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## Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issue report on prisoner releases in Indonesia

On June 4, 1998, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch/Asia issued an appeal to the Indonesian Government for the release of Indonesian and East Timorese prisoners of conscience and the independent review of convictions against all political prisoners, following President Suharto's resignation and the lifting of some political controls.

Since then, the government has released several dozen prisoners, dropped charges against some detainees whose trials were pending, and "rehabilitated" others who had served sentences under the previous administration. The released prisoners include three elderly men involved with the Indonesian Communist Party in the 1960s; several prisoners accused of links to armed nationalist movements in Aceh, Irian Jaya, and East Timor; and others accused of various political offences.

In *Indonesia and East Timor: The Prisoner Releases so far* (AI Index ASA 21/84/98, released 26 August 1998) Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch/Asia, provide background information on all the Indonesian and East Timorese prisoners who have been released and those who have had charges against them dropped.

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