

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: ASA 21/001/2004**

**UA 29/04**

**Torture/ ill-treatment**

**23 January 2004**

**INDONESIA**

**Husni Abdullah (m), aged 26, human rights defender  
Mahyeddin (m), aged 23, human rights defender**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of human rights defenders Husni Abdullah and Mahyeddin who are being detained by police in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province (NAD). Husni Abdullah has not been given access to his family or lawyers, while Mahyeddin has been given restricted access to lawyers but not to his family. They have reportedly been beaten, and are at risk of further torture or ill-treatment.

Husni Abdullah and Mahyeddin are both members of the People's Crisis Centre (PCC), a humanitarian organization which provides assistance to internally displaced people in NAD province.

At around 9.30 am on 15 December 2003, members of North Aceh District Military Command (Kodim 0103) arrested Husni Abdullah at the PCC office in Meunasah Mesjid Cunda Village, Muara Dua Sub-district, North Aceh District. The soldiers searched the office, beat Husni Abdullah, and asked him to provide the names of other members of the PCC before he was taken away by car. At around 12 noon on the same day, Mahyeddin was arrested at a café in Sawang Kupula Cunda village, Muara Dua Sub-district, also by officers from Kodim 0103.

Both men were initially held in Kodim 0103, although their presence there was denied when family members, lawyers and staff of human rights organizations enquired about them there. On or around 3 January 2004, they were transferred to North Aceh District Police Station (Kapolres) in Lhokseumawe town. Mahyeddin was later transferred to Lhokseumawe Prison and has had access to lawyers on at least one occasion. Husni Abdullah remains in North Aceh Kapolres. They have been accused of being members of the armed opposition movement Free Aceh Movement (GAM).

Both men have reportedly been beaten while in detention. Husni Abdullah has reportedly lost some of his teeth as a result of being beaten with both hands and rifle butts.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

A military emergency was declared at midnight on 19 May 2003 in NAD, following the breakdown of a ceasefire agreement between the government of Indonesian and GAM. Grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions of both adults and children, have been reported during operations by the Indonesian military against GAM. Around 1,300 people are reported to have been killed since the start of the current military operations.

The military has announced its intention to arrest and detain individuals who it claims support or are connected to GAM. The Military Emergency Authority claims that some 2,000 members of GAM have been arrested or have surrendered since mid-May 2003. There is concern that some of those arrested may not be genuine members of GAM, but merely sympathetic to its aims or opposed to the military operations. The military has itself acknowledged that it has difficulty distinguishing between GAM and civilians.

Among those arrested are members of political organizations which campaign for independence for NAD, and members of human rights organizations. Members of the PCC, along with other organizations which are critical of the military operations in NAD, have been directly warned by the local military commander that they will be targeted for arrest. In August 2003, four members of the PCC in the provincial capital Banda Aceh were detained and questioned for five hours before being released.

Anyone detained by the police and military in NAD is at risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. According to media reports, 994 people have already been tried since May 2003. Local human rights organizations have expressed concern that the trials have fallen short of international standards.

There have been thousands of civilian casualties in the 26-year conflict in NAD. Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and unlawful detention have been carried out in the context of operations by the Indonesian security forces against GAM. GAM has also been responsible for human rights abuses.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of Husni Abdullah and Mahyeddin, who were detained by the military in NAD on 15 December 2003;
- expressing concern about reports that they have been tortured, and calling upon the authorities to provide guarantees that they will not be subjected to further torture or ill-treatment;
- reminding the authorities that certain rights, including the right to life and protection from torture, cannot be limited or suspended even in times of a military emergency;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Husni Abdullah and Mahyeddin if they have been detained solely on account of their peacefully held views or activities;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that all members of the police and military are made aware of the legitimate role of human rights defenders and their responsibility to protect human rights defenders under the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of individuals and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of Police (Kapolres) North Aceh

Lt. Col. Drs. Wanto Sumardi SH  
Markas Polisi Aceh Utara  
Jl. Banda Aceh, Medan No. 1  
Aceh Utara  
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Telegram: Markas Polisi Resort Aceh Utara, Lhokseumawe, NAD, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 656 43490 (if someone answers, please ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")**

**Salutation: Dear Kapolres**

Military Commander, Kodam / Pangdam Iskandar Muda

Maj.Gen Endang Suwarya  
Markas Komando Daerah Militer Iskandar Muda  
Jl. Ahmad Yani, Simpang Lima  
Banda Aceh, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Telegram: Pangdam Iskandar Muda, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia**

**Fax: + 62 651 27063 / 26979 (if someone answers, please ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")**

**Salutation: Dear Major General**

**COPIES TO:**

Chief of Police, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD)

Brigadier General Bahrumsyah Kasman  
Kapolda Aceh  
Jalan Cut Meutia No. 3  
Banda Aceh, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Fax: + 62 651 23670/ 22488**

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 5 March 2004.