

**THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Publicity and International Relations Division (PIRD)
At Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (YLBHI)**

Summary of Progress

**First Annual Report
February 1, 1999 - January 31, 2000**

**Submitted by
The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial
Center for Human Rights
March 20, 2000**

**Prepared for
The Office of Civic Participation and Transition
United States Agency for International Development
Grant Number: 497-G-00-99-0011-00**

Background

This is the first annual report of the project to establish a Publicity and International Relations Division (PIRD) at Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (YLBHI). The grant is administered by the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights (RFK Center). The objective of this project is to increase the effectiveness of YLBHI (also known as the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation) in its human rights advocacy work, particularly during the political reform period. The project consists of technical capacity-building for staff and partners of YLBHI with special focus on how to publicize human rights concerns, work with public officials, and conduct international advocacy.

The approved proposal for this grant identified three goals for the PIRD project:

- (1) to facilitate publicity of its human rights campaigns both domestically and abroad by improving international contacts;
- (2) to coordinate more effectively the activities of its internal divisions and branches in the field of international campaigning; and
- (3) to strengthen the Indonesian NGO community through more contact, coordination and shared events.

To achieve these objectives, the grant will be used to cover the costs of the salary for an international consultant to work with YLBHI staff in internationalizing their advocacy work and developing a stronger technical infrastructure.

Indicators of Progress

The first year of the PIRD project witnessed progress in many areas. First, the RFK Center signed a contract with Petra de Leeuw to serve as the international consultant to YLBHI. Ms. de Leeuw's experience includes expertise in the area of human rights advocacy, fluent Bahasa and English, and close relationships with both Indonesian human rights organizations and the foreign diplomatic community in Jakarta.

Ms. de Leeuw started her consultancy in February of 1999. During the first year of this project, the PIRD office made progress in building the institutional capacity of YLBHI, expanding and enhancing YLBHI's advocacy work, and improving coordination and communication among Indonesian human rights organizations. Details are provided below.

Institutional Capacity-Building

In the last year, the PIRD office has organized training for YLBHI staff in several areas. An English Language Training focused on human rights vocabulary was offered in July-August 1999, and then again at the end of January 2000. Conducted in cooperation with the British Council in Jakarta, the three-week course was offered to fifteen participants from across

Indonesia, from within as well as outside YLBHI. The training included classes in speaking, reading and writing skills; how to make presentations or to participate in debates; and how to write official statements. The British Council provided facilities including a library, access to the internet, and audio-visual aids to enhance the training.

The PIRD office also organized a training course for NGO staff in International Human Rights Law and the UN System. Jointly offered with the International Service for Human Rights, a group based in Geneva, the training provided information on how to be more effective participants in the UN human rights system, particularly the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. This course was offered in late November-early December, 1999.

The PIRD staff has established their office as a resource for information and assistance to YLBHI staff across Indonesia. The requests from field staff seek advice on approaching foreign agencies, on communicating effectively with government officials, and on requesting funding from donors. The PIRD office has undertaken the donor liaison role for YLBHI field offices in Aceh, Bali, Yogyakarta, ICW, Kontras/LAP Timoris Kupang, Yayasan Sala Waku Maluku, Baileo Maluku, and Yayasan HAK (Dili).

Enhanced Advocacy Work

In order to enhance the advocacy work of YLBHI, the PIRD staff has identified several key areas for training and assistance. For work at the international level, PIRD has provided training to YLBHI staff in the areas of English language skills and international human rights law. Last year, PIRD staff coordinated YLBHI's participation in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (part of the UN Commission on Human Rights). Prior to the meeting, PIRD organized a briefing for YLBHI staff and other Indonesian NGOs to explain the procedures of the forum and to coordinate preparations. There was broad collaboration in preparing written statements for the Subcommission. The joint effort by Indonesian NGOs resulted in a Chairman's Statement by the Subcommission on the human rights situation in Indonesia.

In the last year, PIRD has issued many statements in English on human rights concerns in Indonesia. These statements were distributed to foreign diplomats in Jakarta, journalists, and an extensive international mailing list (via email). The response to this source of information has been extremely positive, and now the different YLBHI divisions and offices routinely send their statements to PIRD for translation, increasing their outreach to raise public awareness. In addition, PIRD is now considered a key resource for information on human rights issues, and the staff responds to several requests each week from diplomats, journalists, UN staff, donors, and international NGOs.

In another initiative, PIRD is working on translating and publishing human rights reports from English into Bahasa (and vice versa). One example is the Indonesian version of the report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women on the findings of her trip to Indonesia and East Timor in November-December 1998. The Indonesian translation was released in November of 1999. Two other reports on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Women's Rights in the UN System are expected to be published soon.

Increased NGO collaboration

In the last year, the PIRD staff has undertaken several activities to improve coordination among Indonesian human rights organizations. In early July 1999, PIRD organized a roundtable discussion for Indonesian NGOs with Mr. Brian Burdekin, Advisor on National Institutions to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The purpose of the discussion was to review the Draft Law on Human Rights and Komnas HAM. Representatives from YLBHI, the Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI), the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM), STF Driyarkara, and the National Consortium on Legal Reform (KRHN) participated in the meeting. In September, after the referendum in East Timor, PIRD convened several discussions with NGOs working on East Timor and organized a briefing meeting for diplomats with the NGOs. PIRD also set up a meeting with a number of foreign donors and NGOs to discuss possible funding of fact-finding missions into West and East Timor. Finally, as mentioned above, PIRD coordinated a joint effort for Indonesian NGOs to participate in the Subcommission meetings in Geneva.

Beyond Indonesia, the PIRD staff has expanded YLBHI's contacts with international NGOs. Cooperation has increased with several European organizations, including the International Commission of Jurists, the International Service for Human Rights, INFOHD, and Amnesty International. In addition, there is regular contact with staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. This office frequently requests information from Indonesian NGOs through the PIRD office.

Evaluation and Next Steps

The first year of the PIRD project has demonstrated that the PIRD staff is meeting an urgent need for more and better information and coordination. Based on the number of requests from YLBHI staff, from other Indonesian NGOs, and from the international community, PIRD is clearly achieving its objectives of raising visibility of YLBHI's work, coordinating NGO activities more effectively, and strengthening the Indonesian human rights NGO community. In addition, the increased awareness in international fora of human rights problems in Indonesia can be attributed in part to the work of PIRD.

Over the next year, PIRD will seek to consolidate and expand its role and activities. More emphasis will be given to establishing closer links to the regional field offices and to the international press and to improving the capacity of YLBHI's staff to do their advocacy work more effectively.



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BOOK AWARD • HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD • JOURNALISM AWARD

Gartini Isa
Office of Civic Participation and Transition
United States Agency for International Development
PPC/CDIE/DI
Acquisition
Room 209, SA-18
Washington, DC 20523

April 27, 2000

Subject: Grant No. 497-G-00-99-0011-00

Dear Ms. Isa:

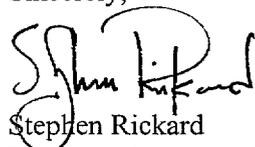
In reference to the above mentioned grant, please find enclosed two copies of the Annual Progress Report of Activities covering the period of February 1, 1999 through January 31, 2000. As you will see, the first year of the project to establish a Publicity and International Relations Division (PIRD) at Yayasan Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Indonesia (YLBHI) has been quite successful. Should you have any questions about the report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Based on the level of activity during the first year of the project and the anticipated activities for the second year, we would request consideration by your office of a short extension of the grant. As you know, the contract of the international consultant for the project, Ms. Petra de Leeuw, will expire on March 31, 2001. The project itself, however, is planned to continue for another two months, until the end of May 2001. It is important that Ms. de Leeuw's contract be extended through the end of the project to ensure its effectiveness. In addition, we would request one additional month so that Ms. de Leeuw can complete the final substantive and financial reports for the grant. Therefore, we request that you consider extending the project to June 30, 2001.

This request, therefore, entails extending Ms. de Leeuw's contract for three months (through June 20, 2001) at a cost of \$11,736. In addition, Ms. de Leeuw would ordinarily be entitled to a home-leave ticket, usually provided after two years of service, for an additional cost of \$1,200. Finally, we have learned that USAID's CPT division has experienced difficulty acquiring long-term visa extensions, which has resulted in the need for Ms. de Leeuw to leave the country at least every two months to renew her visa. Assuming that there will be no change in this situation, we would therefore request additional funds to enable her to leave the country up to seven more times for a visa renewal. This additional cost should be \$2,964 more than is already budgeted. Also requested is an additional \$1,281 for administration costs. The total additional amount requested is \$17,181.

We appreciate your consideration of this request, and we look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Stephen Rickard
Director, Center for Human Rights

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