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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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**URGENT
ACTION**

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Four Executions

16 February 1990

INDONESIA: Satar SURYANTO, aged 57
Yohanes SURONO, aged 60
Simon Petrus SOLEIMAN, aged 60
Norbertus (Noor) ROHAYAN, aged 50

The Indonesian Government confirmed today, 16 February, that four political prisoners, sentenced to death for their alleged involvement in the 1 October 1965 coup attempt, were executed yesterday, 15 February 1990, after more than 20 years in prison. They were removed from their cells in Cipinang Prison, Jakarta, between 2 and 3 am on the night of 14-15 February 1990 and shot later the same day.

When asked why the prisoners had been executed after more than 20 years in custody, Armed Forces spokesperson Brigadier General Nurhadi said that the process of law had only just been completed with the rejection by the President of a final plea for clemency.

Satar Suryanto, Yohanes Surono, Simon Petrus Soleiman and Norbertus (Noor) Rohayan were members of the former elite Cakrabirawa presidential security guard, and were accused of direct involvement in the 1 October 1965 coup attempt, in which six generals were killed. All were arrested in October 1965 and sentenced to death between 1969 and 1971. Two other members of the same unit -- Sukardjo and Giyadi Wignosuharjo -- were executed on the night of 15-16 October 1988.

The 1 October 1965 coup attempt was blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) which was subsequently banned; a massive purge of the party and its affiliated organizations followed in which an estimated 500,000 people were killed and about 1 million arrested. Most of those arrested were released in the late 1970s, but an estimated 50 remain in prison more than twenty years after their arrest; at least six of these now remain under sentence of death.

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 deplores these reported executions and is concerned for the safety of those remaining under sentence of death. It urges President Suharto to halt all further executions and to commute all outstanding death sentences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Indonesian Government has used the death penalty with increasing frequency in recent years and political prisoners have been the principal victims. The four most recent executions bring the total number executed since 1985 to 25, compared with four in the previous ten years. The majority of those executed have been accused of subversion for their alleged involvement in the 1 October 1965 coup attempt. Speaking on the occasion of the installation of three new Supreme Court Justices on 1 February 1990, Indonesia's Chief Justice, Ali Said, said that the death penalty was still an appropriate punishment for those convicted of

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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.

political subversion: "I believe that capital punishment is still necessary if the pertinent case involves the existence of the nation and the state."

Satar Suryanto, Yohanes Surono, Simon Petrus Soleiman and Norbertus (Noor) Rohayan were among 10 prisoners listed in a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 12 October 1989. The resolution appealed to the Indonesian Government not to execute these individuals and called upon the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the member states to approach the government with a view to preventing the executions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing deep concern and sadness about the executions of Satar Suryanto, Yohanes Surono, Simon Petrus Soleiman and Norbertus (Noor) Rohayan, after more than 20 years' imprisonment;
- stating your particular regret in view of the European Parliament resolution of 12 October 1989 appealing to the Indonesian Government not to execute these four prisoners, among others;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition 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 or punishment;
- expressing concern for the safety of remaining prisoners under sentence of death and urging that the President show clemency and commute all outstanding death sentences.

APPEALS TO:

President Suharto
Bina Graha
Jalan Veteran 17
Jakarta, Indonesia

Telegrams: President Suharto,
Jakarta, Indonesia

Telexes: 45611 BDEPLU IA

Ali Alatas
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kementerian Luar Negeri
Jalan Taman Pejambon 6
Jakarta
Indonesia

Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister
Alatas, Jakarta, Indonesia

Telexes: 45611 BDEPLU IA

COPIES TO:

General Try Sutrisno
Commander of the Armed Forces
Jalan Medan Merdeka Barat 13
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

Ismail Saleh
Minister of Justice
Jalan Rasuna Said
Kav 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 March 1990.

— 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.