

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 21/08/97

Distrib: PG/SC

To: Health professionals  
From: Medical Office /Asia/Pacific sub-regional team  
Date: 28 February 1997

**MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION**  
**Muchtar Pakpahan and Petrus Hariyanto**  
**INDONESIA**

**Keywords**

Theme: Prisoner of conscience / ill-health / denial of medical treatment

Profession/association: trade union leader / political party leader

**Summary**

Muchtar Pakpahan, aged 44, and Petrus Hariyanto, aged 26, are reported to be denied adequate medical care in Cipinang Prison in Jakarta. Both are adopted prisoners of conscience. Please see attached external information.

**Recommended actions**

Letters are requested from health professionals in your personal or professional capacity *without mention of Amnesty International* to the addresses below. Letters can be in English or your own language and should:

- express deep concern at the imprisonment of Muchtar Pakpahan and Petrus Hariyanto, stating that they appear to have been arrested and detained for non-violent political activities
- seek information on their current state of health
- express concern at reports that they are not receiving appropriate medical treatment and urge that they immediately be given access to whatever medical care they require
- call for their immediate and unconditional release.

**Addresses**

*Minister of Foreign Affairs*  
Ali Alatas S.H.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Menteri Luar Negeri  
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6  
Jakarta  
Indonesia  
Tel: +62 21 345 6014  
Fax: +62 21 360 517  
+62 21 380 5511  
+62 21 345 7782  
+62 21 360 541  
+62 21 724 5354

*Minister of Justice*  
Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.  
Menteri Kehakiman  
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7  
Kuningan  
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia  
Tel: +62 21 51 3006  
Fax: +62 21 525 3095  
Telex: 44404 ditjenim ia

---

Please **send copies of your letters to:** the diplomatic representative of Indonesia in your country.

---

EXTERNAL

AI Index : ASA 21/08/97

Distr : PG/SG

Date: 28 February 1997

**DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE**  
**Muchtar Pakpahan and Petrus Hariyanto**  
**INDONESIA**

Amnesty International is concerned for the health of two men currently on trial and detained in Cipinang Prison in Jakarta, Indonesia. The two men, Muchtar Pakpahan and Petrus Hariyanto, are being tried under the Anti-subversion Law and were arrested in the aftermath of riots in Jakarta in July 1996. Amnesty International considers that both men are being tried for their non-violent political activities and has adopted them as prisoners of conscience. Both are currently being denied access to adequate medical treatment.

Muchtar Pakpahan's health has been a concern since he was first arrested in July 1996. On at least one day during his trial, he was not present because of ill-health. In more recent weeks, he has begun to complain of a painful swollen left arm, which according to eyewitnesses is visibly different to his right arm. It is not clear what the cause of the swelling is. At times, Muchtar Pakpahan has also suffered severe sinusitis, stomach ailments and vertigo. It is believed that the judge hearing Muchtar Pakpahan's case has ordered that he be allowed to receive medical treatment, but the head of Cipinang Prison has apparently refused to allow Muchtar Pakpahan any treatment other than at a police hospital. Muchtar Pakpahan and his family are believed to have argued that they would accept this if their family doctor was allowed to be present. Their request has not yet been granted. So far he has received no medical treatment since he has been in Cipinang Prison. It is also not clear what is wrong with Petrus Hariyanto but he has apparently complained of having a painful, itching and swollen body. He is not known to have received any medical treatment while in Cipinang Prison.

**Background**

Muchtar Pakpahan, 44, is the leader of Indonesia's independent trade union, the Indonesia Prosperous Workers' Union (*Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia*, SBSI). He was previously imprisoned in August 1994 in connection with his alleged role in inciting riots in the north Sumatran town of Medan in April 1994. He was released in May 1995 pending an appeal to the Supreme Court and then in October 1995, the charges against him were dropped. He was arrested again on 30 July 1996 originally for his alleged role in instigating the riots in Jakarta which followed the raid by the security forces on the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (*Partai Demokrasi Indonesia*, PDI) which was being occupied by the supporters of ousted PDI leader Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Muchtar Pakpahan is an outspoken critic of the Indonesian Government and has frequently raised his concerns about social inequalities, labour rights, human rights and the role of Indonesia in East Timor. Immediately after the raid on the PDI office, Muchtar Pakpahan issued a statement alleging that there was official involvement in the raid. He has since been charged under two separate sections of the Anti-subversion law which punishes "overthrowing, damaging, undermining state power or the authority of the legal Government or the State

*Apparatus*” with the death penalty, life or 20 years’ imprisonment. He has also been charged under Article 154 of Indonesia’s Criminal Code which punishes spreading hatred against the government with a maximum term of seven years’ imprisonment. His trial began in December 1996. In November 1996, the Supreme Court overturned its own decision of October 1995 to quash the four year prison term he received for his alleged role in inciting the 1994 riots in Medan.

Petrus Hariyanto, 26, is the Secretary-General of the People’s Democratic Party (*Partai Rakyat Demokratik*, PRD), the organization which has been blamed by the Indonesian authorities for “masterminding” the riots in Jakarta in July 1996. He was arrested on 11 August 1996 and held incommunicado until 18 August when his family were finally provided with information about his whereabouts. He has since been transferred to Cipinang Prison while he is on trial. He is facing three separate charges under the Anti-subversion Law and also a charge under Article 154 of the Indonesian Criminal Code. His trial also began in December 1996.

Amnesty International considers that the denial of appropriate medical care for the two men could amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The refusal of the prison authorities in Cipinang to allow them access to adequate medical treatment is consistent with a pattern in the prison. An East Timorese prisoner of conscience, Fernando de Araujo, 31, currently serving a nine year prison term in Cipinang has also reportedly recently experienced difficulty in gaining access to adequate medical treatment.