



amnesty
international

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ASA 21/03/78



APPEAL

1978 is the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted 10 December 1948. The declaration states that recognition of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. It affirms freedom of conscience and belief and the right to express those beliefs. It establishes the right to a fair trial. It opposes torture, arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. The following appeal is being issued by Amnesty International to call for the immediate and unconditional release of an individual imprisoned in violation of the Universal Declaration. This person has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

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Indonesia: Karel Supit

Karel Supit has been detained without trial in Indonesia since 1965. He is 61 years old and is detained on the island of Buru. Before his arrest, he was a leading trade unionist, head of the Indonesian Communist Party's International Department and a former member of the Indonesian delegation to the United Nations.

Before 1965, the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) was a legal political organization with a large following. Karel Supit was a member of its parliamentary committee. In September 1965, a group of leftwing army officers tried to seize power in Indonesia. This attempted coup was thwarted by the main army leadership, who seized power. After the coup, many thousands of PKI members and sympathizers were arrested, together with members of other political parties. Thousands of others were killed.

More than 12 years after these events, tens of thousands of political prisoners are still detained without trial in Indonesia. In December 1977, the Indonesian government announced the release of 10,000 political prisoners, although this has not yet been substantiated. At the same time, it was stated that all other political prisoners would be released by the end of 1979, although the government later qualified this by stating that certain "diehards" would remain in detention. It is feared that Karel Supit, because of his leading role in the Indonesian Communist Party and in the trade union movement, will be classified in this category. His wife Lies Supit, has also been in detention without trial for 11 years.

Please send letters appealing for his release to:

President Suharto
Istana Negara
Jalan Veteran
Jakarta
Republic of Indonesia

Final Date for Action - 21 April 1978