



Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

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AFAD: Indonesian government must disclose the 2005 Fact-finding Report on Munir's case

Thirteen years ago today, the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) lost its former Chairperson, Munir Said Thalib after being murdered on a Garuda flight from Jakarta to Amsterdam via Singapore. Munir was found dead on the said flight on September 7, 2004. Autopsy results carried out by Dutch authorities showed that he died of a lethal dose of arsenic.



Three Garuda Airways staff members were acquitted of the killing but Indonesian non-government organizations claim that the brains behind the murder from the highest levels of government have not yet been brought to justice. In 2008, former deputy director of the state agency General Muchdi Purwoprandjono who allegedly assisted the killing was acquitted of assisting the killing through a trial which later on was determined as fundamentally flawed by Indonesian law scholars.

Munir is Indonesia's staunchest human rights defender. He played a significant role in uncovering human rights violations perpetrated by military officers from Aceh, Papua and Timor-Leste. His human rights work had earned for him the ire high-ranking officials of the military and as a consequence, he received various

threats.

During the 2014 election campaign, Indonesian President Joko Widodo made it clear that ending impunity for past violations of human rights would be one of his top priorities. Ending impunity would not only entail that the perpetrators face justice, but it would also necessitate the effective investigation of human rights violations, provision of reparations to the victims' families, and the assurance of non-repetition of such violations..

In September 2016, President Widodo made a public pledge to resolve the Munir case. Despite this pronouncement, the Indonesian authorities have still denied the public access to the 2005 report of the official fact-finding team on Munir's killing. This act is in direct violation of the Presidential Decree No. 111/2004 which obliges the government to make the fact-finding report public.



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Aside from this, the government of Indonesia is also a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is, accountable as well to the rights of human rights defenders as contained in the 1998 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Indonesia is also a signatory to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Therefore, the Indonesian government has a moral obligation to address the case of the assassination of Munir who struggled very hard for victims of enforced disappearances in his country. **As a leader of ASEAN, Indonesia must formidably bring to an end the longstanding culture of impunity that has been plaguing the country for ages.**

As we commemorate the 13th year since Munir's untimely death, AFAD challenges the Jokowi administration to solve this more than a decade of long unresolved case. AFAD calls on President Joko Widodo to take urgent and concrete actions to ensure that the perpetrators of such a treacherous crime be held fully accountable. This can initially be done by publishing the 2005 Report prepared by an official fact-finding team to look into Munir's killing. Furthermore, AFAD demands the Indonesian government to establish a new, independent investigation on the murder to ensure that all those suspected of being responsible, at all levels be brought to justice in proceedings that adhere to international human rights standards.

President Jokowi must never forget that human rights protection is not just a mere campaign promise. Rather, it is a mandate imposed upon him by the Constitution which he pledged to adhere to. If Munir's assassination is indicative of anything, it is definitely the existence of a deeply embedded culture of violence against human rights defenders in Indonesia.

Munir, whose strong commitment to human rights cost him his life, was the staunchest human rights defender Indonesia ever produced. His memory and great examples shall live forever in the hearts and minds of the Indonesian people

This year, AFAD once again raises its outcry for truth and justice. **Justice for Munir! Justice for ALL VICTIMS of human rights violations in a country that boasts itself as a leader in Southeast Asia!**

Signed by:

KHURRAM PARVEZ
Chairperson

MARY AILEEN D. BACALSO
Secretary-General