



**URGENT
ACTION**

"Amnesty International opposes by all appropriate means the imposition and infliction of death penalties and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners or other detained or restricted persons whether or not they have used or advocated violence."

- UA 152/78

Legal concern

29 September 1978

INDONESIA: Dr Sutanti AIDIT
=====

Dr Sutanti Aidit, an AI adoptee, has been detained for nearly 12 years without trial. It is reported that her trial is due to begin next week. AI has campaigned for her release as a prisoner of conscience, and long-term detainee without trial, and is now also concerned that, due to a recent ruling by the Indonesian Supreme Court, the period she has already spent in detention will not be deducted from any possible sentence she may receive from the court.

Dr Aidit, a doctor of medicine, was the wife of D.N. Aidit, Chairman of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) at the time of the attempted coup of October 1965 (see background below). She was active in *Gerwani*, a women's organization which formed part of the leftwing movement in Indonesia prior to 1965. She was also a PKI member. Dr Aidit returned to Jakarta, the capital, only two days before the coup attempt, having studied medicine in North Korea for the previous year.

Following the attempted coup of October 1965 and the subsequent purge of the leftwing movement in Indonesia, during which her husband was killed, Dr Aidit was arrested in December 1966. She has been detained since this date in various prisons.* Dr Aidit has spent four of the last 12 years in isolation and is believed to suffer from a serious heart condition. The Indonesian Government now intends to bring her to trial on charges relating to the 12-month period before her arrest, during which she is alleged to have received underground PKI brochures and to have collected funds for medicines for PKI members.

Background

The coup of October 1965 was planned by several leftwing army officers in an attempt to replace the existing army leadership by a more leftwing one. The army reacted quickly and quashed the coup, although not before six leading army generals had been killed. The army leadership blamed 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 a massive purge of the PKI and its associated leftwing movements, during the course of which hundreds of thousands of people were arrested, and, according to a government spokesman, approximately half a million were summarily killed. People who were members of leftwing organizations were detained on the grounds that they were guilty by association, even though they played no personal part in the abortive coup. Tens of thousands remain in prison to this day, although the government has now announced that it will release all those it does not intend to bring to trial before the end of 1979.

continued ...

* At the moment, she is held in Bukit Duri Prison, Jakarta.

"The information contained in this urgent action appeal should be acted upon immediately. Because of the nature of the human rights violation and because of the urgency involved, it is not always possible for Amnesty International to check every detail before issuing an urgent action appeal. Telegrams and letters should always be courteously worded."

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express letters/letters, expressing concern at the legal situation of Dr Sutanti Aidit and urging that she be immediately and unconditionally released.

Appeals to:

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

Please send copies of appeals to the Indonesian diplomatic representative for your country, and also to:

Mr Ali Said, (Attorney General)
Jaksa Agung,
Jalan Hasanuddin 1,
Kebayoran-Baru,
Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Chairman, (Indonesian Lawyers'
PERADIN, Association)
Jalan Veteran 17,
Jakarta,
Indonesia.

Medical and legal contacts may be interested in taking action on her behalf.