

Human Rights Council – 20th Session, June 2012

Item 4: Human Rights Situation in Papua, Indonesia.

Oral statement; Speaker: Mr. Budi Tjahjono

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Madam President,

Franciscans International, ELSHAM Papua, JPIC-OFM Papua, Faith Based Network on West Papua, Asian Legal Resource Center, Westpapua Netzwerk, TAPOL and World Council of Churches would like to draw the attention on the escalating human rights violations in Papua, Indonesia.

We are deeply concerned that, despite the commitment of the Indonesian government to improve the situation in Papua and West Papua as stated by H.E. Marty Natalegawa, the Indonesian Foreign Minister during Indonesian UPR in May, the human rights situation in Papua and West Papua continues to deteriorate. We are even disappointed with the statement of, President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, downplaying the incidents in Papua as “small-scale” compared to the current conflicts in the Middle East¹. Since the beginning of the year, there is an increase of cases of random shooting aimed at random population, especially in the regions of Timika, Mulia, and Jayapura. We have been informed that between May and June 2012 alone, at least nine persons were killed and 12 were wounded. The victims are civilians, both indigenous and non-indigenous Papuans, civil servants, police officers, army soldiers, and a foreign national. Often the body of the victims are left at public places to draw the attention of passer-by. The perpetrators did not take the belongings of the victims and the shootings were targeted at precise spots of the victims, giving the impression that the assailants are well-trained persons. To date, the provincial authority and the security services fail to identify the perpetrators. The population are terrorised. This extrajudicial killing method reminds us of the phenomena of “mysterious shootings²” used by Indonesian’s Suharto regime in the 1980s to reduce crime by shooting to death the alleged criminals.

We express our grave concern on the killing of Mr. Mako Tabuni, the leader of National Committee of West Papua on 14 June 2012 by the police officers in Jayapura, Papua. This killing has proved the continuous brutality of security forces in Papua.

We also would like to draw the attention of the Council, on the riot incidents involving Indonesian army’s battalion 756 in Honei Lama Village, Wamena region on June 6, 2012 as reported by the Indonesian police. An army member was involved in a motorcycle incident and it caused a riot that led to his death. To respond it, the army members from his battalion running amok, burning houses, car and motorcycles, wounding passer-bys and terrorising the population. As a result, at least 19 people were wounded, some are at a critical situation, and at least one person was killed. This collective public punishment reminds us of the 2003 Wamena case³ which is still pending for prosecution by the Attorney General of Indonesia.

In the final report of UPR Indonesia, the Government of Indonesia has accepted the recommendation to “*take measures to guarantee accountability by ensuring that human rights violations, including abuses committed by Indonesian security forces and that those deemed responsible are prosecuted in a fair prompt and impartial manner⁴*”.

We (Franciscans International, ELSHAM Papua, JPIC-OFM Papua, Faith Based Network on West Papua, Asian Legal Resource Center and Westpapua Netzwerk, TAPOL and World Council of Churches) urge the Government of Indonesia to:

- **Take immediate measures to stop random but targeted shootings and provide a sustainable security for all Papuans.**
- **Conduct prompt and effective investigations into all cases of human rights violations in Papuan, including the violation perpetrated by members of the military; identify and prosecute the culprits; and provide adequate remedies to the victims.**
- **Immediately start the Papua – Jakarta dialogue process, as stipulated by the statement of the President of Indonesia, involving and engaging all conflicting parties in the efforts to realise “Papua, Land of Peace”.**

Thank you.

¹ The statement was made during the ministerial coordination meeting on politics, laws and security held on June 12, 2012, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/06/12/shootings-are-small-scale-sby-contrasts-papua-with-middle-east.html>

² The Indonesian term is « Petrus » - Penembakan Misterius, means mysterious shootings.

³ This is the case of extrajudicial killings, torture, violence against women and destruction of public property committed by the Indonesian military against Papuans following the theft of the army weaponry in Wamena in April 2003. An official investigation by the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) concluded that the members of the Indonesian army allegedly breached Indonesian human rights law and deserved prosecution by the Attorney General. However, this has been delayed to date.

⁴ See Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Indonesia, A/HRC/WG.6/L.5