

Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 14-11-2016

Freedom of Religion

Samarinda church attacked

The Jakarta Globe, 13-11-2016

Four people were injured when a Molotov cocktail exploded in front of a church in Samarinda district, East Kalimantan, on Sunday morning (13/11).

"It is true. Four people were injured, including a toddler," East Kalimantan Police chief Insp. Gen. Safaruddin told news portal Detik.com.

The incident occurred at around 10.30 a.m. local time during Sunday Mass at the Ecumenical Christian Church located in Jalan Cipto Mangunkusumo in Loa Janan Ilir village, Samarinda Seberang subdistrict. Four motorcycles were also damaged in the attack. The four victims were rushed to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. "The alleged suspect has been arrested," Safaruddin said.

The alleged attacker, who was only identified by the initial J., is a 33-year-old resident of Bogor, West Java. He reportedly wore a black shirt featuring the word "Jihad" when police arrested him.

The suspect in the Samarinda church bomb attack is a former terror convict who was released from jail in July 2014, police said on Sunday (13/11). Police arrested the alleged attacker, only identified by the initial J., less than three hours after the incident. National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Agus Rianto said the 32-year-old suspect was also involved in bomb attack on a gas pipeline in Tangerang, Banten, in March 2011.

In the same period, he was also involved in a series of parcel bomb attacks in Jakarta, targeting several public figures – including Liberal Islam Network founder Ulil Abshar Abdalla; Pemuda Pancasila chairman Yapto Suryo Soemarno; former National Narcotics Agency (BNN) chief Comr. Gen. Gories Mere; and rock star Ahmad Dhani. The suspect was sentenced to three years and six months' imprisonment in February 2012 for his involvement in the attacks. "J. was released on parole after receiving an Idul Fitri remission

on July 28, 2014. At the time, the suspect was held at the Samarinda Police's detention facility," Agus said, as reported by news portal Detik.com.

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Intan Marbun, a 2-year-old girl who was injured during the Samarinda Church attack, succumbed to severe burns on Monday (14/11), despite all efforts to save her life at Abdul Wahab Sjahranie Hospital in Samarinda, East Kalimantan.

"The victim died at 3.05 a.m. local time. She was a Sunday school student at Huria Kristen Batak Protestan Samarinda Seberang Church," National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Agus Rianto said in a statement.

Intan suffered from a respiratory tract infection and burns on over 78 percent of her body, Agus added.

Political developments

After the anti-Ahok rally

The Jakarta Globe, 12-11-2016

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo prayed together with 10,000 Muslims, including ulemas, preachers and elders in Ancol, North Jakarta, on Saturday (12/11).

Jokowi sat down accompanied by State Secretary Pratikno, Youth and Sports Minister Imam Nahrawi, Manpower Minister Hanif Dhakiri and state officials on the stage, facing the congregation who has waited since morning.

National Awakening Party (PKB) chairman Muhaimin Iskandar said he was happy about Jokowi's presence at the National Gathering of People's Ulemas. "The gathering is meant to pray for the president to have strength and success in leading all Indonesians to embody peace and justice," Muhaimin said.

He called on all parties to work hard, day and night, to improve the nation's welfare, and that these efforts should also coincide with prayers to ensure their success. "We prayed

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especially on this day as we feel emotions, worries, suspicions and heated up situations. We pray for Jakarta to be safe and comforting," he added. The politician said Indonesia is being tested both with domestic and foreign challenges. He therefore urged all parties to work harder in overcoming these challenges. "We implore the elders to calm the public; let us maintain our congregation on its straight path," Muhaimin said.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo was paraded around the Indonesian Navy headquarters in Cilandak, South Jakarta, on Friday morning (11/11), after an official ceremony.

Jokowi hesitated for a second when two marines lifted him up, but then he was carried away amid loud cheers from nearly 1,000 soldiers attending the ceremony.



In his speech, the president expressed hope for stability in Indonesia and appealed to the soldiers to defend the unity of the nation.

"I hope unity and peaceful everyday interactions will flourish in our country, and that it will remain safe and stable," Jokowi said.

The president said the navy has great power with its 31,000 members, who should act as true fighters, professionals and citizens.

There was a worrying call to impeach President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo during the latest anti-Ahok street protest on Nov. 4, but state administration law expert Margarito Kamis claimed it would be difficult to impeach the president since he has control of the parliament.

Margarito also said that a show of "people power" with massive street protests also cannot overthrow Jokowi from his position. "No, it would not be easy [to overthrow Jokowi]. The president is not in any real danger. The current system has made it impossible for people to overthrow him by taking to the streets," Margarito said in Jakarta on Saturday (12/11).

According to the expert, Jokowi has managed to secure support from most of the political parties in the House of Representatives, so he would not be unduly worried by the impeachment threat. If someone wants to impeach the president, they should look up how to do it in the Indonesian constitution, Margarito said.

"It's in the 1945 Constitution. There should be an 'accuser,' then the House decides whether the impeachment charge is justified and after that the verdict will be examined at the Constitutional Court. If the Constitutional Court approves it, only then the MPR [People's Representatives Council] can convene to impeach the president," Margarito said.

"Only the MPR can decide to impeach the president or not. So, it's very complicated," he added. Any attempt to overthrow Jokowi by conducting more street protests is against the constitution, according to the pundit.
