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COUNTRY: Indonesia/East Timor
SUBJECT TITLE: Summary of Amnesty International's
Concerns in Indonesia and East Timor

Introduction

Attached is a summary of AI's concerns in Indonesia and East Timor which may be useful for briefing purposes or general publicity work.

This summary is being sent out now for use by sections and coordinators in briefing their government representatives to the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI). The IGGI is an international aid consortium made up of donor countries and international financial agencies which meets every year to agree on the total aid to be given to Indonesia. The IGGI is chaired by the Netherlands Government's Minister for Development Cooperation and meets in the Hague, the Netherlands. The next meeting will take place on 15-16 June 1988.

At its 30th meeting in the Netherlands in June 1987 the IGGI agreed to continue its aid project to Indonesia and to maintain the support of the donor countries. The total government-to-government assistance was expected to reach US \$ 3.15 billion for 1987. There were fourteen donor countries (Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, FRG, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA), while other countries, for example Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden have in the past sent observers. The IGGI also includes representatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Program.

The IGGI meeting is usually well publicized. Human rights issues have never explicitly been included on the agenda but in past years, Indonesian representatives were reportedly questioned about the executions of long term political prisoners. For the past four years a group of Indonesian and Western non-governmental organizations working on Indonesia, collectively called INGI, has produced an aide-memoire and formally presented it to the chairperson of IGGI in which human rights issues were raised. Many government representatives continue to maintain, however, that the IGGI meeting is not an appropriate forum for such a discussion.

Recommended Actions

All sections in countries represented as donors or observers in the IGGI meeting are asked to send a letter to their government's representative at the meeting asking them to raise human rights concerns at the IGGI meeting. In all of these sections the officer responsible for

liaison with his or her own government should consult with the Indonesia/East Timor coordination group or the PIRAN coordinator for additional material and for information on their government's policy towards Indonesia. Sections should find out what approach was made by their section to their government before the last IGGI meeting and what response was received.

Sections should attempt to find out from officials responsible for economic cooperation and overseas aid in their ministry of foreign affairs who will represent their government at the IGGI meeting. They should then send these delegates a letter outlining AI's concerns in Indonesia/East Timor and asking that they raise human rights issues at formal or informal discussions at the IGGI meeting.

These letters should also emphasize the following points:

- AI takes no stand on economic aid to countries where human rights are violated: it does not ask for the cessation of economic aid nor for specific conditions to be placed upon such aid.

- AI works only for the protection of specific human rights such as the right to freedom of expression and religion, the right not to be subjected to torture and ill-treatment, the right to a fair trial, and the right to life.

- nevertheless, AI considers that the governments of the countries represented in IGGI are in a strong position to urge that socioeconomic development in Indonesia be accompanied by a respect for human rights, and to indicate to the Indonesian Government that they are aware of and do not condone human rights violations committed in Indonesia and East Timor.

In addition to enclosing the attached summary of AI's concerns, sections or coordinators may wish to highlight cases of Indonesian prisoners of conscience on whose behalf groups in their section are working.

All other sections are encouraged to send a copy of the attached paper to their ministry of foreign affairs or any other government officials interested in the human rights situation in Indonesia.

DISTRIBUTION BY THE IS

This circular has been sent direct by the IS to:

All Sections; Coordination Groups on Indonesia/East Timor; PIRAN Coordinators for onward transmission to PIRAN groups; Groups working for a prisoner in Indonesia/East Timor.

amnesty international

INDONESIA

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SUMMARY OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S CONCERNS IN INDONESIA AND EAST TIMOR

MAY 1988

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Prisoners of Conscience and Possible Prisoners of Conscience

Hundreds of political prisoners are in detention in Indonesia and East Timor, among them at least 18 prisoners of conscience. Torture of prisoners has been reported from Java, Irian Jaya and the territory of East Timor, in some cases resulting in death. The use of the death penalty has continued: since the beginning of 1987 at least four people have been sentenced to death and another four men reportedly executed, two of whom were executed 25 years after their convictions for murder.

Prisoners of conscience include former Foreign Minister Dr Subandrio, 73, and three other prisoners arrested in connection with a coup attempt in 1965 which the government claims was led by the now-banned Partai Komunis Indonesia (PKI), Indonesian Communist Party. Other prisoners of conscience are Lieutenant General Hartono Rekso Dharsono and Haji A M Fatwa, both arrested in late 1984 following their criticism of the government's handling of a riot in which at least 30 Muslim demonstrators were shot dead by government troops (see Amnesty International Report 1986 and 1987), and at least 13 other Muslim activists.

More than two dozen Muslim activists have been tried and convicted of subversion since the beginning of 1987, including some who may have been convicted for the non-violent expression of their religious beliefs. Six men from Central Java were arrested for having participated in a network of village-based Islamic study courses called usroh in which they criticized the state ideology, Pancasila, and certain government policies as being in violation of Islamic teaching (see Amnesty International Report 1986). Their trials in Brebes and Banyumas brought the total of convicted usroh prisoners to almost 40 since the trials began in 1986. The prisoners were accused of attempting to overthrow the government and establish an Islamic state, but evidence to support the accusations appears to be slight, and one prisoner had his conviction for subversion overturned by the Supreme Court on appeal in March 1988. The Court stated that there was no evidence to support subversion charges and that usroh was not included on a list of proscribed organizations. Amnesty International has questioned the fairness of the trials of usroh prisoners and Muslim activists tried in Jakarta and Cirebon in late 1987 and early 1988. Many prisoners retracted the interrogation depositions they had given in custody, saying they signed them under force or duress.

Allegations of Torture and Extrajudicial Executions

Many prisoners, like some of the Muslim activists mentioned above, have alleged that they were tortured or ill-treated in custody during interrogation to force them to sign prepared "confessions". The torture of both political and criminal suspects continues to be reported from various parts of the country.

A criminal suspect on trial in Kalimantan alleged in August 1987 that police had given him electric shocks to extract a "confession". Police who reportedly applied lighted cigarettes to the mouth of a village official in Brebes were put on trial in July 1987, but while the Indonesian press has reported some cases of police and military personnel being tried for the torture of criminal suspects, there have apparently been no investigations into reports of torture of political suspects.

In early April 1987 two young men, Paskalis Kawurim and Anakletus Bitip, were reportedly arrested and tortured in the village of Awayanka, Mindiptanah, Irian Jaya. They had failed to report to local authorities after returning from a refugee camp in Papua New Guinea, and appear to have been suspected of being supporters of Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM) which has been waging an armed struggle for an independent state in Irian Jaya since the mid-sixties. Both men were held in military detention for two months without charge and then released.

Amnesty International recently received information that Salman Hafidz, a Muslim prisoner executed in 1985 after having been sentenced to death for murder, armed robbery and subversion, was tortured while in Bandung Military Prison. He reportedly was given electric shocks, burned with lighted cigarettes and severely beaten.

The Indonesian press has regularly reported cases where suspected criminal offenders have died in custody in disputed circumstances. During 1987 more than a dozen such deaths in custody were reported from Medan, Samarinda, Banjarmasin, Balikpapan, Mataram, Probolinggo, Tangerang and Bogor and Jakarta. Many were said to have been shot and killed while trying to escape or while resisting arrest, but families of the victims questioned such explanations. Investigations have been opened into the conduct of police officers in three cases. In one of these cases a local police commander and two policemen have been charged in court but the result of this court case is not yet known.

Reported Human Rights Violations in East Timor

Human rights violations continue to be reported from East Timor. Two prisoners, Aleixo Gutteres and Vicente de Sousa, were reportedly tortured in late 1986 and early 1987 during interrogation in Dili in a house occupied by military intelligence, KOTIS. Aleixo Gutteres was reportedly suspected of collaborating with the Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste Independente (Fretilin), which continues to wage a guerilla war against the Indonesian Government and in support of independence for East Timor. He was tried and sentenced to seven years in prison early in 1987; Vicente de Sousa was held in custody for about a week on suspicion of having desecrated a religious statue.

Trials of political prisoners suspected of supporting Fretilin have continued in Dili District Court, with most prisoners receiving sentences

of two or three years' imprisonment. Although the Indonesian Government has claimed the trials were open to the public, observers from international organizations were not allowed to attend, and friends of the accused were reportedly afraid to do so for fear of being suspected of sympathizing with Fretilin.

More than 150 political prisoners have been released in Dili, East Timor, since August 1987 after having served all but a few months of their sentences. They had been convicted of conspiracy to commit rebellion in trials which Amnesty International believed had been unfair. According to the official news agency Antara, this left only 11 political prisoners in Dili in February 1988, although others may have been arrested since then or may be detained elsewhere in the territory.

Death Sentences

At least five death sentences have been imposed for murder since January 1987, and four executions are reported to have been carried out. On 31 October 1987 Liong Wie Tong, 52, and Tan Tang Tjoen, 62, were executed in Karawang, West Java, more than 25 years after having been sentenced to death for murder. On 17 November 1987 Sukarman, aged 68, a former PKI member, was executed in Pamekasan, Madura. Arrested in 1968 for his alleged participation in an armed communist rebellion in Blitar, East Java, he was sentenced to death by Malang District Court in 1976 after a trial which Amnesty International believes may not have been fair. According to unconfirmed reports, Abdullah bin Umar, a Muslim activist, was executed in secret in April 1988. About 30 people remain under sentence of death, including Muslim activists, people accused of involvement in the 1965 coup attempt and people convicted of criminal offences.

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