



## **Amnesty says torture widespread in Indonesia**

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Torture and other human rights abuses are still widespread in Indonesia 10 years after the fall of dictator Suharto, Amnesty International says.

Though the government ratified the UN Convention Against Torture and instituted key legal reforms after Suharto's demise, Amnesty receives reports of abuse "on a regular basis," according to a briefing paper by the rights group.

"As of early 2008, old and new national laws continue to offer inadequate safeguards to deter the use of torture and ill-treatment in all circumstances," the report says. "Amnesty International receives on a regular basis reports indicating that state agents have been committing torture and other ill-treatment during arrests, interrogation and detention, sometimes leading to deaths.

"This context of widespread use of torture and other ill-treatment is aggravated and supported by a pattern of impunity throughout the country, which can be perceived by perpetrators as giving them license to continue violating human rights."

The Amnesty report has been put together ahead of the United Nations Committee Against Torture's review of Indonesia's progress in eradicating torture in May.

Indonesia is widely considered to have made significant democratic progress since the end of Suharto's oppressive 32-year rule, which ended in 1998.

However, the country's military, police and justice system have come under criticism for continued corruption and disregard for basic human rights.

Last November, visiting UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Manfred Nowak, said beatings and other forms of torture were entrenched in much of Indonesia's prison system.

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