

**PETITION CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL
RELEASE OF MARTINUS GULO**

August 21, 2018

Ambassador Budi Bowoleksono
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ambassador Bowoleksono,

It is with great concern that we petition the Republic of Indonesia for the immediate and unconditional release of Martinus Gulo. Mr. Gulo was sentenced to four years in prison and issued a fine of 1 billion Rupiah (approximately 68,914 USD) for religious defamation. He will have to serve an additional six months in jail if he cannot afford to pay the fine. The sentence imposed on Martinus Gulo is completely egregious given the fact that his actions do not merit the charges for a prison sentence of such magnitude.

Mr. Gulo is a 21-year-old Christian and was found guilty of blasphemy due to a Facebook post that insulted the prophet Muhammad under the country's controversial Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE) law. His arrest took place in March after the hardline group Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) reported his online post to the police.

Mr. Gulo's sentence is an inhumane violation of universal human rights, and only emboldens Indonesia's radical Muslims to abuse the poorly worded hate speech law to discriminate against the country's religious minorities. It is time for the Indonesian government to stand up for all of its citizens, including religious minorities, and free Mr. Gulo. The government of Indonesia must not allow this kind of abuse and guarantee human rights for all citizens. Again, we strongly urge your government to immediately and unconditionally release Martinus Gulo. We eagerly await your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern

CC:

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo
Senator Bob Corker, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Ben Cardin, Ranking Democratic Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Congressman Ed Royce, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Congressman Eliot Engel, Ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs