

Impunity

Films screenings held in 23 cities in honor of Munir

The Jakarta Post, 05-09-2016

The House of Munir museum, or Omah Munir, and Sahabat Munir (Friends of Munir) activists will commemorate the 12-year anniversary of the death of the slain human rights campaigner with a series of movie screenings this week. This year's theme, according to Omah Munir volunteer Ucu Agustin, is "A Night to Pay Attention to Munir".

The screenings will be held from Sept. 4 to 11 in 23 cities, including Jakarta, Bandung, Medan, Surabaya, Bali, Makassar and Jayapura. The peak will be on Sept. 7, the day Munir Said Thalib, the founder of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) died after being poisoned aboard an airplane from Indonesia to Amsterdam in 2004. "We must remember that Munir's case is not settled yet," Ucu said on Sunday, as quoted by tempo.co. The movies to be shown were about Munir and social injustice, as the screenings aimed to draw society's attention to Munir's unresolved case. (...)

. Activists would also hold their weekly silent protest in front of the State Palace as part of efforts to commemorate the activist's death on Sept. 8, as every Thursday.



Suciwati, the wife of the late human rights campaigner Munir Said Thalib, shows off a street sign honoring her husband, in Jakarta in April 2015. The Dutch government officially named a street after Munir on April 14. (Antara/Reno Esnir)

All Amnesty International Documents on '1965' online



As a contribution to the effort to realize the right to the truth about the 1965 Tragedy, Amnesty International has made its 1965-documentation available on www.indonesia1965.org. This website makes accessible the original documentation that Amnesty International has researched, analysed and used for its activities in support of prisoners of conscience, against unfair trials, the death penalty, forced labour and other human rights violations. It is structured as an overview of the time and place, the type of human rights violations and type of documents.

This website now contains more than 200 documents that have been posted as .pdf documents. Under each document there is a toolbar which allows you to scroll through the document and zoom in and out. We have linked a number of categories and sub-categories to each document. All relevant tags are specified underneath each document. If you click on one of these tags you will see the complete selection on that search item. The documents have been structured in a way that the most recent one is appearing first. Scrolling down shows the older documents.

Because of our effort not to violate people's privacy more than necessary - even after fifty years - we have decided not to facilitate a search on an individual's name. So there is no category "persons", and no victims' names have been included in a document's titles (which are key in the search process). On the other hand, the documents we uploaded, have been public documents from the moment of publication, so the prisoners' names in the documents as such have not been made invisible.

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The main search facility is offered by a number of categories at the right hand side, which you can open by clicking on the icon. Then the menu of sub-categories will unfold where you can choose. This opens up the list of documents that have been tagged by the search term. When you click on the document title you open up the whole document.

We welcome your comments at m.meijer@amnesty.nl

Social, Economic and Cultural Rights

Environment Minister Condemns Hostage Situation Involving Palm Oil Company

The Jakarta Globe, 04-09-2016

Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar has condemned the hostage situation in Rokan Hulu district, Riau province, which saw employees of her ministry abducted by local residents during an investigation of last year's forest fires.

Seven members of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry's public order and law enforcement directorate were taken hostage on Friday (02/09) by a group of local residents, allegedly deployed by palm oil plantation company Andika Permata Sawit Lestari (APSL).

Initial investigations by the ministry team showed that a 2,000-hectare area had been burnt by APSL workers, who pretended to be local farmers. "Most likely, these illegal activities were supported by the company, who employed local farmer groups," Minister Siti said in a statement on Sunday.

The investigators were confronted by a group of more than 100 local residents, who prevented them from leaving the forest area. The group made several demands, including the erasure of all pictures and video footage captured during the investigation.

After series of communications with the ministry's public order and law enforcement director general, the team agreed to erase the files from their digital camera. However, the files taken by a drone camera were not deleted.

The group also demanded that the minister travels to the area before they would release the officials. They did not give any reasons for demanding the minister's presence. The group even threatened to set fire to their captives and throw their bodies into the river.

At around midnight, local police arrived on the scene to negotiate the officials' release. At around 2.30 a.m. on Saturday, following lengthy discussions, the local residents finally agreed to release the officials, but without their equipment. Police returned to the scene at Sunday morning to collect the team's equipment.

"Following this incident, the investigations against APSL will be our priority. We have three important things to address with this company," Siti said. "First, forest area encroachment. Second, forest burning. Third, the hostage situation. The ministry will investigate and take firm action in cooperation with the relevant authorities."

Wildfires have been a recurring problem in Indonesia over the past decade. The 2015 fires, described by observers as the worst on record, have destroyed vegetation on millions of hectares, afflicted more than half a million people with health problems, and resulted in billions of dollars in losses.

Bali Must Not Rest in a Comfort Zone: Governor

The Jakarta Globe, 03-09-2016

Denpasar. With many beautiful landscapes and amusements that attract millions of tourists and generate billions in income every year, Bali must not rest in a comfort zone, the island's governor said.

Many environmental activists believe current infrastructure developments, such as a toll road and reclamation of islands, have destroyed the traditional Balinese values and ruined many local lives.

The governor disagrees.

"This is not Bali of the 1950s. Advanced technology has been an integral part of our lives. That's why Bali and its people need to stay on the track of development," Bali Governor I Made Mangku Pastika told the Jakarta Globe on Saturday (03/09).

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Pastika said the competition to be the top tourist destination in Indonesia has already moved to another stage, as other provinces gear up their infrastructure to accommodate visitors. More than four million foreign tourists visit Bali every year.

"That's why we need to find a new way to keep the tourists coming here," he said, adding that traditional values will not vanish with progress. Pastika said the Balinese need to mend their hospitality as their livelihoods depends on tourism.

"I asked foreign tourists: how many times in their life would they want to see a Besakih temple? And they answered: 'one time; only one time.' Their experience will be bad if we are not hospitable enough," Pastika said during the monthly public forum where Balinese can direct complaints and propose new ideas directly to the governor.

Pastika said Bali needs to rely more on technology to make tourists stay longer on the island. "We don't want them to be one-time visitors. I will not rest when it comes to Bali's development. I will help the Balinese face the [tourism] competition," he said.

Police accountability

Two Drug Traffickers Shot Dead, Thousand Ecstasy Tablets Seized in Jambi Raid

The Jakarta Globe, 04-09-2016

Jakarta. Two alleged drug traffickers were shot dead and 1,000 ecstasy tablets were seized during a raid by the National Narcotics Agency, or BNN, in Jambi on Sunday morning (04/09).

The BNN's law enforcement unit head in Jambi, Adj. Sr. Comr. Marlian Ansori, said the two alleged smugglers were shot while resisting arrest during the raid, which took place in Bungo district at 4 a.m. "When we were about to arrest them, the suspects fought back and attempted to crash into the BNN cars. We fired warning shots but they ignored it," Marlian told reporters in Jambi.

Marlian added that the suspects were transporting the ecstasy tablets and a pack of crystal methamphetamine from West Sumatra to Jambi. "We will conduct further investigations in the Pulau Jambi area in Jambi, which was known as the base of the two suspects," Marlian said.

Police have yet to identify the two suspects, as none of their relatives have come forward to claim their bodies from the Raden Mattaher General Hospital in Jambi City.

Political developments

Corruption Witnesses Must Come Forward, Be Protected Papuan Agency Says

The Jakarta Globe, 01-09-2016

Jakarta. The Witness and Victim Protection Agency, or LPSK, has highlighted the effect corruption has in development across the archipelago and encouraging witnesses to come forward for the good of the country.

"You can see it from schools built with low quality and also from roads that always require fixing, leaving no opportunity to build more roads," Abdul Haris Semendawai, LPSK head, said in Jayapura, Papua, on Wednesday (31/08).

He said corruption has ruined the lives of Indonesians and urged the community to call out suspected acts of corruption, including the misuse of budgets, and report it to authorities.

The public should not hesitate in reporting these violations, he added, as they will be protected under the Law on Witness and Victim Protection.

LPSK has collaborated with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights regional office in Jayapura hosted the "Optimizing Disclosures of Corruption Through the Witness Protection, Rapporteurs and Witnesses" on Wednesday, inviting representatives from the High Court of Papua.

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Harli Siregar, assistant of general crimes at the High Court, said the implementation of witness protection is necessary in accordance with the Law on Witness and Victim Protection. Harli added that a witness can request protection from LPSK through authorities who will then get in touch with the agency. "Protection will be provided beginning from the stage of the investigation, until the trial. In fact, the judge must participate to protect the witnesses, as the witness also has rights," he said.

General Budi Gunawan nominated as head of Intelligence Agency BIN

The Jakarta Post, 02-09-2016

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has sent a letter to the House of Representatives nominating National Police deputy chief Comr. Gen. Budi Gunawan to replace Sutiyoso as the country's spy chief. State Secretary Pratikno delivered Jokowi's letter to the House on Friday, claiming that the replacement plan would support regeneration at the National Intelligence Agency (BIN).

House Speaker Ade Komarudin said the House would immediately process the nomination. House Commission I overseeing defense and foreign affairs would carry out screenings for Budi, he said.

"Our plan is to follow up the matter next week and we will hold a meeting with the leaders of political factions on Monday to decide on further details," Ade told journalists at the House complex.

Retired Army general and former Jakarta governor Sutiyoso has lead the agency since July 8 last year.

Budi is a close associate of President Jokowi's patron and chairwoman of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) Megawati Soekarnoputri. He found himself at the center of controversy in January last year after Jokowi withdrew Budi's name as a National Police chief candidate even though he had passed screenings at the House.

The withdrawal came after the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) declared Budi a graft suspect. Jokowi then appointed Gen. Badrodin Haiti as National Police chief and Budi as deputy chief.



Comr. Gen. Budi Gunawan attends a hearing at the House of Representatives in Jakarta on Jan. 4, when he was nominated as a National Police chief candidate by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. However, the President did not inaugurate him as police chief as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) moved to name him a graft suspect. Budi challenged the KPK by filing a pretrial motion and won the case. On Friday, Jokowi nominated him for the role of National Intelligence Agency (BIN) chief. (JP/DON)

Lawmakers have no opposition to Budi's BIN nomination

The Jakarta Post, 02-09-2016

Members of House of Representatives Commission I overseeing defense and foreign affairs have said they have no opposition to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's decision to nominate Comr. Gen. Budi Gunawan for the role of National Intelligence Agency (BIN) chief.

Commission I chairman Abdul Kharis Almasyhari said on Friday that he believed the President had considered the competencies of Budi, who is currently National Police deputy chief, in intelligence affairs, although the position is traditionally held by a member of the military. "The important thing is that [Budi] has proficiency in intelligence affairs as well as integrity. The President has evaluated [the traits] himself," said Abdul, a politician from the Prosperous Justice Party.

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Meanwhile, Commission I deputy chairman TB Hasanuddin said the nomination of a BIN chief candidate was a prerogative right of the President. He said his party, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), had no objection to Jokowi's decision.

The House's Steering Committee (Bamus) will soon schedule a plenary meeting to further deliberate Budi's nomination. The committee's deliberation is expected to occur next week, said Abdul, adding that Commission I would follow the process with an internal meeting to decide on the date of a screening for Budi.

Budi's BIN nomination could lead to rejuvenation of police: Imparsial

The Jakarta Post, 03-09-2016

Imparsial, a human rights watchdog, says the nomination of Comr. Gen. Budi Gunawan for psychief could help to rejuvenate the National Police. Should Budi take the helm of the National Intelligence Agency (BIN), the position of National Police deputy chief that he presently serves in will be left vacant, and thus someone younger than Budi could take his place, said Imparsial director Al-Araf. "He could be replaced by a candidate whose age is not too far from pak Tito," Al-Araf told The Jakarta Post, referring to National Police Chief Gen. Tito Karnavian.

Tito, who graduated from the police academy in 1987, is four years younger than Budi, who graduated from the police academy in 1983. The current National Police chief is the first of his graduating year to be granted a four-star rank.

Aside from the rejuvenation of the National Police, Budi's nomination could begin the process of reforming BIN into a more professional institution led by civilians from one previously dominated by military officials, in accordance with the nation's intelligence reform agenda, Al-Araf added. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo nominated Budi as BIN chief through an official letter delivered by State Secretary Pratikno to the House of Representatives on Friday.¹

¹Kompas (03-09-2016) brings up the whole affair of Commander-General Budi Gunawan in its Saturday paper: <http://epaper1.kompas.com/kompas/books/160903kompas/index.html#/3/>. Strange

that Budi's alleged corruption involvement - that was the reason of big controversy in January - is forgotten by the parliamentarians and also is not mentioned by Imparsial. The Anti-Corruption Commission KPK remains silent also.