

URGENT ACTION

MINORITY RELIGIOUS LEADERS DETAINED AND CHARGED

Three followers of the 'Millah Abraham' religious belief are being detained by the Indonesian national police. They have all been charged with blasphemy and treason, merely for peacefully manifesting their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

The three detainees are the former leaders of the forcibly disbanded religious minority group known as Gafatar (the Fajar Nusantara Movement). The group practiced the 'Millah Abraham' belief system – which intermixes the religious teachings of Islam, Christianity and Judaism. **Ahmad Mushaddeq, Andry Cahya and Mahful Muis Tumanurung** were arrested and detained on 25 May by the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Indonesian National Police, they have all been charged with blasphemy under Article 156a of the Indonesia's Criminal Code and treason (or *makar*) under Articles 107 and 110 of the Criminal Code.

On 29 February the Attorney General, the Minister of Home affairs, and the Ministers of Religious affairs issued the Joint Ministerial Decree (No. 93/2016). This piece of legislation, which directly violates Indonesia's international obligations to protect freedom of religion, forbids 'Millah Abraham' and considers it to be blasphemous, branding its followers as heretics.

Followers of the Millah Abraham and former members of the Gafatar community have previously faced attacks and imprisonment solely because of their religious beliefs. In January 2016 a mob attacked and set alight nine houses belonging to members of the community in Menpawah District, West Kalimantan. After the attacks at least 2,000 members of the community were forcibly moved by the local security forces to temporary shelters in Kubu Raya District and Pontianak City, West Kalimantan, and then transferred to several locations on Java Island without prior consultation.

Please write immediately in Indonesian Bahasa, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ahmad Mushaddeq, Andry Cahya and Mahful Muis Tumanurung and drop the charges against them as they have been arrested solely for peacefully exercising their human right to freedom of religion;
- Calling them to ensure that pending the release of Ahmad Mushaddeq, Andry Cahya and Mahful Muis Tumanurung, they are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and have regular access to their family, lawyer of their choice and an independent court;
- Urging them to immediately rescind Joint Ministerial Decree (No. 93/2016) and allow the Gafatar community to peacefully exercise their right to freedom of religion.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 8 JULY 2016 TO:

Head of National Police
Badrodin Haiti
National Police Headquarters
Jl. Trunojoyo No. 3
Kebayoran Baru, Jakarta Selatan 12110
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 7218741
Email: mabes@polri.go.id
Twitter: @DivHumasPolri
Salutation: Dear General

Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law
and Security Affairs
Luhut Panjaitan
Coordinating Ministry for Politics, Law
and Security Affairs
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No. 15
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 3450918
Twitter: @PolhukamRI
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:
Chairperson of the National Human
Rights Commission
Imdadun Rahmat
Jl. Latuharhary No. 4
Menteng, Jakarta Pusat 10310
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 3925227
Email: info@komnasham.go.id
Twitter: @komnasham

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY DR RIZAL SUKMA, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, 38 Grosvenor Square W1K 2HW, 02074997661, Fax 02074914993, kbri@btconnect.com, www.indonesianembassy.org.uk, Salutation: Your Excellency
Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Gafatar was founded in January 2012 with branches in 14 provinces across Indonesia. However, the organization was disbanded by its members in August 2015 after they were not able to get a registration permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), a national association of Islamic clerics considers Gafatar as the transformation of al-Qiyadah which it declared a “heretic” organization in November 2007. In April 2008 al-Qiyadah leader, Ahmad Mushaddeq, was found guilty under Article 156(a) of the Indonesian Criminal Code and sentenced to four years’ imprisonment by the South Jakarta District Court for leading a “heretical sect” and claiming to be a prophet. In June 2008 the Makassar District Court in South Sulawesi convicted 21 members of al-Qiyadah for blasphemy under Article 156(a) of the Criminal Code. In June 2015, six members of the Gafatar community in Aceh Province were convicted for insulting religion under Article 156 of the Criminal Code and sentenced to four years’ imprisonment by the Banda Aceh District Court. They were detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of belief and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

The right to freedom of religion and belief is guaranteed in Articles 28E and 28I of the Indonesian Constitution. Moreover, Article 18 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Indonesia is a state party, states that “this right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his [or her] choice” and that “no one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his [or her] freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his [or her] choice”.

Amnesty International has previously called on the Indonesian authorities to repeal all provisions set out in laws and regulations which impose restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and thought, conscience and religion which go beyond those permitted under international human rights law, or amend such provisions to bring them into compliance with Indonesia’s international human rights obligations.

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