

Papernas attacked by soldiers in Central Sulawesi

Wednesday 16 May 2007, by [AMRI Arfi Bambani](#), [Kompas](#), [Tempo](#) (Date first published: 14 May 2007).

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Papernas offices in Central Sulawesi attacked, three hospitalised

Detik.com - May 13, 2007

Arfi Bambani Amri, Palu — Yet again the National Liberation Party of Unity (Papernas) has been physically attacked. This time it was the turn of the Central Sulawesi regional branch of Papernas.

The attack by around 50 unidentified assailants took place at the Papernas offices on Jl. Jl Raja Moili in the Central Sulawesi provincial capital of Palu, on Sunday May 13.

"They arrived unexpectedly, and immediately began hitting and beating us", said the chairperson of Papernas's Central Sulawesi branch, Martin Sibarani, when contacted by Detik.com on Sunday.

As a consequence of the attack, three people had to be rushed to the nearest hospital, one of which is still being treated in intensive care.

"One person was hospitalised, because he suffered very serious injuries. He was hit with a rock on the back of his head. His name is Ikhsan, the head of Papernas's department of education and recruitment for the East Palu sub-district of Palu city", said Martin.

According to Martin, Ikhsan was abducted by the assailants and it is possible that he was badly tortured because strewn about the location where he was found were rocks and a pair of scissors.
(aba/aba)

Soldiers attack Papernas office in Palu, three seriously injured

Kompas - May 14, 2007

Palu — The regional office of the National Liberation Party of Unity (Papernas) in the Central Sulawesi provincial capital of Palu was attacked by members of the Indonesian military (TNI) on Sunday May 13 at around 1am local time. Three party activists were beaten and suffered serious injuries.

One of the party members, Ikhsan, was also abducted to a location in Seleksi Tilawatil Alquran, Palu, around four kilometers from the incident. After being interrogated by at least 10 people, Ikhsan was returned and dropped off in the vicinity of the Papernas office.

The three activists who were beaten were M. Ikhsan (20), Wira Arezki (23) and Eko Arianto (24). All three suffered bruising on various parts of their bodies and Wira sustained a slash wound to his mouth.

According to Ikhsan, at around 11.15 Wira received an ominous phone call asking him to go to the Palu Muhammadiyah University camps. When Wira refused the caller said they would come to the Papernas office on Jl. Rajamoili.

An hour later, seven or more motorbikes pulled up and parked in front of the Papernas office. Residents thought that police were conducting an arrest. "They were heavily built, had close-cropped hair and military style boots", said an eyewitness. It was shortly after this that the beatings took place.

One of the perpetrators, private first-class Makmur was arrested by the Palu Municipal police and handed over to the Palu military police headquarters. The commander of the Palu 132/Tadulako Sub-district Military Command (Korem), Colonel Husein Malik admitted that Makmur, one of his subordinates was involved in the incident. He denied however that the

attack was premeditated or motivated by the political interests of the TNI.

The chairperson of Papernas's Central Sulawesi branch, Martin Sibarani has lodged a strong protest while branch general secretary Aristan added that the commander of the VII/Wirabuwana Regional Military Command (Kodam) and the commander of Korem 132/Tadulako must be held responsible for the incident. (REI)

[Translated by James Balowski.]

Papernas offices under surveillance prior to Sunday's attack

Tempo Interactive - May 14, 2007

Palu, Tito Sianipar — The secretariat offices of the National Liberation Party of Unity (Papernas) in the Central Sulawesi provincial capital of Palu was attacked by a large group of people on Sunday night. "We suspect that they originate from one of the [local military] units", said the chairperson of Papernas's Palu branch Martin Sibarani when speaking with Tempo on Sunday night.

According to Martin, the assailants were heavily built, had short-cropped hair and wore military style boots. Moreover one of the attackers who was caught was private first-class Makmur. "We have (sic) already handed him over to the Palu Military Police Detachment", he said.

As a result of the attack, three people that were at the Papernas offices sustained injuries after being beaten. The three victims are Wira, Ikhsan and Eko Haryanto. "Ikhsan and Wira are currently being treated at the Central Sulawesi Bayangkara Regional Police Hospital", said Martin.

Based on testimonies by the victims and local residents, the 40 or so attackers had already been keeping the Papernas office under surveillance. They even bought cigarettes and phone recharge vouchers from stalls in the vicinity of the office. "Local people were suspicious", he said.

Papernas general secretary Hari Sitorus expressed his regrets over the attack. "We have asked police to investigate the case and find the group of assailants", he said. Hari said that Papernas has appointed the People's Legal Aid Association (PBHR) as their attorney and have reported the attack to police.

[Translated by James Balowski.]