

## Open letter to the President of Indonesia from Suciwati

Jakarta, September 7, 2006

To the President:

On this day, two years ago, I once again remind you about a tragedy, a death full of conspiracy: the murder of Munir, my husband. A death that leaves a big and unresolved question mark about who is the main perpetrator. It leaves a deeper loss not just because of this evil event but also because the lack of concern of the national elite towards this tragedy, a group that I hope does not include the President.

I remember that you promised me and the people of Indonesia that you would resolve the Munir case as a barometer of democratization in Indonesia. You gave a commitment in the name of the Presidency to resolve the case as quickly as possible. You then created the Munir Fact-Finding Team (TPF), and at the same time ordered the police to conduct an investigation. Unfortunately, although the TPF submitted its final report, you have not yet fulfilled your promise to make the findings public. And the police investigation resulted in charges by the prosecutor's office against only one suspect, Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto, a pilot for Garuda Indonesia.

Mr. President:

In fact, it is very clear who is behind the murder: there are 41 calls between the State Intelligence Agency [Badan Intelijen Negara, or BIN] office, [BIN Deputy Director V] Muchdi's mobile phone, Pollycarpus' mobile phone, and the Pollycarpus' home phone. This should be enough to demand an explanation of their involvement in the murder. It is two years after this case began and together with millions of Indonesian we are waiting for your promise to be fulfilled. The realization of your promise is what we want. How much longer will we wait for the commitment to be realized. How much longer will we wait for justice to appear for us victims of human rights violations?

Is this the democracy that you will offer us? Allowing perpetrators of human rights violations to go free? Will you reproduce impunity again and again, and allow the killing of critics? I hope you will give us proof that this was not just an empty promise.

As a father, and like yourself, like all the people of this country, Munir had ideals. Because of those ideals he was killed, for his ideal of realizing justice in this nation, for your ideals, and for the ideals of all the people of this nation. So I once ask you to sincerely focus on your commitment [to resolve the case] as "a test of our history."

This issue will be a milestone of justice in this nation, so that every soul is valued, so that the death of Munir can show the people of Indonesia that they are still right to hope for the arrival of the "just ruler" they long for, so that the law is truly enforced and the guilty are prosecuted without concern for position or power.

Mr. President:

As an ordinary person I have limitations, I surely get tired. However, like my husband, like Munir, I will never give up. I will continue to challenge whoever was involved in this evil conspiracy. I will continue to demand fulfillment of promises, demand what my rights and my children's rights. I will even criticize your authority, asking that you use all the powers you have to capture those involved in the murder of my husband.

If you do not want to use this authority, I only want to remind you that the greatness of leaders does not come in the future, when he no longer has power, but only comes from the chair that you now occupy and what you do while upon it. This chair is gilded with the love and trust of millions of Indonesians, but this gold will not shine if you do not care for it with justice and wisdom. Through this letter, the love of the ordinary people like myself call on you to enforce justice from this chair. I hope that after reading and hearing this letter, you can respond to this longing.

. . .

History has enduring value. The history of a great nation does not fall from the sky, a great history does not come because great actions are carried out by people with small spirits. A history of greatness only comes from a series of small actions carried out by people with great spirits.

This letter comes from an ordinary person, a woman, a mother, and a wife separated from her husband in a deceitful and despicable way. You are that history - from your hands the quill will write the words. This letter will not change history, but due to this letter I hope you will not choose the wrong ink to write the words of history, because it will endure.

Greetings from me, from Alif and Diva . . . we will never cease our struggle.

Suciwati