

URGENT ACTION

WORKER WINS DEFAMATION CASE BUT STILL AT RISK OF JAIL

On January 22, 2025, the Central Jakarta District Court acquitted Septia Dwi Pertiwi of all charges under the Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) Law after she was accused of defamation for criticizing her former employer online. However, the public prosecutor has now filed a cassation request to the Supreme Court, seeking to overturn her acquittal. If the Supreme Court rules against her, Septia could face imprisonment. This ongoing legal battle highlights the continued misuse of the EIT Law to silence critics and suppress the right to freedom of expression in Indonesia.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **Second UA 95.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Dr. Sanitiar Burhanuddin
Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia
Jl. Panglima Polim No.1, South Jakarta
Jakarta 12160 Indonesia
Email: humas.puspenkum@kejaksaan.go.id
Twitter/X: [@ST_Burhanuddin](#)
Instagram: [@stburhanuddin](#)

CC: Indonesian Embassy in the United States
Deputy Chief of Mission Ida Bagus Made Bimantara
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,
Washington DC 20036
Email: politicalaffairs@embassyofindonesia.org or
washington.kbri@kemlu.go.id
Twitter/X: [@IndonesiainDC](#)
Phone: 1 (202) 775 520

Dear Dr. Burhanuddin,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the criminalization of the right to freedom of expression and ongoing harassment and legal threats against **Septia Dwi Pertiwi**, a former worker in Jakarta who was acquitted of defamation charges on January 22, 2025. The public prosecutor has filed a cassation request to the Supreme Court on February 3, 2025, seeking to overturn her acquittal.

Septia was prosecuted under Indonesia's Electronic Information and Transactions (EIT) Law, which has frequently been misused to silence critics. Her case began after she criticized her former employer, PT Hive Five, on social media for allegedly underpaying employees and violating their rights.

The cassation request puts her at continued risk of imprisonment and may threaten other workers who speak out against injustice.

I urge you and the authorities to withdraw the cassation request and fully respect the Central Jakarta District Court's ruling. Further, I urge you to ensure Septia Dwi Pertiwi remains free from further legal harassment and that all activists can freely carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. Finally, I urge you to stop using the Electronic Information and Transactions Law to target activists simply for exercising their right to freedom of expression and ensure that defamation is treated only as a civil matter.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Septia Dwi Pertiwi was an employee at PT Hive Five, a tax and accounting services company in Jakarta. In October 2022, she resigned after the company allegedly cut salaries and failed to fulfill promised commissions.

On January 21, 2023, she posted a criticism of the company on social media, which led to anonymous threats and repeated attempts by the company to contact her. The following day, Henry Kurnia Adhi, a co-owner of PT Hive Five, accused her of defamation and sent her a legal notice demanding clarification.

Between January and February 2023, Septia received multiple legal notices and was summoned by the police for questioning. Although she cooperated with the investigation, on September 5, 2023, she was officially named a suspect. During mediation, the company demanded IDR 300 million (USD 19,300) in compensation and a public apology, which she refused.

On August 26, 2024, the Central Jakarta Prosecutor's Office issued a detention order, and she was arrested and detained for 25 days at the Pondok Bambu Detention Center. After a legal challenge, she was placed under city detention until November 30, 2024 while awaiting trial.

During the trial, on December 11, 2024, the public prosecutor demanded a one-year prison sentence and a fine of IDR 50 million (USD 3,200), substitutable with three months in jail.

On January 22, 2025, the Central Jakarta District Court acquitted Septia of all charges, ruling that she had not committed any crime. However, on February 3, 2025, the public prosecutor filed a cassation request to the Supreme Court, arguing that the lower court failed to properly assess the evidence and legal provisions. If the Supreme Court grants the request, she could face up to four years in prison.

Septia's case reflects a broader trend of criminalizing the right to freedom of expression in Indonesia. Since 2019, Amnesty International has documented at least 560 people who have been charged with problematic articles of the EIT Law.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Indonesian, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: April 30, 2025

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Septia Dwi Pertiwi (she/her)