



Andries Maruanaya, one of the 21 peaceful political activists in Maluku, August 2010
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Names of those arrested, all men:

Pieter Lernaya alias Sinyo
Frans Sinmiasa
Yacob Sinay alias Benny
Jonas Entamoin
Paul Lodiwyk Krikhoof
Mervin Bremer alias Epin
Andarias Maruanaya alias Andi
Yusuf Sahetapy
Steven Ronaldo Siahaya alias Ali
Ronald Viktor Andreas
Isak Yohanis Sapulete
Yonias Siahaya
Maxi Josep Anakota
Vestus Futwembun
Marthin Kasulia
Demianus Lesil
Samuel Pattipeiluhu
Yunus Markus
Yosep Louhenapessy
Ishak Supusepa
Fredy Tutursenaya

INDONESIA: TORTURE OF POLITICAL ACTIVISTS IN MALUKU

Between 1 and 10 August 2010, police officers from the Ambon and Lease Islands District Police, the Saparua Sub-district Police and the Special Detachment-88 anti-terrorist unit arrested 21 peaceful political activists in the province of Maluku, who the authorities claim are linked to the Republic of South Maluku (RMS) movement. Some of the activists had been planning to disseminate materials related to human rights violations produced by local and international organizations, including Amnesty International.

According to reliable sources, at least 17 activists were arbitrarily arrested without a warrant. At least 15 of them were reportedly tortured and otherwise ill-treated by the police during their arrest, detention and interrogation in order to force them to confess.

At the time of their arrest, police kicked, slapped and beat the detainees on different parts of their bodies, including the face, head, chest, ribs and abdomen. During their interrogation, some of the activists had their eyes covered and their hands tied with duct tape while they continued to be beaten. Two of them were also forced to kiss each other. When they refused, police forced them to stand upside down on their hands and then beat them with pistol butts. One of the detainees was burned with a cigarette while another was forced to eat dozens of chillies. Their interrogation took place at the Special Detachment-88 base in Tantui, the home of the local Saparua Sub-district Head, and the Saparua Sub-district Police Station.

Some of the detainees were denied access to lawyers of their choice and to their families during the period of their detention and interrogation.

All 21 detainees were charged in November and December 2010 with "rebellion" under Articles 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code. Twenty have been sentenced to between 9 months' and three years' imprisonment. The trial of the remaining one person is ongoing. The police internal affairs division (Propam) is currently investigating reports of torture and other ill-treatment during their arrest and detention, and Amnesty International has learned that Saparua Sub-district Head and two police officials have been questioned in connection with these allegations.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release the 21 activists, as they have been imprisoned solely for peacefully expressing their views;
- Ensure an independent and impartial investigation into the alleged torture or other ill-treatment by police of the 21 peaceful political activists and, where appropriate, take measures to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice in fair trials and the victims receive reparations;
- Ensure that the 21 peaceful political activists receive ongoing access to legal counsel of their choosing, their families and adequate medical care;
- Ensure that all detainees held at police detention facilities are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment; and
- Establish an independent police complaints mechanism or broaden the mandate of existing mechanisms that will ensure effective external accountability of the police. This body should be empowered, among other things, to receive complaints, investigate them, and submit them to the Public Prosecutor.

Please send letters to:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Mr. Patrialis Akbar
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav No. 4-5 Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan 12950, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Minister

Head of the Division on Professionalism & Security (Propam)

Irjen Pol Budi Gunawan
Kadiv Propam Mabes Polri
Jl. Trunojoyo No. 3
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear General

National Police Commission (KOMPOLNAS)

Mr. Adnan Pandu Praja
Sekretaris Kopolnas
Jl Trunjoyo No. 3 Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta 12110, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Adnan Pandu Praja

Please send copies to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

