

UA 270/02

Fea.

INDONESIA Toke Dan (m), aged around 50

A shopkeeper known by his nickname, Toke Dan, from Aceh Province was detained by troops on 20 August. He is being held at a community centre and has not had access to members of his family or lawyers. Torture of detainees by the military is common in Aceh, and there are serious fears for the safety of Toke Dan.

According to reports received by local human rights monitors, Toke Dan was stopped by members of the Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad) as he was returning from the local market place by motorbike with goods for his shop, which is in Siron Blang village, Indrapuri Sub-district, Aceh Besar District. The troops confiscated the goods and accused Toke Dan of being a member of the armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). He was taken to the Indrapuri Sub-district community centre (UDKP) where he is still believed to be detained. A representative from Siron Blang village attempted to gain access to see Toke Dan on 22 August, but troops guarding the meeting facility denied that he was being held and refused to allow the representative to enter.

It is likely that Toke Dan's family will be expected to pay a sum of money to the military to secure his release. This is a common practice in Aceh. While he is detained, he remains at risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and detention without charge, are continuing in Aceh where military and police operations are being carried out against the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Local human rights groups have reported that at least 1,500 people were killed as a result of these operations during 2001. Many of those killed are believed to be civilians. Reliable figures are not available for this year, but it is thought that unlawful killings of civilians by both the Indonesian security forces and GAM are taking place on a similar, if not higher, scale this year.

Anyone detained by the police or the military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. Human rights defenders have also been the target of human rights violations. At least nine are thought to have been unlawfully killed since 1999, others have been unlawfully detained and tortured. As with most other human rights cases in Aceh, no investigations have taken place and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Toke Dan;
- urging the authorities to provide guarantees of Toke Dan's safety, including a guarantee that he is not subjected to torture or other human rights violations;
- urging that he is given immediate access to his family, lawyers and any medical attention he may require;
- expressing concern that he is being held in an unofficial place of detention, and urging the authorities to clarify the reasons for his arrest and transfer him to an official place of detention if he is not to be released.

APPEALS TO:

Commander of Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad)

Maj. Gen. Samsul Mappareppa

Panglima KOSTRAD

Kantor KOSTRAD

Jl. Merdeka Timur 3

Jakarta Pusat

Indonesia

Telegrams: Panglima Kostrad, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 384 9020 (if someone answers ask for the fax, "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Major General

COPIES TO:

Coordinating Minister For Politics And Security

Lt Gen (rtd) Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

Menteri Koordinator Bidang Politik dan Keamanan

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15

Jakarta Pusat 10110

Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 345 0918/344 1751 (if someone answers ask for the fax, "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Minister

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 October 2002.