

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Police officers and members of FPUI in hotel lobby @ Private

INDONESIA: FAILURE TO PROTECT LGBT ACTIVISTS IN SURABAYA

In March 2010 police failed to prevent the intimidation, harassment and threats of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists in Surabaya, East Java.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), a worldwide network of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered groups, had planned to hold a regional conference in Surabaya from 26-28 March 2010. According to local sources, the South Surabaya District police (Polres) verbally granted permission for the conference on 3 March 2010. However, over the next three weeks, the organisers faced various bureaucratic obstacles in obtaining an official permit from the police.

On 23 March the police recommended that the conference be cancelled as they had received information that Islamist groups would disrupt the conference. With increasing threats by these groups reported in the media, the organisers decided to cancel the conference on 24 March. However, since many of the participants had already arrived from abroad, the organisers decided to hold informal gatherings in their hotel rooms.

On the morning of 26 March 2010 a number of groups calling themselves the United Front of the Community of Islam (FPUI) raided the Surabaya office of Gaya Nusantara, a gay rights organisation and sealed the premises. At about 1pm the FPUI began gathering at the Oval Hotel lobby where ILGA participants were staying, demanding that they leave the country. One of the FPUI members tried to hit one of the organisers on the head when the organizer was trying to negotiate with the FPUI. When the crowd outside the hotel grew to hundreds of people, the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) arrived. According to local sources the police did not take adequate steps to disperse the crowd. Some police officers were seen talking and eating with FPUI members.

At about 7pm, after several hours of negotiations between the ILGA organisers and the Head of the South Surabaya District Police (Kapolres), the organisers and local NGOs started evacuating the participants to the airport and to different hotels in the city under police control. Later that night, members of FPUI swept through the hotel corridors to look for participants.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to:

- Immediately conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into reports of intimidation, harassment and violence against LGBT activists and investigate and prosecute the perpetrators;
- Immediately conduct thorough, independent and impartial investigations into allegations that the police failed to take adequate steps to prevent intimidation, harassment and violence against LGBT activists;
- Ensure that the findings of the investigations are made public and are submitted, wherever relevant, to the public prosecutor to ensure that all those found responsible for offences involving human rights violations are brought to justice in proceedings which meet international standards of fairness and without the imposition of the death penalty, and that victims are provided reparations;
- Ensure that all police officials are familiar with the recent Regulation of the Chief of the National Police regarding the Implementation of Human Rights Principles and Standards in the Discharge of Duties of the Indonesian National Police (No 8/2009) and the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) 2006 Standard Operating Procedures on Crowd Control, and have the necessary knowledge and equipment to apply these principles in their daily work.

Please send letters to :

Chief of the Indonesian National Police (Kapolri)

General Bambang Hendarso Danuri
Jl. Trunojoyo No. 3
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Salutation: Dear General

Head of the Division on Profession and Security (Propam)

Kadiv Propam Mabes Polri
Irjen Pol Budi Gunawan
Jl. Trunojoyo No. 3
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Salutation: Dear General

Chairman, National Commission for Human Rights

Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia (KOMNAS HAM)
Mr Ifdhal Kasim
Jl. Latuharhary No. 4B
Menteng, Jakarta Pusat
10310 Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Ifdhal Kasim

Please send copies to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

