



Monitoring Report of the Situation of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Indonesia.

1st Semester, January - June 2025.

Background

Since 2023, Protection International (PI) and Satya Bumi have collaborated in monitoring violence against human rights defenders (HRDs). Since then, PI and Satya Bumi have prepared two annual monitoring reports on violence against human rights defenders: a first-semester report covering cases from January to June, and a year-end report providing an overview of events throughout the year. Furthermore, PI and Satya Bumi also collaborate in several other areas, such as advocacy and campaigning for the nickel mining case on the small island of Kabaena in Southeast Sulawesi, and regularly issue joint press releases with other human rights defender networks in Indonesia.

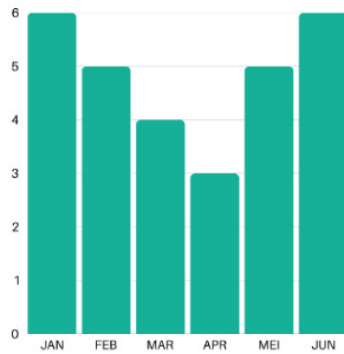
Summary

The increasing number of attacks on environmental human rights defenders demonstrates a complex problem. However, one thing is clear: the change of government from Joko Widodo to Prabowo Subianto has not brought about significant change. In the first half of 2025, the new administration's policies continued with old patterns: infrastructure development which suppresses environmental defenders' freedom of movement.

This continuity was proven in the establishment of 77 National Strategic Projects (PSN) through Presidential Regulation Number 12 of 2025, concerning the 2025–2029 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), signed by President Prabowo on February 10, 2025.¹ In this case, those National Strategic Projects (PSN) also impact the right to defend human rights, and the space for HRDs. In the first semester of 2025, there were at least 29 cases of attacks on human rights defenders, with at least 91 individual victims and 8 Community HRDs victims.

¹<https://www.kompas.com/properti/read/2025/03/03/134806921/daftar-29-psn-baru-yang-ditetapkan-prabowo-ada-mbg-3-juta-rumah>

Total Cases Across Months and Locations



Of the 29 cases, at least 43 attacks were carried out as:

- Property Destruction
- Intimidation
- Physical Assault
- Unlawful Arrest
- Forced Disbandment of Activities
- Criminalization
- Hacking
- Doxing
- Impersonation
- Civil Lawsuits
- Terrorism
- Stigmatization
- Discrimination

Of those 43 attacks, the attacks involved the following perpetrators:

- Military (2 cases)
- Police (12 cases)
- Local authorities (2 cases)
- State Ministry (1 case)
- State-Owned Company (3 cases)
- State Attorney (1 case)
- Company (16 cases)
- Organized Crime (1 case)
- Citizens (1 case)
- Business Owners (1 case)
- Unknown/Unidentified Attackers (3 cases)

Conclusion

Satya Bumi and Protection International noted that over the past three years, this pattern of threats has consistently been rooted in three main factors:

1. Strengthening relations between government officials and corporations,
2. Weak understanding of environmental human rights defenders by policymakers, and
3. Lack of impartiality by law enforcement officials.

These three factors are intertwined within one overarching paradigm: exploitative development. The government still views natural resources as economic commodities, not as living space for the community. In many large-scale projects, decisions are made without involving affected residents. Investor interests are positioned as a "national priority," while environmental human rights defenders demanding transparency and justice are labeled as obstacles to development—or even criminals.

Recommendations

To prevent threats and attacks against environmental human rights defenders, particularly their increasingly massive and widespread criminalization, Satya Bumi and Protection International have submitted several important recommendations to the government and law enforcement officials.

1. Urge the government, specifically President Prabowo and his staff, from the central government down to the village level, to change their perspective on development, particularly development involving the exploitation of nature that damages and disrupts people's lives, based on the principles of justice for human rights and the environment.
2. Urge the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Forestry, and the Indonesian National Police to immediately draft a Memorandum of Understanding on the Protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders.
3. Urge law enforcement officials, particularly the Indonesian National Police, to equip all their personnel with knowledge regarding the protection of environmental human rights defenders so that they can be neutral and impartial towards parties with conflicting interests with environmental human rights defenders, such as corporations.
4. Promote law enforcement through transparent, swift, and fair investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of threats and attacks against environmental human rights defenders who experience physical, digital, and murderous attacks, such as those experienced by Delima Silalahi. Halt the criminalization of environmental human rights defenders; in this regard, the state must ensure that environmental human rights defenders can work safely without fear.