

EMBARGOED FOR 0001 HRS GMT
WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 1983

TROOPS IN EAST TIMOR GIVEN SECRET MANUAL PERMITTING TORTURE,
REPORTS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

INDONESIAN TROOPS OPERATING IN EAST TIMOR HAVE BEEN ISSUED
SECRET INSTRUCTIONS THAT PERMIT TORTURE, AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 1983).

AN 82-PAGE MILITARY MANUAL CAPTURED FROM INDONESIAN FORCES BY
THE EAST TIMOR RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, FRETILIN, AND INDEPENDENTLY
AUTHENTICATED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, TELLS SOLDIERS NOT TO
PHOTOGRAPH PRISONERS BEING STRIPPED NAKED AND TORTURED WITH
ELECTRIC SHOCKS.

THE MANUAL IS DIVIDED INTO EIGHT SECTIONS, SEVEN OF WHICH ARE
MARKED ++SECRET++, INCLUDING A CHAPTER ON INTERROGATION PROCEDURES.
IT SAYS NO LOCAL WITNESSES SHOULD BE PRESENT IF FORCE IS USED
++TO AVOID AROUSING THE ANTI-PATHY OF THE PEOPLE++.

ACCORDING TO THE MANUAL, WHOSE EXISTENCE WAS DISCLOSED BY
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TODAY, IF SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS ARE TAKEN, THEY
SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF ++IRRESPONSIBLE
MEMBERS OF SOCIETY++.

IN A LETTER SENT TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF INDONESIA TODAY, AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL POINTS OUT THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE BOUND BY
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS THAT PROHIBIT TORTURE IN
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. ++RATHER THAN COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS++,
THE LETTER STATES, ++THESE MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS, WHILE
DESCRIBING THE USE OF FORCE AND THREATS DURING INTERROGATION AS
SOMETHING GENERALLY TO BE AVOIDED, EXPLICITLY ALLOW FOR THE
POSSIBILITY OF TORTURE AND PROVIDE GUIDELINES TO PREVENT ITS
EXPOSURE.++

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS RECEIVED PERSISTENT REPORTS OF TORTURE,
INCLUDING ELECTRIC SHOCKS, BY INDONESIAN FORCES IN EAST TIMOR
SINCE THEY INVADDED THE TERRITORY IN DECEMBER 1975. THE
ORGANIZATION HAS ALSO EXPRESSED FEARS FOR SUSPECTED FRETILIN
SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE ++DISAPPEARED++ AFTER DETENTION. MANY
ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SUMMARILY EXECUTED AFTER BEING
TORTURED UNDER INTERROGATION.

THE MILITARY MANUAL, ISSUED TO INDONESIAN FORCES IN 1982, IS
BOUND IN A FOLDER MARKED ++KODIM 1628/06 BAKAU TIMTIM++ AND
++BAURAH 1628/06++, INDONESIAN FOR THE DISTRICT MILITARY
COMMAND, BAUCAU, EAST TIMOR AND BAUCAU REGION.

SUB-SECTION V.13, TITLED ++THE USE OF FORCE AND THREATS++, IN
THE CHAPTER ON INTERROGATION PROCEDURES, STATES IN TRANSLATION
FROM THE ORIGINAL INDONESIAN: ++IT IS HOPED THAT INTERROGATION
WITH THE USE OF FORCE WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED EXCEPT IN THOSE
SITUATIONS WHERE THE PERSON EXAMINED TELLS THE TRUTH WITH
DIFFICULTY (IS EVASIVE).++

++HOWEVER, IF USE OF FORCE IS REQUIRED THERE SHOULD NOT BE A
MEMBER OF THE LOCAL POPULATION PRESENT ... TO WITNESS IT SO THAT
THE ANTI-PATHY OF THE PEOPLE IS NOT AROUSED.++

++AVOID TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING TORTURE (TAKEN OF SOMEONE
BEING GIVEN ELECTRIC SHOCKS, BEING STRIPPED NAKED AND SO ON).
REMEMBER THAT SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD NOT BE PRINTED FREELY
OUTSIDE OR IN DENPASAR (THE REGIONAL COMMAND HEADQUARTERS IN
BALI) AND FOUND BY IRRESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.++

AFTER RECEIVING A COPY OF THE MANUAL, SEIZED BY FRETILIN FIGHTERS IN DECEMBER 1982 AND BROUGHT TO EUROPE LAST MONTH, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SAID IT HAD TAKEN STEPS TO ESTABLISH THE DOCUMENT'S AUTHENTICITY AND WAS SATISFIED THAT IT WAS GENUINE.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS NOW ASKED PRESIDENT SUHARTO TO ISSUE IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND PROHIBITING THE TORTURE OF PRISONERS UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE LETTER ALSO POINTS OUT THAT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS STRICTLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ORGANIZATION HAS TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE TERRITORIAL CONFLICT INVOLVING EAST TIMOR AND DOES NOT TAKE SIDES IN ARMED CONFLICTS. IT NEITHER SUPPORTS NOR OPPOSES GOVERNMENTS OR OPPOSITION GROUPS. IT HOLDS THAT THE TORTURE AND KILLING OF DETAINEES, BY ANYONE, INCLUDING ALL PARTIES TO ANY ARMED CONFLICT, CAN NEVER BE ACCEPTED.

END OF NEWS RELEASE FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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