

**Malaysian companies among suspects for Indonesia fires**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**Oct 13, 2015**

Malaysian and Chinese companies are among suspects for causing Indonesian forest fires that have spread smoke pollution across Southeast Asia.

Twelve companies and 209 individuals are suspected of causing the blazes, with a Singaporean company also under investigation, Badrodin Haiti, Indonesia's chief of police, told reporters in Jakarta on Monday. Haiti didn't name the companies.

"They broke the law for burning," said Haiti, adding the maximum punishments were jail terms of 10 years and fines of as much as 10 billion rupiah (US\$746,000, RM3 million).

Indonesia and Singapore in September named companies that were potentially responsible for forest fires on Sumatra and Borneo, with four palm oil and paper firms having their permits revoked or frozen.

Indonesia has laws banning the burning of forests, yet enforcement so far has been limited in a sprawling archipelago with overlapping land rights, widespread corruption and decentralised government.

"Companies are not disciplined in following the rules, therefore causing these severe fires," said Luhut Panjaitan, Indonesia's coordinating minister for law and security.

Indonesia has accepted fire-fighting help from Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Australia, after dry weather caused by El Nino means the government is unlikely to meet a two-week target to stop the smoke, Panjaitan said. Indonesia hopes the use of more fire fighting aircraft will reduce the pollution in the next few days, he said. – Bloomberg, October 13, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/malaysian-companies-among-suspects-for-indonesia-fires>