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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 JAKART 04388 01 OF 02 190652Z
ACTION EAP-01

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| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-08 | ACDE-00 | AID-00 | AMAD-01 | ACQ-01 | CIAE-00 |
| | SMEC-00 | DINT-00 | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 | SRPP-00 | DS-00 | EB-00 |
| | FBIE-00 | H-01 | IM-01 | TEDE-00 | INR-00 | IO-00 | LAB-01 |
| | L-01 | ADS-00 | NRRC-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OIC-02 | OMB-01 |
| | OPIC-01 | PA-00 | PM-00 | PRS-00 | P-00 | SP-00 | STR-00 |
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 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3146
 INFO ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
 USMISSION GENEVA
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 004388

USCINCPAC FOR FPA AMB SALMON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/19/08
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PINR, PINS, ID
 SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RELEASES MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS ED MCWILLIAMS, REASON: 1.5 (D).
2. (SBU) SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA HAS RELEASED 27
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 POLITICAL PRISONERS AS PART OF A LARGER RELEASE OF CRIMINAL
 PRISONERS TO MARK NATIONAL DAY. THE POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDED
 MOSTLY THOSE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY
 IN ACEH, EAST TIMOR AND IRIAN JAYA. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THREE
 ELDERLY PRISONERS WITH ALLEGED AFFILIATION TO THE INDONESIAN
 COMMUNIST PARTY, JAILED SINCE THE LATE 1960'S, WERE AMONG THOSE
 RELEASED. OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE INCLUDED AMONG THE
 GENERAL PRISON POPULATION WHICH RECEIVED SLIGHT REMISSIONS IN THEIR
 SENTENCES. PROMINENT POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE NOT AMONG THOSE
 RELEASED. RELATIVES AND SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO BE CRITICAL OF THE
 GOVERNMENT'S PIECEMEAL RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.
 DETERIORATING PRISON CONDITIONS ARE CLAIMED TO BE HEALTH AND EVEN
 LIFE THREATENING, PARTICULARLY FOR THE OLD AND INFIRM. END SUMMARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A JOHNSTON
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 19 AUG 2018
 DATE/CASE ID: 24 MAY 2006 200502501

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3. (U) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDONESIA'S FOUNDING, THE GOVERNMENT, AS IN THE PAST, ANNOUNCED PRISONER RELEASES, REMISSIONS OF SENTENCES AND SOME "REHABILITATIONS." UNLIKE THE PRACTICE DURING THE SOEHARTO ERA, THE HABIBIE GOVERNMENT INCLUDED OUTRIGHT RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS (NOT THROUGH REMISSION OF SENTENCES). MANY POLITICAL AND CRIMINAL PRISONERS RECEIVED REMISSIONS OF SENTENCES OF UP TO SEVERAL MONTHS.

4. (U) IN ALL, THE GOVERNMENT FREED 27 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND REHABILITATED FOUR SENIOR ACTIVISTS, ONE OF WHOM, LT. GENERAL DHARSONO, IS DECEASED. AMONG THE POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED WERE THREE WHO WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE AFFILIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDONESIA (PKI) AND TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ABORTED COUP OF 1965. IT WAS THE FIRST PRISONER RELEASE BY THE HABIBIE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE INCLUDED "PKI PRISONERS." JUSTICE MINISTER MULADI, IN ANNOUNCING THE RELEASES SAID: "CONSIDERING THE LENGTH OF
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THE JAIL TERMS THAT HAVE BEEN SERVED BY THE PRISONERS AND FOR HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY TO GRANT CLEMENCY TO THESE PRISONERS." MULADI HAD TOLD CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER SMITH DURING THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S JUNE VISIT, THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO INCLUDE ELDERLY OR ILL POLITICAL PRISONERS AS A "SPECIAL CATEGORY" AMONG THOSE CONSIDERED FOR RELEASE.

5. (U) ALSO RELEASED WERE NINE PRISONERS ACCUSED OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE FREE ACEH (ACEH MERDEKA) MOVEMENT; SIX EAST TIMORESE ACCUSED OF BEING SEPARATISTS; SIX ASSOCIATED WITH THE 1989 ISLAMIC-ABRI CONFRONTATION IN LAMPUNG; AND THREE ALLEGED SEPARATISTS FROM IRIAN JAYA. IN ADDITION, 1,587 PRISONERS SERVING CRIMINAL SENTENCES WERE RELEASED THROUGH REMITTED SENTENCES. A TOTAL OF 7,101 PRISONERS SAW THEIR SENTENCES REDUCED.

6. (U) PROMINENT AMONG THOSE POLITICAL PRISONERS NOT RELEASED WERE EAST TIMORESE LEADER XANANA GUSMAO, PRD LEADER BUDIMAN SUDJATMIKO, LABOR LEADER DITA INDRA SARI AND PKI-ERA PRISONER ABDUL LATIF. GUSMAO AND SUDJATMIKO (AND POSSIBLY OTHERS) DID RECEIVE SENTENCE REMISSIONS.

7. (SBU) POLCOUNS AND A DUTCH DIPLOMAT WERE ON HAND AT CIPINANG PRISON IN JAKARTA AUGUST 17 TO MONITOR A DEMONSTRATION BY APPROXIMATELY 200 PERSONS INCLUDING PRD SUPPORTERS AND BACKERS OF MEGAWATI SOEKARNOPUTRI. THE TWO-HOUR PROTEST CALLED FOR RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON XANANA GUSMAO, BUDIMAN SUDJATMIKO AND WEST PAPUAN JACOB RUMBIK. AN ATTEMPT BY TWO DEMONSTRATORS TO LAUNCH A HUNGER STRIKE IN THE PRISON COURT YARD WAS FRUSTRATED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS. POLICE SHOWED RESTRAINT IN HANDLING THE DEMONSTRATION, WHICH BLOCKED SEVERAL LANES OF THE

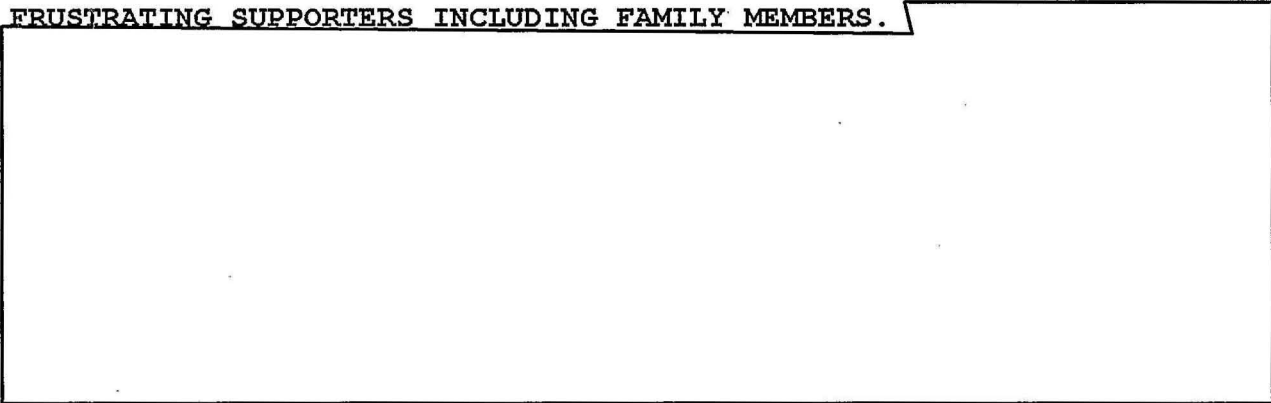
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HIGHWAY IN FRONT OF THE PRISON. MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE POSITIONED
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NEARBY BUT REMAINED ON STAND-BY. IN MID-AFTERNOON, XANANA AND
BUDIMAN WERE ALLOWED BRIEFLY TO ADDRESS THE DEMONSTRATORS. THEY
CALLED FOR CONTINUED PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT FOR RELEASE OF ALL
POLITICAL PRISONERS AND REJECTED THEIR TOKEN SENTENCE REDUCTIONS
(FOUR MONTHS FOR XANANA) AS IRRELEVANT. XANANA CALLED FOR RELEASE
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS "WITHOUT REGARD TO CATEGORY OR CONDITION."

8. (C) NO PRISONERS WERE RELEASED FROM CIPINANG PRISON,
FRUSTRATING SUPPORTERS INCLUDING FAMILY MEMBERS.



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9. (U) REINFORCING THAT CONCERN WERE REPORTS CARRIED IN THE MEDIA
AUGUST 19 THAT THE CHIEF WARDEN AT A GOVERNMENT PRISON IN MERAUKE,
IRIAN JAYA HAD A BUDGET TO FEED 100 PRISONERS BUT THAT THE PRISON
POPULATION WAS 162. RECENTLY RELEASED PRISONERS HAVE TOLD US THAT

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RELEASES MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS

THE ONLY MEDICINES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PRISON SYSTEM TO CRIMINAL PRISONERS IN JAKARTA'S CIPINANG PRISON ARE "VITAMINS" OF QUESTIONABLE CONTENT. CIPINANG PRISON IS REPUTED TO BE ONE OF THE
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GOI'S BEST PRISONS.

10. (C) COMMENT: THE GRADUAL NATURE OF THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS EMPLOYED BY THE HABIBIE GOVERNMENT IS GENERATING ANGER AND IRRITATION AMONG THOSE WHO SEE THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS AS THE VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION BY A "CATEGORY" APPROACH THEY CLAIM IS ARBITRARY AND UNFAIR. THE REGIME HAS BEEN CRITICIZED ALSO FOR TREATING PRISONERS AS HOSTAGES, RELEASING GROUPS AT IMPORTANT JUNCTURES TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL (SUCH AS THE RELEASE WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED THE PARIS CGI). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RELEASE OF PKI-ERA PRISONERS REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT EXPANSION OF THE CATEGORY OF PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED AND

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