

URGENT amnesty international URGENT ACTION

International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England

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

22 July 1980

INDONESIA: SUPAPMAN
MAJID
DJADIWIROSUBPOTO
YOHANNES PARSIDI
SULAMI

and other political prisoners

The above prisoners were arrested and tried on charges of alleged involvement in the attempted coup of September 1965. Suparman and Majid were both arrested in October 1965 and sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment in 1971. They are serving their sentences at Balikpapan Prison, East Kalimantan. Djadiwirosubroto was arrested in April 1968 and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1973. He is being held in Cipinang Prison, Jakarta. Yohannes Parsidi was arrested in 1965 and sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in 1976; he is detained in Nusakambangan Camp, Central Java. Sulami was arrested in 1966, sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in 1975 and is now detained at Bukit Duri Prison, Jakarta.

Djadiwirosubroto, Yohannes Parsidi and Sulami have been adopted by AI as prisoners of conscience.

Since 1965 a total of approximately 1000 prisoners have been tried. These prisoners have been classified by the authorities as "Category A" prisoners. Tens of thousands of "Category B" prisoners, persons against whom the authorities admitted that they had insufficient evidence to bring to trial, have been released in recent years.

In November 1979 President Suharto issued an instruction to the Ministry of Justice stating that political prisoners who had been sentenced were to be eligible for remission of their sentences on the same terms as those applied to criminal prisoners. Following this announcement, 331 convicted political prisoners received remission, of whom 118 were released and 20 were granted a reduction in sentence from life to 20 years' imprisonment. The remission decree has not been applied uniformly. Prisoners are in principle eligible for remission of up to three-quarters of their sentence if they have been imprisoned for six years or more and for parole if they have served two-thirds of their sentence. AI believes that very many of the approximately 600 tried political prisoners who are eligible for remission of their sentences have not in fact been granted such remission. Among them are the five prisoners mentioned above.

AI is concerned that the Presidential instruction granting remission for tried political prisoners should be uniformly applied in all prisons throughout Indonesia. Prisoners who have served two-thirds of their sentences should be immediately released and all other prisoners should be informed of their date of release, under the terms of the remission instruction.

17 August is Indonesian Independence Day and is traditionally the date on which the President has granted remission to criminal prisoners. AI is concerned that the President should grant remission and parole to political prisoners sentenced in connection with the 1965 coup, such as the five people mentioned above.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express letters to arrive before 17 August 1980 to President Suharto:

- welcoming the completion of the release program for "Category B" prisoners, and the fact that some tried "Category A" prisoners have also been released recently under the terms of the Presidential instruction granting remission announced last year;
- urging that, to commemorate Indonesian Independence Day this year, all tried political prisoners ("Category A") held in connection with the events of 1965 be granted remission and, in some cases, prompt release, including Suparman, Majid, Djadiwirosubroto, Johannes Parsidi and Sulami.

APPEALS TO: His Excellency President Suharto
Istana Negara
Jakarta
Indonesia

COPIES TO: Major General Moejono S.H.
Departemen Kehakiman
Jalan Taman Pejambon 2
Jakarta,
Indonesia

and to Indonesian diplomatic representatives to your country.

ANNEXES in particular are asked to take part in this Urgent Action.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO ARRIVE BEFORE 17 AUGUST 1980.

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.