



**60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 2: General Debate - Indonesia**

10 September 2025

Delivered by Gyan Kothari

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Mr. President,

We welcome the High Commissioner's recognition that authorities have used excessive force against protestors in Indonesia, and express deep concern about the violent crackdown by the police on protests across Indonesia amid widespread and ongoing allegations of arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment of protestors, as well as the arbitrary arrest of the director of Lokataru Foundation.

During recent protests in Jakarta, the National Commission on Human Rights (KOMNAS HAM) reported hundreds of cases of arbitrary arrest, while civil society organisations and media estimate at least 3,000 cases.¹ Civil society also found unnecessary and excessive use of force by the police, including the inappropriate and excessive use of tear gas and other less-lethal crowd-control weapons², resulting in injuries to hundreds of protestors and posing a risk to bystanders. A 21-year-old motorcycle taxi rider, Affan Kurniawan, was run over by a Mobile Brigade (Brimob) police tactical vehicle and died. Two additional cases of unlawful killing allegedly due to exposure to tear gas and assault by police officers have been documented in the country³ in addition to other cases of deaths and serious injuries related to the protests. The Government has confirmed that at least 8 people have been killed nationwide since the protests began.

This crackdown comes on the back of several cases of unlawful use of force by police during other peaceful protests in 2025, including in Pati, where 34 protestors were injured during protests on 30 August, during May Day demonstrations, and in West Sumatra in April.⁴ This disturbing trend reflects a broader authoritarian drift in Indonesia, symbolised by the Indonesian National Armed Forces Act, the proposed

¹ Press release of the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights on 29 August 2025, available at: [Siaran Pers Komnas HAM Mendorong Aparat Keamanan Bekerja Secara Profesional, Efektif dan Berpedoman pada HAM.pdf](#). This number is for arbitrary arrests on 26 and 29 August 2025 in Jakarta only. Human Rights Watch, 3 September 2025, available at: [Indonesia: End Crackdown on Protesters, Arbitrary Detention | Human Rights Watch](#). This number is for arbitrary arrests nationwide from 25 August 2025 up to 3 September 2025.

² KONTRAS, 31 August 2025, available at: [KONTRAS | Halo Warga](#)

³ KONTRAS, 31 August 2025, available at: [KONTRAS | Halo Warga](#)

⁴ FORUM-ASIA, 16 August 2025, available at: [\[Statement\] INDONESIA: Ensure accountability for police violence during mass protest in Pati - FORUM-ASIA](#); Amnesty International, 2 May 2025, available at: <https://www.amnesty.id/kabar-terbaru/siaran-pers/kekerasan-polisi-dan-pelanggaran-ham-lainnya-warnai-aksi-damai-hari-buruh-internasional-2025/05/2025/>. The crackdown was also recorded in previous years. For example, during the [Omnibus Law protests in 2020](#) and the [Emergency Warning protests in 2024](#).

criminal procedure code and the revised penal code that was passed by the Parliament without the public's meaningful participation, and provide more leeway for unsupervised power.

It is imperative that protestors are able to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, organisation, opinion and expression, including online, freely and without hindrance, in accordance with Indonesia's obligations under international and domestic law.

We highlight OHCHR's calls⁵ for Indonesian security forces to comply with the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, and for the Government of Indonesia to promptly, independently and effectively investigate the allegations of human rights violations. We urge OHCHR and Special Procedures to closely monitor the situation, bearing in mind the potential for further escalation.

In conclusion, we urge the Government of Indonesia to establish an independent fact-finding team to investigate the allegations of unnecessary and excessive use of force by the police in an impartial manner, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Thank you.

⁵ OHCHR, 1 September 2025, available at: [Indonesia protests: Call for restraint and dialogue | OHCHR](#)