



Peace Brigades International Indonesia Project

Yayasan Bina Perdamaian Internasional Indonesia

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MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN – PBI INDONESIA

JULY 2008.

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1. INDONESIAN POLITICAL OVERVIEW ↔

1.1 NATIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS ↔

Grassroots and Human Rights Initiatives

Committee to Save National Resources formed

- On the 28th July, the formation of the Komite Penyelamat Kekayaan Negara (Committee to Save National Resources) was announced with many prominent figures, including former president Wahid, former head of the upper parliamentary house (MPR) Amien Rais, and the poet/activist Rendra playing a central role. The committee aims to push for a fair law on the selling off of national assets, investigate the rise in subsidized fuel prices and, according to Rendra, push for the inclusion of traditional law into a legal system that is too centralistic and influenced by Dutch law.

Push for government re-conceptualization of coastal and small island management law

- On the 21st July, a group of NGOs attached to the coalition for fishery justice met with the government in order to re-conceptualize law UU 27/2007 concerning coastal and small island management. They are concerned with the marginalization of community rights as well as a functional marginalization of social, cultural and ecological rights within coastal and small island areas.

Legend

↑=overall situation improved

↓=overall situation worsened

↔=overall situation remains similar

All conditions compared to previous months

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Impunity and Access to Justice

Police case file of Muchdi Purwoprandjono's involvement in the murder of Munir incomplete

- The case file on ex vice head of National Intelligence Body (BIN) Muchdi Purwoprandjono was handed back to the police by the Attorney Generals office on the 15th July stating it was incomplete. Muchdi was detained by police on June 19th which, under Indonesian law, gave police until 18th July to complete the dossier on the suspect. The police are expected to resubmit the case file by the end of the month. Meanwhile Jaringan Solidaritas Korban untuk Keadilan (Victim Solidarity Network for Justice) held a demonstration outside the Presidential Palace on the 17th July in support of justice in the Munir case.

Ahmadiyah

- Ahmadiyah- demonstrations by Muslims groups calling for the complete banning of Jemaah Ahmadiyah Indonesia (JAI) have continued this month. On the 4th July members of Forum Umat Indonesia, gathered in Makassar to demand the government ban the sect altogether. Meanwhile, Religious Affairs Minister Basyumi stated on 28th July that the Ahmadiyah issue was not yet finished stressing the need to return them (Ahmadiyah members) to the true teachings of Islam, and that the Indonesian Ulama Council (MUI) would play a pivotal role in this issue.

Land rights and the Environment

Anti-Corruption Commission uncovers corruption in the Forestry Commission

- Yusuf Emir Faisal, a member of parliament for Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa was arrested on the 10th July by the Anti-Corruption Commission for his alleged involvement in the selling of forested land in South Sumatra. Yusuf was head of the Parliamentary Forestry Commission in mid 2006. He, along with Sarjan Taher (a member of parliament for the Partai Demokrat), is accused of accepting bribes from Chandra Antonio, chairman of PT Chandratex. PT Chandratex intended to turn 600 hectares of forest into an office complex and international harbor. The case is further complicated by the fact that the money handed to Yusuf from Chandra, 5 billion RP, was agreed by everyone in the Parliamentary Forestry Commission. According to Vice-Head of the Anti Corruption Commission, Haryono Umar, 3.49 Billion RP are still unaccounted for implying the possibility of new suspects. This is one of many ongoing corruption cases with the Anti-Corruption Commission also uncovering the involvement of 54 members of parliament in a separate corruption case involving Bank Indonesia.

Kalimantan rainforest destruction continues

- It was reported in the newspaper *Kompas* that 209,547 hectares of rainforest in Kalimantan have been destroyed. The destruction has been continuing for a long time with no counter-action being taken as yet.

PBI client WALHI continues to push for victim justice over East Java Mudflow

- Independent research published in the academic journal '*Earth and Planetary Science Letters*' has concluded that the May 2006 East Javanese mudflow was caused by drilling and not the Central Java earthquake. The mudflow, which continues to this day, occurred in an area where PT Lapindo were drilling and has so far led to environmental, economical and personal damage as well as leading to the death and displacement of surrounding villagers. To date, PT Lapindo has yet to be held accountable for the mudflow as they claim it was caused by the May 2006 earthquake. WALHI along with local villagers and other environmental NGO's continue to push for victim justice within the case as, so far, those affected by the mudflow have received no compensation from PT Lapindo.

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- The Indonesian General Election Commission (KPU) has announced that 34 political parties including 6 local parties from Aceh have passed the registration process to participate in the April 2009 elections. The announcement comes despite an annulment by the Constitutional Court over a recent election law which erases the electoral threshold current parliamentary parties needed in order to automatically qualify. The announcement officially opens the 9 month national campaign season with corruption and the rise of oil prices likely campaign battlegrounds. A major challenge faced by all parties is increasing voter disillusionment that, measured by blank/absent votes, has been an increasing problem in local elections, most recently in the East Java Governor elections on 23rd July 2008 where those who did not vote averaged between 30-40%.

Three Executions carried out

- The execution of Ahmadi Suradji for the murder of several women occurred on the 10th July. On the 19th July Susmiarsih and Sugeng, both accused with the murder of the Purwanto family in 1989, were also executed. This brings the total number of executions carried out by the state this year to five with the three Bali bombing suspects, Amrozi, Ali Gufron and Iman Samudra facing execution before the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan (which begins in September) this year. The possibility of a death sentence for those accused of corruption has also become a public discussion with the head of the upper parliamentary house (MPR) Hidayat Nurwahid saying he supports such measures, as would General (retired) Wiranto if his bid to become president were successful.

Change in Military Chiefs of Staff

- On Tuesday 1st July, former naval chief of staff Sumardjono was replaced by Admiral Madya Tedjo Edhy Purdijatno, former Chief of Military General Staff, in a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace. During the ceremony, Admiral Purdijatno stated the need to continue the construction of a modern Indonesian Navy but under the coordination of the Panglima (commander of military forces) General Djoko Santoso, as such a development needs to be in conjunction with the total military budget and strategy. This includes the construction of eleven naval depots throughout Indonesia. So far only one such depot is undergoing construction in Merauke. Meanwhile, on the same day, the chief of Indonesia's special forces (Komando Pasukan Khusus or KOPASSUS) Major General Soernarko was also replaced by Brigadier General Pramono Edhie Wibowo. Wibowo, the son of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's brother-in-law, stated he would continue with the current programs and plans put in place by his predecessor.

Four shot dead in gun battle with Police in Aceh

- Four citizens from Aceh, who were reported to be armed, were shot and killed at a Pesantren (Islamic school) in Desa Babah Krueng, Kecamatan Beutong, Kabupaten Nagan Raya, Aceh in a gunfight with local police and Brimob on the 15th July. One further person was arrested during the incident and remains in police custody. After the incident the police found weapons along with the flag of Partai Aceh (the flag is also the former flag of GAM) at the Pesantren. Nevertheless the police ruled out the possibility of a re-emergence of GAM with the motivations behind the incident remaining unclear.

1.2 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONS WITH A PBI PRESENCE ↔**Grassroots and Human Rights Initiatives**Investigation of past Human Rights abuses in Papua

- The National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) will launch an investigation into Human Rights violations that took place between 1963 and 2002 in Papua with results being presented to a plenary meeting next month to see whether further field

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investigation is warranted. Investigation in Human Rights abuses by non-state parties, including separatists groups and foreign institutions has also been requested. This investigation is taking place despite protest from the Attorney Generals Office.

Impunity and Access to Justice

Arrests over the raising of the Morning Star Flag continue

- Forty-six people were arrested in Fak-Fak during the early hours of the 19th July for raising the Morning Star flag. Most were later released but six are due to be charged with Pasal-Pasal Makar (treason) which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. A further three are being charged under Emergency Law Number 12 Article 21 with the possession of weapons. Statements by the Deputy Head of the parliamentary defense committee, Yusra Ihza Mahendra as well as parliamentary member Djoko Susilo have stated their concern over foreign involvement in the case, including the involvement of foreign NGOs in Papua, although the Head of the National Police Community Relations Office (Humas Markas) Abubakar Natraprawira has stated that his investigation viewed the raising of a flag was an act solely to show the existence of such a pro-independence group. Meanwhile, the trial against the eleven men in Manokwari similarly charged with Pasal-Pasal Makar (treason) started on the 3rd of July.

Other

Several cases of fighting between soldiers and civilians break out

- Fighting between small numbers of citizens and the Military occurred this month. 3 such incidents occurred in Jayapura (5th July), Sarmi, Kabupaten Sarmi Papua (29th June) and Kampung Skamto, Keerom 29th June. Although no one was killed several people had to go to hospital to attend to injuries including broken bones.

Cholera Epidemic in Lembah Kamu claims 172 lives

- According to the head of Biro Keadilan Perdamaian dan Keutuhan Ciptaan (KPKC) Kemah Injili Gereja Masehi Indonesia Pendeta Benny Giay, chairman KPKC Sinode Gereja Kristen Injili Pendeta Dora Balubun, and Sekretariat SKP Jayapura, Fr. Saul Wanmbo, 172 adults and children have died due to a cholera epidemic from April to 21st July 2008. The epidemic has spread to 17 villages in two districts in Lembah Kamu and to two villages in Paniai. The Advocacy Coordinator for PBI client PBHI Easti Nuringdyah has expressed concern over the cholera epidemic and raised concern as no concrete action has yet been taken by Nabire Regional Government or Papua Province Government causing anger and suspicion within the community that the government is letting native Papuans suffer.

Changes in the Military Command of KOREM 172/PWY

- On Friday 25th July 2008, Kol CZI I Made Sukadana took over the office of Commander of Jayapura District Military Command (KOREM) 172/PWY from Kol Kav Burhanudin Siagan. His previous post was Assistant to the General Army Staff in Semarang and this will be his third assignment to Papua. The first was from 1984-1985 when he commanded a military post in Yapil Distrik Okbibab and the second was from 1995-1997 as Pabandya of Kodam/Trikora. He states he will continue the policies of his predecessor Siagan.

Split between Papua and West Papua formally comes into effect

- On Tuesday 1st July, Government Regulation No. 1/2008 concerning the change in Law No. 21/2001 on the special autonomy of Papua Province has come into effect. The Regulation states that former Irian Jaya Province has now become Papua and West Papua province (formerly West Irian Jaya province), both of which have been given special autonomy. The official split of Irian Jaya into Papua and West Papua was supported by all major national political factions. The status of Papua and West Papua has been heavily debated with frequent changes in the structure of local government.

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For example on the 21st June, in Wamena, Home Minister Mardiyanto announced the creation of 5 new districts (kabupaten) under the policy of decentralization (pemekaran) and based on law No.3 -7/2008.

1.3 EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS ↔

Indonesian-East Timor Commission of Truth and Friendship report submitted

- The joint Indonesian-East Timorese Commission of Truth and Friendship (CTF) presented their report on the violence surrounding East Timor's referendum on independence in 1999 in Bali on the 15th of July. The report found Indonesia bore responsibility for 'institutional violence' stating that General (retired) Wiranto, who served as Defense Minister and Head of the armed forces at the time, knew and supported the pro-autonomy militias, while Lieutenant General (retired) Prabowo Subianto came to East Timor in 1998 and met with pro-integration figures. The report was formally accepted by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the first acknowledgement by Indonesia that its armed forces were involved in Human Rights abuses, although a formal apology was ruled out. Following the report, Indonesia and East Timor signed an agreement not to continue legal investigations in Indonesian Human Rights abuse in East Timor.

ASEAN Summit

- The high level panel on the drafting of the ASEAN Human Rights body officially convened on the 21st July 2008 at the 41st ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Singapore. Although the meeting was marred by signs of public tension between member states after Singapore's Prime Minister Lee's comments on the slow pace of ratification regarding the ASEAN charter by certain member states (including Indonesia), the meeting of the Human Rights panel is a significant move by a collective of countries that include the military regime of Burma. The panel is expected to complete its work by next July and submit a first draft at the upcoming ASEAN Summit in Bangkok. The body should have three functions; monitoring, research as well as investigation, and should be able to receive cases from ASEAN citizens after they are dealt with at a national level. Although the mandate will not be as powerful as many initially thought, it is nevertheless a step in the correct direction as, currently, only four ASEAN members have Human Rights Commissions; Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

2. ACTIVITIES OF PBI INDONESIA

2.1 SUMMARY OF TEAM STATUS

PBI currently maintains three sub-teams within Indonesia, one based in Jakarta and two in Papua; Jayapura and Wamena.

Jakarta Sub-Team: Arthur (Netherlands), Gerrit (Germany), Hanna (Germany), Angela (Germany), Lorene (France), Johanna (Germany)

Wamena Sub-Team: Jacob (Canada), Marsha (Russia), Esther (UK)

Jayapura Sub-Team: Linda (UK), Jane (UK), Henning (Germany), Thierry (France), Sophie (UK)

MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN PBI INDONESIA PROJECT-JULY 2008**2.2 MEETINGS WITH AUTHORITIES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS**

Meetings with the authorities and diplomatic corps are essential in order to socialize the work of PBI as well as enable such work to be carried out. These meetings also provide room for PBI to express concerns about current issues and situations of which we have first hand knowledge due to the field work carried out by the teams. The following meetings were held during July:

Indonesian Authorities

- 03/07/2008 Head of Residential Police, Wamena, Jayawijaya (Wamena team).
- 17/07/2008 Mabes, National Police Department for Education of Human Resources (Jakarta team).
- 24/07/2008 Mabes, National Police Security Information Body (Jakarta team).
- 22/07/2008 Head of Residential Police, Jayapura (Jayapura team).
- 24/07/2008 Wilayah Hukum and HAM, Jayapura (Jayapura team).

Diplomatic Corps

- 08/07/2008 Meeting with two staff members from the Australian Embassy, including one whose duty focuses on Papua (Wamena team).
- 01/07/2008 Canadian national day celebration at Canadian Embassy (Jakarta team).
- 14/07/2008 Spanish Embassy (Jakarta team).
- 15/07/2008 German Embassy (Jakarta team).
- 18/07/2008 Dutch Embassy (Jakarta team).

2.3 MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

PBI Indonesia Project maintains regular contact within Indonesian civil society through regular meetings with civil society organizations. By doing so, we are able to gather and exchange information, monitor the current Human Rights situation and develop an in depth analysis of the internal political situation. The following meetings were held during July:

Meetings carried out by Jakarta sub-team

- 01/07/2008 Sunspirit, Acehnese dance and art organization, Jakarta.
- 02/07/2008 Pluralism and Women, Jakarta.
- 09/07/2008 Visit to event organized by Sunspirit, Jakarta.
- 09/07/2008 & 16/07/2008 WALHI-Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (*Indonesian Forum for the Environment*), Jakarta.
- 10/07/2008 Common Ground, Jakarta.
- 11/07/2008 ELSAM/YLBHI-Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (*Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation*), Jakarta.
- 15/07/2008 Suciwati and Usman Hamid (Head of KontraS HAM), Jakarta.
- 21/07/2008 KASUM-Komite Aksi Solidaritas untuk Munir (*Munir Solidarity Committee*), Jakarta
- 22/07/2008 Imparsial, Jakarta.
- 28/07/2008 Seminar organized by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta.
- 29/07/2008 PBHI- *Perhimpunan Bantuan Hukum dan HAM Indonesia (Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association)*, Jakarta

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- 31/07/2008 Discussion forum about elections 2009 organized by the Habibie Center, Jakarta.
- 31/07/2008 Discussion forum about Papua organized by ELSAM Lembaga Studi dan Advokasi Masyarakat (Institute for Community Study and Advocacy), Jakarta.

Meetings carried out by Jayapura sub-team

- 03/07/2008, 7/7/2008 & 28/7/2008 PBHI/KSA- *Perhimpunan Bantuan Hukum dan HAM Indonesia (Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association)*, Jayapura.
- 03/07/2008 Medicins Du Monde, Jayapura
- 10/07/2008 JAPH&HAM- *Jaringan Avokasi Penyadaran Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia (Advocacy Network for Upholding Law and Human Rights)*, Jayapura
- 11/07/2008 Foker LSM Papua- *Forum Kerja LSM Papua (Working Forum of NGOs Papua)*, Jayapura
- 18/07/2008 Debar, Jayapura
- 17/07/2008 & 18/7/2008, Matius Murib from KontraS Papua, Jayapura
- 16/07/2008 & 17/7/2008 Pendeta Eson, Jayapura.
- 21/07/2008 International Relief and Development, Jayapura
- 28/07/2008 International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Jayapura.

Meetings carried out by Wamena sub-team

- 01/07/2008, 15/07/2008 & 24/07/2008 JAPH&HAM- *Jaringan Avokasi Penyadaran Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia (Advocacy Network for Upholding Law and Human Rights)*, Wamena
- 09/07/2008, 17/07/2008, 24/07/2008 & 31/07/2008 World Peace Day committee meeting, Wamena
- 09/07/2008 Sunspirit, Jakarta
- 10/07/2008 Search For Common Ground, Jakarta
- 16/07/2008 PBHI Jakarta, Wamena
- 17/07/2008 Sanggar Seni (Artists Collective), Wamena
- 18/07/2008, 21/07/2008 & 24/07/2008 YSBA, Yayasan Silimo Bina Adat (Space for Culture Foundation), Wamena
- 23/07/2008 MAF (Mission Aviation Foundation), Wamena.
- 25/07/2008 Forum Persaudaraan Jayawijaya (Jayawijaya Friendship Forum), Wamena
- 29/07/2008 Papua Partners, Wamena
- 31/07/2008 Humi Inane, Wamena

2.4 FURTHER INITIATIVES

Papua Pilot Study – expansion of conscious visibility

Jayapura team continues with its proposal to expand a 'conscious visibility' within Papua, as proposed and agreed at the PBI Indonesia Project Face to Face in March 2008. The proposal uses the work of Liam Mahoney, in particular where protection and deterrence are maximized by the presence of international observers. The team believes that they can increase their effectiveness through a proactive presence aimed at preventing threats to the wider Papuan society and not just clients. Although still in its first planning/ research phase, three objectives exist.

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- 1) *Increase conscious visibility and deterrent effect.* Intended outcome is a decrease in the level of threats to civil society.
- 2) *Increase individuals and NGO's awareness of Human Rights and capacity to manage own security.* Intended outcome is an increased awareness amongst local people about Human Rights and how to increase and manage their own security.
- 3) *Increase links between local individuals/groups and the wider community both inside and outside Indonesia.* Intended outcome is an increase in the amount of information about the security in the local area which reaches Jakarta and the wide Human Rights community.

Jayapura sub team receives new Client Applications

Aside from continuing with the development of its 'expanded presence', Jayapura sub-team also aims to continue to socialize PBI within the local NGO community and expanding its client base. In July, Jayapura team has received two new applications from potential clients. On the 14th July Jayapura team gave a presentation to Bersatu untuk Kebenaran (BUK) *United for Truth*, explaining PBI's work and the type of support that can be given. On the 23rd July, BUK applied to become a PBI client organization. Pendeta Esron, an individual protestant priest, also applied to become a PBI client on the 17th July.

We are not alone/Kami tidak sendiri

Peace Brigades International Indonesia Project's former volunteer, Lars, has recently completed production of a movie titled 'We are not alone/Kami tidak sendiri' that documents PBI-IP's project in Nanggroa Aceh Darussalam, through the eyes of volunteers, client and partner organizations, the authorities, and other international bodies. The movie highlights the positive effects PBI-IP had within civil society in a region that, up until 2005, was troubled by a very complex and prolonged conflict.

3. PUBLICATIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

English

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- TAPOL, *Joint NGO Statement on the Handover of the Report of the Commission of Truth and Friendship*, 5 July 2008, <http://tapol.gn.apc.org/news/files/st080715.htm>
- Davies R, Brumm M, Manya M, Rubiandini R, Swarbrick R, Tinyay M, *The East Java mud volcano (2006 to present): An earthquake or drilling trigger?* In *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, VI 272, Is 3-4, August 2008, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/0012821X>

Bahasa Indonesia

- KontraS, *Kronik Kasus Munir (Chronology of the Munir Murder Case)*, Juli 2008, <http://www.kontras.org/munir/index.php>
- Perhimpunan Bantuan Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia Indonesia, *Laporan Dari Daerah Konflik: Penangkapan 46 Orang Demonstran Bintang Kejora di Papua*, 24 Juli 2008, http://www.pbhi.or.id/konflik_lengkap.php?no=10