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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT  
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**URGENT  
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: **ASA 21/07/90**

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Further information on UA 104/90 (ASA 21/06/90, 14 March) - Imminent Execution of Six Political Prisoners

INDONESIA: Ruslan Widjayastra  
Sukatno

Iskandar Subekti  
Asep Suryaman

I Bungkus  
Marsudi

Amnesty International believes that the six political prisoners named above remain in danger of execution, some after more than 20 years in prison. In response to international appeals not to carry out the executions, reportedly scheduled for 11 March 1990, Indonesian authorities said that this was a domestic matter, and implied that the executions would be carried out in spite of foreign pressure at an unspecified future date.

When asked on 10 March whether the six had been executed, Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno reportedly said: "Not yet. If they are executed later on we will announce it." He went on to say: "We have our laws and no other country will be able to shake our decision. Not a single foreign power can dictate to Indonesia...The issue of executions is an internal matter of Indonesia, an affair concerning our national interests, our sovereignty and our freedom. Therefore outsiders should not interfere in our affairs. Write that in big letters."

The government has claimed that the execution of four political prisoners on 16 February 1990, after more than 24 years in jail, was in accordance with both Indonesian judicial procedure and with the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (see UA 72/90, ASA 21/03/90, 16 February). While Amnesty International recognizes that the death penalty is still provided for in Indonesian law, it believes that the reasons offered by the government to justify the execution of political prisoners after so many years, lack credibility. It believes that the executions have been carried out on the basis of political considerations and not in accordance with normal principles of justice.

In a statement before the United Nations Human Rights Commission on 21 February 1990, the Indonesian delegate attempted to justify the long delay in carrying out the executions on the grounds that "...the presence of the defendants was required as material witnesses in related trials throughout Indonesia". To Amnesty International's knowledge, however, there have been no trials related to the 1965 coup attempt for over ten years. The government has also claimed that the delay of more than twenty years was a natural and acceptable result of a rigorous judicial process. In its statement to the Human Rights Commission the government said the delay was "...due to the time needed by the judicative and executive bodies in Indonesia to ascertain that justice was really upheld...Their testimony, as well as the process of applying for clemency in their own cases, took a considerable amount of time and is in fact an indication that the defendants were afforded every legal remedy, including that of appeal to the higher courts."

In Amnesty International's view, this explanation is misleading and does not adequately account for the delays in question. The political prisoners executed on 16 February 1990, for example, waited up to eighteen years to learn that their appeals to a higher court had been denied. Noor Rohayan and Simon Petrus Sulaiman submitted their appeals on 20 November 1969, twelve days after they were sentenced by a Military Tribunal. According to official sources, their appeals were rejected on 3 February 1987, on the grounds that they were overdue. They waited a further two to three years to hear that their appeals for Presidential clemency, submitted in 1987, had been rejected.

Amnesty International believes that through delays of this duration the prisoners in question were denied their right to a prompt and impartial trial as specified in Article 10 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights. It also believes that such long and uncertain

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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.**



stays on death row, in themselves, approximate a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and as such are inconsistent with Article 4 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

**Note:** Some of the details about two of the six prisoners given in the original UA need to be corrected: Ruslan Widjayasastra was tried in the Central Jakarta District Court. Unlike those tried in Special Military Courts, he did have the right to appeal against his death sentence and did so on 23 November 1981. He subsequently appealed to the Supreme Court in 1983, and finally appealed for Presidential clemency in July 1985. Marsudi was tried before the Jakarta-Banten Military Tribunal and sentenced to death on 13 July 1976.

On 9 March the Secretary General of Amnesty International sent an urgent telex to President Suharto and other government authorities urging the Government not to carry out the executions and expressing concern at the increasing frequency with which the death penalty had been used, particularly against political prisoners, in recent years.

On the same day, the Italian Ambassador in Jakarta carried out a demarche on behalf of the 12 member states of the European Community (EC) appealing to the Indonesian authorities to refrain, on humanitarian grounds, from further executions of prisoners under sentence of death for their involvement in the attempted coup of 1965, and Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers offered to grant political asylum to the six prisoners. On 15 March 1990 the European Parliament passed an Emergency Resolution urging the government of Indonesia not to carry out the executions and calling on EC member states to grant asylum to the six political prisoners.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:**

- expressing deep concern that the six political prisoners named above are in danger of execution;
- expressing your belief that their execution more than 20 years after their arrest constitutes a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- expressing concern about evidence that their trials might not have met with internationally accepted standards of fairness;
- in view of the above, urging government authorities to do everything in their power to ensure that these executions are not carried out, and urging President Suharto to show clemency and commute these and all other outstanding death sentences.

**Note:** Please ensure that the correct details are given in appeals for Ruslan Widjayasastra and Marsudi.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Suharto  
Bina Graha  
Jalan Veteran 17  
Jakarta, Indonesia

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

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

Telegrams: President Suharto  
Jakarta, Indonesia  
Telexes: 44283 BIGRA IA  
44240 SEKNEG IA

Telegrams: Justice Minister  
Saleh, Jakarta, Indonesia  
Telexes: 44205; 44469;  
45611 DEPLU IA

Telegrams: Gen. Sutrisno,  
Markas Besar ABRI,  
Jakarta, Indonesia  
Telexes: 46116 MENHUB IA;  
44310 DEPHUB IA

(via Min. Foreign Affairs)

**COPIES TO:** - Ali Alatas  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Kementerian Luar Negeri  
Jalan Taman Pejambon 6  
Jakarta, 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 24 May 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.