



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/HRC/4/NGO/119
8 March 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Fourth session
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251
OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”**

**Written statement* submitted by the International NGO Forum on Indonesian
Development (INFID), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[28 February 2007]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Freedom of Opinion and Expression in Indonesia

State of affairs on freedom of opinion and expression in Indonesia up to now has not been better yet. Police, Municipal Police and certain groups still implement violent behavior to silence the freedom of opinion and expression. Those acts of violence keep come across press, feminine and student group.

These acts of ferocity are barely different from situation before the 1998 reformation. Alliance of Independent Journalist – Indonesia (Aliansi Jurnalis Independen or AJI) recorded¹ 53 cases of violence against press and journalist from January to December 2006. On the same interval of time, January - December 2005, AJI recorded 43 cases of violence. This year the track record of violence against press put Indonesia on 103rd rank of 168 countries in press freedom index according to Reporter Sans Frontiers (RSF), France based international organization of journalist protection.

AJI observes that in Jakarta there were 16 cases of violence against press and journalist, in East Java were noted 7 cases and 6 cases in West Java. By the end of 2006, AJI documented physical attack as the largest amount of cases as sum to 28 cases, followed by lawsuit opposed to press that come to 7 cases. From the aspect of perpetrators, the mass are the largest as up to 15 cases, government personnel in 7 cases and police force in 7 cases.

Up to the beginning of 2007 there are 3 murder cases that have not been revealed yet. Those are the murder of Fuad Muhammad Syafruddin (Udin), journalist of Bernas Daily, Yogyakarta (16 August, 1996), the death of Elyudin Telaumbanua, journalist of Berita Sore Daily in Medan that has been kidnapped (24 August, 2005) and the murder of Herliyanto, freelance journalist in Probolinggo, East Java, (29 April, 2006).

The threats against freedom of opinion and expression also suffered by other group out of journalist, for example the feminine group.

On 19 April, 2006, feminine activist came into contact with attack and violence when they demonstrate against Provincial Regulation of Anti Impudence in Tangerang (West Java). In May 2006, Mrs. Sinta Nuriyah Abdurrahman Wahid was deplored for refusing the Law Plan of Porn and Pornography. As in May 2006, the office of Fahmina Institute was oppressively closed by the Front of Islamic Defender (Front Pembela Islam or FPI) and the Mujahidin Congregation of Indonesia (Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia or MMI) because of Fahmina Institute's rejection of the Law Plan of Porn and Pornography.

Other phenomena happened on 2006 were violent behavior that conducted by government personnel and some groups of certain organization on the name of communism danger.

In Surabaya (East Java) on 12 December 2006, the event of commemoration of Human Rights Day and Anti Trafficking were close down by a group of people who called themselves Front of Anti Communist by carrying attributes of Front of Islamic Defender. This group forcefully sent away and intimidated the participants of the event and took by force documentary films of Marsinah and Munir. The Police did not do anything to prevent or stop the banishment.

¹ See Final Year Report of Alliance of Independent Journalist (AJI) 2006 <http://blogaji.wordpress.com/2007/01/03/catatan-akhir-tahun-aji-2006/>

On 14 December 2006, the discussion on Marxism in Ultimus Bookstore in Bandung was also dismissed by The People of Anti Communist. The organizing committee and spokesperson were taken to the Police Headquarters and were scrutinized for 24 hours.

On 23 May 2006, more than 200 people from various youth organization discharge the Seminar of Tough Women Meeting concerning “Incite our Mind to Accomplish Reconciliation in Strengthening the Unity Republic of Indonesia” that has been held in Bandung. Factually the event was held by official institutions the National Committee of Women Rights (Komnas Perempuan), Institute for Culture and Religion Studies, and Unity of Indonesia (Syarikat Indonesia). This event was attended by 60 female senior citizens. They were accused as members of Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI). The violence perpetrators include the Alliance of Anti Regional Disturbance (Persatuan Anti Gangguan Regional or Pagar), and Patriot of Panca Marga (PPM).² Strangely the Police investigated the organizing committee instead of the people who discharge the event forcefully.

Those cases also describe the violation against freedom of opinion and expression by directing of communism grounds is happened systematically. It revealed since the in middle of 2006, government personnel started from Head of Area Police (Kapolwil), Commander of Military District (Kodim), General of Military Regional (Pangdam) and up to the Head of National Intelligent Organization (BIN) are rapidly campaigned anti communist issue down the year of 2006.

New threat against freedom of opinion is come from the Plan of Common regulation Book that is being discussed by House of Representative and Government. In this new plan there are 61 crucial articles that potentially harm freedom of political civil opinion, including freedom for press. As comparator, in the Common regulation applied currently, there are still 37 crucial articles that can be exploited to send journalist behind bars.

With this situation of Human Rights enforcement nowadays, we inquire to Board of Human Rights, International Community and Government of Indonesia,

1. We insist on Government of Indonesia to invite Special Rapporteurs concerning the freedom of expression.
2. We inquire the Board of Human Rights to force the Government of Indonesia to be consistent in applying the regulations of Political and Civil Rights Covenant particularly in freedom of opinion and expression.
3. We strongly advise the Government of Indonesia to cancel articles harming freedom of opinion and expression in the Book of Common regulation Plan.
4. We insist on the Government of Indonesia to through Police Corps of Indonesia to maintain law enforcement that guarantee the freedom of opinion and expression without any discrimination.

² Suara Pembaruan Daily, dated on 23-05-06, "Chief of Indonesia Police Corps Must Clarify the Banishment of Ex PKI Prisoners' Activity"