

PUBLIC

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22 December 2004

UA 342/04 Imminent execution

INDONESIA Jurit bin Abdullah (m), aged 38

Jurit bin Abdullah is facing imminent execution. On 15 December the head of the Prosecutor's Office in Sekayu, South Sumatra, announced that Jurit would be executed "at the end of this month". The police have reportedly formed a 14-member firing squad, who have been training for a month for Jurit's execution.

Jurit bin Abdullah was sentenced to death for murder in April 1998. He had earlier been sentenced to life imprisonment by another court for a different murder.

Jurit bin Abdullah was one of the subjects of the follow-up to EXTRA 07/03, ASA 21/002/2003, 7 February 2003.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Indonesia has carried out three executions this year. Indian national Ayodhya Prasad Chaubey (m) was executed in August, and Thai nationals Namsong Sirilak (f) and Saelow Prasert (m) were executed in October, having been sentenced to death for drug trafficking. Before these executions, there had not been an execution in Indonesia since 2001, and before that there had been no executions in the country for six years.

At least 56 people are believed to be on death row in Indonesia. Eight people had their appeals for presidential clemency rejected in June and July, and are thought to be at imminent risk of execution. The Indonesian Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) noted in 2001 that, "Aside from being internationally recognized as a human rights violation in itself... the death penalty administered by a corrupt judiciary is extremely dangerous." Following his visit to Indonesia in July 2002, the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers expressed concern regarding corruption within the judiciary.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty unreservedly in all cases. Every death sentence is an affront to human dignity, every execution a symptom of a culture of violence, rather than a solution to it. Today, 118 countries are abolitionist in law or practice.

The risk of error in applying the death penalty is inescapable, yet it is irrevocable. Amnesty International recognizes the need to address serious crime all over the world, including murder and the trade in illicit drugs. However, the organization is convinced that the death penalty will not provide a solution. There is no clear evidence that the death penalty acts as a more effective deterrent against crime than other forms of punishment.

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

- calling for the death sentence passed on Jurit bin Abdullah to be commuted;
- expressing deep concern about the renewal of executions in Indonesia;
- urging that all death sentences in Indonesia be commuted, as they constitute the violation of one of the most fundamental of human rights – the right to life.

APPEALS TO:

President

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
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Fax: +62 21 345 2685 / 526 8726 / 345 7782

Salutation: Dear President

Attorney General

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Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

Chairman, Komnas HAM

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Salutation: Dear Chairman

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 20 January 2005