Ir. H. Joko Widodo

President of the Republic of Indonesia

State Secretariat

Jl. Veteran No. 17-18, Central Jakarta

DKI Jakarta, 10110

**INDONESIEN**

Dear President Widodo

I would like to bring your attention to the environmental activist Heri Budiawan, known as Budi Pego, imprisoned for a second time in Banyuwangi, East Java, on March 24, 2023. It is worth mentioning that the Supreme Court rejected his appeals against a 2017 verdict and decided to increase his sentence from ten months to four years in prison. At the time, he had been convicted for taking part in a peaceful protest against gold mining at Salakan Mountain in the Banyuwangi region in April 2017.

Budi Pego is being effectively incarcerated for his work as a human rights defender and his activism. Gold mining is one of the most destructive industries in the world. It can contaminate drinking water and destroy pristine environments as it involves some level of deforestation, air and watershed pollution. As a man who stands by his convictions and made it his life’s mission to safeguard the natural beauty of Indonesia he should not be persecuted for voicing his concerns regarding the detrimental effects of mining.

I appeal to your sense of love for Indonesia and your role as President to look after the country and its citizens. I kindly urge you to release him since he is also working to protect Indonesia and its future.

Yours respectfully