

INTERNAL (for AI members only)

AI Index: ASA 21/13/84  
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Amnesty International  
International Secretariat  
1 Easton Street  
London WC1X 8DB  
United Kingdom

TO: All death penalty coordinators  
Coordination Groups on Indonesia/East Timor (for information)

FROM: Campaign and Membership Department and  
Asia Research Department

DATE 8 December 1984

INDONESIA DEATH PENALTY ACTION

Summary

Attached is an EXTERNAL paper concerning a trade unionist and member of the Indonesia Communist Party (PKI), Mohamad Munir, who has recently had his death sentence confirmed by the President. Also attached is a recent lawyers action, ASA 21/11/84 concerning two former leaders of the (PKI) who have also recently had their death sentences confirmed by the President.

Amnesty International believes that relatively few (probably no more than 15) of the death sentences imposed on prisoners for alleged involvement in the attempted coup of 1965 or subsequent events have been carried out. The Indonesian authorities are reported to have given indirect assurances in 1980 that no such prisoners would be executed. AI is nevertheless concerned to learn that three of these prisoners under sentence of death have recently had their sentences confirmed by the President. While it has received no information to indicate that any such executions are imminent, AI is concerned that the Indonesian authorities may now be intending to allow the execution of these prisoners. AI is appealing to the authorities to commute all these sentences.

INTERNAL recommended actions for groups and a list of addresses are also attached.

This action is scheduled to take place from December 1984 to February 1985.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR DEATH PENALTY COORDINATORS

1. Death Penalty Coordinators are asked to organize up to five groups to participate in this action. Each group is asked to send up to two letters during the course of this action.
2. Death Penalty Coordinators are asked to distribute the EXTERNAL papers to participating groups, along with the INTERNAL recommended actions for groups and the list of addresses.
3. The EXTERNAL papers can also be given to interested journalists or the general public. However, the section press officer should be consulted before approaching journalists.
4. Death Penalty Coordinators are asked to send a brief report of group activities at the conclusion of this action.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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THE DEATH PENALTY IN INDONESIA: A trade unionist under sentence of death

Background

Mohamad Munir who is now aged about 58 has been in prison for over sixteen years. He was sentenced to death in 1973 and on 15 October 1984 had his petition for clemency rejected by the President.

Mohamad Munir was an active trade unionist and member of the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI). He had been a founder member of the motor workers union in 1947 and a member of the national council of the Indonesian trade union federation SOBSI from 1952, becoming its chairman in 1964. He represented the PKI on its national assembly and was a member of the party's Central Committee.

Following an attempted coup on 30 September 1965, for which the PKI was held responsible by the present Indonesian authorities, many thousands of members of the PKI and associated leftwing organizations were arrested and detained for their alleged involvement in, or sympathy for the alleged coup attempt. The PKI was subsequently banned and many of its members went underground or were killed. Mohamad Munir was arrested on 14 July 1968 in South Blitar, east Java, which was reported to be a centre of underground PKI activity.

Mohamad Munir was detained for over four years before being tried. On 5 March 1973 he was sentenced to death after being convicted of rebellion by the District Court of Central Jakarta. On 14 March 1973 Amnesty International sent a cable to President Suharto appealing for commutation of the sentence. The sentence was confirmed by the High Court on 23 November 1981 and upheld by the Supreme Court on 28 March 1983. He then presented a petition for clemency to the President. President Suharto was reported to have taken the advice of the District Court, the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Supreme Court before rejecting the plea.

Two other prisoners, Gatot Lestario and Djoko Untung, also arrested in connection with the alleged coup of 1965 had their petitions for clemency rejected by the President in October 1984, see circular entitled Two Former Communist Leaders under Threat of Execution in Indonesia, ASA 21/11/84.

Amnesty International is concerned that the Indonesian authorities may now be intending to proceed with the execution of these and other prisoners sentenced to death in connection with the attempted coup in 1965. Amnesty International has welcomed indirect assurances from the Indonesian authorities in the past that none of these prisoners would be executed and has urged the President to commute all outstanding death sentences.

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INDONESIA DEATH PENALTY ACTION

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR GROUPS

1. Letter-writing

In general

1. Your group is asked to send up to two letters during the course of this action which is scheduled to take place from December 1984 to February 1985.
2. Letters can be written in AI's name or in a personal or professional capacity. Letters in AI's name should state the organization's reasons for opposing the death penalty in all cases and without reservation.
3. Letters should be courteously worded and should be sent preferably in English, Dutch or otherwise in your own language. If letters are sent in your own language, please print clearly the name of the prisoners about whom you are writing at the top of the letter.
4. Copies of letters should be sent to the Indonesia diplomatic representative in your country.
5. Copies of any replies should be forwarded promptly to the International Secretariat (attention Campaign and Membership Department).

Points for Letters

- . Letters should express regret at reports that appeals for commutation to the President by Mohamad Munir, Djoko Untung and Gatot Lestario (Sutarjo) have been rejected. Letters should urge respectfully that these death sentences not be carried out.
- . Welcome reports of the indirect assurances given by the Indonesian Government that they would not execute prisoners sentenced to death for alleged involvement in the attempted coup in 1965 or subsequent events.
- . Request the President to commute all further death sentences that come before him for review.

. Letters can refer to the United Nations Secretariat Working Paper issued in 1980 which states that,

"The death penalty constitutes 'cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment' which even in the light of the behaviour at which it is directed, should not be acceptable. The anti-criminal reaction of society to the capital offender should not exclude a priori the possibility of rehabilitation".

## 2. Publicity

. Groups can, in consultation with their section death penalty coordinator and press officer, try to get articles published in local newspapers based on the two attached EXTERNAL documents.

. Groups may pass on the paper concerning Mohammad Munir to any local trade unions in your country.

### LIST OF ADDRESSES

#### Address

#### Position

President Suharto  
Istana Negara  
Jalan Veteran  
Jakarta  
INDONESIA

President

#### Copies to

Lieutenant General Ali Said  
Ketua Mahkamah Agung  
Mahkamah Agung  
Jalan Lapangan Banteng, 1  
Jakarta, INDONESIA

Chairman of the  
Supreme Court

Lieutenant General Ismail Saleh  
Menteri Kehakiman  
Departement Kehakiman  
Jalan Hayam Wuruk 7  
Jakarta, INDONESIA

Minister of Justice

Hari Suharto  
Jaksa Aging  
Kejaksaan Agung RI  
Jalan Sultan Hasannuddin 1  
Kebayoran Baru  
Jakarta Selatan, INDONESIA

Attorney General