

Death penalty

Indonesia to Execute Convicts From Nigeria and Zimbabwe This Year: Attorney General

The Jakarta Globe (Reuters), 14-07-2016

Indonesia plans to execute this year at least two foreign convicts, one from Nigeria and another from Zimbabwe, the attorney general said on Wednesday. President Joko Widodo has pledged to increase the number of executions this year and next as part of his crackdown on drugs.

Asked if there were any foreigners on the list of convicts to be executed, Attorney General H.M. Prasetyo told reporters: "We have foreigners, among them from Nigeria and Zimbabwe." He did not elaborate on the crimes of which they were convicted. Prasetyo added that no convicts from the United States, Europe or Australia were on the list to be executed this year.

A 59-year-old British woman, Lindsay Sandiford, was sentenced to death after being convicted in 2013 of trying to smuggle cocaine worth \$2.5 million into the country. A Philippine maid, Mary Jane Veloso, got a last-minute reprieve last year in response to a request from Manila after an employment recruiter, whom Veloso had accused of planting drugs in her luggage, gave herself up to police in the Philippines.

Last year Indonesia executed 14 people, mostly foreign drug traffickers. Prasetyo previously said at least 16 prisoners would be executed this year and more than double that number next year.

AGO waits for Supreme Court ruling to set date for executions

The Jakarta Post, 15-07-2016

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) is waiting for a Supreme Court ruling to set the date of the third round of executions of drug convicts, an AGO official said on Friday.

The Supreme Court will soon announce its decision on a case review and cassation submitted by a number of death row convicts, Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo said. "We are still coordinating [the details of the executions] and we hope they will be carried out soon," Prasetyo told journalists.

Despite the public outcry from those opposed to the death penalty, the government's resolve to execute drug dealers and distributors will not waver, as they have brought a huge threat to the country, Prasetyo asserted.

He said he hoped convicted drug lord Freddy Budiman, who ran his narcotics business from behind bars, would be included on the list of death row convicts that would be executed in the next round.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's administration has executed 14 death-row convicts in two rounds both of which were carried out last year.

Attorney General Should Not Hesitate on Executions: Lawmaker

The Jakarta Globe, 15-07-2016

House of Representatives Commission III member Ruhut Sitompul said all state institutions partnering with the commission, which oversees legal affairs, have made the maximum effort to enforce the law, despite some having failed to prosecute suspects or fulfill their legal mandates.

He said one example is the performance of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) under the leadership of H.M. Prasetyo, who has hesitated to order the execution of death-row inmates convicted for drug offences. "I call on the attorney general, in regard to drug crime, that if there has been a legal review, there is no need for another. One review, then execute," Ruhut said in Jakarta on Thursday (14/07).

He reminded the attorney general that legal reviews should not be used to block executions, as the death penalty is still considered legal punishment in Indonesia.

The Democratic Party lawmaker also criticized the AGO's losses in pretrial motions, specifically with regard to those cases that have been in the public spotlight.

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"I think Mr. Prasetyo has also worked hard, but when it comes to pretrial motions, as I have always said, [prosecutors] should present two forms of strong evidence when declaring someone a suspect. If they don't [have any evidence], don't [declare someone a suspect]," Ruhut said.

He said President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo should assess law enforcement efforts, based on the fact that every state institution should abide by his decisions.

Read also these opinions: <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/opinion/commentary-perversity-death-penalty/> and <http://print.kompas.com/baca/2016/07/13/Jalan-Tengah-untuk-Pro-Kontra-Eksekusi-Mati>

Political developments

Indonesia to Impose Five-Year Moratorium on New Palm Oil Concessions

The Jakarta Globe, 15-07-2016

The Indonesian government will soon issue a presidential instruction that would serve as legal basis for a five-year moratorium on new palm oil concessions as part of the country's effort to reduce the negative impact of the plantations on the environment.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has put environmental issue as one of his administration priorities, seeking to put an end to Indonesia's deteriorating tropical forests.

Last year, the president extended a moratorium on peatland exploitation, which has been in place since 2011. Jokowi also said in April that he wanted to stop oil palm plantations and mining taking up forested land.

"The new policy is part of the previous ones, but this time, we come prepared with more data," Coordinating Economics Minister Darmin Nasution said on Friday (15/07).

Darmin said the government would make use of single base map — created in terms of the One Map Policy program that harmonizes all maps in the archipelago into one

reference map — to ensure that the program does not overlap or conflict with other polices, such as on mining, agriculture or infrastructure development.

The minister's comment came after a meeting in Jakarta with his colleagues, including Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya, Trade Minister Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Industry Minister Saleh Husin and Land and Spatial Planning Minister Ferry Mursyidan Baldan.

This was the first meeting at ministerial level for the implementation of the presidential order.

The follow-up meeting — which still has to be scheduled — will determine the details and norms in the regulation.

"We will also include the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil System standard [in the regulation], so please don't be too worried as there will also be a transition period," Darmin said in an effort to assuage concerns among palm oil producers who fear that the plan could undermine one of the country's largest raw commodity exports.

Indonesia, as the world's largest palm oil producer, has been criticized by activists and other Southeast Asian countries for years as it failed to stop or prevent the region's annual haze problem, caused by forest clearing for palm and pulp plantations.

Trade Minister Thomas said the policy would prop up Indonesia's image as it aspires to contribute to efforts to stem global warming.

Asean Human Rights Leaders Condemn Murder of Cambodian Activist

The Jakarta Globe, 11-07-2016

The Sunday (11/07) murder of Cambodian political analyst Kem Ley is "a tragedy for Cambodia and the entire Asean region," a leading voice in regional human rights has said. Charles Santiago, a Malaysian member of parliament and current chairman of Asean Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), called for an independent investigation into the daylight murder which shocked the country on Sunday morning.

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Kem Ley, a vocal critic of Prime Minister Hun Sen and the ruling Cambodian People's Party, was gunned down in a coffee shop in Phnom Penh, prompting protests throughout the streets of the capital.

News agency Agence France Presse reported a suspect has been named, who has said he was motivated by unpaid debts. Activists and community leaders remain skeptical, pointing to the victim's long history of activism amid Cambodia's increasingly fraught political climate.

"The circumstances surrounding Kem Ley's death have left many searching for answers and suspicious of ulterior motives, particularly given his vocal criticism of Cambodia's political leaders," Charles said in a statement on behalf of APHR on Monday morning.

APHR called on the government to uphold its commitment to the Asean Human Rights Declaration and similar international treaties.

"If Cambodia is to develop into a successful member of the Asean Community, those who publicly advocate for positive change — a cause to which Kem Ley devoted his life — must have the freedom to continue their work without fear of intimidation or violent retribution," Charles said.

Papua

Complaint submitted to Human Rights Council

Website Prakken-d'Oliveira, 27-06-2016

On 25 June 2016 a campaign was launched for self-determination of West-Papua. Lawyer Göran Sluiter, together with Andrew Ianuzzi (external) filed a complaint against Indonesia with the UN Human Rights Council. The complaint holds Indonesia accountable for long-term, widespread and systematic human rights violations committed against the civilian population of West-Papua. The origin of these human rights violations is the complete denial of the right to self-determination of the people of West-Papua. The complaint submitted to the Human Rights Council marks the start of a longer campaign that respect for all human rights for the people of West Papua, including the right to self determination.

More information about the campaign, can be found at: <http://www.prakkendoliveira.nl/en/news/launch-of-campaign-for-self-determination-of-west-papua/> and <https://federalstateofwestpapua.org/>

Prof Göran Sluiter interview (in Dutch)

NPO radio, 12-07-2016

A Dutch language interview on the new mechanism to be used within the Human Rights Council on human rights violations in Papua, supported by the Dutch human rights lawyers firm Prakken-d'Oliveira in Amsterdam.

<http://www.nporadio1.nl/sportzomer-2016/onderwerpen/365683-indonesie-moet-stoppen-met-mensenrechtenschendingen-west-papua>

MSG Turns Down Papua Separatist Group's Request for Full Membership

The Jakarta Globe, 15-07-2016

The Melanesian Spearhead Group has rejected an application for full membership status by the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, which Indonesia deems a separatist group, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The decision, made during an MSG special summit in Honiara in the Solomon Islands on Thursday (14/07), means the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) retains its observer status as an organization.

"There is no place for the ULMWP in the future of the MSG," Desra, director general for Asia Pacific and Africa at the Indonesian foreign ministry, said in a statement on Thursday (14/07). "The active participation and intensive lobbying by the Indonesian delegation, which also included representatives from five provinces, Maluku, North Maluku, East Nusa Tenggara, Papua and West Papua, has convinced MSG leaders not to accept the ULMWP's membership application."

The five Indonesian provinces are considered as Indonesia's Melanesian representatives in the MSG.

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The ULMWP was granted observer status last year, following the collection of more than 150,000 signatures from West Papuans requesting full membership status in the intergovernmental organization, composed of the four Melanesian states of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia.

Indonesia, which became an associate member of the MSG at last year's summit in Honiara and who is currently mulling full membership status, maintains that the ULMWP does not represent the people of West Papua.

The Solomon Islands and Vanuatu recently stated their support for full membership status for the ULMWP, while Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia remained undecided.

"There was no refusal. This is only a delay," ULMWP leader Markus Haluk said in response to Thursday's decision.

"The reason for the postponement is the definition for new membership has yet to be properly arranged to ensure the acceptance of the ULMWP application," Markus told the Jakarta Globe on Friday. "Our application is delayed until the next special summit."

The summit, scheduled to take place in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in September, is expected to further discuss and settle the guidelines for MSG membership.

The MSG's decision not to upgrade the ULMWP's status has sparked a rally in some parts of Indonesia, such as in Yogyakarta. Dozens of Papuan student held a rally at their dormitory despite not having a permit from the local police. The students are also trying to establish a ULMWP representative office in the city, which was rejected by security officials.

The rally ended with a clash between the Papuan students and police, resulting in Jalan Kusumanegara being closed to traffic for several hours. The situation was brought under control after four hours, when the road was reopened.

Papuan students in Makassar, South Sulawesi, also held a rally on Friday demanding that the MSG grants permanent membership to the ULMWP as a member state.

Police arrest seven Papuan students, prevent demo

The Jakarta Post, 15-07-2016

Police officers surrounded Papuan students in their dormitory in Yogyakarta to prevent them from attending an event organized by the People's Union for West Papua Freedom (PRPPB). Police officers secured the dormitory on Jl. Kusumanegara on Friday from morning to evening and arrested seven of the students. The PRPPB event was in support of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua's (ULMWP) bid to become a full member of the Melanesia Spearhead Group (MSG).

PRPPB spokesman Roy Karoba told The Jakarta Post that hundreds of students, who were kept in the dormitory since early Friday, had not eaten and an Indonesian Red Cross ambulance conveying food was prevented from entering the dormitory. "The ambulance was not allowed to enter [the dormitory]. It left after discussions with police officers," Roy said. Initially, the students sought to organize a meeting at Titik Nol (Zero Point) in the center of Yogyakarta City, but the police did not permit them to carry out their plans. They then decided to organize free speech events in the dormitory.

The police arrested at least seven students, seized a Morning Star Flag and a motorcycle. Police also fired warning shots during a clash between officers and students. Four of the students were arrested when they bought food at Giwangan market.

Tension at the dormitory increased when opposing activists from the Pancasila Youth (PP), the Communication Forum of Indonesian Veterans' Children (FKPPI) and a mass organization of Paksi Katon arrived at the location to support the police.

Yogyakarta Police's intelligence department head Comr. Wahyu Dwi Nugroho confirmed that the police did not permit the event at Zero Point. "It is for the sake of security," he said, declining to comment further.

Emanuel Gobay of the Yogyakarta Legal Aid Institution (LBH Yogyakarta) criticized the police for preventing the students from carrying out their demonstration, saying that it violated human rights principles.