

Office of the Deputy General Prosecutor for Serious Crimes Timor Leste

SERIOUS CRIMES UNIT INFORMATION RELEASE 22 March 2004.

SCU: INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

BRIEF FILED SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR WIRANTO ARREST WARRANT

On 19 March 2004, the Deputy General Prosecutor for Serious Crimes submitted a "Brief in Support of the Application for the Issuance of an Arrest Warrant for Wiranto" to the Special Panels for Serious Crimes. The document summarises the relevant law regarding the charges of command responsibility for Crimes against Humanity and the voluminous evidence that has been filed with the Special Panels in support of the charges. More than 15,000 pages of evidentiary material have now been filed with the Special Panels in support of arrest warrants for General Wiranto and seven other high level accused in the indictment.

The Deputy Prosecutor General for Serious Crimes, Mr. Nicholas Koumjian explained: "My predecessor filed the request for an arrest warrant for Wiranto over a year ago. The document we filed today is intended to assist the court by summarising the extensive evidence supporting the charges. The evidence we have given to the court proves that Wiranto failed in his responsibilities as the ultimate commander of all army and police forces in East Timor to prevent the commission of Crimes Against Humanity and failed to punish the perpetrators. I am confident that the arrest warrant will be issued."

General Wiranto is the highest-level official accused in any of the indictments issued by the Serious Crimes Unit since investigations and prosecutions began in 2000. The indictment against Wiranto, six high-level Indonesian military commanders and one East Timorese official was filed at the Special Panel for Serious Crimes on 24 February 2003. It alleges that General Wiranto, at the time Minister of Defense and Security and Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces, was responsible under international law for the crimes against humanity of murder, deportation and persecution for failing to punish or prevent crimes committed by his subordinates or those acting under his effective control in the period before and after the 1999 popular consultation in East Timor.

All charges in the indictment remain pending. While an arrest warrant against Lt. Colonel Yayat Sudrajat was issued by the Special Panels in November 2003, the applications for warrants for the other seven co-accused still await rulings by the Special Panel for Serious Crimes.

FOR TRANSLATED COPIES OF "THE WIRANTO BRIEF" CONTACT: scu@un.org