Reda Manthovani

Chief of DKI Jakarta Attorney General’s Office

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INDONESIEN

Datum

**Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar**

Dear Mr. Manthovani,

I am deeply concerned about two human rights defenders, *Fatia Maulidiyanti* and *Haris Azhar*, accused of violating the defamation provision of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (ITE). They now face prosecution after the police submitted the findings of their investigations to the Attorney General's Office on 6 March 2023. These criminal proceedings against *Fatia Maulidiyanti* and *Haris Azhar* add to a long list of cases against human rights defenders in Indonesia involving the unjustified suppression of freedom of expression.

*Fatia Maulidiyanti* and *Haris Azhar* were reported to the police by Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs, who also sued the two human rights defenders 100 billion rupiahs each (approximately USD 7 million). The allegations relate to a video on *Haris Azhar*’s YouTube channel, in which he and *Fatia Maulidiyanti* discuss a report titled "A Political Economy Study of Military Placement in Papua: The Case of Intan Jaya," which suggests alleged connections between military operations and mining activities in Intan Jaya Regency, in Papua.

It is very distressing to learn that *Fatia Maulidiyanti* and *Haris Azhar* face criminal charges and a possible four-year sentence, simply for exercising their right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed under both international and national law.

Therefore, I urge you to drop the charges and close the investigation against *Fatia Maulidiyanti* and *Haris Azhar*.

Yours sincerely,