

**URGENT
ACTION**

**amnesty
international**

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EXTERNAL (for
general distribution)

Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence.
(Amnesty International Statute, Article 1(c))

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Legal Concern

8 October 1981

INDONESIA: PRAMOEDYA Ananta Toer
JUSUF Ishak
JUSUF Verdi
and three students

Amnesty International has received reports that Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Jusuf Ishak, his son Jusuf Verdi, a student, and three other students were arrested on 5 October 1981. Pramoedya Ananta Toer, aged 55 and married with eight children, is a novelist, short story writer and historian. Jusuf Ishak, in his late 50s and married with three children, is a former journalist who recently worked as the director of a publishing company.

The arrest of Pramoedya, Jusuf Ishak and the four students is connected with a lecture given by Pramoedya at the University of Indonesia on 24 September 1981. Pramoedya was one of the participants in a discussion on the "Attitude and Role of the Intellectual" which had been organized by the Social Science Faculty of the University of Indonesia in Jakarta. After Pramoedya had addressed the students and discussion had begun, a note was handed to the chairman of the meeting saying that the meeting had been banned on the orders of the local branch of the security agency KOPKAMTIB and must stop immediately. Every day of the following week Pramoedya was called in for interrogation by KOPKAMTIB. On 5 October 1981 Pramoedya, Jusuf Ishak and four students, including Jusuf Ishak's son, Jusuf Verdi, who were reported to have organized the discussion, were arrested. Pramoedya may have now been released but it is believed that Jusuf Ishak and the four students are still in detention.

Amnesty International believes that Pramoedya, Jusuf Ishak, Jusuf Verdi and the three other students were arrested for having peacefully exercised their right to freedom of expression, and considers them to be prisoners of conscience.

Background information

Both Pramoedya and Jusuf Ishak have previously spent several years in detention without trial for alleged involvement in the 1965 coup. As a result of this coup several hundred thousand Indonesians said to be associated with the Indonesian Communist Party (P.K.I.) and other left-wing organizations were arrested and detained. Pramoedya, generally regarded as Indonesia's most prominent writer before the coup, was arrested in October 1965 for his role in a left-wing cultural association, Lekra. In 1969 he was transferred from a prison in Jakarta to the prison island of Buru where he was held until December 1969 with several thousand others who were alleged to have been involved in the coup. During the final years of his detention Pramoedya was allowed to write but not publish his work. He was among the final group

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of untried prisoners to be released in the government's "phased release program". After his release the first volume of a four-part historical epic written by Pramoedya during his detention was published by a publishing house set up by a group of released detainees, including Jusuf Ishak. This book sold extremely well and was reprinted several times before the Attorney General banned it and the other planned volumes in June 1981 on the grounds that they contained disguised Marxist propaganda. Jusuf Ishak, a journalist who was secretary general of the Jakarta-based Asia-Africa Journalist's Association at the time of the 1965 coup, was arrested in 1969 in connection with the coup and was held in Salemba prison in Jakarta until late 1975. Amnesty International had adopted both Pramoedya and Jusuf Ishak as prisoners of conscience.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Telegrams/express letters expressing concern about the arrest and detention of Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Jusuf Ishak, Jusuf Verdi and the three students, and urging their immediate and unconditional release, if they are still in detention.

Please, if possible, organize a few telegrams.

APPEALS TO:

Admiral Sudomo
Commander KOPKAMTIB
Medan Merdeka Barat
Jakarta, Indonesia

President Suharto
Istana Negara
Jalan Veteran
Jakarta, Indonesia

Copies of appeals may be sent to Indonesian diplomatic representatives in your country.

Please, if possible, organize some appeals from WRITERS, JOURNALISTS or STUDENT GROUPS in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Appeals may continue until 8 November 1981.

- Please take immediate action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the Recommended Action.
- Letters and telegrams should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to the 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 can be used unless stated otherwise, although, letters written in a private or professional capacity may be more effective.

- Information about the alleged connection of any person with an organization which is banned in their country is provided as background only and should not be included in appeals.
- In Urgent Action cases, where Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the possible ill-treatment of prisoners, appeals are issued when the circumstances of a person's arrest or disappearance make such treatment likely. Do not make direct accusations and, unless otherwise instructed, do not use the word "torture".
- Send at least one telegram or express letter immediately. Other letters can be sent afterwards to the addresses listed. Copies of letters should be sent to the relevant diplomatic representatives in your country. Copies of any replies received should be sent immediately to the International Secretariat, or to your national section or Urgent Action coordinator. Thank the official who has replied, requesting that you be kept informed about the case.