

NEWS ALERT!!!

6 people shot by the BRIMOB (Mobile Brigade/Semi-Military Police) in the Conflict between villagers of Karang Mendapo and PT Kresna Duta Agroindo/PT KDA (SMART-Sinar Mas Group)



Peoples shoot by Brimob

The hot and lovely Saturday, 16 January 2011, in Jambi, turned into a cloudy day for the villagers of Karang Mendapo, Pauh sub-district, Sarolangun district. 6 villagers named Suhen (35), Saiful (46), Munawir (30), Fahmi (32), Agus (27) and Nur Indones (35), all working at a palm plantation, fell on the ground bloodily, being shot down by the Brimob (Mobile Brigade/Semi-Military Police). The Brimob shot rubber bullets at their cheeks, thighs, bellies and backs. Now, all the victims are being taken care of in the hospital.

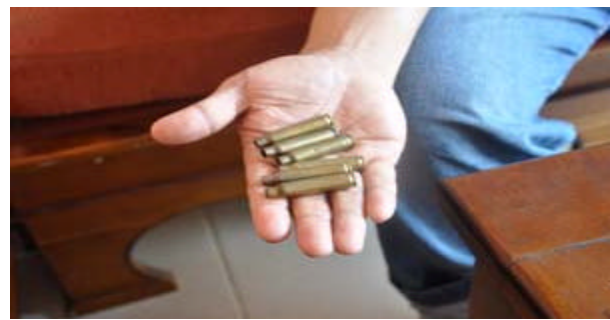
Besides shooting, the Sarolangun Police (*Polisi Resort Sarolangun*) arrested 7 villagers, but released them at 11 p.m. that Saturday.

The incident was provoked by a conflict over palm plantations between the villagers of Karang Mendapo and PT Kresna Duta Agroindo (PT KDA-SMART, the Sinar Mas Group). In 2001 PT KDA along with Koperasi Tiga Serumpun (which is facilitated by PT KDA) made an agreement with the villagers to establish a palm plantation, where the latter would hand over their private and village land for palm plantation. Under the agreement, the land must be returned to the village and the villagers 48 months after the enactment of the agreement. When in 2006 the villagers inquired about the returning, PT KDA gave no response.

In 2008, the villagers undertook a participatory mapping and found out that their land, which was converted into PT KDA and Koperasi Tiga Serumpun's palm plantation, encompassed approximately 1,000 hectares. PT KDA and Koperasi Tiga Serumpun had been persistently claiming to have received and converted only 400 hectares of land. This aroused the villagers' anger as the company did not acknowledge the other 600 hectares of their land. In September 2009 they occupied 600 hectares of the plantation. During the occupation, they harvested the fruit bunches.

It was 15 January 2011. When the villagers went into the plantation to harvest the bunches, 30 Brimob members headed them off. After a very short negotiation, the Brimob tried to drive them away. Not only did the Brimob shot the air but they also shot the villagers, injuring 6 people.

Such violence triggered some reaction. Jambi-based NGOs, Perkumpulan Hijau, CAPP, SETARA and AGRA sent their respective activists to help the villagers, and in Jambi City the organisations consolidated actions and campaigns. On Monday, 17 January 2011, hundreds of NGO activists, students and members of farmers' organisations marched to Jambi Provincial Police, where they condemned and protested the Brimob's shooting.



Bullet find at conflict location

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Jambi Students, NGO and farmer organization protest Police Office.