

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

this list is correct as of  
23 September 1977

Index No: ASA 21/09/77  
Distr: NS/CO/AD

Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
10 Southampton Street  
London WC2  
England

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDONESIA  
JOURNALISTS, WRITERS AND POETS

Many of the prisoners listed below were journalists working on newspapers, such as the Communist Party newspaper Marian Rakyat, which were banned immediately after the abortive coup in October 1965. Others, such as writers and poets, were members of Lembaga Kebudayaan Rakyat, LEKRA, the leftwing cultural organization proscribed by the army after the abortive coup.

LEKRA was founded in 1950 and grew quite substantially in its first year. Several branches were established in Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi and Kalimantan. By 1960 LEKRA claimed to have 200 branches. One of the most important branches was in Jogjakarta where there was an unofficial affiliation with a group of young painters from the association of People's Artists. By 1963 LEKRA claimed a membership of 100,000.

LEKRA was the only major national cultural organization to have developed in this period. Its functions included providing facilities for artists and training possibilities in different cultural fields. In 1962 LEKRA founded the People's Art University in Jakarta. It also published a periodical called Zaman Baru to which writers and artists contributed and published additional books and articles.

LEKRA was closely associated with the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) and many of its artists were employed to design posters for the PKI and other mass organizations at the time of elections and congresses. LEKRA, along with the other leftwing movements, was proscribed after the abortive coup and formally banned in March 1966.

When LEKRA and the leftwing newspapers were proscribed, many writers and journalists were arrested on suspicion of being communists. They were held under the blanket charge of involvement in the abortive coup. Many of these people were not members of the PKI itself but their membership of organizations closely associated with the PKI was, and is, the basis on which the government considers them to have been personally involved in the attempted coup. In effect, they are all considered by the government to be guilty by association.

The abortive coup of October 1965 was planned by several middle-ranking army officers and aimed against the army leadership. In the process of the coup, six senior army generals were killed. The coup attempt was quickly crushed by surviving army leaders, who then accused the PKI of having been involved in the coup. There followed massive arrests, in the course of which more than half a million people were killed and at least more than half a million others were kept in detention. People who were in some way connected with the PKI or one of its associated leftwing organizations were liable to summary arrest and detention without recourse to normal legal and constitutional safeguards.



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JOURNALISTS, WRITERS AND POETS

ADISUMARTO: aged over 65; journalist and political worker; following attempted coup he joined the Bung Karno Corps, a group supporting President Sukarno; tried for his part in this group in 1968-9, he was given a 12 year ~~sentence~~. Held in Cipinang Prison, Jakarta. Suffers from very poor health.

ALWI: aged about 49; journalist with Warta Bakti, a progressive evening newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested in September 1969; detained without trial in Salemba Prison, Jakarta; married with two children.

Tom ANWAR: aged about 52; deputy chief editor of Bintang Timur, a Jakarta daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested in October 1965; detained on Buru Island; married with children.

Rivai APIN: aged 50; editor of the literary journal Zaman; arrested in October 1965; detained on Buru Island; some of Apin's poems have been translated into English and were published in an anthology in the 1970s.

ARMUNANTO: aged about 59; former editor of Bintang Timur, a Jakarta daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; former Indonesian ambassador to Czechoslovakia; member of parliament and minister of mining until the time of his arrest; arrested in March 1966; detained in Nirbaya Detention Camp.

Sjamsoe BAKRI: aged about 40; journalist and member of the Communist Party; arrested late 1965; detained on Buru Island; married with four children, his wife is also imprisoned.

DAHONO: aged about 39; home news editor of Harian Rakjat (People's Daily) the Communist Party daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested in 1971; he was first detained in the Central Intelligence Unit, Kebayoran-Lama, Jakarta, although he may since have been transferred to Salemba Prison.

A. S. DHARTA: a poet and writer, closely connected with the establishment of LEKRA, the leftwing cultural association; aged about 53; used the pen name of Klara Akustia; detained in Kebon Waru Prison, Bandung.

Basuki EFFENDI: aged about 45; script-writer and one of Indonesia's foremost film directors; an active member of LEKRA; arrested first in 1965, but released after four and a half months' detention; following release he worked as a salesman because he could not find other work; arrested for the second time in 1969; detained on Buru Island; married with two children.

A. Sosrodanukusomo HADI: a writer and a member of LEKRA, an organization in which he held an executive position in the Surabaya district branch; editor of Tenaga Pembangunan Indonesia (Indonesian Forces of Development) magazine; a collection of his short stories and verse won a national literature prize in 1953; detained on Buru Island.

Banda HARAHAP: aged 60; a poet and journalist responsible for the literary column of Harian Rakjat (People's Daily), the Communist Party daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested October 1965; detained on Buru Island; suffers from poor health; married with four children.

HARIUDI: a writer and journalist before his arrest; his wife lives in Jakarta; detained on Buru Island.

Ayub JOEBAR: aged 50; literary critic and features writer; elected to the central board of LEKRA in 1959; member of parliament; arrested November 1968; detained in Salemba Prison, from which he was transferred to another detention center in Jakarta in early 1977, whilst a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross visited Salemba Prison; other articulate prisoners were also transferred from Salemba, to avoid them being interviewed by the Red Cross; all prisoners were returned to Salemba Prison following the conclusion of the Red Cross visit; married with one daughter.

JULIARSO: aged about 49; foreign news editor of Harian Rakjat, the Communist Party daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; precise date of arrest unknown, probably 1967 or 1968; detained on Buru Island; married with children.

KARIM D.P.: aged about 52; editor in chief of Warta Bakti, the leftwing daily evening newspaper which was banned after the 1965 attempted coup; chairman of the Indonesian Journalists Association in 1965; arrested in 1965; one of the group of prisoners temporarily transferred from Salemba prison during the visit of a Red Cross delegation in January 1977; married with children.

S. W. KUNTJAHJO: well known in Indonesia as both a trade union leader and a poet; his articles and poems were published mainly in the Communist Party newspaper Harian Rakjat; aged about 55 years old; married with six children; detained on Buru Island.

Ferdinand LODEWIJK Risakota: a writer and journalist before his arrest, he does in fact come from Ambon (which is close to Buru Island); married; detained on Buru Island.

Agus MULJONO: assistant to Basuki Effendi (see above) and employed by the State Film Company; aged about 46 years old; married with eight children, living in Jakarta in considerable financial difficulties due to the imprisonment of the family bread-winner; detained on Buru Island.

NAIBAHO: aged about 48; editor in chief of Harian Rakjat (People's Daily), the Communist Party daily newspaper which was banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested October 1965; detained on Buru Island; married with children.

OEY Hay Djoen: aged about 50; well-known essayist and writer who frequently contributed to Zaman Baru, the journal of LEKRA, the leftwing cultural organization; arrested October 1965; wife and daughter living in Jakarta; detained on Buru Island.

Hasjim RACHMAN: aged about 55; managing editor of Bintang Timur, a Jakarta daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; active member of the Indonesian Journalists Association and member of the leftwing cultural organization, LEKRA; arrested October 1965; detained on Buru Island; married with children.

ROESLAN: aged about 48; a journalist before his arrest; married with children; detained in Salemba Prison, Jakarta.

Mrs RUSJIATI: journalist, working for several years on regional newspapers before working for Indonesia's national news agency, Antara, where she specialised in reporting domestic political matters; active member of the Indonesian Journalist Association; detained in Bulu Prison, Semarang, under very poor conditions.

Bujung SALEH Puradisastra: aged 51; writer and literary critic; active member of LEKRA and Baperki, the Consultative Body on Indonesian Citizenship, an organization concerned with the protection of the rights of minorities in Indonesia and particularly the Chinese, which was also banned in 1966; probably arrested in early 1967; detained on Buru Island; married with one child.

SANTOSO: about 48 years old; journalist for Antara News Agency; married with children; detained in Salemba Prison, Jakarta.

RELEASED  
Mrs Sugiarti SISWADI: about 50 years old; well-known writer and poet; leader of Jakarta branch of LEKRA, the leftwing cultural organization; also active in progressive women's organization Gerwani and co-editor of its journal Api Kartini; arrested 1966 but released 1970; re-arrested late 1970; married with two children; her husband is also detained; Mrs Siswadi is detained in Bukit Duri Prison.

Mrs Maasje SIWI: aged about 55; secretary general of Gerwani, the women's organization, at the time of the 1965 attempted coup; co-editor of Api Kartini, the organization's journal; arrested October 1965; detained in Bukit Duri Prison.

Miss SUDJINAH: aged 43; a regular contributor to Harian Rakjat (People's Daily), Bintang Timur and Api Kartini (the Gerwani magazine) which were all banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested late 1966; charged with "participating, directly or indirectly, in the 1965 attempted coup, and of working after that event to revive the Indonesian Communist Party"; tried early 1975 and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment.

Lies SUKATNO: journalist on Ekonomi Nasional, a Jakarta daily newspaper; precise date of arrest unknown, probably 1966; arrested together with her husband, who was secretary general of Pemudya Rakyat, the People's Youth Movement; detained in Bukit Duri Prison; beaten during interrogation; her husband, Sukatno, was tried (date unknown) and sentenced to death, but there is no confirmation that sentence was carried out or whether it was commuted.

RELEASED  
SUPRIJO: aged about 51; chief economics correspondent of the national news agency Antara, and an active member of the Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI); arrested October 1965; detained in Salemba; married with children, his wife was a member of parliament for the Communist Party.

Alex Sunarjo SURYO: aged 49; formerly a journalist with Gelora Indonesia, a pro-Sukarno newspaper, he was studying in Yugoslavia at the time of the 1965 attempted coup; arrested shortly after his return to Indonesia in 1967; detained on Buru Island.

SUWARGONO: aged about 47; journalist with the national news agency, Antara, before his arrest, the precise date of which is unknown; detained in Salemba Prison.

Marlon TAMPUBOLON: aged about 37; journalist for Bintang Timur, a Jakarta daily newspaper banned after the 1965 attempted coup; arrested 1965; detained on Buru Island.

THIO Keng Hok: aged over 50; journalist with Dharta Bhakti, which is believed to have been banned following the 1965 attempted coup; of Chinese nationality, he is a Buddhist; married with five children; detained at Nusekembangan Camp.

Benni TJUNG: aged 40; writer and poet; contributed regularly to the LEKRA magazine Zaman Baru; married with children; detained on Buru Island.

Pramoedya Ananta TOER: aged 52; one of Indonesia's leading novelists, also essayist and critic; imprisoned by Dutch colonial government for his work in the nationalist movement; then detained by the Sukarno Government, due to his book The Chinese Question in Indonesia, which aroused official military and civilian antagonism by its defence of the Chinese community at a time when discriminatory policies were being pursued by the government; the book was banned; arrested again in 1965; active member of LEKRA; detained on Buru Island; married with eight children.

Released

Bondan WIRAWAN: aged about 33; journalist before his arrest, of which the precise date is not known; married; detained in Salemba Prison, Jakarta.