



WHISPERS OF HOPE





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Letters from our hearts to Pope Francis

Sanksi Pelanggaran Pasal 113

Undang-Undang Nomor 28 Tahun 2014 tentang Hak Cipta

- (1) Setiap Orang yang dengan tanpa hak melakukan pelanggaran hak ekonomi sebagaimana dimaksud dalam Pasal 9 Ayat (1) Huruf i untuk Penggunaan Secara Komersial dipidana dengan pidana penjara paling lama 1 (satu) tahun dan/atau pidana denda paling banyak Rp100.000.000 (seratus juta rupiah).
- (2) Setiap Orang yang dengan tanpa hak dan/atau tanpa izin Pencipta atau pemegang Hak Cipta melakukan pelanggaran hak ekonomi Pencipta sebagaimana dimaksud dalam Pasal 9 Ayat (1) Huruf c, Huruf d, Huruf f, dan/atau Huruf h untuk Penggunaan Secara Komersial dipidana dengan pidana penjara paling lama 3 (tiga) tahun dan/atau pidana denda paling banyak Rp500.000.000,00 (lima ratus juta rupiah).
- (3) Setiap Orang yang dengan tanpa hak dan/atau tanpa izin Pencipta atau pemegang Hak Cipta melakukan pelanggaran hak ekonomi Pencipta sebagaimana dimaksud dalam Pasal 9 Ayat (1) Huruf a, Huruf b, Huruf e, dan/atau Huruf g untuk Penggunaan Secara Komersial dipidana dengan pidana penjara paling lama 4 (empat) tahun dan/atau pidana denda paling banyak Rp1.000.000.000,00 (satu miliar rupiah).
- (4) Setiap Orang yang memenuhi unsur sebagaimana dimaksud pada Ayat (3) yang dilakukan dalam bentuk pembajakan, dipidana dengan pidana penjara paling lama 10 (sepuluh) tahun dan/atau pidana denda paling banyak Rp4.000.000.000,00 (empat miliar rupiah).

Editor: Sindhunata, et.al.

**Translated from Indonesian by Joan Suyenaga
and A. Toto Subagyo**

ROHANI
Menjadi Semakin Insani



UTUSAN
DALAM SEGALA MENCARI DIA



Seeking Justice: Painful Silence of The Wounded Lambs

Your Holiness Pope Francis,

As a survivor who has sought help from a clinical psychologist specializing in assisting victims of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church in Indonesia, I am deeply concerned about this issue. Your strong commitment through the decree Vos Estis Lux Mundi (VELM) has provided us with a much-needed platform to express our thoughts and concerns.

Holy Father, I was a victim of sexual abuse by a diocesan priest in 2014 while seeking guidance on in vitro fertilization in accordance with Catholic teachings. My husband encouraged me to report the incident.

We reported the abuse multiple times. Initially, we notified the international community where the priest was affiliated, and were told that the case had been forwarded to the Bishop of the Diocesan Priest around 2016. Unfortunately, I only received informal updates. Initially, I was informed that the priest had confessed and agreed to undergo rehabilitation. Regrettably, I received no direct

communication from the Diocese or the Bishop.

By 2018, I discovered that the priest had not undergone rehabilitation but had been transferred to a smaller parish. Later, I learned that the rehabilitation was canceled, the priest was suspended, and expelled from the international community.

In 2019, I contacted the Bishop to inquire about the handling of my report, which was received in 2016. The Bishop acknowledged that my case was indeed sexual abuse and a serious matter. He informed me that my report was neither the first nor the last, and the suspension was due to another case that occurred after mine. Shockingly, the Bishop admitted he had received earlier reports of sexual harassment by the priest during his diaconate, yet the priest was ordained without investigation.

I regret that the Bishop did not explain why I was not informed about the investigation into my report. The Bishop ceased communication on November 17, 2019, while I was still seeking answers. Despite sending an official letter on December 14, 2019, I have yet to receive a response.

Holy Father, it is deeply painful to be disregarded in this manner. My case may have been deemed resolved with the suspension, although it was not based on my report. I need clarity on what happened with my report, why there was no proactive investigation, and why the priest was not dealt with immediately, leading to further victims. This situation has severely damaged my faith and trust in the Church's authority.

I then approached another Bishop in my area, who is also an official of the Indonesian Bishops' Conference. Unfortunately, he could not assist without a mandate from the Nuncio. Consequently, I



wrote to the Nuncio in September 2020 to report the neglect of my case, but I have received no response.

Holy Father, my report feels meaningless without follow-up, especially with subsequent victims. Instead of the shepherd-like care we hoped for, the response has been akin to a thief fleeing while the sheep suffer from predators cloaked in clerical garb.

I met a clinical psychologist who supports several victims of sexual abuse. With their permission, I share their experience. They work with victims of priestly abuse and in a Catholic educational institution. Victims lack trust in legal advisors due to the perpetrators' strong legal networks. The psychologist was given power of attorney to report the abuse and was also asked to help send a protest letter because, while awaiting dismissal, the priest was allowed to seek work in another diocesan area.

The victim, already spiritually and morally wounded, was further hurt by the lack of transparency from the institution supposed to support them. Unfortunately, this psychologist also faced intimidation from their institution's leadership. Although the priest was eventually dismissed, this intimidation reveals that not all Catholic institutions support victims.

Holy Father, victims within the Church often fear speaking out due to the protection of priests by their superiors. The widespread support for the perpetrator makes victims feel isolated even after reporting. We have encountered priests who supported the victims but were marginalized by their communities, citing severe consequences for their stance.

Restoring victims' trust in the Church requires not only strict consequences for perpetrators but also transparency for victims

and protection for those who support them. This approach would affirm that the Church stands with the victims.

Holy Father, may the light of the Holy Spirit guide you always.

Sincerely,

The Voice of the "Wounded Lambs"