

Three updates from Detik.com on standoff at Papernas Congress

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For background info and archived reports on Papernas check out [on ESSF website or]:
asia-pacific-action.org/southeastasia/indonesia/papernas/papernas.htm

Translated by James Balowski.

Papernas Congress 'attacked en masse' by Anti- Communist Front

Detik.com - January 19, 2007

Bagus Kurniawan, Yogyakarta — The Yogyakarta Anti-Communist Front (FAKI) has made good their threat to 'attack en masse' the National Liberation Party of Unity (Papernas) Congress saying that if it is not closed by 9pm then FAKI will break it up by force.

The FAKI group of some 100 people arrived at the congress site at the Wisma Sejahtera Building in Kaliurang in the Sleman regency of Yogyakarta, Central Java, on Friday January 19 at 3pm.

They demanded that the congress be canceled because it did not have a permit and was taking up Marxist and communist ideas. The group was unable to approach the congress however because they were held back by officers from the Sleman district police around 100 meters north of the site.

After holding negotiations with Sleman Police Chief Idris Kadir, an agreement was reached that representatives of the group could meet with the congress organising committee. The rest of the FAKI group meanwhile would remain behind police lines.

During the negotiations with police, they group shouted "Destroy the communists, crush Papernas". Erected in front of the group was a banner with the writing "FAKI, the communists rise up, wipe out and crush", "Uphold Law No. 27/1999 on Marxism-Communism in Indonesia"(1).

Some of the group wore black T-shirts with a red-and-white flag on the chest and FAKI written on the back. They also brought FAKI flags.

Burhanuddin, one of the action coordinators, declared that they wanted to break up the Papernas Congress because it is taking up ideas of Marxism and communism that is against the law so it must be disbanded. "As a generation of youth, they are being used by people who have a communist ideology", said Burhanuddin.

After negotiations with police, an agreement was finally reached that four FAKI representatives would meet with four Papernas representatives at the Brotoseno Villa located alongside the Wisma Sejahtera.

At the meeting, the FAKI persisted in asking Papernas to close the congress. They were received by Congress committee members such as Dita Indah Sari, Lukman Hakim and Agus Priyono. The FAKI representatives repeatedly pointed out to Dita that she should be aware that she is being used by and had become a communist lackey.

At the end of the meeting, the FAKI group issued an ultimatum that the Papernas Congress must close by 9pm. If not, they would break it up by force.
(nrl/ss)

Notes:

1. Law No. 27/1999 is a revision to the Criminal Code that codifies Provisional People's Consultative Assembly (MPRS) Decree Number XXXV/1996 on the Dissolution of the Indonesian Communist Party and Prohibitions on Marxist, Leninist and Communist Teachings.

Papernas to sue police for obstructing congress

Detik.com - January 19, 2007

Bagus Kurniawan, Sleman — The National Liberation Party of Unity (Papernas) plans to sue the national police for obstructing the issuance of a permit for their congress. The situation at the congress meanwhile remained full of uncertainty.

"We will sue the Yogyakarta regional police chief and the chief of the national police who have obstructed the issuing of the permit. There is clearly a hidden political agenda to obstruct ordinary people who want to organise and gather. Whereas this is guaranteed under the Constitution", said congress committee member Dita Indah Sari.

Dita made the statement at the congress site at the Wisma Sejahtera Building in Kaliurang in the Sleman regency of Yogyakarta, Central Java, on Friday January 19. Dita said she deplored the planned anarchic action to obstruct the congress in the name of religion or groups such the Yogyakarta Anti-Communist Front (FAKI).

Meanwhile the Pakem sub-district coordinating body (Muspika), officials from the Hargobinangun village and Sleman Regional House of Representatives Member Farchan Hariem arrived to meet with the committee. A member of the Hargobinangun village representative body, Bejo Wiryono, expressed the hope that the situation in Kaliurang would remain 'conducive'.

This was because on January 20-21 residents will commemorate the 1st night of Muharram (first month of the Muslim new year) by holding a traditional Merti Buki ceremony. Wiryono said that he was worried that something undesirable happened local residents would be upset.

As of 2.30pm, congress participants were still gathered at the Wisma Sejahtera although there were no activities taking place. In anticipation of an attack, several older participants had already been evacuated.

Scores of Sleman district police were on guard in the Kaliurang area. Prior to Friday prayers, police also asked a number of roadside stalls near the conference site to close. (fay/nrl)

Papernas questions why police are obstructing congress

Detik.com - January 19, 2007

Bagus Kurniawan, Sleman — The National Liberation Party of Unity (Papernas) Congress has been unable to start because the national police have failed to issue a permit. The congress organising committee is questioning why the police are making things difficult for them.

"We've fulfilled all of the requirements. Why however are [the police] making it difficult for us. [Former General] Wiranto also wants to have a party. Us too, we also want to have a party", said congress committee member Dita Indah Sari.

This was conveyed by the labour activist that was once a political prisoner at the congress site at the Wisma Sejahtera Building in Kaliurang in the Sleman regency of Yogyakarta, Central Java, on Friday January 19.

Speaking with Detik.com meanwhile, Papernas secretary general Lukman Hakim said that the organising committee would continue to ask the national police to issue a permit for the congress. However they believe that it is becoming increasingly complicated.

By way of example, he said that the committee had been asked to redo the permit application and to provide an explanation on a number of congress sessions. The committee was even asked to remove a banner and other party paraphernalia from the congress site.

In addition to this, police also asked them to clarify the "Three Banners of the Party" that were included in the permit request. The "Three Banners of the Party" [The Three Banners of National Unity - JB] are abolishing the foreign debt, nationalising the mining industry and building the national industry for the welfare of the people.

The Papernas Congress was to have taken place on January 18-21. Aside from encountering problem's from the national police, congress participants have also been haunted by worries that there would be an attack by the Yogyakarta Anti-Communist Front (FAKI). (fay/sss)

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