

Six reports from Detik on Munir murder case verdict

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All articles from Detik.com translated by James Balowski and circulated by Indoleft service.

200 demand mastermind of Munir's murder be caught and tried

Detik.com - December 20, 2005

Fitraya Ramadhanny, Jakarta - Dissatisfied with the court's decision to sentence Pollycarpus Budihari

Priyanto to 14 years jail, around 200 activist from the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) have urged President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) to try the mastermind behind the murder of human rights activist Munir.

The demonstrators spread out in front of the State Palace on Jalan Medan Merdeka Utara in Central Jakarta at around 1.30pm on Tuesday December 20.

In a speech, Kontras coordinator Usman Hamid said that the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) is deeply involved in the Munir case and he hopes therefore that the investigation will not end with Pollycarpus. The government is being asked to uncover the real mastermind behind the murder.

"The president must bring in and try the mastermind of Munir's murder and the Munir TPF [Fact Finding Team] must continue their work", he said passionately.

Most of the demonstrators were victims of the May 1998 violence, the Bojong incinerator case and so on. Some of the demonstrators wore T-shirts with Munir's picture and headbands with the writing "human rights". Others brought banners reading "Try the mastermind of Munir's murderer". Poster with pictures of Munir also adorned the demonstration.

It was not just young people that attended - a number of housewives and parents of victims of violence also joined the demonstration shouting "Drag in and try Hendropriyono". Hendropriyono is the former director of BIN.

Demonstrators were guarded by around 50 police officers. Before holding the action in front of the Palace, they were present at the sentencing of Pollycarpus at the Central Jakarta State Court. Following the hearing, they proceeded to held a long-march to the State Palace. (umi)

Munir case a test for the presidents' authority - Suciwati

Detik.com - December 20, 2005

Fitraya Ramadhanny, Jakarta - Around 200 demonstrators from the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) held an action in front of the State Palace demanding that the government uncover the mastermind behind Munir's murder. The action - that ended at 3.45pm - was closed by a speech by Munir's wife, Suciwati.

In her speech, Suciwati said that the investigation into the Munir case identified the State Intelligence Agency's (BIN) involvement therefore the political support of president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) is needed to complete the investigation into the case to the point where the mastermind is brought to court.

The action in front of the State Palace on Jalan Medan Merdeka Utara on Tuesday December 20 was held in response to the Central Jakarta State Court's decision to sentence Garuda pilot Pollycarpus to 14 years jail. The demonstrators believe that the trail has been unable to uncover the real brains behind Munir's murder.

"President SBY must [act] concretely on his commitment. Solving the Munir case is a test for the presidents' authority. If the president just remains silent, it means that the president agrees with [efforts to] sabotage his commitment and policies on law enforcement", said Suciwati passionately.

After Suciwati's speech ended, demonstrators disbanded and departed in four large busses. The participants represent a coalition of families who have been the victims of violence in Bojong, Tangerang, Bogor and the May 1998 tragedy. (san)

'Police not afraid of terrorists, so why afraid of Munir's killer'

Detik.com - December 20, 2005

Nurvita Indarini, Jakarta - The sentencing of Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto was enlivened by a demonstration by hundreds of activists from the Solidarity Action Committee for Munir. But they were not demanding that Pollycarpus receive a heavier sentence - rather that the police investigate the

other perpetrators of Munir's murder.

These demands were depicted in the posters brought to the action. "SBY [President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono], prove that you've got guts", "The police are brave when it comes to terrorists, [but] why are they afraid of Munir's killer" and "The police don't have the guts to uncover the Munir case", read the posters.

The action was held by some 500 people from the National Student League for Democracy (LMND), the Indonesian Environment Forum (Walhi), the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras), the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI) and the Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI) on Jalan Gajah Mada, the road in front of the Central Jakarta State Court building.

Inside the building meanwhile, the court was in the process of hearing the verdict against Polycarpus. The session that began at 10.10am on Tuesday December 20 was presided over by Judge Cicut Sutiarto.

According to the head of Kontras' operational division, Edwin Partogi, they are disappointed with the process of democratisation and human rights that never seems to make any headway. "President SBY already knows who is behind Munir's murder, but is unwilling to divulge it", he said.

The demonstration included a happening art action that depicted Munir's persistence in struggling for human rights even though it meant that he had to face terror threats and end was himself murdered.

Two demonstrators organised the happening art action. One wearing white shorts and no shirt with their hands, feet and head tied with ribbon, and their whole body covered in thorny roses. The other person wore various kinds of white cloth and a mask as they danced. (gtp)

Suciwati calls for BIN's former deputy director to be tried

Detik.com - December 20, 2005

Nurvita Indarini, Jakarta - Although Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto has been sentenced to 14 years jail, Munir's wife, Suciwati, appears not to care. Suciwati is instead asking that the mastermind behind Munir's murder be brought before the courts. Who is that?

"I don't care if Pollycarpus is jailed for life or sentenced to death. What is clear is that I will seek justice because Polly[carpus] was the perpetrator on the ground, the ones that must be pursued are the masterminds", said Suciwati.

Suciwati conveyed this following Pollycarpus' sentencing at the Central Jakarta State Court on Jalan Gajah Mada in Jakarta on Tuesday December 20.

Is Muchdi [Purwopranjono] (an ex-National Intelligence Agency deputy director) behind Munir's murder? "It could be so. It could be that behind Muchdi there is still another mastermind. Polly was not [acting] alone. This is a political conspiracy", said the mother of two children.

According to Suciwati therefore, the police and investigators' job it to bring Muchdi before the courts. "This is in order that the motive for Munir's murder becomes clear", said Suciwati.

As has been reported, Pollycarpus was sentence to 14 years jail. He was declared guilty and found to have committed the premeditated murder of Munir. The verdict was lighter than the life sentence demanded by the prosecution. Pollycarpus has refused to accept the verdict and will lodge an appeal. (aan)

Pollycarpus trial failed to reveal brains behind murder: BIN

Detik.com - December 20, 2005

Luhur Hertanto, Jakarta - Pollycarpus has been sentenced to 14 months jail by the Central Jakarta State Court. The verdict however, has failed to

touch on the brains behind the murder of human rights activist Munir. The prosecution also failed to uncover the brains of the murder.

"He (the prosecutor) has not yet been able to reveal who was behind Pollycarpus", said the director of the National Intelligence Agency (BIN), Syamsir Siregar, following a meeting of a final assessors team at the presidential offices on Jalan Medan Merdeka Utara in Central Jakarta on Tuesday December 20.

Siregar expressed his regrets over the performance of the investigating team that he says failed to optimally take advantage of the resources and facilities provided by the government. In fact the team was given the broadest possible opportunity to solve the Pollycarpus case but the outcome was instead that Pollycarpus was brought before the courts on charges of falsifying documents.

When asked why the investigators did not perform optimally, Siregar said it is precisely that which needs to be asked of police. "Just ask the police. We [BIN] have been cooperative from the start. If the police want to investigate [us], please, there's no problem", he explained.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has referred to the Munir case as a test of the government's handling of human rights cases. When asked to comment on this, Siregar turned the question around. "Then why are you asking me", he burst out laughing. (san)

Pollycarpus is just a scapegoat, the state is protecting the mastermind

Detik.com - December 8, 2005

Machhendra Setyo Atmaja, Jakarta - A sentence of life imprisonment for Pollycarpus Budihari Prijanto is unsatisfactory as he is only a scapegoat. There is concern that the state is protecting the mastermind behind the Munir murder case.

"I think the president already knows quite a bit about the mastermind. We are concerned there are forces that are being protected by the state. In the case of Munir, there cannot be [parties] that are immune from the law",

declared the operational coordinator of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras), Edwin Partogi.

Partogi was acting as the coordinator of an action held by around 1,000 people from the Solidarity Committee for Munir, a forum concerned with developments in the Munir case. They had gathered at the Proclamation Monument in Cikini, Central Jakarta.

They then took 12 large- and medium-sized buses to the State Palace on Jalan Medan Merdeka Utara arriving at around 12.20pm on Thursday December 8.

"We demand that the Munir murder case be solved and the mastermind tried. We are totally dissatisfied with the legal process that is currently underway. Polly[carpus] is only one of the perpetrators. We hope that all of those who are involved, including BIN [the State Intelligence Agency], be declared suspects and tried", said Partogi.

According to Partogi, since the Munir Fact Finding Team was disbanded, the investigation into the Munir case has suffered a setback. He is also asking that in solving the case the government not allow there to be those who are immune from the law.

In resolving the murder of the human rights activist he continued, it is not enough to punish just one person, because Munir's murder was premeditated and carried out by more than one person.

During the action in front of the State Palace, the demonstrators brought banners and posters with demands calling for the Munir case to be solved as well as large photographs of Munir's face.

A happening art action was also held. The demonstrators depicted Pollycarpus as being just a scapegoat while

there are still many other perpetrators who are not being tried.

Six men whose bodies were smeared with mud danced while repeatedly shouting "democracy" and asking "why".

The action was then followed by speeches. After around 15

minutes they were joined by a group of farmers and workers who had earlier demonstrated in front of the State Palace.

They then gave joint speeches from the stage.

After some 30 minutes, at around 1.30 the demonstrators

moved of to the national police headquarters to hold a similar action. The plan is for an action to be held

by

representatives from Kontras, the Legal Aid Foundation,

Indonesian Human Rights Watch (Imparsial), the Indonesian

Environmental Forum (Walhi), the Bojong Integrated Waste

Treatment Facility Society, the Victims of the Kotabumi

Land Evictions, the Tanjung Priok Victims and the Batang

and Pekalongan Farmers Society which will end at 4pm. (bal)

P.S.

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