

International Solidarity
Protecting the Right to Protest: International Solidarity with Indonesia
#StopPoliceBrutality!

On 28th and 29th August 2025, tens of thousands of Indonesian workers protested across provinces and sub districts such as Manokwari, Semarang, Solo, Magelang, Medan, Bengkulu, and Tegal with the epicenter of protest in front of the House of Representatives (DPR) in Jakarta. Protesters demanded a minimum wage increase of 8.5 - 10% for 2026, a halt to mass layoffs, the abolition of outsourcing, comprehensive tax reform, the enactment of a new labor law in line with Constitutional Court Decision No. 168/2024, as well as the passage of the Asset Confiscation Bill and revision of the Election Law. These demands reflect workers' fundamental rights to decent work, social protection, and democratic participation.

Three days earlier, 25th August 2025, hundreds of students and civilians were protesting in front of the DPR building after the recent report that lawmakers had received several upgrades on allowances, one of which regarding monthly housing allowance for 50 million rupiah (\$3,000 per person), which makes 10 times the minimum wage in Jakarta, while a period of massive layoffs for more than 80,000 labours, influx of more than 100% to property tax, as well as budget cuts for education and universities occurred in the same timeline. The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) documented that the demonstration ended with 12 injured civilians and 351 arbitrarily detained - of whom 196 were minors - and the use of water cannon as well as expired tear gas which indiscriminately affected residential areas.

The state apparatus' responses to the 28th and 29th August protest raised deeper grave concerns. KontraS documented a series of excessive use of force practices from the Indonesian National Police (Polri) which include acts of live bullet shootings, torture, assaults, arbitrary arrests, forced dispersals, and the uncontrolled use of crowd-control weapons. Hence, resulting in more or less 113 severely injured civilians, 3 deaths, and 734 arrests. These figures illustrate an alarming pattern of systematic violence against civilians exercising their constitutional rights.

One of the most tragic incidents occurred in Jakarta on 28 August 2025, when Affan Kurniawan, a young online ride-hailing driver and sole breadwinner for his family, was killed after being run over by a tactical vehicle of the Mobile Brigade (Brimob) during the protest. His death not only represents an arbitrary deprivation of life in violation of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), but also illustrates the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by Indonesian security forces against civilians. The killing of Affan underscores how state violence directly targets ordinary citizens whose only "crime" was exercising their right to be present in a public protest space.

The use of excessive force, arbitrary arrests, and acts amounting to torture not only contravene Indonesia's obligations under international human rights law including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention against Torture (CAT), but also directly violate Indonesia's own national legal framework. In particular, Indonesian Regulation of the National Police Chief (Perkap) No. 1 of 2009 on the Use of Force and Perkap

No. 16 of 2006 on Crowd Control explicitly require law enforcement officers to adhere to the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, and accountability. The current practices reveal systemic breaches of these standards, undermining the rule of law and eroding public trust in state institutions.

For the worse, former Chief of State Intelligence Agency A.M Hendropriyono narrates that an actor outside Indonesia orchestrated the demonstration. It has been a stigmatization pattern that one of the main narratives set up by the state apparatus is CSOs' involvement with international entities and how the organizations are perceived as the henchmen of foreign or western entities (*antek asing*).

The mentioned incidents are not isolated. Instead, they reflect a recurring pattern of police violence against peaceful assemblies in Indonesia, from past protests such as the *Reformasi Dikorupsi* in 2019, Omnibus Law in 2020, Peringatan Darurat in 2024, to demonstrations against National Strategic Projects such as Rempang in 2023 and Papuan protests. Each cycle of repression, characterized by excessive force, mass arrests, and impunity further entrenches a culture of fear and silences legitimate dissent. Such systemic abuse represents not only a failure to uphold democratic principles but also a deliberate attempt to delegitimize civic movements that demand accountability and justice.

A disturbing and recurring practice within this systemic violence is the pattern of enforced disappearances where demonstrators, especially students and young activists, are forcibly taken by state agents without acknowledgment of their whereabouts for hours or even days, often without concrete legal justification or due process. This tactic instills and mirrors the legacy of enforced disappearances from the 1998 authoritarian regime.

The lack of Indonesia's accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICPPED) has created a legal vacuum, allowing such practices to persist with impunity. The state's failure to ratify this international human rights standard eliminates critical safeguards to prevent recurrence, ensuring legal accountability, as well as protection from arbitrary state-led abductions.

Simultaneously, there are alarming efforts to suppress press freedom, also a form of mirroring from the past authoritarian regime. During the recent protests, the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPID) on 28th August 2025 was documented to actively pressure media outlets to refrain from covering scenes of police brutality or other scenes from the protests as this state-led information blackout further impedes transparency. Thus, the state is combining forced disappearances with media censorship, replicating a dangerous 1998 pattern.

Thus, we civil society urge the Indonesian Government the following:

- 1.) The National Police (Polri) is to immediately end the use of excessive force, ensure all crowd-control operations comply with Perkap No. 1 of 2009 and international human rights standards such as the UN Guidance of Less-Lethal Weapons and UN Code of

Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and impartially investigate officers responsible for abuses.

- 2.) The National Police Commission (Kopolnas) is to exercise independent oversight by launching an urgent inquiry into police violence on 28th August 2025 and recommend disciplinary and criminal sanctions.
- 3.) Police Institutions (Polri and Kopolnas) and Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) must cease all practices of enforced disappearances as well as short-term enforced disappearances and ensure prompt release and protection of all arbitrarily detained civilians.
- 4.) The National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) to conduct a prompt, impartial, and transparent investigation into all cases of torture, arbitrary arrest, and extrajudicial killings related to recent protests, and provide protection for victims and witnesses. The Institution should also intensify monitoring to specific components in the incidents such as the excessive use of crowd-control weapons including tear gas, batons, and rubber bullets, to tactical vehicles particularly in the incident where a ride-hailing driver was run over by a Brimob tactical vehicle during the demonstration.
- 5.) The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR RI) to ensure genuine legislative oversight by summoning the Chief of Police for public accountability hearings, demanding explanations for the unlawful repression, and guaranteeing that all future crowd-control operations strictly comply with national law and international standards. The DPR must also immediately expedite the deliberation and passage of laws safeguarding labor rights, social protection, and civic freedoms. As the very institution being protested by the people, the DPR cannot hide behind repression, it must face Indonesian civil society directly, listen to their grievances, and act responsibly to restore public trust. As the main actor being protested by civilians, the parliament should also directly face Indonesian civil society elements as the protest
- 6.) The Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) must immediately ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICPPED) and adopt necessary domestic legislation to prevent recurring practices of enforced disappearances, ensure timely and impartial investigations, and to hold all perpetrators accountable
- 7.) The President of Indonesia publicly condemned police violence, guaranteed the protection of the right to peaceful assembly, and ensured Indonesia's full compliance with its international human rights obligations, including the requirement that any trials related to the police violence during demonstrations be conducted in a transparent and open manner. The police should conduct evaluation in handling demonstrations by prioritizing a non-violent approach.

Sunday, 31 August 2025

Organizations

1. The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS), Indonesia
2. Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI), Indonesia
3. Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)

4. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
5. Public Association "Dignity", Kazakhstan
6. IMPARSIAL, the Indonesian Human Rights Monitor, Indonesia
7. The Peoples Participation, Initiative and Partnership Strengthening Foundation (YAPPIKA), Indonesia
8. Indonesia Justice and Peace Foundation (YKPI), Indonesia
9. Indonesia Judicial Research Society (IJRS), Indonesia
10. BarengWarga, Indonesia
11. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law
12. the Civil Society Coalition against Transnational Organized Crime /CATOC
13. Manushya Foundation (Laos/Thailand)
14. Colors Rainbow (Myanmar)
15. Peoples of Longing, Timor Leste
16. 2030 Youth Force Indonesia (Yayasan 2030 Prapta Nusa), Indonesia
17. Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit), Timor Leste
18. Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), Indonesia
19. LBH APIK Jakarta
20. Kuala Lumpur Debate
21. Indonesia Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI)
22. Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD)
23. KOMPAKS (Anti Sexual Violence Civil Society Coalition)
24. Support Group and Resource Center on Sexuality Studies (SGRC) Indonesia
25. Women's March Jakarta 2025 Committee
26. International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID)
27. Yayasan Tifa (Tifa Foundation)
28. Activate Rights (Bangladesh)
29. WITNESS
30. kotakhitam Forum
31. PERIN+1S - C2O library & collaborative
32. PIKAT Demokrasi
33. Public Virtue Research Institute
34. Humanis
35. SINDIKASI (Serikat Pekerja Media & Industri Kreatif untuk Demokrasi) Jawa Timur
36. Suara Muda Kelas Pekerja Partai Buruh (SMKP)
37. Trend Asia (Indonesia)
38. Solidarity Collective TH (Thailand)
39. Progresip.id
40. Emancipate Indonesia
41. ILGA Asia
42. Perkumpulan Untuk Pemilu dan Demokrasi (Perludem), Indonesia
43. ASEAN SOGIE Caucus
44. Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI)
45. TAPOL (UK)
46. MilkTeaAlliance Calendar Team (Regional)

47. Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA) Indonesia
48. Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM), Malaysia
49. Partai Rakyat Pekerja (PRP), Indonesia
50. Lembaga Informasi Perburuhan Sedane (LIPS) Indonesia
51. Konfederasi Serikat Nasional (KSN), Indonesia
52. Konfederasi Pergerakan Rakyat Indonesia (KPRI), Indonesia
53. Transnational Palm Oil Labour Solidarity (TPOLS)
54. Human Rights Alert Manipur, India
55. Numun Fund
56. National Union of Workers in Hospital Support and Allied Services (NUWHSAS), Malaysia
57. Studio Batu
58. Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFEnet)
59. Kelompok Jaya Bersama (KJB) Indonesia
60. Lingkaran Advokasi dan Riset (Link-AR Borneo)
61. Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)
62. Social Justice Indonesia
63. Legal Dignity, Malaysia
64. Open Net (Korea)
65. Ruang Independen Community, Indonesia
66. Spring Revolution Security (Myanmar)
67. ICT Watch, Indonesia
68. Kolektif Bengkel Kabel Bandung, Indonesia
69. End Female Genital Cutting Singapore
70. Rohingya Maiyafuñor Collaborative Network
71. Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia/The Union of Indonesian Migrants Worker (SBMI)
72. Sigaw ng Kabataan Coalition (SKC) Philippines
73. Serve the People Association (SPA), Taiwan
74. Foundation for Media Alternatives (Philippines)
75. Human Rights Online Philippines (HRonlinePH)
76. Arus Pelangi (Indonesia)
77. ALTSEAN-Burma
78. Asia Feminist LBQ Network (AFLN)
79. Korean House for International Solidarity (South Korea)
80. International Peoples Assembly
81. Partido Lakas ng Masa (PLM), Philippines
82. Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
83. FIAN Indonesia
84. Watch Indonesia! e.V
85. Bumi Setara
86. 18+ Coalition (Koalisi 18+), Indonesia
87. Perempuan Mahardhika (Indonesia)
88. Serbuk Kalbar
89. Warisan Ingatan

90. New Bloom (Taiwan)
91. Cita Tanah Mahardika, Indonesia
92. Proklamasi Anak Indonesia
93. Advocacy Forum (Nepal)
94. Suriya Women's Development Centre (Sri Lanka)
95. Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
96. Indorelawan, Indonesia
97. Kait Nusantara, Indonesia
98. Beyond Borders Malaysia
99. Movement for Alternatives and Solidarity in Southeast Asia
100. KontraS Aceh
101. Greater Equitable Measures (GEM)
102. Strength For Queer - Myanmar
103. A New Burma
104. Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD)
105. Association of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP)
106. Athan - Freedom of Expression Activist Organization
107. Blood Money Campaign
108. Creative Home
109. Equality Myanmar (EQMM)
110. Generation Wave
111. Generations' Solidarity Coalition of Nationalities- GSCN
112. Justice & Equality Focus
113. Kyae Lak Myae
114. Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma (ND-Burma)
115. Nyan Lynn Thit Analytical
116. New Step Women Empowerment Group/Network
117. Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA)
118. Progressive Voice (PV)
119. Queers of Burma Alternative
120. Sitt Nyein Pann Foundation
121. Southern Initiatives
122. Women Advocacy Coalition - Myanmar (WAC-M)
123. Women's League of Burma (WLB)
124. Yangon Medical Network
125. Volunteers in Myanmar
126. MyaYar Knowledge Tree
127. Kyauktada Strike Committee (KSC)
128. Defend Myanmar Democracy
129. ဝိဇ္ဇာနည် - Yain Nweh Par (Rainbow Win The Storm - RIS)
130. ASR-ASSOCIATION of SPRING RAINBOW
131. Yangon Deaf Group
132. Muslim Youth Network
133. Sisters2Sisters

134. In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDEFEND) - Philippines
135. ProyekDekolonial
136. Vuka! Coalition for Civic Action
137. Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) - Philippines
138. Saribuhay UP Diliman (Philippines)
139. Defence of Human Rights, Pakistan
140. Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN), Maldives
141. NGO: Environment and humanitarian actions for well-being
142. Salam for Democracy and Human Rights (SALAM DHR)
143. Association for Democracy in the Maldives (ADM), Maldives
144. Solidaritas Aktivis Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI) Diaspora
145. Asia Citizen Future Association (ACFA)
146. Taiwan Association for Human Rights (TAHR)
147. SILAKA-CAMBODIA
148. Southeast Asian Human Rights and Peace Studies Network (SEAHRN)
149. Yayasan Keadilan Untuk Rakyat Marginal (Kurama Foundation)
150. Kapatiran sa Dalawang Gulong (KAGULONG), Philippines
151. Himpunan Advokasi Rakyat Malaysia (HARAM), Malaysia
152. Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (BERSIH), Malaysia
153. Cross-Cultural Foundation (CrCF) Thailand
154. Jeunesse Innovante et Restauration du Bien-être (JERESTAURE BIEN ETRE)
155. North South Initiative, Malaysia
156. KontraS Tanah Papua
157. True Colors Coalition (Philippines)
158. Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI)
159. The Biodiversity Project, Sri Lanka
160. Mayday Multimedia, Philippines
161. Philippine Labor Movement Archive (PLMA)
162. Pusat KOMAS, Malaysia
163. MY World Mexico: Hub of Action for Sustainable Development, Mexico
164. Asia Monitor Resource Centre
165. Youth and young Journalist peace and Democracy cultural
166. Center Timor-Leste
167. Milk Tea Alliance Thailand
168. Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), Philippines
169. Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
170. Indonesia untuk Kemanusiaan (IKa)
171. Bytes for All (B4A), Pakistan
172. Weaving Women's Voices in Southeast Asia (WEAVE)
173. Beyond the Hijab, Singapore
174. ALIANSI GERAKAN REFORMA AGRARIA (AGRA), Indonesia
175. Odhikar, Bangladesh
176. SEAPIL (Southeast Asia Public Lawyers Interest), Southeast Asia Region
177. Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), Philippines

178. Agham Youth UP Diliman (Philippines)
179. Global Citizen Society, Maldives
180. Kemban Kolektif, Malaysia
181. Women's March, Malaysia
182. Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4 Center), Malaysia
183. Initiative for International Dialogue (IID), Philippines
184. Kalyanamitra, Indonesia
185. BeWithYou Indonesia
186. Bright Future, Thailand
187. Fat Liberation London, UK
188. Vajpayee Research Foundation, India
189. Serikat Pekerja Angkutan Indonesia (SPAI)
190. Irish Council for Civil Liberties, Ireland
191. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
192. Labor Kommunity
193. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Argentina
194. Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)
195. EngageMedia Collective
196. Youth Initiative (YI), Nepal
197. Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI), Nepal
198. Defence of Human Rights Pakistan
199. Capital Punishment Justice Project, Australia
200. Psychological Responsiveness NGO, Mongolia
201. People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), South Korea
202. Samahan ng Progresibong Kabataan (SPARK), Philippines
203. Sekolah Pemikiran Perempuan (SPP/ The School of Women's Thought)
204. Ch.nrw.flinta
205. N.C.F.H. Collective (SEA)
206. QueerPunch (SEA)
207. Can Yalcinkaya, Australia
208. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
209. Kenya Human Rights Commission, Kenya
210. Legal Resources Center, South Africa
211. Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network

Individual

1. Taufiq Hanafi, Indonesia
2. Safina Maulida, Indonesia
3. Shoeb Abdullah
4. Ganies Oktaviana, Indonesia
5. Achmad Assifa
6. Cyprianus Lilik Kridmantoro Putro
7. Mathurin K
8. Xun-ling Au

9. James
10. Choo Chon Kai
11. Vox
12. RESI- TIMOR LESTE
13. Saza Faradilla
14. Reihana Mohideen
15. Bima Arthayuda, Indonesia
16. Raffy Oktavian, Indonesia
17. Ni Putu Candra Dewi, Indonesia
18. Syahar Banu, Indonesia
19. Federico Fuentes, editor LINKS International Journal of Socialist Renewal, Australia.
20. Nurashikin Binte A Rahim, Singapore
21. Gloria Truly Estrelita, Indonesia
22. Mamik Sri Supatmi, Indonesia
23. Syahmi Zulfadhli Abdullah, Brunei
24. Bikash Basnet, Nepal
25. Eko Waluyo, Indonesian solidarity
26. Atmaezer Hariara Simanjuntak
27. Cho
28. Megan Steven, Malaysia
29. Bernard Vijayabalan, Singapore
30. Ja Fuentes, Philippines
31. Lea Pamungkas, Amsterdam
32. Adhiraaj AnandNATWA HINDINA Pierre
33. Reichele Corona, Philippines
34. Rahmat Muhamad, Medan, Sumatera Utara
35. Madalena Timor Leste
36. Thomas Rieger, Jerman
37. Charles Zander Deluna, Philippines
38. Betty Yolanda, Indonesia
39. Ellirie Aviles, Philippines
40. Peter Boyle, Australia
41. Etienne ZOUNDE
42. Jhay de Jesus, Philippines
43. Dulanjaya Mahagamage, Sri Lanka
44. Kasumi Ranasinghe Arachchige, Sri Lanka
45. Wildan Siregar, Indonesia
46. OTOLORIN Adandé Barthélémy
47. Cristiana Ximenes Belo, Timor-Leste
48. Prints para sa Bayan /for the People
49. Celia L. Sevilla, Philippines
50. Attitaya, Thailand
51. Fiza Awan, Thailand
52. Maya Kornelia Musa, Indonesia

53. Kanhaiya Kumar, India
54. Myriam Selhi, Canada
55. Lulu Keng, Taiwan
56. Erin McConnell, USA
57. Lisabona Rahman, Germany
58. Alejandra Rojas Giraldo, Colombia
59. Christine Holike, Germany
60. Semjidmaa Chojijil, Mongolia
61. Ganga Bahadur Gautam, Nepal
62. Di Wu, Belgium