

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2015		78	Indonesia	<i>1965–1966 massacres</i>
	2015			<i>follow-up 1</i>

Announcement

On 30 October 2015, Amnesty International asked us to write a letter to President Widodo of Indonesia in order to ask for the truth about the largescale massacres following the failed coup of 30 September 1965 (see <http://www.concernedhistorians.org/ca/78.pdf>).

Human Rights Watch has joined this campaign with a petition to the United States Senate to acknowledge the 1965–1966 mass killings in Indonesia. Please sign this petition to help end the silence at:

<http://thelookofsilence.com/participate>

Below is some more information about the petition. 20,000 people already signed, the goal is 30,000.

Thank you and with best wishes,

Antoon De Baets

(Network of Concerned Historians)

P.S. For further news about the 1965–1966 massacres, see also the Indonesia entries of NCH *Annual Reports* [1996](#), [1998](#), [2001](#), [2006](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2009](#), [2010](#), [2011](#), [2013](#), [2014](#), and [2015](#).

Human Rights Watch

The Petition (<http://thelookofsilence.com/participate>)

On Oct. 1, 1965, following an attempted military coup, the government of Indonesia launched a campaign of mass killing. Over the following months, between 500,000 and 1 million people were killed by local militias and Indonesian soldiers. Those targeted included leftists, ethnic Chinese, trade unionists, teachers, intellectuals, civil society activists, artists, and those involved in women's organizations. The targeted individuals were subject to torture, rape, imprisonment, forced labor, forced eviction, and extrajudicial execution. The United States government provided the Indonesian Army with financial, military, and intelligence support during the period of the mass killings and allegedly did so while aware that such killings were taking place.

In Indonesia today, the perpetrators of these crimes have not been held accountable, and many remain in positions of power. In public discourse, the events are still considered taboo. The lack of transparency and accountability provides little space for truth, justice, reconciliation, or redress for the families of the victims.

Oct. 1, 2015, marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the mass atrocities. With a Senate resolution, the United States government can open the books on its own role during the period and play a key role in helping the Indonesian government open dialogue about the mass atrocities, moving the country toward justice and reconciliation. The resolution will condemn the 1965–66 atrocities, call on U.S. agencies to declassify documents related to the events, and urge political leaders in Indonesia to establish a commission to address the human rights violations and promote reconciliation across the country. Tell the United States Senate that you will support this resolution.

The Petition (<http://thelookofsilence.com/participate>)