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APPEAL

1978 is the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted 10 December 1948. The declaration states that recognition of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. It affirms freedom of conscience and belief and the right to express those beliefs. It establishes the right to a fair trial. It opposes torture, arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. The following appeal is being issued by Amnesty International to call for the immediate and unconditional release of an individual imprisoned in violation of the Universal Declaration. This person has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

- AA 028/78

21 November 1978

INDONESIA: SULAMI
SRI AMBAR RUKMIATI
SUDJINAH
SUHARTI HARSONO
=====

Sulami, Sri Ambar Rukmiati, Sudjinah and Suharti Harsono were all arrested in 1966 on charges of subversion in connection with an attempted coup in Indonesia in October 1965. At that time, a group of leftwing army officers had attempted to overthrow the existing army leadership, which led to the killing of six leading generals. The army reacted quickly and suppressed the attempted coup, blaming the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) for the coup, although there has never been any clear evidence of the role the PKI did play in these events. There followed mass arrests of people associated with the PKI and other leftwing organizations, during the course of which hundreds of thousands of people were arrested and, according to a government spokesman, more than half a million people were summarily killed. People who were members of leftwing organizations were detained on the grounds of guilt by association, even though they did not take any part in the abortive coup. Others were arrested because of casual relationships with persons known, or thought, to be communist. AI estimates that there are still perhaps as many as 30,000 untried political prisoners held in Indonesia in connection with these events, although the government has now announced its intention to release all untried detainees by the end of 1979.

Sulami and her three co-defendants were brought to trial nine years after their arrest. The main charges against them related to their activities after October 1965, when it was alleged that they engaged in subversive acts. These included the publication and distribution of an illegal bulletin, *Mimbar Rakyat*, the acquisition of false identity cards for themselves and others, attempts to help the children of political prisoners, and other actions of this kind. It was further alleged that prior to October 1965 they had attended meetings at which preparations for the coup attempt were made.

The Public Prosecutor demanded a life sentence for Sulami and 20 years' imprisonment for her co-defendants. The judges passed sentences of 20 years' imprisonment for Sulami and 18 years' imprisonment for Sudjinah, whilst Sri Ambar Rukmiati and Suharti Harsono were each given 15 years' imprisonment.

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Prior to 1965, all four women had been active in *Gerakan*, a leftwing women's organization. Sulami was Third Secretary of the organization and Sudjinah worked in the organization's secretariat, with responsibility for education and culture. Sri Ambar Rukmiati was also an active trade unionist and was head of the Women's Bureau of the trade union federation SOBSI (*Sentral Organisasi Buruh Seluruh Indonesia*). Suharti Harsono was on the staff of the peasants' union *Barisan Tani Indonesia* (BTI). All these organizations, together with other trade unions and leftwing associations, were banned following the coup attempt.

Sulami, Sri Ambar Rukmiati, Sudjinah and Suharti Harsono are all detained in Bukit Duri Women's Prison, Jakarta.

In its continuing work on behalf of these prisoners, it is AI's belief that none of their previous political affiliations to organizations legal at the time, nor their activities after 1965, amounted to crimes which could justify their imprisonment.

Please send letters appealing for their prompt and unconditional release to:

His Excellency President Suharto,
President of the Republic of Indonesia,
Istana Negara,
Jalan Veteran,
Jakarta, Indonesia.

Copies of appeals should be sent to the Indonesian diplomatic representative to your country.

Final date for action: 5 January 1979