

### Munir remembered



Munir remembered: Members of the Solidarity Action Committee for Munir display artwork to commemorate the death of Munir Said Thalib during the Car Free Day in Jakarta on Sunday. Munir, a well-known human rights activist, was allegedly murdered by agents of the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) on Sept. 7, 2004 while flying to The Netherlands on a Garuda Airlines flight. The masterminds behind Munir's murder remain at large. JP/Wendra Ajistyatama

To support the call for truth and justice on the 10th anniversary of the Munir's case, we put an online petition at the link below:

<https://campaigns.amnesty.org/actions/resolve-munir-killing-case>

We would like you to sign the petition and also share it with your network to mobilise the pressure to the upcoming new government in Indonesia.

### A decade of injustice – time to find Munir's real killers

By Papang Hidayat<sup>1</sup>, London; The Jakarta Post, 07-09-2014

Today marks exactly 10 years since Indonesia lost one of its most courageous and compassionate voices — Munir Said Thalib.

On Sept. 7, 2004, Munir, as he was affectionately known, was slipped arsenic while in transit in Singapore during a trip to Amsterdam, and didn't make it through the flight alive. A decade later, we're still no closer to finding the masterminds behind his murder.

One of Indonesia's most prominent human rights campaigners, Munir took up the cause of dozens of activists who were subjected to enforced disappearance. He co-founded two prominent human rights organizations, helped to uncover evidence of military responsibility for human rights violations in Aceh, Papua and Timor Leste (formerly East Timor), and made recommendations to the government on bringing high-ranking officials to justice. In September 1999, he was appointed to the Commission of Inquiry into Human Rights Violations (KPP-HAM) in East Timor.

I was personally lucky enough to work closely with Munir before his tragic death. I first met him in 1996 when he was a human rights lawyer with the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation. I, along with other student activists, met him frequently at

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his office in 1998, when we organized many protests against Soeharto's government.

Later, in 2004, he asked me to join his organization, the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras), where I worked for more than eight years before moving to Amnesty International. I remember Munir as not only a very courageous and persistent human rights defender, but also as an inspiring guru who trained many excellent rights activists in the country.

Many of us still live by one of his most famous sayings: "What we must fear most is fear itself, because fear affects our judgment."

Although three people have been convicted of Munir's murder, there are credible allegations that those responsible for his death at the highest levels have not been brought to justice. The three convicted were all employees of Garuda Indonesia, the state airline that Munir used on the day of his murder, but it is highly unlikely that they acted alone.

Former National Intelligence Agency (BIN) official Muchdi Purwopranjono faced trial in 2008, but was acquitted and many activists claim the process was flawed. Further, the findings of a 2005 independent fact-finding team into the killing, which was established by the authorities, was disregarded by the government and has never been published.

Munir's case cannot be seen in isolation, but is indicative of the wider culture of impunity surrounding attacks and harassment of human rights defenders in the country. In Indonesian there's even the word, *dimunirkan* (munirization), which applies when someone has been killed in mysterious circumstances.

Although the worst violence of the Soeharto era has subsided, many activists in Indonesia still live with daily threats, and it is all too rare that those responsible for the past killings of human rights defenders have been brought to justice. While outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono showed little political will to bring Munir's real killers to justice, president-elect Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has made lofty promises to make human rights a priority once he takes office in October.

Unfortunately, Jokowi got off to an inauspicious start when he appointed Abdullah Mahmud Hendropriyono, a former BIN head, to his transition team. Hendropriyono was the head of BIN at the time of Munir's murder and many human rights groups believe was involved in Munir's assassination — though Hendropriyono has always denied the allegations. Outrage from Munir's widow at the appointment forced Jokowi's camp to reaffirm their commitment to resolving Munir's case.

When Jokowi takes office, he has a golden opportunity to send a clear message that impunity for the killing of human rights defenders will no longer be tolerated. A first step should be to release the 2005 fact-finding report into Munir's killing to establish the truth. Secondly, he should ensure a new, independent police investigation into the case, so that everyone responsible — regardless of their official position — are held to account.

Munir was a unique voice and Indonesia owes him a debt of gratitude for all he has done for human rights in our country.

On the 10th anniversary of his death, the least we can do is ensure that his murder is not forgotten and that the real killers are brought to justice.

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### Kerry calls for justice for Munir

The Jakarta Post, 08-09-2014

On the 10th anniversary of the death of prominent human rights defender Munir Said Thalib, the international community has joined calls for the government to bring his “real killers” to justice.

Adding their voices to those of human rights campaigners in Indonesia, the United States government and international rights groups have called on the Indonesian government to open a new investigation into Munir’s murder case.

“Ten years ago today someone assassinated him because they feared he just might succeed,” US Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement commemorating the 10th anniversary of Munir’s murder on Sept. 7.

“Still today, full accountability for all those allegedly involved remains elusive,” Kerry said in a statement published on state.gov.

Kerry later pledged that the US government would support all efforts to bring to justice those who ordered the assassination of Munir.

He went on to remind the Indonesian government of a promise made by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in the latter’s first year in office in 2004 to resolve the case.

“President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono recognized that the credible resolution of Munir’s murder case would be a key test of Indonesian democracy. That is still true today,” he said.

A number of national and international human rights groups have issued similar statements, calling on the government to find the people behind the killing.

“With only a month remaining in office, we ask you to use the power in your hands to order a new investigation into Munir’s case directed at identifying the mastermind,” said Mugiyanto, chairman of the Philippines-based Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD). Mugiyanto also urged the outgoing President to go public with the findings from an investigation conducted by a fact finding team (TPF) into Munir’s murder case.

Munir was found dead on a Garuda Airlines flight from Jakarta to Amsterdam on Sept. 7, 2004. An autopsy carried out by the Dutch authorities showed that he died as a result of arsenic poisoning.

Although three Garuda Airlines staff have been convicted of the killing, there are credible allegations that those responsible at the highest levels of government have not yet been brought to justice.

Munir was a prominent human rights campaigner who took up the cause of dozens of activists who disappeared during the last months of the Soeharto government in 1998. He also played a leading role in uncovering evidence of military responsibility for human rights violations in Aceh and Timor Leste.

Munir also drew attention to the role of former chief of the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) Gen. Abdullah Mahmud Hendropriyono in a military crackdown on civilian protesters in Talangsari, Lampung, in 1989, which claimed the lives of 45 people. Hendropriyono was commander of the local military division at the time. Hendropriyono, who maintains that he is innocent, has declined to cooperate with the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM)’s probe into the

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Talangsari massacre. He now serves as an adviser to president-elect Joko “Jokowi” Widodo’s transition team.

Another military figure who was frequently targeted by Munir was former BIN deputy and commander of the Army’s Special Forces (Kopassus) Muchdi Purwoprandjono, who was accused of being involved in the kidnapping and disappearance of pro-democracy activists in 1998.

In 2008, Muchdi was acquitted of ordering the killing of Munir. Human rights groups found that the trial did not meet international standards of fairness after key prosecution witnesses retracted their sworn testimonies and failed to testify in court. In February 2010, Komnas HAM also identified flaws in the police investigation, prosecution and trial of Muchdi and recommended a fresh investigation.

US diplomatic cables leaked by WikiLeaks allege that Hendropriyono “chaired two meetings at which Munir’s assassination was planned”. A witness at those meetings told police that “only the time and method of the murder changed from the plans he heard discussed; the original plan was to kill Munir in his office.”

Meanwhile, London-based Amnesty International has marked the 10th anniversary of Munir’s murder by urging Jokowi to ensure that his plan to resolve past human rights violations includes justice for Munir.

“Amnesty International urges Jokowi to initiate a new, independent investigation into the murder of Munir and bring perpetrators at all levels to justice in a manner consistent with international human rights standards,” the organization stated.

### New administration must resolve killing of human rights defender Munir

Amnesty International Public Statement 05-09-2014

Amnesty International urges President-elect Joko Widodo (Jokowi) to ensure that his plan to resolve past human rights violations includes accountability for the killing of human rights defender Munir Said Thalib. After struggling for a decade, the election of Jokowi has brought a glimmer of hope to Munir’s family and friends that all the perpetrators will be finally be brought to justice.

Munir was a prominent human rights campaigner in Indonesia, who took up the cause of dozens of activists who had been subjected to enforced disappearances during the last months of the Suharto government in 1998. He also played a significant role in uncovering evidence of military responsibility for human rights violations in Aceh and Timor-Leste.

Munir was found dead on a Garuda Airlines flight from Jakarta to Amsterdam on 7 September 2004. An autopsy carried out by the Dutch authorities showed that he died as a result of arsenic poisoning. Although three Garuda Airlines staff have now been convicted of the killing, there are credible allegations that those responsible at the highest levels of government have not yet been brought to justice.

In 2008, Muchdi Purwoprandjono, a former deputy director of the state intelligence agency, was acquitted of soliciting and assisting in the killing of Munir. Human rights groups found that the trial did not meet international standards of fairness after key prosecution witnesses retracted their sworn testimonies and failed to testify in court. In February 2010, the National Human

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Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) also identified flaws in the police investigation, prosecution and trial of Muchdi and recommended a new police investigation.

Amnesty International urges Jokowi to initiate a new, independent investigation into the murder of Munir and bring perpetrators at all levels to justice in a manner consistent with international human rights standards. As a key step towards establishing the truth, the authorities should also make public the 2005 report of an official fact-finding team into Munir's killing that reportedly implicated senior intelligence officers.

Jokowi should also instruct the Attorney General to conduct a review of past criminal proceedings into Munir's killing, including alleged violations of international human rights standards.

The lack of full accountability in Munir's case contributes to an ongoing climate of fear among human rights defenders. Despite commitments by the Indonesian government to provide adequate protection for human rights defenders – including during Indonesia's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council in May 2012 – they continue to be threatened, intimidated and attacked for their work.

The new administration must take steps to ensure that human rights violations committed against human rights defenders are promptly, effectively and impartially investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice in fair trials. Further it should support the passage of specific legislation aimed at providing better legal protection for human rights defenders.

In 2004, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono stated the resolving Munir's killing would be a "test of our history", for Indonesia's democratic reform process. Many Indonesians now believe that he has failed this test. It is our hope that Jokowi's human rights record will be better, and that Munir's family's long wait for justice will soon be over.

### Sign the on-line petition:

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