



## **The Toll of Doing Business on People and the Environment in Indonesia**

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Oakland, CA – In the wake of last week’s deadly earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi and on the eve of the World Bank’s annual meetings, held in Bali from October 8-14, 2018, a new report from the Oakland Institute exposes the devastation caused by the World Bank’s growth-at-all-costs vision for Indonesia.

For years, Indonesia has been heralded as a major economic success by the Bank and rewarded for its pro-business policy changes through the World Bank’s Doing Business reports. Between 2016 and 2018 alone, Indonesia climbed an astounding 34 positions in the ranks. These reforms, however, have come at a massive cost for both people and the planet.

*[Indonesia: The World Bank’s Failed East Asian Miracle](#)* details how Bank-backed policy reforms have led to the displacement, criminalization, and even murder of smallholder farmers and indigenous defenders to make way for mega-agricultural projects. While Indonesia’s rapidly expanding palm oil sector has been heralded as a boon for the economy, its price tag includes massive deforestation, widespread loss of indigenous land, rapidly increasing greenhouse gas emissions, and more.

“Indonesia is constantly held up as a poster child of success by the Bank,” explained Anuradha Mittal, Executive Director at the Oakland Institute. “As officials from around the world arrive in Bali for the annual meetings, it is vital that they hear the truth and understand the devastation resulting from their policies in Indonesia – the true cost of the economic growth that has been celebrated by the Bank.”

The report’s release is also significant in the wake of last week’s twin disasters, which have claimed the lives of at least 800, in part because thousands of buildings collapsed across the island, trapping unknown numbers of people in the rubble.

“For the past ten years, under pressure from the Bank, Indonesia has shortened the time it takes to get building permits from over one month to just one hour,” explained Mittal. “There’s little doubt that this has made it easier to start and run a business in Indonesia, but at what cost? The utter devastation in Palu must be a wake-up call for both the Indonesia government and the World Bank.”

“The Bank’s bad business both in Indonesia and around the world has to end,” she continued. “These ranking programs – and all who support and allow them to continue – are responsible for the death and destruction of communities worldwide, all in the name of corporate profit. This isn’t development, it’s devastation.”

Today’s release is part of the global [Our Land Our Business](#) campaign, launched in 2014 by more than 280 organizations worldwide to call for an end to the Bank’s Doing Business and Enabling the Business of Agriculture ranking programs. To date, the campaign has successfully led to the [withdrawal of two of the five anchor donors](#) to the Bank’s Enabling the Business of Agriculture rankings. This new report renews global demands to end both ranking programs once and for all.

“Rewarding countries for policy reforms that lead to the displacement of people and harm to our environment is, simply put, unconscionable,” said Mittal. “There is no other acceptable way forward than to put a full stop to the Doing Business rankings.”

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For more information on the Our Land Our Business Campaign, please see:  
<http://ourlandourbusiness.org/>

To learn more of the World Bank’s ranking programs, please see:

- [Down on the Seed: The World Bank Enables Corporate Takeover of Seeds](#)
- [A Death Knell for the EBA: Why the World Bank Must End its Ranking Programs Now](#)
- [Unfolding Truth: Dismantling the World Bank’s Myths on Agriculture and Development](#)
- [New Name, Same Game: World Bank’s Enabling the Business of Agriculture](#)
- [The Unholy Alliance, Five Western Donors Shape a Pro-Corporate Agenda for African Agriculture](#)
- [Willful Blindness: How the World Bank’s Doing Business Rankings Impoverish Smallholder Farmers](#)