Dear friends,

The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) writes to you with updates regarding the case of the murdered Indonesian human rights activist, Munir Said Thalib.

It has now been learned that the High Court, on 27 March 2006, rejected the appeal of the accused, Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto, thus upholding his 14 year sentence after it was proved beyond reasonable doubt that he committed premeditated conspiracy to murder (dossier no. 16/Pid/2006/PT.DKI). Accordingly, the dossier has now been delivered to the District Court for the next process in this case which allows for either the defendant (Pollycarpus) or the Attorney General to appeal in the Supreme Court. Though yet to be officially confirmed, Pollycarpus’s wife has stated that her husband will now appeal to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, Pollycarpus remains detained and it is believed will continue to be so until the new appeal is heard before the court.

The AHRC remains concerned that despite the court ruling that Pollycarpus “jointly” committed premeditated murder and “jointly” committed in falsifying a letter, little action has been taken by the police or the prosecutor to investigate those ultimately responsible for the death of Munir. Despite the court having called for such an investigation, nearly four months have now passed since that request and yet Pollycarpus remains the sole defendant in this case.

When Munir’s wife, Suciwati and Kasum, an organisation looking into
Munir’s case met with the Head of the Criminal Division of the Indonesian Police and the Attorney General, the Head of the Criminal Division and the Attorney General assured them that they would meet with them on a weekly basis to map the progress of this case. These meetings, however, cannot be considered an appropriate substitute for a proper and independent investigation into other persons allegedly involved in Munir’s death.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Please write a letter to the relevant authorities listed below urging them to take action to ascertain the truth surrounding Munir’s death.

Suggested letter:

Dear ________,

INDONESIA: High Court rejects appeal in Munir’s death

I have recently learnt of new developments in the case of murdered Indonesian human rights activist, Munir Said Thalib. These include the High Court rejecting the appeal of the accused, Polycarpus Budhari Priyanto, thus upholding his 14 year sentence and the allegation that he will now appeal to the Supreme Court.

While I welcome the High Court’s decision in rejecting Polycarpus’s appeal, I remain concerned by other elements of this case including the failure to further investigate others implicated in Munir’s murder. The High Court judgment noted that evidence during the trial proved that Polycarpus did not act alone. The court therefore urged the police to conduct a further investigation in order to uncover those ultimately responsible for the death of Munir. Yet despite this, nearly four months have now passed since that request and Polycarpus still remains the sole defendant in this case.

Given that Polycarpus was ruled to have acted “jointly” in murdering Munir, it is essential that the police and the prosecutor exhaust all means to further investigate this case and question all persons likewise implicated in Munir’s murder. Of paramount importance is that the telecommunication records of Muchdi’s phone conversations with Polycarpus be revealed, which is allowed under Law 39/1999.

I am also aware that when Suciwati and Kasum, an organisation looking into Munir’s case met with the Head of the Criminal Division of the Indonesian Police and the Attorney General, the Head of the Criminal Division and the Attorney General assured them that they would meet with them on a weekly basis to map the progress of this case. These meetings, however, cannot be considered an appropriate substitute for a proper and independent investigation into other persons allegedly involved in Munir’s death.

Until the authorities treat this case with the seriousness it deserves and until all those responsible for Munir’s death are prosecuted and punished accordingly, justice will continue to evade a man who gave his life for the rights of others.
Yours sincerely,

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

1. Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudoyono
   President
   Republic of Indonesia
   Presidential Palace
   Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara
   Jakarta Pusat 10010
   INDONESIA
   Tel: + 62 21 3845627 ext 1003
   Fax: + 62 21 231 41 38, 345 2685, 345 7782

2. Mr. Agung Laksono
   Chief of the Indonesia House of Representative
   Gedung DPR/MPR RI
   Jl. Gatot Subroto No. 6
   Jakarta
   INDONESIA
   Tel: + 62 21 5715509; 5715344; 5715621
   Fax: + 62 21 5714469, 5734389

3. Gen. Sutanto
   Chief of National Police
   Jl. Trunojoyo No. 3
   Jakarta Selatan
   INDONESIA
   Tel: +62 21 721 8012
   Fax: +62 21 720 7277

4. Mr. Abdul Rahman Saleh
   Attorney General
   Kejaksaan Agung RI
   Jl. Sultan Hasanuddin No. 1
   Jakarta Selatan
   INDONESIA
   Tel: + 62 21 7221337, 7397602
   Fax: + 62 21 7250213
   Email: postmaster kejaksaan.or.id

5. Prof. Dr. Bagir Manan
   Chief Justice
   Supreme Court
   Jalan Merdeka Utara No. 11 - 13
   Jakarta Pusat 10110
   INDONESIA
   Tel: +62 21 3811957 / 345 2223
   Fax: +62 21 381 0357

6. Ms. Hina Jilani
   Special Representative of the Secretary General for human rights defenders
Thank you.

[RE: UA-164-2004: The family receives death threats for demanding an impartial inquiry into the death of Munir; UP-30-2005: Unveiling of suspect in Munir’s death may end further inquiries; UP-47-2005: State intelligence officers delay Munir investigation; UP-72-2005: Mandate of fact-finding team into Munir’s murder should be extended and made more effective; UP-83-2005: Police fail to follow up on fact-finding report into Munir case; President does not react to requests for monitoring of the investigation; UP-96-2005: Trial of Pollycarpus ignores fact-finding team reports; UP-125-2005: President and Parliament must audit the police investigation performance in Munir’s case; UP-139-2005: Attack on supporters of Munir outside Jakarta court; UP-159-2005: Need for further investigation in Munir case; UP-165-2005: Pollycarpus sentenced to 14-years imprisonment for murder of Munir; UP-042-2006: INDONESIA: President must take firm steps to ensure investigation of Munir’s death follows court recommendations]

Urgent Appeal Programme
Asian Human Rights Commission (ahrchk ahrchk.org)

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