



Wilmar Reaffirms Commitment to Respecting Human Rights

30 August 2011 -- Wilmar is firmly committed to respecting human rights. We have land conflict resolution policies, systems and mechanisms in place and comply with relevant laws and regulations in the countries in which we operate. Furthermore, we have a good track record of proactively engaging and working with our stakeholders including the local communities, government agencies and NGOs to ensure limited social impact in areas of our operations.

We fully recognise that the issue of indigenous land rights in the Jambi region in Sumatra is a sensitive one. This is why we have worked constructively to resolve the claims made by the local indigenous Suku Anak Dalam (SAD) people who previously occupied land that is now part of Wilmar's subsidiary PT Asiatic Persada's (AP) titled land area. This led Wilmar to recently conclude an agreement with the SAD community to allocate land to them for smallholder agricultural production.

We are therefore disappointed to learn of allegations made in a recent report by Robin Wood - a small German-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) – and repeated by others, that our company was complicit in human rights violations and complicit in supporting the use of violence against the SAD community.

Wilmar condemns the use of violence in any form as a means of resolving disputes. We therefore commissioned a comprehensive investigation by a team of experts, including independent third-party social auditors TUV Rheinland. The preliminary findings of the investigation make clear that Robin Wood's allegations are based on gross distortions and contain several inaccuracies.

Further preliminary findings indicate that in fact no one has been shot or killed as reported; and no one has been forcibly removed from their land. And that what has happened is that the Indonesian auxiliary police (Brimobs) arrested a number of people involved in criminal activities, including theft, violence and illegal possession of weapons. A copy of the final report will shortly be made available on our website: www.wilmar-international.com

While we respect the local communities and recognise their rights to claims on lands based on traditional tenure when proven genuine, we strongly condemn criminal behaviour. Threats, violence, theft and arms possession are illegal, and local communities are no exception to the rule of law.

These incidents are unfortunate, but we firmly believe that just as the local communities are entitled to human rights, law enforcement personnel must enforce law and order to underpin those rights, as well as protect themselves. Similarly, Wilmar has a duty to protect our employees from risk and harm.



The management of Wilmar and AP made every effort to engage with the illegal occupants to stop their illegal activities in the area and return to their respective villages. Most of these illegal occupants have now done so and those from distant regions have been temporarily sheltered by the Social Department in Jambi. Wilmar has agreed to fund their return to their respective villages.

Wilmar is firmly committed to resolving disputes in a peaceable and fair manner. Following this incident, we will review our procedures and take corrective actions where necessary, as part of continuous improvement.

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