



September 25, 2009

Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia
Istana Negara
Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara
Jakarta Pusat 10010
Indonesia

General Bambang Hendarso Danuri
Chief of Indonesia National Police
Jl. Trunojoyo No.3
Jakarta 12110
Indonesia

Mr. Hendarman Supandji
Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia
Jl. Sultan Hasanuddin No.1
Jakarta Selatan - 12160
Indonesia

Dear President Yudhoyono:

We, the below-signed 1,083 individuals, join Human Rights First in writing to express our concern that Usman Hamid, Coordinator of KontraS, is now the subject of a criminal defamation investigation, thanks to accusations by Muchdi Purwopranjono. Muchdi's trial for murder of Munir Said Thalib, Usman Hamid's late colleague, was marred by systematic intimidation and witness tampering. Following the trial, Mr. Hamid exercised his right to free expression, indicating to supporters that he believed justice had not been done. On September 3, 2009, he received a summons accusing him of criminal defamation. Mr. Hamid reported to the Jakarta Regional Police on September 9, 2009, and the investigation is pending.

As you stated five years ago, the case of Munir's murder is a test for Indonesia's history. Under your leadership, the country has made significant progress toward stable democracy. Unfortunately, however, the country has not yet passed the test you set out for it. Your recent re-election allows you the opportunity to ensure that Indonesia's government successfully meets the challenge of holding to account all those responsible for Munir's murder. We urge you not only to persevere in that pursuit, but also to ensure that those supporting the pursuit do not see their own rights violated.

Mr. Hamid has worked within the government system to ensure that justice is done for Munir. He served on the independent fact-finding team (*Tim Pencari Fakta*, or TPF) that you created. He and his colleagues at KontraS, Imparsial, and other organizations continue to provide information to the attorney general's office. Mr.

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Hamid, like all human rights defenders who work in a non-violent manner to promote and protect the human rights of all citizens, deserves the government's respect, not its investigation.

We therefore hope you will ensure that the prosecutors distinguish between defamation and free speech. Furthermore, criminal defamation laws have no place in a government that welcomes political opposition. Freedom of expression, which such laws violate, is a critical element to any stable democracy. We therefore hope you will work to ensure that Indonesia's criminal defamation laws are repealed. Finally, we hope that you will ensure that the historic case of Munir does not collapse, by releasing the TPF's report, as well as by reactivating the police investigation team to find more and new evidence or creating an independent team to investigate the apparent witness tampering that occurred during Muchdi's trial.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We will continue to monitor this case closely.

Yours truly,

(The names of the 1,083 signatories have been removed for privacy reasons.)