

PUBLIC

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UA 251/00

Possible

**INDONESIA** Idham Kurniawan, student, aged 23

Anton Sulton, student, aged 26

Hamad Haviz Azdam, student, aged 26

Usep Setiawan, aged 28

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Idham Kurniawan, Anton Sulton, Hamad Haviz Azdam and Usep Setiawan have not been seen since 14 August 2000, when they were reportedly apprehended by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (BRIMOB) outside the parliament in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety, fearing that they may have "disappeared" and may be at risk of torture or extrajudicial execution.

Idham Kurniawan, Anton Sulton, Hamad Haviz Azdam and Usep Setiawan were participating in a hunger strike outside the main gates of the parliament, demanding the amendment of legislation on land ownership and land rights. The People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) was meeting for its annual session at the time. Reportedly, members of BRIMOB broke up the protest at approximately 7.30pm on 14 August 2000, and the four activists were taken away in two ambulances. A senior police officer has claimed that the four were dropped off outside the offices of General Election Committee in central Jakarta. However, they have not been seen since.

Idham Kurniawan, Anton Sulton and Hamad Haviz Azdam study anthropology, law and agri-business respectively in Bandung, West Java. Usep Setiawan leads the Development and Social Activist Study Foundation, which is also based in Bandung.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

"Disappearances" of political and other activists were commonplace under the New Order Regime led by President Suharto. The collapse of this regime in 1998 has been followed by a period of political transformation in Indonesia with greater tolerance of freedom of expression, assembly and association.

However, despite improvements, human rights violations still take place in connection with demonstrations and protests. In September 1999, at least six people were shot dead by the security forces during demonstrations against a proposed new law on national security. In Aceh and Papua, where there are strong independence movements and security forces engage in counter-insurgency operations, widespread "disappearances", extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment continue.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:**

- calling on the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of Idham Kurniawan, Anton Sulton, Hamad Haviz Azdam and Usep Setiawan;
- urging the authorities that if they are in custody, they are given access to legal counsel of their choice, medical attention and their families;
- urging that if they are in custody, they are not tortured or ill-treated;
- urging that if they are not charged with a recognizable criminal offence, they be immediately released.

**APPEALS TO:**

CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE  
Gen. Rusdihardjo  
Kapolri  
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI  
Jl. Trunojoyo 13  
Kebayoran Baru  
Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia  
**Fax: + 62 21 720 7277**  
**Salutation: Dear Police Chief**

MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY  
Dr Juwono Sudarsono  
Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14  
Jakarta Pusat 10110  
Indonesia  
**Fax: + 62 21 381 4535 or + 62 21 384 5178**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

STATE MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS  
Hasballah M. Saad(10/99)  
Jl Kuningan Timur M 2/5  
Jakarta 12950  
Indonesia  
**Fax: + 62 21 5256855**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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 5 October 2000.