PRESS RELEASE

Statement
Communion of Churches in Indonesia
on
The Humanitarian Incident at Cikeusik, Pandeglang

A total of 143 church leaders are having the Central Board Assembly of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI-MPL), 4-8 February 2011 in Tobelo express profound concern over the recurrence of violence in the name of religion against the people of belief, which claimed dead victims of the Ahmadyah followers. The assembly's participants express deep sorrow to the families of the victims and to the entire community of Ahmadyah. The assembly also expresses concern against the failure of the State to protect its citizens as it is clearly affirmed in the 1945 Constitution.

With relation to this event PGI conveys the following points:

1. Strongly condemn the violent incident and atrocities that befell Ahmadyah's followers. This is an extra ordinary humanitarian tragedy that tore our nationality, and thus the PGI condemn all forms of violence, whatever the reason, and all forms of mass judgments. Violence should only be undertaken by state officials after going through legal process.

2. Express deep sorrow to all families of the victims and the community of Ahmadyah over the tragedy that befell its followers, while appealing not moved to do the vigilant action in response. Let's leave these all events to the State to complete it judicially.

3. Require the government to investigate the case thoroughly and take tough action against all perpetrators. We demand real and quick action of the government and not just empty promises. The action of slowness, especially letting go by the government in this case is a form of neglecting the constitution. The government should not allow any group to use violence to take its constitutional role, instead the State must be proactive to protect all citizens, regardless their belief and religion.

4. We appeal all the people of Indonesia, as a civilized nation and religion to avoid the ways of violence and vigilantism, and resolve all issues through dialogue and if it is not possible then it can be resolved through law.

This statement has been submitted as an expression of our humanitarian and nationality commitment as Churches, who are aware of the same destiny of the nation.

Tobelo, February 7, 2011