



## **ADPAN Condemns Acid Attack against Indonesian Human Rights Defender Andrie Yunus**

### **PRESS STATEMENT**

**15 March 2026**

The Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) condemns in the strongest sense possible the acid attack against human rights defender Andrie Yunus, the Deputy Coordinator for External Affairs of KontraS (Komisi untuk Orang Hilang dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan), that took place on 12 March 2026 in Central Jakarta, Indonesia. KontraS is a member of ADPAN and one of Indonesia's leading human rights organisations. ADPAN stands in solidarity with Andrie, KontraS, our members in Indonesia, and Indonesian civil society. We extend our deepest support to Andrie and his family during this incredibly difficult time.

According to information received by ADPAN, Andrie was the victim of a targeted acid attack shortly after taping a podcast episode discussing the rise of militarism in Indonesia. Medical reports indicate the severity of the assault, with burns covering approximately 24% of his body. This act of violence has left him in critical condition, requiring extensive medical intervention and long-term recovery. KontraS has also reported that surveillance was observed at their office in Jakarta prior to the incident.

International law recognizes the vital role played by human rights defenders in promoting and protecting fundamental freedoms. The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders affirms that everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.<sup>1</sup> The Declaration further requires states to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of individuals against violence, threats, retaliation, discrimination, pressure, or any other arbitrary action arising from their legitimate human rights work.<sup>2</sup>

We call on Indonesia to abide by its international legal obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. These obligations include the duty to ensure effective protection for individuals exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association, and

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, A/RES/53/144, 9 December 1998, Art 1.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, Art. 12(2).

peaceful advocacy.<sup>3</sup> Indonesia must conduct a prompt, impartial, and effective investigation, hold the perpetrators accountable for the attack, and take appropriate measures to prevent similar acts of violence from recurring.

We also calls on Indonesian authorities to:

- Ensure that Andrie Yunus receives appropriate medical treatment and all necessary support for his recovery;
- Investigate the case thoroughly and bring the perpetrators to justice;
- Take effective measures to protect human rights defenders and guarantee a safe environment for civil society in Indonesia to operate without fear of violence or intimidation; and
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to transparency, accountability, and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

ADPAN urges the international community to closely monitor the developments and to support efforts to ensure accountability and protection for human rights defenders. Attacks against those who peacefully advocate for human rights must never be tolerated. The protection of human rights defenders is essential to safeguarding democratic institutions and ensuring that justice and accountability remain possible.

Contact:

Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN)

[communications@adpan.org](mailto:communications@adpan.org)

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<sup>3</sup> See Articles 19, 21, and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.