

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 21/11/91
Distr: UA/SC

PLEASE ORGANIZE UP TO TEN APPEALS PER SECTION.

UA 226/91 Ill-treatment of Prisoners of Conscience 4 July 1991

INDONESIA: Fadjroel Rahman, 26-year-old student
 Muhammad Jumhur Hidayat, 26-year-old student
 Ammarsyah, 25-year-old student

Amnesty International has received reports that the three men named above, all of whom are prisoners of conscience, were beaten and threatened with knives by fellow prisoners on 1 July 1991 in Sukamiskin prison, in the city of Bandung, West Java. According to eyewitness reports, prison guards stood by and watched as the attack took place. Amnesty International is urging the Indonesia authorities to initiate a thorough and impartial inquiry into the circumstances of the attack.

One of the three prisoners of conscience, Fadjroel Rahman, received a serious wound to his mouth and required hospital treatment. Muhammad Jumhur Hidayat was reportedly chased by fellow prisoners who threatened to stab him with a knife, but managed to escape serious injury. Ammarsyah was said to have been beaten but no further details of his injuries are known.

Some reports have suggested that the prisoners responsible had been "incited" or encouraged by the prison guards to carry out the beatings because the three students had been among those who had previously signed a petition calling for the abolition of the death penalty, but these reports have not been confirmed by Amnesty International.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fadjroel Rahman, Muhammad Jumhur Hidayat and Ammarsyah, are among a group of six university students imprisoned for their part in a non-violent demonstration at the Bandung Institute of Technology on 5 August 1989 during a visit to the university by the Minister of Home Affairs, Rudini. The other three students are: Bambang Sugianto Lasiyanto, Arnold Purba and Suprianto. Amnesty International considers all six to be prisoners of conscience.

Those jailed were among dozens of students who reportedly held banners critical of government policy and shouted "Down with Rudini" during the Minister's visit. They were tried in Bandung District Court on charges of expressing "feelings of hostility, hatred or contempt toward the Indonesian Government" (Article 154 of the Indonesian Criminal Code), and sentenced to three years each in jail. Their appeals were dismissed by the Bandung High Court in May 1990 and by the Supreme Court in December 1990. They are due for release in 1992. The students' defence lawyers reportedly received death threats, which they attributed to military sources, after publicly stating that some of their clients had been illegally detained and ill-treated while in custody.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern for the safety of Fadjroel Rahman, Muhammad Jumhur Hidayat and Ammarsyah who were reportedly beaten and threatened with knives by fellow prisoners while in detention at Sukamiskin prison;
- noting with concern that prison guards were reportedly present while the beatings took place, and that they may have incited the attack because the prisoners signed a petition calling for the abolition of the death penalty;
- urging the government to initiate a thorough and impartial inquiry into the circumstances of the attack and to make the results of the inquiry public.

APPEALS TO: (up to ten appeals per section)Minister of Justice:

Let. Ismail Saleh
 (Salutation: Your Excellency)
 Jalan Rasuna Said, Kav 6-7
 Kuningan
 Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia
Telexes: 44404 DITJENIM IA
Faxes: + 62 21 32 1625

Director General of Corrections
 Prof. Dr Baharuddin Lopa
 (Salutation: Dear Sir)
 Department of Justice
 Jl. Veteran No. 11
 Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia
Telegrams: Director General of Corrections
Justice Department, Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 32 1625

COPIES TO:Governor of West Java:

Wahono
 Gubernur KDH Tk. I Jawa Barat
 JL. P. Diponegro 1
 Bandung
 Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 15 August 1991.