



**AMBASSADE D'INDONESIE
PARIS**

Mr. Moez Chakchouk
The Assistant Director-General
For Communication and Information

Ref.no: 126/01/VI/2020

Paris, 8 June 2020

Dear Mr. Chakchouk,

I refer to your letter dated of 2 April 2020, requesting updated information regarding the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity for crimes committed against them. Your letter referred to two cases dated 30 and 31 October 2019, involving Maratua Siregar and Maraden P Sianipar.

We deeply regret the incident resulting on the death of Maratua Siregar and Maraden P Sianipar. We can inform you that the Indonesian police has taken a thorough investigation and arrested the perpetrators. The police investigations revealed, that the case was regarding a land dispute between the victims and the perpetrators.

Investigations by the Indonesian Press Council, regarding the allegation that the two victims were journalists, also revealed that this was not the case. The Victims, according to the investigation of the Indonesian Press Council have not worked as a journalist since 2018. The police never referred to the victims as journalists and a journalist ID card that was found at the scene of the crime had expired. The victims last known occupation was a worker at a local plantation and running for a local legislative council. The report of the Indonesian Press Council investigation is attached.

Indonesia condemns all forms of crimes including those against journalists. However, we regret the public statement made by the Director General dated of 8 November 2019, on the death of Maratua Siregar and Maraden P Sianipar, as a killing against journalists before clarification and the result of the investigations were provided to UNESCO. We request that a retraction on this statement is made and that future public statement should only be made after receiving the result of formal investigation.

Please accept, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Ambassador/Permanent Delegate of
the Republic of Indonesia to UNESCO

Arrmanatha C Nasir

Section 1

Name of Journalists	Gender	Date of Alleged Murder	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional Remarks
Maraden Sianipar (MS)	Male	30 October 2019	The North Sumatra Police	N/A	Taken into the legal process by the authorities.	N/A	The victim has been confirmed not a journalist therefore this case cannot be constituted as a crime against journalists.
Maratua P. Siregar (MPS) alias Sanjai	Male	31 October 2019	The North Sumatra Police	N/A	Taken into the legal process by the authorities.	N/A	The victim has been confirmed not a journalist therefore this case cannot be constituted as a crime against journalists.

Section 2

Activity	Actors	Outcome(s)
November 13-14, 2019	Legal Department of the Press Council (Led by Agung Dharmajaya, Head of Legal Commission the Indonesia Press Council	Confirmed information about the victims' "journalists" status: not journalists.

Section 3

1. We are deeply concerned about the killings that happened to Maraden Sianipar (MS) and Maratua P. Siregar (MPS) alias Sanjai, therefore we would like to convey our condolences to the deceased's families.
2. These incidents did not constitute violence against journalists because neither of the victims was a journalist.
3. We urge the police to investigate this case transparently and thoroughly in accordance with the prevailing law to give a deterrent effect to the perpetrators and to bring peace for the deceased's families.
4. We encourage the media companies to always pay attention to their journalists' safety, especially in covering the news that potentially exposes them to immediate danger.

Section 4

I hereby give you our consent for this letter to be published on UNESCO website.