

PUBLIC

AI Index:ASA 21/046/2002

UA 341/02

Fear for

Possible "disappearance"

**INDONESIAM. Kasim Muslem (m) aged 29, farmer
Nurdin Ilyas (m) aged 18, farmer**

M. Kasim Muslem and Nurdin Ilyas were detained by the military in Blang Mangat Sub-district, Aceh Province on 31 October and 18 November respectively. M. Kasim Muslem has not been seen since. Torture by the military is common in Aceh, and there are serious concerns for the safety of both men.

On 31 October, 8 members of the Infantry Battalion (TNI BKO Yonif/125) from the Cot Rambong military post reportedly arrived in Peuntet Market in the Blang Mangat Sub-district, North Aceh District. The army personnel fired gun shots into the air. M. Kasim Muslem, a farmer, was detained, beaten and kicked; a plastic bag was put over his head and he was taken away on a motorbike. He has not been seen since. According to reports received by a local human rights organisation, military and police officials have denied holding him.

Nurdin Ilyas, a farmer from Syamtalira Bayu Sub-district, North Aceh District, was reportedly detained by troops from the same Infantry Battalion and the Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad) whilst travelling to Peuntet market. It is believed that he is being held in Cot Matahee military post in Blang Mangat Sub-district where Kostrad troops are currently stationed. He has not had access to lawyers, medical treatment or his family.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grave human rights violations, including unlawful killings, "disappearances", torture and detention without charge are continuing in Aceh where military and police operations are being carried out against the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Local human rights groups estimate that so far this year, more than 1,200 people have been killed as a result of these operations. Many of those killed are believed to be civilians.

Anyone detained by the police or the military in Aceh is at grave risk of torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations. Human rights defenders have also been targeted. At least nine are thought to have been unlawfully killed since 1999; others have been unlawfully detained and tortured. As with most other human rights cases in Aceh, no investigations have taken place and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

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 M. Kasim Muslem and Nurdin Ilyas who were detained in Blang Mangat Sub-district, North Aceh District on 31 October and 18 November respectively;
- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of M. Kasim Muslem;
- urging the authorities to clarify the reasons for the detention of M. Kasim Muslem and Nurdin Ilyas and to release them immediately and unconditionally if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to provide guarantees that they will not be subjected to torture, ill-treatment or other human rights violations, and that they be given immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical attention should they require it.

APPEALS TO:

Commander, Korem 011 Liliwangsa (Lhokseumawe)

Col. H. Azmyn Yusri Nasution

Korem Liliwangsa

Lhokseumawe

Aceh Utara

Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

Indonesia

Telegrams: Korem Liliwangsa, Aceh Utara, Lhokseumawe, NAD, Indonesia

Fax: +62 645 43196 (if someone answers ask for the fax, "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Colonel

Commander of Army Strategic Reserve Command (Kostrad)

Maj. Gen. Bibit Waluyo

Panglima KOSTRAD

Kantor KOSTRAD

Jl. Merdeka Timur 3

Jakarta Pusat

Indonesia

Telegrams: Panglima KOSTRAD, Kantor KOSTRAD, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 384 9020

Salutation: Dear Major General

COPIES TO:

Commander of the Armed Forces

Lt. Gen. Endriartono Sutarto

Panglima TNI

Markas Besar TNI

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13

Jakarta Pusat

Indonesia

Telegrams: Panglima TNI, Markas Besar TNI, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

Fax: +62 21 35 6404 (it may be difficult to get through; please keep trying)

Salutation: Dear Lt. General

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 6 January 2003.