



GEREJA MASEHI INJILI DI TIMOR

(GBM GPI dan Anggota PGI)

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Kupang, 10 May 2017

Number: 146/GMIT/I/1/Mei 2017

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Re: Statement on the State of the Nation and the Judicial Process
regarding Basuki Tjahaja Purnama by the Evangelical Protestant Church of Timor
(GMIT)

To
The Honorable President of the Republic of Indonesia
in
Jakarta

We are leaders and members of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Timor (GMIT). GMIT's area of ministry covers East Nusa Tenggara (except for Sumba Island) and Sumbawa in West Nusa Tenggara, and is located on Indonesia's international borders with Timor-Leste and Australia. With a membership of more than 1.5 million people, our church is the second largest Protestant denomination in Indonesia. As citizens of this nation, we take a number of positions as follows:

1. We stress our commitment to the unity of the Republic of Indonesia, and to Pancasila [Indonesia's five pillars], the Constitution, and *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* [the national motto: Unity in Diversity]. The founders of our nation agreed that Indonesia is not a religious state. We are different, but one.
2. As citizens we respect the legal process and decisions of the courts in Indonesia. However, we view the sentencing of Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok) to two years in prison as a blatant case of injustice. We followed the judicial process and saw that the decision by the judges is in opposition to the facts presented during the trial. We also observed that strong intimidation by the masses and the political interests of a certain group influenced the verdict in Ahok's trial. This is a terrible precedent for law enforcement in Indonesia, both currently and in the future, namely that the court's authority submits to pressure by the masses. We believe that were the law enforced justly in this country, Ahok should have been freed. Therefore, we refuse to remain silent in the face of this injustice and criticize the court's decision.
3. If we defend Ahok today, it is not because of his religion or ethnicity, or for any other reason related to his identity. We defend Ahok because it is right that he be defended. In the chaotic situation created by corruption in Indonesia, Ahok emerged as a visionary and honest leader who opposed corruption. In Ahok we found the values of good governance. Ahok's leadership while Governor of Jakarta was evidence of his commitment to the

values of good governance. Ahok was an example of the values and standards of public service for all of Indonesia.

4. We continue to push for law enforcement, in this matter the courts and public prosecutors, to defend the values of justice and truth, and not succumb to intimidation by the masses in the subsequent aspects of the trial (during the appeals process).
5. The government must take a strong position on legal and judicial reform and prohibit the dissemination of radicalism, including the establishment of a Caliphate, and must likewise forbid the establishment of groups that advocate radicalism. We also call upon the government to take firm action against groups that openly promote hatred and violence, such as the Islamic Defense Front (FPI), the Forum of Muslim Believers (FUI), and Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia (HTI). All groups and individuals who publicly brand their fellow citizens as *kafir* (unbelievers), such as Habib Rizieq, must be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, while assuring that they are dealt with justly and fairly. We reject all forms of radicalism and all efforts to tear apart the unity of the Republic of Indonesia. We ask that agents of law enforcement take firm action against those who would destroy the unity of the nation.
6. We urge government officials at all levels, religious leaders, officers of the military and police, political parties, business leaders, and all other elements of society not to take advantage of the current situation. Let us guard the inner peace of the people so that we are not easily divided by opportunism and efforts to exploit the present crisis. Let us not barter the unity of the nation for the sake of momentary economic and political gain.
7. The trial of Ahok and the entire process of the Jakarta gubernatorial election have left our social fabric in tatters. Racial, religious, ethnic and political sentiments have left our society polarized and compartmentalized. Therefore we call upon the government and upon all elements of society at every level, local and national, to join together in efforts to restore our national unity.
8. All citizens, including members of our church (GMIT), all Christian citizens of Indonesia, and all elements of our society, must refrain from expressions of dissatisfaction, anxiety, and anger toward recent political developments that endanger our national unity. Let us respond to the present situation as a test of our maturity as a people. Let us not be drawn into repaying intimidation with intimidation, or repaying violence with violence. We must nurture and maintain our commitment to the unity of the Republic of Indonesia.
9. We pray to Almighty God that you may be given discernment, Mr. President, along with all citizens of our nation, to respond wisely to the challenges currently facing our nation, and to remain constant in your commitment to preserve our unity for the sake of peace and justice for all of Indonesia.

Moderator

Rev. Dr. Mery L.Y. Kolimon



Secretary

Rev. Yusuf Nakmofa, M.Th.

CC.:

1. The Indonesian Minister of Law and Human Rights
2. The Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia
3. The National Chief of Police of Indonesia
4. The Head of the Indonesian Armed Forces
5. The Chief Justice of the Indonesian Supreme Court
6. The Moderator of the Indonesian Communion of Churches
7. The Moderator of the General Synod of the Protestant Church of Indonesia
8. The Governor of East Nusa Tenggara
9. The Speaker of the East Nusa Tenggara House of Representatives
10. The Chief of Police of East Nusa Tenggara
11. The Commander of the Wirasakti 161 Military Region