

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Meliana who was convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to 18 months in prison by the Medan District Court in North Sumatra Province on 21 August 2018. She had been arrested and detained on 30 May and later charged with blasphemy under Article 156(a) of Indonesia's Criminal Code.

Meliana was accused of "insulting Islam" for her complaint two years earlier about the loudspeaker volume of a mosque near her house in Tanjung Balai City, North Sumatra Province. On the morning of 22 July 2016, Meliana told a neighbour that, for the last eight years, the sound of a nearby mosque was becoming too loud. Her statement was later misinterpreted by many people in the city and she was accused of expressing objection to the call for prayer (adzan) from the mosque.

I should call authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Meliana and all other individuals who have been convicted of blasphemy.

She and her family should be given effective protection from violence or threats of violence.

I would also request authorities to repeal or amend all blasphemy provisions set out in laws and regulations which violate the rights to freedom of expression and of thought, conscience and religion.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,