

PUBLIC

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1 February 2001

UA 28/01 Possible "disappearance"/fear of torture or ill-treatment

INDONESIA Muzakir Syamaun (34)

Yusri Abdullah (28)

Armia Amin (32)

The three people named above were detained by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) in Aceh Province on 24 January. They are at risk of being tortured or killed.

Muzakir Syamaun and Yusri Abdullah were riding a motorcycle between the villages of Genteng and Jurong Baro in Glumpang Tiga Sub-district, Pidie District, when they were stopped by Brimob officers. They were ordered to get into a truck with their motorcycle, and driven towards the district capital, Sigli.

Shortly afterwards, the truck stopped at a shop near Unoe village, Glumpang Tiga Sub-district. The Brimob officers ordered everyone in the shop to stand outside, and picked out Armia Amin. They ordered him into the truck and drove off again.

A police officer was shot earlier that day in Bandar Baru District Police Sektor (Polsek). It is not known whether Muzakir Syamaun, Yusri Abdullah or Armia Amin were involved, but it is thought that they may have been detained in connection with the shooting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious and widespread human rights violations are continuing in Aceh during armed operations by the Indonesian security forces against the armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM).

Civilians, including human rights defenders and political activists, are among those who have been detained by the security forces in recent months. Those detained are at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or unlawful killing.

A "moratorium on violence" was agreed by both the security forces and GAM on 15 January 2001, but this has failed to have an impact on the situation. Amnesty International continues to receive reports of violations, especially during security force "sweeping operations", intended to disarm GAM and as reprisals for GAM attacks on the security forces. Many of the victims of these operations are believed to be civilians.

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

- asking the authorities where Muzakir Syamaun, Yusri Abdullah and Armia Amin are held, and why they have been detained;
- asking them to guarantee that the men will not be tortured or ill-treated, and that they will be given access to their families, lawyers and medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to release them immediately if they are not charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for Aceh
Brig. Gen. Chaerul R. Rasyidi
Kapolda Aceh
Jl Cut Meutia No.3
Banda Aceh
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 651 26689/22488/46864
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General

Coordinating Minister for Political, Social and Security Affairs
General Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 345 1064/345 0918/344 1751
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Dr Alwi Abdurrahman Shihab
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Pejambon No.6
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 3805511/360517/363750/3457782/360541/7245354

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 15 March 2001.