

Special Achievement Award – ST Burhanuddin, Attorney General, Indonesia

St Burhanuddin, the Attorney General of Indonesia is being awarded a Special Achievement Award for the creation of a restorative justice program.

Historically, even very minor criminal cases resulted inevitably in jail sentences. Cases such as thefts and vandalism would send the offender into custody, without any restoration or restitution to the victims.

Concerned about this lack of restoration, Attorney General Burhanuddin instituted a new regulation in 2020, the Dismissal of Prosecution based on Restorative Justice, to allow such cases to be diverted out of the court system into a restorative justice system. This allows the victims to be heard, and to the extent possible, restored by the offender. Those cases, once settled in this manner, are dismissed. Between July 2022 and today's date, more than a thousand files were diverted in this manner.

In order to facilitate the process, Attorney General Burhanuddin established 182 restorative justice houses throughout the country, thus removing the cases entirely from courthouses, into an environment more conducive to restoration. Prosecutors continue to be central, and are the gatekeepers who are charged with ensuring that only appropriate cases benefit from this approach.

The approach has been widely accepted by the population of Indonesia, and by victims of crime.