

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON THE SITUATION OF THE TRADE UNION LEADER, MR PAKPAHAN**

In its statement of 22 November 1994, the Presidency of the European Union expressed the Union's concern at the situation of the Indonesian trade union leader Mr Muchtar Pakpahan and reminded Indonesia of its obligations as a member of the International Labour Organization with regard to trade union rights.

The European Union noted with great concern the increased sentences given to Mr Pakpahan and his colleague Mr Telambanua on 18 January 1995. The Union considers the sentencing of these trade unionists without due respect for their rights to a defence to be unjustified. It urges the Indonesian Government to ensure that the rights to a defence of the trade unionists accused of having caused the Medan incidents in April 1994 are fully respected. It reiterates its request that the Indonesian Government take further steps towards establishing a general climate in which trade union organizations can work freely and independently.

The European Union also calls upon the Indonesian authorities to ensure that the families of the sentenced persons and international organizations are able to visit them on a regular basis.