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## APPEAL

1978 is the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted 10 December 1948. The declaration states that recognition of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. It affirms freedom of conscience and belief and the right to express those beliefs. It establishes the right to a fair trial. It opposes torture, arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. The following appeal is being issued by Amnesty International to call for the immediate and unconditional release of an individual imprisoned in violation of the Universal Declaration. This person has been adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Indonesia: Armunanto (Javanese often only have one name)

Armunanto has been in detention for over 12 years without trial. It is now believed that the documents relating to his case have been passed over to the Attorney General's office, with a view to filing specific charges against him and bringing him to trial. During the 12 years of detention, Armunanto has become gravely ill. He recently underwent heart surgery and now has the use of only one lung. He is thought to be in his mid or late sixties.

In his youth, Armunanto was active in the nationalist movement in the struggle for independence against the Dutch. In 1949, when Indonesia was granted independence, he became a journalist and joined the Indonesia Nationalist Party (PNI). In the late 1950s, a group of radical PNI members broke away from the party to establish PARTINDO (Indonesia Party), and Armunanto played a prominent role in this decision. He then helped to establish the daily PARTINDO newspaper, Bintang Timur (Eastern Star), became its manager and member of its editorial board, and also contributed articles to it.

Later, Armunanto was appointed ambassador to Czechoslovakia, and when, having served there for several years, he was recalled from Prague, he was offered a ministerial post in President Sukarno's cabinet, with responsibility for mining. Following the abortive coup of October 1965, when six senior army generals were murdered during an attempt by a group of leftwing army officers to seize power, Armunanto remained in President Sukarno's government. However, in March 1966, when President Sukarno was compelled to hand over all his executive powers to the army, the cabinet was dissolved and 13 cabinet ministers were placed under arrest.

Other cabinet ministers arrested at that time, for example Oei Tju Tat and Setiadi Reksoprodjo were released last year, but Armunanto, together with the former foreign minister, Dr Subandrio, remains in detention in Nirbaya Prison, Jakarta. Although prison conditions are reported to good, there is great concern over Armunanto's state of health. In addition, there have been recent reports that he is due to be tried, almost 13 years after the events of 1965 took place, for an offence relating to these events. His only offence is that of having been a staunch supporter of the late President Sukarno.

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