

Impunity

Home Affairs Minister denies reports he prohibited broadcasting of G30S-PKI film

Kompas.com - September 15, 2017

Home Affairs Minister Tjahjo Kumolo says that the public and the younger generation needs to know about the history of the September 30 Movement/Indonesian Communist Party (G30S/PKI). "That's what's called history, so the public and the younger generation will know that there was once a coup d'etat movement", said Tjahjo in an SMS message [received by Kompas] on Friday September 15.

Because of this therefore he has no problems if "Crushing the Treachery of the G30S/PKI" is shown on national television again. "Just show it on television. I don't think it's a problem", said the senior Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) politician.

Tjahjo also added that there have been reports that he has forbidden the Indonesian docudrama propaganda film made in 1984 from being shown. "I have never made any such statement. I will hunt down the person making slander about my [alleged] statement", he said.

"[We are] in the process of working out who made the slanderous news. [We] already know the person and their cell phone number who spread the slander", said Tjahjo in closing.

"Crushing the Treachery of the G30S/PKI" is the title of a 1984 Indonesian docudrama propaganda film. The film was directed and written by Arifin C. Noer. It was produced over a period of two years at a cost of 800 million rupiah at that time. The film was sponsored by the New Order government during the era of former President Suharto.

[Translated by James Balowski for the Indoleft News Service. The original title of the article was "Mendagri Persilakan TV Kembali Tayangkan Film Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI".]

Banning of 1965 seminar an 'extraordinary step back for democracy in Indonesia'

Tempo - September 16, 2017

Police have closed down a 1965 history seminar organised by the Forum 65 that was to be held at the Jakarta Legal Aid Foundation (LBH) offices on the afternoon of Saturday September 16. LBH Jakarta Director Alghifari Aqsa says that the banning of the seminar is a step back for democracy, particularly since the seminar was being held as an academic study. "This is an extraordinary 'side back' [sic] or step back for democracy in Indonesia", said Alghifari after making a statement at the LBH Jakarta offices late on Saturday. He explained that the Forum 65 had asked the LBH Jakarta to provide a venue and facilitate attorneys for the seminar. Alghifari explained that the first indication that the event would be closed down was on the day before when police told the LBH that they had to provide a notification for the seminar.

The LBH Jakarta refused, said Alghifari, because there were no legal grounds that obliged a seminar to provide prior notification. "Why should we have to ask for a permit from the police or even [provide] a notification", he said.

Alghifari also heard that the police offered as a solution that the seminar be open. The LBH Jakarta agreed that the police could have representatives from the sectoral and district police present at the seminar. "But at 6am, the participants were unable to get into the LBH [building]", he said. He accuses the police of breaking their pledge.

The police lies, said Alghifari, continued when both parties agreed to postpone the event until the participants and guests, most of whom were elderly, received permission to enter. "Again the police failed to keep their promise", he said. In the end some of the guests were permitted to enter but only after a number of organisations arrived threatening to storm the LBH Jakarta offices.

And it didn't stop there. Alghifari said that the police also forced their way in to the building then went up to the fourth floor because they suspected that the discussion was already taking place. Upon reaching the fourth floor, the police tore down the seminar banner and launched into a debate with several LBH representatives. Yet, said Alghifari,

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the police had already evaluated all of the administrative issues pertaining to the seminar. "What the police did was very excessive", he said.

Menteng Sectoral Police Chief Deputy Senior Commissioner Ronald Purba claims that the police blockade of the LBH offices and the closure of the seminar was because the LBH failed to provide a notification of the event. "The solution was no activities are allowed, so they can't go in", said Purba. Not long after the Central Jakarta District Police Chief Senior Commissioner Suyudi Ario Seto also arrived to inspect the LBH Jakarta offices.

The police's behavior on this day, said Alghifari, was different compared to when the Turn Left Festival failed to go ahead at the Taman Ismail Marzuki cultural centre in Jakarta in February last year.

Then, the police provided security for the LBH offices even though there were protests against the event. "Why didn't they do this today, the police deployed their personnel here", he said.

Accusations that 1965 seminar a communist party declaration is a 'tired old joke'

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The Red-and-White Militia (LMP) have been making speeches with a permit and making an uproar in front of the Legal Aid Foundation (LBH) offices in Central Jakarta. The group accuses the LBH of holding a declaration of the banned Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) because it was to hold a historical seminar on 1965, which has now been postponed. "The PKI is still being defended", said one of the protesters during a clash with police on Saturday September 16.

The LMP began by making speeches on the street alongside the LBH offices but then one of the protesters, then followed by others, tried to force their way into the building. A clash broke out between police and demonstrators which each side pushing and shoving each other.

Responding to the protests LBH Director Alghifari Aqsa said that the group's accusations are a tired old joke. "Its misleading information that [people] shouldn't believe, there is

absolutely no evidence", he said. Alghifari explained that members of the Forum 65 were just holding a discussion at the LBH that was open to the public. "[Our] friends from the Forum 65 wanted to be open, so that the public could observe it", he said.

The Forum 65 is a forum for discussion and dialogue on the 1965 tragedy. Alghifari said he regrets the event was closed down by Menteng Sectoral Police Chief Deputy Senior Commissioner Ronald Purba without providing a written notification. "They [the police] should be defending us, although we have decided to postpone [the event], this is a step back [for democracy]", said Alghifari.

According to Alghifari, the Menteng sectoral police have been stopping participants and seminar committee members from entering the LBH building since 6am. "Prohibiting discussions is the same as the Orba (the New Order era)", he said.

See also: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/09/16/anti-communist-organizations-protest-against-discussion-on-1965-purge.html>

Army orders screening of anti-communist propaganda film to counter efforts to 'distort history'

Tempo - September 15, 2017

The Indonesian Army (TNI AD) has ordered all of its officers to hold joint screenings of the film "The Treachery of the September 30 Movement/Indonesian Communist Party" (Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI). The order, which has been confirmed by TNI Information Centre Chief Brigadier General Wuryanto, was sent by SMS message. "The date 30 September is a very important moment for the Indonesian nation. Currently there are a lot of attempts to distort the historical facts about the September 30, 1965 affair", said Wuryanto in an SMS message on Friday September 15. Wuryanto is of the view that these film screenings are important to get the younger generation to understand history. He believes that since the reformasi era [the reform era that began in 1998], history, [the state ideology] Pancasila and character building have not been taught enough in school. He also mentioned several other reasons why the TNI AD needs to encourage the public to watch the film. "[There are] efforts by a group of people to repeal the Tap MPRS No XXV/1996, efforts to push the government to apologies to the PKI, and others", he said.

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Thus from all this, according to Wuryanto, the TNI needs to order all of its personnel to again watch the G30S/PKI film.

The film "Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI", which was written and directed by Arifin C. Noer, was made in 1984 during the era of former president Suharto. The film tells the story of a rebellion by the PKI which -- according to the government's version of history -- occurred on September 30, 1965.

During the New Order era, it was obligatory for all television stations to broadcast the G30S/PKI film on September 30 each year. All schools required their students to watch the film then conduct a review or critique. In 1998, in conjunction with the overthrow of the New Order regime, the requirement was revoked.

The film Pengkhianatan G30S/PKI is controversial and has been referred to as an effort to rewrite history in the interests of maintaining the power and mass hegemony of the Suharto regime.

After the New Order regime collapsed, many parties have spoken up questioning the validity of the historical narrative built by the government in its depiction of the September 30, 1965 affair.

Freedom of Religion

Islamic Boarding School in Bogor Faces Closure, Accused of Being Hotbed for Terrorist Activities

Jakarta Globe, 15-09-2017

Ibnu Mas'ud pesantren, or Islamic boarding school, near Bogor in West Java is facing closure as residents plan a protest on Sunday (17/09) to shut down the premise after rumors went around that the establishment has been used as a nest for terrorist activities.

The school is also accused of being anti-government, or even anti-Indonesia, since boarders had burnt red and white decorative flags hung by local residents around the pesantren a day before Independence Day on Aug. 17.

Hundreds of children in the boarding school, mostly six-year-olds from poor families around the area, may soon lose the only place where they can study.

Agus Purwoko, chairman of the Al Urwatul Usro Foundation, which opened the boarding school in 2011, said he did not witness the flag-burning incident and insisted he wanted to keep the pesantren open.

"My pesantren is small. We're a group of marginalized people, why the protest? If they suspect terrorism, talk to me. We're never involved in terrorism, why are they blaming us?" Agus said. Agus said the children will be traumatized if their school is closed down. "The police have told me, residents from four subdistricts are coming here on Sunday to shut us down," Agus said in Jakarta on Thursday. He said the boarding school has already received threats and intimidation from residents.

Usman Hamid, the director of Amnesty International Indonesia, said the flag-burning incident is being used as an excuse by certain groups to close down the boarding school. "They want to blame the whole pesantren for the action of one person," Usman said.

Social-economic Rights

Under EU Attack, Top Palm Oil Producers Rethink Trade Strategy

Jakarta Globe, 13-09-2017

Facing a backlash in Europe over palm oil's environmental toll, the world's top producers are scrambling to find new markets and even striking unusual barter deals, such as exchanging Sukhoi jets for the edible oil.

The European Union is the second-largest palm oil export destination after India for both Malaysia and Indonesia, which dominate production in a global market worth at least \$40 billion. But palm has come under increasing fire in Europe over its impact on forest destruction, encouraging producers to look at new markets ranging from Africa to Myanmar.

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Threatened by crumbling demand in Europe, the industry is waging a public relations battle and pushing producers to enter more price-sensitive markets, where Indonesia should have an advantage over Malaysia due to its lower production costs. "Our principle is we will not let go of even one tonne of trade contract or potential demand palm has globally," Indonesia's deputy Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Musdhalifah Machmud told Reuters. Musdhalifah said palm oil sales were being brought up in "every trade negotiation" Indonesia conducts.

Palm oil is used in thousands of household products, from snack foods to soaps, as well as to make biodiesel. But the demand boom has spread plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia across an area of more than 17 million hectares — an area greater than the size of Portugal and Ireland. They are mostly carved out of rainforests, which critics say has led to an increase in the greenhouse gases that warm the planet.

Environmental activists have pressured consumer companies into demanding that their palm suppliers adopt more environmentally sustainable forestry practices. But in Europe, politicians say the industry's standards on sustainability do not go far enough.

So far, palm oil sales to the European Union have held up. Indonesian exports rose about 40 percent to 2.7 million tonnes in the first half of 2017 from a year earlier.

Indonesia's overall palm exports were worth \$18 billion last year, with EU sales accounting for 16 percent, the Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) said. For Malaysia, the EU made up nearly 13 percent of exports, government data showed.

"Imported Deforestation"

Europe is particularly concerned about the soaring use of oils, including palm, as a biodiesel fuel. Once regarded as a green alternative, an EU-commissioned report now says it creates more emissions than fossil fuels. France said in July it will reduce the use of palm in biofuels over concerns of "imported deforestation", prompting concerns from Indonesia that other European countries could follow suit.

In Germany, the environment ministry said it will press to amend an EU renewables directive to take account of the study showing "palm oil and soyoil caused, in comparison

to other biofuels, very much higher greenhouse gas emissions per energy unit through indirect land use change."

The European parliament In April voted to phase out unsustainable palm oil by 2020. The resolution endorsed a single Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) plan for Europe-bound palm and other vegetable oil exports to ensure they are produced in an environmentally sustainable way.

In addition to environmental damage, the industry has come under fire over frequent reports of land grabs, child labor and harsh working conditions. Some of the annual forest fires that send shrouds of smoke over parts of Southeast Asia have broken out on palm oil concessions that burn forests to clear land.

Indonesian Trade minister Enggartiasto Lukita in May warned his EU counterparts that he might ask Jakarta not to buy Airbus planes in retaliation, the Jakarta Post reported.

GAPKI Chairman Joko Supriyono told a United Nations sustainability meeting in New York last week that Indonesian palm oil plantation governance met international standards.

Meanwhile, Indonesia is looking at new palm oil markets in Africa offering barter trades with palm oil. Lukita told reporters on a visit to Nigeria he had proposed to swap palm oil for crude oil. Indonesia signed a preliminary deal last month with Russia's Rostec to exchange commodities, including palm, as part of a \$1.14 billion payment for 11 Sukhoi jets.

Indonesia's Vegetable Oil Association executive director Sahat Sinaga said palm oil producers will open a marketing and research company in Russia, aiming to increase exports of 920,000 tonnes in 2016 by 4-5 percent per year up to 2023. The group is also planning to open a storage facility in Pakistan, which imports 1-2 million tonnes of palm from Indonesia a year, anticipating further growth in demand.

Malaysia More Vulnerable

The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) says it will increase efforts to diversify into new markets such as Myanmar, the Philippines and West Africa regardless of the EU Resolution. Malaysia's plantation industries and commodities minister Mah Siew Keong

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said in June he met EU commissioners and members of parliament for talks. The ministry did not respond to a request for further comment. Malaysia is more reliant on palm oil exports than Indonesia, shipping out more than 90 percent of its palm oil last year, compared to about 70 percent in Indonesia. Production costs in Malaysia are also 10-15 percent higher than in Indonesia, analysts estimate. "If EU doesn't take up palm for biodiesel, demand for palm oil globally will fall and prices will be affected on the downside . . . which will impact everyone equally," said Ivy Ng, regional head of plantations research at CIMB Investment Bank.

Palm Oil Issues is Not a Negotiating Tool for Indonesia-EU CEPA Negotiations

Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI) and Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ) Responding to Third Indonesia-EU CEPA Negotiations in Brussels 11-15 September 2017

JAKARTA, September 14, 2017-The third round of negotiations on the Indonesia-EU Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is under way in Brussels currently starting from September 11-15, 2017. One of the issues that later became the focus of both parties was related to the emergence of the European Parliament resolution on Palm Oil. Indonesia for Global Justice (IGJ) and the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (WALHI) urged the Government of Indonesia and the European Union not to raise the issue of palm oil as a means of trade-off in the EPA-Indonesia CEPA negotiations.

WALHI Climate Justice Campaign Manager , Yuyun Harmono, stated that the issue of oil should be removed from the negotiation. The issue of oil palm should be placed in a context of a more human-focused issue especially related to environmental protection and human rights in the value chain of palm oil plantations from upstream to downstream in Indonesia.

"The issue of environment and human rights; land grabbing, environmental degradation, violence and modern slavery in palm oil plantations controlled by multinational corporations already existed before Indonesia-EU CEPA negotiated. The palm oil problem will not be resolved through trade between Indonesia and EU under CEPA, the trade and investment agreement will further exacerbate the degradation of environmental and social condition of society ", Yuyun concluded.

Meanwhile from Brussels, Belgium, the Executive Director of IGJ, Rachmi Hertanti, stated that in this third EPA Indonesia-EU negotiation the nuance is very strong with the issue of palm oil debate. Especially in Indonesia-EU CEPA will set up a special chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) which will include some aspects of protection of workers and the environment.

"The issue of palm oil will be the main focus in the chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) in the framework of environmental protection. One of them is by approaching product standards and certification schemes. However, this approach has the potential to reduce the targets of conflict resolution that arise in the investment practices in oil palm plantations, "explained Rachmi.

In line with Rachmi, Yuyun stated that the standardization and certification mechanism in the CEPA is not the right solution to resolve conflicts and inequality of land tenure in palm oil plantations. "The implementation of RSPO or ISPO is just a false solution in the Palm Sector because it does not change the structure of land tenure that is still dominated by the corporation. The government should formulate an economic justice road map of palm oil governance for smallholders and reduce land controlled by corporations through accelerated agrarian reform programs, "explained Yuyun.

IGJ and WALHI therefore urge the Government of Indonesia and the European Union to: (1) not bring the issue of palm oil to the table of trade and investment negotiations between Indonesia and the European Union or otherwise known as Indonesia-EU CEPA; (2) to formulate an economic justice-based roadmap of palm oil governance for smallholders and farmers other than partnership schemes that remain profitable to the corporation and prove to be failing in the welfare of farmers; and (3) to immediately prepare the tools of Environmental and Human Right Impact Assessment on international trade and investment cooperation model which have the potential to cause adverse impact on the people.

See also: <http://jakartaglobe.id/news/walhi-slams-forestry-ministry-failing-manage-north-sumatras-protected-register-40-land/>

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Timor Leste

Timor Leste heads for minority government

By Michael Leach, posted 15-09-2017

Almost two months since the 22 July election, a new government will be sworn in today in Dili. Fretilin, with 23 seats in parliament, has joined with Democratic Party (PD) which has seven representatives, giving them 30 seats in the 65-seat house. As recently as Wednesday* a majority government was expected until the five MPs from the youth-focused party Khunto withdrew at the last minute, surprising many in Dili by not attending the agreement signing ceremony. It appears Khunto made demands for ministries in excess of its size, which Fretilin would not meet as they compromised the principle of proportionality that had been agreed between the three parties.

While Khunto now appears to be out of the picture, the coalition signing ceremony between Fretilin and PD proceeded on Wednesday, and late on Thursday President Francisco 'Lu Olo' Guterres appointed Fretilin leader Mari Alkatiri the new Prime Minister of Timor-Leste. The new government will be sworn in late today after the first formal session of the new parliament. It will include ministers from Fretilin and PD, and will also see with some independents appointed, including Jose Ramos-Horta, who will be a Minister of State with an additional role as advisor on national security. Prime Minister Alkatiri will also be the Minister of Development and Infrastructure, and the outgoing Prime Minister Rui Araujo will become Minister of Health. New faces in the ministry include the former rector of the national university Aurelio Guterres, who becomes Foreign minister. Senior PD figures will take central roles in the presidency of the Council of Ministers, and in Commerce and Industry, among others. It is understood the new PM has decided which portfolios will be allocated to each party. Only twelve of 30 ministerial and vice-ministerial positions will be sworn in today.

The new Fretilin-led minority government formalises a shift from the previous government (which was based on an informal power-sharing agreement between the two largest parties, CNRT and Fretilin) and the end of a decade of governments led by the CNRT chief and former resistance leader Xanana Gusmão. After narrowly losing the July election,

CNRT has said its 22 MPs would serve in opposition, though it would support the government on key votes such as the budget.

It is understood CNRT will in effect offer the new government 'incidencia parlamentar', a Portuguese term for confidence-and-supply arrangements with parties that do not formally join the government. For his part, the President consulted opposition parties and has stated he is satisfied the new government will have adequate support on confidence, the government program, and budget, despite its minority status.

Perhaps most interestingly, while this leaves the CNRT and the immediate ex-President Taur Matan Ruak's Popular Liberation Party (PLP) formally in opposition, Fretilin's vision of a 'government of grand inclusion' will see certain individuals associated with both parties offered ministries. The practice of 'loaning' individuals from the opposition parties to serve in government started with the previous government. Whether these offers are accepted remains to be seen, but the offers will be significant in themselves. Though the character of the government has changed, some elements of informal power-sharing appear to continue. The new Minister of Finance, Rui Gomes, for example, was a Chief of Staff to former President Ruak and believed to be close to the PLP, though he has been appointed in a personal capacity.

The formation of government has been slow. Until early last week, it appeared Fretilin would form a parliamentary coalition with the PLP, which ran on a platform of greater government transparency and increased attention to basic development indicators rather than the megaprojects favoured by the outgoing government. Negotiations with PLP were, however, unduly protracted, and faltered over the issue of who would serve as President of Parliament (approximating the Speaker).

In the end, Fretilin's candidate for President of Parliament, Aniceto Guterres, won narrowly by 33 votes to 32, indicating that three members of PD or Khunto voted for the CNRT's Aderito da Costa. This outcome suggests the new parliament may be a lively one, providing more surprises and greater accountability over the executive than the previous, something Dili's civil society has been calling for.

Read the full article: <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpretor/timor-leste-minority-government>