

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/64/00

UA 342/00

Fear for

INDONESIARusli (23)

Sofyan (28)

Amnesty International is concerned that two human rights activists, who have been detained by police in Aceh, are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Rusli and Sofyan were detained on 7 November by police officers with the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob). They are held at the Julok Police Sektor (Polsek) in Julok Sub-district, East Aceh. The reason for their detention is not known. Both are volunteers with the People's Crisis Centre (PCC), a human rights monitoring and humanitarian group.

Human rights activists in Aceh are frequently detained without charge and often suffer human rights abuses while in custody. Two activists, M Yusuf and Israiliddin, were recently detained in separate incidents related to their roles as committee members with the People's Congress for Victims of Human Rights Violations in Aceh, which took place from 4-6 November. M Yusuf has been released. Israiliddin remains in custody at Kuta Alam Polsek in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, although the police are reported to have agreed to release him shortly.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months, Acehnese human rights and political activists have reported an increase in the level of intimidation they experience. During this time, Amnesty International has recorded many instances in which activists have been detained without charge, tortured or killed.

Human rights violations take place in the context of an ongoing struggle over Indonesian rule in Aceh. Although the Indonesian government and the armed opposition group, *Gerakan Aceh Merdeka* (GAM), the Free Aceh Movement, have agreed to suspend armed operations to allow humanitarian aid to be distributed, both sides continue to commit human rights violations. The situation has deteriorated since the middle of August, with killings, arrests, torture and "disappearances" becoming increasingly widespread.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that Rusli and Sofyan will not be tortured or ill-treated, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of other human rights activists detained without charge, including Israiliddin, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to ensure that human rights monitors have full, secure and unimpeded access to all areas of Aceh.

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR ACEH
Brig. Gen. Chaerul R. Rasyidi
Kapolda Aceh
Jl Cut Meutia No 3

2

Banda

Aceh

Indonesia

Salutation: Dear Brigidiar General

Fax: + 62 651 26689

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

Commissioner-General Bimantoro

(Acting Police Chief)

Kapolri

Markas Besar Kepolisian RI

Jl. Trunojoyo 3

Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan

Indonesia

Salutation: Dear General

Fax: + 62 21 720 7277

COPIES TO:

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Dr Alwi Abdurrahman Shihab

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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 19 December 2000.