

Impunity

Remembering Munir

Inside Indonesia, March 2014

Human rights advocate and lawyer Munir Said Thalib was murdered almost ten years ago. He died on board a Garuda plane headed for Amsterdam on 7 September 2004. His last hours on board the flight are charted in detail on the wall of a new museum dedicated to him. The Omah Munir (Munir's House) is in the hillside town of Batu, 20 kilometres from Malang in East Java. It tells a story where we all know the ending. Yet the blow-by-blow account of his pain and suffering is harrowing to read, especially when one sees, prior to this, an account of Munir's life and his involvement in key human rights cases in Indonesia in the 1990s and early 2000s. Munir had become a well-known figure in the world at the time of his murder, receiving a number of awards and recognition for his advocacy work.



Batu, dubbed 'the city of flowers', is a resort town and a place of fecund beauty with its natural springs, lush mountains and bountiful agricultural produce. Omah Munir is located on the main road to Selecta, a picturesque bathing spot that has long been popular with locals. Batu was Munir's hometown. After his childhood here Munir became

a student activist at Brawijaya University in Malang, before joining the Legal Aid Foundation as a lawyer, where he met Suciwati the woman who later became his wife. The house (later to become the Museum) was, as Suciwati told me, very meaningful to the couple who had purchased it together and had hoped to live many happy years there.

Further reading:

<http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/remembering-munir>

Disappearance

FEARS GROW FOR MISSING INDONESIAN MAN

Amnesty International Urgent Action, 28-03-2014

At least five soldiers have been arrested in connection with the disappearance of Indonesian man, Dedek Khairudin. However, his whereabouts are still unknown and an independent investigation into the case has yet to be opened.

The military police in Indonesia have reportedly arrested at least five soldiers in relation to the disappearance of Dedek Khairudin. These include a member of military intelligence from the Army Resort Military Command (Korem 011/LW) and at least four marines, all of whom were allegedly present when Dedek Khairudin was taken from his home on 28 November 2013. However, an independent investigation into the case has not yet been opened and Dedek Khairudin's whereabouts are still unknown.

Dedek Khairudin was taken from his home in North Sumatra, Indonesia, in the early morning of 28 November by a military intelligence officer from the Army Resort Military Command, accompanied by at least eight marines from the Pangkalan

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Brandan region in North Sumatra. According to Dedek Khairudin's family, the military personnel had been searching for another man who was accused of stabbing a soldier, and they believed Dedek Khairudin had information about where the man was hiding. The military intelligence officer claims not to know Dedek Khairudin's current location, saying that they were separated after he took him to the Pangkalan Brandan region on 28 November.

To take action:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA21/009/2014/en/80061655-8b4a-45f8-98a8-cac0d15c2a1e/asa210092014en.pdf>

Death penalty

Amnesty International Urgent Action, 31-03-2014

Time is running out for an Indonesian woman, in Saudi Arabia, who could be executed for the murder of her employer as early as 3 April.

41-year-old Satinah Binti Jumadi Ahmad confessed to striking and killing her employer, Nura al-Garib, in self-defence, after the woman attempted to smash her head against a wall.

Nura al-Garib's family has requested diya (compensation or 'blood money') of 7 million riyals (AUD\$2 million) in exchange for sparing Satinah Ahmad's life.

If full payment is not received by 3 April, the execution, possibly by beheading, will be carried out.

Foreign workers suffer greatly in Saudi Arabia. Some go unpaid. Some are beaten or even raped. If arrested, they're subjected to trials conducted solely in Arabic without translation and many have no money for a lawyer or family to turn to for help.

Without the resources to protect and defend themselves, migrant workers like Satinah Ahmad are at great risk of execution if they end up in the Saudi Arabian justice system.



To take action:

<http://www.amnesty.org.au/action/action/34223/>

Elections 2014

HRW questionnaire

24-03-2014

Candidates for Indonesia's July 2014 presidential election will have an opportunity in a new survey to explain to voters their positions on major human rights issues, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch distributed a questionnaire on March 21, 2014, to likely presidential candidates posing nine questions on the country's most pressing human rights concerns. Human Rights Watch will release the responses received by its May 16 deadline in early June. "Indonesia's next president will inherit serious human rights problems requiring leadership and commitment," said Phelim Kine, deputy Asia director. "Indonesian voters should insist that presidential candidates make explicit their plans to promote and strengthen human rights in the country." Further reading:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/03/24/indonesia-presidential-candidates-given-forum-rights>

This Amnesty International Netherlands clipping service is made for Amnesty members and others interested in the human rights developments in Indonesia – for information only – not to be quoted as Amnesty information – for more information or to be included in or deleted from the mailinglist, write to m.meijer@amnesty.nl. For back issues view <http://www.marthameijer.org/page36.php>

Two different eras, two different populists

Aboeprijadi Santoso, The Jakarta Post, 28-3-2014

With popular Jakarta Governor Joko “Jokowi” Widodo entering the country’s highest political contest, Indonesia has proceeded through a new era of populism amid the half-hearted transition from the New Order toward the consolidation of democracy.

Since there has basically never been a genuine break in terms of ideology and political structure since the 1998 Reformasi (Reformation), not surprisingly, many patterns of political leadership and actions have been both retained and renewed, shaping a curious mixture of old and new characteristics.

Nowhere has this been more obvious than with the contradiction between two populist leaders now competing to lead the nation: Jokowi and Prabowo Subianto.

The 2014 elections — some of the biggest in the world, with 180 million eligible voters for some 20,000 regional and national representatives — could, for better or worse, be the promise of a break with the recent past. A promise — that could either be fulfilled or broken.

The time has passed when those with celebrated roles during the independence struggle were destined to rule the state and guide the nation.

With it, patterns of rule and leadership, with which the ruling elite kept their domination by dynamic interaction between state and political parties’ mass mobilization, have gone.

Read the whole article:

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/03/28/two-different-eras-two-different-populists.html>

80 retired generals support Prabowo

Kompas 28-03-2014

More than 700 retired personnel of the army and police have given their support to Prabowo Subianto as presidential candidate from the Gerindra party. They consist of 80 retired generals 300 retired middle ranking officers and 400 soldiers.



The retired army staff call themselves the retired fighters. They consider Prabowo to be a strong and visionary leader who can make Indonesia a great nation.

“I am surprised as I did not expect such a declaration. Thank you all my true friends that you surface in these critical times”, said Prabowo in front of hundreds of army pensionados in Ruang Birawa, Bidakara. Prabowo was the more moved because from the many supporters there were several who had been his superiors who had helped him become what he is now.

Prevention of post-election conflicts

Kompas, 28-03-2014

Considering the increase of violence before and during the elections in Aceh and in Indonesia in general, it is necessary to be prepared for post-

election conflicts. Operational Assistant of the National Police, general Arif Wahyunadi said this in a public debate organized by human rights organization KontraS, adding that from his part there are plans being developed for emergency situations after the elections.

"We do have our thoughts and analysis of the security situation in Aceh and all other regions. The Operation Mantap Brata (stable and controlled) is the title of the operation to realize the ideal conditions before and during the elections, and ranges from 16 March until 24 October 2014.

The Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission Komnas HAM, Natalius Pigay warned that the planning for election related unrest is a serious issue, including what to do if, on 20 October 2014, there is no new president. "We have demanded that the army and the police remain neutral", he said.

Police watcher Bambang Umar said in this context that there are two different kinds of policing: state policing and democratic policing. In Indonesia the current type still is that of state policing. The Head of Police is under command of the President, and selected by Parliament so as not to be separated from political interests (sic: sehingga tidak lepas dari kepentingan politik).

Bambang reminded the audience that during Megawati's presidency there was a regional police officer in Central java who ordered his men to be supporting the person in power. During Abdurrahman Wahid's period, the Head of Police Surojo Bimantoro mad a political manoeuvre against the DPR authority to fire the Head of Police. "As long as the police have to serve the state and not the people, the police neutrality and professionalism are hard to realise. In fact the police should be serving the people," he said.

Political power of the army

Kompas, 30-03-2014

Following the Gerindra Party, now also the Partai Keadilan dan Persatuan Indonesia (PKPI) has intensified its relations with the retired army personnel. The party leader, lieutenant-general Sutiyo¹ is convinced he has won the support of 960,000 families of veterans and retired soldiers.

Sutiyo has signed a political contract with the retired army personnel via the Legal Aid Bureau for retired army personnel (LBHP), that has 960,000 members. The contract includes five promises by the PKPI for retired army staff. Among them are the effort to turn back the 4.75 % cut of their wages for a social support system, better housing, honorary income for veterans and better health services for retired staff.



Working on the logistics for the parliamentary elections in East Java. They work 24 hours a day in two shifts to be able to fulfil their task for distribution to the election offices at subdistrict level by 6 April.

¹ Sutiyo is a former general and former governor of Jakarta.

Electoral violence

The Jakarta Globe, 20-03-2014

A brawl broke out between supporters of the governing Democratic Party and supporters of the Golkar Party in West Sulawesi's Mamuju district just four days into this year's designated legislative campaign period.

"It was a fight, two on two, using machetes and badiks [traditional daggers from Sulawesi, somewhat similar to kris], between Democratic Party supporters Hamzah, 38, and Ahmad, 31, and Golkar Party supporters Andi Bahtiar, 40 and Rusdi, 50," South and West Sulawesi Police spokesman Sr. Cmr. Endi Sutendi told the Jakarta Globe on Thursday.

He said that the scuffle broke out at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, near the Pasar Tasiu housing complex in the Kalukku subdistrict.

According to witnesses, the fracas began when one pair tore down the other's campaign paraphernalia, prompting an argument that quickly escalated.

All four men involved were injured seriously and received treatment at Mamuju and Mitra Makarra hospitals.

"We've gone over the crime scene step-by-step, and coordinated with the subdistrict's party board members and local public figures to prevent [the conflict] from getting bigger," Andi said. "The district police chief has anticipated the possibility of conflict escalation by assigning a group of riot police officers to the crime scene to assist the subdistrict police."

The General Election Commission (KPU) set this year's legislative campaigns to begin on March 16 and end on April 5, with legislative elections on April 9. Fifteen political parties are set to contest the elections.

So far, election-related violence has been confined to Aceh for the most part, where a former Free Aceh Movement (GAM) combatant and companions allegedly attacked a National Democratic (NasDem) Party campaign office — possibly with the help of a supporter in the military. In addition, a legislative candidate from the Aceh National Party (PNA) was recently gunned down on a secluded road.

On the island of Sumba in the province of East Nusa Tenggara an election office has been burnt down after unrest by unknown elements. All material has been lost. The elections in this district (Kabupaten) will have to be postponed. Kompas 30-04-2014.

There is no such thing as a 'constitutional coup'

The Jakarta Post, 30-03-2014

Efforts to decrease the number abstainers in the 2014 general election were important to quash predictions that there would be riots, Election Organizers Ethics Council (DKPP) chairman Jimly Asshiddiqie² said on Sunday.

"It is even being said that the Indonesian Military [TNI] will launch a constitutional coup," he said during a speech at Al-Azhar Grand Mosque in South Jakarta as quoted by tempo.co.

He said that there was no such thing as a constitutional coup and asked the public to prevent such a thing from becoming a reality. "We don't want our country to be like Egypt, Ukraine and Thailand, having to depend on the military in politics. We should make sure that everything goes smoothly," he said.

² Jimli Ashidiqqi is former chairman of the Constitutional Court.

He said that it was important to eliminate the potential of an increased number of abstainers. "The number of abstainers has increased over the years. For example, in 1999, there was a 94 percent voter turnout, but in 2004 there was a 80 percent voter turnout. Do not let numbers [of voters] further decrease this year," he said.

Jimly said that abstainers would be exploited by particular groups trying to achieve their political objectives, which in turn could have a negative impact on the future of the nation.

"We do not need to be trapped by an illusion that chaos will descend. We need to reduce the number of abstainers," he said.

Freedom of Religion

Biblical Hollywood film banned

The Jakarta Post, 28-03-2014

Following the lead from some Middle Eastern countries, the Film Censorship Institute (LSF) has decided to ban Hollywood's retelling of the biblical tale, Noah, deeming it too controversial based on religious grounds.

LSF chairman Mukhlis Paeni said that the institute's members considered several elements in the film contradicted basic teachings in the Islamic holy book, the Koran.

"Almost all Muslim countries have decided to ban the film. We, too, found elements in the story that contradicted the holy book, so we have decided to prohibit the screening of the film," Mukhlis said on Monday.

When pressed by The Jakarta Post to say which parts of the movie contradicted the Koran, Mukhlis merely said: "We are just following what other Middle Eastern countries have done."

Mukhlis said the LSF was concerned that the film could cause problems if it was given the go-ahead. "We are worried that violent protests could occur," he said.

With this decision, the LSF has also banned the distribution of Noah in all physical formats, such as DVDs and VCDs, as well as Internet downloads. "People can go abroad to watch the film," he said.

As for preventing pirated versions of the movie, Mukhlis said that was under the purview of the National Police.

Unconfirmed reports also claim that the LSF is ready to slap a ban on Son of God, another Hollywood retelling of the Bible.

The news has sparked some fierce comments, see:

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2014/03/25/censor-bans-hollywood-s-biblical-epic.html>

Freedom of Expression

Amnesty International: Papuan activists imprisoned in Sorong District

28-03-2014

Amnesty International calls for the immediate and unconditional release of seven Papuan activists in Sorong district, West Papua province in Indonesia, imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

On 30 April 2013, police arrested six Papuan men in West Papua province's Sorong district: Obaja Kamesrar (41), Yordan Magablo (43), Klemens Kodimko (72), Antonius Saruf (63), Obeth Kamesrar (66) and Hengky Mangamis (40). A seventh person, Isak Kalaibin, was arrested around a week later, on 8 May.

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The seven men had taken part in a peaceful prayer gathering in Aimas city, Sorong to celebrate a traditional festival (Pesta Mama) as well as to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the handover of Papua to Indonesia on 1 May 1963.

The Indonesian authorities accused the men of supporting the independence of Papua and planning to raise the Morning Star flag, a symbol of Papuan independence which is prohibited under a 2007 government regulation. They were then charged with “rebellion” (makar) under Article 106 and 110 of Indonesia’s Criminal Code. On 3 December 2013, the Sorong District Court sentenced six of the men to one year and six months’ imprisonment, while Isak Kalaibin was sentenced to three years and six months in prison. Amnesty International considers all seven activists to be prisoners of conscience.

Before the arrests, police and soldiers had opened fire on the prayer gathering, resulting in the deaths of two men, Abner Malagawak (22) and Thomas Blesia (28). A woman, Salomina Kalaibin (37), died on 6 May 2013 from gunshot wounds to her stomach and shoulder. There has yet to be an independent investigation into the deaths of the three people.



The trial of the seven at the Sorong District court in West Papua province © Democratic Alliance for Papua (ALDP)

Dozens of political activists have been imprisoned in Papua, some for as long as 20 years, for attending, organizing or participating in peaceful political activities and protests, or possessing,

raising or waving the prohibited pro-independence flags.

Corruption in State Institutions

Former foreign minister involved?

The Jakarta Post, 28-03-2014

The first hearing in the trial of a former Indonesian ambassador to the United States, Sudjadnan Parnohadiningrat, revealed on Wednesday that cash collected from rigging a series of international events at the Foreign Ministry in 2004-2005 partly flowed to former minister Hassan Wirajuda.

Sudjadnan, who was the Foreign Ministry’s secretary-general when the alleged wrongdoing occurred, is being tried for allegedly skimming Rp 4.5 billion (US\$394,304) from 12 international conferences and meetings held by the ministry, causing state losses of Rp 12 billion.

Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) prosecutors said the Rp 4.5 billion was used to enrich Sudjadnan, Hassan and other officials at the ministry, as well as corporations. “A total of Rp 440 million was used to enrich Hassan Wirajuda as instructed by the defendant, who also took a Rp 300 million slice from the projects,” prosecutor Kadek Wiradana read from the indictment at the Jakarta Corruption Court.