



Kompas, 24-06-2017

### Freedom of Religion

#### **Jokowi Welcomes Leaders of Hardline Islamist Groups to State Palace on Idul Fitri**

Jakarta Globem 26-06-2017

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo welcomed leaders from hardline Islamist organizations Guardians of the Indonesian Ulema Council's Fatwas, or GNPf-MUI, and the Islamic Defenders' Front, or FPI, to the State Palace on Sunday (25/06).

GNPF-MUI's leader Bachtiar Nasir and deputy M. Zaitun Rasmin, along with FPI head Muhsin Alatas, met with the president in the afternoon, after the Eid prayer.

Chief Security Minister Wiranto, Religious Affairs Minister Lukman Hakim Saifuddin and State Secretary Pratikno were also present at the meeting.

"We encouraged Pak Nasir and associates to strengthen the silaturahmi [communal bonds]," Pratikno said, as quoted by state-run news agency Antara.

"The meeting was requested by them," the secretary said, adding that the president believes the State Palace should welcome anyone, without exception.

In the meeting, GNPf-MUI reportedly expressed support for government efforts in developing the country, and asked for a direct line of communication with Jokowi in the future. It is not clear whether the president plans to approve that request.

Both organizations staged a series of rallies in Jakarta during the capital's gubernatorial election earlier this year and called for incumbent Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama's resignation and imprisonment for blasphemy charges. Last month, Basuki, a close friend of the president and his former deputy governor of Jakarta, was sentenced to two years in prison.

Anies Baswedan, Jakarta Governor-elect and Jokowi's former education minister, visited the president earlier on Sunday. Deputy Governor-elect Sandiaga Uno, along with failed candidates Agus Harimurty Yudhoyono and brother Edhie Baskoro Yudhoyono also met with the president.

Anies told reporters that he and the president discussed nothing about recent politics or work. "We just exchange greetings," Anies said.

### Freedom of Expression

#### **Protests and Side Event on Press Freedom in West Papua as Indonesia hosts World Press Freedom Day**

<http://www.humanrightspapua.org/news/23-2017/233-side-event-on-press-freedom-in-west-papua-as-indonesia-hosts-world-press-freedom-day>

The Indonesian government together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Indonesian Press Council (PWI) hosted the 24th annual celebration of World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) at the Jakarta Convention Center

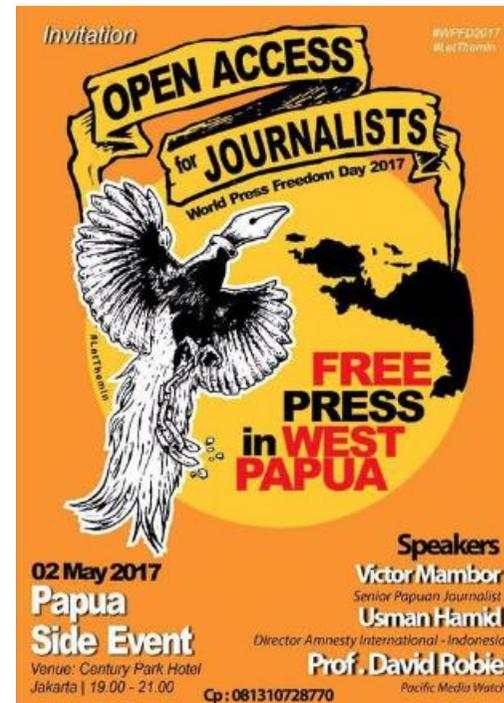
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JCC in Senayan from 1st to 4th May 2017. The WPFDF is held to make an annual evaluation of global press freedom; to stand up for the independence of the press; and to pay tribute to those who have lost their life carrying their journalistic duties. The celebration with the slogan “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s Role in Advancing Peaceful Just and Inclusive Societies” was attended by approximately 1.500 participants from 100 countries. In the run-up to the event, civil society organisations and journalists had protested against the WPFDF in Indonesia, considering the restrictions on Press freedom in the country’s easternmost provinces Papua and Papua Barat. The irony of Indonesia hosting the WPFDF 2017 has inter alia been noted by the international newspaper Guardian.

In light of the media situation in West Papua, activists and students carried out a protest during outside the JCC main building (see picture on top). Moreover, a coalition of Indonesian journalist and CSOs arranged an unofficial side event at the Century Park Hotel in Jakarta on 2nd May 2017 to raise awareness on the lack of press freedom in West Papua. Resource persons for the public discussion were Tabloid Jubi founder, Victor Mambor, the head of Indonesia Amnesty International, Usman Hamid, and director of the Auckland University of Technology’s Pacific Media Centre, Professor David Robie (see picture on the left). Veronica Koman, a human rights lawyer and organizer of the side event, stated in an interview with the Jakarta Post that “Human rights abuses in Papua are related to press restrictions [in Papua]. We are trying to raise awareness [about press freedom in Papua] by inviting journalists and participants of World Press Freedom Day to the side event,”.

The protection and fulfillment of media freedom is an important component in realizing ‘freedom of expression’ in West Papua. According to the Indonesian Association of Independent Journalists (AJI), the acts of violence and intimidation against journalists in the provinces of Papua and Papua Barat still frequently occur. AJI documented 63 cases of violence against journalists in West Papua between 2012 and 2016. Local journalists, particularly those of indigenous Papuan origin, are at high risk of becoming victims of intimidation, threat and arrest because security force members often stigmatize them as separatists during coverage of political related activities. The most recent assault on a Papuan journalist occurred on 1st May 2017, one day before the side event in Jayapura. A photographer for the local news outlet Tabloid Jubi named Yance Wenda, was allegedly arrested and beaten by police officers as he covered a political demonstration by the West Papua National Committee (KNPB).

Various Websites reporting human rights violations in West Papua are subjected to censorship in Indonesia. After suarapapua.com was banned in 2016, the government has also blocked multiple websites including ampnews.org, infopapua.org, papuapost.com, freepapua.com, freewestpapua.org, bennywenda.org and ulmwp.org. Another issue which was discussed at the side event, were the ongoing restrictions for foreign journalists in West Papua. Throughout 2015 and 2016, authorities used various repressive strategies against foreign journalists including intimidation, bureaucratic obstruction and physical attacks to prevent journalists from covering politically sensitive events in or related to West Papua. This picture contradicts President Joko Widodo’s statement during his official speech on Indonesia’s Independence Day on the 14th August 2015.



The side event was also attended by over a dozen state intelligence officers who tried to stop the event. When organizing committee members refused to halt the side event,

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police showed an objection letter signed by Yosep ‘Stanley’ Adi Prasetyo, head of Indonesia’s Press Council. The Indonesian Press Council (IPC) is an independent body given its mandate by Indonesia’s Law on the Press. In a public interview with the Jakarta Post, Yosep Prasetyo justifying his letter by saying that “ This is an international forum. What we are discussing are the relations between Indonesian and international issues [...] We cannot solve the matter [at the WPF event], only Jokowi’s administration can. Other countries can’t meddle in this affair, because of non-interference principles”. Regardless of the IPC letter, the side event continued. However, committee member said that police officers harassed them by making phone calls and personal visits to their office.

See also: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/may/03/happy-press-freedom-day-from-sunny-indonesia>

### Social-economic Rights

#### **The 0.1 Percenter: Millionaire Households Control Half of Indonesia's Wealth**

Jakarta Globe, 20-06-2017

A tiny number of millionaire households will control more than 50 percent of Indonesia's financial wealth — around \$900 billion — by 2021, a new report from Boston Consulting Group showed, making it harder for the government to end economic inequality in the country. The BCG report said 34,000 high net-worth households, or 0.1 percent of Indonesia's total households — defined as those with more than \$1 million worth of assets — will control 51.8 percent of the country's financial wealth — in bonds, cash and deposits as well as in equities — by 2021. Last year, there were only 27,000 millionaire households, controlling 49 percent of the wealth.

Such level of wealth concentration reflected a trend that is also happening in the rest of the world, BCG said in its report — "Global Wealth 2017: Transforming the Client Experience" — published last week.

"The number of millionaire households is increasing at a higher rate than in 2015, driven by strong growth in equities. Their share of overall wealth also continued to grow in 2016

— a trend that shows no sign of stopping," BCG said in the report. "Such households are expected to hold slightly more than half of total global wealth by 2021," the consulting firm said.

In Indonesia, BCG data from 2016 showed millionaire households held only between 58 to 65 percent of their wealth in cash last year. The households also tend to put more money in equity in line with the size of their wealth, allowing them to tap into robust increase in stock prices. Over the next four years, Indonesia's stock market is expected to provide an annual equity risk premium of 8 percent — or a return of 8 percentage points higher than the return from the benchmark government bond rate.

In comparison, households owning less than \$1 million put 75 percent of their wealth in cash and deposits, which would only generate an annual return of 6 percent over the period, BCG said.

Indonesia's total financial wealth would reach \$900 billion in total by 2021, up by a third from \$600 billion last year, according to the BCG Global Wealth Market-Sizing Database 2017. That represents a compounded annual growth rate of 10.8 percent, higher than 9.9 percent for the Asia Pacific region and 6 percent globally, BCG said.

That level of growth in new wealth creation owes its existence to higher gross domestic product and saving rate, BCG said. The firm estimated Indonesia's GDP would increase to Rp 21,476 trillion (\$1.6 trillion) in 2021, from just Rp 12,407 trillion last year. In the next four years, the country's households would set aside 4.77 percent of their disposable income in saving, up slightly from 4.61 percent last year.

Peter McCawley, an economist from the Australian National University, said the Asia Pacific region, including Indonesia, has seen rapid growth in the past five decades and is expected to maintain it in the future thanks to a commitment in economic development, keeping the peace and pursuing good policies.

But economic inequality will remain a challenge in this part of the world, according to McCawley. "During a period with burst of growth, usually only certain groups benefit from it in the early stage.... With increasing income, it should be easier to implement redistribution policies," McCawley said in a recent interview with the Jakarta Globe.

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Indonesia has just recovered from its worst inequality level, reflected by a Gini ratio reading of 0.41 in 2013. The government's effort to boost infrastructure development and implement universal health care, among others, managed to reduce the Gini ratio to 0.394 by the end of 2016.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has made economic and social equality a priority for his administration this year, with a focus on providing equal access to health care, education and economic means for all Indonesians, after concentrating on infrastructure development in his first two years in office.

While Jokowi is still enjoying support from the majority of Indonesian, he may want to take a cue from the recently-concluded Jakarta governor election in which infrastructure development alone failed to attract voters who are more concerned with how they can eke out a living, local observers said. "I think it's important to have democracy, because it gives those who are unlucky an opportunity to air their grievances," McCawley said.

McCawley noted the government holds a key role to lower inequality level. Among others, it should be more efficient in collecting taxes to increase public spending. It also has to ensure the money it spends has an effective and lasting impact.

"There needs to be better redistribution of tax and government spending, but Indonesia is not quite there yet. There is a lot of talk about it, but most of it is just rhetoric at the moment," McCawley said.

### Political developments

#### **Human Rights Commission to Investigate Acid Attack on Antigraft Investigator**

Jakarta Globe, 20-06-2017

Indonesia's Human Rights Commission, or Komnas HAM, and antigraft activists said on Tuesday (20/06) they are forming a joint fact-finding team to investigate the acid attack on senior antigraft investigator Novel Baswedan, since the police probe into the case seems to have hit a brick wall.

The fact-finding team will give its recommendations directly to President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. Police investigation into the case has run for more than two months but failed to find any suspects.



Novel Baswedan is currently being treated in Singapore. He has suggested a police general was involved in the attack ("a non-technical matter"?). The head of the country's antigraft agency said on Monday (19/06) that he will accompany police investigators to Singapore to meet with Novel Baswedan. No date has been set yet for this interview.

Questions are mounting over the investigation as human rights commissioners declared the attack an "extraordinary case." "Because this is an extraordinary case, it shouldn't be handled conventionally," Maneger Nasution of Komnas HAM told the press. "We've agreed to form a joint fact-finding team." The team is expected to come up with recommendations for the president within three months and will include police officers and antigraft experts among its members. Among them are former Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) commissioners Bambang Widjojanto and Busyro Muqqodas and former Police Academy lecturer Bambang Umar.

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Police have questioned dozens of witnesses in their investigation into the attack, in which two unknown men threw acid on Novel's face near his home in South Jakarta in April. Novel was leading a KPK investigation into a graft case involving the procurement of electronic identity cards, which allegedly implicated dozens of top government officials and lawmakers.

Maneger said the police might have faced "non-technical matters," which will be the focus of the fact-finding team's work. "[The investigation failure] isn't a technical matter. The police have that covered. What they're facing are non-technical issues. This is what we'll scrutinize," he said.

### Papua

#### **The West Papua Network reports on the UPR session in Geneva on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

On 3rd May 2017, the human rights situation in Indonesia was reviewed for the 3rd time as part of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. This review was significantly different from previous reviews: Past Indonesian UPR delegations of 2008 and 2012 had tried to pull focus from the human rights situation in West Papua by addressing human rights issues of national relevance, such as the freedom of belief or migrant workers' rights. For the 2017 review, the Indonesian delegation had chosen a different strategy, by providing information on various state efforts to address the human rights situation in West Papua. At the same time, one could observe the general trend that state parties prioritized recommendations referring to national issues, such as the protection from discrimination of women, LGBTI persons (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Inter-sex), religious minorities and people living with disabilities, as well as the abolishment of the death penalty during this third review.

Read the full, very extensive article, with summaries of the ministers' statements:

<http://www.humanrightspapua.org/news/23-2017/235-human-rights-in-indonesia-under-review-at-the-upr-eight-countries-address-human-rights-situation-in-west-papua>