

Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Jl. Alternatif Cibubur Puri Cikeas Indah No. 2
Desa Nagrag Kec. Gunung Putri
Bogor - 16967, Indonesia

Brussels, 22 September 2014

Re: Concerns regarding an attack against Anum Siregar, a human rights lawyer

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it also has observer representatives from a further thirteen European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE writes to express its serious concern over a physical attack against Ms Anum Siregar, a human rights lawyer and the Director of Alliance of Democracy for Papua (ALDP), a human rights organization in Papua. The CCBE has been informed that on 16 September 2014, at approximately 23:00 Ms Siregar was attacked by an unknown person in Wamena, Papua province. The attacker was armed with a knife, stole her bag and injured her hand before fleeing the scene. Then, Ms Siregar went to Wamena hospital to receive treatment for her injuries.

Based on the information that we have received, this is not an isolated attack as Ms Siregar, together with a lawyer colleague, felt monitored when arriving at their hotel in Wamena. Ms Siregar had travelled to Wamena to defend a tribal leader at a pre-trial hearing and Ms Siregar was attacked on the way back to her hotel from a court hearing.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw to your attention the following Principles of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990):

Principle 16 states that:

Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economics or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

Furthermore, principle 17 says that:

Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges you to investigate these alleged attacks in order to guarantee the security and physical and psychological integrity of Ms Siregar. In addition, the CCBE asks you to take all necessary measures to guarantee that all lawyers in Indonesia are able to perform their professional duties without fear of reprisal, hindrance, intimidation or harassment.

I look forward to hearing from your Excellency urgently.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldo Bulgarelli', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Aldo BULGARELLI
President