

## **Interview with Batara Hutagalung, (co)initiator of KUKB**

Date: 18.10.2015

Place: Jakarta, Hotel lobby WISMA PDI

Respondent (R): Batara Hutagalung

Interviewer (I): Nicole Immler (joined later by photographer Suzanne Liem)

Transcriber: Tedy Harnawan (part 1)

R: You see, we explained our goal, not about money, but dignity. Because if you received money as Dutch citizens, why should they die for to defend the independence. 1 million. The Dutch government stated approximately 150.000 Indonesians were killed. But here stated the victims and you see in Rawagede is Rawagede only 20. But you see 451 in Rawagede. And also in West Sulawesi in galung Lombok. And many cases were not stated at all. 2.500 in Kranggan. So, Steph was there at Kranggan. I introduced her to persons in Kranggan about this killings at the second for us the Military Aggression December 1948. Well, how would you say if you know he Dutch government also signed the universal declaration of human rights on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1948. And 9 days later, they launched the biggest military aggression and 10 of thousands civilians were killed without any persis. How would you say this?

I: Hmmm

R: And also the Klewang sword killing in August 11<sup>th</sup> 1949 in Solo Surakarta also stated here. The ceasefire from 1949, so took place at August 10<sup>th</sup> 1949 at 12 pm. But on 11<sup>th</sup> in the morning the Dutch soldiers killed around 20 persons in a house of physician that used as a small clinic. The massacre around 20 persons with swords.

I: Clearly civilians?

R: Yes, civilians

I: I want to know about this contradictions that people, widows who received the veteran pension from the Indonesian state, is this then saying that you were veteran, fighting for the independence when they get the pension? But now some of them claim compensation from the Dutch state. So is this kind of contradiction?

R: It is very sad in Indonesia. Very very sad. And also the widows and the family of the victims they did not know about the vonnis of the Dutch court or they know or heard about it. Because all the widows in Rawagede or in many villages, they are illiterate. They cannot read or write. As I get the mandate from them, they give the fingerprint. I think I have a picture of it as I handed it over to the Ben Koenders.

I: But this widows pension paid by the Indonesian states, no?

R: NO, not at all

I: But the veterans pension, no? for widows from.....?

R: NO, not at all. Only from veterans, the registered veterans recognized as veterans. But most of the victims, they were not veterans, they were only villagers. It was not registered.

I: But nevertheless I met some who were registered as veterans and I saw some contradictions that I want to know how it is.....So you say that individual compensation is not a good solution?

R: So I could explain to you why we refused it a hundred percent. Because for instance in Rawagede, the victims were 431. And I think it is the most strange law for.....how do you call it.....only living widows have the rights to claim compensation. I also express it to Jeffry at that time, it is funny why only living widows, only 9 from 431. And I said, "Look, this will bring turbulence and quarrel between those who receive the money and those who don't receive the money". It happened. The 9 widows.....It studied well from the Human Rights activists from Jakarta or from the districts, from the government and so on, they all involved to solve the problems. You know the widows they are all over 80 years. Some of them were fainted. And then they had the solution. Okay it is divided 50:50. 50 percent from the widows, 50 percent to the (port) and give to the others. In Rawagede, from 431 only 9, in Galung Lombok more than 700 victims only 1 person. So I said it created a new in social, and also in social jealousy, because the others they ask why only this widows, because our husband also killed...our father also.....so I said to my friend this is the Dutch of politic of divide et impera still exist until now.

I: What is it? Again?

R: Divide et impera