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Actions commemorating activist's murder target national intelligence agency

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The following is a compilation of articles from Detik.com and Tempo Interactive on actions commemorating three years since the murder of human rights activist Munir.

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Protests commemorating Munir's murder to target intelligence agency

Detik.com - September 7, 2007

Nurul Hidayati, Jakarta — The offices of the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) on Jl. Kalibata in South Jakarta will be the target of demonstrations on Friday September 7, or exactly three years since the murder of Munir, a staunch human rights activist. Two groups who will be demonstrating at the BIN offices.

The first group will comprise activists from the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras), a renowned non-government organisation led by Munir. According to the Metro Jaya District Police Traffic Management Center (TMC), the protest will involve some 300 people. The protesters will be calling for the Munir case to be solved.

In addition to BIN, protesters will also demonstrate at the State Palace on Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara in Central Jakarta. The demonstration will be held at 1pm.

Coinciding with this, members of the Betawi Brotherhood Forum (FBR) will also arrive at the BIN offices. This will be a peaceful protest. According to the TMC the action is aimed at "addressing the Kontras' protest".

Another activity related to Munir's murder will be held at 5.30pm — a theatrical presentation titled "Reflections on Three Years Since Munir's Death" — which will be held by the Solidarity Action Committee for Munir (KASUM) at the Proclamation Monument on Jl. Proklamasi in Central Jakarta. Around 300 or so people will attend the event.
(nrl/gah)

Munir's widow demands that BIN 'cleanses' itself of activist's murderer

Detik.com - September 7, 2007

Anwar Khumaini, Jakarta — Three years have passed without any progress being made on who murdered human rights activist Munir. In a speech, Munir's widow Suciwati demanded that the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) be "cleansed" of Munir's killers.

"We came here not for a confrontation. But to assist in cleaning up this institution. Whoever the perpetrator is, they must be taken before the courts. We believe that there is thorn in BIN's side that must be removed", shouted Suciwati.

Suciwati was standing on top of an open pickup truck

and speaking through a megaphone in front of the BIN offices on Jl. Pejaten in Jakarta on Friday September 7.

Also present were around 1 thousand people from the Solidarity Alliance for Munir and Democracy (Asumsi) who called on BIN director Syamsir Siregar to cleanse the organisation of Munir's murderers.

"We came not because we hate BIN. But precisely as a form of our love for BIN", shouted Suciwati who was wearing a black T-shirt with a picture of Munir and the words "Munir was killed because he was right".
(sss/ana)

Intelligence agency officials refuse to accept 'flowers for Munir'

Detik.com - September 7, 2007

Anwar Khumaini, Jakarta — A bunch of roses and a wreath of flowers symbolising the death of Munir was handed to officials on guard in front of the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) offices. Not one of them however wanted to accept them.

"They don't even want to accept the flowers, let alone investigate the Munir murder case", said the coordinator of the action angrily in front of the BIN offices on Jl. Pejaten in Jakarta on Friday September 7.

Participating in the action were some 1 thousand people from the Solidarity Alliance for Munir and Democracy (Asumsi).

In a speech meanwhile, the coordinator of the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) said that they had come there not to attack BIN but to ask that people who commit villainous crimes against humanity be immediately taken to court.

The action brought traffic to a standstill on both lanes of the road with hundreds of local residents watching the demonstration. Even though they were prevented from approaching by an iron fence and the railway tracks between the residential area and the

main road in front of BIN, the spectators also joined in enthusiastically shouting "Viva Munir!".

Tight security was maintained by police while inside the BIN offices security personnel in light-green uniforms carried truncheons. At around 3pm the protesters left the BIN offices and headed off to the State Palace on Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara in Central Jakarta. (sss/ana)

Protesters call on Yudhoyono to exercise authority in Munir case

Detik.com - September 7, 2007

Anwar Khumaini, Jakarta — Exactly three years since Munir's death, one thousand people from the Solidarity Alliance for Munir and Democracy (Asumsi) gathered at the Proclamation Monument on Jl. Proklamasi in Central Jakarta on Friday September 7.

From there they will march to the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) offices on Jl. Seno II/BI in the East Pejaten area of South Jakarta to hold another action.

During the protest they called on BIN to take responsibility for Munir's murder. They also brought 10 wreaths of flowers representing their sorrow over the death of Munir, human rights activists that died in 1998 and other activists that have been disappeared.

The protesters had been arriving in waves since 1pm in private cars, on public transport, motorcycles and Metro Mini busses. They wore red and black T-shirts with a picture of Munir and the writing "Munir was killed because he was right".

In speeches in front of the Proclamation Monument the demonstrators urged President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to use his position to "open up" institutions under his authority.

They also called on the head of BIN, as a state institution to be transparent and cooperate with law enforcement agencies to uncover the thorn in the side of the agency that has damaged BIN's image in

the eyes of the public.

At 1.30pm, the protesters set off for the BIN offices watched over by 10 police officers.
(ziz/nrl)

Peaceful action in Surabaya remembers murder of rights activist Munir

Tempo Interactive - September 7, 2007

Sunudyantoro/Rohman Taufiq, Surabaya — Today, three years ago, human rights activist Munir died on a flight from Jakarta via Singapore to Amsterdam. A peaceful action commemorating his death was held in front of the State Grahadi Building in the East Java provincial capital of Surabaya on Friday September 7.

The 40 or so people that took part in the action wore black T-shirts and prayed that the Munir murder case be solved quickly. They also reminded the public to continue supporting the struggle to uphold freedom and to hold human rights in the highest esteem.

Action coordinator M Saiful Aris from the Surabaya Legal Aid Foundation said that a final resolution to Munir's murder had entered an important round, that is a judicial review of the suspect Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto. The various pieces of new evidence presented by the public prosecutor has captured the public's attention. "Certainly there are many issues and intelligence games behind Munir's murder", he said.

Nevertheless said Aris, it still feels as if the judicial review will be inadequate to uncover all of the plots and exactly who should take responsibility for Munir's murder. Aris also said that we still have a lot of homework that must be done together in order to force the state to be serious about and have the courage to seek and ask for responsibility for Munir's murder.

Aris asserted that for the community of human rights defenders, Munir's murder has more meaning than just being aimed at murdering Munir and silencing his

criticisms. "It indicates that there are excessive signs of resistance on the part of certain groups over the presence of critical groups and efforts to promote the defense of human rights", he said.

Three years after Munir murder, Yogya activist call for BIN to be disbanded

Detik.com - September 7, 2007

Bagus Kurniawan, Yogyakarta — Activists in the Central Java city of Yogyakarta commemorated three years since Munir's death by demanding that the National Intelligence Agency (BIN) be disbanded.

Scores of activists from the Yogyakarta Solidarity Action Committee for Udin and Munir (KASUM) went to the Yogyakarta Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) on Jl. Malioboro on Friday September 7 demanding that the Munir murder case be solved.

In speeches the demonstrators said that cases involving the murder of activists in Indonesia are never solved citing the murder of Munir and journalist Fuad Muhammad Syafrudin alias Udin(1) as examples. Up until now the masterminds behind the two murders have yet to be revealed.

KASUM said that suspicions that BIN is behind Munir's murder must be investigated immediately. They are also asking for former BIN officials such as Hendropriyono, Muchdi PR and As'ad(2) to be brought to trial. "Because they are the key figures in order to [be able] crack the Munir case", shouted one of the demonstrators in a speech.

Satisfied with giving speeches at the DPRD, the demonstrators continued the action at the Yogyakarta governor's office in Kepatihan. Before they arrived however, scores of civil service police had already closed the gates to the governor's offices.

Throughout the protest a battalion of Yogyakarta municipal police watched over the demonstration. A number of traffic police could also be seen directing traffic on Jl. Malioboro in order to prevent a traffic jam.

Like other demonstrations, protesters also brought posters and banners with messages such as "The Polly[carpus]-Indra Setiawan recording, Bin is clearly involved"(3), "President Yudhoyono and Vice President Jusuf Kalla are weak", "Udin + Munir we are with you", "Stop the murder of pro-democracy activists", and "The Udin case is tainted — sack the Yogyakarta chief of police".

They also brought a four-meter length of white cloth with the demand "Try the masterminds of Udin + Munir's murder, KASUM Yogya" and photographs of Udin who was murdered on August 13, 1996. (bgs/djo)

Notes:

1. Fuad Muhammad Syafruddin (Udin) was a journalist with the Yogyakarta based newspaper Bernas who died in August 1996 after being badly beaten in his home by unknown intruders. At the time he was investigating a corruption case involving the regent of Bantul, Sri Rosa Sudarmo. Despite the fact that Sudarmo was implicated in the murder, he was never questioned by police. Instead Dwi Sumaji, an employee of an advertising company, was plied with drink, provided with a prostitute, and promised money by police officials in return for confessing to Udin's murder. Although eventually brought to trial Sumaji was later acquitted for lack of evidence.

2. Hendropriyono - The former director of BIN at the time when Munir was murdered. Muchdi PR - Former deputy director at BIN who received numerous phone calls from the prime suspect in the case, Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto just prior to Munir's murder. As'ad - Former deputy director of BIN who signed a recommendation letter asking for Priyanto to joint the flight on which Munir died.

3. A recording played in court between Priyanto and former Garuda Airlines executive director Indra Setiawan implicating themselves and BIN officials in the murder.

[Translated by James Balowski.]