



23 June, 2014

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Dear Sirs/Madam,

RE: APPEAL TO DROP CHARGES AGAINST MS. NATALIE LOWREY

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) is the world's largest grassroots environmental network, uniting 74 national member groups around the globe. With over 2 million members and supporters around the world, we campaign on today's most urgent environmental and social issues. Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) is our member organisation from Malaysia.

We have received information that our colleague Ms. Natalie Lowrey, an environmental campaigner from Australia has been arrested by the Malaysian police for taking part in a demonstration against Lynas Corporation on Sunday, 22 June 2014 in Gebeng, Pahang.

We understand that Natalie is currently being held in a lock up at Kuantan District Police Headquarters, Pahang and it would take a number of days before she is released or is charged in a Malaysian court.

Natalie has been an environmental campaigner for the past 16 years and she has been actively involved in the Stop Lynas Incorporation (SLI) in Australia for the past 3 years. She was present in Gebeng, Kuantan on behalf of the SLI to lend solidarity and support to the local community and people of Kuantan.

The SLI is a group in Australia set up in response to thousands of Malaysians who have been campaigning against the rare earth miner, Lynas Corporation of Australia. The Kuantan's Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (LAMP) is a rare earth processing plant which is owned by Australian Lynas Corporation. The SLI has been closely monitoring the activities of Lynas Corporation in Australia, the LAMP as well as in collaborating with the local NGOs and communities in Malaysia.

The refinery will be the world's largest rare earth processing plant. The first shipment of raw materials has arrived from Australia at the plant and this would potentially impose tonnes of radioactive and toxic wastes with long-term effects on the lives and livelihoods of people living in the surrounding areas of Gebeng, Pahang and the environment.

We understand and deeply share the grave concerns of SLI and the Malaysian NGOs and local communities that such rare earth processing would not have been allowed in

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Australia but has been approved to be carried out in Malaysia, with potentially devastating impacts for the environment and its peoples.

Currently, the LAMP has no long-term permanent disposal facility of its radioactive wastes and it is far from certain that a disposal site will be available in any meaningful time frame.

Natalie has actively supported local communities in fighting for environmental justice and has been vocal against all or any form of violence, threat and harm to people and the environment. We also understand that Natalie has co-operated in every way with the authorities.

Natalie represents all our voices in supporting the local communities and NGOs in Malaysia who have been campaigning against the LAMP and the Australian Lynas Corporation.

We therefore appeal to the Malaysian Government and the police to immediately release her, drop all charges against her and allow her to return to Australia safely.

We strongly believe that the failure of the authorities to do the same could jeopardize the reputation of the Malaysian Government and put the nation in bad light internationally.

We also appeal to you to forward our concerns to the appropriate government authorities in relation to the LAMP activities and sincerely hope that the Malaysian Government would seriously reconsider the approvals given for such environmentally damaging activities in the country.

We seek your goodwill and cooperation in considering our urgent requests. Thanking you for your kind and serious consideration of this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Jagoda Muncic
Chairperson
Friends of the Earth International

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