

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

Fax: 030-44737142

Your Excellency;

It is with deep concern that global public opinion has taken note of the two-year prison sentence of the Indonesian Christian politician, Mr. Basuki Tjahaja Purnamas, on alleged charges of blasphemy.

He is internationally known and respected as an honest and courageous politician, who respects the members of all religious communities. During the election campaigns, he had declared that the Holy Qur'an does not prohibit Muslims from voting for a Non-Muslim. This statement was meant to underline the equality of all citizens before the law and in society, regardless of their religion.

This was unfortunately thoroughly misunderstood, and Mr. Purnamas has expressed his honest regrets about having made such a statement.

Furthermore, this sentence appears to be disproportionate, and I beseech you, dear Mr. President, to boldly advocate the release of your longtime political companion. Please do not permit the use of the blasphemy laws to intimidate members of religious minorities, to curtail their rights or even to persecute or exile them!

Most respectfully,