

# URGENT ACTION

**ACTIVIST ARRESTED, FAMILY SUFFERS ECONOMIC HARDSHIP**  
 Environmental activist Heri Budiawan, known as Budi Pego, was sentenced to 10 months in prison on 24 January 2018 for “crimes against state security.” The case is currently under appeal in East Java High Court. The arrest of Heri Budiawan has led his family into financial distress, forcing his wife and two daughters to depend on their small farm and support from relatives. Heri Budiawan is a prisoner of conscience and must be immediately and unconditionally released.

**Heri Budiawan** who has been very vocal in protesting a gold mining activity in Tumpang Pitu and Salakan mountains, East Java, Indonesia, was sentenced to ten months imprisonment for openly promoting pro-communism ideology by displaying hammer and sickle symbol during the protest. This is the first time anti-communist sentiment has been used to restrain peaceful protest. In addition, three others have also been accused of involvement, however no charges have been placed against them.

Both prosecutors and lawyers in Heri Budiawan's case make an appeal to the Higher Court of East Java, Indonesia. Whilst Heri Budiawan is still under arrest until the court decision is final and binding, his wife and 2 daughters who are 14 and 2 years old must struggle without the breadwinner of the family. They depend their livelihoods on their small farm and irregular supports from relatives.

## 1) TAKE ACTION

**Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:**

- Release Heri Budiawan immediately.
- Ensure that pending his release, Heri Budiawan is protected from torture and other ill treatment while in detention, and has regular access to his family, and lawyers of his choice.
- Ensure that activists, human rights defenders, journalists, academics, members of the political opposition and others can peacefully exercise their human rights without fear of punishment, reprisal or intimidation.

**Contact these two officials by 17 April, 2018:**

President of Indonesia  
 President Joko Widodo  
 c/o Presidential Staff Office  
 Gedung Bina Graha  
 Jalan Veteran No. 16  
 Jakarta Pusat, 10110  
 Indonesia  
 Fax: +62 21 345 0009  
 Email: [webmaster@ksp.go.id](mailto:webmaster@ksp.go.id)  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Ambassador Budi Bowoleksono, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia  
 2020 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036  
 Phone: 202.775.5200  
 Twitter: [@KBRIWashDC](https://twitter.com/KBRIWashDC)  
**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

## 2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 34.18*

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**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tumpang Pitu and Salakan Mountains are one of the few mountains in Indonesia where gold extraction takes place and it is under the control of Merdeka Copper Gold through its two subsidiaries PT Bumi Sukses Indo (BSI) and PT Damai Sukses Indo (DSI). Both companies were given licences to open and manage an area of 4,998 hectares and 6,623 hectares respectively since 2012. In addition to being responsible for ecological destruction, the villagers believe that the companies are endangering the safety of five villages; namely Sumberagung, Pesanggaran, Sumbermulyo, Kandangan, and Sarongan villages.

Initially, Tumpang Pitu and its surrounding mountains was designated as protected forests. However, on 19 November 2013, Zulkifli Hasan, then Forestry Minister and currently Speaker of the People's Consultative Assembly (Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat) has issued a decree changing the status of 1,942 hectares of protected forests to "industrial forest", which opens the door to massive mining operations in that area. The struggle of villagers and communities against the gold mine companies has been escalated and culminated in large clashes between the villagers and security personnel of BSI and DSI in 27 November 2015. Finally, four peasants were criminalised under "the crime against state security" laws in 2017.

The legal provisions criminalising the spreading communist ideology originally date back to a period of severe repression of human rights under then President Soeharto's New Order regime between 1965 and 1998. The anti-communism campaign headed by Soeharto resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands and violations of a large array of other human rights, including to freedom of expression, opinion, and peaceful assembly.

Name: Heri Budiawan  
Gender m/f: m

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