

Indonesia Position Paper - UNHRC

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Country: Republic of Indonesia

Agenda: Deliberating the Human Rights Implications of Mass Digital Surveillance
During Political Protests and Civil Unrest

The Republic of Indonesia recognizes that rapid technological advancement has transformed the way governments maintain public order while simultaneously creating new challenges for the protection of fundamental human rights. Indonesia believes that the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly must be protected while allowing States to maintain national security in accordance with international law. As a State Party to the ICCPR, Indonesia supports the principles of legality, necessity, and proportionality for any surveillance measures.

Indonesia's 1945 Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and protection of personal security, while allowing lawful limitations to safeguard public order and the rights of others. Indonesia has strengthened its digital governance through the Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law and the Personal Data Protection Law (Law No. 27 of 2022).

Indonesia recognizes that technologies such as AI-assisted surveillance, facial recognition, metadata analysis, and limited digital monitoring may assist governments in combating terrorism, cybercrime, and violent extremism. However, such technologies should never be misused to arbitrarily target peaceful protesters, journalists, or human rights defenders. Any surveillance must remain lawful, necessary, proportionate, and subject to oversight.

Indonesia supports dialogue, technical cooperation, and capacity-building within the Human Rights Council rather than highly politicized country-specific approaches. As an ASEAN member, Indonesia values sovereignty, consensus, and constructive engagement while encouraging continuous improvements in human rights protection.

Indonesia proposes clear legal frameworks, independent oversight, greater transparency in surveillance practices, human-rights impact assessments for AI technologies, international cooperation on responsible digital governance, stronger cybersecurity, digital literacy, and collaboration between governments, technology companies, and civil society. The Human Rights Council should continue assisting

Member States in developing transparent and accountable surveillance frameworks that balance security with fundamental freedoms.

The Republic of Indonesia remains committed to constructive multilateral dialogue and believes technological innovation should strengthen both public safety and human dignity. Indonesia looks forward to working with all Member States to establish practical and balanced international standards for digital surveillance during political protests and civil unrest.