

PUBLIC

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical office / Asia Program
Date: 20 March 1998

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Pudjo PRASETIO
INDONESIA**

Keywords

Theme: Prisoner of conscience/unfair trial/ill-health/ medical care

Summary

Please see the attached information on a 72-year-old prisoner of conscience adopted by Amnesty International who has now been imprisoned in Indonesia for 31 years. He is in need of constant care, having suffered the effects of stroke and Parkinson's disease and his condition is reported to be constantly deteriorating. AI continues to appeal for his release, but is particularly concerned that he should urgently be granted transfer to a nursing home as he has requested where he can receive the care unavailable to him in prison.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested to the addresses below:

- expressing concern over the details of Pudjo Prasetio's case, noting that he has been imprisoned since the events of the mid-1960s, first in Bali and now in Central Java
- noting that he is one of a very few men still imprisoned since the mid-1960s and that Amnesty International has adopted him as a prisoner of conscience, believing him to have had no involvement in the advocacy of violence
- expressing extreme concern that he continues to be held despite his advancing age and the state of his health
- noting that in the past he has asked for transfer to a nursing home and urging that this is arranged as soon as possible
- asking for the justification for the refusal to grant him clemency when there was no evidence to suggest his involvement in violent activity
- urging that clemency be granted and that he be released

Addresses

Head of Semarang Prison
Kepala Lembaga Pemasyarakatan
Semarang.
LP Kelas I Semarang
Jawa Tengah
Indonesia

President Suharto
Presiden RI
Istana Negara
Jalan Veteran
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

Please also write to the Minister of Health, who was recently appointed, making the above points and asking him to use his good offices to raise Pudjo Prasetyo's case and ensure that he receive the care he needs in an appropriate setting:

Prof. Farid Muluk
Minister of Health
Menteri Kesehatan
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said
Blok X-5 Kav. No. 4-9
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

N.B. Please send some letters directly to the Indonesian diplomatic representative in your own country.

Copies can then be sent to the following address:

Secretary General
National Commission on Human Rights
Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa
Sekretaris Jenderal
Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (Komnas HAM)
JI Latuharhary 4B
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia

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**Pudjo PRASETIO
INDONESIA**

Amnesty International is renewing appeals for the release of Pudjo Prasetio, a 72-year-old prisoner of conscience who has been imprisoned for 31 years following his arrest in 1967. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1979 for his political affiliations and has had not only appeals for clemency rejected, but also a request for transfer to an old people's home or nursing home. He is now in need of constant medical attention as he has been suffering from Parkinson's disease over the last two or three years. He also had a stroke in 1993 and subsequently suffered temporary loss of mobility and speech. According to recent information his condition has now deteriorated even further; he is no longer able to walk and has difficulty in speaking. Medication was being provided by his family, but they are said to be having difficulty in paying for this now because of the economic crisis in Indonesia.

BACKGROUND

Pudjo Prasetio is one of 13 people who still remain in prison 31 years after a coup attempt in Indonesia in 1965. He was a shipbuilder by trade and a trade unionist and in the mid-1950s had joined the now-banned Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI). An attempted coup in October 1965 was attributed to the PKI by the government. Although a handful of PKI leaders may have been aware of the planned coup, the record shows that the vast majority of PKI leaders, members and supporters had no knowledge of it and played no role in it. However, the authorities used the attempt as a pretext for a massive purge of the Communist Party and its affiliated organizations. In less than one year, an estimated 500,000 to one million real or suspected PKI supporters were killed. Some 500,000 more were arrested in the following years, and about 1,000 were tried in courts which failed to meet the most basic standards of fairness. The accused were sentenced to long prison terms or condemned to death.

Pudjo Prasetio spent 12 years in detention before he was finally brought to trial in 1979 before the Denpasar District Court in Bali on charges of subversion. There was no evidence that he had engaged in "subversive" or criminal activities, yet he was sentenced to life imprisonment after an unfair trial. He appealed against his conviction and submitted a request for clemency to President Suharto. He learned in March 1991 that it had been rejected. In a letter to an Amnesty International member he wrote:

"By the way, my asking for clemency was refused by the president. It means that there's no way more to be released. If there's no political changes I'll be jailed forever."

Pudjo Prasetio is married with three sons and two daughters. For many years he was imprisoned in Bali and saw nothing of his family, all of whom lived some considerable distance away in Central Java. In March 1995, he was transferred to Semarang in Central Java where he is now able to receive visits from family members.

All appeals for his release have gone unheeded by the Indonesian authorities. Amnesty International is concerned to learn of his rapidly deteriorating state and is again calling urgently for his unconditional release. There is nothing to justify the refusal to grant clemency.