

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

Index: ASA 21/09/77
Distr: NS/CO/AD

Date: 23 September 1977

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2
England

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDONESIA - TRADE UNIONISTS

Sentral Organisasi Buruh Seluruh Indonesia, SOBSI, the Indonesian Trade Union Federation was founded in 1946 primarily to mobilize workers in the revolution against Dutch colonial rule between 1945 and 1949. By 1950, when Indonesia was fully independent, the functions of the trade union movement changed to include the struggle for improved working conditions and increased wages and other matters in the workers' interest. In this year (1950), SOBSI already claimed a membership of two and a half million trade unionists and by 1962 the number had grown to over 3,200,000. All workers belonging to unions affiliated to SOBSI were automatically considered members of SOBSI.

SOBSI was very closely associated to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) and many of its officials were party members. However this did not apply to the membership as a whole as many rank and file unionists were not members of the PKI. SOBSI had, before it was proscribed in October 1965, at least 300 full-time workers in its various regional offices throughout the Republic and with these trained officials, SOBSI was in a position to organize trade union activity and mobilize support for the PKI.

Many of the major trade unions were affiliated to SOBSI and 60 per cent of all trade unionists were members of SOBSI. One of the largest unions within SOBSI was Sarbupri, the estate workers union based largely in the rubber estate areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan. Others were SEPDA, the union of local government employees and SBPU, the construction and general workers union. SBKA, the railwaymen's union was founded in 1946 and claimed a membership of 70,000 by 1962. The post office workers union was also large and had a membership of some 50,000. SOBSI member unions were also strong in some manufacturing industries such as textile and metal industries.

One of the biggest unions was that of the peasants and small farmers, Barisan Tani Indonesia (BTI). The BTI had a membership of over three million people by mid 1955 and in early 1962 it claimed a membership of over five million which represented quite a high proportion of adult rural workers.

When the PKI and other leftwing organizations, including SOBSI, were proscribed in 1965 and formally banned in March 1966, many trade unionists were arrested on suspicion of being communists and they were held under the blanket charge of involvement in the abortive coup of October 1965. Many ordinary rank and file unionists, who were never members of the PKI are still detained throughout Indonesia. Their membership of organizations closely associated with the PKI was, and is, the basis on which the government considers them to have been personally involved in the abortive coup. In effect, they are all considered by the government to be guilty by association.

The abortive coup of October 1965 was planned by several middle-ranking army officers and aimed against the army leadership. In the process of the attempted coup six senior army generals were killed. The coup attempt was quickly crushed by surviving army leaders, who then accused the PKI of having been involved in the coup. There followed massive arrests, in the course of which more than half a million people were killed, and at least more than half a million others were kept in prison.

People who were members of the PKI or one of its associated leftwing organizations, or who were in some way connected with the leftwing movement, were liable to summary arrest and detention without recourse to normal legal and constitutional safeguards.

Although, over the years, large numbers of people have been released the total number of untried political prisoners has not changed significantly in the last four years. Amnesty International estimates that there are certainly more than 55,000 political prisoners in Indonesia. A more accurate total is probably as many as 100,000.

None of the prisoners on this list have been tried unless there is indication to the contrary in the text.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

This list is correct as of
23 SEPTEMBER 1977

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
10 Southampton Street
London WC2E 7HF
England

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDONESIA

TRADE UNIONISTS

Sri AMBAR: head of the women's section of SOBSI, Sri Ambar had been an active trade unionist since the early 1950s; she was arrested in 1966 and was severely tortured during interrogation; tried in 1975, she was found guilty of subversion and attempting to restore the leftwing movement; sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, she is detained in Bukit Duri Prison; she is about 50 years old.

SELIANTE: arrested in July 1969, Subiante was employed at a rubber factory called Siruh and belonged to the trade union there, Serikat Buruh Intirub; he is aged about 44 and is detained in Tangerang Prison, near Jakarta.

D.S. ATMA: employed in the SOBSI offices, it is thought Atma held quite a high position there; he is about 56 years old and is married with children; Atma is detained in Salemba Prison, Jakarta.

Mrs DAHLIAR: a Member of Parliament representing Barisan Tani Indonesia, the Indonesian Peasants Union, Mrs Dahliar was arrested in October 1965; she is about 53 years old and is detained in Plantungan Women's Detention Camp.

DARSONO: a trade unionist from Palembang, Sumatra, Darsono was arrested in the late 1960s; he is married with seven children, and is now held on Buru Island.

GUNATI: arrested sometime between 1965 and 1969, Gunati worked in irrigation and was a trade unionist; he is married with four children, his family living in Jogjakarta; he is detained on Buru Island.

Tutuk HARDJITO: employed as a technician by a government institute, the Industrial Research Center, Tutuk was a member of a technicians' union affiliated to SOBSI; he was arrested, for the second time, in March 1968; he is married with six children; aged 47, Tutuk is detained on Buru Island, and it is believed he suffers from poor health.

Sjamsul Hadi KASTARI: arrested in October 1965, Kastari was a full time trades union organizer and an elected member of the Presidium of SOBSI National Council; a Member of Parliament representing the trade union movement, he is now 56 years old and is detained on Buru Island.

S.W. KUNTJAHJO: a writer and trade union organizer, Kuntjahjo's work was often published in Harian Rakjat, the Communist Party newspaper; he was a member of LEKRA, the leftwing cultural organization and in 1964 became a member of the Presidium of SOBSI National Council; aged 56, he is married with six children; he is detained on Buru Island.

Mrs Kartina KURDI: a Member of Parliament and political organizer of Barisan Tani Indonesia, the Peasants' Union, Mrs Kurdi was also a leading member of GERWANI, the leftwing women's organization; arrested in 1965, she is now 54 years old and is detained in Bukit Duri Prison, Jakarta.

Mrs KUSNAH: employed at the Unilever plant in Jakarta, Mrs Kusnah was actively involved in the Unilever Workers' Union, which was affiliated to SOBSI; arrested in 1969, she is now detained in Bulu Prison, Semarang, where conditions are believed to be poor.

MANTO: a post office worker, Manto was a member of SB Postel, the Union of Post Office Workers; he is 48 years old and is married with children, his family living in the Jakarta area; he is detained in Salemba Prison.

Parto MOEKIMAN: a post office worker and a member of the Post Office Workers' Union, Parto Moekiman is thought to have been arrested in the late 1960s; he is about 40 years old and is detained in Salemba Prison.

Mrs OTJIK: employed at a textile factory in Jakarta and a member of a textile union affiliated to SOBSI, Mrs Otjik was arrested in either 1967 or 1968; she is aged in her early 40s and is detained in Plantungan Women's Detention Camp.

Mrs PUDJIJATI: arrested in 1965 or 1966, Mrs Pudjijati was a factory worker and a militant trade union leader, taking part in numerous demonstrations, deputations in support of demands for higher wages and against increasing prices; in connection with these demonstrations, Mrs Pudjijati was several times arrested by the Sukarno Government; she is aged about 47 and is believed to suffer from poor health; she is now detained in Bulu Prison, where conditions are said to be bad.

R. PURWOPRAMEJO: employed as an assistant clerk, Purwopranejo was also a member of a trade union affiliated to SOBSI; arrested in late 1965, he is married with four children; he is now 56 years old and is held in Nusakambangan Camp.

ROESLAN: a postman, Roeslan was a member of the Post Office Workers' Union and was probably arrested in the mid to late 1960s; he is about 40 years old and is married, although has lost all contact with his family; he is held in Salemba.

Ferdinand RUNTURAMBI: a Member of Parliament representing SOBSI and a senior official of that organization, Runturambi was also active in the international labour movement; he will be 60 years old in November 1977 and is married with one child; he is held on Buru Island.

Mrs RUSIJATI: a journalist employed by Antara, Indonesia's national news agency, Mrs Rusijati was a member of Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia (PWI), the Indonesian Journalist Association; arrested in 1965, she is now detained in Bulu Prison, reportedly in poor conditions.

SANTO: a trade unionist, Santo was arrested in 1966; he is held in Salemba Prison, in Unit N, a block which is isolated from the main part of the prison, with several other prisoners.

SATIJAH: a member of the Postal and Telecommunications Workers' Union, Satijah was arrested in May 1969 in Jakarta; she is about 30 years old and is married with one son; she is detained in Plantungan Women's Detention Camp.

Miss SEDIJAMI: a teacher and member of PGRI-NV, a leftwing teachers' union, Miss Sedijsami was arrested in 1965; she is unmarried, aged about 34 and is held in Plantungan Women's Detention Camp.

Richard Paingot SITUMEANG: a Member of Parliament for the PKI and member of SOBSI Presidium, he was arrested in 1965; aged 58, he is married with eight children; Situmeang is now detained on Buru Island.

SLAMET: employed by the railways, Slamet was a member of S.B.K.A., the Union of Railway Employees; he is about 42 years old and is married with children, his family living in the Jakarta area; Slamet is detained in Salemba Prison.

SUDARJONO: A leading organizer of Serikat Buruh Perdjaan Umum (Public Works Employees' Union), which was affiliated to SOBSI, Sudarjono was arrested in 1965; he is probably held on Buru Island.

SUDARNO HERU: member of the administrative committee of the Trade Unions International of Workers of the Building, Wood and Building Materials Industries, he was arrested sometime before 1968; it is not known where Sudarno Heru is held.

SUDOJO: organizer of Serikat Buruh Gula (Sugar Workers' Union), Sudojo was also a Member of Parliament representing the Indonesian Communist Party; he was arrested in 1965 and is probably held on Buru Island.

Sri SUHARTI: a lawyer by profession, Sri Suharti was an active member of Serbaud (Trade Union of Civil Aviation Employees), which was affiliated to SOBSI; she was arrested in 1969, in Jakarta; her husband, who worked as a civil airport manager, was also arrested (he, too, is an adopted prisoner); Sri Suharti is aged about 39 and has five children; she is detained in Bukit Duri Prison.

SULAIMAN: A teacher in a Christian college in Bandung, he was a member of a teachers' union; arrested in 1967, Sulaiman is married with four children; at first detained in Nusakembangan Camp, Central Java, in 1975 he was transferred to Buru Island.

SUMARDI: an employee of the prison service, Sumardi was a member of S.B. Kepanjaraan, the Union of Prison Warders; he is about 45 years old and is married, his family living in the Jakarta area; Sumardi is detained in Salemba Prison.

SUPARDI: arrested in 1966, Supardi was employed by the railways and was a member of S.B.K.A., the Railwaymen's Union; detained in Salemba Prison, he is kept in Unit N (with other prisoners), a block which is isolated from the main part of the prison.

Professor SUPRPTO: a Member of Parliament (elected with the support of the Indonesian Communist Party), practising lawyer and a professor of law, Suprpto was an active defender of the legal rights of peasants and workers, also playing a leading part in the formation of several trade unions; he was himself a member of HSI, the Indonesian Scholars' Association and an official of SOBSI; arrested in 1965, he is now 62 years old and is detained on Buru Island.

Ngadiman SUSENO: employed in the offices of SOBSI, the Indonesian Trade Union Federation, Suseno is now about 50 years old; he was arrested probably in the mid to late 1960s and is married with children, all living in the Jakarta area; he is detained in Salemba Prison.

Sri WIDJAJANATI: a member of the Postal and Telecommunication Workers' Union, Sri Widjajanati was arrested in either 1968 or 1969; she is aged in her mid 20s and has one child, a daughter; she is detained in Plantungan Women's Detention Camp.