

INDONESIA42 people (names unknown)

Forty-two people are being held in Manokwari Police Resort (Mapolres Manokwari) in Papua Province after being arrested on 26 and 27 November. They are being held in incommunicado detention and are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The detainees were arrested in connection with activities to commemorate the fifth anniversary of a declaration of Papuan independence on 27 November. On 26 November, 22 people were reportedly arrested during a meeting in the Fandini Dalam area of Manokwari town, the capital of Manokwari district. Twelve others were arrested at around 6am on 27 November, after raising the Morning Star flag - a symbol of Papuan independence - in front of YPK Fandini elementary school. A further eight people were detained in Amban and Sowi neighbourhoods later that day.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent years, both peaceful and armed supporters of independence in Papua have been unlawfully killed, and subjected to "disappearance", torture and detention without charge.

Flag raising ceremonies have been forcibly broken up by the Indonesian security forces across Papua and since July 1998 have resulted in the extrajudicial execution of at least 37 people. Many others have been injured, detained without charge and tortured.

Leaders of the civilian pro-independence movement have been targeted, including the head of the Papuan Presidium Council (PDP), Theys Eluay, who was extrajudicially executed. Nine members of the Special Forces Command (Kopassus) have been named as suspects in the case. Theys Eluay was one of five civilian independence leaders put on trial for their peaceful political activities. Three others were acquitted in March 2002. Four other civilian pro-independence leaders are currently under town arrest in Wamena town, Jayawijaya District, after having been sentenced to four years' imprisonment in December 2000. They are considered prisoners of conscience.

During police operations in Wasior Sub-district, Manokwari District in the second half of 2001, it is estimated that over 140 people were detained, tortured or otherwise ill-treated. One person died in custody in Mapolres Manokwari as a result of torture, while at least seven other people are believed to have been extrajudicially executed. Twenty-seven people were sentenced to terms of imprisonment after unfair trials. The operations were in response to attacks on logging companies in which nine people, including five members of the police were killed, by unidentified armed groups.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that those detained in Mapolsek Manokwari will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- urging that they are given immediate access to lawyers of their own choosing, their families and medical treatment;
- urging the authorities to release all of them if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Insp. Gen. Budi Utomo
Head of Regional Police Papua
Jl. Sam Ratulangi No. 8
Jayapura, Papua
Indonesia

Fax: + 62 967 531717 (if someone answers ask for the fax "saya mau kirim fax")

Telegrams: Kapolda Papua, Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

Drs. Yohanes Prapto Wirhadi

Kapolres Manokwari
Jl. Bhayangkara NO. 1
Manokwari, Papua

Telegrams: Kapolres Manokwari, Manokwari, Papua, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Kapolres

COPIES TO:

President Megawati Sukarnoputri

President RI
Istana Merdeka
Jakarta 10110
Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 345 2685 / + 62 21 526 8726 / + 62 21 345 7782

Telegrams: President Megawati, Istana Merdeka, Jakarta, Indonesia

Salutation: Dear President

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 9 January 2003.