

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/32/96

EXTRA 84/96 Health concern / Possible prisoner of conscience 6 June 1996

INDONESIA Amin Baharuddin, student activist

Amnesty International is concerned for the health of Amin Baharuddin, an Indonesian activist, who was badly wounded during a demonstration in Jakarta on 4 June 1996. He is currently being detained at Police Resort, Central Jakarta, where he is reported to be in need of medical attention. Amnesty International is further concerned that the real reason for his detention may be his peaceful political activities, rather than the offences for which he is charged.

The demonstration was held in protest at the use of excessive force by the security forces during student riots in Ujung Pandang on the island of Sulawesi in April 1996. It is believed that up to six students died in the riots after clashes with the security forces on several university campuses. The Indonesian authorities have announced that 12 members of the security forces are facing possible prosecution for their role in the deaths, however there is concern that the incident has not been properly and independently investigated (see EXTRA 57/96, ASA 21/24/96, 25 April 1996 and follow-ups ASA 21/25/96, 1 May, and ASA 21/28/96, 13 May).

The Jakarta demonstration began at around 11am at the University of Indonesia. Amin Baharuddin, an activist from a student non-governmental organization, PIJAR, was arrested at around 3pm after a confrontation between the police and the demonstrators at the office of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute. During his arrest, Amin Baharuddin was dragged along for 100 metres by the police. He was then repeatedly hit as he was put into a police vehicle.

Amin Baharuddin did not receive medical treatment until 4am the next morning after lawyers intervened on his behalf. He was taken to a military hospital where he was given some medication but was not given an intensive examination. Amnesty International is concerned that the treatment may not have been sufficient and that Amin Baharuddin has been returned to police custody despite the fact that he has complained of head wounds and breathing difficulties.

Earlier, during the same demonstration a confrontation between the demonstrators and police outside the University of Indonesia resulted in arrests and the wounding of up to five activists. Four others were wounded during the confrontation at the LBH office. A total of six activists, including Amin Baharuddin, were taken into police custody. All but he have since been released.

Amin Baharuddin is now facing charges under Article 212 and 213 of Indonesia's Criminal Code, which relate to the use of violence in resisting officials. The police are alleging that three police officers were wounded by stone-throwing during the demonstration. However, there is believed to be no evidence that Amin Baharuddin was involved in violent activities. PIJAR claim that photographs and video evidence of the demonstrations show that Amin Baharuddin was in the back of the demonstration and was not involved in stone-throwing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members of the Indonesian security forces frequently use excessive force in dealing with both violent and peaceful protests. Individuals engaged in protests and demonstrations have been subjected to beatings, and in some cases shot

and killed by members of the armed forces. Those who have been detained following their alleged involvement in protests have reported beatings and torture in detention.

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

- urging the authorities to allow Amin Baharuddin immediate access to medical attention;

- expressing concern that there are reports indicating that Amin Baharuddin may be being detained for his non-violent exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association, and that if this is the case, urging that all charges against him be dropped and that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR JAKARTA

Brig. Gen. Hamami Nata
Kapolda Jakarta Raya
Markas Besar Kepolisian Jaya
Jakarta
Indonesia

Telegrams: Kapolda Jakarta Raya, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Brig. Gen. Hamami Nata

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

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

Telephone: +62 21 51 3006

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Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Minister Utoyo Usman

COPIES TO:

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6
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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 10 July 1996.