

Monitoring the Trial concerning the Murder of Munir

Trial XVII The Central Jakarta District Court Jakarta, 15 November 2005

Material: Witness Examination
Time: 10.45 - 11.00 WIB (West Indonesia Time)
Place: Central Jakarta City Court, 2nd floor, Courtroom 1

Situation

I. Before the Trial.

Since 9.30am, the General Prosecutors, Counselors, Press and around 80 court visitors have crowded Central Jakarta City Court. Around 15 mass media were also present to cover the trial process. Among the visitors were Suciwati and 10 victims and victims' families of Tanjung Priok, Semanggi, and May 1998 cases. Until 10.30 WIB (West Indonesia Time), the Prosecutors and Legal advisors were still standing in front of the courtroom because according to the Prosecutors, the witness that was supposed to be examined had not arrived yet.

II. During the Trial

Opening

At 10.40 WIB, the Chief Judge opened the session and the defendant Pollycarpus Budihari Priyanto (PBP) was brought into the courtroom wearing sky blue shirt, black trousers and brown shoes, guarded by three police officers.

After the Chief Judge Cicut Setiarso opened the session and asked Pollycarpus about his health, he gave the opportunity to the Prosecutors to bring their witnesses.

Witnesses Unavailable

Prosecutor Domu P Sihite informed the Chief Judge that the 6 witnesses summoned to today's session (15/11) were not available yet. The six witnesses are:

1. Meha Bob Hussain (Duty Manager of Hotel Furama River Front-Singapore)
2. Drs. Nurhadi Djazuli (BIN: Former First Secretary in 2001-2003, Deputy VI in 2003-2004)
3. Muchdi Purwopranjono (BIN Agent: Former Deputy V)
4. Avriyanto (Expert Witness: flight expert from the Department of Transportation)
5. Rizal Ali Balu Weel (Flight Expert Witness from the Department of Transportation)
6. Hian Tian

According to the Prosecutor, the witnesses had been summoned according to procedure by sending letters to their respective addresses. When confirmed via telephone was tried today, it failed to reach none of the witnesses. The Prosecutor gave the summon letter to the Panel of Judges as proof that the witnesses had been summoned.

Response from the Panel of Judges

The Chief Judge, Cicut Setiarso, reminded the Prosecutors not to let the same thing happen again.

Cicut Setiarso informed that related to PBP's detainment, the trial had **1 month 7 days left**. It was planned in mid December that around **16 December** the Panel of Judges would issue its verdict.

The Panel of Judges gave opportunity for the Prosecutors to bring their witnesses. The next chance, according to Cicut, would be to listen to witness a de charge and for witness examination.

After the Trial

Prosecutor Domu P Sihite, when answering reporters' questions regarding the difficulty of summoning witnesses, said that all six witnesses had been summoned and they would be summoned again the next day. According to the Prosecutor, all witnesses listed in the Police note are witnesses considered important to be presented. Whether or not their testimonies would incriminate the defendant, according to Domu, would be proven in tomorrow's hearing (16/11). Regarding his anticipation for further absence of the witnesses, Domu said that he would summon them first.

Trial Process

The Prosecutors did not seem to work hard to bring the witnesses to court. Witnesses Lie Fon Nie, Lie Khie Ngian and Nurhadi Djazuli were supposed to be brought in by the Prosecutors in the previous trial (Friday/11/11).

The Panel of Judges had reprimanded the Prosecutors regarding their serious commitment in summoning the witnesses. The judges said that the Prosecutors should know what obstacles prevented the witnesses to come to court. The Chief Judge had also informed the Prosecutors to give briefing and conduct some approach to the witnesses so that they would be present in the court and be serious in giving testimonies. Until now, it is not clear whether the Prosecutors were simply summoning witnesses or conducting other activities that would prove their commitment to bring the witnesses and get the testimonies.