

UA 374/00

Fear of t**INDONESIA Up to 99 people, including around 50 students**

Up to 99 Papuan people, including around 50 students, have been detained and some have been tortured in apparent retaliation for the killing of at least two police officers. Amnesty International believes that the detainees are at grave risk of torture or ill-treatment.

According to a Papua based human rights group, many of the detentions took place when the police and the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) raided a number of student hostels in the provincial capital of Jayapura on 7 December. Eyewitnesses have said that the police fired shots into the air and beat and kicked the students, many of whom were asleep when the raids on their hostels began. Media reports say that three students were killed by the security forces during the raids. Agus Kaba, an 18-year-old student, is in hospital after being shot.

Unconfirmed reports say that 33 people are being detained at the Police Sektor (Polsek) in Abepura, 26 at the Police Resort (Polres) in Jayapura and 40 at the Brimob base in Kotaraja in Jayapura. However, other reports say that 35 people have already been released.

The arrests follow an incident on 6 December in which two or possibly three police officers, including a Brimob officer, were killed when pro-independence supporters attacked a market place and police station in Jayapura. Three of the attackers were apparently also killed. The police have publicly blamed students for the attack.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tension has been mounting in Papua in recent months amidst increasingly strong demands for independence. In their efforts to break up or prevent pro-independence protests, the Indonesian security forces have committed various human rights violations: They have carried out extrajudicial executions, have tortured prisoners and have detained people without charge or trial.

The situation became more tense in the run up to the 1 December anniversary of a declaration of independence made in 1961. At least six people were reportedly killed by the security forces in the town of Merauke, as they broke up a ceremony to raise the Papuan flag in celebration of the anniversary. More than fifty people were arrested in connection with the anniversary, most of whom have now been released. However, five leading members of the Papua Presidium Council, a pro-independence umbrella group, are still detained for their pro-independence activities.

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

- urging the authorities to guarantee that none of the detainees will be tortured or ill-treated, and requesting that they are given immediate access to independent legal representatives, medical attention and members of their families;
- asking the authorities to provide information on the identities of all those detained, and to clarify the charges against them;

- calling for the detainees to be immediately released, if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- insisting that immediate, thorough and impartial investigations are carried out into the reports that some of the detainees have been tortured, and that the perpetrators are held to account.

APPEALS TO:

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF
Commissioner-General Bimantoro
(Acting Police Chief)
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trunojoyo 3
Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Fax: + 62 21 720 7277 or + 62 21 348 537
Salutation:Dear Commissioner-General Bimantoro

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR PAPUA
Head of Regional Police Papua
Jl. Sam Ratulangie No. 8
Jayapura, Irian Jaya
Indonesia
Salutation:Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Dr Alwi Abdurrahman Shihab
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Pejambon No.6
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
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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 January 2001.