

Prisoner of Conscience

Johan Teterissa

50 YEARS
AMNESTY
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Johan Teterissa

Johan's Story

Johan Teterissa is a primary school teacher from Indonesia. Johan is from a province called Maluku. Many people

in Maluku, including Johan and his friends, want the province to be independent from the rest of Indonesia.

A few years ago, Johan and his friends decided to let the Indonesian government know that they thought Maluku should be independent. In June 2007, the president of Indonesia attended a big event in Maluku. Johan and his friends organised a peaceful demonstration in front of the president. They performed a traditional dance and they waved the Benang Raja flag. This flag was created in 1950 by a group of Moluccans (people from Maluku) who wanted independence from Indonesia. Independence means freedom from someone else's control.

Because of this dancing and flag waving, Johan and the other protestors were taken away by the police who punched them and hit them once they were out of sight of the President. All the activists were put in prison and are still there now. Johan was given a sentence of 15 years in prison. The treatment he has received has been very bad for Johan's health. It has been reported that he is not getting the medical treatment he needs for his injuries.

Johan and his friends should not be treated this way because everybody has the right to share their opinions in a peaceful way. Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and everyone has the right not to be hurt or tortured.

Activity:

Can you find Indonesia on a world map or globe?

Activity:

Which human rights are being denied to Johan Teterissa and his friends in this story?

Look at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to help you answer this question.

Where? Indonesia
Who? Johan Teterissa and 21 other prisoners
When? Prisoner since June 2007



Indonesia Facts

- **Population:** 238 million people
- **Capital:** Jakarta
- **Official languages:** Indonesian



Tied up for failing to show an ID card

Indonesia is made up of approximately 17,508 islands, which form 33 provinces.

The islands of Indonesia are located in the continents of Asia and Oceania.

Indonesia lies between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

Activity:

Read the story of Johan Teterissa and his friends.

As a class or in small groups, talk about what Johan's life might be like. Answer these questions:

- *How do you think Johan felt when he was arrested by the police?*
- *Is it fair that Johan was put in prison for voicing his opinion in a peaceful way?*
- *How would you feel if you were put in prison for voicing your opinion?*
- *Do you think it is important to learn about people like Johan? Why?*
- *Is it important that people around the world support Johan and his friends? Why?*

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Show Johan that you are thinking of him

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Cards and letters of friendship can be sent to Johan, to let him know that you have learned about his story and that you support him.

They can be sent to:

Johan Teterissa
C/O Amnesty International Ireland
Seán Mac Bride House
48 Fleet Street
Dublin 2

Suggested message: I know that you have been imprisoned for peaceful activities, and I am campaigning for you to be released.

Saya mengerti bahwa anda ditahan atas aktifitas yang damai oleh karenanya saya sedang mengkampanyekan agar anda dibebaskan.



Johan's story was captured on film by Al Jazeera and is available to view online at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7lmzAnU2xl>

This video contains some violent scenes from Johan's arrest – please preview the video and pick the scenes that are suitable for your learners.

“There is no justice... We never took up weapons. The only thing we did was to show a piece of cloth”.

Johan Teterissa