



Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

Rms 310-311, Philippine Social Science Center, Commonwealth Ave., Brgy Central, Diliman, Quezon City

Telefax: 00-632-4546759 Telephone Number 00-632-4566434 Mobile 00-63-9177924058

Email afad@surfshop.net.ph website www.afad-online.org

An Act of Impunity: The Appointment of Gen. Wiranto as Minister for Politics, Law, and Security Affairs

Manila, 29 July 2016 - On 27 July 2016, Gen. Wiranto was appointed by President Joko Widodo as Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law, and Security Affairs. AFAD expresses its deepest concerns towards this decision, as Gen. Wiranto is notorious of having been implicated in the commission of gross human rights violations in Indonesia as well as in Timor-Leste.

Indeed, General Wiranto's name was mentioned in the Report released by the UN Serious Crimes Unit (SCIU), where it was stated that Wiranto, as the supreme commander of all armed forces and police in Timor-Leste, failed to prevent the commission of crimes against humanity in the country. Moreover, he refused to investigate and punish the perpetrators.

The Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights, Komnas HAM, also conducted investigations on the role played by Gen. Wiranto in 1999, at the time of the referendum in Timor-Leste. In this respect, the Commission found that during that period, Wiranto had committed crimes against humanity. Moreover, Komnas HAM concluded that he was well aware of the "widespread and organized" violations of human rights committed, and that he also had the ultimate responsibility for the breakdown that occurred after the referendum result was announced. Despite all this, Wiranto was never indicted.

Ironically, Wiranto's appointment took place on the same day of the 20th anniversary of the July 27th tragedy – a big slap to the dignity of the thousands of victims and survivors of human rights violations. After which, he was appointed to the position of Chief of Army Staff, with the rank of a 4-star general. This position that was given to him in the context of Indonesia's general security situation and the political regime of the country has given him the power to influence decisions that led to an impunity scheme.

Gen. Wiranto's appointment of a few days ago is indeed, very alarming for a country that is supposedly in a transition to democracy and whose president got its mandate from civil society organizations who were against the candidacy of another perpetrator, General Prabowo Subianto. It is a shame to Indonesia, which is looked up by the international community as a leading member of the ASEAN.

General Wiranto is without doubt, Indonesia's most powerful security official. This new position of Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law, and Security Affairs will enable his office to oversee many ministries and other state institutions. These include also the Attorney General, who is the one who, on the basis of the Komnas HAM's findings, should have ordered criminal investigations and indictments, including those of Wiranto himself.

This conflict of interests as well as General Wiranto's infamous human rights background represent a real threat to the rights of the victims and their families, who are struggling for truth and justice. His appointment clearly shows the unwillingness of the Indonesian Government to seriously investigate and prosecute past cases of human rights violations. General Wiranto's appointment is a clear manifestation of impunity and a blatant insult to victims of human rights violations, including families of the disappeared, whose intention is to attain their long-cherished dream for truth and justice.

In the light of these negative developments in Indonesia, AFAD urges President Widodo to reconsider his decision and abide by the rule of law and international human rights laws, thus providing victims with effective remedies, truth, justice and reparations. Having been catapulted to power by the commendable efforts of civil society organizations and victims of human rights violations, Indonesia's highest head of state has the responsibility to listen to the people's collective voices of protest to this act of impunity.

Signed by,



KHURRAM PARVEZ
Chairperson



MARY AILEEN D. BACALSO
Secretary-General