

Death penalty

SIX FACE IMMINENT EXECUTION FOR DRUG CRIMES

Amnesty International Urgent Action, 15-01-2015

Six people are scheduled to be executed in Indonesia on 18 January. Five of them are foreign nationals and all have been convicted of drug trafficking, an offence which does not meet the threshold of the “most serious crimes” for which the death penalty can be imposed under international law.

The Attorney General of Indonesia announced today that six individuals, an Indonesian national and five foreign nationals, all convicted of and sentenced to death for drug-related offences are going to be executed on 18 January 2015. According to the Attorney General their names are Rani Andriani alias Melisa Aprilia (Indonesian), Daniel Enemu (Nigerian), Ang Kiem Soei (Dutch), Tran Thi Bich Hanh (Vietnamese), Namaona Denis (Nigerian) and Marco Archer Cardoso Moreira (Brazilian).

Five of them are reportedly going to be executed on Nusakambangan Island while Tran Thi Bich Hanh is to be executed in Boyolali district, both in Central Java.

For more information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA21/003/2015/en/ac588384-1cd7-4cb9-8dc4-4e56532d46af/asa210032015en.pdf>

Amnesty International Press Statement 15-01-2015: Indonesia must immediately halt plans to put to death six people – one Indonesian and five foreign nationals – by firing squad this week, Amnesty International said after the Attorney General’s

office today confirmed the executions would be carried out on Sunday 18 January 2015. “These executions must be stopped immediately. The death penalty is a human rights violation, and it is shocking that the Indonesian authorities are looking to put to death six people this Sunday,” said Rupert Abbott, Amnesty International’s Research Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

“Indonesia’s new government took office on the back of promises to improve respect for human rights, but carrying out these executions would be a regressive move. Rather than putting to death more people, the government should immediately impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition.”

Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on the announced executions in Indonesia

15/01/2015, European Union External Action Service

The announced execution of six death row inmates in Indonesia, including a Dutch citizen, for drug offences is deeply regrettable. This would be the second round of executions since November 2013.

The EU is opposed to capital punishment in all cases and without exception, and has consistently called for its universal abolition. The death penalty is a cruel and inhumane punishment, which fails to act as a deterrent and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity. The European Union calls on the Indonesian authorities to stop all pending executions and consider establishing a moratorium on the use of death penalty as a first step towards definitive abolition.

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Weekly Update Human Rights in Indonesia – 18-01-2015

See: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150115_01_en.htm. Strikingly, the EU has published this statement BEFORE the executions took place, not, as a routine, afterwards.

Five convicts resigned to execution fate: Cleric

The Jakarta Post, 17-01-2015

The five death-row convicts set to face the firing squad on Nusakambangan Island in Cilacap regency, Central Java, have reportedly accepted their fate. The convicts, most of them foreign citizens, expressed their feelings to the Cilacap branch of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) head Hasan Makarim, whose task it is to provide them with religious counseling ahead of their execution.

“All of them are ready and none of them filed for protest ahead of their execution. They said they have accepted our legal ruling,” Hasan told the media Friday at the Wijaya Pura Pier on Nusakambangan Island.

The ulema said he had been traveling back and forth to Nusakambangan prison over the past two days to help the convicts mentally prepare for their deaths. He did not say whether all five convicts were Muslims.

Hasan added that the convicts were physically and mentally sound. “They are all healthy. One of them, Rani Andriani, from Cianjur, West Java, is fasting and has resigned her fate to God,” Hasan said.

He added that Rani had been fasting since before being transferred from the Tangerang penitentiary in West Java to Nusakambangan two days ago.

“Rani has asked to be buried next to her mother’s grave in her hometown of Cianjur, while the others did not make any requests,” said Hasan.

Five of the convicts will be executed on Nusakambangan Island, while another, Tran Thi Bich Hanh, from Vietnam, will be killed in Boyolali, Central Java.

Two days ahead of the execution, members from the local prosecutor’s office and the Cilacap Police have increased security at the Wijaya Pura Pier, the entry point to Nusakambangan Island. Only relatives of the convicts and security personnel are currently permitted on the island. Cilacap Police chief Adj. Sr. Comr. Ulung Sampurna said dozens of police officers had been assigned to secure the Wijaya Pura Pier.

“We are tasked with securing Ring 3, or the areas around the Wijaya Pura Pier. No one is allowed to enter except prison personnel and convicts’ relatives,” Ulung told The Jakarta Post on Friday.

Meanwhile, authorities at Boyolali penitentiary were still waiting for further instructions regarding the execution of Tran Thi Bich Hanh, which slated to be carried out on Jan. 18 in Boyolali, Central Java.



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Maximum security: Police officers patrol maximum security prison Nusa Kambangan in Cilacap, Central Java, on Friday prior to the scheduled execution of drug convicts on Sunday. Indonesia will put to death six drug convicts, including four foreigners, over the weekend, the attorney general said, the first executions to be carried out under new President Joko Widodo's government. (AFP/ Dida Nuswantara).

Read their stories: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/01/17/their-stories.html>

The most recent executions in Indonesia took place in 2013, when the AGO executed drug smuggler Adam Wilson, three convicted murderers and a Pakistani drug smuggler.

Human rights activists have criticized Indonesia's use of the death penalty, saying the government has no right to decide when a person should die.

Jakarta-based human rights watchdog Imparsial's executive coordinator, Poengky Indarti, condemned the decision to execute the six drug convicts.

"This shows that Indonesia has no regard for human life. The executions go against human rights and the Indonesian Constitution that stipulates that everyone has the right to life," she said.

Indonesia: First executions under new president retrograde step for rights

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE, 17 January 2015

The execution of six drug traffickers in Indonesia today (18 January local time), the first since President Joko Widodo took office, is a retrograde step for human rights in the country, Amnesty International said. Those executed by firing squad

today included one Indonesian and five foreign nationals. All had been convicted on drug trafficking charges.

"This is a seriously regressive move and a very sad day. The new administration has taken office on the back of promises to make human rights a priority, but the execution of six people flies in the face of these commitments," said Rupert Abbott, Amnesty International's Research Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

While no executions were carried out in Indonesia in 2014, the new government has since it took office in November 2014 announced that 20 are scheduled for this year.

In December 2014, it was also reported that President Joko Widodo would not grant clemency to at least 64 individuals who have been sentenced to death for drug-related crimes and that there were plans to execute them.

"The government must immediately halt plans to put more people to death. This is a country that just a few years ago had taken positive steps to move away from the death penalty, but the authorities are now steering the country in the opposite direction," said Rupert Abbott.

"The use of the death penalty at home also makes the Indonesian authorities' efforts to fight it being applied to Indonesians abroad look hypocritical. Indonesia must impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition."

For Dutch speaking readers who missed the programme: Nieuwsuur, 17-01-2015: http://www.npo.nl/nieuwsuur/17-01-2015/VPWON_1235661. See also <http://www.amnesty.nl/nieuwsportaal/nieuws/indonesie-executeert->

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[nederlander-en-vijf-anderen](http://www.amnesty.nl/sites/default/files/public/indonesie_executies_jan_2015.pdf) and
http://www.amnesty.nl/sites/default/files/public/indonesie_executies_jan_2015.pdf

Land rights

An Agrarian Reform Agenda for Jokowi

Jokowi must accommodate customary rights lest his development agenda spur land conflicts

By Nanang Indra Kurniawan, Inside Indonesia, Oct-Dec 2014



Community members blockade a road to protest a palm oil plantation in Gunung Mas district, Central Kalimantan, © Save Our Borneo

Land conflicts in Indonesia have risen over the last ten years, as private investors and the government have acquired large tracts of land without respecting the rights and interests of local users. In 2013 alone, land conflicts in Indonesia caused 22 deaths due to violent clashes and involved almost 140,000 households, according to Agrarian Reform Consortium (KPA) figures. Over the course of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's (SBY) ten-year presidency, the organisation recorded 1391 land conflicts causing 70 deaths, involving five million hectares of disputed land and 926,700 households. Such land-grabbing most often involves land designated as 'forest area', according to the KPA, or former forest areas converted for non-forest uses such as mining, plantations and infrastructure. Adat (indigenous) rights to land are an important element of these conflicts, because large tracts of indigenous customary lands are located within forest area, which the government controls. Historically, the government has often claimed such customary lands to be 'idle' or 'empty', and transferred them to private investors.

At present, rising global demands for land for food, alternative energy, and conservation have put adat community lands under pressure, as has the rapid expansion of speculative land-based investments. Further pressure will come too as the new government of President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) needs to acquire extensive land for his plans to boost the national economy. With poor and unclear legal protections for customary rights to land, Jokowi's development programs could trigger many more land conflicts.

Jokowi has formed a new agrarian ministry and promised a new agency to handle agrarian disputes. But new institutions will not suffice without concrete actions to improve governance and clarify land rights.

Read the whole article: <http://www.insideindonesia.org/feature-editions/an-agrarian-reform-agenda-for-jokowi>

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