

SPOTLIGHT ON R2P



2023 ASEAN Civil Society Conference / ASEAN People's Forum(ACSC/APF) Jakarta, Indonesia September 1- 3 ,2023

From September 1st – 3rd, 2023, almost 700 civil society actors from across Asia met at Jakarta's Atma Jaya Catholic University as part of the annual ASEAN Civil Society Conference / ASEAN People's Forum.

The event was a series of talks, workshops, advocacy stands, and art displays that brought attention to ongoing human rights violations occurring across the region. Aside from a coming together of likeminded human rights advocates, the main outcome of the Forum was a Joint Statement written on behalf of all organisations that took part, aimed at ASEAN and its representatives. This year's statement was titled "Reclaiming Safe Space, and Restoring Democracy and Equity in Southeast Asia," reflecting the themes of the 2023 workshop.

The aims of the Forum were to: 1) strengthen solidarity among civil society actors; 2) celebrate the successes of civil society across the past year, and to reflect on achievements made; 3) work-

shop how to best address ASEAN policy makers, with ASEAN's 2025 Masterplan a key consideration; and 4) identify common areas of advocacy and to align awareness campaigns. The event consisted of four plenary sessions, 29 workshops that discussed various aspects of human rights in the region, and 25 side events including art workshops and stalls selling indigenous artifacts.

Workshop on R2P and Southeast Asia

As part of the event, the APR2P Centre hosted a workshop centred on the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in the region, with a specific focus on atrocity crimes being committed across the region, and ASEAN responses to these crimes. The workshop considered: 1) the importance of R2P to the region; 2) how to think about a reinvention of the norm, including how to re-orientate R2P's third pillar; 3) a discussion around regional CSO advocacy and how CSOs are best positioned to show regional R2P relevance. To do so, the workshop brought together

panellists and facilitators who spoke on relevant crises including Myanmar, West Papua, Mindanao, and past atrocities in Cambodia. Titled "Reinventing R2P: Learning About Mass Atrocity Experiences from the Ground Up," the workshop speakers were:

- Suyheang Kry from Women Peace Makers, Cambodia
- Joan Andrea Toledo from Indo Pacific Alliance Corp, The Philippines.
- Tual Sawm Khai from Lingnan University, Hong Kong (but from Myanmar)
- Yuliana Langowuyo from SKPKC, West Papua, Indonesia

The session was also guided by Azriana Manalu from RPUK in Aceh, Indonesia who is current Chair of the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan), and Dr Kirril Shields from the APR2P Centre, Australia, and facilitated by Jesse Adam Halim from HRWG, Indonesia.

The workshop began with a conversation about personal, communal, and country experiences of mass atrocity, including past atrocities in Cambodia and current atrocities in West Papua, Mindanao, and Myanmar. These personal reflections were then tied to the need for furtherment of the R2P norm across the region, with recognition that ASEAN's adoption of the norm via a focal point appointee, or as part of its policies, are important steps towards mitigating violence in the region.

Ongoing human rights violations were discussed in some depth, including the role of R2P in helping to halt these atrocities. As an example, Ms Yuliana Langowuya stated that in West Papua "the military are responsible. Little has been done to address these problems. People are sent to jail and run away from home to the mountains to survive. There are two conflicts happening now: Papua versus Indonesia, and Papua versus those Papuans who are pro-Indonesia. What we are trying to do now is to leverage national level to help us to solve this conflict and bring peace to the region."

As part of the workshop, a clause on R2P became part of the [Joint Statement](#) and, similarly, R2P was written into a recommendation. These are:

The R2P (Responsibility to Protect), adopted unanimously at the 2005 UN World Summit, provides ASEAN Member States and other regional countries including Timor-Leste, a framework with a range of policy and other options that can be implemented to protect populations at risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. Here, Myanmar meets all indicators of crimes against humanity through systematic killings and attacks on civilians taking place since the 2021 coup. R2P clarifies that ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste have the responsibility to take positive measures to protect vulnerable populations in a manner consistent with international law.

And, for ASEAN members states to consider:

Recommendation 1.3: Prevent all human rights violations, atrocities, child abductions, enforced disappearances and all other forms of oppression by the governments

with R2P, feminist intersectionality approaches, support and protect the rights of displaced and marginalized people including the Rohingya community; reimagine trans-local solidarity and promote freedom of expression, and ratify of the Convention of Enforced Disappearances and other international conventions on human rights.

The 2024 ACSC/APF is to be held in Timor-Leste and will be hosted by a coalition of local CSOs.



Belajar dari Cerita Pengalaman Kekejaman Massal di ASEAN



Pencegahan genosida, kejahatan perang, pembersihan etnis, dan kejahatan terhadap kemanusiaan adalah tanggung jawab masing-masing negara. Pencegahan adalah proses berkelanjutan yang memerlukan upaya berkelanjutan untuk membangun ketahanan masyarakat terhadap kejahatan kekejaman dengan memastikan adanya aturan hukum yang dihormati dan semua hak asasi manusia dilindungi tanpa diskriminasi



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