

INDONESIANurdin Juneh, 36

Nurdin Juneh was detained by the police in North Aceh on 4 July. Police have reportedly denied knowledge of his whereabouts, and Amnesty International fears he may be at risk of torture or "disappearance".

Nurdin Juneh and his brother were taken by members of the police mobile brigade (Brimob) from a coffee house at around 6pm. They were taken to the police sector building (Polsec) in Dewantara Sub-district. His brother was released shortly afterwards, but Nurdin Juneh was reportedly taken away by Brimob. The Polsec chief has reportedly denied knowledge of his whereabouts.

Nurdin Juneh and his brother, from Cot Dua village in Dewantara Sub-district, west of Lhokseumawe town, were reportedly questioned because the police claimed their motorbike had been used in a violent incident on 3 July.

It remains unclear whether this questioning is linked to a clash on 3 July between members of the armed opposition group Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM) and the police, in which three police officers and one GAM member were reportedly killed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The human rights situation in Aceh has improved somewhat since an agreement between the Indonesian authorities and the armed opposition group Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM) was implemented on 2 June. By signing up to this "humanitarian pause", both sides agreed to suspend armed operations to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered. Since then, however, there have been a series of clashes between the Indonesian security forces and GAM, leading to continued human rights abuses.

More than 300 people are reported to have been killed this year in Aceh, where serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, torture, "disappearances" and killings have been routine. Many civilians have been killed or arbitrarily arrested by soldiers and police ostensibly trying to capture suspected GAM members. GAM have also been accused of serious human rights abuses.

Human rights defenders and humanitarian workers in Aceh are among those who have suffered harassment, intimidation and arrests over recent months.

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

- urging the authorities to establish and make public the whereabouts of Nurdin Juneh;
- urging that if he has been arrested, he be released immediately unless he is to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to guarantee Nurdin Juneh's safety and ensure that he is given immediate access to his family, lawyers and any medical treatment he may need;
- calling on the authorities to issue immediate instructions to the security forces to halt all arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearances" and unlawful killings.

APPEALS TO:

Col. Sumantyan Hadidojo Soedardjo
Chief of Police for Aceh (Kapolda Aceh)
Banda Aceh
Aceh
Indonesia
Telegrams: Kapolda Aceh, Banda Aceh, Indonesia
Fax: + 61 651 26689
Salutation: Dear Colonel

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF
Lt. Gen. Rusdihardjo
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 3
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 720 7277
Salutation: Dear Lt. General

COPIES TO:

Mr Hasballah M. Saad
State Minister for Human Rights Affairs
Jl Kuningan Timur M 2/5
Jakarta 12950
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 525 0075 / 525 0139

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 18 August 2000.