



Press Release
Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM)
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**THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO:
A LONG-OVERDUE OBLIGATION TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

Today, on Thursday, 21 October 2009, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has officially inaugurated as a President of the Republic of Indonesia for the term of office 2009-2014. During his previous 5-year term, there have been various human rights violation cases remained under a serious attention and unsolved. There were some mandates or crucial tasks in his administration that have not been carried out and still remained as a long-overdue obligation of President SBY's administration, those are as follows:

Settlement of forced disappearance cases during the New Order era. In the previous period, President has SBY promised to settle these cases promptly and to prevent the reoccurrence of the atrocities in the future.

1. Establishment of a Human Rights Court for gross human rights violations in Aceh as mandated under the Helsinki Agreement in August 2005.
2. Solving the long-running conflict between National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) as an inquiry body and the Attorney General's office as an investigation and prosecution body in the accountability process of gross human rights violations which has been hampering the upholding of justice and the fulfillment of victims' right to justice.
3. Ratifying the Rome Statute on International Criminal Court, which should be a restoration milestone of the national criminal justice system and mechanism that also affects the effectiveness of Human Rights protection in Indonesia. The Rome Statute ratification itself has been included in the 2008 government program through a Presidential Decree No. 40/2004 on National Action Plan for Human Rights 2004-2009.
4. Redrafting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (KKR) Bill as a consequence of the annulment of the Law No. 27/2004 on Truth and Reconciliation Commission by the Constitutional Court.

In light of the above, the **Institute for Policy Research and Human Rights, (ELSAM)** would like to remind the President as the head of the government to solve these so-called "home works" in the human rights field, which have not been solved during his previous administration.

ELSAM would also urge the President/government during this first year in office to take effective measures and implement the following agendas immediately:

1. Issuing a Presidential Decree on the establishment of a human rights court for forced disappearance cases in order to show his good will to the public in terms of solving past human rights violations.

2. Issuing a Presidential Decree on the establishment of a human rights court for gross human rights violation cases in Aceh, and providing infrastructures needed in order to smooth out the trial process.
3. Solving the long-running conflict between Komnas HAM and the Attorney General's office in order to diminish the obstacles in the justice enforcement processes and the fulfillment of victims' rights, particularly on the pro justicia process of the Human Rights Court and the ad hoc Human Rights Courts.
4. Submitting a bill on the Ratification of the Rome Statute on International Criminal Court and restoring the legal system and mechanisms required in accordance with international standards as required under the Rome Statute.
5. Finalizing the drafting process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Bill and immediately submit it to the House of Representatives in order to immediately solve gross human rights violations occurred in the past and victims' rights can be immediately fulfilled.

The urgency to solve human right violation cases has also been specifically urged by Komnas HAM and international community. However, this particular issue has not been much of a priority for the government. Disobeying this appeal would make SBY's administration become the only post-reform administration that does not take up any actions to solve human rights violations in effective and consistent manners.

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