

Torture case of Hartoyo

CASE DETAILS:

On 22 January 2007 at around 11:30pm, Mr. Hartoyo, a 32 year-old NGO worker in Aceh province, was at home with his partner, Bobby, when two men kicked down his front door and barged into his home. The two men then proceeded to vandalize the property before assaulting both Mr. Hartoyo and his partner.

The attackers then forced Mr Hartoyo and Bobby out of their home and continued to physically and verbally abuse them in front of a crowd of about 15 people who had gathered to watch.

Mr. Hartoyo specifically recalls the words of one of his attackers during this part of his ordeal. He said: "*You outsiders slander us; you soil our place with your filthy tricks!*"

Mr. Hartoyo was then made to pack his belongings and to immediately vacate the boarding house where he lived. The attackers took both his ID card and his wallet and then forced him and his partner to squat on the ground while they deliberated on what to do next, eventually deciding to inform the local police authorities.

At around 1:30am on January 23, four police officers arrived at the scene in an official police vehicle and took Mr. Hartoyo and Bobby to Banda Raya police station. At the police station both men were allegedly made to strip down to their underwear and were viciously beaten and verbally abused by the officers.

In his testimony, Mr. Hartoyo alleges that whilst at the police station the officers sexually abused him and then forced his partner to perform oral sex on him. Mr. Hartoyo said he started weeping and attempted to push his partner away, only to be kicked and scolded by the officers who seemed to take some perverse "enjoyment" from their humiliation.

The victims were then dragged to the police station courtyard where they were made to squat on the ground in their underwear and where the officers sprayed them with ice-cold water from the courtyard hosepipe. At one point, Bobby asked for permission to go to the toilet. The officers refused the request and instead forced him to urinate on Mr. Hartoyo's head.

Mr. Hartoyo and his partner were then taken to a police lock-up, where they were detained until the next morning. Mr. Hartoyo requested several times for permission to contact his family in order to inform them of what had happened. Each time the officers denied him this basic human right.

While in the police lock-up, Mr. Hartoyo was instructed by the officers to introduce himself to his cellmate. When Mr. Hartoyo innocently stated to his cellmate that he was homosexual, an officer entered the cell and severely beat him.

On 23 January 2007, at around 9.00am, Mr. Hartoyo was finally allowed to speak to his fellow NGO co-workers, although this was limited to a five minute period.

Mr. Hartoyo and Bobby were asked by representatives from the Aceh NGO Coalition whether they wanted to file a formal complaint against the police authorities. However, as both men were physically and mentally exhausted they decided not to pursue the case. They were then made to sign a statement addressed to the Village Head Chief that they would refrain from indulging in "homosexual actions again".

According to Mr. Hartoyo he was treated with complete contempt by all the officers he encountered during his entire detention. He also said: "*I felt that my dignity as a human being had been trampled on*".

Name of victims:

- 1) Mr. Hartoyo, aged 32, local NGO worker at the Matahari Foundation in Aceh
- 2) Bobby; Mr. Hartoyo's partner

Alleged perpetrators:

- 1) Officers attached to the Banda Raya police station in Banda Aceh
- 2) 16 yet unidentified civilian attackers in Banda Aceh
- 3) Employee of "Pesona" Café located below Mr. Hartoyo's boarding-house in Banda Aceh

Date of incident:

22-23 January 2007

Place of incident: Mr. Hartoyo's boarding-house residence in Banda Aceh; Banda Raya police station in Banda Aceh

Source: <http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/mainfile.php/2007/2245/>