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**PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: HUMAN
RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

**Written statement* submitted by the International NGO Forum on Indonesian
Development (INFID), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2005]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Threats to HAM Advocates are no new phenomenon to the Human Rights Movement in Indonesia. Indonesian Human Rights Defenders frequently experience threats.

The evidenced case of arsenic poisoning of the well known Indonesian Human Rights Activist **Munir** on September 7th 2004 on a plane from Jakarta to Amsterdam, is only the top of an iceberg. Conflict situations like in Aceh and Papua are the most menacing for Human Rights Defenders.

On August 7th 2004, a police unit of Polresta Banda Aceh raided the office of PEMRAKA, a humanitarian institute, specializing in refugee-care and medical services to civilians in Aceh. In this incident, the unit engaged themselves in beating, shooting and demolishing office facilities. They caught some PEMRAKA activists, including PEMRAKA coordinator, Asnawi (30 Years old)

In Papua, on July 7th 2004, three volunteers of Triton Papua, involved in community teaching, were placed under arrest by Sorong Police (Polres) without giving reasons, the three of them afterwards being imposed the sanction of having to report regularly at the police.

Also outside conflict regions Human Rights Defenders are threatened, for instance when they defend economic, social and cultural rights. Then we mean environmental cases, and land conflicts over economic enterprises like mining or plantations, conflicts on wages and other workers' rights, or urban cases (settlement).

On March 28th 2002, the organization Urban Poor Consortium, organized a peaceful demonstration in front of the National Human Rights Commission in Jakarta, on the flooding problem in Jakarta, was attacked by a gang of about 500 persons in the uniform of FBR (FORUM Betawi Rempug). FBR is a private organization. The mass attacked the demonstrators (civilians, women and children), beating them up and hurling stones at them. Wardah Hafids, coordinator of the Urban Poor Consortium Coordinator), was clutched and menaced with a dagger by the mass of the FBR members.

In Aceh on March 23rd 2004, Bestari Raden, an activist on issues of environment and traditional communities (member of the Combined Observer Team to the Ladia Galaska road-works), was arrested when he did field-observations. He was arrested by military of Kodim 0108/ South-East Aceh, based on the accusation of the South Aceh police force, as mass activist and provocator.

The position of women makes their defense in cases of violence rather hazardous for Human Rights Defenders. On January 16th 2002, LBH office "APIK", an institute which defends women in cases of violence against women, was visited and terrorized by a group of man. Meanwhile, two lawyers were terrorized by a taxi, at the moment they were approached by a military garrison car as they asked for protection to the police of Ciracas

In 2004 at least 10 cases of violence took place against Human Rights Defenders in Indonesia.

TABLE, NUMBERS OF VIOLENT ACTIONS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN INDONESIA (1999-2004)

No	Actions against HRD's	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
1	Arrest	6	3	24	6	22	4
2	Torture	6	12		4		
3	Shooting	6	2	1	1		
4	Death Threat				1		
5	Murder		1	1	2		1
6	Destruction/attacking				4	2	1
7	Threats, terror, and intimidation		2	1	5	1	2
8	Kidnapping and people missing		1		3		
9	Criminalizing / accusation				3	2	1
10	deportation/eviction						1
	Total cases	18	21	27	30	27	10

(Data: Elsam 2004)

The pattern of threats mentioned above reflect the minimal protection by the state for human rights defenders. Rather than getting protection, on the contrary often human rights defenders receive threats by state officials, physical threats as well as being criminalized when handling human rights cases.

Bearing in mind the disturbing fate of human rights defenders in Indonesia at present, taking into account the obligation of the state (in this case the Indonesian government) based on law and international rules on protection of human rights defenders performing activities to promote human rights, we appeal to UN Commission on Human Rights to:

1. Urge the Government of Indonesia immediately signs the UN Declaration on human rights defenders.
2. Urge the Government of Indonesia provides a legal base for the protection of human rights defenders, by implementing amendment UU No.39/1999 about basic human rights, and declares coherent, clear and definite protection of human rights defenders.

3. Urge the Government of Indonesia decreases the frequency of violence against human rights defenders.
4. Urge the Government of Indonesia gives protection and grants access to human rights defenders to practice advocacy activities, especially in conflict area's.

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