

Three articles from Kompas on new suspect in Munir murder case

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*** Munir's family wants principle actors behind murder arrested * Suciwati concerned about integrity of other law enforcement agencies * KASUM calls on police to question former BIN chief Hendropriyono.**

Munir's family wants principle actors behind murder arrested

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Malang — Munir's family, who live in the East Java city of Malang, have expressed their appreciation to the government for the progress made in the investigation of the murder of the human rights activists. It is hoped that the uncovering of a new suspect in the case — Muchdi Purwo Prandjono — will be able to bring all of the central actors in the murder before the courts.

“We commend the developments in the investigation with the arrest of Muchdi PR. At least things are heading along the right track. Only Muchdi is not alone. His was only a secondary person at the State Intelligence Agency (BIN). There is undoubtedly a first, a third person and so on. We hope that the government can finalise this case, so that the law will become the ‘supreme commander’ in this country”, said Munir's older brother Rasyid Said Thalib on Friday June 20 in Malang.

According to Rasyid, Munir's family already knew that Prandjono would be dragged into the case around 10 days beforehand. Because at the time all of the indications and developments in the investigation were heading in the direction of the former BIN deputy. “Although we commend the government's steps

in not being hasty about the arrest. So that in the end the arrest will not end up being in vain”, said Rasyid.

For Rasyid, the naming of Prandjono as a suspect should not just be seen in terms of being satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The problem is a wider one — the issue of law enforcement.

“Hopefully this can become a test case that the government’s pledge to uphold the law can actually be carried out. It is hoped that later on the public will be able to know what the true motive for the murder was. Was there was a political element or not?”, said Rasyid.

Military observer Muhadjir Effendy from the Malang Muhammadiyah University said that with the arrest of Prandjono BIN’s credibility is on the line. He is not too convinced however that Prandjono’s arrest will lead to a quick resolution of the case.

“Up until now those arrested have only been Munir’s murderers. What about in terms of Munir himself. Why was he murdered and so forth. That has yet to be revealed. Whereas this could be the key to speeding up the resolution of this case”, said Effendy.

In addition to this, according to Effendy, up until now Indonesia has yet to take an explicit line on the Indonesian military’s (TNI) authority in terms of its basic military duties while on the other hand it is sometimes seen as a civil violation.

Many of the cases involving the TNI exist within grey areas. Including actions that on the one hand represent its basic duties, and on the other hand are seen as violations of civil law. “This is what sometimes becomes quite a complex problem”, said Effendy.

Suciwati concerned about integrity of other law enforcement agencies

Kompas - June 20, 2008

Jakarta — With the naming of former National Intelligence Agency (BIN) deputy Muchdi Purwo Prandjono as a suspect in the Munir murder case, it

is appropriate that police be commended. Munir's widow Suciwati however admits to being worried about the continuation of the case, particularly in relation to the integrity of other law enforcement agencies such as the Attorney General's Office and the courts.

"Will there still be a commitment because the police's hard work must also be accompanied by a quality prosecutor and judge that can compliment it. Don't let it turn out like Pollycarpus [Budihari Priyanto] that had to drag on for so long whereas the fact already existed", said Suciwati at a press conference at the offices of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) in Jakarta on Friday June 20.

Suciwati revealed that the naming of Prandjono as a suspect represents a long wait after Munir's death four years ago and repeated rejections of recommendations [that he be investigated].

Solidarity Action Committee for Munir (KASUM) chairperson Usman Hamid said that there is no need to form a new Fact Finding Team (TPF). "The most important thing is monitoring from other institutions", said Hamid.

Former TPF member Hendaradi meanwhile said that police have a duty to find out whether Prandjono's involvement also indicates the involvement of BIN as an institution in the premeditated murder or whether Prandjono is simply involved as an individual because he once saw Munir as a figure that was vocal on human rights issues.

KASUM calls on police to question former BIN chief Hendropriyono

Kompas - June 20, 2008

Jakarta — The naming of former National Intelligence Agency (BIN) deputy Muchdi Purwo Prandjono as a new suspect by police in the murder of human rights activist Munir should be commended. The Solidarity Action Committee for Munir (KASUM) however believes that this is not the end of the case, but rather the start of a process to resolve

the Munir case and uncover the hidden conspiracy behind the premeditated murder.

It is because of this therefore, that KASUM chairperson Usman Hamid is also asking police to question former BIN chief retired General A.M. Hendropriyono. "By tracing the role of other people who have yet to be revealed, we are asking police to question Hendropriyono to reveal who planned Munir's murder", said Hamid at the office of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) in Jakarta on Friday June 20.

Meanwhile an activist from KASUM's legal division, Choirul Anam, said that according to the records of the Munir Fact Finding Team (TPF), based on all of the documents and new evidence that emerged during the trial of Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto, Prandjono's was not the sole individual in planning the murder. "When Polly[carpus] was tried in court it showed that he [Prandjono] was not the sole planner. There are still others [at large]", said Anam.

KASUM hopes that the police will be able to work optimally and discover the other powerful figures who were involved in the premeditated murder of Munir.

P.S.

* Translated by James Balowski.