

UA 219/01

Fear of t

INDONESIA Apner Ronsumbre (m), aged 35, timber worker
Septinus Taname (m), aged 25, timber worker
R. Kinho (m), aged 52, school head teacher
Asso (m), aged 25
Galus Inanosa (m), aged 25
Sedius Susure (m), aged 30
Iba (m), aged 22

Yermias Kambuaya (m) (possibly released), timber worker

Police are holding the seven, possibly eight, individuals named above incommunicado in Papua province. They are at serious risk of torture.

Apner Ronsumbre, Septinus Taname and Yermias Kambuaya, who work for a local timber company, were arrested by Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) officers on the evening of 27 August. They are thought to have been drunk and become involved in an argument with the police. The police reportedly beat them, causing serious bruising, and took them to Bintuni Police Sector (Polsek) in Manokwari district.

The following day a group of local villagers went to the Polsek to demand their release. They were led by Yulian Nauw, the local leader of a pro-independence militia group, the Papuan Taskforce (*Satgas Papua*). When the police refused, the group started throwing stones and firing arrows. The police reportedly fired warning shots in response, and then fired directly into the group when some of them refused to disperse. Two people, including Yulian Nauw, were shot and required hospital treatment.

Brimob reinforcements were sent to Bintuni following this incident. Local NGOs have a list of seven people who are currently believed to be detained in Bintuni Polsek. The list does not include Yermias Kambuaya, so he may have been released. It is not known when the five others named above were arrested or on what grounds. Local lawyers have asked permission to visit them, but the police have refused.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since late last year the Indonesian authorities have taken an increasingly hardline stance against pro-independence activities in Papua. The level of human rights violations in the province has escalated. Both peaceful and armed independence supporters have been killed unlawfully, and are at risk of "disappearance", torture and arbitrary detention.

Military operations in a number of districts have made it difficult for human rights activists to carry out their work. In May 2001, human rights defenders were denied access to Wasior Sub-district, Manokwari District, where security forces were reportedly conducting operations against members of armed pro-independence groups. Access to the area remains restricted.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that those detained in Bintuni Polsek will not be tortured or ill-treated, and to investigate allegations that Apner Ronsumbre, Septinus Taname and Yermias Kambuaya were beaten when they were arrested;

- urging the authorities to release all of them if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and in the meantime ensure they have access to lawyers of their own choosing, their families and medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to order a full, immediate and impartial investigation into the use of firearms by the police at Bintuni Polsek on 28 August.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR PAPUA

Brig. Gen. Made Mangku Pastika
Head of Regional Police Papua
Jl. Sam Ratulangie No. 8
Jayapura, Irian Jaya
Indonesia

Fax: + 62 967 531717

Salutation:Dear Brigadier General

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

Commissioner-General Bimantoro
Kapolri
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 3
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 7201402

Salutation:Dear Commissioner

COPIES TO:

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Dr. Nur Hassan Wirajuda
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Pejambon No.6
Jakarta Pusat 10410
Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 380 5511/345 7782/724 5354/385 5481

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 16 October 2001.