

INDONESIAN SOLIDARITY
POSITION STATEMENT
ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA
AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Indonesian Solidarity supports closer links between Indonesia and Australia, which the Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Indonesia on the Framework for Security Cooperation is endeavouring to build. However, in respect to Defence Cooperation, we are of the opinion that a condition, before the Agreement is signed, should be that Law 34/2004 already ratified by the Indonesian Parliament in 2004 is fully implemented. Under this law the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) is required to withdraw from politics and businesses and in its place have a defence function. To date this has not been the case.

Law 34/2004 requires that the military be under democratic control of the civilian authority. It also requires the take over of military businesses by the state and the restricting of military territorial command which has resulted in both direct and indirect involvement by the military in social and political civilian life. In addition, the military must be under civilian court jurisdiction for offences against civilians.

We are of the opinion that the Australian government should wait until 2009 to observe to what extent Law 34/2004 is implemented, before signing this agreement regarding security cooperation. In the meantime we would support the putting in place of human rights monitors. We believe that signing the treaty as is stands will obstruct the democratic process in Indonesia, and will strengthen the military at a time when the Law 34/2004 needs to be supported by Australia and enacted.

We, along with many hundreds of thousands of the Indonesian people, strongly believes that a sustainable and good relationship between the Indonesian and Australian governments that will benefit the interests of both the Indonesian and the Australian people will best exist under the values of human rights and democracy. Meanwhile the role of the TNI was and has been the obstacle of democratic process and human rights principles being implemented within Indonesian society up until today.

Indonesian Solidarity, with invited human rights campaigners from Indonesia appeared on Monday 26th February 2007 before the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties. Those involved were Suciwati, wife of murdered human rights activist Munir Said Thalib, and Usman Hamid, lawyer and national coordinator of KontraS, the Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence, founded and originally coordinated by Munir in 1998. Eko Waluyo and Nonie Hodgson were representing Indonesian Solidarity.

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