

## FOREST TENURE CONFLICT IN RIAU TOOK ANOTHER VICTIM

Lombok, 14 July 2011.

The enduring conflict between the communities of Pulau Padang (District of Kepulauan Meranti , Riau province) and PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP), one of the largest pulp and paper mill in the world which is a subsidiary of Singapore-based Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL), has led to a series of violence and terror. The communities have long demanded the resolution of this conflict. In January 2011 they reported their case to the Minister of Forestry, Indonesia's national parliament (both House of Representatives and House of Regional Representatives [DPD]), National Commission on Human Rights, and the Conflict Resolution Desk of the Indonesian National Forestry Council. However, the solution has not been achieved. Meanwhile situation on the ground has heated again.

On 30 May 2011 the communities staged peaceful protest in a harbor owned by RAPP demanding the company to end its operation and leave the area. Near midnight of that day suddenly two heavy equipments and base camp of the company were on fire. The company accused the communities to set the fire, a accusation the latter denied. The former reported some communities to the police charged with property destruction and arson. However, the police could not evidence and witnesses of the charge and let the community members go.

On 13 July 2011 at 02.00 AM another fire broke out in the village of Lukit (Merbau isubdistrict) burning a heavy equipment with its operator tied to it. Prior to the fire, two heavy equipments and two operators were captured by unknown group. One of the operators escaped from the site. There is a strong indication that certain group set the fire to weaken community demands and to allow the company requested police assistance.

Scale Up requests support to urge the Government of Indonesia in order to take immediate measures on the case and to have comprehensive forest governance reform. We also request the National Forestry Council to take measures in assisting the resolution of the case.

Contact person :

Ahmad Zazali

Director of Scale Up

[Scale\\_up1@yahoo.co.id](mailto:Scale_up1@yahoo.co.id)

[+628126829927](tel:+628126829927)