

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

Death penalty

Four executed, ten still at risk

Amnesty International Urgent Action, 30-07-2016

Four men were executed in Indonesia on 29 July for drug-related offences. Nine other men and one woman received a last-minute temporary stay of execution after they were also taken to the execution grounds. The reasons and length of the stay are unclear and the ten prisoners remain at risk of execution.

Approximately one hour after midnight on 29 July the Indonesian authorities executed by firing squad Nigerian national Humphrey Jefferson Ejike, two other Nigerian men and an Indonesian national on Nusakambangan Island, near Cilacap in Central Java. All men had been convicted of drug-related offences. However, these offences do not meet the threshold of the “most serious crimes” to which the use of the death penalty must be restricted under international law. Humphrey Jefferson Ejike had applied for clemency from the president on 26 July but the president had not even considered his appeal when the executions were carried out. The Indonesian national submitted a clemency appeal to the president on 28 July just over a week after the Supreme Court rejected his case review. Indonesian authorities only informed the families of the 14 prisoners selected for executions in the morning of 28 July that the executions would be carried out later that same day.

The authorities had also selected Indonesian nationals Merri Utami, Agus Hadi and Pujo Lestari, Pakistani national Zulfiqar Ali and six other men for execution and took them to the execution grounds. However they took the prisoners back to the cells where they are held before death sentences are implemented, and gave no explanation as to why their executions were not carried out. The authorities later moved Merri Utami from the prison in Nusakambangan Island to another detention facility for women. In a press conference later that day, the Deputy Attorney General stated that the government had not decided when the executions of the remaining ten prisoners would be carried out. The Attorney General later told the media that his office will conduct “a comprehensive study” to ensure there is “no judicial and non-judicial error” in the cases of the 10 prisoners.

To take action, see <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/4581/2016/en/>



A coffin carrying the body of convicted drug-trafficker Freddy Budiman arrives at his family home in Surabaya. Freddy was executed by a firing squad on the Nusakambangan prison island early on Friday morning (29/07). (Antara Photo/M. Risyah Hidayat)

Indonesia: Executions will put Jokowi on the wrong side of history

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, PRESS RELEASE, 26 July 2016

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, popularly known as ‘Jokowi’ will be putting his government on the wrong side of history if he proceeds with a fresh round of executions, Amnesty International said today.

Amnesty International received credible reports that at least 14 people could be executed this week, who consist of four Indonesian and ten foreign nationals, including a Pakistani, an Indian, a Zimbabwean, a Senegalese, a South African, and five Nigerians.

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

“President Widodo’s era was supposed to represent a new start for human rights in Indonesia. Sadly, he could preside over the highest number of executions in the country’s democratic era at a time when most of the world has turned its back on this cruel practice,” said Josef Benedict, Amnesty International’s Deputy Director for South East Asia and the Pacific.

Amnesty International has learned that at least a dozen death row prisoners could be executed as soon as this weekend, many of them for drug offences. The organization is also concerned that some of the prisoners who could face the firing squad were convicted in manifestly unfair trials and have not submitted clemency request to the President.

In a report published by Amnesty International last year, the organization found that in 12 cases defendants were denied access to legal counsel at the time of their arrest, and at different periods thereafter. Some claimed they were subject to torture and other ill-treatment while in police custody, and were forced to “confess” to their alleged crimes. To date, these claims have not been investigated by the authorities. The Indonesian government’s decision to go ahead with a third round of executions has already met with an appeal for clemency by Pakistan and many others.

The Pakistani authorities have called on their Indonesian counterparts to halt the execution of Zulfiqar Ali, a Pakistani national and textile worker, who has described how he was tortured in custody and has spent more than a decade on death row for a drug offence. During his pre-trial detention, he was refused the right to contact his embassy and was not permitted any access to a lawyer until approximately one month after his arrest. “As the case of Zulfiqar Ali shows, international law has been repeatedly violated in death penalty cases, from the time of arrest, throughout the trial, and at appeal stage. Regardless of what we think of the death penalty, no one must have their life decided on the basis of such flawed proceedings,” said Josef Benedict. “The international community should be alarmed by the revival of executions, and other countries should speak up for those facing the death penalty in Indonesia.”

The decision to resume executions is also proving controversial inside the country, including opposition from religious clerics and parliamentarians. Indonesia has a strong record of fighting for the rights of its citizens abroad on death row, but that is a position that the authorities do not consistently uphold at home, where President Widodo has claimed that the death penalty is needed to deter drug crime.

“There is no evidence to support President Widodo’s position. The death penalty does not deter crime. Carrying out executions will not rid Indonesia of drugs. It is never the solution, and it will damage Indonesia’s standing in the world,” said Josef Benedict.

“If President Widodo is serious about claiming a place for Indonesia on the world stage and as a leader for the region, he cannot ignore its human rights obligations. The first step towards that must be a moratorium on executions with a view to ridding Indonesia of the unjust punishment once and for all.”

The last executions to occur in Indonesia were carried out in January and April 2015, when six and eight people, respectively, were put to death by firing squad. The previous administration under Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono carried out 21 executions between 2005 and 2013.

At least four death row prisoners were moved to Indonesia’s Nusakambangan prison island in recent weeks, where 13 of the 14 executions carried out in 2015 took place. The death row prisoners have been convicted of drug-related offences and some did not receive a fair trial.

In cases examined by Amnesty International, some prisoners claimed the police tortured them, including to extract ‘confessions’. Many weren’t given access to a lawyer at the time of their arrest and at other stages of the process.

In a 2015 report, *Flawed Justice: Unfair Trials and the Death Penalty in Indonesia*, Amnesty International highlighted the cases of 12 death row prisoners whose cases illustrate the manifestly flawed administration of justice in Indonesia that resulted in flagrant human rights violations.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, regardless of the nature or circumstances of the crime; guilt, innocence or other characteristics of the individual; or the method used by the state to carry out the execution.

See also in Dutch: <http://weblogs.amnesty.nl/mensenrechtenvandaag/2016/07/29/het-verhaal-van-jeff-eeen-van-de-geexecuteerden-indonesie/>

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

Strangely enough, on 29-07-2016 the Jakarta Post ran a false story on 14 executions and later apologized for that: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/07/29/apology-from-jakarta-post.html>

For more Indonesian comments in English, see:

<http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/death-penalty-not-solution-drug-crimes-rights-group-warns/>; <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/authorities-constitutional-breach-drug-executions-continue-rights-group/>; <http://jakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/death-row-convicts-await-clemency-komnas-perempuan-slams-attorney-general/>

For Indonesian comments in Bahasa:

[http://www.hukumonline.com/berita/baca/lt579f0c1bd1b6a/polri-dan-tni-mesti-bongkar-pengakuan-freddy-budiman](http://www.hukumonline.com/berita/baca/lt579f0c1bd1b6a/polri-dan-tni-mesti-bongkar-pengakuan-freddy-budiman;);
<https://nasional.tempo.co/read/news/2016/07/31/078792113/eksekusi-mati-ylbhi-ancam-gugat-presiden>

AG Secures Job by Capitalizing on Executions: Watchdog

Jakarta Globe, 28-07-2016

H.M. Prasetyo has continued to secure his position as attorney general¹ despite President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's cabinet reshuffle due to his tenacity to execute drug convicts, Hendardi, chairman of political watchdog Setara Institute told Suara Pembaruan on Thursday (28/07).

"[Attorney General] Prasetyo, who lacks any [significant career] achievements, continues to capitalize on the executions [and the president's apparent zero tolerance policy on the issue] to mask his shortcomings in anti-corruption enforcement and resolving human rights violations," Hendardi said. Prasetyo, according to Hendardi, was in panic over the cabinet reshuffle as plans for the executions were already underway.

"The future of human rights is hardly [promising given that we have] an attorney general who has no interest in human rights. Moreover with [newly appointed] Chief Security Minister Wiranto, it is almost certain that Jokowi's campaign and promises on human

¹ In Indonesia the position of Attorney General is a position at ministerial level in the Cabinet.

rights would be hard to fulfill," Hendardi added. "[On an] evaluation of law enforcement process, drug eradication and penitentiary management should be the main priorities instead of taking the lives of death row convicts, which ultimately does not have any deterrent effect," Hendardi said.

Hendardi strongly condemned capital punishment saying that it is against basic human rights and its enforcement is a violation of the Indonesian constitution. "I refuse and condemn [capital punishment] and I urge the government to scrap death penalty sentences from the Indonesian legal system," Hendardi said.

Freedom of Religion

Police Name Twelve Suspects in North Sumatra Temple Attacks

The Jakarta Globe, 01-08-2016

Police have charged twelve people with robbery and vandalism after several Buddhist temples and monasteries were ransacked by mobs in the city of Tanjung Balai, North Sumatra, last weekend. "We've charged eight suspects with robbery and four with vandalism," North Sumatra Police spokeswoman Sr. Comr. Rina Sari Ginting said on Monday (01/08).

The incident on Saturday began when residents reportedly got angry at a woman of Chinese descent who they alleged protested against a mosque using loudspeakers to broadcast calls to prayers and recitals in front of her home in Tanjung Balai. The situation quickly escalated as provocations against the woman circulated on social media. Reports said at least five Buddhist houses of worship were damaged and burned down by the angry mob. No casualties were reported.

Rina said police have questioned more than 39 witnesses in the case. "There could be more suspects as we are still questioning other witnesses," Rina said. The country's second-biggest Muslim group, Muhammadiyah, has called for greater religious and racial tolerance following the Tanjung Balai attacks. The chairman of Muhammadiyah's youth organization, Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak, said the riots were intolerable and could damage Indonesia's religious and ethnic diversity.

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

Impunity

Controversy of 1965 Incident

TEMPO.CO, Jakarta, 25-07-2016. Commentary.

The government should not underestimate the results of the International People's Tribunal (IPT) on the events of 1965. It would be in vain to react strongly against the decision of the Court of the International Community, because it will only further tarnish Indonesia's image.

The IPT began its hearings in November 2015 and made a decision on Wednesday last week on the alleged human rights violations by the state during the period of 1965 to 1966.

The court declared that genocide had occurred in the eradication of supporters and members of the Indonesian Communist Party in 1965 and 1966.

The IPT also recommend the Indonesian government to apologize for the incident and to carry out an investigation.

The strong reaction was immediately shown by Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu, who considered the trial as a sham and aims to divide the Indonesian people. In the meantime, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan rejected that mass murder had occurred.

The IPT is not an official institution; however recommendation of this tribunal is quite influential. The same court ever prosecutes Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people, which ended with recognition of the world. Moreover, the conclusion that genocide took place in 1965 in a not a groundless allegation.

The government has insisted that massacres in 1965 and 1966 constitute a conflict of horizontal, rather than a vertical conflict which involves the state, so the state does not need to apologize to the victims. However, numerous evidence, including the results of the investigation the Commission in 2012, shows the presence of state interference in violence committed in various parts of the country.

Hundreds of thousands of people were killed and tens of thousands of people imprisoned for a dozen years without trial.

Signs of change was shown by President Jokowi during his speech in front of the Parliament on August 14, 2015 by claiming the government was trying to find a way out of the wisest and most noble way to resolve cases of human rights violations in the country, including reconciliation.

Governor of the National Resilience Institute Agus Widjojo and member of the Presidential Advisory Council, Sidarto Danusubroto, also held the symposium "Membedah Tragedi 1965" in April this year.

If the government is serious, there are two steps that that they can take related to the events in 1965 and 1966.

First, through legal channels. The results of the investigation done by the National Commission of Human Rights (Komnas HAM), which recommended the investigation, could be followed by Attorney General Office.

The second step is the non-judicial way by achieving reconciliation after the acknowledgment that gross human rights violations involving the state has been committed.

But both measures are still difficult to expect. Even now, a number of officials rejected the result of tribunal in The Hague. The government should respect the ruling of the IPT and attempt to settle the cases in 1965 and 1966 in a fair and dignified way.

Political developments

Cabinet reshuffle

The Jakarta Globe, 27-07-2016

Sri Mulyani Indrawati will return to the Finance Ministry post and Wiranto takes up the the new chief security post as President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo shakes up his cabinet for the second time to establish a new team. "We are facing many challenges. We must overcome

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

poverty and close the gap between the rich and poor, closing the disparity among regions," Jokowi said. "We have to strengthen our economy to face challenges in the global economy which is weakening and at the same time increasingly challenging," he added. "The challenges will be always changing; that needs speed to decide and speed in taking action," Jokowi said.

"I want the cabinet to give maximum efforts to work faster in a solid team so that the results can be perceived by public as soon as possible. Based on some considerations, I and Vice President Jusuf Kalla have decided the second cabinet reshuffle," Jokowi said.

Energy Minister Sudirman Said and Coordinating Maritime Minister Rizal Ramli were removed from their positions. The two have clashed several time, most notably in determining gas block location in South Maluku (Masela Block), that reflected sharp divisions within the cabinet.

Four ministers are swapped positions, including:

1. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan swapped from Coordinating Minister for Politic, Law and Security to Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs
2. Bambang Brodjonegoro swapped from Finance Minister to Head of National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
3. Sofyan Djalil swapped from Head of National Development Planning Agency to Spatial Planning Minister Ferry Mursyidan Baldan
4. Thomas Lembong swapped from Trade Minister to Head of Investment Coordinating Board

Jokowi also introduced nine new ministers:

1. Wiranto as Coordinating Minister for Politic, Law and Security

Wiranto, the founder of the the People's Conscience Party (Hanura Party), is replacing Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan as a Chief Security Minister. Both Luhut and Wiranto have military backgrounds. Former Army general Wiranto has extensive experience in handling

securities issues during the transition from the New Order to the Reformation era. Wiranto served as Chief Security Minister during Abdurahman Wahid presidency.

2. Sri Mulyani Indrawati as Finance Minister

Sri Mulyani, who is just about to finish her tenure as World Bank managing director and chief operating officer, is back to become a Finance Minister again after serving under former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The government claims the World Bank has allowed Sri Mulyani leaving her post effective immediately. She is replacing Bambang Brodjonegoro who has become the Head of National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)

3. Eko Putro Sanjoyo as Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Minister

Eko Putro Sanjoyo, a politician from Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa, is replacing Marwan Jafar as Villages, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Minister.

4. Budi Karya Sumadi as Transportation Minister

The president chose Budi to become Transport Minister replacing Ignasius Jonan. Prior to his tenure as Transport Minister, Budi served as the president director of the state airport operator Angkasa Pura II.

5. Muhadjir Effendi as Education Minister

Prof. Muhajir, who previously served as a dean at Muhammadiyah University in Malang, is replacing Anies Baswedan as minister for education.

6. Enggartiasto Lukita as Trade Minister

Enggar, a well-known businessman in property, is a National Democrat party politician. The former Realestat Indonesia chairman is replacing Thomas Trikasih Lembong to become a Trade Minister. Lembong will serve as Indonesia's Investment Coordinating Board chairman replacing Franky Sibarani.

7. Airlangga Hartanto as Industry Minister

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

Airlangga Hartato, who now serves as the Minister of Industry replacing Saleh Husin, is a Golkar Party politician. He was the chairman of Indonesia Listed Companies Association (AEI) during the 2011-2014 period. Related to his current post, he was the head of Commission VI of the House of Representatives overseeing industry, trade, small-medium enterprises, investment and state-owned companies.

8. Archanda Tahar as Energy Minister

Archandra Tahar has become the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister replacing Sudirman Said. Archandra, an Institut Teknologi Bandung alumnus, was behind the idea to build the Masela offshore block. He was asked by Pertamina in 2014 as an expert from the US-based Petroneering Consulting Houston to consult in the offshore L-Parigi project.

9. Asman Abnur as Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Minister

Asman Abnur, another politician, is a representation from Partai Amanat Nasional (PAN). He replacing Yuddy Chrisnandi as Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Minister

Indonesia: The appointment of Gen. Wiranto as top security official shows contempt for human rights

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, NEWSFLASH, 27 July 2016

President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo’s decision to make Gen. Wiranto Indonesia’s most powerful security official a mere day after Indonesia ordered the execution of 14 death row prisoners shows contempt for human rights, Amnesty International said today.

“This is adding insult to injury. A day after ordering a fresh round of executions, Jokowi has now decided to hand control of the country’s security apparatus to someone who was indicted for crimes against humanity by a UN sponsored tribunal,” said Josef Benedict, Deputy Director for South East Asia and the Pacific.

On 27 July 2016, Gen. Wiranto was appointed to the position of Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law, and Security Affairs. Gen. Wiranto was also publicly named as a suspect in the inquiry initiated in 1999 by Indonesia’s National Commission on Human Rights (Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia, Komnas HAM), but was never charged in Indonesia.

Komnas HAM concluded on the basis of its investigations that Gen. Wiranto was aware of the “widespread and organized” violations of human rights that occurred in 1999, at the time of the East-Timor referendum. It also concluded that Gen. Wiranto had ultimate responsibility for the breakdown of security in the aftermath of the announcement of the result of the ballot.

As Indonesia’s most powerful security official, Gen. Wiranto’s office now oversees many ministries and other state institutions, including the Attorney General who should have made criminal investigation and indictment based on the Komnas HAM’s findings.

In February 2003, the UN sponsored Special Panels for Serious Crimes of the Dili District Court, Timor-Leste indicted Gen. Wiranto, then the Indonesia’s Minister of Defence and Security, and Commander of Armed Forces, for crimes against humanity in connection with the events in East Timor in 1999.

Currently Gen. Wiranto is the chairman of the Hanura (People’s Conscience) Party who supported Joko Widodo during his 2014 presidential campaign. He ran unsuccessfully for President of Indonesia in 2004, and ran unsuccessfully for the vice-presidency in 2009.

Appointment of General (ret.) Wiranto as Minister confirms the deep-rooted impunity in Indonesia

ETAN, Tapol, Watch Indonesia, July 27, 2016

Three human rights groups, TAPOL, ETAN, and Watch Indonesia!, today criticized President Joko (Jokowi) Widodo’s appointment of former Indonesian Military (TNI) commander General (Ret.) Wiranto as Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs minister. Wiranto replaces General (Ret.) Luhut Pandjaitan. Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung, told the media that Wiranto was appointed “because he had been well-tested and was experienced in resolving various assignments, especially during the transition period from the New Order to the Reform era in the late 1990s.”

The cabinet secretary neglected to mention that Wiranto’s experience includes a long and dark record of human rights violations for which he has never been held accountable. “President Jokowi must annul his appointment of Wiranto and instead bring him to justice,” said Basilisa Dengen from Watch Indonesia! John M. Miller for the East Timor and

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) called the Wiranto appointment “an outrage.” He added that “Jokowi has clearly abandoned all pretense to concern about accountability and justice for past human rights crimes.”

Wiranto is the most senior Indonesian official indicted in 2003 by the United Nations’ Serious Crimes Unit, which was a section of the Office of the General Prosecutor of Timor-Leste (East Timor). By installing a human rights violator to a key security position, President Jokowi has insulted our sense for justice. He has turned his back to the victims, survivors and their families, and universal respect to human rights.

The appointment of Wiranto as a coordinating minister confirms that Jokowi’s does not consider human rights as a priority of his government. This is not the first time Jokowi appointed military generals with poor human rights records to his administration. Victims and human rights organizations have been waiting for Jokowi to fulfill his election promises to resolve a number of past and present human rights violations.

“By installing a human rights violator to a key security position, President Jokowi has insulted our sense for justice. He has turned his back to the victims, survivors and their families, and universal respect to human rights,” said Adriana Sri Adhiati of TAPOL.

TAPOL, ETAN, and Watch Indonesia! urge President Joko Widodo to prove his commitment to uphold human rights and resolve past human rights abuses. It is long overdue for the Indonesian government to reveal the truth and provide justice and reparations to the victims of human rights violations.

The groups also urge the Indonesian government to work with the Timor-Leste government to promote accountability for human rights violations in Indonesia and East Timor, particularly by implementing the recommendations of CAVR (Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation) and CTF (Commission for Truth and Friendship).

The groups also called for President Joko Widodo to apply a strict vetting policy before the appointment of his ministers in order to realise a respectable and competent government.

One Person Killed, Another Seriously Injured During Protest in Karo District

The Jakarta Globe, 30-07-2016

One person died and another was critically injured during clashes on Friday (29/07) between police and protesters opposed to the planned relocation of people who were affected by the recent eruption of Mount Sinabung in Karo district, North Sumatra, an official said.

The development of the relocation area for residents of GuruKinayan and Berastepu villages began with workers demolishing a fence that was previously erected by residents of Lingga village. The residents, claiming that the area is an access road leading to their village, gathered at a nearby police post to protest against the demolition. They then proceeded to block roads in the area.

After causing heavy traffic congestion, the protesters reopened the roads and headed back to the construction site. Later, around 400 protestors returned to the police post.

"Attack, kill, burn!" National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in a statement on Saturday, quoting what the protesters allegedly shouted at members of the Karo Police. Fifteen officers who were on duty at the post fled to the Karo Police headquarters to seek assistance when the protesters burned down part of the post as well as an excavator.

Police officers subsequently arrested five people and took them to the Karo Police headquarters for questioning. This prompted a large group of protestors to throw objects at the police headquarters. Police officers responded by firing warning shots and tear gas.

"The situation has been brought under control but the situation is still tense," Sutopo said. He added that 200 officers have been deployed to guard the Karo Police headquarters.

Successful tax amnesty may take rupiah to below 10,000/US\$: Analyst

The Jakarta Post, 01-08-2016

The rupiah may strengthen beyond 10,000 per US dollar, far from the current level of around 13,000, assuming that the tax amnesty program succeeds in repatriating the targeted Rp 1 quadrillion (US\$76.5 billion) of Indonesians’ offshore assets, an analyst says.

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 01-08-2016

Reaching the target, which is equal to the central bank's current foreign reserve assets, would clearly constitute a massive inflow because the repatriated dollar assets would have to be exchanged into rupiah, said NG Korindo Securities Head of Research Reza Priyambada. "If all the multi-billion dollar repatriated assets are converted into rupiah, based on a general estimation of its value, the rupiah will significantly appreciate against the US dollar to below 10,000," he said in an economic discussion in Bali on Saturday.

Mandiri Sekuritas economist Leo Putera Rinaldy, however, worried that the steep appreciation in the rupiah exchange due to massive inflows of the repatriated assets might harm the economy. "Indonesia needs a stable currency, as Bank Indonesia has previously highlighted. I believe the tax amnesty's effect on rupiah appreciation will be limited as the central bank will prevent volatile movement in the currency," he said.

Both Reza and Leo warned that the multi-billion inflows might lead to over-liquidity in financial markets, thus the government and Financial Service Authority must prepare instruments to absorb the assets and effectively disburse them into real sectors. (ags)

Supreme Court: Nurhadi's exit may mark top court reform

The Jakarta Post, 01-08-2016

The recent departure of Supreme Court secretary Nurhadi, a powerful man behind the top court's verdict administration, has shed light on real changes awaiting in the country's highest judicial institution.

Political pressures that have hammered him after being implicated in a graft case have driven the 59-year-old to tender early retirement, a year before his time. Nurhadi, who the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) has slapped with a travel ban in connection to a bribery case surrounding the handling of a case review filed by a subsidiary of the Lippo Group in April, tendered his resignation to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo days after the KPK confirmed it had opened a fresh investigation to further confirm Nurhadi's alleged role in the case. University of Indonesia's (UI) Indonesian Judicial Watch Society (MaPPI) called on the court to conduct open recruitment to seek Nurhadi's successor instead of conducting internal selection, which is not transparent. Open recruitment will ensure that the selected successor to Nurhadi is not chosen according to subjective criteria imposed by the court's chief and will also let outsiders with integrity and a good track record have an opportunity to compete for the job. "Law No. 5/2014 on the state apparatus allows

[the court] to conduct open selection to fill the post of Supreme Court secretary. The selection will open doors for civil servants and non-civil servant candidates to compete for the job," MaPPI researcher Aulia Ali Reza said in a statement on Sunday.

MaPPI said court officials could also join the open recruitment and that it did not matter whether the court secretary post was later filled by an internal official, as long as he or she passed the open recruitment process. "We call on the Supreme Court to carry out transparent selection of Nurhadi's successor to support efforts to reform the court," the NGO said.

In April, the KPK found Rp 1.7 billion (US\$129,200) in a search of his home. The money is believed to be related to the handling of several cases at the court, including the plea filed by Lippo. The KPK found difficulties in charging Nurhadi in the case because he had allegedly destroyed a number of documents related to the Lippo case, and the National Police have yet to allow the KPK to question his four adjutants, who are members of the police. The National Police chief said on Thursday that his side would allow the KPK to question the four police members in order for the KPK to step up its investigation.

Supreme Court chief justice Hatta Ali, known to be close to Nurhadi, is preparing three candidates to replace his subordinate, and one of them will be proposed to Jokowi for approval. However, signs of reform resistance at the court emerged once again after spokesman Suhadi hinted that the court preferred to appoint an internal official as Nurhadi's successor to continue his legacy as secretary and the head of an internal team to conduct reform at the court.

Court spokesman Suhadi said conducting open recruitment to fill the post left vacant by Nurhadi was a good idea, but the final decision on whether to take that route laid in the hands of court chief Hatta. "As of today, no decision has been made. An internal candidate to replace Pak Nurhadi would be ideal because he or she will already be familiar with internal affairs at the Supreme Court," Suhadi said.

In February, the KPK also allegedly caught red-handed Andri Trisianto Sutrisna, chief of the subdirector of appeals and special civil case second reviews at the court, accepting a bribe from graft convict Ichsan Suadi. Nurhadi made headlines in early 2014 for holding a lavish wedding reception for his daughter, with iPods distributed as mementos to around 2,500 guests.