



Jambi, 19 August 2011

Mr. Jan Kees Vis (President of RSPO)  
Mr. Darrel Weber (Secretary General of RSPO)

CC : RSPO's Executive Board, Grievance Panel, Dispute Settlement Facilities

Subject: Complaints Letter about Violence on the Indigenous People of Suku Anak Dalam committed by PT Asiatic Persada (the Wilmar Group).

Dear Mr. Kees Vis and Mr. Weber

Greeting from Jambi, Indonesia

We would like to express our deep concern about the increasing violence in oil palm plantations in Indonesia as palm oil chain actors are increasingly campaigning for sustainable palm oil.

After PT Kresna Duta Agro Indo (PT SMART) committed violence on 6 members of Karang Mendapo village in early January 2011, PT Asiatic Persada (Wilmar Group) did the same to the indigenous people of Suku Anak Dalam living in Sungai Beruang, Danau Minang, Sungai Buaian and Dusun Tanjung Lebar, Muaro Jambi district. Not only did the company arrest 18 residents, along the mobile brigade (BRIMOB) it demolished 30 houses in Sungai Buaian, and 40 others in Sungai Beruang. The company (and the BRIMOB) has also been blockading access to the 4 sub-villages for a week, effectively cutting off the economic and information access of the locals.

We strongly condemn the violence committed by PT Asiatic Persada via the BRIMOB, which clearly demonstrates its inhumanity through the demolition of the people's houses, notably when the Moslems are observing their religious duty (i.e. fasting) and when the nation is celebrating the country's independence (17 August).

We are writing to inform you that the Wilmar Group as a member of RSPO, via its subsidiary PT Asiatic Persada, has committed a serious violation of the fundamental principle of the RSPO's Code Of Conduct, which stipulates that "It is fundamental to the integrity, credibility and continued progress of the RSPO that every member supports, promotes and works towards the production, procurement and use of Sustainable Palm Oil"

In addition to violating the fundamental principle of the RSPO's Code of Conduct, the Wilmar Group via PT Asiatic Persada has violated some of the principles and criteria of sustainable palm oil, among others:

1. Principle 2 concerning compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The demolition of 70 houses in the four sub-villages is a gross violation of human rights as set forth in Human Rights Law No. 32
2. Principle 2 Criteria 2.1 and 2.2 – PT Asiatic Persada failed to promote FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed consent) principle in handling its conflicts, instead it committed violence on the locals, who are mostly the indigenous people of Suku Anak Dalam, which is clearly a violation of criteria 2.3. By demolishing the sub-villages, PT Asiatic Persada has eradicated the identity of the indigenous people, who had been managing the area for generations long before the company came and was granted HGU concessions.
3. Principle 6 Criteria 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4 on Responsible consideration of employees and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills. In this case, the Wilmar Group via PT Asiatic Persada did not protect the existence of the indigenous people of Suku Anak Dalam, but it eradicated and erased their identity through the demolition instead. We need to inform you that the 4 sub-villages are

completely devastated and are left empty as nearly all the locals fled into the forest (PT REKI's concession). Some are women and children.

4. PT Asiatic Persada has failed to comply with Principle 6.9 as it failed to promote alternative measures to protect the women and children from any form of violation, including forced displacement and demolition of the sub-villages. Such violence coupled with arrest has greatly increased the women and children's physical and psychological trauma. "Criterion 6.9 A policy to prevent sexual harassment and all other forms of violence against women and to protect their reproductive rights is developed and applied"

Concerning the violence, we – all the community elements – and NGOS urge that:

1. The RSPO Forum should review the membership of the Wilmar Group as it – as an RSPO member – has violated the fundamental principles of RSPO's Code Of Conduct: "It is fundamental to the integrity, credibility and continued progress of the RSPO that every member supports, promotes and works towards the production, procurement and use of Sustainable Palm Oil".
2. RSPO should terminate the certification process for PT Asiatic Persada as it has committed gross violation of RSPO Principles and Criteria!
3. RSPO should review the output of the pre-assessment of RSPO Certification by TUV for PT Asiatic Persada as the information given by the assessment is clearly in direct contradiction with the field facts.
4. RSPO should compel PT Asiatic Persada to pay reparations to the locals, restore the sub-villages, and issue a public apology to the indigenous people of Suku Anak Dalam three times on local and national newspapers.
5. To ensure certainty, responsibility and trust in the handling of the case, RSPO should order suspension of certification of and palm oil trade by Wilmar's other subsidiaries until the case is settled.

For your information, we hereby attach the chronology of the violence in Sungai Beruang incident.

We would like to thank you for your kindly attention.

Yours faithfully,

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