

UA 110/01

Fear of t**INDONESIAJulio de Carmo (46)**

An East Timorese man, Julio de Carmo, was arrested by police on 27 April. They handed him over to the army, who reportedly tortured him. He has now been returned to police custody in West Timor, where he is being denied medical treatment. He is feared to be at risk of further torture.

Shortly after he was arrested, soldiers from the Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad) came to the police resort (Polres) in Atambua and took Julio de Carmo to their base in Haliwen refugee camp where he is reported to have been tortured. Later he was taken back to his home, where police rearrested him. People who saw him before he was rearrested say that the torture had left him unable to walk unassisted.

A lawyer and doctor attempted to see Julio de Carmo in Polres Atambua in early May, but were denied access.

Julio de Carmo is a member of the pro-Indonesian militia group Mahidi. He was arrested in connection with allegations of extortion that he has made against the military and for possessing a hand grenade. Last year he was sentenced to a short term of imprisonment for public order offences, and when he was released he claimed in the press that the army had stolen his car and extorted money from his family. The army say these claims are false. A grenade was subsequently found in his home: Julio de Carmo claims it was planted by the army because there was insufficient evidence to pursue charges of defamation against him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture and ill-treatment in police and military custody is widespread in Indonesia, and has led to deaths in custody. In Aceh and Papua there are active independence movements, and many reports of suspected members or supporters of these movements being tortured in custody. However, it is believed that torture of criminal suspects may also be extremely common, and generally unreported.

In a ballot on 30 August 1999 the people of East Timor voted overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia. The Indonesian security forces, and pro-Indonesian militia groups, responded with massive human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions and torture. Tens of thousands of East Timorese, including many militia members, fled or were expelled to West Timor, where they are now living in camps. The situation in West Timor is very tense. A program to repatriate those who wish to return to East Timor was suspended in September 2000, after three staff of the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) in Atambua were murdered by militia members.

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

- urging the authorities to give Julio de Carmo immediate access to medical assistance, legal representation and his family;
- asking them to guarantee that he will not be subjected to any further torture or ill-treatment;

- urging them to order an immediate, independent investigation into the reports that Julio de Carmo has been tortured, and to bring anyone found responsible to justice.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR BALI & NUSA TENGGARA (NUSRA)
Brig. Gen. Jecky Ully
Kapolda NUSRA
Kupang, West Timor, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General Ully

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF
General Bimantoro
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 3
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta 12110
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 7201402
Salutation: Dear General Bimantoro

COPIES TO:

COMMANDER OF ARMY STRATEGIC RESERVE COMMAND (KOSTRAD)
Maj. Gen. Ryamizard Ryacudu
Panglima KOSTRAD
Kantor KOSTRAD
Jl. Merdeka Timur 3
Jakarta, Indonesia

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 June 2001.