THE ‘CRIME’ OF HAZE

Haze in the Context of Human Dignity and Human Rights
Do we humans have a right to a healthy environment?
1972 Stockholm Declaration

UN Human Rights Council

Article 3 of UNESCO UBDHR
Every person shall have the right to live in physical and spiritual prosperity, to have a home and to enjoy a good and healthy environment.

Article 28H (1), 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia
“This is not a national disaster. This is...vandalism against society, against the environment, and ultimately against ourselves... a man-made tragedy and a crime”

Vivian Balakrishnan,
Former Singapore Environment Minister
“The biggest environmental crime of the 21st century”
Erik Meijaard,
Australia National University
Up in smoke
Daily emissions from Indonesian fires, m tonnes CO₂ equivalent

Sources: Guido van der Werf; WRI

Economist.com
“A crime against humanity of extraordinary proportions”

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, Badan Nasional Penanggulan Bencana
“acts that are deliberately committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population... during peace or war”

Crimes against humanity
2015
19 deaths
almost 2000 PSI
43 million exposed to smoke
6 provinces declared emergencies
500,000 cases of respiratory tract infections
Where are their rights to a good and healthy environment?

Who should uphold their rights?
“a handful of companies involved in starting fires to clear land and forest in Indonesia.. and profiting from the exercise”

Vivian Balakrishnan
“Either part of government policy, or of a wide practice of atrocities tolerated or condoned by a government”

Crimes against humanity
Patron

Client

loyalty
thanks
allegiance

protection
money
access
Law No. 32/2009 on the Protection and Management of Environment prohibits burning to clear land

Environmental Crime
The land, the waters and the natural resources within shall be under the powers of the State and shall be used to the greatest benefit of the people.

Article 33, Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia
Singapore Transboundary Haze Pollution Act 2014

Criminalizing Haze
Crime against the **environment**
Violation of human **rights**
Crime against **humanity**
Thank you.

helenav@um.edu.my