

URGENT ACTION

WORKER ARRESTED FOR CRITICIZING FORMER EMPLOYER

On August 26, 2024, Septia Dwi Pertiwi, a former worker at a tax and accounting services company in Jakarta, Indonesia, was arrested after a co-owner of her former company accused her of defamation under the Electronic Information and Transactions Law. She had criticized the company on social media for allegedly underpaying employees and neglecting their rights. She was recently detained for 25 days at the Pondok Bambu Detention Centre in Jakarta. She is now under city detention until November 30, 2024.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 95.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

Dr. Sanitiar Burhanuddin
Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia
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CC: Indonesian Embassy in the United States
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Dear Dr. Burhanuddin,

I am writing to express my concern for **Septia Dwi Pertiwi**, who is under 'city detention' in Jakarta, Indonesia, after criticizing her former employer.

On January 21, 2023, Septia Dwi Pertiwi criticized her former employer, PT Hive Five, on social media for allegedly underpaying employees and neglecting their rights. Septia Dwi Pertiwi was reported to the police by Henry Kurnia Adhi, co-owner PT Hive Five, accusing her of defamation under the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (EIT Law); a law that has been misused to criminalize hundreds of people in Indonesia since 2016.

On August 26, 2024, Septia Dwi Pertiwi was arrested and charged with violating the Electronic Information and Transaction (EIT) Law for defamation and was detained for 25 days. On August 27, 2024, Septia Dwi Pertiwi and her legal team applied for release from detention. The judges granted the request on September 19, 2024, and placed Septia Dwi Pertiwi under city detention from September 19 to November 30, 2024.

I urge you and the authorities to immediately release Septia Dwi Pertiwi and drop the charges against her. I also urge you to ensure that all activists can freely carry out their peaceful activities without fear of hindrance, intimidation, arbitrary arrest, or other reprisals. Finally, I call on you to stop using the Electronic Information and Transactions Law to silence activists and treat defamation as a civil matter.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Septia Dwi Pertiwi was a worker at PT Hive Five, a tax and accounting services company in South Jakarta, Indonesia. On October 27, 2022, Septia resigned from her workplace after the company cut the workers' salary and did not fulfill the commission promised to her and her colleagues.

On January 21, 2023, Septia Dwi Pertiwi criticized her former workplace on social media for allegedly underpaying and neglecting the worker's rights, especially during her employment. Septia Dwi Pertiwi then received several threats of imprisonment from an anonymous account 22 hours after she posted the criticism on social media. She was then continuously contacted by several people from the company on the same day, but she refused to respond.

On January 22, 2023, Henry Kurnia Adhi, co-owner of the company, sent a legal notice to Septia Dwi Pertiwi requesting clarification and accusing her of defamation.

On January 23, 2023, Septia Dwi Pertiwi received the first legal notice sent to her residence, to which she did not respond. On January 27, 2023, she received the second legal notice and on February 17, 2023, she received a letter from the Metro Jaya Police summoning her to the Metro Jaya Police Office.

On March 13, 2023, Septia Dwi Pertiwi and her legal team responded to the Metro Jaya Police summons for a mediation with Henry Kurnia Adhi, but he did not attend the summons.

On September 5, 2023, a second mediation was held by the Metro Jaya Police between Septia Dwi Pertiwi and Henry Kurnia Adhi. Henry Kurnia Adhi demanded a compensation of 300 million rupiah (about 19,300 USD) from Septia and demanded that Septia Dwi Pertiwi apologize publicly in the media. The police also named Septia Dwi Pertiwi as a suspect, but investigators did not arrest her because she showed great respect for the legal process and was cooperative with every summons from investigators.

On August 27, 2024, Septia Dwi Pertiwi's legal team submitted a request for suspension of her detention to the Central Jakarta Prosecutor's Office. Initially, the request was to be decided at Septia's first court hearing at the Central Jakarta District Court on September 10, 2024. However, the hearing was postponed and rescheduled for September 17, 2024.

On September 19, 2024, the agenda continued with the reading of the defendant's exception and the decision on the request for suspension of detention. The suspension of Septia Dwi Pertiwi's detention was granted at the hearing.

Indonesia has shown an alarming trend of criminalizing people and suppressing the right to freedom of expression. Amnesty International records that from 2019 to October 2024, at least 554 people have been charged with alleged violations of problematic articles of the EIT law.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Indonesian, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: January 22, 2025

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Septia Dwi Pertiwi (she/her)