

EXHIBITION
AND
PRESS CONFERENCE
ON SERIOUS
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION
IN NORTH KOREA



Komisi untuk Orang Hilang
dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan
Commission for The Disappeared
and Victims of Violence

Sunday, May 13th 2012, KontraS organized an exhibition of the documentation of human rights violations in North Korea along with a press conference to respond the second highest leader of North Korea, Kim Yong-nam's visit to Indonesia on the same day. His visit was on the purpose to fulfill President SBY (Indonesia's President) invitation to discuss on the nuclear program and the recent rocket launch. Within the series of meetings of his visit, Kim Yong-nam will also meet with the Head of the House of Representatives, Marzuki Alie. The exhibition and press conference was held by KontraS because we perceive the meeting between the leaders as very pragmatic, due to the agenda of the visit that did not touch the most fundamental and real problems to humanity that is the massive series of human rights violations towards the people of North Korea.

During the event, the UN Special Rapporteur for North Korea, Mr. Marzuki Darusman was also present to see the documentation exhibition of the gross human rights violations in North Korea. Some of the violations including the poor condition of the political prisoners, regulations/procedures of political prisoners, the issue of malnutrition and hunger and the threat to media freedom and other entities within an open society such as the difficulty to internet access and threats to independent oppositions.



Marzuki Darusman visits exhibition on Serious Human Rights Violation in North Korea

During his visit to see the documentation exhibition, Mr. Marzuki Darusman also explained further about the poor condition in North Korea such as the problem of hunger, malnutrition, as well as the poor condition of the political prisoners in prisoner camps.

A representative of the International Coalition for North Korea (ICNK) was also present at the press conference, Mr. Benedict Rogers. Ben conveyed a message of importance for civil societies such as KontraS to actively voice out the human rights situation in North Korea, especially noting that the human rights violation in North Korea can be regarded as crimes against humanity. For that reason, the meeting with President SBY we believe is vital to become a platform to discuss on these fundamental issues. It is also important for the leader of North Korea to know about the transition process that has happened in Indonesia therefore the North Korean government can learn from the experiences and take lessons from Indonesia.

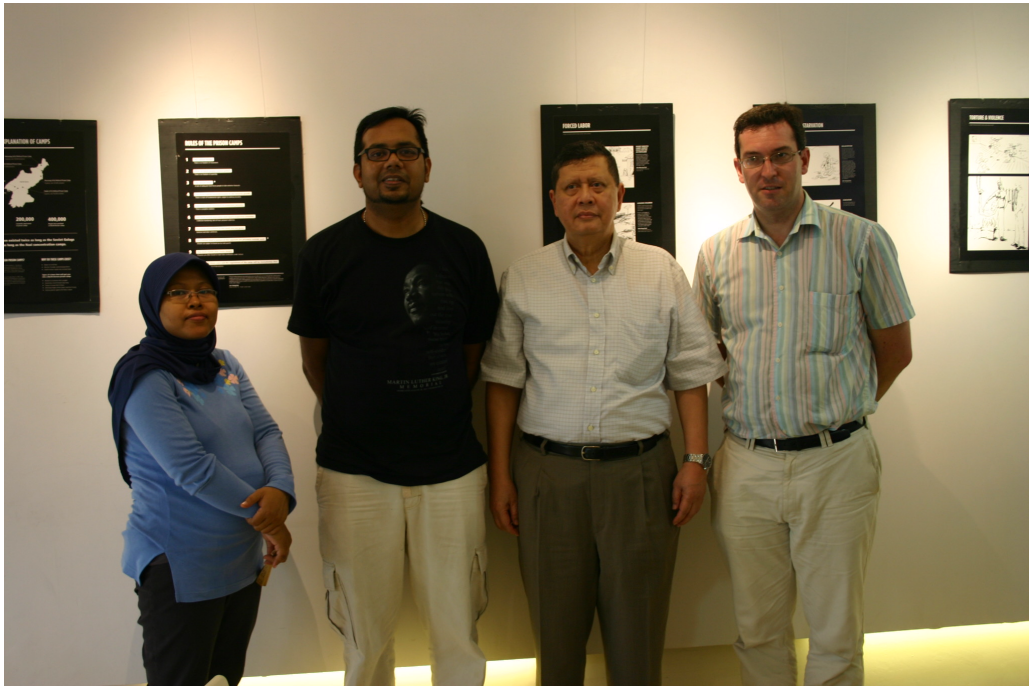


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Benedict Rogers explained about the human rights situation in North Korea

To fellow journalist, Haris Azhar, Coordinator of KontraS expressed his view to urge the Indonesian government to facilitate a constructive dialogue with the North Korean government regarding the human rights track record during his meeting with Kim Yong-nam, as it is a part of the mandate of Indonesia, written within the Indonesian Constitution. KontraS would also request the North Korean Government to provide a space for KontraS, as a representative of the civil societies in Indonesia to have a face-to-face meeting with the civil societies in North Korea. Lastly, KontraS also requests the North Korean government to promptly invite the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Violations in North Korea, Mr. Marzuki Darusman to visit North Korea.



(Right to left; Sri suparyati, Haris Azhar, Marzuki Darusman, Benedict Rogers)