

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 20/95 (ASA 21/08/95, 25 January 1995) and follow-up (ASA 21/09/95, 30 January) - Prisoners of conscience / Medical concern

INDONESIA                      Muchtar Pakpahan  
   Amosi Telaumbanua                      -                      labour rights activists

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Muchtar Pakpahan was released from detention on 20 May 1995 by the Indonesian Supreme Court. Under Indonesian law, a detainee must be released from detention if an appeal to the Supreme Court remains undecided after 110 days, as was the case with Muchtar Pakpahan.

Amnesty International understands that if the Supreme Court ultimately decides against Muchtar Pakpahan, he could be returned to jail. The conviction against him still stands.

Amosi Telaumbanua remains in prison as a prisoner of conscience.

Muchtar Pakpahan is National Chairman of the independent labour union *Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia* (SBSI) and Amosi Telaumbanua is Chairman of SBSI in Medan, Northern Sumatra. They were among more than 100 workers arrested in Medan as a result of a week of strikes and demonstrations during April 1994.

Muchtar Pakpahan and Amosi Telaumbanua were charged under Articles 160 and 161 of Indonesia's Criminal Code, which prohibit public criticism of the government.

In January 1995, the High Court in Medan increased the jail sentences of Muchtar Pakpahan and Amosi Telaumbanua from three to four years, and from fifteen months to three years, respectively.

Amnesty International activists around the world continue to press for the immediate release of Amosi Telaumbanua, and for Muchtar Pakpahan's release to be permanent and unconditional, but no further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested at present. Thank you to all who sent appeals.