



Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

NGO on the Roster in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Monday, June 23, 2008

Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia
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Dear Mr. President,

We, the undersigned organisation, write to you voicing our concern for the women, children and members of Indonesian Women's Coalition who were victims of the brutal rally riot at the Jakarta National Monument (Monas) on 1 June 2008.

Many problems still remain in Indonesia since the tragic events of 1 June 2008 at Monas. Even though the Indonesian Government has issued a Joint Ministerial Decree banning the Jamaah Ahmadiyah Indonesia (JAI) sect, it can not simply ban and stop faith groups from issuing repressive decisions which impact on other faith groups. Neither can it curtail freedom of religion.

Women and children from JAI have been most affected by the government's decision to dissolve the sect. They have suffered traumatic experiences after being attacked and tortured by other religious extremist groups during the riots at Monas. The Indonesian Women's Coalition was at the rally to address violent actions against women and children by the state as well by other religious extremist groups.

The Indonesian Women's Coalition, an ally of Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) - a regional women's human rights organisation, believes in actively advocating for anti violence in politics, pluralism, and women human rights. Through this letter the Indonesian Women's Coalition, APWLD and undersigned organisations urge the Indonesian Government to continue the investigations into the Monas incident and to bring to justice the perpetrators of violence which were involved in the rioting.

Women and children of Indonesia are at potential danger with the continuing disharmony between JAI and other Muslim organizations and we, members of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, urge the Indonesian Government to:

1. Provide a safety guarantee to Indonesian citizens, which includes the women and children from JAI, so that they can continue with their daily activities including practicing their different faiths, get their social status back, as well as enjoy their

dignity and human rights. All these principles are stated in the Indonesian Constitution and International Constitution.

2. Support all law enforcement measures which have been taken by the Indonesian Government. We urge the government to punish, with maximum sanctions, the groups who have undertaken brutal actions in the name of religion.

We deliver APWLD's proclamation and hope that Indonesia will be able to guarantee freedom and safety for its citizens to live and practice their faith.

Sincerely yours,

The Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development

Copy sent to:

1. Chief of Indonesian Police
2. Minister of Law and Human Rights, Republic of Indonesia
3. Minister of Internal Affairs, Republic of Indonesia
4. Minister of Religious Affairs, Republic of Indonesia
5. Attorney General, Republic of Indonesia

APWLD is a regional women's human rights network of 150 members in 23 countries of the Asia Pacific region committed to enabling women to use law as an instrument of social change, equality and development.