

Written statement submitted by the International NGO Forum on Indonesia Development (INFID),
a non-Governmental organization on special consultative status

Item 14a:

**IDPs have to be UN's concern:
Protection for IDPs should become one of the indicators of Poverty Reduction**

Millions of people become refugees in their own country without any clear system and mechanism of each country and the UN as the protection to their human rights fulfillment.

These millions of people hastily and drastically experienced the process of impoverishment and ignorance of political civilian rights as well as their economy, social and cultural rights. At the same time they became the object/target of political objectives in their own country.

Dramatic increase in almost all countries during 2005

The number of domestic refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs) in almost every country in the world experienced a drastic increase during 2005. The increasing number of refugees occurred in poor countries, developing countries as well as developed countries. It is almost certain that none of these countries have accurate data on the number of refugee by the category of age, gender, fragility, and condition as well as specific needs of each group in each category. It is almost certain that without the data of the refugee situation, the government of each country cannot make the exact policy to overcome the refugee problems that would really meet the needs.

The dramatic increase occurred as the result of some causes:

1) Natural disaster related IDP'S

The Tsunami disaster hitting 11 countries caused hundreds of thousand inhabitants/citizens live as refugees. Hundreds of thousand others in various other countries become IDPs caused by the hurricane. Millions other in various countries also become IDPs due to environmental damages/disaster such as landslides, forest blaze and flood that occurred during 2005.

2) Conflict related IDP'S

The number of IDPs caused by existing conflicts has also increased sharply in various countries. Conflicts of ethnicity, religion, power elite, as well as conflict caused by the struggles for natural resources domination existed in almost every country, particularly in developing and poor countries.

There are thousands IDPs in Indonesia caused by conflicts of ethnicity such as what happened in Kalimantan; conflict of religion which occurred in Maluku and Sulawesi; conflicts of power in Papua, Aceh, Timor-Timur – Indonesia; conflicts of natural resources which occurred in almost every part of Indonesia, both the conflict over the resources between the inhabitants of the area, between the inhabitants and military, and the inhabitants and the business group—including MNCs. Apart from that all, the refuge also occurred due to the condemnation practice by regional government officers carried out in almost every area of Indonesia—particularly in urban area, specifically in the urban slums area.

The tendency of IDPs in the coming years

By considering the nature destruction in various countries, the natural disaster cycle based on scientific calculation in various disciplines of science: geography, vulcanology, marine, the pressure and shifts on earth layers etc., the increase in the identity base politics (religion, ethnic, tribe, races etc.), the economy and political domination by developed countries toward the

developing and poor countries, the number and flow of IDPs within a country or international refugee will be increasing more.

The increase of the number and flow of IDPs within a country and even international refugees is an increase in the number of poor people worldwide in the coming years.

IDPs in Indonesia

In Indonesia, as much as 535,000 people became IDPs because of the conflicts in Aceh, Kalimantan, Maluku and Sulawesi. While as much as 441,000 people become IDPs as the result of the natural disaster and Tsunami that hit Aceh, Nias and North Sumatra.

The number will definitely keep increasing along with the occurrences of landslides, flood and conflicts that are still occurring in various areas of Indonesia. Even in Papua, approximately 1,000 people had been evacuated due to the occurrence of the disaster indications.

The fragility of IDPs within a Country

The citizens bearing the status as IDPs have no access to sufficient medical and health services as well as sufficient nourishment, education, clean water, employment and the effort to make an economy attempt. Cases of edema, starvation caused death, tuberculosis, diarrhea, and malaria occurred in the area of the ex-Timor Timur refugees/IDPs are examples of the many evidences that were able to be drawn to show the appalling condition of the IDPs to gain the economy, social and cultural rights. Similar condition is being experienced by the IDPs in Poso – Kalimantan, Aceh and Sulawesi.

The citizens bearing the IDPs status also have no identification card (Kartu Tanda Penduduk / KTP), the administrative officials in the region refused to issue the card since the people bear the status of IDPs, not as inhabitants. While the card is the absolute requirement for every citizen in getting social services help. Social Security Network such as medical/health insurance for the poor family, rice for the poor citizen and Direct Cash Help (Bantuan Langsung (uang) Tunai). Thus most of the IDPs cannot make use the specific public services for the poor people.

Yet in some refuge areas located in the poor people area the government special aid in the form of nourishment and temporary housing, without considering the poor people who are not refugees in the area. The mishandling of the refugees often causes discrimination toward the refugees and social resentment between the refugees and the surrounding non-refugee poor people thus can bring potential for new conflict.

The IDPs are also susceptible to the political exploitation. Most of the displaced in Indonesia-and possibly in other countries-were involved to vote in the election for the House of Representatives and the Direct Presidential Election in 2004 and the Direct Election of the District Head (Pemilihan Langsung Kepala daerah) in 2005. They were mobilized by the political parties and the government having an affiliation to a certain party, to give their vote to the party. The very strange thing is the different treatment relating to political and public services issues. In the case of political activity (such as the General Election) they could be involved to give their vote even without the identity card. While the possession of the identity card is the requirement for the people to register as voters-yet the IDPs were given special treatment, they were able to vote without possessing the card. But different thing was applied by the local government to the IDPs requesting social security network service. They were always denied the right of getting rice, free medical service and the direct cash aid because they did not have any identification card.

Negative stigma is also attached to the IDPs and their children as low social status society group. It is also attached to the history or the cause of their refuge and becomes the reason for the security

force to carry out repressive control and action to the groups of refugees, such as experienced by the IDPs in Maluku, Sulawesi, Aceh and Kalimantan.

Negligence by the Countries and UN

Desire the IDPs also were neglected by UN which were obviously seen from the policies of UN, among which:

1. The decree of UN determining that UNHCR only deals with international refugees and leaves the IDPs administration as the issue of each country. UN also has no system and mechanism to monitor the administration of IDPs by the countries. It is almost definite that UN also has no accurate data of the number and condition of IDPs in those countries. The decree is a form of responsibility discharge of UN on the issue of IDPs which spreads widely in the entire areas of countries.
2. In the situation of facing the disasters/conflict which causes the occurrence of IDPs, the government of the country is in a weak/powerless situation. In such situation, other countries, UN institutions, international financial institutions, MNCs often take the opportunity to get some benefit/advantages of the situation through imposing various projects, loan and policies. The case of tsunami disaster administration in Aceh portrayed the real picture of the situation in the sense of the existence of too many interested parties taking advantage; meanwhile UN was incapable to carry out its role in dealing with the issue.
3. None of the indicators formulated in MDG were dedicated to overcome the IDPs issue, whereas IDPs is an increase to the rate of poverty.

Therefore INFID request to commission Human Rights:

1. In this meeting (the 62nd session of the Commission on Human Rights) there should be a comprehensive discussion on the issue of IDPs and provide a solution to administer and monitor the fulfilment of the human rights of IDPs.
2. Ensuring that UN also take the responsibility to the future of the IDPs, by determining the responsibility that has to be fulfilled by a country, monitoring the number, condition and situation of IDPs, opening the mechanism of reporting / making a complain for IDPs on various injustice they suffer from the country.
3. Including one sub topic on IDPs and the indicators of the success of administration and the fulfilment of Human Rights before doing the endorsement to the 2005 World Summit Outcome
4. Deciding to add IDPs administration in the indicators of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) achievement.
5. Ensuring that each country will not utilize military and repressive acts and or other discriminative acts to their citizen/people who become internal refugees or IDPs because of the negative stigmas attached to them.
6. Ensuring that other countries and international financial institution do not take advantages to enrich themselves on the countries encountering the IDPs issue by imposing the conditional loan/grant, forcing the formulation of various policies which give advantages to other parties, countries, financial institution and MNC. (dks)

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