

## Impunity

### **Dutch govt backs new inquiry into colonial Indonesia**

Reuters, 02-12-2016

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - The Dutch government on Friday backed a multi-year inquiry into the end of its colonial period in Indonesia in the 1940s, when troops from the Netherlands are accused of massacres in Southeast Asia's largest nation. Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who has just returned from a trip to Indonesia, said the inquiry will look into hostilities on both sides between 1946 and 1949. He "stressed the importance of working together" during talks with his Indonesian counterpart. Digging into the colonial past "could be painful for Dutch veterans from that period," the government said in a statement. "The Netherlands places a high value on protecting and promoting human rights, international law and the rule of law," the statement said. "Gaining more insight into our own past plays an important role."

Known as the Dutch East Indies, the vast archipelago was a colony of the Netherlands from 1800 to 1949, and a main source of the country's wealth thanks to the trade in Indonesian spices, precious metals and minerals. The Netherlands has apologised for killings at the hands of Dutch forces at the time and paid some damages to survivors, but the extent of atrocities has not been documented. The inquiry, which is expected to take several years, will be led by three highly-regarded Dutch research institutes.

## Freedom of Religion

### **Another demonstration against Ahok**

The Jakarta Post, 02-12-2016

Another massive rally demanding that Jakarta Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama be arrested for alleged blasphemy will make it difficult for him to reclaim the frontrunner position in the gubernatorial election from his rival Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, an expert said. Siti Zuhro, a political researcher from the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), said

Friday that the rally had proven the public resistance against Ahok remains strong even though the Central Jakarta District Court is expected to soon start the governor's trial. Siti, however, said the court's decision would still play a role swinging undecided voters if it delivers a "not guilty" verdict. "The opposing voice is still very loud, even if the court acquits him on the charge Ahok's campaign team will still have a tough time to win the election," she said.

A recent survey by Jakarta-based Poltracking Indonesia revealed that Agus, son of former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, is leading with 27.92 percent while Ahok is in second place with 22 percent and former education minister Anies Baswedan is in third with 20.42 percent.

Even before he was declared a suspect, Ahok's popularity rating had tumbled in previous months because of public response to the blasphemy accusations made against him, the survey showed. According to the LSI, Ahok's popularity rating was 59.3 percent in March. It then dropped to 49.1 percent in July before dropping again to 31.4 percent in October.

### **Jokowi, Kalla join Friday prayers with protesters, calm protesters**

The Jakarta Post, 02-12-2016

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and Vice President Jusuf Kalla made a bold, last minute decision to brave heavy rain and step out of the State Palace to join a huge crowd of protesters at the nearby National Monument (Monas) Park for Friday prayers.

Under heavy guard by presidential detail and police personnel, Jokowi and Kalla walked to Monas. Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Wiranto and Religious Affairs Minister Lukman Hakim Saefuddin accompanied them.

The Friday prayers featured a sermon by Islam Defenders Front (FPI) chairman Rizieq Shihab, who appeared to urge protesters to hold a peaceful rally.

After the prayers, Jokowi ascended to the podium and delivered a short speech to thank clerics and protesters for rallying peacefully. "Thank you for your prayers for the safety of the country. I appreciate everyone who has come and maintained order, so that the event can run well," he said.

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## Pre-demo arrests made to prevent social media spin: Tito

The Jakarta Post, 05-12-2016

National Police chief Gen. Tito Karnavian has said the arrest of 11 people a few hours before Friday's mass gathering was made to prevent incitement of the public ahead of the event, held by conservative Muslim groups to push for the arrest of Jakarta Governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama for alleged blasphemy.

Speaking to lawmakers at a hearing with House of Representatives Commission III overseeing legal affairs, Tito said that the police did not want the public to misunderstand the arrests, which were made early on Friday.

"[Reports about the arrest] could have been spun through social media. I believe you already understand the power of social media. [...] It can brutally spin everything," Tito said.

On Friday morning, the Jakarta Police separately arrested 11 activists for allegedly committing either treason or hate speech. The arrests were made just several hours before the start of the mass gathering at the National Monument square.

Among the arrested were musician-cum-politician Ahmad Dhani, retired two-star Army general Kivlan Zein, former lawmaker Sri Bintang Pamungkas and Rachmawati Soekarnoputri, sister of former president and ruling Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) chairwoman Megawati Soekarnoputri.

The police have released all of them except Sri Bintang, who was charged for alleged treason, and Jamran and Rizal Kobar for alleged hate speech.

"He [Sri Bintang] cannot be released yet, as he is still undergoing questioning with National Police investigators," National Police spokesperson Insp. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar said over the weekend.

Friday's rally ended peacefully with the over 500,000 participants dispersing immediately after the conclusion of Friday prayers in the early afternoon.

## Sri Bintang Asks for Suspended Sentence

Tempo, 05-12-2016

TEMPO.CO, Jakarta - Defense lawyer of Sri Bintang Pamungkas, Razman Arif Nasution, said on Monday, December 5, 2016, that his team will request a suspension of his client's arrest warrant to the General Crimes Directorate. Sri Bintang is currently under the Jakarta's Police custody due to an alleged coup attempt.

"Today my team has requested (the suspension of arrest warrant) to the police at around 12 o'clock," Razman said on Monday, December 5, 2016. Sri Bintang is charged with Article 107 in conjunction with Article 110 in conjunction with Article 87 of Criminal Code.

Razman questions police motives for keeping Sri Bintang and his other two clients under their custody while other suspects under the same charges were released; namely Rachmawati Soekarnoputri, Ratna Sarumpaet, Adityawarman, and Kivlan Zein.

"[Under] the same charge, [under] the same suspicion, why were they freed, but not him (Sri Bintang)," Razman said. "Isn't this an attempt to dissociate? They talk about equality before the law, but the fact is different."

Police arrested eleven individuals on Friday morning, December 2, 2016, ahead of the Third Act to Defend Islam rally. They were Sri Bintang Pamungkas, Jamran, Rijal Kobar, Ahmad Dhani, Ratna Surampaet, Rachmawati Soekarnoputri, Kivlan Zein, Firza Huzein, Adityawarman Thaha, and Eko Suryo Santjojo. Police released seven people in the evening, except Sri Bintang, Rijal, and Jamran.

## Freedom of Expression

### More than 200 arrested in Papua demonstrations

Suara Papua, 01-012-2016

Indonesian police arrested 221 people on December 1 in three different cities with 203 people arrested in Jakarta, four in Sentani, West Papua and 14 people in the Central Java city of Yogyakarta.

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In Jakarta, a peaceful demonstration commemorating the anniversary of the birth of the Nation of West Papua which was led by the Indonesian People's Front for West Papua (FRI-West Papua) and the Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) ended with brutal arrests by the Metro Jaya regional police. Before being arrested, the protesters from the AMP and FRI-West Papua said they were ruffed up and protest materials seized. "We hadn't even reached the Hotel Indonesia traffic circle [in Central Jakarta] when we were blocked by security personnel. They (the security personnel) tore the Morning Star head bands off our heads, our command line was cut. Then we were sprayed with water from a water cannon. After this we were taken in four trucks to the Metro Jaya police headquarters", one of the protesters Roberta Muyapa told Suara Papua in Jakarta on December 1.

He said that after being taken to the Metro Jaya police headquarters the protesters were left to dry out in an open area for around four hours. All 203 of them, he said, were arrested by fully equipped Indonesian colonial police along with hundred of officers from the Metro Jaya regional police and Mobile Brigade paramilitary police.

Those arrested included FRI-West Papua spokesperson Surya Anta, AMP general chairperson Jefry Wenda, AMP Bandung activist Markus Medlama, Social Movement for Democracy (Gema Demokrasi) activist Yohanes Damian alias Galesh, Anka Thomas, Jefri Wanda, Frans Nawipa, Iriantibus Murib, Frans Douw, Pyan Pagawak and Minus Gibian.

Three of the 10 people arrested -- Surya Anta, Jefry Wenda and Markus Medlama -- were abused and assaulted by Indonesian colonial police. All of those arrested in Jakarta have now been released.

In Yogyakarta meanwhile, protesters from the AMP and FRI-West Papua who were holding a peaceful demonstration were reported to have been forcibly disbursed by Indonesian colonial police and members of intolerant mass organisations. According to information received by Suara Papua, at 1pm Indonesian police together with scores of members of mass organisations lined up to block protesters from FRI-WP and then seized protest materials. A short time later police were ordered to arrest the protesters.

Fourteen people were forced into a truck and removed from the location. According to information from police they were taken to the Legal Aid Foundation (LBH) but according to the latest information received at 2pm the 14 were taken to the Yogyakarta metropolitan district police (Polrestabes). "We invite our comrades from pro-democracy

groups to go to the Yogyakarta Polrestabes offices this afternoon to provide solidarity to our activist comrades that were arrested so that they will be released immediately", they said.

The 14 people arrested were Reza (Socialist Study Circle, LSS), Kukuh (Working People's Association-Organisational Saviours Committee, KPO-PRP), Gevan (Student Struggle Center for National Liberation, Pembebasan), Opan (Muhammadiyah Regional Leadership, PMD), Randi (Pembebasan), Edo (LBH Yogyakarta), Adli (Pembebasan), Danial (Indonesian People's United Resistance, PPRI), Opik (PMD), Asrul (Pembebasan), Andi, Aruk, Katek and Edi (Pembebasan). The 14 remain under arrest.

In the Papuan provincial capital of Jayapura meanwhile, West Papua National Committee (KNPB) General Secretary Ones Suhuniap when asked for confirmation by Suara Papua confirmed that four activists were arrested and taken to the Doyo municipal police.

Ones said that the four KNPB Sentani Ryang activists who had planned to attend a religious ceremony were stopped and arrested and that the KNPB Sentani secretariat was vandalised by officers from the Sentani municipal police.

"That's correct. Four people were arrested in Sentani. But I don't have their names yet. What is clear is that the information on the arrests is correct. We have asked that the state release them and all of those who were arrested in Yogyakarta", he said. Based on information gathered by Suara Papua, 203 people were arrested in Jakarta, four were arrested in Sentani and 14 people were arrested in Yogyakarta.

[Translated by James Balowski for the Indoleft News Service. The original title of the report was "221 Orang Ditangkap Pada 1 Desember 2016 di Tiga Kota".]

Source: <http://suarapapua.com/2016/12/01/221-orang-ditangkap-1-desember-2016-tiga-kota/>

### **Papuan Leaders Tell Pro-Independence Activists to Trust Jokowi Administration**

The Jakarta Globe, 01-12-2016

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A protest in support of Papua's independence in Jakarta on Thursday (01/12) ended up with the police beating up the protesters and drew criticism from fellow Papuans, who called on the demonstrators to heed efforts by the government to speed up development in Indonesia's easternmost province.

The protest was the latest in a string of demonstrations recent years that saw authorities repressing protesting Papuans in various parts of the country as decades-old insurgencies in the province showed no signs of abating. Around 100 Papuans joined the pro-independence rally at the Hotel Indonesia traffic circle to celebrate the Free West Papua Movement's anniversary.

The Indonesian government claims it has been intensifying efforts to ease tension in Papua by starting a number of infrastructure projects to boost economy in the island. But many Papuans say the developmental approach could barely address the root causes of injustice in the province, which has led to rampant cases of human rights abuses.

Hours after Thursday's demonstration, senior Papuan leaders in Jakarta called on the protesters to calm down, saying President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's administration has been doing its best to find a solution for Papua.

"The government is trying to understand the conditions in Papua while at the same time carrying out those development programs," Nico Yarangga said. "Maybe the protesters have yet to see the results as the programs are still underway."

Police prevented dozens of Papuans from marching from the busy Hotel Indonesia traffic circle in the city center to the Presidential Palace. The police fired water cannons at the protesters before taking some of them to their headquarters.

Protesters wore Morning Star headscarfs, the banned symbol of the Papuan independence movement, prompting police to move against them. "We brought them into custody because they were wearing accessories that are an insult to the state," Supt. Hendy Kurniawan of the Jakarta Police told reporters after the demonstration.

Papuan insurgents have long protested against a UN-backed referendum in 1969 that saw Papua becoming part of Indonesia, saying it was rigged. They have complained the central government has since given the resource-rich region an unfair share of the state's wealth. "There will always be insurgencies if Papuans are hungry. But they will calm down if they

are happy. And what the government is doing now is trying to make them happy," Nico's colleague, Max, told the Jakarta Globe.

### Social-economic Rights

#### **Labor Abuses Found at Indonesian Palm Plantations Supplying Global Companies: Amnesty**

The Jakarta Globe, 30-11-2016

Global consumer companies, including Unilever, Nestle, Kellogg and Procter & Gamble, have sourced palm oil from Indonesian plantations where labor abuses were uncovered, Amnesty International said on Wednesday (30/11).

Children as young as eight worked in "hazardous" conditions at palm plantations run by Singapore-based Wilmar International and its suppliers on the Indonesian islands of Kalimantan and Sumatra, Amnesty said in a report.

Amnesty, which said it interviewed 120 workers, alleges that many of them worked long hours for low pay and without adequate safety equipment. The palm oil from these plantations could be traced to nine multinational companies, it said.

"Despite promising customers that there will be no exploitation in their palm oil supply chains, big brands continue to profit from appalling abuses," said Meghna Abraham, senior investigator at Amnesty.

The NGO said it chose Wilmar as the focus of its investigation as the company is the world's largest processor and merchandiser of palm and lauric oils, controlling more than 43 percent of the global palm oil trade.

Other companies operating palm plantations in Indonesia include Golden Agri-Resources, Indofood Agri Resources and Astra Agro Lestari.

Even though Indonesia had strong labour laws under which most of the abuses can amount to criminal offences, these laws were poorly enforced by the government, Amnesty said.

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Wilmar said it welcomed the NGO's report, which helps to highlight labor issues within the broader palm oil industry, but added that finding a solution requires collaboration between governments, companies and civil society organizations.

"We acknowledge that there are ongoing labor issues in the palm oil industry, and these issues could affect any palm company operating in Indonesia," it said. "The focus on Wilmar ... is often used to draw attention to problems in the wider palm oil industry."

Wilmar supplies around 10 percent of the total palm oil used in Nestle's products, the Swiss food giant said in an email. Nestle said it is working with Wilmar to improve the traceability of the commodity.

"Practices such as those identified in Amnesty International's report have no place in our supply chain," Nestle said. The company said it would investigate allegations related to its purchase of palm oil along with its suppliers. Procter & Gamble also said in an email it is working with Wilmar to "ensure they can remedy any potential human rights infringements in their supply chain".

Indonesia is the world's biggest producer of palm oil, used in everything from snacks and soaps to cosmetics and biofuels, with the sector employing millions of workers. But plantation operators say it is difficult to have complete oversight of labor conditions. No company would "consciously" hire underage labour as that is against the law, but some plantation workers get their children to help out, Sumarjono Saragih, an official at the Indonesian Palm Oil Association, told Reuters by telephone. "If children want to help their parents, companies cannot forbid that."

Agus Justianto, an official at Indonesia's environment ministry, said that a company found guilty of labor violations could get its permit revoked, but it is "not in the environment ministry's domain." Indonesia's manpower ministry did not immediately provide comment.

In an emailed statement, US snack and breakfast food company Kellogg said it is committed to ensuring that its palm oil is obtained from "known and certified sources that are environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable." If Kellogg finds or is made aware of any supply chain violations, it would discuss corrective actions with its suppliers, it said. "If the concerns are not adequately addressed, we take action to remove them from our chain."

Unilever said while significant progress has been made to tackle environmental issues associated with palm cultivation, more needs to be done to address "these deeply concerning social issues" and promised to work with its partners.

Nestle and Procter & Gamble did not immediately provide comment.

See also in Dutch: <http://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/laatste-videos-nieuws/kinderarbeid-bij-palmolie-ze-moeten-met-giftige-chemicalien-werken>

### **MVO Position on Amnesty International report**

MVO, 02-12-2016, <http://www.mvo.nl/mvo-position-on-amnesty-international-report-entitled-the-great-palm-oil-scandal-labour-abuses-behind-big-brand-names>

MVO - the Netherlands Oils and Fats industry welcomes the report issued by Amnesty International this week: "The great palm oil scandal: Labour abuses behind big brand names". We share Amnesty's emphasis that human and labour rights in palm oil production must be respected and acknowledge the concerns and findings reported. We also encourage the actions already taken to address and solve the issues described.

The Dutch palm oil industry has always had a leading role in stimulating and supporting sustainable palm oil. In 2010, MVO initiated the 'Task Force Sustainable Palm Oil', the first national commitment to use 100% sustainable palm oil. Together with IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative, MVO also launched the 'European Sustainable Palm Oil' project to work towards 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe in 2020.

MVO will continue to stress the importance of human and labour rights as key principles of sustainable palm oil production in certification standards and in its dialogues with all relevant stakeholders.

The issues and challenges described by Amnesty International are complex and can only be resolved by the combined efforts of palm oil producers, manufacturers, civil society organisations and governments. MVO emphasizes this collaborative approach that is needed to make the production of palm oil more sustainable.

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### **Palm Oil Industry Watchdog Lax on Human Rights: Critics**

The Jakarta Globe, 30-11-2016

Human rights abuses at palm oil plantations are going unpunished by the industry watchdog due to weak rules, critics say, as an Amnesty International report on Wednesday (30/11) exposed severe violations at Indonesian plantations.

Adequate access for workers to food and water is considered a "minor" compliance requirement, according to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil's, or RSPO, certification guidelines. So are adequate housing, medical and educational facilities.

One RSPO rule says it is acceptable for children to work in estates owned by their family, as long as it doesn't interfere with their education and they are not exposed to hazardous conditions.

Human rights advocates say the RSPO's labor guidelines show little concern for the welfare of workers, making its claim that its members are sustainable producers unreliable.

"Simply put, the RSPO does not protect workers and is unable to provide truly responsible palm oil," Emma Lierley, Forests Communications Manager at California-based Rainforest Action Network, or RAN, said.

Palm oil is the most widely used edible oil in the world, found in everything from margarine to cookies and soap. Grown mainly in Indonesia and Malaysia, plantations have come under scrutiny from activists and consumer companies, particularly over the clearing of millions of hectares of forest.

The RSPO certificate, seen as a global standard for sustainability claims, is used by plantations and consumer goods companies such as Nestle and Unilever to show there has been no environmental damage or labor abuses in their supply chain.

An Amnesty investigation on Wednesday showed children as young as eight working in hazardous conditions, forced labor and other violations in RSPO-certified plantations owned by Wilmar International Ltd.

Despite other reports of abuses, no RSPO member has lost its certification over labor issues.

In a statement to Reuters, the RSPO said it was aware of the problems in the industry and conscious of gaps in its certification guidelines, which will be next reviewed in 2018.

"The RSPO fully acknowledges the existence of serious problems in the protection of worker and human rights within the palm oil industry where poverty, weak law enforcement and the presence of legislative gaps contribute to the challenge of making the palm oil sector truly sustainable," Stefano Savi, global outreach and engagement director of the RSPO, said.

Under pressure from green groups, RSPO —whose members include plantations, environmental and social activist groups and consumer goods manufacturers — has addressed environmental concerns, but labor rights is an emerging issue.

"There are gaps in standards, implementation and verification [of labor issues]. It is very clear that the RSPO and the membership has prioritized other topics," Johan Verburg, an adviser at charitable group Oxfam and an executive board member of the RSPO, said.

At the latest RSPO annual meeting in Bangkok, several calls were made for labor reforms, some participants told Reuters. A keynote speech also addressed labor and human rights abuses — the first time the issue has been addressed so publicly in an RSPO forum. A Reuters analysis of the RSPO's complaints panel - a system that reviews concerns raised at its member companies - shows that only two cases of labor abuses were brought to it in 2015 and 2016 based on exposes by media or NGOs.

Many of RSPO's guidelines have been questioned. For instance, the body allows the use of toxic pesticide paraquat, which the European Union has banned, under special circumstances.

Amnesty says most RSPO standards focus on environmental or broader social impacts on adjoining communities. "The RSPO has a limited number of standards on workers' rights and is quite superficial even on the issues that are covered," Meghna Abraham, senior investigator at Amnesty, said. "The RSPO needs to drastically overhaul not just its standards but its entire approach to identifying labor abuses."

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## Women's rights

### **Campaign to End Gender-Based Violence Sweeping the Nation**

The Jakarta Globe, 01-12-2016

Nov. 28 marked the sixth day of the annual international 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign, a global campaign that aims to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls in its tracks.

Through the duration of the campaign from the Nov. 25 to Dec. 10, over 150 activities will be held across all the provinces of Indonesia in a giant mobilization of civil society coming together for a shared aim to end the scourge of violence against women and girls.

Monitoring carried out by the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan) has demonstrated the presence of an alarming pattern of sexual violence across the country that includes murder, rape, poor legal protection for victims of sexual violence and continuing impunity for offenders.

Statistically in Indonesia for every two hours that pass, three women become the victims of sexual violence. Cultural taboos regarding the reporting of sexual violence mean that this figure is probably much higher.

Further analysis from Statistics Indonesia, the national statistics body, demonstrates that child marriage in Indonesia remains rampant and that each day 1,000 girls are married, resulting in a cycle of poverty and abuse for the girls involved.

This last year has seen an increase in media attention and public awareness regarding issues of sexual violence. This attention culminated with the media firestorm that erupted after the incident in Bengkulu where a 14 year old girl was raped by 14 assailants and then killed, her lifeless body dumped in a ditch. This incident sparked widespread outrage and resulted in President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo issuing a statement that referred to sexual violence as an extraordinary evil. The media is a pervasive and profoundly influential socializing force, and it can play a major role in increasing public awareness surrounding violence against women.

Read the whole article: <http://jakartaglobe.id/opinion/commentary-campaign-end-gender-based-violence-sweeping-nation/>

## Political developments

### **Kita Indonesia – We are Indonesia – campaign**

The Jakarta Globe, 4-12-2016

Hundreds of thousands of Jakartans took to the streets Sunday morning (04/12), turning the weekly car free day event in Central Jakarta into a mass rally supporting the unity in diversity campaign. Various groups, including pro-government political parties like National Democratic Party (NasDem), Golkar Party and United Development Party (PPP), participated in the Unity in Diversity parade along Jalan Jend. Sudirman, Jalan M.H. Thamrin and Jalan Medan Merdeka Barat.

The event was also attended by NasDem chairman Surya Paloh, Golkar Party chairman Setya Novanto, PPP chairman Djan Faridz and People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) deputy speaker Oesman Sapta Odang. "The unity of Indonesia is unbreakable. Our biggest enemies are stupidity and poverty. We won't let other nations laugh at us. We need the spirit of unity," Surya Paloh said in his remarks at a stage in Hotel Indonesia traffic circle. He also called on President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to work harder to bring prosperity to Indonesia.