

Press Release

**REPEAT VIOLENCE AGAINST REFUGEES  
DURING TENT EVICTION BEHIND THE UNHCR INDONESIA OFFICE  
BY THE JAKARTA PUBLIC ORDER AGENCY (SATPOL PP)**

(Thursday, 17 October 2024) SUAKA condemns the repeated acts of violence committed by the Jakarta Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) against four refugees who had set up tents behind the UNHCR Indonesia office building. The eviction was carried out again on 15 October 2024 at 09.00 WIB. Similar to what happened back on 28 August 2024, the eviction was carried out along with beatings by Satpol PP officers and the taking of personal belongings of several refugees concerned.

Based on information from the refugees concerned, Satpol PP has often come to monitor the situation in the last three months. The eviction had ended in repression several times, to the point of beatings that injured 4 refugees, with 1 person having reported to the authorities and undergoing a medical examination on Tuesday, 15 October 2024. One refugee suffered a wound on the forehead, one refugee suffered a wound on the one side of the head, and two refugees suffered wounds to the neck. The incident has been reported to the Greater Jakarta Metropolitan Regional Police (Polda Metro Jaya).

The evicted refugees were taken to the Setiabudi Satpol PP Office and detained for 1 hour in a hot place, without being given any food and drink. Although several confiscated items have been returned, the tents that were used as shelter by the refugees and some personal items such as shoes, wallets, and money have not been returned or are missing. After this incident, Satpol PP installed barriers in the area behind the UNHCR office to prevent refugees from returning to live in the area.

In the past few months, SUAKA has noticed a systemic situation that has caused the refugee community to be forced to live in the area around the UNHCR Indonesia office. First, refugees in Indonesia are also prohibited from working, which results in difficulties in fulfilling their basic needs. This condition alone illustrates that the right to a decent standard of living as stated in Article 11 paragraph (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which has been ratified by Indonesia through Law No. 12 of 2005 has not been fulfilled.

The cessation of financial aid by UNHCR Indonesia since July 2024 also resulted in most refugees in the Jakarta area and its surroundings becoming homeless. The refugees were then forced to build temporary housing in the area behind the UNHCR Indonesia office. Based on SUAKA's monitoring on Wednesday, 16 October, 2024 at around 11.00 am, around 18 refugees were occupying the road behind the UNHCR Indonesia office.

In regards to the repeated beatings, **SUAKA strongly condemns Satpol PP in this case, especially considering that this is a repeat of a similar incident in August 2024.** SUAKA will oversee Polda Metro Jaya, especially in terms of implementing the legal process against the identified perpetrators of the beatings. In addition, SUAKA also emphasizes the need for an open internal sanction mechanism against the perpetrators by Satpol PP.

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