" (petrus) as "shock therapy" designed to bring crime under control.

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