

INTERNAL

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To: ALL NATIONAL SECTIONS
INDONESIAN COORDINATION GROUPS
ALL GROUPS WITH WOMEN PRISONERS IN INDONESIA

From: RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Date: 19 FEBRUARY 1976

CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF WOMEN IN PRISON IN INDONESIA

SUMMARY

The accompanying document discusses the ideas and program for a campaign on behalf of women prisoners in Indonesia. It deals with the proposals for the campaign and what actions are planned for the National Sections, Coordination Groups and groups to undertake. The campaign will take place in the week around April 21st, Kartini Day. Ibu Kartini is an Indonesian national heroine who lived at the turn of the century. Kartini Day is a national commemoration and can be considered as Indonesia's Women's Day.

DISTRIBUTION

This document is being sent to all National Sections, all Indonesian Coordination groups and to all groups who have adopted women prisoners in Indonesia. (A list of the latter is attached for the information of the relevant National Sections and Coordination groups.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The National Sections, Coordination groups and groups concerned should study this document and try to undertake all the suggestions planned for the campaign. This is not the final material for the campaign but merely a set of suggestions for planning the campaign and making preparations for it.

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CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF WOMEN PRISONERS IN INDONESIA

Amnesty International is concerned at the continued detention of many hundreds of women in Indonesian prisons. Most of these women prisoners have been detained without trial for over ten years for their alleged participation in an attempted coup in October 1965. Their prospect of trial and indeed release is remote. On the occasion of Kartini Day 1975, several national sections and groups did undertake actions on behalf of women in prison. Last year was a particularly good time to give special attention to women prisoners because of the fact that it was International Women's Year. However in 1976 most of these women are still in prison and attention should be drawn to their situation again.

It is proposed that a campaign be initiated from the International Secretariat to take place around the week of April 21st. Activities should commence on April 19th and continue to the end of the week, April 25th. The International Secretariat is preparing a paper about women in prison in Indonesia which will be distributed to all groups well before the campaign is due to take place. The possible use to which this material should be made, is discussed below.

ACTIVITIES

Activities to be undertaken by National Sections and Coordination groups.

1. A paper of approximately 6 or 7 pages will be sent to the national sections and coordination groups by the middle of March. The national sections and coordination groups should translate this material and send it on to the groups as soon as possible. At the latest, the translated version should reach the groups by the middle of April. Each adoption group will be sent a copy of the original english version.
2. The groups are likely to require photographs and other publicity material about particular women in prison. Several national sections do have copies of photos of various adopted prisoners. Please could the sections make sure that extra copies of these photos are made available for the groups. Also copies of the poems by Sugiarti Siswadi (see NS circular 153) would be useful for the groups in their publicity work.
3. The national sections and coordination groups should obtain lists of national womens' organisations and prepare to send them the material on Indonesia's women prisoners in March.
4. Please also obtain lists of womens' organisations at the local and regional level. Each group concerned should then be informed of the local womens' associations in the vicinity of the group's town. Please can you do this well in advance of the campaign date, so that

the adoption groups can then contact these organisations and inform them of the planned campaign and invite their involvement in it in some way or other (see below).

5. Please try to gain the interest and support of wellknown women in your country for this campaign. Women politicians, celebrities, actresses, professionals etc. should be contacted.

6. Please try to arrange for womens' magazines to publish an article on women in prison in Indonesia. Although the material for such an article will be sent later, the contacts with journalists could be made now.

Activities to be undertaken by the adoption groups.

A detailed list of activities that should be undertaken around Kartini Day will appear in a later circular. At the moment suggestions are being made for the type of activities that might be made, so that the group can prepare the campaign in advance.

1. The group should contact womens' organisations and womens' institutes at the local level. This should be done soon. Inform them that you are planning a campaign for April 19th to 25th. The group might ask whether they may be permitted to hold a meeting at one of these womens' groups and discuss the problem of women in detention in Indonesia. The material for such a lecture or discussion will appear in March. The group should try hard to persuade local womens' groups to hold such a discussion or lecture. This is a good way of increasing public awareness.

2. The group should also arrange in advance to give talks about women in prison at local churches or schools.

3. The group might want to make a display of photographs which can be used as background material for a meeting, or used as an exhibition in the local town hall, market place or school. Several national sections do have copies of photos of women prisoners and groups should order copies from them.

4. It is important that publicity be made in the local press. The group should make contacts with local journalists and inform them that material on these detained women will be available later on.

5. Other activities nearer the time of the campaign.

a) groups will be asked to prepare petitions on behalf of women prisoners.

b) letter writing campaigns

c) material will be provided for further publicity and for use in information stands, public displays and at public meetings.

Further details will be given when the material on the situation of women prisoners in Indonesia is available. As mentioned earlier, this should be in mid-March. It is hoped that the groups should receive translated material from the national sections as well as the original english version.