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**URGENT
ACTION**

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INDONESIA: AN EXECUTION AND DEATH SENTENCE

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Amnesty International has received reports that SUKARMAN, former member of the Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI), Indonesian Communist Party, was executed on 17 November 1987 near Pamekasan, Madura, an island off the northeast coast of Java.

He was 68 and had been in prison for almost two decades, since his arrest on 21 July 1968. He had been sentenced to death for subversion by Malang District Court in 1976. Sukarman had been a member of the Executive Board of the PKI provincial committee in East Java. After an attempted coup in 1965 which the present Indonesian Government has blamed on the PKI, Sukarman joined an underground organization which allegedly tried to foment an armed rebellion against the government in the Blitar area of East Java in 1967-68.

The Indonesian press made no mention of the execution at the time and there appears to have been an effort to keep it secret. The press however did report developments in two other death sentence cases. On 30 December President Suharto rejected an appeal for clemency from Abdullah UMAR, 38, a Muslim activist sentenced to death in 1985 on charges of armed robbery, murder and subversion. He had been sentenced to life imprisonment by Sleman District Court, but the sentence was changed by an appeal court to death. Two Muslim activists have been executed since 1985; at least two remain on death row. With the rejection of Abdullah Umar's clemency appeal, his execution may now be imminent.

On 1 February 1988 the Jakarta Post reported that a Thai seaman, Kamjai Khong THAVORM, 31, had been sentenced to death by a district court in Samarinda, East Kalimantan for attempting to smuggle a parcel containing 17.7 kilograms of heroin into Indonesia. He claimed he was unaware of the contents of the parcel. This is the fifth death sentence imposed for drug trafficking since it was made a capital offence in 1976.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There have been 18 judicial executions in Indonesia since the beginning of 1985: 14 former members of the PKI or people alleged to have been involved in the 1965 coup attempt; two Muslim activists; and two men convicted of premeditated murder. This represents a sharp increase in the use of the death penalty--in the decade 1975 to 1985 there were four executions.

Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It has repeatedly urged the Indonesian Government to abolish the death penalty and commute all remaining death sentences to life imprisonment.

Telephone 01-833 1771 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the release of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed prisoners of conscience. It works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Air letters/telexes:

- deploring the execution of Sukarman;
- urging that the rejection of Abdullah Umar's appeal for clemency be reconsidered;
- urging that all death sentences including his and Kamjai Khong Thavorm's be commuted to life imprisonment.

State Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President Suharto
Bina Graha
Jalan Veteran 17
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kementerian Luar Negeri
Jalan Taman Pejambon 6
Jakarta, Indonesia

Telex: 44469 DEPLU IA
Attn: President Suharto
or 44283 BIGRA IA

Telex: 44205 DEPLU IA

COPIES TO: Embassies of your government in Jakarta and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your own country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 March 1988.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.