

EXTERNAL

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MEDICAL CONCERN

**Pudjo Prasetyo
INDONESIA**

Pudjo Prasetyo is an adopted prisoner of conscience who has spent over 25 years in prison. Now aged 68, he is recently reported to have suffered a stroke which has left him with very slurred speech, although his memory is said to be good. He was arrested on 2 November 1967, one of many thousands arrested for membership of the now banned Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI), or for alleged involvement in, or support for a coup attempt in September 1965. The authorities attributed the attempted coup to the PKI and conducted a massive purge of the party and its affiliated organizations, resulting in an estimated 500,000 deaths and about one million arrests. The majority of those arrested were released in the late 1970s but an estimated 50 remain in prison more than 20 years after being arrested; seven of these prisoners are under sentence of death. The PKI is still proscribed in Indonesia and hundreds of thousands of former PKI members remain subject to restrictions affecting their freedom of movement and civil rights.

Background

Pudjo Prasetyo was born in 1926. Married with three sons and two daughters, he was formerly a shipbuilder and trade unionist and he joined the PKI in the mid-1950s. Following the events of 1965, Pudjo Prasetyo left Bali where mass summary executions were taking place - an estimated 50,000 in Bali alone. He was arrested in 1967 in central Java and held for 12 years before being tried in Bali in 1979 on charges of subversion. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Of those who received life sentences, a small number benefited from some remission of their sentence. The law allowed that life sentences could be commuted to 20 years after a prisoner had served the initial five years of their sentence. Had this law been applied in Pudjo Prasetyo's case, his release might have been expected in 1992. However, in 1987 a Presidential decree was issued which altered the remissions procedure for prisoners under life sentence, making their release even more difficult. Those sentenced to life could now no longer be freed without the express permission of the President, his approval being termed *grasi* (grace, or clemency).

Pudjo Prasetyo appealed for Presidential clemency, but learned in March 1991 that his appeal had been rejected. In a letter to an Amnesty International member he wrote:

"By the way, my asking for clemency was refused by the president. It means that there's no way more to be released. If there's no political changes I'll be jailed forever".

Pudjo Prasetio has been imprisoned in Denpasar, Bali, since his arrest and for many years saw nothing of his family, all of whom lived some considerable distance away in Central Java. Over the last few years, prior to his stroke, his health is believed to have been deteriorating and it is unclear exactly what provisions are made for his medical care. Although his speech was affected considerably by his stroke, his memory is reported to be good. It is not known, however, what other effects the stroke may have had, nor whether there have been improvements in neurological function since the stroke. Given the many years that he has spent in prison isolated from family and friends, and the uncertainty about the medical care he will receive, there is considerable concern for his wellbeing.

Pudjo Prasetio is not believed to have engaged in any criminal activities or to have played any part in the 1965 coup attempt. The reason for his imprisonment and that of many other "PKI" prisoners is their role in left-wing political activities which were legal at the time.

Amnesty International is appealing urgently for Pudjo Prasetio's release and is calling on President Suharto to exercise his Presidential prerogative to allow for his release.

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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Amnesty International
International Secretariat
1 Easton Street
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United Kingdom

To : Medical professionals
From: Medical Office/Research Department - Asia and Pacific
Date: 1 July 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Pudjo Prasetio
INDONESIA**

Keywords

Theme: POC/ life imprisonment/ ill-health

Summary

Pudjo Prasetio is a 68-year-old prisoner of conscience sentenced to life imprisonment; he is now in his 26th year of imprisonment. He is one of many thousands who were arrested in the 1960s in the wake of a coup which the authorities attributed to the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI), until then a legal political party. Amnesty International has now learned that Pudjo Prasetio has suffered a stroke and there is considerable concern for him. Please see the details attached.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below. Letters which do not refer to Amnesty International are likely to be more effective:

- expressing concern for Pudjo Prasetio, imprisoned since 1967 in Denpasar, Bali, who is believed to have been in ill-health for some years and is recently reported to have suffered a stroke.
- seeking information on his present condition and urging that all necessary medical attention is made available to him.
- noting with regret that in March 1991 Pudjo Prasetio's appeal for clemency was rejected and urging President Suharto to grant his immediate and unconditional release.

Addresses

President Suharto
President RI
Istana Negara
Jalan Veteran
Jakarta
Indonesia

Haji Utoyo Usman S.H.
Menteri Kehakiman
Jl. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
(Minister of Justice)

■ Letters may also be sent to the Indonesian ambassador, or diplomatic representative in your country, expressing concern for Pudjo Prasetio. The letters could:

- Ask the ambassador to convey to the authorities in Indonesia the need for Pudjo Prasetio to receive appropriate medical care.
- Asking for information about his present condition.