

PUBLIC

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UA 139/03

Possible "disappearance" /fear for safety/possible extrajudicial execution

INDONESIA

Killed:

Abdussalam Muhamad Deli (m), aged 23, human rights defender  
Raja Ismail (m), aged 50, human rights defender

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Abdussalam Muhamad Deli, a member of the East Aceh branch of the Human Rights and Legal Aid Post (PB-HAM) and the Indonesian Red Cross (*Palang Merah Indonesia*, PMI), who has not been seen since 11 May. Another human rights defender who went missing on the same day was found dead on 13 May. His body reportedly bore signs of torture.

On 11 May, Abdussalam Muhamad Deli was travelling by bus when it was stopped by unidentified armed men in plain clothes, in Langsa Lama village, Langsa Sub-district, East Aceh District, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province. The unidentified men forced him to get off the bus and get into a vehicle with darkened windows, which was then driven towards Langsa Town. Local organizations made enquiries about Abdussalam Muhamad Deli's whereabouts to the local police and military, but both have denied holding him. Local human rights defenders believe that his "disappearance" is related to his activism against human rights violations in NAD Province.

Raja Ismail, also a volunteer with PB HAM East Aceh, went missing on 11 May. He had left his home in Kuala Simpang village, Aceh Tamiang District, East Aceh, to deliver information on human rights violations to the PB-HAM in Langsa town. His body was found in the Titi Kembar river in Langsa Lama village on 13 May. According to the reports, the body had knife wounds and bruises and showed signs of strangulation. It is not known if his death is connected with the "disappearance" of Abdussalam Muhamad Deli.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and unlawful detention have been carried out in the context of operations by the Indonesian security forces against the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province. Local human rights organizations estimate that over 1,300 people were killed in 2002 alone. Anyone detained by the police and military in NAD is at risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations.

Human rights defenders are among those who have been targeted by the security forces. Since 2000, 13 human rights defenders are believed to have been extrajudicially executed. Scores of others have been subjected to torture or ill-treatment, detention without charge and harassment or intimidation.

The whereabouts of Mukhlis Ishak and Zulfikar, who "disappeared" on 25 March 2003 remain unknown (see UA 87/03, ASA 21/008/2003, 27 March 2003). Sufrin Sulaiman, a member of the PB-HAM post in South Aceh, Tgk Al-Kamal, the head of a religious school in South Aceh and member of a peace monitoring team, and their driver, Amiruddin, were extrajudicially executed in March 2001. No one has been held responsible for the killings.

On 9 December 2002, the Indonesian government and GAM signed a ceasefire agreement, known as the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA). The level of violence fell significantly immediately following the signing of the agreement. However, in recent weeks the violence began to escalate and increasing numbers of civilian casualties were once again reported. Further talks between the two sides broke down on 18 May and the following day martial law was declared in Aceh, heralding the start of renewed military operations in the province.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Abdussalam Muhamad Deli, who has not been seen since 11 May;
- urging the authorities to immediately clarify if he has been detained and if so to make public his whereabouts and the reason for his detention;
- if he is in detention, calling on the authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally if he has been detained solely on account of his legitimate human rights activities;
- urging the authorities to carry out an effective and independent investigation into Raja Ismail's killing, that the findings of the investigation be made public, and that those responsible for the killing be brought to justice in a process that meets international standards for fair trial;
- calling on the authorities to take concrete measures to ensure the security of human rights defenders in NAD as guaranteed in the UN Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This should include inviting the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders to visit Indonesia, including NAD Province.

**APPEALS TO: *(It may be difficult to get through to fax numbers, but please keep trying)***

Military Commander, Kodam / Iskandar Muda

Maj.Gen Endang Suwarya  
Markas Komando Daerah Militer Iskandar Muda  
Jl. Ahmad Yani  
Simpang Lima  
Banda Aceh  
Nanggoroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Telegram:** Pangdam Iskandar Muda, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia

**Fax:** + 62 651 270 63 / 269 79 (if someone answers, please ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")

**Salutation:** Dear Major General

Chief of Police, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD)

Brigadier General BahrumSyah Kasman  
Kapolda Aceh  
Jalan Cut Meutia No. 3  
Banda Aceh  
Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam  
Indonesia

**Telegram:** Kapolda Aceh, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia

**Fax:** + 62 651 22488/ 23670

**Salutation:** Dear Brigadier General

**COPIES TO:**

Chairman of the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM)

Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara  
JI Latuharhary No. 4B  
Menteng  
Jakarta Pusat 10310  
Indonesia

**Fax:** + 62 21 392 5227

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 30 June 2003.