

INDONESIA Junaidi (m), aged 37

Junaidi, the head of the Aceh Besar District branch of the pro-independence group Information Centre for a Referendum in Aceh (SIRA), was detained by members of Kostrad (Army Strategic Reserve Command) at around 1 pm on 8 January. He has not been seen since. Political activists, including members of SIRA have been tortured in detention and there are serious concerns for Junaidi's safety.

According to witnesses, Junaidi and a friend, who were visiting the office of the head of the District in Jantho town, Seulimeum Sub-district, Aceh Besar District on work-related business, were stopped by a group of uniformed Kostrad officers. Junaidi was then taken away and at around 5 pm on the same day, Junaidi's older brother received a phone call from him saying that he was being detained in the Seulimeum Sub-district area. It is not known why Junaidi was taken away, but his detention is thought to be linked to his activities with SIRA.

SIRA has recently received information that Junaidi was being held in military or police custody, possibly in the Brimob headquarters in Banda Aceh town, Aceh Besar District. The military however has denied detaining him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and arbitrary arrests, are continuing in Aceh during military and police operations against the armed opposition group, Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM). Local human rights groups have reported that around 1,500 people were killed during military operations in 2001, most of them civilians. GAM has also been responsible for human rights abuses.

Anyone detained by the police or military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. On 19 September 2000, two SIRA activists were taken into custody in Banda Aceh and tortured. Two other leading SIRA activists have been imprisoned as prisoners of conscience in the past year.

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

- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of Junaidi and the reasons for his detention;
- urging the authorities to provide guarantees that he will not be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations, and that he is given immediate access to lawyers, his family and medical attention;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Junaidi is released immediately and unconditionally unless he is to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Kodam Iskandar Muda (Regional Military Command, covers Aceh)
Brig. Gen. M. Djali Yusuf
Jl. Ahmad Yani
Penayong,
Banda Aceh
Aceh
Indonesia

Telegrams: Brig. Gen. M. Djali Yusuf, Banda Aceh, Indonesia
Fax: + 62 651 31113
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General.

Chief of Police for Aceh
Commissioner General Ramli Darwis
Markas Polres Daerah Aceh
Jl. Cut Meutia
Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar
Aceh, Indonesia

Telegrams: Commissioner General Ramli Darwis, Banda Aceh, Indonesia
Fax: + 62 651 22488
Salutation: Dear Commissioner General

COPIES TO:

Commander of the Armed Forces
Admiral Widodo Adisutjipto
Panglima TNI
Markas Besar TNI
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Telegrams: Admiral Widodo Adisutjipto, Markas Besar TNI, Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 356404
Salutation: Dear Admiral

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 28 March 2002.