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Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Supplementary Submission 13.2
TT 6 December 2006

19 March 2007

Dear Dr Southcott

I am writing this statement as a request from Deputy Chair of Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, Mr Kim Wilkie MP; when we were attending at the hearing on Monday 26 February 2007 in the parliament. Please find a copy below here of his statement on Proof Committee Hansard (TR29):

Mr WILKIE – You talked about the possibility of the Australian military being used to train Indonesian military personnel who may then use that training or any equipment supplied against the Indonesian people and in committing human rights abuses. You mentioned that that training may have occurred in the past. I do not need an answer now but would you be able to see if you could find any examples of where people who have been trained by Australian military personnel in the past have then gone on to commit human rights abuses? You can take that on notice.

Mrs Hodgson – Sure.

On 26th February 2007, Nonie Hodgson responded to your request as a member of Indonesian Solidarity. She supports the sending of the information below.

It is our privilege to respond to your request regarding your question above regarding some of the Indonesian high ranking army who have had training in Australia. They are:

Lieutenant General Sjafric Sjamsoeddin, the secretary General of the Department of Defence.

Sjamsoeddin had been on active duty in several conflict areas where gross human rights abuses have taken place such as in East Timor in 1976, Aceh in 1977, East Timor in 1984 and West Papua in 1987. He was also the Chief of Military Intelligence Services (SGI) in East Timor in 1991 when the Santa Cruz massacre took place on 12 November 1991.

Two year later after the massacre, in 1993 he was in training in Swanbourne SAS Base, Perth,

Western Australia.

When he was the military command in Jakarta (Pangdam Jaya) from 1997 until 1998, there were several human rights abuses such as on 12 May 1998 when troops opened fire on demonstrating students at Trisakti University in West Jakarta, killing four students. Following this shooting, there was riots in Jakarta where several numbers of people died. Those accidents were military strategies to discredit the students' movement that opposed the Suharto regime.

In response to the shooting of students and the mass riot in Jakarta, he was summoned by a national level military council (*Dewan Kehormatan Perwira* (DKP) that removed his position as military command in Jakarta.

Lieutenant General (Ret) Abdullah Makhmud Hendro Priyono

When Colonel Hendro was a colonel and the military command in Danrem 043 Garuda Hitam in 1987 in Lampung, a province in southern Sumatra, he took about 100 men to the school where, according to the official version, their warning shots were met by arrows and Molotov cocktails. They opened fire on the hundreds of people in the compound, leaving an official death toll of twenty-seven and a suspected death toll of over one hundred.¹

In relation to the murder of leading Indonesian human rights campaigner, Munir Said Thalib in September 2004 there were suspicions regarding the role of the State Intelligence Body (BIN) where Mr Hendro Priyono was the chief of BIN from 2001 until 2004. Hendropriyono always refused the summons from the President's Fact Finding Team to investigate Munir's murder.

In 1971 he participated in an intelligence course at Woodside in Australia.

Brigadier General George Toisutta

Brigadier Toisutta was the military command, Pangdam XVII/Trikora, Papua from June 2005 until September 2006.

In 1992 he had a training in Australia.

From 1995 to 1996, he was deputy commander of Korem Wiradharma in East Timor where he was responsible for mobilizing the infamous East Timor militias.²

In 2003, he was a commander of the Martial Law Operations Command (Pangkoops) in Aceh province during the second phase of martial law, when there was gross human rights violations.

Major General (Ret) R. Adang Ruchiatna Puradiredja

Major Puradiredja attended an intelligence course in Australia from 1971 until 1972

¹ Joint report by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International 4 June 1998
, AI Index: ASA 21/58/98 Page 17.

² Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights (CHR)-West Papua Advocacy Team, page 3.

He has since been on active duty in East Timor several times, as follows.

From 1978 to 1979, he was in joint military operations with code name 'Operasi Seroja'. He was in Yonif 132/BS. In 1981, he was part of Yonif 133/YS in East Timor.

In 1987, he was part of Divif 1/Kostrad, Strategic Reserve.

There is strong evidence during the Indonesian occupation in East Timor that there were gross human rights abuses.

Major General (Ret) Sutiyoso's current position is the governor of Jakarta .

He attended a study exchange at an army command staff college in Australia from 1989 until 1990.

He had been on tour duties in several places where human rights abuses occurred such as :

Maluku in 1969; military operations in East Timor in 1975; and military operations in Aceh in 1978.

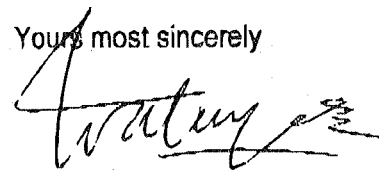
He was one of the people responsible when on 27 July 1996 the security apparatus attacked the head quarters of the People Democratic Party of Struggle, Megawati's political party. As result of this action, the human rights abuses took place. Sutiyo was the military commander of Jakarta (Pangdam Jaya) at the time.

From the information above, there is strong indication that the Australia Defence Forces blatantly ignored the background of some members of the Indonesian Army who attended courses in Australia but had committed human rights crimes before attending the training in Australia. Even more important is the Australian Defence Force's position of responsibility in relation to human rights abuses committed by the Indonesian Military after training in Australia.

I would like to propose that the Treaty Committee ask the Australian Department of Defence, in particular the Minister of Defence to provide further detailed information to the Treaties Committee about the names of the Indonesian Military who have been trained in Australia. The Department is the party who would have such information and also has an obligation to provide such information to the public who have concern for human rights. Indonesian Solidarity would then be delighted to work together with several human rights NGOs in Indonesia to examine any data from the Minister of Defence to determine whether those army officials committed human rights crimes.

Thanking you very much for your inquiry and for giving us opportunity to respond to your request.

Yours most sincerely



Eko Waluyo
Program Coordinator