

Impunity

Rights watchdog invites government to examine data on 16 mass graves in Java

Kompas - April 26, 2016

Jakarta -- Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) coordinator Haris Azhar has invited the government to examine its findings on mass graves of the victims of the 1965 affair. Azhar conveyed this in response to a recent statement by Coordinating Minister for Politics, Security and Legal Affairs Luhut Binsar Panjaitan who asked to see evidence of the mass graves of 1965 victims.

Azhar related how in 2007 Kontras conducted an investigation at the sites believed to be the location of mass graves containing victims of the 1965 mass killings.

From the results of the investigation, Kontras found 16 locations that can be identified as mass graves spread across the provinces of Central and East Java. "We found 16 locations that were verified. We only just updated our data last year", said Azhar when contacted on Tuesday April 26.

In addition to verifying the locations, Kontras also gathered information and testimonies on the executions that occurred from local residents. Azhar however was reluctant to cite details of the locations on the grounds of security. "Actually Kontras obtain information on the location of many more [mass graves]. But at the time we were restricted by human resources and costs", said Azhar.

Azhar also related Kontras' experiences in conducting an investigation at one of the sites where they heard a story from a local resident about how the security forces carried out the execution of prisoners.

Each night, he said, prisoners were brought to the location in trucks escorted by only a handful of armed soldiers. At the location, four to five prisoners were ordered to get out and dig a hole. The soldiers were then ordered to stand and execute the prisoners.

After this, continued Azhar, the next lot of prisoners was ordered to get out, cover the hole that was already filled with the corpses of the previous prisoners, after which they were ordered to dig a hole for themselves.

"So it continued. People were ordered to dig their own graves. We estimate that between 10 and 40 people were executed at each location", said Azhar.

Azhar invited the government to examine the truth of the mass graves at these locations. According to Azhar, the signs and evidence of the slaughter at these sites can still be found to this day.

Earlier, Indonesian President Joko Widodo ordered Panjaitan to find the mass graves of the victims of the 1965 affair.

Finding the mass graves, said Panjaitan, is for verification and at the same time to straighten out history in relation to the slaughter of Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) followers in the years following 1965.

"Earlier the president told [me], ordered [me] to find out if there are any mass graves", said Panjaitan following a meeting with the president at the State Palace in Jakarta on Monday April 25.

"Up until now, for years and years, we've been indoctrinated that there were so many hundreds of thousands of people that died. Yet, up until now we have never found a single mass grave", he said. Panjaitan said that it is possible that the state will apologise for the 1965 affair explaining that the possibility of the state apologising is always open if facts are uncovered indicating that mass killings occurred following the September 30 Movement affair in 1965.

These facts, for example, could be data on mass graves. Panjaitan explained that up until now, the government has not yet received any solid data or evidence to indicate that there was a mass slaughter.

The only data that exists is with regard to the murder of the six TNI (Indonesian military) army generals. Because of this therefore, said Panjaitan, the government does not know who to apologise to.

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 09-05-2016

"Up until this day there has been no data on mass graves. [So] who should the government apologise to? What is clear is that six TNI generals were murdered. That's already clear. There's no data yet on any others, right", said Panjaitan.

[Translated by James Balowski for the Indoleft News Service. The original title of the report was "Kontras Temukan 16 Lokasi Kuburan Massal Korban 1965".]

Source:

<http://nasional.kompas.com/read/2016/04/26/18433271/Kontras.Temukan.16.Lokasi.Kuburan.Massal.Korban.1965>

Activists report 122 mass graves of 1965 victims across Java and Sumatra

The Jakarta Post, 03-05-2016

Right activists visited the Office of the Coordinating Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Minister on Monday to report their findings on 122 mass graves across Java and Sumatra containing the bodies of at least 13,900 victims of the 1965 communist purge.

The findings, from the Murder Victims Research Foundation (YPKP) 1965/1966, were compiled from a study it began in 2000 involving victims and witnesses of the massacre that killed at least 500,000 people accused of being affiliated with the now-defunct Indonesian Communist Party (PKI).

Reza Muharam, a member of the International People's Tribunal (IPT) on the 1965 tragedy, an organization that supports YPKP, said the report was intended to urge the coordinating minister to immediately coordinate with the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) to settle the human rights abuse case.

Earlier, the activists had handed over the report to Komnas HAM to be investigated, since it was the commission that was authorized by law to investigate the case, Reza said.

"Now the office of the coordinating minister doesn't have any more excuses to say there are no mass graves [...] it should cooperate with Komnas HAM and the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to take action and reveal the truth," Reza told the journalists.

The data was important part of pushing the judicial process, which remains at the AGO even though Komnas HAM filed a report of its investigation into the 1965 massacre to the AGO in 2012. Reza said that besides this, it was also significant as a part of efforts to allow truth to prevail.

Based on the findings, there are 122 mass graves in 12 provinces across Java and Sumatra, with the highest number in Central Java with 50 graves alone. However, as the study continued, so did the number of sites, Reza said.

Bedjo Untung, the head of YPKP, said the 122 mass graves were only two percent of the real number spread across Indonesia. Their locations were dispersed and often not in secluded areas, with some buried under parks, forests and street pavement, while some are hidden under malls or housing complexes.

"The findings have become the start of true reconciliation and the revelation of truth," Bedjo said.

Previously, Coordinating Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Minister Luhut Binsar Panjaitan has said that if there really were mass graves of 1965 victims, the government would apologize for the killings.

The government should immediately address the issue, Bedjo said, now that the locations of the mass graves had been found, some parties would try to interfere with the locations erase the trace of the killings, Bedjo said.

Meanwhile, the coordinating minister's deputy assistant for human rights protection and advancement, Brig. Gen. Hafil Fuddin who received the report said the findings would be taken into consideration in drafting the policy to settle past human rights abuses.

Digital community Ingat65 remembers 1965

The Jakarta Post, 03-05-2016

Most people born after 1965 only learn about the 1965 tragedy through school textbooks and the G30S/PKI movie that many historians deem a propaganda tool of the New Order regime. Therefore, many remain clueless about the reality of the communist purge in the dark past of our country.

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 09-05-2016

A digital storytelling movement that goes by the name of Ingat65 (which translates to "Remember65") sets out to raise concern among young people for the 1965 tragedy.

The movement, according to Ingat65 chief editor Proditia Sibarani, aims to provide a platform for young people and their family members to collectively remember the purge and do something about the findings.

"Hopefully in the end we can show that there's a lot of support to create justice for the victims," Proditia told thejakartapost.com after a discussion on remembering the 1965 tragedy during the ASEAN Literary Festival 2016 in Taman Ismail Marzuki in Central Jakarta on Friday.

Read the whole article: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/05/07/digital-community-ingat65-remembers-1965.html>

Freedom of expression

Yogyakarta Sultan defends police banning of film on 1965 political prisoners

Tempo - May 5, 2016

Pito Agustin Rudiana, Shinta Maharani, Yogyakarta -- Yogyakarta Sultan Hamengku Buwono X has defended the Yogyakarta metropolitan police for shutting down an event commemorating International Press Freedom Day held by the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI) in Yogyakarta on the evening of Tuesday May 3.

The reason for this is because there were pro- and contra-views at the event at the AJI secretariat that was planning a film showing of the documentary "Buru Island My Homeland" (Pulau Buru Tanah Air Beta) by director Rahung Nasution.

"The police had no choice. Rather than a clash taking place with the potential to make things more difficult for police, it was better it be resolved, stopped", said the Sultan speaking after an economic census socialisation at the Inna Garuda Hotel in Yogyakarta on Wednesday May 4.

The Sultan rejected the view that he does not allow differences given the origins of this country that was established amid a background of differences. The Sultan claimed that the measures taken by police were simply to prevent a clash between pro- and contra groups, namely violence. "If [members of] the public itself generate these (the pro- and contra views), then the police are in a very difficult position", said the Sultan.

According to the Sultan, an attitude of tolerance must be a mutual agreement because the differences that have been born since the Indonesian state was established have not been a weakness. Nor has it been based on forcing one's views on others.

"Up until now there has never been an agreement, yes these pro- and contra-[groups] are a problem. [If] each feels that their views are correct, [then] it will continue to happen", said the Sultan. The Sultan also doubts that a dialogue between the different parties could be held. According to the Sultan, a dialogue can only be held if those invited can accept the views of other people and accept those elements that are not the same. "If there is a dialogue and [they] maintain their differences, how can they understand [each other]? It's not possible right", said the Sultan.

AJI Yogyakarta's records show that there have been a series of threats against the freedom of expression, belief and discussion over the last few years. According to the Wahid Institute, in 2015 Yogyakarta became the second most intolerant city in Indonesia.

"The Sultan as the governor of Yogyakarta province and the king of the Yogyakarta Royal Palace has allowed intolerance to grow in the region", said AJI Yogyakarta chairperson Anang Zakaria. Responding to the pro- and contra-views, Yogyakarta Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) speaker Yoeke Indra Agung Laksana has asked that scholarly events not be viewed as activities that can give rise to sensitivities.

"Please sort it out. Provide protection. But it has to be purely scientific. Don't take up political missions or group interests", said Laksana when speaking at the DPRD building.

Earlier, police banned a film showing of the documentary about Buru Island which was accused of being communist propaganda. During negotiations, police asked the AJI to show a different film instead. Not only did they ban the film showing but the police, which press groups accuse of being the principle enemy of press freedom in Indonesia, also forcibly closed down the event.

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 09-05-2016

[Translated by James Balowski for the Indoleft News Service. The original title of the report was "Sultan Yogya Bela Polisi Bubarkan Pemutaran Film Pulau Buru".]

<https://m.tempo.co/read/news/2016/05/05/078768649/sultan-yogya-bela-polisi-bubarkan-pemutaran-film-pulau-buru>

Social-economic Rights

Wanted: Certainty on the Masela Block

Tempo, 04-05-2016

TEMPO.CO, Jakarta—More than a month has passed since President Joko Widodo announced his decision on the Masela Block, but nothing more has been heard about it. The two operators awarded the right to manage the block, Inpex Masela Ltd. and Shell Plc., have shown no signs of carrying out another feasibility study, following the President's decision. If this state of affairs continues, both the operators as well as the state will lose out.

The Masela Block issue emerged once again when the President visited the Netherlands last week. In a meeting with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and several businessmen, the decision to opt for an onshore refinery was raised. It was still seen as a controversial choice.

The option to build an onshore refinery as a gas terminal for the Masela Block in Maluku's Arafura Sea was announced by the president at a press conference in Pontianak on March 23. This decision also ended the 'open war' between Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Rizal Ramli and Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Sudirman Said. They had publicly and loudly differed over where the refinery should be built.

Originally, the refinery was to be built offshore. The Upstream Oil and Gas Regulatory Special Task Force (SKK Migas) had reached an agreement with Inpex and Shell to develop the project. The feasibility study had been completed but the 2015 agreement was 'disrupted' by Minister Rizal, who was convinced that the onshore refinery would be more profitable.

Rizal's opinion was based on calculations carried out by the Seven Three Forum (Fortuga), an association of alumni engineers from the Bandung Institute of Technology class of '73. According to Fortuga, an onshore refinery would only cost US\$16 billion, compared with US\$22 billion for the offshore option. This differed from the Inpex calculations, which concluded that the offshore cost would be US\$14.8 billion, cheaper than the US\$19.3 billion cost of building onshore. The independent British consultants appointed by the Energy ministry, Poten & Partners, also calculated that the offshore option would be more profitable.

The President eventually went for the onshore option after taking into account the fact that building an onshore refinery would stimulate regional development. This makes sense, but it means that an onshore refinery would bring no benefits to the regional economy even if the Maluku government would still get its Rp5 trillion per year, which it could use to improve the welfare of its people.

After the President announced his choice, SKK Migas asked Inpex and Shell to revise their feasibility study. This has not been done. The operators said this was because the SKK Migas request had no legal basis, as it is only based on a presidential statement.

We know that such a revision is no simple matter, would need up to three years to carry out, and cost quite a bit of money. Inpex and Shell are not wrong to take this stance given their bitter experience of their offshore refinery plan being 'shifted' to onshore before any guarantee from SKK Migas that the refinery would be built offshore.

The President must step in and resolve this matter. He must respond to Inpex' concerns by providing legal certainty, for example by issuing a presidential decision that clarifies his preferred option. With this certainty, we hope the Masela project will start soon, unless the president later changes his mind and decides the offshore option is better. There would be no shame in doing this.

Death penalty

Death-row convicts moved to Nusakambangan ahead of executions

The Jakarta Post, 09-05-2016

Several death-row inmates have reportedly been moved to Nusakambangan prison island in Cilacap, Central Java, signaling that their executions will be held in the near future. Three death-row convicts from Tembesi prison in Batam were quietly transferred to Nusakambangan prison on Sunday evening. They are inmates whose verdicts were final and binding.

Using official prison authority vessel KM Pengayoman, the three inmates from Batam were taken across from the Wijayapura Quay in Cilacap to “execution island” at around 8 p.m. local time. They are Agus Hadi, 53; Pudjo, 42; and Suryanto, 53. “They are death-row inmates from the Batam Class II Penitentiary,” Abdul Aris, warden of Batu prison in Nusakambangan, told journalists on Sunday. They were convicted for drug-trafficking charges, he went on. Abdul further explained that the three Batam inmates were put together with several other death-row convicts in Batu prison. There were 59 death-row convicts waiting for their executions in Nusakambangan, he added.

Law and Human Rights Ministry Central Java chapter head of correctional institution division Molyanto confirmed the transfer of the three death row inmates from Batam to Nusakambangan.

However, he could not yet confirm whether they would be executed in the upcoming round of executions, the third under President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo’s administration. “Nusakambangan today received three drug inmates who have received the death penalty. Concerning whether they are on the list of convicts to be executed, we still don’t know,” Molyanto told journalists on Sunday.

Earlier, Attorney General M Prasetyo confirmed the execution of drug-related death row inmates whose verdicts were final and binding would be carried out soon, saying that all preparations had been made and it was now just a matter of time, he said. Prasetyo

further said that the third round of executions would be conducted on Nusakambangan, the same location as the previous executions of 14 drug convicts in January and April 2015.

See also: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/05/06/a-look-at-nusakambangan-indonesias-execution-island.html>

Papua

End mass arrests and crackdowns on peaceful protests

Amnesty International Public Statement, 04-05-2016

Amnesty International deplores the mass arrests of Papuan political activists by the Indonesian police forces both in Papua region and other provinces in the country. They were arrested solely for exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. Those who remain detained must be immediately and unconditionally released.

Around 1,700 Papuan activists were arrested on 2 May after they organised and participated in a series of peaceful demonstrations in Jayapura, Merauke, Fakfak, Sorong and Wamena in Papua and West Papua provinces, in Semarang, Central Java province and in Makassar, South Sulawesi province.

The demonstrations were organised by supporters of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), a Papuan pro-independence umbrella group, in support of its application to gain full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), a sub-Pacific intergovernmental organisation. They also commemorated the 53rd anniversary of the handover of West Papua to the Indonesian government by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) on 1 May 1963 and coincided with the 3 May International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) forum in London which discussed support for an international supervised referendum for the Papua region of Indonesia.

In the lead up to the activities, between 29 April and 1 May, the police forces in Papua and West Papua provinces arrested around 50 Papuan activists in Jayapura, Wamena and Merauke when they were distributing flyers calling on people to join the demonstrations. On 2 May, the police forces in Semarang, Central Java province and Makassar, South

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 09-05-2016

Sulawesi province arrested around 45 and 42 Papuan peaceful activists respectively. In West Papua province, the Sorong and Fakfak district police arrested at least 67 Papuan activists during a peaceful rally on 2 May. In Papua province, the local district police forces arrested around 130 peaceful activists in Merauke and Wamena on 2 May. The Jayapura headquarters police forces arrested around 1,450 activists and detained them in an open field under the hot sun and ordered them to strip off their shirts.

While most of all those activists who were arrested were released without charge after one day, these arbitrary arrests highlight the ongoing repressive environment faced by political activists in the Papua region.

The widespread use of arbitrary arrest in the Papua region, apparently as a deterrent to political activism, suppressing the exercise of the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, highlights the failure of the Indonesian government to make a distinction between peaceful activists who support Papuan independence through peaceful expression of opinion, and those linked to armed pro-independence groups which pursue their aims through the use or threat of violence.

Amnesty International recognizes that the Indonesian government needs to maintain public order on its territory. However, it must ensure that any restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are in accordance with Indonesia's obligations under international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Indonesia is a State party.

Amnesty International is concerned that there may be further arrests of peaceful political activists in the weeks preceding the upcoming MSG Summit tentatively scheduled between end of May and early June 2016, which will address ULMWP's application to become a full member of the MSG.

West Papua (also sometimes referred to as Papua) is the Western half of the island of New Guinea, which comprises two provinces: West Papua province and Papua province. The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) is an umbrella organization established in December 2014 and made up of different factions of the Papuan independence movement.

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is an intergovernmental organization, founded as a political gathering in 1983, composed of the four Melanesian states of Fiji, Papua New

Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia (a French territory in the South Pacific). In June 2015, Indonesia became an MSG associate member and the MSG granted the ULMWP observer status.

The International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) is a cross-party group of politicians that supports the right to self-determination in the Papua region. Launched in London, United Kingdom, in 2008, the group currently has 95 signatories from various countries around the world.

Amnesty International takes no position on the political status of any province of Indonesia, including calls for independence. However, Amnesty International considers that the right to freedom of expression protects the right to peacefully advocate independence or any other political solutions that do not involve incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

See also: <https://cjcbrisbane.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/we-will-lose-everything-may-2016.pdf>

Govt should settle human rights abuses in Papua through peaceful dialogue: Horta

The Jakarta Post, 08-05-2016

Former president of Timor Leste Jose Ramos-Horta has expressed optimism that the Indonesian government will settle cases of human rights abuses in Papua, saying that officials should prioritize peaceful dialogue.

Despite long decades of insurgency and rebellion from Papuan separatists, the government should not regard these people as enemies, but should instead work to rebuild trust with them, Horta said.

The process will not be easy because the government has neglected Papua for too long, Horta added. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's commitment to the Papuan people had begun to build up a sense of goodwill after a period of prolonged disappointment, Horta said. "They are hopeful that significant steps will be taken to improve human rights in Papua," Horta told journalists on Thursday. The statement follows Horta's visit to Papua

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 09-05-2016

from May 2 to May 4 after receiving an invitation to inspect development in the region from Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Luhut Pandjaitan.

During the visit, Horta reportedly met with Papuan officials including Papua Governor Lukas Enembe, Papua Legislative Council Speaker Yunus Wonda, the Papuan People's Assembly (MRP), local teachers and medical assistants.

Horta also met with former rebels who used to be active in the Free Papua Movement, but who now agreed to develop Papua as a part of Indonesia.

The National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) will cooperate with human rights NGOs to investigate cases of violence in Papua, Horta said. The government should also work closely with local churches, he added.

"Indonesia can settle the human rights cases in Papua internally without the help of foreign actors," Horta asserted. The government should also avoid using violence that often ended up wounding innocent civilians, Horta said.

According to Horta, the government should find the right balance between national development and understanding centuries-old Papuan values. This will be difficult because Papua is a large region, Horta said. The government should develop programs to create more economic opportunity for Papuans, he went on to say. Besides developing infrastructure and reducing the disparity gap, education should also be a top priority to advance the quality of the region's human resources, Horta said.

Indonesia should take note of Singapore, a state with minimum natural resources, but a positive reputation in the international community, Horta said. "A nation can be minuscule, but if everybody studies and gets a degree from a reputable university, they can operate in a big industry," Horta said.

Timor Leste

Indonesia, Timor Leste agree cooperation in human resource development

The Jakarta Post, 05-05-2016

Indonesia and Timor Leste have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in developing human resources for the industrial sector in the two countries. The agreement is part of the 2013-2017 human resources partnership contract worth US\$ 6 million between Indonesia and Timor Leste. Some programs already started are human resources development in the field of wedding organizing, food processing and handcrafts.

"From 2011 to 2016, our industrial development agencies have provided 15 human resource capacity building training sessions. We hope this MoU will push for more industrial development programs in both countries," Industry Minister Saleh Husin said in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Following the MoU signing, Indonesia and Timor Leste will set up technical committees and hold a survey to identify the needs for the programs. "We will further evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of the program," the ministry's director general for international industry access development, Achmad Sigit Dwiwahjono, said on Wednesday.

Timor Leste's main commodity is oil and as such its economy has suffered from the global decline in oil prices, thus it is currently looking for more sustainable development models. The non-oil economy is now at the beginning stage in the country.

"We have launched our sustainable development plan and it means there will be economic diversification. Timor Leste is currently at the early stage of an industrial country and human resources are the prerequisite for that," Timor Leste's Trade, Industry and Environment Minister Constancio da Conceicao Pinto said.

The minister further said industrial reform was important because currently, Timor Leste was applying to join ASEAN. The Indonesian government was ready to give its support for Timor Leste's ASEAN membership but some concerns, including the country's economic development must be first resolved.

"We need to make sure our country can compete to attract investors and carry out reforms needed to speed up our ASEAN membership approval and I want to thank the Indonesian government for its support for our membership," Pinto said.