



For immediate release – 7 July 2010

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Indonesia: Arson Attack on *Tempo* Magazine is an Attack on Freedom of Expression**

**The attack on *Tempo* magazine’s office in Jakarta on 6 July 2010 by two unidentified men, who threw three Molotov bombs at the front of the building, constitutes a serious threat to press freedom in Indonesia. ARTICLE 19 condemns the act and calls on the Indonesian police to carry out an impartial and thorough investigation into the case.**

Although no injuries were sustained, this attack constitutes a serious violation to freedom of expression in Indonesia. *“The attack on Tempo magazine’s office undermines press freedom in Indonesia, which now has one of the freest press in the region since the fall of president Suharto,”* says Dr Agnes Callamard, ARTICLE 19 Executive Director.

Following the arson attack on *Tempo*, five witnesses were questioned by the Central Jakarta Police. Although the perpetrators have yet to be identified, there are concerns that the attack is related to a controversial feature published in the most recent issue of the magazine (28th of June – 4th of July 2010), which criticised the Indonesian police. The edition, titled “The Fat Bank Accounts of Police Officers” (“Rekening Gendut Perwira Polisi”), featured an investigative report on bank accounts owned by high ranking police officers. Local media reported that 30,000 copies of that edition were quickly purchased from newsstands, as speculation over attempts to curb distribution spread.

ARTICLE 19 calls on the Indonesian police to carry out an impartial and thorough investigation into the attack and to ensure that journalists can operate in a safe environment.

ENDS

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- For more information please contact: Amy Sim, Asia Programme Officer, [amy@article19.org](mailto:amy@article19.org), ARTICLE 19, +44 20 7324 2500
- ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works globally to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees free speech. For more information on ARTICLE 19 please visit [www.article19.org](http://www.article19.org).