



Inter-Parliamentary Union



135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

GENEVA, 23-27.10.2016

SPEECH OF THE VICE-SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, H.E. Dr. FADLI ZON

Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.
May Peace Be Upon Us,*

*Excellencies Speakers and Vice-Speakers of the Parliaments,
His Excellency President of the IPU, Mr. Saber Chowdhury,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,*

I am honored to address the 135th IPU Assembly and related meetings. The theme of this assembly is timely as we commemorate the UN Human Rights Council's dedication for the last decade. I do hope that the UN Human Rights Council can continue to play a more effective role in advancing the human rights values and principles.

*Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,*

We are at a treacherous situation. A large scale of violations of human rights has continued to exist all over the world. We have come to an unprecedented era of humanitarian tragedy.

Wars and conflicts emerged; civilians were deliberately targeted; People are fleeing from fear of war in their homeland—most of them rejected from sanctuary, not being provided with protection; the growing intolerance and hatred sparked disintegration. At the same time, we are challenged by poverty, one where the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being is part of indispensable human rights.



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Those are all global problems and to some, they are also challenges at home. The key to confront these issues is to provide measures to engage for early warning and early responses to counter human rights abuses. This can be performed by parliament as the first responder of people's grievances and aspirations.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me to share some examples from what we have accomplished in terms of the promotion and protection of human rights.

The history of Indonesia's political transformation has been an attestation of how we have advanced the quality of respect to and protection of human rights. The 1998 political transformation urged all political elements including the Parliament to affirm and strengthen efforts to protect and respect human rights. This has been translated through the inclusion of human rights chapter with 10 articles and 26 paragraphs in the Constitution.

Indonesia has been a party to at least eight of nine core international human rights instruments, two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all core human rights conventions of the International Labor Organization.

But this is not enough. We are fully aware that we need national infrastructures, mechanisms and processes to promote human rights, to monitor their development and at the same time to respond to the violations that occurred.

With these in mind, the Indonesian House has enacted the Law on Human Rights to further acknowledge the fundamental rights of people, women and children stipulated in the Constitution. We have established the National Commission on Human Rights as our National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and Human Rights



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Court. The Court acts as a judicial remedy for genocide and crime against humanity—the grave violations of human rights.

Through such institutions, Indonesia has the national mechanism to process any grave violation of human rights. However, having acknowledged that some of the grave violations of human rights may occurred in the past, the Law knows no statute of limitations and an Ad-Hoc Human Rights Court may be established by the Indonesian House's recommendation to seek justice for these cases.

The National Commission on Human Rights shall be the commission of inquiry, while the General Prosecutor acting as the investigator and prosecutor of these cases.

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the world's third largest democracy—the largest democracy in the Muslim world, with a population of almost 260 million, we are fully aware that human rights violations such as the occurrence of discriminations, intolerance as well as the arbitrary actions of State Apparatus breed conflicts. Peaceful communities may become hostile to one another and turned into sworn enemies in a blink.

With this in mind and by having an awareness to the growing phenomenon of intolerance, hatred as well as those arbitrary actions exercised by State apparatus, the Indonesian House emphasizes that there should be no place in every corner of the world for intolerance and hatred based on ethnicity, religious groups, opinions and beliefs. There shall be no justification also for State Apparatus to arbitrarily conducting their actions.



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These violations should be prevented and stopped. That is why in 2012, the Indonesian House adopted a mechanism in managing social conflicts encompassing efforts to the prevention of and to resolve the conflicts as well as actions on post-conflicts recovery through the Law on the Management of Social Conflict. The Law emphasizes the principles of human rights in managing such conflicts. It also acknowledges the local wisdom that can be used in conflict resolution.

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need to have a strong respect for and protection of human rights not only at home but also at the global level.

What happened today in Palestine, Syria, and in other Middle East and North African regions and to the rest of the world are a series of violation to the international human rights principle, law and values. I call upon the international community, including the UN and the UN Security Council to take relevant measures to resolve conflicts and bring peace to the world, to protect the universal values of human rights and promote their enjoyment.

This can only be achieved if the advancement of human rights is being pursued globally under the basis of principles of objectivity, impartiality, non-selectivity and the elimination of double standards and politicization.

The Indonesian House shares the vision of peace and justice under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thus, there is a greater need to reinforce the links between human rights, peace and security, and development.



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For our part, it is also important to mainstream the human rights aspects in every policy and law-making process as this has also become the work the UN Secretary General's promoted: The Human Rights Up Front Initiative.

To conclude, I share the belief that by promoting and protecting human rights we are advancing the values of our humanity.

Thank You.