



amnesty international news release

International Secretariat, 10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF, England
Telephone: 01-836 7788 Telegrams: Amnesty London Telex: 28502



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL COMMENTS ON RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN

INDONESIA

Amnesty International welcomed the Indonesian Government's announcement on Wednesday 26 July of the release of 4,000 political prisoners held without trial. At the same time it called on the Government to release immediately and unconditionally the tens of thousands of other political prisoners held in Indonesia without trial, many of whom have now been in prison since 1965.

Amnesty International said today: "The release of 4,000 political prisoners in advance of the Government's previously announced release program is a most welcome step. The removal of previous restrictions on released prisoners, such as house arrest and town arrest, also marks a significant progress in Indonesian government policy. The continued detention of thousands of persons after as many as 13 years in prison is unacceptable, given that the government has conceded that all untried political prisoners are to be released by the end of 1979. It is AI's view that all remaining political prisoners should be released immediately and unconditionally with full restoration of civil rights. The government should also cease immediately its practice of forcibly sending some released detainees to resettlement camps in isolated areas of Kalimantan, Sumatra and Sulawesi".

AI also drew particular attention to more recent violations of human rights in Indonesia, including the detention without trial of hundreds of students, intellectuals and Moslem activists; the sentencing last week to 8 years' imprisonment of Sawito Kartowibowo who was charged with subversion for circulating a manifesto critical of the president; and the continuing government practice of

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bringing political detainees to trial many years after they were arrested. The organisation also called on the government to publish lists of all those prisoners whose release has been announced, as well as those still held in detention. Until these lists are made public there will be continuing doubt as to the numbers actually released and those still in detention in Indonesia.

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