

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/145/99

EXTRA 156/99 Fear for safety / possible "disappearance"

8 November 1999

INDONESIA / EAST TIMOR Geraldo Moises, aged 45, civil servant

Amnesty International has grave fears for the safety of Geraldo Moises who was abducted by armed militias in Atambua, West Timor, on 9 September 1999.

Geraldo Moises, from Dili in East Timor, fled with his family to Atambua, inside the West Timor border, after militia violence erupted following the 30 August independence ballot for East Timor.

On 7 September, the house where Geraldo Moises and his family had sought shelter was visited by militias and soldiers from the Indonesian National Army (TNI), who questioned him about why he had left East Timor and whether he supported independence for the region. They told him that if he did he should return there. Two days later he was taken away by some of the militias who had turned up again, this time asking for him by name.

Some of the men had been known to Geraldo Moises as being active in the Aitarak militia, formerly based in Dili, near to his home. Geraldo Moises is thought to have been taken to the Aitarak headquarters in Atambua town.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of large numbers of East Timorese in West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. Militias, supported by Indonesian security forces, are continuing to threaten, intimidate, abduct and attack East Timorese including those wanting to return home. A repatriation program, initiated under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has enabled some of these to return but there are still reportedly about 200,000 East Timorese refugees in West Timor. The UNHCR has not been able to gain access to many of these and has even been attacked by militias which Indonesia has so far failed to disarm or disband.

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

- asking the authorities to establish the whereabouts and fate of Geraldo Moises and to take immediate measures to guarantee his safety;
- urging them to launch an immediate investigation into his abduction, with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice;
- urging them to give UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies full, secure and unimpeded access to the refugee camps;
- urging them to immediately disarm and disband the militias and to give clear instructions to Indonesian soldiers and police in West Timor to ensure refugees are protected against threats, harassment or physical harm.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Defence
Juwono Sudarsono
Menteri Pertahanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14
Jakarta 10110
Indonesia

Faxes:+ 62 21 381 4535/ 384 5178 (Fax numbers can be difficult to reach. Please keep trying.)

Salutation:Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister for Human Rights

Hasballah M Saad

C/- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6

Jakarta

Indonesia

Faxes:+ 62 21 300 5511 / 345 7782

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 6 December 1999.