



Indonesia: Human rights and development post- Suharto

**Indonesia NGO Forum
All-party Parliamentary Human Rights
Group**



3 June 2008

Indonesia NGO Forum and All-party Parliamentary Human Rights Group briefing on Indonesia: Human rights and development post-Suharto

Guest speaker: Suciwati, widow of the murdered human rights defender, Munir.

Ten years ago, the downfall of the dictator Suharto set Indonesia on a course of reform and democratic transition that has had its up and downs. The process is far from complete. Renewed effort is needed to encourage further progress.

As ties between the UK and Indonesia are about to be strengthened by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's forthcoming visit to London (postponed from the first week in June), members of the UK Indonesia NGO Forum are calling for parliamentary action on the key issues of West Papua; Impunity; Aceh; and Climate justice and sustainable livelihoods.

Information and recommendations on these issues and an additional briefing on a debt cancellation campaign are included in this pack.

Guest speaker Suciwati is the widow of Indonesia's most prominent human rights defender, campaigner against military impunity, and anti-corruption activist, Munir, who died from arsenic poisoning in 2004. His case epitomises many of the problems facing Indonesia today. Suciwati has worked tirelessly to bring suspects in the state intelligence agency to justice. President Yudhoyono has acknowledged the Munir murder as a test case for Indonesia.

The Indonesia NGO Forum intends that this meeting will be followed by a Foreign Office roundtable with the UK's new Ambassador to Indonesia, Martin Hatfull, in the next couple of months. Interested MPs and Peers are encouraged to attend the roundtable as part of the follow-up to this meeting.

The Indonesia NGO Forum is an informal network of UK-based organisations that work on issues ranging from human rights and development to the environment and humanitarian relief in Indonesia. The network exists to share information on matters of concern and undertake joint advocacy initiatives where appropriate.

There is no fixed membership, but those who attend Forum meetings, or have done so in the past, include Peace Brigades International; TAPOL; Down to Earth, CAFOD, Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; Progressio; Islamic Relief; Free West Papua Campaign; and Oxfam.

Information about current active members of the Forum and contact details are included in this pack. The views in the briefings and at the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views of all the organisations listed above.

3 June 2008

Summary of suggested recommendations and action points:

Climate Justice & Sustainable Livelihoods

To promote climate justice and sustainable livelihoods in Indonesia, parliamentarians are urged to press the UK Government to:

- ensure the views of local communities inform/underpin all international negotiations on climate change and ensure that all proposed climate-related initiatives comply with international human rights standards, including the 'free, prior and informed consent' of indigenous peoples.
- provide substantial grants - not loans - for climate change initiatives and promote similar international funding for sustainable livelihoods projects as a way of mitigating the causes of climate change as well as ensuring vulnerable communities can adapt to its impacts.
- urge the European Commission to reconsider agrofuel targets (and, if necessary, rescind the UK's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO)) due to mounting evidence of the connection between palm oil production and the destruction of forests, biodiversity and the negative impact on communities' livelihoods and food sovereignty.
- strengthen UK legislation on corporate social responsibility, transparency and investment in the extractive industries to make UK companies operating in the region (including BP's Tangguh project and Rio Tinto's Grasberg mine venture, both in West Papua) accountable for environmentally and socially damaging practices.

The above recommendations are supported by:
DTE, TAPOL, FWPC, PBI, CAFOD and Progressio.

Impunity

As a contribution to efforts to end impunity, UK parliamentarians are requested to:

- Encourage the FCO to make impunity a priority issue in its relations with Indonesia and press Indonesia to implement in full the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the UN Committee Against Torture.
- Press for an end to the culture of impunity in West Papua and for the resolution of those cases which the National Commission on Human Rights has found to be gross violations of human rights.
- Urge the FCO, as a major funder of East Timor's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, to formally consider its final report, implement its recommendations addressed to the UK, and respond to its recommendation concerning the establishment of an international tribunal.

The above recommendations are supported by:
TAPOL, CAFOD, PBI, DTE, FWPC and Progressio.

Aceh

That the UK government works, as part of the EU, to help ensure that both a Human Rights Court for Aceh and a Commission for Truth and Reconciliation for Aceh are established as soon as possible.

The above recommendations are supported by:
CAFOD, TAPOL, PBI, DTE, FWPC and Progressio.

Papua

The UK government is urged to help improve the situation for Papuans by encouraging the Indonesian government to:

- Account for its failure to implement special autonomy in Papua.
- Look carefully at the role of the military (TNI) in Papua, in particular at the use of the TNI to repress the indigenous population; to investigate Human Rights abuses by the TNI and other elements of the security forces; and to fulfil its obligations as a member of the UN Human Rights Council to fully respect and protect the rights of the Papuan people.
- Allow the Papuan people to voice their concerns and aspirations by exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly without hindrance or intimidation; and release unconditionally all Papuans imprisoned for peacefully exercising those fundamental rights.
- Allow free and unfettered access to Papua by foreign journalists and international human rights organisations.
- Ensure that Human Rights Defenders in Papua can carry out their work without fear of intimidation and violence with the more systematic implementation of the EU Guidelines for the protection of Human Rights Defenders in the field and the recommendations of the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders.

The above recommendations are supported by:
FWPC, PBI, CAFOD, TAPOL, DTE and Progressio

Requests to the UK government on the case of Munir

The UK government is requested to support KASUM (*Komite Akis Solidaritas Untuk Munir* - The Committee for Solidarity with Munir) in its search for justice in the case of the murder of Human Right's defender Munir Said Thalib by:

- expressing to the Indonesian government its support for the progress made in the case, and pressing Indonesia to stay on course for justice by investigating former officials of the state intelligence agency, BIN, such as Muchdi PR.
- making a written statement to the Indonesian government, expressing support for the European Parliament's written declaration on the murder of Munir (see below).

Suciwati Munir (widow)

3 June 2008

The above recommendations are supported by:
DTE, TAPOL, FWPC, PBI, CAFOD and Progressio

European Parliament written declaration on the murder of the human rights activist Munir Said Thalib

12 November 2007

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas in September 2004 leading Indonesian human rights activist Munir, founder of human rights organisations, died from arsenic poisoning on Garuda flight GA974 from Singapore to Amsterdam,
 - B. whereas the report by an independent fact-finding team into the Munir case, ordered by the Indonesian President, has never been made public,
 - C. whereas the only person to have been prosecuted in connection with the case, former Garuda co-pilot Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto, had his conviction overturned by the Indonesian Supreme Court in October 2006,

D. whereas in April 2007 Indonesian police arrested two new suspects for Munir's murder,

E. whereas this murder was also meant to intimidate and threaten all other Indonesian human rights defenders and journalists,

1. Calls on the Indonesian authorities to take all necessary action to ensure that those responsible for the murder at all levels are brought to trial and justice is delivered as quickly as possible;

2. Calls on the Commission and the Council to monitor the investigation into the murder of Munir, including the ongoing trials of former Garuda executives Indra Setiawan and Rohainil Aini, as well as the case review of the Supreme Court's decision in the Pollycarpus case;

3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the President of the Republic of Indonesia and the Speakers of the two Chambers of the Indonesian Parliament.

Climate justice and sustainable livelihoods in Indonesia

Recommended Actions:

To promote climate justice and sustainable livelihoods in Indonesia, parliamentarians are urged to press the UK Government to:

- **ensure the views of local communities inform/underpin all international negotiations on climate change and ensure that all proposed climate-related initiatives comply with international human rights standards, including the 'free, prior and informed consent' of indigenous peoples.**
- **provide substantial grants - not loans - for climate change initiatives and promote similar international funding for sustainable livelihoods projects as a way of mitigating the causes of climate change as well as ensuring vulnerable communities can adapt to its impacts.**
- **urge the European Commission to reconsider agrofuel targets (and, if necessary, rescind the UK's Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO)) due to mounting evidence of the connection between palm oil production and the destruction of forests, biodiversity and the negative impact on communities' livelihoods and food sovereignty.**
- **strengthen UK legislation on corporate social responsibility, transparency and investment in the extractive industries to make UK companies operating in the region (including BP's Tangguh project and Rio Tinto's Grasberg mine venture, both in West Papua) accountable for environmentally and socially damaging practices.**

Suharto's legacy.

One of the key legacies of the Suharto regime is the free hand given to big business and the political elites in the exploitation of natural resources. This occurs mainly at the expense of local communities and is aided by corrupt practices and weak or biased regulation. It is the principal cause of forest destruction, severely limiting opportunities for community-based forest management. The legacy of ever-expanding plantations (including pulp and oil palm) and the free reign given to extractive industries further illustrate the ethos of profit before people and the environment. This situation is aggravated by the policies of international financial institutions and the lack of any pro-poor, or pro human rights land reform policy.

Indonesia and climate change.

The climate change debate highlights how the impacts of these issues are no longer confined to directly affected local communities. Recent studies have shown that Indonesia is both a major contributor to climate change and highly vulnerable to its impacts.

Forest destruction, peatland degradation and forest fires are mostly to blame for Indonesia's ranking as third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the USA and China. Around two billion Megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂e) are released each year from peatland degradation alone.

The predicted impacts of climate change include more intense rainfall with risks of increased flooding; threats to food sovereignty due to impacts on agriculture; sea level rises affecting productive coastal agricultural and fisheries; warmer ocean water, putting further pressure on coral reefs; and intensification of diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.¹

Forest destruction is rated the second biggest contributor of greenhouse gases, amounting to 18% of carbon emissions globally. However, as well as preserving the forests, governments must also cut emissions from energy generation, transport and industry.

Putting people first.

In seeking 'climate justice', we aim to promote equitable solutions based on the rights, needs, participation and agreement of communities exposed to the greatest impact of *climate change* or attempts at its mitigation. In *Indonesia*, these communities range from forest-dwellers whose lands and resources are being converted to oil palm plantations without their consent to coastal villages whose homes and livelihoods are threatened by sea-level rises and ocean warming.

Local communities, including indigenous peoples whose customary rights over land and resources are not adequately recognised under Indonesian law, could be further marginalised under climate change mitigation measures such as 'avoided *deforestation*' projects likely to attract large amounts of international funding. Schemes like these raise serious questions about control over forests, how much is paid and to whom, what kind of forests qualify and who makes and enforces these decisions. Linking forest conservation to an international carbon market mechanism is a strategy opposed by many civil society organisations, including indigenous peoples, because it will be profit-driven and is likely to benefit elites and further marginalise forest-dwellers.

Solutions to *climate change* must also focus on far-reaching change in the North, including reductions in energy consumption and a shift to clean, renewable energy. Such mitigation efforts must not have negative knock-on effect in other countries. For example, the knock-on effects associated with the promotion of palm oil as a 'green fuel' in *Europe means that in Indonesia*, rural communities feel the impacts of oil palm expansion *and the wider community feels the consequent impact on food prices*.

Climate change, climate justice and sustainable livelihoods are closely linked, since community management of resources that support livelihoods offers a better chance

¹ 'Indonesia and Climate Change: Current Status and Policies' PT Pelangi Energi Abadi Citra Enviro (PEACE), May 2007

of long term sustainability than top-down schemes which serve business interests and reinforce global inequality.

The views expressed in this briefing do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Indonesia NGO Forum. Those supporting the action points listed above are: Down to Earth, TAPOL, PBI, FWPC, Progressio and CAFOD.

June 2008

For more information contact Andrew Hickman or Carolyn Marr at 'Down to Earth' (dte@gn.apc.org; Tel/fax 01697 746266; <http://dte.gn.apc.org>).

The triumph of impunity

Recommended action

As a contribution to efforts to end impunity, UK parliamentarians are requested to:

- **Encourage the FCO to make impunity a priority issue in its relations with Indonesia and press Indonesia to implement in full the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and the UN Committee Against Torture.**
- **Press for an end to the culture of impunity in West Papua and for the resolution of those cases which the National Commission on Human Rights has found to be gross violations of human rights.**
- **Urge the FCO, as a major funder of East Timor's Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, to formally consider its final report, implement its recommendations addressed to the UK, and respond to its recommendation concerning the establishment of an international tribunal.**

The Suharto legacy

The burden of impunity in Indonesia is immense. It is perhaps the greatest legacy of the Suharto era.

Despite some reforms, the Indonesian military, TNI, continues to wield formidable influence. It retains an unshakeable ability to protect its own interests and ensure that military personnel are effectively beyond the law.

This has serious implications for Indonesia's transition to democracy and its efforts to establish the rule of law. It encourages the expectation that human rights violations will go unpunished and creates the risk that patterns of abuse will be repeated especially in areas of conflict. In West Papua, alleged perpetrators of gross violations in East Timor have emerged in key positions of responsibility.

Little progress has been made in prosecuting those responsible for Suharto-era and subsequent atrocities – most notably the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of left-wing suspects following Suharto's rise to power in 1965, the widespread killings in East Timor, Aceh and West Papua, and the murder of the leading human rights defender and critic of impunity, Munir, in 2004.

In 2006, Indonesia became a member of the UN Human Rights Council, which makes it even more obligatory for the Indonesian government to seriously address human rights abuses perpetrated by its military and police personnel.

Recent developments

In April, Eurico Guterres, the only person to be punished for serious crimes committed in East Timor, walked free from prison after the Supreme Court overturned his conviction.

The landmark report of East Timor's UN-established Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) has been ignored by governments around the world. The Indonesia/East Timor Commission for Truth and Friendship, expected to report soon, cannot recommend prosecutions and includes amnesty provisions that will allow alleged perpetrators to avoid accountability.

Both the UN Special Representative on Human Right Defenders and the Special Rapporteur on Torture, who visited Indonesia last year, identified structural impunity as a major obstacle to the effective protection of human rights. In May this year the UN Committee Against Torture expressed grave concern about the 'climate of impunity for perpetrators of acts of torture'.

Injustice fuels Papua conflict

Anger over the lack of accountability for state violence in West Papua is a major obstacle to the resolution of the long-running conflict there. A report to be launched by TAPOL at this parliamentary meeting details the extent to which the perpetrators of gross abuses routinely escape justice while peaceful activists are severely punished. Those found guilty of 'rebellion' for simply raising the Papuan 'Morning Star' flag can face 15-20 years in jail.

Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights has investigated several cases involving the killing of civilians by military and police personnel and concluded that gross violations of human rights were committed. In only one of those cases were the suspects (unsuccessfully) prosecuted. Other cases have, without reasonable explanation, been halted or become dormant since being passed to the Attorney General's office.

Special forces troops involved in the murder of Papuan leader Theys Eluay in 2001 received derisory sentences of no more than three-and-a-half years imprisonment. They were proclaimed as heroes by the army chief of staff.

The views expressed in this briefing do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Indonesia NGO Forum. Those supporting the action points listed above are: TAPOL, CAFOD, PBI, DTE, FWPC and Progressio.

June 2008

For more information contact Paul Barber at TAPOL (plovers@gn.apc.org; 01420 80153 or 0774 730 1739).

Consolidating peace in Aceh

Recommended action:

That the UK government works, as part of the EU, to help ensure that both a Human Rights Court for Aceh and a Commission for Truth and Reconciliation for Aceh are established as soon as possible.

Both of these are listed in the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding (signed between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement / GAM) as priority issues, but so far the progress for their establishment has been slow.

From the Helsinki MoU:

2 HUMAN RIGHTS

2.2 A Human Rights Court will be established for Aceh.

2.3 A Commission for Truth and Reconciliation will be established for Aceh by the Indonesian Commission of Truth and Reconciliation with the task of formulating and determining reconciliation measures.

Background and key steps to peace in Aceh:

- 1989 - 1998: Aceh was designated a “military operations zone” (known as “DOM”). Thousands of people were killed and human rights violations including torture, rape, forced disappearances, and murder were widespread. Official Government statistics claim 2000-4000 dead during DOM period.
- 1998: fall of President Suharto, a space for dialogue opened up. A cease-fire was reached in December 2002.
- May 2003: martial law was imposed on Aceh. This was later downgraded to a state of civil emergency, and a large military operation continued. Thousands were killed.
- Dec 26th 04: earthquake and Tsunami in Aceh and Nias
- 15th Aug 05: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) ending decades of internal conflict. The MoU outlined all aspects of the peace agreement and the steps needed to ensure the peace would be sustainable.
- 15th Sep 05-15th Dec 06: Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) consisting of EU and ASEAN countries worked to monitor the human rights situation and provide assistance in this field, and investigate and rule on complaints and alleged violations of the MoU (Article 5.2 of the Helsinki MoU). Upon closing said it had been able to complete all tasks assigned to it in the MoU.

Current situation and challenge for consolidating peace in Aceh

An enormous amount of reconstruction and rehabilitation work has been undertaken to rebuild the province, with the support of the international community. Consolidating and maintaining peace is undoubtedly key to development in Aceh.

On the 11th July 2006, the Indonesian Parliament passed the Law on the Governing of Aceh (LOGA). The law is intended to give the province greater autonomy, reflect the terms of the Helsinki MOU, and pave the way to provincial elections. The latter were held peacefully on the 11th of December 2006, and a new regional government, headed by a former GAM leader, was elected. With regards to human rights, the LOGA stipulates the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, however the regulations on the human right court under LOGA does not provide for retro-active justice and punishment of perpetrators of (past) human rights violations.

The members of the Indonesia NGO Forum believe that in order for the peace in Aceh to be sustainable there is a need for past human rights abuses to be addressed and reconciliation promoted between groups at all levels. This will become increasingly important as the Tsunami rehabilitation phase is now drawing to an end and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) are completing their work in the region and starting to withdraw. The inflated economy from the past three years will return to pre-Tsunami levels once the INGOs leave and the inequalities within the population will re-surface. If issues linked to human rights and reconciliation are not dealt with and the economy takes a down turn it looks increasingly possible that the conflict might resume.

The AMM noted that once its mission was over, the peace process would belong to the people of Aceh and the signatories of the MoU, together with the newly and democratically elected Governor. However, only the continuing support of the EU, ASEAN and the wider international community would ensure the long-term implementation of the Helsinki MoU. We call on the UK Government to continue to support the process of consolidating peace in Aceh and to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki MOU, in particular the establishment of a human right court (with retroactive power) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The views expressed in this briefing do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Indonesia NGO Forum. Those supporting the action points listed above are: CAFOD, TAPOL, PBI, DTE, FWPC and Progressio.

June 2008

For more information contact Dini Widiastuti at CAFOD (dwidiastuti@cafod.org.uk or 0207 095 5278)

Note: For further information on the AMM and to read the full MoU please visit:

<http://www.aceh-mm.org/index.htm>

Papua: Inequality, Injustice, Exploitation and Repression

Recommended actions:

The UK government is urged to help improve the situation for Papuans by encouraging the Indonesian government to:

- **Account for its failure to implement special autonomy in Papua.**
- **Look carefully at the role of the military (TNI) in Papua, in particular at the use of the TNI to repress the indigenous population; to investigate Human Rights abuses by the TNI and other elements of the security forces; and to fulfil its obligations as a member of the UN Human Rights Council to fully respect and protect the rights of the Papuan people.**
- **Allow the Papuan people to voice their concerns and aspirations by exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly without hindrance or intimidation; and release unconditionally all Papuans imprisoned for peacefully exercising those fundamental rights.**
- **Allow free and unfettered access to Papua by foreign journalists and international human rights organisations.**
- **Ensure that Human Rights Defenders in Papua can carry out their work without fear of intimidation and violence with the more systematic implementation of the EU Guidelines for the protection of Human Rights Defenders in the field and the recommendations of the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders.**

Current situation

There continues to be distrust by the Papuan indigenous population towards the central Jakarta government. The recent implementation of 'Special Autonomy' for Papua was meant to improve this situation. However, slow and inconsistent fulfilment of Special Autonomy legislation has only served to reinforce this mistrust. There are many issues which continue to be of serious concern in Papua:

Big businesses can be a major source of conflict in the region. The process of land distribution and procurement by outside interests makes the future of Papua's indigenous population look pessimistic. The gold and copper mine of 'Freeport' is symbolically representative of perceived injustices. Papua is rich in natural resources, but the economic successes resulting from the exploitation of these natural resources have not been shared by most Papuans. There are growing concerns about Papua being used for large palm oil plantations.

The vast racial, cultural, and religious differences between migrants and indigenous Papuans, creates antagonism on both sides, and racial tensions should not be underestimated. Indigenous Papuans often feel discriminated against, and are acutely aware of their relative poverty and socially inferior status; migrants often hold racist views towards Papuans.

A large and continually increasing TNI presence throughout Papua reinforces the belief amongst indigenous Papuans that they are being occupied. The TNI is involved in legal and almost certainly illegal business interests. The TNI, and to a slightly lesser extent the police,

are viewed as perpetrators of terror rather than a national security force. Many cases of TNI abuses validate this perception, and this is only exacerbated by almost complete impunity. The recent appointment of a local military commander who has been accused of crimes against humanity in East Timor, and continued reports of the TNI being used to form militia groups, is particularly concerning.

The Papuan civilian population continue to experience ongoing intimidation and violence, including forced displacement, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detention, torture, disappearances, beatings and ill-treatment, burning of homes, schools and churches and confiscation of property. Many of these cases are well-documented. There continues to be high level of TNI presence in civilian areas.

There is continued repression of political activists, including: the killing of independence activist Theys Eluay in 2001; the long prison sentences handed down to Yusak Pakage and Filep Karma for raising the Morning Star flag in 2004; "sweepings" by security forces on numerous occasions involving the beating and arbitrary arrest of activists, including the arrest of demonstrators in March 2008 and their continued detention.

There is continued intimidation directed at Papuan Human Rights defenders and organisations, and their work is systematically questioned and threatened. Authorities in Papua have shown that they will step-up the threat level if they believe an individual or organisation could change the status-quo. In June 2007 the UN special representative for Human Rights defenders, Hina Jilani, reported evidence of human rights violations, and said that Human Rights defenders' efforts to protect human rights were being curtailed.

Peace Brigades International (PBI) has recently expressed particular concern for the security of: Yan Christian Warinussy, executive director of LP3BH (Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid), Alberth Rumbekwan, ex-director of the Papuan branch of Komnas HAM (National Human Rights Commission), and John Djonga, a Catholic pastor working in the Waris area, Keerom District, Papua.

Brief history

Papua, formerly called Irian Jaya and also known as West Papua, was previously part of the territory which made up the Dutch East Indies colony. When Indonesia gained independence from Holland in 1949, Papua remained under Dutch control. The Indonesian military invaded and annexed Papua in 1963. Following this, an agreement was made with the United Nations that there would be a subsequent 'Act of Free Choice' where the Papuan population would vote whether they wished to remain part of Indonesia or not. This took place in 1969, but instead of the whole population being allowed to vote, the Indonesian authorities hand-selected a group of just over a thousand tribal leaders to take part: the subsequent unanimous vote to remain part of Indonesia is now commonly acknowledged to have been due to the threat of violence. Large-scale Indonesian military operations followed in the 1970s and 1980s, in which large numbers of civilians died.

Prior to Indonesian control, almost the entire population of Papua was indigenous. Since 1963, a program of 'Transmigration' by the Indonesian government to bring large numbers of non-Papuan Indonesians to live and work in Papua means that now the population of Papua is only just over 50% indigenous.

The views expressed in this briefing do not necessarily reflect the views of all members of the Indonesia NGO Forum. Those supporting the action points listed above are: PBI, FWPC, CAFOD, TAPOL, DTE and Progressio.

June 2008

For more information contact Susi Bascon at PBI (e-mail: susibascon@peacebrigades.org.uk or phone: 020 7 281 5370)



The Case of Munir

Peace Brigades International is an international non-governmental organisation, which carries out observation work and provides protective accompaniment for human rights defenders and communities of displaced people in various parts of the world. PBI always works in response to local requests, is non-partisan, has no political or religious affiliation, and is recognised by the United Nations.

PBI has been working in Indonesia since 1999, when conflicts led to invitations for a PBI presence by local groups and the National Human Rights Commission. PBI Indonesia is present in Jayapura and Wamena in Papua, in the capital city Jakarta and on the island of Java. We are currently providing protection to human rights defenders and their organisations. PBI renewed our commitment to protect Suciwati Munir in 2007 following the increased threat she was facing.

Suciwati Munir is a prominent Indonesian human rights defender who has specifically worked for justice in the case regarding the death of her husband - Munir Said Thalib - a leading Indonesian human rights and anti-corruption activist who was poisoned with arsenic and killed on a flight from Singapore to Amsterdam. Munir had founded KONTRAS, the Commission for the Disappeared and the Victims of Violence highlighting the disappearance of a number of human rights activists.

Human rights groups and independent observers believe the poisoning includes complex links to the Indonesian intelligence agency, BIN. Since then, Suciwati has been engaged in a relentless pursuit of justice. However the only person to have been prosecuted in connection with the case, Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto, had his conviction overturned by the Indonesian Supreme Court in October 2006. Directly after the announcement of Pollycarpus' acquittal, Suciwati openly questioned the competency of the Indonesian judiciary, police, and parliament. Despite receiving anonymous threats, Suciwati and KASUM (Komite Aksi Solidaritas Untuk Munir - Action Committee in Solidarity for Munir) continued her struggle to re-open the case. They claim that Priyanto was acting on orders and that this was not brought out during the court case.

“Coming to terms with past injustice takes time and patience,” states Usman Hamid, current leader of KONTRAS. At the same time, he warns against a too confrontational course against the government: “Resolution and reconciliation must go hand-in-hand.”

The case had been described by a member of the Asian Human Rights Commission as, ‘a litmus test for human rights in Indonesia’. However, in its written declaration on the murder of Munir Said Thalib dated 12th November 2007, the European Parliament acknowledged that the murder was meant to intimidate and threaten all Indonesian human rights defenders and journalists. Furthermore, the European

Parliament has noted that the report by an independent fact-finding team into the Munir case, ordered by the Indonesian President, has never been made public.

PBI UK is a non-governmental organisation working with communities around the world to address conflicts in non-violent ways.

**Peace Brigades International UK Section (PBI UK),
1b Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ
Tel/Fax 020 7281 5370 email: coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk**

Registered in England, Company Reg. No: 03912587, Charity Reg. No: 1101016

www.peacebrigades.org.uk

PBI UK patrons: Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Carnwath, Julie Christie, Sir Nigel Rodley KBE,
Peter Roth QC, Baroness Frances D'Souza

Jubilee Scotland is campaigning for cancellation of the outstanding debts for arms sales, by the UK, to Suharto's New Order regime.

As of April 2007, the Government of Indonesia owed £507,353,037.91 and US\$399,251,313.93 (consolidating figures: £704.6 million) to the UK's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) under the current UK/Indonesia Debt Agreement. The ECGD estimates that approximately seventy-five percent of this is arms-related, including for sales of Hawk jets by BAE Systems Defence Ltd and Scorpion tanks by Alvis Vehicles Ltd (now owed by BAE). Indonesia's arms debt to the UK is therefore approximately £525 million (approx. US\$1 billion).

Since these loans assisted the New Order regime in repressing political activity by Indonesian citizens, it is unethical for the UK to pursue these debts against Indonesia today. Jubilee Scotland wants the debts to be cancelled both for these reasons, and in order to set a global example which could discourage future lending to dictators. In parallel with this call for cancellation we are also calling for tighter restrictions on the provision of export credits for arms sales to developing countries, and for greater transparency from the ECGD regarding its debt portfolio.

Sales of Hawks and Scorpions to Indonesia were made possible by a bridging loan from HSBC Bank, underwritten by the ECGD. There are persistent allegations, though so far untested in court, that the sales were underpinned by bribery. Indonesia defaulted on the payments during the East Asian Financial Crisis of 1997. ECGD compensated HSBC and took over the collection of the loans.

The debts to the UK are only a very small proportion of Indonesia's overall debt (est.: \$130 billion); by pursuing the issue Jubilee Scotland hopes to contribute to the wider campaign to challenge the legitimacy of the debts owed by Indonesia, which form part of the legacy of Suharto. Kusifardi, Co-ordinator of Koalisi Anti-Utang, will be visiting Scotland to talk about these wider issues, as well as the specific arms debts owed to the UK.

He will be speaking at public events in key Ministerial constituencies around Scotland, including Alastair Darling, Gordon Brown, Douglas Alexander (key relevant Ministers regarding the debt are currently Scottish MPs). There is also a possibility that he will be able to accompany a constituent to Alastair Darling to discuss the debts in person. Jubilee Scotland will be arranging further lobby meetings after the speaker tour for activists to press the Ministers to cancel the debts.

Contact: Ben Young,
Co-ordinator, Jubilee Scotland
0131 225 4321
ben@jubileescotland.org.uk

Indonesia NGO Forum

Organisational profiles of key members

June 2008



CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is the international development and humanitarian aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales working in countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia. We are a member of Caritas International, a network of over 160 Catholic relief and development agencies around the world and work closely with other national Caritas agencies. CAFOD raises funds from the Catholic community, institutional donors, the general public, and is a member of the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). CAFOD works in partnership with local organisations to bring about sustainable change in the lives of poor women, men and children.

We have worked in Indonesia and Timor Leste for many years supporting both development and humanitarian work.

Following the December 2004 earthquake and Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia, CAFOD and its partners responded on a large scale. With DEC funding, CAFOD partners built 1,580 houses, 20 schools, 7 health facilities and 402 water and sanitation systems.

Alongside the rehabilitation work, CAFOD has helped to build up civil society in Aceh. After decades of conflict a peace deal was signed in August 2005, leading to a new local government being elected and civil society finally being able to flourish. CAFOD is working in partnership with over 15 civil society organisations in Aceh focusing on a range of issues including: post conflict reintegration and rehabilitation, the establishment of a Truth & Reconciliation Commission and Human Rights' Court, free legal aid, inputting into the development of new local laws, monitoring the new local government, documenting human rights abuses, as well as livelihoods and micro finance projects.

Over the coming years CAFOD believes it is imperative to continue its partnership with civil society in Aceh and strengthen local capacities in peace building. In order for peace in Aceh to be sustainable there has to be a Truth & Reconciliation Commission and a Human Rights' Court so that the people themselves are enabled to deal with the abuses that happened during the conflict.

Other work in Indonesia includes emergency response to earthquakes and landslides as well as small scale development and advocacy projects. At present, challenges such as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change are growing in importance and focus.

For further information please contact:

Ms. Dini Widiastuti
Programme Manager for Indonesia
Tsunami Response Team
CAFOD
dwidiastuti@cafod.org.uk
Direct line: 0207 095 5278
www.cafod.org.uk



Down to Earth is an advocacy organisation which has focused on environment, development and human rights issues in Indonesia for nearly 20 years. Our overall goal is to support vulnerable communities in Indonesia to secure a just and sustainable future.

We support initiatives aimed at defending and re-establishing community-based natural resource management as an alternative to large-scale, destructive resource exploitation. We try to ensure that decision-makers, particularly governments, international institutions and multinational companies, are held accountable for their actions. This includes work with local and national Indonesian organisations as well as international NGOs in the sectors of destructive logging, pulp and paper, international financial institutions, land reform, oil palm plantations and the extractive industries (mining, oil and gas).

Our current three-year programme of work (2008-10) aims to facilitate international advocacy, information and capacity-building activities under the theme of 'climate justice and sustainable livelihoods in Indonesia', focusing on Riau, Aceh and Papua provinces.

By 'climate justice' we mean equitable solutions to climate change which are based on the rights, needs, participation and agreement of the communities who are feeling the greatest impacts of climate change or who will be affected by mitigation attempts.

DTE intends to act as a two-way bridge between Indonesia and Europe, working collaboratively with civil society organisations on:

- Forest destruction and oil palm plantations, including the impact of agrofuel policies
- Initiatives to prevent illegal logging and to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Promoting sustainable community forest management
- Agrarian reform
- The impacts of extractive industry operations on communities and their environment.

We have a small staff based in the UK and Indonesia who speak English and Bahasa Indonesia. Our quarterly newsletter is available on our website at <http://dte.gn.apc.org>

For further information, please contact Carolyn Marr:

Email: dte@gn.apc.org; Tel/fax 01697 746266.



FREE WEST PAPUA CAMPAIGN

www.freewestpapua.org

P.O. Box 656, Oxford, OX3 3AP England, U.K. Tel: 01865 728412

office@freewestpapua.org

FWPC in 2008

FWPC will continue in 2008 to raise awareness about and build international parliamentary, government and grass-roots support for West Papua's peaceful struggle for full independence from Indonesian colonial rule.

Benny Wenda, the leader of the West Papuan independence movement in the UK, will continue to travel extensively in the UK and overseas, highlighting the continuing gross human rights abuses being committed against his people by the Indonesian military & police and putting forward West Papua's strong case under international law for a genuine act of self-determination following the sham so-called "Act of Free Choice" held by Indonesia in West Papua in 1969.

FWPC will continue to call for pressure to be put on the Indonesian Government by the UK, EU, USA, Australian and other governments to:

1. Allow free access to West Papua for international journalists, human rights observers and international aid agencies;
2. Withdraw all non-organic troops from West Papua;
3. Allow peaceful West Papuan independence activists freedom of expression, assembly & association in accordance with Indonesia's obligations under international human rights law;
4. Release immediately all West Papuan political prisoners;
5. Enter into internationally-facilitated dialogue, without pre-conditions, with West Papuan leaders to find a peaceful, just & sustainable resolution to the West Papua-Indonesia conflict.

Papua Merdeka!
Free West Papua!

Richard Samuelson
Co-Director, Free West Papua Campaign, Oxford, UK

Islamic Relief Indonesia in 2008:

Islamic Relief (IR) has been working in Indonesia since 2000 with operations in Java. After the tsunami we opened operations in Aceh, and after the Yogyakarta earthquake IR implemented relief projects there.

Summary of plans for 2008:

- Continue to work on IR and donor funded work on post-tsunami construction etc. for the first six months of 2008.
- During the second half of 2008, move focus of work to have a DRR (disaster, risk & reduction) focus and longer term development work such as supporting people's livelihoods through business support and training.
- Build capacity so that IR may respond to small scale emergencies, such as flooding, in Aceh or Java
- IR expects to maintain a presence in Aceh until the end of 2010 at least, and potentially open operations in other provinces.
- Renew memorandum of understanding with the Government of Indonesia to continue working across Indonesia for the next 5 years.

Michael Eccles, February 2008

Email: michael.eccles@islamic-relief.org.uk

Tel: 0121-622 0689

After the 14th March, please contact Haroon Kash on: haroon.kash@islamic-relief.org.uk



Peace Brigades International (PBI)

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a human rights organisation which currently has field projects in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Indonesia and Nepal.

The PBI Indonesia Project maintains international observers in Jakarta, Aceh, and Papua (Jayapura and Wamena), with a co-ordination office in Yogyakarta. PBI Indonesia has two main programs:

Protective Accompaniment is a core strategy of positive peacebuilding for the PBI Indonesia Project. It includes physical accompaniment of human rights defenders at their office, at their homes or on field trips: activities that protect and encourage local human rights defenders to stay active and committed to building a more just society (positive peace).

Participatory Peace Education (PPE) in PBI is based on a methodology that is not simply teaching a western approach to locals. Instead it activates participants to generate their own and more appropriate approaches to conflict situations in their daily lives, community and society at large. The workshops use an elicitive model that draws on the knowledge and culture of the participants to help them formulate ways to resolve conflict non-violently and promote peace in their communities.

PBI UK



Progressio's international advocacy work on justice and impunity issues in relation to Timor Leste is long-standing. During the 1990s, Progressio regularly provided opportunities for human right activists from Timor Leste to speak at the (then) UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, whilst providing funding, accreditation and logistical and mentoring support for their work. We also campaigned alongside other members of the UK-based British Coalition for East Timor, and the world-wide Christian Consultation on East Timor network and others. We sent two observers teams to the 1999 popular consultation when East Timorese voted for independence from Indonesia and produced a report. . Much of Progressio's international advocacy work since 1999 has focussed on the need to obtain justice for the victims of human rights violations committed in Timor Leste during the occupation and after the referendum vote. In this work we liaise with our local partners as well as religious leaders and women's activists. Following years of involvement, lobbying and advocacy work calling for the independence of Timor Leste and speaking out against the atrocities committed by the occupying Indonesian forces, Progressio established an office in 2000 in the capital Dili to allow us to work directly on the ground through a new skillshare programme and continued advocacy work.

Our staff and Development Workers (DWs) are working to help rebuild the nation and have focused on supporting the emergence of local NGOs, community groups and bringing people of different faiths together for reconciliation and project activities. Progressio DWs help build the knowledge, skills and capabilities of our partner staff and community members as well as improving overall organisational structures, functioning and strategies. Our local Timorese partners work on a number of different issues including community empowerment and participation, livelihood projects, interfaith initiatives, literacy projects, the promotion of women's rights and participation and raising awareness regarding rape, domestic violence and HIV and AIDS.

Progressio Timor-Leste continues to raise awareness of the issues affecting the country at the regional and international level. Progressio continues to advocate for women's rights and the inclusion of women in the political process as well as supporting peace and reconciliation processes at the community level. Progressio has consistently called for an international tribunal or alternative effective method for obtaining international justice pertaining to Timor Leste. We are now preparing an international campaign to reinforce this message and to mirror local campaigning.

For further information contact

Steve Kibble steve@progressio.org.uk or 020 7288 8629 direct. General: 020 7354 0883.

Brie O'Keefe brie@progressio.org.uk or 020 7288 8617 direct



TAPOL in 2008

TAPOL, formerly TAPOL the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign, was founded in 1973 and exists to promote human rights, peace and democracy in Indonesia. Our advocacy is informed by a broad understanding of human rights and democracy and addresses human development issues as well as concerns about civil and political rights.

Our programme of work for 2008 focuses on two main projects:

West Papua: The search for peace and dignity

Justice and accountability

On West Papua, our advocacy is aimed at highlighting the Papuans' lack of control over their natural resources and the need for enhanced accountability mechanisms and outcomes. We are focusing on developments at the BP Tangguh Liquid Natural Gas project, one of Indonesia's largest foreign investment projects, working with a local partner to monitor the project's impact on the rights and livelihoods of indigenous Papuans and its social and environmental consequences.

We are highlighting the need to secure accountability for past violations of human rights and undertaking lobbying activities in Jakarta to raise awareness about the situation in West Papua and initiate low-level dialogue to resolve the conflict.

On justice and accountability our specific aims are to achieve:

- Progress towards accountability for serious crimes in East Timor;
- Progress towards the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms in Aceh;
- Greater awareness in Indonesia of the need for accountability for serious crimes committed under Suharto and since his downfall;
- Increased capacity of Indonesian transitional justice organisations

June 2008