

PTQ9117

RELEASED IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ9117

PAGE 01 JAKART 03079 01 OF 02 031310Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	FBIE-00	HHS-01	H-01	IM-01
	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-04	G-00	MR-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/033W

-----44DB42 031311Z /38

P 031306Z JUN 98
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1936
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
ASEAN COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 003079

CINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, EB/OMA/ AND INR/IL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2008

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, ELAB, CASC, PINR, ID

SUBJECT: SKEPTICISM ABOUT INVESTIGATION OF STUDENT KILLINGS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 03079 01 OF 02 031310Z

UNCLASSIFIED

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY POLCOUNS ED MCWILLIAMS, REASON: 1.5(D).
2. (C) SUMMARY: THE MILITARY WILL SHORTLY OPEN A TRIAL OF 18 POLICE OFFICIALS IT CLAIMS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTING DEATHS OF FOUR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY MAY 12. THERE IS SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE MILITARY CLAIM THAT ONLY POLICE WERE INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING. A WELL-RESPECTED U.S. JOURNALIST HAS RESEARCHED THE INCIDENT AND SHARED FINDINGS WITH US WHICH LEND SUPPORT TO SKEPTICS. THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT ON THE SUBJECT, DUE TO BE RELEASED SHORTLY, WILL BE READ CAREFULLY FOR ANY DIFFERENCES FROM THE MILITARY'S CONCLUSIONS. END SUMMARY
3. (U) NATIONAL MILITARY POLICE CORPS COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL SYAMSU DJALAL TOLD MEDIA JUNE 2 THAT WEST JAKARTA POLICE CHIEF LTC TIMUR PRADOPO AND 17 OTHER POLICE MAY FACE PRISON TERMS OF BETWEEN SEVEN AND 12 YEARS IF THEY ARE CONVICTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEATH OF FOUR TRISAKTI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHOT DEAD ON CAMPUS ON MARCH 12. THE 18 WILL BE TRIED UNDER ARTICLE 170 OF THE CRIMINAL CODE FOR ASSAULTING PEOPLE WITH VIOLENCE. THE MILITARY COURT TRIAL, WHICH BEGINS, JUNE 6, HAS ALREADY DRAWN CRITICISM. CRITICS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS MIGHT BE SCAPEGOATS AND THAT ARMY PERSONNEL MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.
4. (U) LENDING CREDENCE TO THE SKEPTICS ARE THE RESULTS OF A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE INCIDENT UNDERTAKEN BY A WASHINGTON POST JOURNALIST WHO SHARED SOME OF HIS FINDINGS WITH POLCOUNS JUNE 2. INTERVIEWS WITH THREE OF THE FOUR FAMILIES OF THE DECEASED AND WITH MEDICAL PERSONNEL WHO RECEIVED THE BODIES AFTER THE SHOOTING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 03079 01 OF 02 031310Z
INDICATED THAT ALL FOUR HAD BEEN KILLED BY SHOTS WHICH WERE FIRED AT THE UPPER TORSO. ALL OF THE WOUNDS SHOWED THAT THE SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM A POINT MUCH HIGHER THAN THE VICTIM WITH A DOWNWARD TRAJECTORY FROM ENTRY TO EXIT WOUNDS. THREE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED STUDENTS, STILL IN HOSPITAL, ALSO WERE HIT BY BULLETS WHICH SHOWED A DISTINCT DOWNWARD TRAJECTORY FROM ENTRY TO EXIT. THE MOST SERIOUSLY WOUNDED STUDENT, WHO WAS STRUCK IN THE UPPER BACK, FOR EXAMPLE, SUFFERED SEVER KIDNEY DAMAGE FROM THAT ROUND.

5. (C) BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH STUDENTS ON THE SCENE AT THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

TIME OF THE SHOOTING, THE VICTIMS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY TARGETED. ONE WAS SHOT IN THE CHEST AS HE STOOD ON STEPS DIRECTING STUDENTS TO TAKE SHELTER IN THE BUILDING BEHIND HIM. ANOTHER STUDENT WAS SHOT AND KILLED WHEN HE STOPPED TO WASH TEAR GAS OUT OF HIS EYES. OVER AN OPEN PHONE LINE TO AN OFFICE AT THE UNIVERSITY, AN EMBASSY OFFICER HEARD SLOW DELIBERATE SINGLE SHOT GUN FIRE WHICH CONTINUED FOR OVER AN HOUR.

6. (C) THE JOURNALIST, WHO VISITED THE PURPORTED SITE OF THOSE FIRING THE LETHAL ROUNDS, AN OVERPASS IN FRONT OF THE CAMPUS, SPECULATED THAT SITE DID NOT PROVIDE THE ELEVATION NECESSARY TO PRODUCE SUCH A DISTINCT DOWNWARD TRAJECTORY. HE SAID THAT HE WAS THEREFORE INCLINED TO GIVE SOME WEIGHT TO STUDENT ACCOUNTS THAT A HELICOPTER HAD DROPPED ARMED PERSONNEL UNTO AN UNFINISHED BUILDING AT THE EDGE OF THE CAMPUS BY ROPES AND THAT THE FIRING WHICH KILLED FOUR STUDENTS AND INJURED OTHERS HAD COME FROM THIS MUCH HIGHER POINT. THE REPORTER ADDED THAT THE FIELD OF FIRE WAS MUCH LESS OBSTRUCTED THAN OFFERED BY THE OVERPASS SITE.

7. (C) THE REPORTER ECHOED CLAIMS BY MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THAT EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW STUDENTS WHO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 JAKART 03079 01 OF 02 031310Z
WERE SAID TO HAVE WITNESSED FIRING FROM ATOP THE BUILDING WERE PRECLUDED BECAUSE THE STUDENTS HAD LEFT THE UNIVERSITY AFTER UNEXPLAINED THREATS. THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ALSO COMPLAINED PUBLICLY ABOUT THREATS AND PRESSURE ON THE STUDENTS AND CALLED ON THE MILITARY TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF ALL POTENTIAL WITNESSES.

8. (C) THE REPORTER SAID HE INTERVIEWED ONE FAMILY WHICH RECOUNTED A STRANGE VISIT FROM LT. GEN. PRABOWO. HE CAME TO EXPRESS HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OVER THE LOSS OF THEIR SON AND, THEN, ASKED THAT A KORAN BE BROUGHT TO HIM. HE THEN RAISED IT ABOVE HIS HEAD AND SWORE THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KILLINGS. THE TWO OTHER BEREAVED FAMILIES WHICH THE REPORTER VISITED SAID THAT PRABOWO ADJUTANTS HAD VISITED THEM TO SAY THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE A VISIT FROM THE PRABOWO, BUT HE NEVER APPEARED.

9. (C) COMMENT: THE REPORTED HELICOPTER INSERTION OF A FIRING TEAM ONTO A BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE TRISAKTI CAMPUS IS ONLY ONE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

OF A NUMBER OF PIECES OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE LEADING SOME TO SUSPECT THAT THE SPECIAL FORCES (KOPASSUS) PLAYED A ROLE IN THE KILLINGS. KOPASSUS, KOSTRAD, KODAM JAYA AND POLICE HAVE BEEN OBSERVED PRACTICING SUCH INSERTIONS AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THE CITY RECENTLY, MOST FREQUENTLY JUST PRIOR TO THE MARCH 1-11 SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR). ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER SECURITY UNITS ALSO HAVE THIS CAPABILITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNPTQ9118

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ9118

PAGE 01 JAKART 03079 02 OF 02 031310Z
ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	ACQ-01
	CA-02	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	FBIE-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01
	DRL-04	G-00	MR-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/032W	

-----44DB43 031311Z /38

P 031306Z JUN 98
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1937
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
ASEAN COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 JAKARTA 003079

CINCPAC FOR FPA TEARE

STATE FOR EAP/PIMBS, EB/OMA/ AND INR/IL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2008

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, ELAB, CASC, PINR, ID

SUBJECT: SKEPTICISM ABOUT INVESTIGATION OF STUDENT KILLINGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 03079 02 OF 02 031310Z

10. (C) THE CREDIBILITY OF THE MILITARY INVESTIGATION WILL DEPEND ON HOW CLOSELY IT TRACKS WITH THE REPORT OF THE INDONESIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO RELEASE CONCLUSIONS OF ITS OWN INVESTIGATION SOON. ANY MAJOR DAYLIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO REPORTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER ARMY PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED, WILL REDOUND AGAINST THE MILITARY AND ITS CREDIBILITY. ROY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu