Webpage Screenshot

Malaysia: Update – Human Rights Defender Lena Hendry Due To Appear in November 2013

Lena Hendry

On 7 November 2013, human rights defender **Lena Hendry** is due to appear at Majistret Court 6, Duta High Court Complex in Kuala Lumpur. She is charged under the Film Censorship Act 2002 for screening a documentary exposing human rights violations committed by the Sri Lankan military during the 2009 civil war.

Lena Hendry is a Programme Coordinator for **Pusat KOMAS**, a human rights organisation which works to empower indigenous peoples, urban poor, workers, and civil society organisation through the use of popular media.

Lena Hendry is charged under Section 6 (1) (b) of the Film Censorship Act 2002 for showing a documentary entitled *"No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka"*, which is an investigatory documentary reporting how thousands of Tamil people were killed by the Sri Lankan military. The Sri Lankan authorities deny these allegations.

If the human rights defender is found guilty, she could face a fine of between RM5,000 and RM30,000 (approximately €1,170 to €7,020) and/or a maximum of three years in prison.

Lena Hendry last appeared in court on 21 October 2013 when documents including the charge sheet, the police report, the layout of the venue where the documentary was shown, and a copy of the film in DVD format were provided to the court.

Front Line Defenders reiterates the call for the authorities in Malaysia to immediately drop the charge against Lena Hendry as it is solely motivated by her legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights. For more information on the case, please see the original urgent appeal dated **20 September 2013**.

freedom of expression judicial harassment Lena Hendry Malaysia

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