

## **Indonesia: Solidarity for Human Rights Defenders Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar**

The undersigned organisations, human rights groups, and defenders are calling for the Indonesian Government to end its judicial harassment against prominent human rights defenders, Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar as well as to further protect all human rights defenders in the country.

### **Fatia and Haris' Indictment**

Fatia is the former coordinator of the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) from 2020 to 2023; meanwhile, Haris is the co-founder of Lokataru Foundation. They are both facing a defamation charge under Article 27 paragraph (3) in conjunction with Article 45 paragraph (3) of the Electronic and Information Transaction (EIT) Law.

Fatia and Haris have experienced 28 hearings since 3 April 2023. During the indictment reading on the 28th hearing on 12 November, the lead prosecutor advised the Court to sentence Fatia to three years and six months in prison alongside a fine of 500,000 rupiah (USD32), and Haris to four years in prison alongside a fine of one million rupiah (USD65). The latter is the maximum punishment set under the (EIT) law.

The case was brought by Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the Coordinating Minister of Maritime and Investment Affairs, after the duo appeared on Haris' YouTube channel to discuss a report alleging the involvement of several national and multinational companies in mining operations in Intan Jaya, Papua. The allegations included those affiliated with political figures such as Panjaitan.

'We are extremely concerned about the indictment of Fatia and Haris as this reveals just how dangerous it is to be a human rights defender in Indonesia. For merely speaking truth to power, seeking justice and accountability, and expressing evidence-based criticisms against the government, the likes of Fatia and Harris are being silenced. Such judicial harassment would have never happened in a healthy democratic context. Fatia and Harris' ordeal reveals the deterioration of Indonesia's civic and democratic space,' the groups said collectively.

### **Breaching international obligation**

The ongoing criminalisation of Fatia and Haris is in contravention with several of Indonesia's international commitments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Instead of upholding people's right to freedom of expression, the government chose to deploy defamation charges against Fatia and Harris. Indonesia has also breached its pledge—made upon its reelection as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council from 2024 to 2026—to preserve the fundamental civil and political rights of all persons.

## Call for Action

The criminalisation of Fatia and Haris for simply criticising a government official is a breach of Indonesia's obligation to uphold people's fundamental freedoms—especially free expression— under the ICCPR. Such criminalisation not only undermines the work of human rights defenders, but also creates a chilling effect on free speech and dissenting voices. Therefore, leading to the verdict, scheduled to be given on the 18th December, it is imperative for all stakeholders—including the international community and general public—to urge the Court to acquit Fatia and Haris of all charges and for the government to immediately end judicial harassment against the defenders.

'We are in solidarity with Fatia and Haris. We cannot remain silent. The work of human rights defenders is and will always be essential to upholding democracy and human rights for all. We call on the Indonesian Government to stop its criminalisation of defenders and to refrain from enacting further harm against them,' the groups voiced together.

## Signatories:

1. Advocacy Forum
2. Agora International Human Rights Group
3. Ain o Slaish Kendra (ASK)
4. Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI)
5. ALTSEAN-Burma
6. Amnesty International Indonesia
7. ANTI
8. Anti Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN)
9. ASEAN Regional Coalition to #StopDigitalDictatorship
10. ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
11. ASEAN Youth Forum
12. Asia Alliance Against Torture (A3T)
13. Asia Democracy Network
14. Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)
15. Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)
16. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
17. Asosiasaun HAK (Timor-Leste)
18. AWAM Pakistan
19. AwazCDS-Pakistan
20. Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM) India
21. Bir Duino
22. Bytes for All, Pakistan (B4A)
23. Canadian Civil Liberties Association
24. Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP)
25. Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD)
26. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
27. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
28. Civil Society and Human Rights network (CSHRN)

29. Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS)
30. Community Resource Centre (CRC)
31. Cross Cultural Foundation (CrCf) Thailand
32. DAKILA
33. Defence of Human Rights Pakistan
34. DeJusticia Colombia
35. Dignity-Kadyr-kassiyet (KK)
36. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights
37. ELSAM
38. Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM)
39. FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
40. Franscisans International
41. Frontline Defenders
42. Harm Reduction International
43. Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
44. Human Rights and Development Foudation (HRDF) Thailand
45. Human Rights Defenders' Alert – India (HRDA)
46. Human Rights Hub (HRH)
47. Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) Australia
48. Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) India
49. Human Rights Lawyers Association Thailand
50. Human Rights Watch
51. Human Rights Working Group (HRWG)
52. Humanis
53. Imparsial
54. Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI)
55. INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre
56. Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
57. International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO)
58. Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP)
59. Karapatan Alliance Philippines (KARAPATAN)
60. La'o Hamutuk
61. Law and Society Trust (LST)
62. League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI)
63. Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI)
64. Legal Literacy - Nepal
65. Legal Resource Centre (LRC)
66. Liberty — United Kingdom
67. Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA)
68. Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN)
69. Manushya Foundation
70. Medical Action Group (MAG) Philippines
71. Milk Tea Alliance Indonesia (ID Milk Tea)

72. Milktea Alliance - Friends of Myanmar
73. MUSAWI Pakistan
74. National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP)
75. New Naratif
76. Odhikar Bangladesh
77. People's Watch – India
78. People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy(PSPD)
79. Philippine Alliance for Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
80. Programme Against Custodial Torture and Impunity (PACTI)
81. Progressive Voice
82. PurpleCode Collective
83. Pusat KOMAS
84. Pusat Studi Hukum dan Kebijakan (PSHK)
85. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU)
86. Rettet den Regenwald
87. RRR Collective
88. Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization (SRMO)
89. SHAPE-SEA
90. South Asia Youth Network (SAYN)
91. Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SafeNet)
92. Sri Lanka Democracy Network (SLDN)
93. Stiftung Asienhaus, Germany
94. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
95. TAPOL
96. Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)
97. The Asia Alliance Against Torture (A3T)
98. The Awakening – A Society for Social & Cultural Development
99. The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI)
100. The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union
101. The Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI)
102. The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL)
103. Think Centre
104. Westpapua-Netzwerk, Germany
105. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
106. YAPPIKA

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