

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/89/98

UA 258/98

Fear for safety / Possible 'disappearance' / Possible

ext.

EAST TIMOR Carlos da Silva, farmer from Macadai village in Bucoli, Baucau
Fernando Barreto, 38, from Cailako in Bobonaro

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the two above-named men who reportedly "disappeared" after being taken into custody earlier this year. Both are at risk of ill-treatment or torture in incommunicado detention.

There is particular concern for Carlos da Silva who was, according to a report by the East Timor Human Rights Centre, shot dead at the time of his arrest on 10 May 1998 by members of a joint team of Indonesian Special Forces Command (*Kopassus*) and paramilitary forces from Team Saka Baucau and Team Sera. The authorities have so far failed to provide any information concerning his fate.

Fernando Barreto was arrested on 2 February 1998, allegedly by soldiers from *Kopassus*.

Amnesty International has raised the case of both Carlos da Silva and Fernando Barreto directly with the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) and is still waiting for a response.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In East Timor, the arbitrary arrest of suspected members of the resistance by the Armed Forces frequently results in both incommunicado detention and "disappearances". Since the resignation of Indonesia's former President Suharto on 21 May 1998, the frequency of such arrests in East Timor has declined, but the fate of several people taken into custody this year remains unknown. Amnesty International is concerned that the Indonesian authorities have not yet taken sufficient steps to ensure independent and full investigations into such cases and clarify the whereabouts of any individual still considered to have "disappeared" or to be held in incommunicado detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of Fernando Barreto; if he is in custody to ensure that he has access to independent legal counsel and to members of his family and that he is either charged with a recognisably criminal offence or released;
- immediately investigate the circumstances of the attempted arrest of Carlos da Silva and clarify his fate.

APPEALS TO:

COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES (ABRI)

General Wiranto
Panglima ABRI
Markas Besar ABRI
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
Faxes: + 62 21 36 1471 / 37 8144
Dear General Wiranto

COPIES TO:

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA

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(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and
East Timor)

Maj. Gen. Adam Damiri

Pangdam IX/Udayana

Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana

Denpasar

Bali

Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 November 1998.