

Reda Manthovani
Chief of DKI Jakarta Attorney General's Office
Jl. H. R. Rasuna Said No.2, Jakarta Selatan
DKI Jakarta 12950
INDONESIEN

Dear Mr. Manthovani,

I am deeply concerned about two human rights defenders, Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar, accused of violating the defamation provision of the Electronic Information and Trans-actions Law (ITE). They now face prosecution after the police submitted the findings of their investigations to the Attorney General's Office on 6 March 2023. These criminal proceedings against Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar add to a long list of cases against human rights defenders in Indonesia involving the unjustified suppression of freedom of expression.

Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar were reported to the police by Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs, who also sued the two human rights defenders 100 billion rupiahs each (approximately USD 7 million). The allegations relate to a video on Haris Azhar's YouTube channel, in which he and Fatia Maulidiyanti discuss a report titled "A Political Economy Study of Military Placement in Papua: The Case of Intan Jaya," which suggests alleged connections between military operations and mining activities in Intan Jaya Regency, in Papua.

It is very distressing to learn that Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar face criminal charges and a possible four-year sentence, simply for exercising their right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed under both international and national law. Therefore, I urge you to drop the charges and close the investigation against Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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