

His Excellency
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Your Excellency,

I am writing to you concerning the imprisoned Christian church leader Dedi Saputra. He was arrested on 18 February 2026 and sentenced on 10 July 2026 to two years in prison for alleged “blasphemy” and “spreading hate speech”. The District Court of Banda Aceh based its judgment on statements he had posted on TikTok in response to questions about his conversion. Saputra was formerly a Muslim and converted to Christianity. Witnesses and an expert confirmed that he presented his arguments in a measured, factual manner.

He has the right to change his religion and to speak publicly about his journey of faith, regardless of whether representatives of major organisations or the authorities hold different views. Indonesia ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2005, and Article 18 of the Covenant provides broad protection for freedom of religion. It is disturbing that, during the trial, a representative of the prosecution expressed the view that it was lawful to “shed the blood of an apostate”.

I ask you to work for his release and to ensure his safety.

Yours respectfully,