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Dear President Widodo,

I would like to bring to your attention the case of Heri Budiawan, known as Budi Pego, who is currently serving a four-year prison sentence for "crimes against state security" and is seeking a presidential amnesty.

The environmental activist was jailed for the second time on 24 March 2023 after the Supreme Court rejected his appeal against a previous decision from 2017 and decided to increase his punishment from ten months to four years in prison. He had been convicted following his involvement in a peaceful protest against a gold mining activity in Salakan Mountain, Banyuwangi, in April 2017. His case marks the first time that an anti-communist article has been used since 1998 and it could set a dangerous precedent for similar cases in the future.

Budi Pego is being targeted for his work as a human rights defender and must be immediately and unconditionally released. I therefore respectfully urge you to facilitate his immediate and unconditional release.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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