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Dr. Sanitiar Burhanuddin
Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia
Jl. Panglima Polim No.1
South Jakarta
Jakarta 12160
Indonesia

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Dear Dr. Burhanuddin,

**I am writing to express my concern for Septia Dwi Pertiwi, who is under «city detention» in Jakarta, Indonesia, after criticizing her former employer**. Under Indonesian Penal Code, city detention means detention in the city where the suspect or defendant lives or resides, with the obligation for the suspect or defendant to report at a specified time.

On 21 January 2023, Septia Dwi Pertiwi criticized her former employer, PT Hive Five, a tax and accounting services company, on social media for allegedly underpaying employees and neglecting their rights. Septia Dwi Pertiwi was reported to the police by Henry Kurnia Adhi, co-owner PT Hive Five, accusing her of defamation under the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (EIT Law); a law that has been misused to criminalize hundreds of people in Indonesia since 2016.

On 26 August 2024, a detention order was issued by the Central Jakarta Prosecutor's Office and Septia Dwi Pertiwi was arrested by the prosecutor and charged with violating the Electronic Information and Transaction (EIT) Law for defamation. She was taken to Pondok Bambu Detention Centre in east Jakarta, where she was detained for 25 days. On 27 August, Septia Dwi Pertiwi and her legal team applied to the judges of the Central Jakarta District Court for release from detention. The judges granted the request on 19 September, and placed Septia Dwi Pertiwi under city detention from 19 September to 30 November.

It is a travesty that Septia Dwi Pertiwi was detained and is currently under city detention for solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed under both international and domestic law.

Septia Dwi Pertiwi is still undergoing legal proceedings at the Central Jakarta District Court. She is unemployed and is taking care of her sick mother. Septia Dwi Pertiwi is at risk of being detained again if the trial continues. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of four years in prison.

**I therefore urge you and the authorities to:**

* **Immediately release Septia Dwi Pertiwi and drop the charges against her;**
* **Ensure that all activists can freely carry out their peaceful activities without fear of hindrance, intimidation, arbitrary arrest or other reprisals;**
* **Stop using the Electronic Information and Transactions Law to silence activists and ensure that defamation is treated as a civil matter.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

Botschaft der Republik Indonesien, Elfenauweg 51, 3006 Bern

Fax: 031 352 24 80, E-Mail: bern.kbri@kemlu.go.id