

Ananta Tur; the poet Rivai Apin; two former newspaper editors, Hasjim Rahman and M. Naibaho; and former parliamentarian Karel Supit. They were expected to be transferred from Buru to a prison on Java, probably Nirbaya prison in Jakarta.

Admiral Sudomo, chief of the security body, KOPKAMTIB, had said earlier that Pramudya Ananta Tur and others had consistently refused to answer questions during interrogation and had been classified as "hard-core". Amnesty International fears that "hard-core" prisoners also include those who refuse to sign a pledge that they will abstain from political activity and will abandon any claims to compensation for wrongful imprisonment or ill-treatment.

The Indonesian Government announced in 1976 that it would begin the release in December 1977 of all "B" category prisoners, those who were said to have been involved in the attempted coup of 1965, but against whom there was not enough evidence to bring them to trial. However, despite the announced release of 27,000 prisoners under the program, Amnesty International received information in recent weeks indicating that the program was not to be fully implemented.

According to this information:

-- in one area alone, Central Java, 900 prisoners were to be held after the end of the year so that they could appear as witnesses in trials;

-- the release of 205 prisoners held in Nusakembangan prison, Central Java, originally scheduled for September 1979, had been indefinitely postponed;

-- 600 places had been prepared in Nusakembangan to which "hard-core" detainees from Buru and Kalimantan, Borneo, would be transferred.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ASKS INDONESIA TO CONFIRM RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

Amnesty International today (Monday, 26 November 1979) asked the Indonesian Government to confirm that it would meet its commitment to release by the end of 1979 all remaining political prisoners who are not to be tried. The organization acted in response to reports suggesting that as many as 1,500 prisoners, some of them held for 14 years^{without trial,} would continue to be detained.

In telegrams to President Suharto and Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Amnesty International asked for confirmation of assurances given it by the Foreign Minister on 15 November, when he met Amnesty International Secretary General Martin Ennals at the Indonesian Embassy in London, during a state visit by President Suharto to the United Kingdom. Mr Kusumaatmadja said then that all prisoners scheduled earlier for release would be freed as planned by the end of the year.

Amnesty International was disturbed by reports it received from Indonesia and by recent statements by officials there. The Chief of Information in the Department of Defence said recently that several dozen "uncooperative" prisoners previously held on the island of Buru would not be released. Among them were some of the best-known Indonesian political prisoners, including the country's most distinguished novelist, Pramudya

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