

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/13/97

EXTRA 34/97

Fear of torture/ill-treatment

11 March 1997

INDONESIA Bimo Petrus

Iing

Hanni

- student activists

---

Three young student activists, arrested by police in Jakarta on 6 March 1997 and currently believed to be in South Jakarta Police Resort, are feared to be at risk of torture or ill-treatment in custody. There is no information about whether they have access to independent lawyers or family members. Torture and ill-treatment of political detainees is common in Indonesia. The risk is heightened for those held incommunicado.

The three, Bimo Petrus, Hanni and Iing, were arrested as they and one other attempted to display posters and write graffiti slogans in Rambutan, Jakarta, calling for a boycott of the parliamentary election to be held in Indonesia on 29 May 1997. When confronted by police, three of the youths escaped, but Iing was detained. Hanni and Bimo Petrus, however, were later arrested on the street as they were attempting to return to a safe house.

At the time of their arrest, the three are believed to have been in possession of leaflets urging an election boycott. The leaflets are thought to have been published by the unofficial People's Democratic Party (*Partai Demokratik Indonesia - PRD*), the organization which has been linked by the authorities to the banned Indonesian Communist Party and blamed by the authorities for instigating riots in Jakarta in July 1996. There are currently 14 members of the PRD on trial for subversion in Jakarta and Surabaya.

There are reports that six other people were arrested in the city of Bogor on 7 March. Amnesty International cannot confirm these reports.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following the riots in Jakarta in July 1996, up to 108 individuals were arbitrarily arrested, with dozens being held incommunicado before being allowed access to lawyers. Some of those held incommunicado were subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

Arbitrary arrests of political activists have continued, accompanied by the risk of incommunicado detention. Irwan Adriansah, a student activist, was arrested in Bandung on 26 February 1997 allegedly in connection with opposition pamphlets and magazines. He was held incommunicado in police custody before being released on 1 March.

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

- requesting guarantees that the three young men arrested in Jakarta on 6 March 1997 will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- asking for information on their exact whereabouts;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that they have access to independent legal counsel and to their families;
- calling for their immediate and unconditional release if they are being held for the peaceful expression of their beliefs.

#### APPEALS TO:

**CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE**

Lt. Gen. Dibyو Widodo  
Kapolri  
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI  
Jl. Trunojoyo 13  
Kebayoran Baru  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Telegrams: Kapolri, Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Salutation: Dear Lt. Gen.**

**MINISTER OF JUSTICE**

Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.  
Menteri Kehakiman  
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7  
Kuningan  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia

**Fax: +62 21 525 3095 (if message saying incorrect number, try again later)**

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

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

**SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa  
Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM)  
Jl Latuharhary 4B  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

**Tel/Fax: +62 21 392 5227**

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 April 1997.