

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 21/15/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 331/92**

**Legal Concern**

**23 October 1992**

**INDONESIA:**

**Dadang Trisasongko, human rights lawyer**

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Amnesty International is concerned at the recent arrest of human rights lawyer Dadang Trisasongko.

Indonesian human rights lawyer, Dadang Trisasongko, has been arrested and accused of subversion by Indonesian authorities for his activities in defence of a village community in East Java. Dadang Trisasongko is a legal adviser at the Surabaya, East Java, office of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute, LBH (Lembaga Bantuan Hukum), a respected legal aid organization which provides assistance to the socially and economically disadvantaged, and to victims of human rights violations.

Mr Trisasongko was arrested by police at 9am on 19 October 1992 on charges of "subversion" and "incitement" as he stepped off a boat at Tanjung Perak harbour in Surabaya, East Java. Although precise details of the allegations against him are not yet not known, the LBH believes that he was arrested because of his legal work on behalf of the villagers of Singosari-Gresik, East Java, who have been threatened with eviction from their land to make way for construction by the state electricity company.

Although he was feeling ill, Mr Trisasongko was taken immediately to the office of Police Intelligence on Jalan Ahmad Yani, Surabaya, for questioning. He was reportedly denied the right to have a lawyer present during interrogation - an internationally recognized right also guaranteed under the Indonesian Code of Criminal Procedure (KUHAP).

Following the arrest, the Head of the armed forces Agency for the Reinforcement of National Stability (Bakorstanasda) for East Java, Major General R. Hartono, told the press that Mr Trisasongko had been arrested because his activities "threatened national stability". He said that Mr Trisasongko might be charged under Indonesia's sweeping Anti-Subversion Law, which carries a maximum penalty of death. In a press release, dated 22 October 1992, the LBH national office rejected the allegations, saying that Mr Trisasongko's actions on behalf of the village community had been entirely legal.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Indonesia's Anti-Subversion Law (UU Anti-Subversi PNPS/1963) has been used to imprison thousands of real or alleged government opponents since it was introduced by Presidential Decree in 1963. There are currently more than 500 political prisoners held in Indonesia and East Timor, most of whom have been convicted of subversion.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English, Indonesian or in your own language:**

- expressing concern at the recent arrest of the human rights lawyer Dadang Trisasongko in connection with legal defence work on behalf of the community of Singosari-Gresik;
- expressing concern that Mr Trisasongko was denied the right to have a lawyer present during his interrogation by the police, a right which is guaranteed by Indonesia's own Code of Criminal Procedure (KUHAP)
- asking to be informed of the precise reasons for his arrest and of the nature of the charges to be brought against him.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1. Pangab

General Try Sutrisno

Markas Besar ABRI

Jalan Merdeka Barat 13

Cilangkap

Jakarta

Indonesia

**Telegrams:** General Try Sutrisno, ABRI, Jakarta, Indonesia

**Faxes:** +62-21-361471, +62-21-378144, +62-21-356404

**Salutation:** Dear General

2. Kapolri

General Kunarto

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

Jalan Trunojoyo 13

Kebayoran Baru

Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

**Telegrams:** General Kunarto, Kapolri, Jakarta, Selatan, Indonesia

**Telephone:** +62-21-348537

**Salutation:** Dear General

3. Pangdam V/Brawijaya

Major General R. Hartono

Markas Besar KODAM V

Surabaya

Jawa Timur

Indonesia

**Telegrams:** Maj-Gen Hartono, Markas Besar KODAM V, Surabaya, Indonesia

**Salutation:** Dear Major-General

4. Kapolda V

Brigadier General Koesparmono Irsan

Markas Besar Kepolisian

Surabaya,

Jawa Timur

Indonesia

**Telegrams:** Brig-Gen Koesparmono Irsan, Kapolda V, Surabaya, Indonesia

**Salutation:** Dear Brigadier-General

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Legal Aid Organization

YLBHI  
Jalan Diponegoro 74  
Jakarta  
Indonesia  
Fax: +62-21-330140

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 4 December 1992.