

OILWATCH ALERT INDONESIA 2004

1 .NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS AND FORMER CO-ORDINATOR OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ALLIANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE ARCHIPELAGO (AMAN) HAS BEEN ARRESTED BY ACEH MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Tuesday 23rd March at around 14:30 Western Indonesia Time, Mr Bestari Raden, aged 55, was arrested by military identified as from the 0108/Southeast Aceh District Command (KODIM) in the Lawe Pakam Village area, Babul Makmur subdistrict, Southeast Aceh district, in the province of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam. He remains under KODIM 0108/Southeast Aceh detention in Kutacane, under intensive investigation by the Command's Intelligence Section Chief, Captain Anggit Exton Yustiawan.

Mr Bestari Raden is an environmental, indigenous and social movement activist and served from 2001-2003 as Co-ordinator on the Council of the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN), for the western region, covering Java and Sumatra. In addition, in 2004 he played an active part in bringing together a coalition of NGOs working for the environment and for democracy in an umbrella organisation called Environmental Caucus, of which he is Co-ordinator.

This Caucus was formed as a critical response to the current attitude of the government and the political parties who won the 1999 elections.

During their administration, these parties have not paid attention to, or taken a position on environmental sustainability or the resources that provide people's livelihoods. In addition, the Environmental Caucus was formed to provide people with the political knowledge to fight for their environmental rights as human rights.

When arrested, Bestari Raden was acting in his capacity as a member of an integrated team assigned to review sections of the controversial Ladia Galaska Road project*. The team was formed in accordance with Forestry Ministry Decree No.408/VII/2003, dated December 9, 2003, as a follow up to the agreement between 3 ministers - Environment Minister, Forestry Minister and Settlement and Regional Infrastructure Minister. That afternoon Bestari Raden and the team had only just completed their task of observing the Blangkejeran-Pinding-Lokop section of the road, which is one of the main routes of the Ladia Galaska project.

a)BACKGROUND

According to Information gathered in the field, the arrest was made at the behest of the Southeast Aceh police office headed by AKBP M Ali Husen on the grounds that Bestari Raden was thought to be GAM commander of Tapak Tuan and appeared on the Wanted Persons List, level 1, issued by the South Aceh Police in the year 2000.

In the morning before his arrest (23/3/2004) Bestari Raden together with the team, had visited the 0108/Southeast Aceh District Military Command and had met several officers and military personnel there.

The Indonesian Environmental Forum (WALHI) as a forum of NGOs, nature groups and peoples organisations, with 500 members spread throughout Indonesia, is very concerned about the situation and condition of Mr Bestari Raden and considers that the process of the arrest carried out by the military personnel of the 1018/Southeast Aceh military command has violated:

- a) The 1945 Constitution, article 28A, article 28C, clause 2, article 28I, clause 1 and 2 and article 28J;
- b) Law No 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, especially articles 2,3,4,5,7,8,9,16,29,30 and 34;
- c) The Universal Declaration on Human Rights especially articles 2,3,6,7,9,11 (clause 1), 12, 19 and 29;
- d) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, especially articles 6, 9, 10 and 19;
- e) The Penal Code
- f) The Code of Criminal Procedure
- g) The United Nations General Council Declaration on Human Rights, 9 December 1998.

b)SUPPORT ACTION

We urge concerned people to write a letter of support for Mr Bestari Raden. Support letters should be sent via fax, post or email to the officials responsible for this case (see list).

In the letter, please protest against the arrest and express support for Bestari Raden's struggle, and urge the Indonesian government to do the following:

- 1) The Indonesian Government, in this case the President, must protect the rights of its citizens.
- 2) The Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security, The Armed Forces Commander, the Chief of Police, the Ministers for Environment, Forestry and for Resettlement and Regional Infrastructure, the Aceh Martial Law Authority, and the Commander of 0108/Southeast Aceh District Military Command must take immediate action to secure the unconditional release of Bestari Raden, restore his good name and guarantee that he will not be subjected to any other form of unlawful detention.

- 3) The National Human Rights Commission should be urged to immediately conduct sustained monitoring and investigation into this case.

Please send letters to the following:

Megawati Soekarno Putri
Presiden Republik Indonesia [President]

Istana Merdeka
Jakarta 10110 Indonesia
Email : presiden@ri.go.id
Fax: +62-21 345-2685 or 380-5511 or 5268726 or
Fax Sekretariat Presiden 344-2223
Telex: 44283 BIGRA IA or 44469 DEPLU IA

Menteri Koordinator Politik dan Keamanan [Co-ordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs]

Hari Sabarno
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.15 Jakarta 10110
Tel: +62-21 384 8453
Fax: +62-21 345 0918

Menteri Lingkungan Hidup [Environment Minister]
Nabiel Makarim
Jl. D.I. Panjaitan, Kebon Nanas Gd.B Lt.II
Jakarta Timur 13410
Tel: +62-21 858 0102-04
Fax: +62-21 8580103

Menteri Kehutanan [Forestry Minister]

M.Prakosa
Gedung Pusat Kehutanan Manggala Wanabhakti Blok I Lt.4 Jl. Gatot Subroto
Senayan Jakarta 12070
Tel: +62-21 5731820/0218
Fax: +62-21 570 0226

Menteri Prasarana Wilayah [Minister for Regional Infrastructure]
Ir. Sunarno
Jl. Patimura No.20 Kebayoran Baru Jakarta Selatan
Tel: +62-21 726 2805
Fax: +62-21 7247820

Panglima TNI [Armed forced commander]
Jenderal TNI Endriartono Sutarto
Markas Besar Tentara Nasional Indonesia
Cilangkap-Jakarta Timur

Tel: +62-21 845 91240
Fax: +62-21 845 6805

Kepala Kepolisian Republik Indonesia [National chief of police]
Jenderal Polisi Da'i Bachtiar
Markas Besar Kepolisian RI
Jl. Trinojoyo No.3 Kebayoran Baru
Jakarta Selatan-Indonesia
Fax: 62-61 3925527

Ketua Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia [Head of Human Rights Commission]
Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara
Jl. Latuharhary No.4B Menteng Jakarta Pusat 10310
Tel: +62-21 392 5230
Fax: +62-21 392 5227
Email: info@konnasham.go.id

Penguasa Darurat Militer Daerah (PDMD) NAD [Military Emergency Authority]
Mayor Jenderal Endang Suwaryo Markas Komando Daerah Militer Iskandar Muda
Jl. Ahmad Yani, Simpang Lima
Banda Aceh, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam-Indonesia
Telegram: PDMD Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Banda Aceh, NAD, Indonesia
Fax: +62 651 26979

Komandan KODIM 0108/Aceh Tenggara [District military commander]
Letnan Kolonel Belyuni
Jl. Cut Nyak Dhien, Kutacane, 24511
Aceh Tenggara, NAD
Tel: +62 629 21034

Copies to:

Gubernur Provinsi NAD [Aceh Governor]
Abdullah Puteh
Kantor Gubernur Provinsi NAD
Jl. T. Nyak Arief, Banda Aceh, NAD-Indonesia
Fax: +62 651 51377

Kepala Kepolisian Daerah (Kapolda NAD) [Chief of Police in Aceh]
Brigadir Jenderal Bahrumasyah Kasman
Jalan Cut Meutiah No.3 Banda Aceh, NAD-Indonesia
Fax: +62-21 651 26979

* [DTE note: This 500 km road, currently under construction and strongly opposed by NGOs, cuts through the Gunung Leuser Ecosystem - one of the world's richest areas of tropical rainforest.]

Fuente: Oilwatch Secretariat.- Martes, 06 de Abril de 2004