

Since it was founded, the Team has continuously been involved in coordination activities. I focus on environmental issues in Sukowati Block. My fellow Team member, Supolo, focuses on the same issue in Cepu Block. Jatmiko, a journalist from *Tempo* magazine, concentrates on media coverage of oil and gas issues. The district government representative is responsible for maintaining communication with the central government. Yuris Krisnanto, the coordinator of the Transparency Team and a representative of PT Bangun Bangkit Sarana (a Bojonegoro district government-owned enterprise), monitors the role of BUMD (a local government-owned enterprise) in its interactions with big oil and gas companies that seek to enter Bojonegoro. The Bojonegoro Institute, an NGO, is Team coordinator and it is also one of the founders. It specifically monitors *perda* (local regulation) of the management of the oil and gas extractive industry. The interests of

companies, such as Petrochina and MCL, are also represented through BP Migas and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM).

According to Mustofirin, an activist with the Bojonegoro Institute, these company representatives are expected to provide important documents to the Team. In my opinion, the Transparency Team has not yet fulfilled its full potential. One of the reasons is that public still cannot access documents relating to oil and gas policies which are held by the central government. Surprisingly, local governments also do not have access to these documents. This is why local governments do not fully understand oil and gas revenue sharing (DBH), although the DBH documents should be open to the public.

Through the Transparency Team the three stakeholders – citizens, government, and the companies – communicate to solve issues around local investment. At the local level, the oil and gas companies essentially belong to the local citizenry. This is a basic principle that must be maintained. If the three stakeholders cannot work together, there is potential for conflict, which will impede the optimal functioning of local investment.



From Confrontation to a Partnership for Transparency

From Imam Sutikno's Testimony



PATTIRO

CENTRE FOR LAW AND DEMOCRACY

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DAWN, Saturday 29 July 2006. Fellow villagers of Campurejo Village, Bojonegoro Subdistrict, were asleep, exhausted from the previous day's work. Suddenly, a thundering blast awoke us. People ran into the streets in panic, got into their vehicles and headed to the village square. The blast was so loud that it sounded like an airplane had rammed the earth. A moment later, fire broke out in an oil well in Sukowati 05 region. The well, which is in our village, is managed by Petrochina. I remember that the sound of the explosion reached 3 kilometers away. Windows in our houses trembled. A moment later, the air was very hot and there was a terrible smell.

The incident injured inhabitants of three villages that are close to the well, Campurejo, Sambiroto and Ngampel. 148 people in RSUD Sosodoro Djatikoesoemp, Bojonegoro District were hospitalised and 5000 people in the three villages suffered minor injuries. Although the gas explosion in the Sukowati oil well was brought under control quickly, the victims were not treated properly. A villager from Plosonarang Subvillage in Campurejo Village, which was inside Ring I of the explosion's impact, died as a result of the incident. We suspect that the death was caused by hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas emitted by the explosion.

Villagers have been protesting against oil exploitation activity in this area since 2005, since they feel that these activities do not take account of their rights. On 22 September 2007, about 25 people from my village complained on behalf of the victims of the Petrochina explosion. I was appointed as coordinator.

Villagers from Sambiroto and Campurejo gathered in Sukowati Field, which is operated by a Joint Operating Body (JOB) of Pertamina Petrochina East Java. We demanded that more consideration

be paid to *Amdal* (environmental impact management) at the Sukowati site. We reminded them that a year after the gas explosion in 2006, another gas leakage occurred and injured more people. Ten people had to be hospitalised. The situation was very bad. Residents of the surrounding villages were very unhappy with Petrochina's attitude. The oil and gas company had never properly cooperated with residents, even though it was well aware of their obligations under the Law on Environmental Impact. The company never consulted with local residents regarding PDKB (the handling of dangerous and emergency situations), even though that had been a requirement since 2006.

Three days before the explosion, local residents had organised a rally at a nearby exploitation site because they were afraid of the harmful impact of the company's activities. Our worst fears came true. Because of the explosion and the gas leakage, our fields are no longer productive. Our streets are also damaged and remain so to this day.

At the rally, we carried banners with our complaints: "Crop Failure is Petrochina's Fault", "Damaged Road because of BP Migas's and Petrochina's Harmful Policies", "Oil-rich but Powerless Village!" It was my responsibility to lead the continuing protests.

Since I was born on 11 December 1961, I have always lived in my home village. I work as an elementary



school teacher. Because of my criticism against Petrochina's policies, I was transferred to Margomulyo Subdistrict, which is very far – about 50 kilometers – from my home.

But I did not back down from activism against the oil and gas policies. Through the mass media, I continued to protest and express my concerns. During my years of work I sometimes felt distraught by the apparent lack of progress. But these negative feelings were always short lived.

A Transparency Team was established in July 2010 by the Bojonegoro Institute and PATTIRO, consisting of representatives from the oil company, the government and the citizenry. Because of my persistent efforts to advance residents' rights, I was elected as a member of the Team. The Team's purpose is to work together to create transparency in the oil and gas policy of Bojonegoro District. Praise to God, joining this team has strengthened my fighting spirit.

