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Dear Minister,

I am very shocked at the fate of **Johan Teterissa** and 22 other men, who were arrested and jailed for taking part in a peaceful demonstration during a government-organised National Family Day event attended by the then President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in *Ambon*, the capital city of *Maluku* province, eastern Indonesia.

During the ceremony in 2007, **Johan Teterissa** and the other activists, most of whom were teachers or farmers, performed a traditional “cakalele” war dance. At the end of the dance the activists unfurled the “Benang Raja”, a banned regional flag. Police allegedly tortured them during their detention and interrogation.

Johan Teterissa and other activists were charged with “rebellion” (makar) under articles 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) and he received a life sentence, which later was reduced to 15 years’ imprisonment.

In March 2009, *Johan* and dozens of prisoners of conscience were transferred to prisons on *Java Island*, over 2,500km away from *Maluku* province, their place of origin, which makes it almost impossible for their families to visit them.

Johan has developed some health problems, but has not received adequate medical treatment.

In November 2008, the *UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention* declared his detention to be arbitrary on the grounds that he was imprisoned for the exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and because he had been subjected to an unfair trial.

I am writing this letter, Dear Minister, to urge you to release **Johan Teterissa** and the other prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally and to facilitate regular visits of their families and friends. Moreover, I beg you to ensure that *Johan* is provided with adequate medical treatment.

Yours sincerely