

Letter to Pakistan Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia: to secure the release of Mr Baba Jan and five other political prisoners currently detained

Saturday 1 October 2011, by [KPO-PRP](#), [Pembebasan](#), [Perempuan Mahardhika](#), [PLP](#), [PPBI](#) (Date first published: 28 September 2011).

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Letter to Pakistan Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia

To: Mr. Sanaullah

Ambassador of Pakistan

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Fax: +62-21-57851645

Email: pakembassyjakarta@gmail.com

Website: www.mofa.gov.pk/Indonesia/default.aspx

Dear Sir,

We are writing to ask for your urgent intervention with the government of Pakistan to secure the release of Mr Baba Jan and five other political prisoners currently detained in the region of Gilgit-Baltistan. Mr Baba Jan is a leader of both the highly respected Labour Party Pakistan and the Progressive Youth Front in the region.

During a peaceful demonstration on August 11 by local residents of Gilgit-Baltistan demanding the payment of compensation allowances due to them following the devastating flood and landslide in the valley of Hunza on July 4, 2010, the police opened fired on the protesters, killing Afzal Baig (22 years old), then his father, Sher Ullah Baig (50 years old) who was trying to protect him. The following day, the population of Aliabad and other localities of Hunza rose up, clashing with the police. On August 19, in an attempt to silence the protesters and conceal these murders from public view, 36 people were picked up by police, then another 33 were picked up on September 16.

After initially avoiding arrest, Baba Jan gave himself up to authorities - not because he has committed any crime, but under threat of being "disappeared" if he was captured, a victim of an "extrajudicial execution". The judge had sent Baba Jan to prison on judicial remand. However, he dragged from his by the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and tortured for two days - suspended by ropes and severely beaten - in an attempt to extract false confessions from him.

We are aware that these events in Gilgit-Baltistan have featured on the front pages of Pakistan's national press, as they should have: the inhumane treatment of Baba Jan and the other prisoners, whose only "crime" was to speak up for the basic human rights of fellow Pakistanis, has outraged all those who respect democracy and justice.

We in Indonesia have joined the international campaign to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Baba Jan and the other prisoners.

We also join with the Asian Human Rights Commission in calling for an end to the repression in Gilgit-Baltistan, and insist that the government of Pakistan prosecutes the police and intelligence officials responsible for these violations of human rights.

We ask you to insist to your government that the false charges against the demonstrators be dropped, and that full compensation be paid to all the people affected by the landslide of July 4, 2010.

We look forward to your swift response on this issue, and to receiving your reply.

Jakarta, 28th September 2011

Yours sincerely,

Indonesian groups which support this campaign

1. People's Liberation Party of Indonesia

Email : politic.ofthepoor gmail.com

Web : <http://kprm-prd-english.blogspot.com>

2. Reorganizing Committee - Working People's Association

Email : kpo.prp rakyatpekerja.org

Web : <http://www.rakyatpekerja.org/>

3. Centre of Student Movement for National Liberation

Email : kn.pembebasan gmail.com

Web : <http://pembebasan-pusat.blogspot.com/>

4. Free Women

Email : mahardhika.kita gmail.com

Web : <http://perempuanmahardhika.blogspot.com/>

5. Indonesian Labor Movement of Unity

Email : kp.ppbi gmail.com

Web : <http://kp-ppbi.blogspot.com/>
