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Indonesia: Human Rights Council must ensure strong recommendations at human rights review

States must ensure that strong recommendations are made when Indonesia's human rights record is examined under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for the third time on 3 May 2017. Since Indonesia's last review in 2012, the human rights situation on the ground has stagnated. The Indonesian authorities have either ignored, or only partially implemented the numerous recommendations made by other states. States participating in the review must call on Indonesia to take the UPR process seriously and implement all the recommendations it committed to in its previous two reviews.

Amnesty International made a submission of information for the review of Indonesia highlighting a series of concerns and recommendations action to address these. Amnesty International's concerns include the failure by Indonesia to ensure truth, justice and reparations for the victims of past human rights violations and their relatives, and the weakness of the justice system in the country. Rather than listening to victims and their families, the authorities have attempted to silence public discussions in many areas of Indonesia and have disbanded public events related to the mass human rights violations that occurred in 1965-66.

The organisation also raised concerns about the use of unnecessary and excessive force, particularly in Papua. Further legislation has been used to criminalize peaceful political activities and violations of the right to freedom of expression are particularly severe in areas with a history of pro-independence movements, such as Maluku and Papua. Religious minorities also continue to face harassment, intimidation and attacks.

Since the last review Indonesia has executed 23 prisoners, both Indonesian and foreign nationals. Almost all the executions were related to drug trafficking offences, which are crimes that do not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" under international law and standards.

Background

The UPR review is taking place in the UPR Working Group on Wednesday on 3 May 2017 between 09.00 and 12.30 local time in Geneva, Switzerland. Amnesty International has made a written submission to the UN UPR Working Group can be accessed here: Indonesia: It's not good enough; Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review – 27th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2017.

The UPR review on Indonesia can be accessed through live webcast at: http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/

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