

His Excellency
Mr. Joko Widodo
President of the Republic of Indonesia
via Botschaft der Republik Indonesien
Lehrter Strasse 16-17
10557 Berlin

Fax: 030-4473-7142

Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of the incarcerated Indonesian Christian YouTuber, **Muhammad Kace**. He was arrested on August 25, 2021 and was sentenced to ten years in prison for blasphemy and disinformation on April 6, 2022.

The Ciamis District Court charged him with blasphemy and disinformation because of numerous videos in which he presented his religious beliefs on YouTube. The former devout Muslim converted to Christianity in 2014. By publishing the videos, he merely exercised his right to freedom of religion.

Observers consider the verdict to be extremely harsh when compared to other court decisions in such cases. Groups of fanatics called for an even more severe punishment. It is reasonable to assume that in this case the court came under pressure to issue such verdict. Interested groups in Indonesia have been trying for some time to use the blasphemy law to intimidate members of religious minorities.

In the meantime it has also become known that Muhammad Kace was tortured in prison. Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to advocate the release of Mr. Kace and to have his safety guaranteed.

Most respectfully,