

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 21/02/91  
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**UA 47/91**

**Execution of Political Prisoner**

**13 February 1991**

**See also UA 313/88 (ASA 21/19/88, 22 November 1988, and follow ups ASA 21/02/89, 6 February and ASA 21/03/89, 17 February 1989)**

**INDONESIA : Azhar bin Mohammad Safar**

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Amnesty International has learned that political prisoner Azhar bin Mohammad Safar was executed early on the morning of 8 February 1991, near Bandung. He is the seventh political prisoner to be executed in Indonesia within the last 18 months.

Azhar bin Mohammad Safar was convicted of subversion and sentenced to death in 1982. He was alleged to have been involved in a group of Islamic activists, some members of which were accused of acts of violence, including hijacking an aircraft and attacking a police station. The group's objectives were said to include the establishment of an Islamic state.

According to reports, Azhar bin Mohammad Safar's appeal was rejected in September 1985 and in November 1988 he was informed that his appeal for presidential clemency had also been rejected. His execution, scheduled for 14 December 1988, was postponed just ten hours before he was to be put to death, following his last minute appeal for a review of his case by the Supreme Court. In January 1991, however, the Supreme Court ruled that the death sentence was to be upheld.

On 6 February 1990 Amnesty International received reports that the execution of Azhar bin Mohammad Safar was to take place within the following two days. Amnesty International immediately addressed an urgent appeal to the Indonesian President and Foreign Minister expressing grave concern about these reports, and calling on them to take every possible measure to prevent the execution.

The appeal also expressed concern for the safety of seven elderly political prisoners who remain under sentence of death after more than 20 years in prison for alleged participation in the coup attempt of October 1965, or for membership of the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI). Amnesty International believes that they too are in danger of imminent execution. Its concern for their safety has been heightened following the execution of six other PKI prisoners since October 1989.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Indonesian Government has used the death penalty with increasing frequency in recent years and it has been used disproportionately against political prisoners. At least 29 prisoners have been executed since 1985 compared to four over the previous 10 years. Of the 29, the majority (27), were political prisoners.

Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty as a denial of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It calls upon the Government of Indonesia to halt all executions and to commute all death sentences.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Azhar bin Mohammad Safar;
- expressing concern that the execution was apparently announced, although not officially confirmed, less than three days before it was scheduled to take place;
- urging President Suharto to show clemency and to commute all current death sentences.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Suharto  
Presiden RI  
Istana Negara  
Jalan Veteran  
Jakarta  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: President Suharto, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Telexes: 44283 BIGRA IA; 44469 DEPLU IA**

Let. Ismail Saleh  
(Minister of Justice)  
Menteri Kehakiman  
Jalan Hayam Wuruk 7  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**COPIES TO:**

General Try Sutrisno  
Commander of the Armed Forces  
Markas Besar ABRI  
Cilangkap  
East Jakarta  
Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 31 March 1991.