



Jesuit Refugee Service

Diocese of Daru-Kiunga

Newsletter

JRS brings you in this second issue a collection of new stories from the months of March and April. JRS would like to take this opportunity to stress that it does not endorse any particular viewpoint in the articles. JRS seeks to bring West Papuan refugees a broad range of points of view. It is up to the individuals to make up their own mind.

Summary of March 2009 events

Incidents in Puncak Jaya district

There have been a number of attacks on Indonesian security posts and military patrols in the past month by the OPM under the command of Goliath Tabuni in the Puncak Jaya district. On Friday the 13 March an attack was launched on a security post in the Tingginambut area although nobody was injured in the attack. The following day, the OPM returned and attacked a TNI patrol and one soldier was killed. The OPM also destroyed and set fire to a bridge which linked the area to other parts of Puncak Jaya. In response to the various attacks which have occurred in the area since the beginning of the year the chief of police in Papua announced that they had drawn up a list of ten wanted people and offered a reward of Rp 10 million (US\$900) cash for the capture of any OPM members responsible for the outbreak of violence.

In another incident two men were killed and another two badly injured after they were allegedly attacked by members of the OPM in Puncak Jaya subdistrict.

The Indonesian military also responded to the escalating attacks by deploying more troops to

the area. The Army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Christian Zebua told Antara state news agency "that more soldiers would be deployed to secure areas prone to violence, particularly in Tingginambut in Puncak Jaya Regency". He said to **Cenderawasih Pos** on 23 March that there were two factions, one that was set up by Aser Demotekay in 1963 in Jayapura which is ready to enter into dialogue with Indonesia and is unarmed. The other, set up in 1964 is led by Terianus Aronggear, and has been opposing the Indonesian government both politically and physically. According to him, this is the group that later became known as the OPM.

According to the Papua Police Chief Gen. Bagus Eko Danto the recent incidents have been created by "separatist rebels have created violence as part of their efforts to sabotage general elections process in Puncak Jaya regency". He also said that the "Police are closely monitoring 114 conflict-prone areas in Papua ahead of the general elections on April 9, and "we're watching the areas in order to secure the elections," He added that among the conflict-prone areas were parts of the central Papua mountain range, including Puncak Jaya.

This response of a build up of more troops has prompted a Papuan member of the Indo-

nesian parliament, the DPR, Dr John Manangsang to call for a different approach.. According to **Cenderawasih Pos** on 14 March, he said that in responding to recent OPM actions one of which resulted in the killing of four civilians, the reasons for such actions should be taken into account. These include for instance the attitude taken by the local government who see the Papuans as having no right to the land there and therefore have decided to hunt them down, and brand them as 'separatists'. "This is very distressing to these people," he said. According to Papuan tradition, everyone on a piece of land feels that they have entitlement to that land. 'Branding them as separatists and forcing them to flee and live in the forest, means that they are denied the right to live on their own land.'

The West Papua religious leader and academic Father Neles Tebay said "the recent spate of killings in Puncak Jaya regency highlight the urgent need for dialogue between Indonesia and West Papuan representatives" and "that political dimension should be settled. And that political dimension will not settle through deploying more troops, through conducting military operations."

There have also been a large number of demonstrations during the month of March

Cenderawasih Pos reported that several hundred Papuans, rallying in the name of the National Action Committee of the West Papuan People took to the streets in Jayapura on 11 March, calling for a referendum on Papua's right to independence.

Among the crowd were students, elderly people and a number of women. They marched to the office of the DPRP, the Papuan regional council, in a rally led by Victor Yemo and Markus Yamo, coordinator from Manokwari.

They carried banners bearing the following: Review the 1969 Act of Free choice, Release all Political Prisoners Unconditionally, Special Autonomy is treachery and Referendum Now!

Leaflets distributed to the public said that the forthcoming elections were not a solution for Papua. The leaflets were emblazoned with the slogan: Freedom Yes, General Election No.

Speakers also criticised the candidates in the 2009 elections because they would not change anything. They said that OTSUS had failed to protect the rights of the indigenous people of Papua in health and education, and were only sending more and more troops to Papua. They criticised members of the DPRP for failing to improve the situation and said that they had caused many horizontal conflicts. There were also calls for the elections to be boycotted.

On 17 March **Cenderawasih Pos** reported that Uncen Students rallied in Jayapura. Around 800 Papuans took part in a long march from the Cendrawasih University campus to the Department of Justice and Human Rights of the province of Papua in Jayapura, to commemorate the Bloody Uncen Incident in Abepura on March 16 2006.

As they marched, they shouted, saying that democracy was dead in Papua. The crowd divided into two groups, one of which marched to the old Uncen building. On the banners they carried were written: 'Freedom of expression is the right of everyone, so do treat us with brutality', 'release all political prisoners', and 'withdraw all TNI and police forces from West Papua'. Some were carrying photos of Theys Eluay, the Papuan leader who was assassinated in November 2001.

They also condemned Special Autonomy which was now entering its eighth year and had resulted in the division of the province and leading to rivalries between Papuans. One woman speaker said that she used to live in Timika (near Freeport) but had now moved to Jayapura because it was so difficult to earn her living in Timika.

On 24 March, **Jakarta Post** reported that over a thousand people rallied in Jayapura, the capital of Papua province demanding a refer-

endum on independence from Indonesia and rejecting the forthcoming elections, a Reuters witness said.

The protesters carried banners with the words "Election no, referendum yes", "Stop genocide for Melanesian race in West Papua", and demanded the withdrawal of troops from the province.

Papuan Nationalist Founder Returns Home after over Four Decades in Exile

What was apparently intended as a show of support for Papuan integration into Indonesia backfired as one of the first generation of Papuan nationalists told reporters that he still considered Papua to be a separate country from Indonesia.

Nicolaas Jouwe, now 85, returned to Papua for the first time since the beginning of Indonesian rule in 1963. He also traveled to Jakarta at the invitation of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The return of Jouwe after so long was as if Thomas Jefferson had stepped off a plane. It focused the spotlight on the history of Papua's still-disputed integration into Indonesia.

Jouwe was elected in 1961 as a member of the first New Guinea Council, an embryonic parliament for what was then still a Dutch colony, and immediately become one of the key leaders in the Papuan independence movement. He designed the Morning Star flag that is still the emblem of Papuan independence aspirations, and was active internationally in a nonviolent, globally-focused campaign for recognition of Papuan self-determination. This campaign built up considerable support in the Pacific islands and among African countries, and won a majority of support at the UN General Assembly, but the Kennedy administration decided for reasons of cold war strategy to back the Indonesian claim. The result was a U.S.-brokered agreement in 1963 to hand the territory to Indonesian rule, which left the basis of the conflict intact. The perceived denial of

self-determination for Papuans lies at the root of continued conflict, with Papuans feeling robbed of their right to self-determination and still keenly aware of the U.S. government role in stage-managing an agreement reached with no Papuan participation. A continued Papuan call is for a dialogue that will, among other things, set straight the historical record. This is one element missing from the special autonomy granted to Papua, and its omission is one reason that there continues to be rejection from many Papuans of the autonomy package.

Nonviolence and international diplomacy and dialogue were among the key themes of the Papuan independence leaders of Jouwe's generation. They remained on display as Jouwe visited his homeland. Invited by the Indonesian president, Jouwe said the time had come for dialogue, since "Indonesia remains our big neighbor." Alongside dialogue was the call for a nonviolent approach: "Even if we have to talk a thousand times, it is better than violence." To date Papuans have been denied the same sort of dialogue that led to a peace settlement in Aceh, perhaps because the Indonesian army sees Papuan nationalists as less of a military threat.

It is not clear whether the "encounter of heart and mind" (in the Indonesian president's words) with Jouwe signals any willingness for expanded dialogue. Signs are that the visit was designed to show a prominent historical figure endorsing integration, with the Jakarta Post speculating that Jouwe would seek Indonesian citizenship and call for an end to independence demands. Instead, the visit was dominated by what Jouwe's son called "the pincident." Jouwe arrived wearing a Papuan flag lapel pin. At a press conference in Jakarta, Indonesian ambassador to the Netherlands Yunus Habibie pressed Jouwe to pin an Indonesian flag to his lapel. Jouwe declined, repeating the need for dialogue between "neighbors." Reports on this incident and the trip led to the detention of four Dutch journalists, two of whom were slated for deportation.

Jouwe's visit was in some ways reminiscent of the November 2007 trip by Congressman Eni

Faleomaveaga. Invited by the Indonesian president to back the Special Autonomy Law, Faleomaveaga saw his trip slashed from three days to two hours and was not permitted to meet Papuan nationalist leaders or even to travel to Jayapura. In that case, it was support for autonomy (as opposed to independence) that the Indonesian government seemed to be seeking. The "pincident" indicated the same possible goal for Jouwe's trip.

US mining giant still paying Indonesia military

Aubrey Belford

JAKARTA, March 22 (AFP) -- US-based mining giant Freeport McMoRan is paying Indonesian troops to protect a large gold and copper mine in Papua, despite regulations requiring the military to hand over to police.

The Arizona-based company said its local subsidiary paid "less than" 1.6 million dollars through wire transfers and cheques in 2008 to provide a "monthly allowance" to police and soldiers at and around the Grasberg mine.

The disclosure, made in response to questions from AFP, means the company continues to pay soldiers in contravention of a series of legal measures aimed at stopping military units working as paid protection, rights activists said.

Grasberg sits on the world's largest gold and copper reserves, in a resource-rich but desperately poor region on the far eastern extreme of the Indonesian archipelago.

Pro-independence Papuan militants have waged a long-running insurgency against Indonesian rule in the province, and human rights monitors say Freeport's payments help fund military abuses against the local population.

The latest attempt to cut the military out of protection payments -- part of broader democratic reforms -- came in a 2007 ministerial decree setting a six-month deadline for police to take

over security of "vital national objects."

The less-than-1.6-million in direct payments are part of eight million dollars Freeport paid in broader "support costs" for 1,850 police and soldiers protecting Grasberg last year, according to a company report filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission last month.

While most of the direct payments go to the police-led Amole task force at the mine, soldiers and police in surrounding areas are also receiving payments, Freeport spokesman Bill Collier said.

"Although the bulk of our support is directed to supporting the Amole task force, we do provide some financial assistance to the police and military who are assigned to the general area surrounding our operations," Collier said.

A 2005 report by rights group Global Witness alleged Freeport had paid hundreds of thousands of dollars directly to senior police and military officers between 2001 and 2003.

The accusations are just one of many public relations headaches for Freeport, the largest single taxpayer to the Indonesian government.

Claims of rights abuses and environmental damage at the mine are difficult to verify as Indonesia restricts travel by foreign journalists to Papua and Freeport seldom allows media into its area of operations.

Freeport's Collier did not say if the 2008 transfers included large-scale payments -- in cash or in kind -- to senior officers. But he said the company's actions were within the law.

However, Rafendi Djamin, coordinator of rights organisation the Human Rights Working Group, said the military payments were clearly illegal although payments to police, while ethically questionable, were permitted.

"The safest thing to say for sure is they (payments to the military) are against the law. They are against government regulations, ministerial

as well as presidential decrees," Djamin said.

Indonesian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro declined a request to be interviewed on the legality of the payments.

Global Witness campaigner Diarmid O'Sullivan said Freeport's disclosure of payments left unanswered questions over whether the company is paying large sums to senior officers.

"Even now, the company still doesn't publish enough detail about its security payments to clearly confirm that this practice has stopped," O'Sullivan said. Also unanswered is just how many soldiers are being paid.

Nyoman Suastra, the commander of the Amole task force officially assigned to guard the mine, told AFP there are 447 personnel in the task force, which includes some soldiers.

Subtracting that number from the 1,850 police and military personnel Freeport acknowledges it paid last year, it means the company is paying 1,400 security personnel outside the mine, an unspecified number of them soldiers.

"It is disturbing that Freeport still seems reluctant to answer the most important questions, which are: who in the security forces ends up with these allowances, how much money do they get and what is the legal basis for these payments?" O'Sullivan said.

Indonesian land for Saudi rice

On 21 March **The Gulf Times** reported that Indonesia will allocate at least 2mn hectares (4.9mn acres) of farm land to joint ventures with Saudi investors to be used mainly for the cultivation of rice, a Saudi newspaper reported yesterday. The move would turn Indonesia into the world's top rice exporter in 2009, said Alwi Shihab, the Indonesian president's special envoy to the Middle East, according newspaper Okaz. Alwi said last year that Saudi BinLadin Group planned to invest at least \$4.3bn in Indonesia's rice-farming industry on 500,000

hectares of land in the Papua province. Saudi Arabia said in January that it had received the first batch of rice produced abroad by local investors under a government-sponsored push for agricultural investment outside the kingdom.

Under the plan, Saudi Arabia would import a "reasonable amount" of commodities, provide support for those investments and sign bilateral agreements with the relevant governments, the government said.

[comment: the article fails to mention whether the Indonesian government has obtained the consent of the land owners whose land will be used]

Sinar Mas Defends Palm Oil Expansion

The Jakarta Globe
March 22, 2009
Aloysius Bhui

Sinar Mas Group, one of the country's top palm oil growers, has denied accusations that its activities are damaging the environment and said it would stick to plans to expand its plantations. Greenpeace activists have targeted Sinar Mas in a recent campaign for contributing to deforestation, which is blamed as a key source of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions "We should have been arrested if we were ever involved in deforestation," said Gandi Sulistiyanto, a managing director of Sinar Mas. He said the company only opened up new plantations on degraded land, not rainforest Bustar Maitar, a Greenpeace forest campaigner, accused Sinar Mas of destroying forests. "We are facing the greatest threat to humanity — climate chaos — yet companies like Sinar Mas can continue to destroy forests and peatlands rather than protecting them for future generations," Maitar said. As of the end of September, Smart managed 127,124 hectares of oil palm, according to the company. It produced 410,314 metric tons of crude palm oil from January to September last year, against 509,095 metric tons in all of 2007. The group has plans for a \$100 million expansion.

"We are still a growing company," Sulistiyanto said. Indonesia is "still competing with Malaysia to become the world's top producer of palm oil, so we must keep planting." He said the current financial crisis may slow down the expansion but would not stop the firm from planting in new areas. According to Greenpeace, Sinar Mas has 200,000 hectares of unplanted concessions in rainforest in Indonesia and plans to acquire an additional 1.1 million hectares, mainly in Papua.

Environmentalists Beaten as They Protest Illegal Forest Destruction

Security guards belonging to one of Indonesia's largest logging and palm oil corporations, Sinar Mas, have assaulted NGO personnel outside the corporation's headquarters in Jakarta. Greenpeace activists were punched and kicked as they attempted to protest illegal land-clearing in West Papua and in West Kalimantan. Greenpeace activist told Radio Australia that Sinar Mas had cleared peat land and forests near the West Papuan town of Laereh as well as a site in a national park in West Kalimantan.

The wholesale destruction of forest lands in West Kalimantan, including the burning of valuable high grade old growth forests by Indonesian and foreign corporations, has long been the hallmark of "development" in West Kalimantan. Papuans and others concerned about the destruction of land in West Papua view the destruction in West Kalimantan as an ominous harbinger of similar government-promoted "development" in West Papua.

Indonesia's death zone

The Guardian Weekly (UK)

March 18, 2009

Despite Indonesia's West Papua region being home to some of the world's largest resource extraction projects, which generate massive wealth for multinationals and for the government in Jakarta, local indigenous people still

suffer from poor health.

Documenting that has not been easy, since Jakarta has been reluctant to allow outsiders into this remote region. But recently a few international health NGOs, including Médecins du Monde, have travelled to West Papua, and their data shows a region where tens of thousands out of 2.5 million inhabitants are estimated to be infected with HIV/Aids, and lethal cholera and diarrhoea outbreaks are frequent.

"The health problems of West Papuans are often the result of change taking place too quickly for such a remote people," says Remco van de Pas, the outgoing co-ordinator of Médecins du Monde's Papua operations, who has just returned to Europe after a two-year stint in the province. "Papuans are being overtaken by new development and while the delivery of basic health services lacks support and funding, they're falling way behind in health standards."

A study from 2008 notes that there were hundreds of new reported cases of Aids, taking the total official number to more than 4,000 (50% of Indonesia's total cases). Some health agencies estimate that the real number with Aids has reached 70,000, or about 2.5% of the population. Diarrhoea killed dozens in rural areas while in urban centres, such as Jayapura and Manokwari, food poisoning killed more. Deaths from a cholera epidemic in the Dogiyai and Paniai districts were about 300 by the end of last year.

"We are seeing just the tip of the iceberg of several health problems, and access to clean water and education," according to Van de Pas. "I believe that this cholera bacterium is always there. When people are in a lower -nutritional state, or have another disease like HIV/Aids, then they are more vulnerable to this. All families in my village, someone dies... every day," says Ipo Hagwan of Northern Kamuu. "People are very scared. It has been getting worse and we don't know how to stop it."

The remoteness of the region makes it difficult

for Jakarta to deal with epidemics. But many Papuans feel their welfare is just not a concern for Indonesia. "Since this [cholera] outbreak hit, Jakarta has done nothing to help these people," says Paula Makabori of the Institute of Human Rights Studies and Advocacy (Elsham). "Where are the health services from the government and the World Health Organisation when people are dying every day?"

Makabori says the government's failure to respond quickly to the cholera epidemic caused many more deaths, and the repression Papuans have suffered for years at the hands of the Indonesian military has exacerbated the problem. Papua has been troubled by a low-level separatist insurgency since the 1960s. Journalists need special permission to enter the area, and human rights groups have accused the military of abuses.

Many tribal people in the area affected by the cholera outbreak believe they have fallen ill because Indonesian soldiers have poisoned them, and they are suspicious of any medical treatment. The living conditions of West Papuans can be primitive: they rarely boil water and their wells can become cesspits. Papuans observe traditional customs such as washing dead bodies and keeping them above ground for days before burial.

Diseases such as cholera can spread quickly. "In our village we share a pit for a toilet," says Sabar Ingiwaii from Mimika. "And next to it is a pit for washing. We wash from the earth, like our ancestors always did. "

It's not only disease contaminating the waters. The Freeport mine in Timika is the world's largest gold and copper mine and has dumped an estimated 7bn tonnes of tailings and waste into surrounding rivers.

Hauke Tekiman has lived most of his life in the area where communities are nourished by fish from the Ajkwa river: "We were never told not to fish from the river, we never knew that it is poison. And even when we know, we have to eat fish from the river just to survive. But now some fish are dying off and people are starting

to get sick, too. "

Makabori says the health situation is a prime example of how Special Autonomy status, which was granted to Papua by Jakarta in 2001 and is supposed to deliver improvements in basic living standards for Papuans, hasn't been properly implemented.

Major development goes on, with massive road projects, oil palm expansion, BP's Tangguh Gas project, and the Freeport operations. Indonesian security forces are massing in Papua. The role of the military, and Indonesia's transmigration policies, which has caused an increased Javanisation of Papua, has been linked to the rising rate in sexually transmitted disease in the region.

According to Father Neles Tebay of the Catholic diocese in Jayapura, HIV/Aids is threatening the survival of the indigenous people. However, he welcomes recent moves by local leaders to co-operate with their counterparts in neighbouring Papua New Guinea to curb the spread of the disease. Papua's Provincial Legislative Council has said it wants preventative measures taken to stop the spread of HIV/Aids, although it recently shelved a plan requiring Aids patients deemed to have shown "aggressively sexual behaviour" to be implanted with microchips so they could be monitored.

- Villagers have given pseudonyms as they say they fear persecution.

Summary of April 2009 events

More demonstrations, that spiraled into violence

In the period immediately preceding April 13 national Parliamentary elections there was an explosion of violence in West Papua. Facts associated with a number of the incidents remain obscure.

3 April

Thousands of Papuans stage a peaceful demonstration in Jayapura and Nabire calling for a referendum on Papuans' political future; celebrating the formation of the International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP) group, calling for Papuans to boycott national legislative elections next week and also demanding the release of Papuan political prisoners. The demonstrations are organized in part by the National Committee for West Papua which on March 30 established a tent base camp near Nabire for the purpose of organizing the demonstrations there.

Previously, the Secretary General of the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation Rex Rumakiek and prominent Papuan independence leader Benny Wenda had both supported or called on all "citizens of West Papua" to boycott the upcoming legislative and presidential elections because they are not Indonesians.

Meanwhile, in the capital city of Jayapura, Brimob raided the offices of the Papuan Customary Council (Dewan Adat Papua) in Jayapura, arresting 17 activists and damaging equipment. The police claim to have confiscated two firearms from the office. According to Leonard Imbiri the council secretary general, "they trashed the offices, destroyed two computers and they burnt down a traditional hut behind the building." Police detained three activists of the West Papua National Committee (KNPB), Mako Tabuni, Serafin Diaz, and Yance Motte for their alleged subversive activities. The police alleged that they had evidence that the three activists were involved in a rally on the 10 March in Wamena calling on people to separate from the Unitary State of Indonesia. The other 14 were eventually released. Police also arrest two political activists from Jayapura. According to **Cenderawasih Pos** of 6 April, the chairman of DAP, Forkorus Yaboisembat S. said referred to the raid as 'a bag of tricks (basi) because DAP is regarded as an organisation that is a threat to the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia,' declared Forkorus.

April 6 TNI and Brimob raid and destroy a tent base camp of the National Committee for West Papua at a site just outside Nabire. In the assault, one Papuan was shot and killed; six Papuans were arrested.

Brimob opens fire on a protest demonstration by hundreds in Nabire injuring at least seven people. According to local sources, four of the wounded are taken to the hospital in critical condition, including a 10 year-old student who was shot as he was returning from school. A police officer was also injured by an arrow. The approximately 200 demonstrators had called for the boycott of upcoming parliamentary elections and investigations into past human rights violations in Papua. They also celebrated the launch of the International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP) in Guyana in early April 2009.

Amnesty International's Isabelle Arradon noted this is not the first incident in the town and there should be an independent investigation. "It is the third demonstration since September 2008 where some demonstrators in Nabire have been shot by police," she said. "According to the eyewitnesses those six people are the militias ... from Indonesia's security forces who have used the situation to trigger conflicts between demonstrators and the police," she said. But the footage clearly shows uniformed officers working with other men dressed in civilian clothes.

On 10 April, **Jakarta Globe** reported that violence marred election day in Papua when police shot dead one person as hundreds attacked a police post and, in separate incidents, three transmigrants were killed by a group believed to be made up of Papuan natives.

Police at 1.30 a.m. on 9 April opened fire after finding their post under attack from more than 100 people in Abepura near Papua's capital Jayapura, said Papua Police Chief Bagus Eko Danto.

One man was killed and four others injured, Bagus said.

The **Straits Times**, reported a home-made bomb exploded under a bridge on 8 April in the Muara Tami district 40 kilometers from Jayapura. There were no victims and the bridge wasn't damaged as the bomb fell into a river before it exploded. Troops also found and detonated two other bombs that did not explode due to faulty fuses. Then on 12 April, 3 bombs were found by a garbage collector early that day near a police post in Abepura. The bombs, which did not explode, were left in a garbage bin.

One policeman was killed and six others injured when armed men ambushed a police convoy in Tinggimbut, Puncak Jaya district, on Wednesday the 15 April. The police were ambushed around midday in the Puncak Jaya district as they travelled to pick up ballot boxes from national elections held on April 9, the provincial police chief Bagus Eko Danto said. As a result of the attack police reinforcements from the Mobile Brigade were being sent to West Papua.

On 14 April, the **Post Courier** reported that eleven people have been killed – six of them Indonesian soldiers and five pro-West Papuan separatists – in a bloody fight at the border of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea on Easter eve. Gary Baki, Papua New Guinea's Police Commissioner, says the situation remains tense in an area on the common border of Indonesia and PNG. He said he is unable to confirm the deaths because the fighting occurred on the Indonesian side of the border. However he says police in the PNG town of Vanimo, near where the fighting took place late last week, say that increased fighting has coincided with a large build-up of Indonesian troops in the border area. Gary Baki says the fighting has touched no PNG villages and local PNG police are monitoring the situation.

The **Jakarta Globe** reported on 17 April that due to the escalation of tension in Papua Province, security authorities, along with community and religious leaders, held a meeting at the Papua Military Command base in the capi-

tal, Jayapura. The invitation from the Commander of the Papua Military Command, Maj. Gen. AY Nasution and Chief of Papua Police Insp. Gen. FX Bagus Ekodanto. According to the report "The government and Papuan civic leaders appeared to have different opinions to law enforcement officials. The government insisted the incidents were individual crimes, while law enforcers believed they were organized and masterminded by the Free Papua Movement. Papua Deputy Governor Alex Hasegem said at the meeting that the attack on the Mobile Brigade near the Kampung Lumbuk waterfall, two kilometers from Tinggimbut, was an ordinary crime. Agus Alue Alua, chair of the Papua People's Assembly, agreed that the crimes were not committed by [members of] the Free Papua Movement. Rusdi Marpaung, director of human rights nongovernmental organization Imparsial, said the violent incidents in Papua were linked to the election. Rusdi also said that the ongoing turmoil in Papua Province was caused by the political elite's decisions in Jakarta".

Some see the violence as provoked by elements with ties to the security forces

For example, The Union of Papuan Baptist Churches has added its voice to claims that the Indonesian military is engineering attacks in the province and blaming them on Papuan separatists.

The head of the Union, Reverend Socratez Sofyan Yoman, says a series of recent violent incidents in Papua were premeditated acts by groups connected with the military, and he's urged Police to arrest the perpetrators.

Reverend Socratez says for many years now, the military has been manipulating such situations in a bid to destabilise the region. "And always blame, accuse the Papuans or OPM but it's untrue. We know about that. Because they want to get benefit from that, they want to get more money, military equipment. They want to bring more troops to West Papua."

In addition, Paula Makabory from Institute for Papuan Advocacy & Human Rights said: "Reports received from Nabire indicate that the violent confrontation that occurred on Monday between the security forces and Pro-independence protesters was promoted by a pro-Indonesian militia member and other Papuans working with the Indonesian security forces."

She continued: "The fact that there are reports that Indonesian security personnel were positioned in the buildings and armed clearly suggests that this confrontation and the subsequent shooting and wounding of civilians was planned and staged by the Indonesian security forces."

Human Rights Lawyers pressing for West Papuan Self Determination

Stabroek News reported that The International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP) formally launched in Guyana on 3 April to continue its efforts to help West Papua to "exercise peacefully their fundamental human rights and the freedoms guaranteed by international law."

In a press release the group, which comprises a network of international lawyers, said it launched here at the request of the West Papuans in recognition of Guyana's support of its "freedom and self-determination" 40 years ago. In 1969, Guyana was one of the few states in the UN General Assembly to vote for West

Co-Chair of ILWP, Ms. Melinda Janki said The ILWP is dedicated to helping the indigenous people of West Papua to exercise freely their fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed by human rights standards including the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Paramount among these rights is the collective legal right of indigenous Papuans to self-determination which was violated in the 'Act of Free Choice' in 1969, Janki said.

"Peace is the basis of the International Legal Order. The UN was established to maintain international peace and security. The ILWP is committed to helping the indigenous people's of West Papua to exercise freely and peacefully their right to self-determination," Janki reiterated.

Towards that objective, the ILWP is working closely with the International Parliamentarians for West Papua, which was formed 2008, at the House of Commons in London, England.

"These are parliamentarians from around the world who support West Papua's right to self-determination. The ILWP has members from all over the world and we invite all lawyers who believe in the rule of law and justice to join," Janki said.

She said one of the most important things the ILWP is doing and intends to continue is educate people about West Papua's right to self-determination that was confirmed in the UN Declaration.

Leader of the West Papuan Independence Movement in the United Kingdom (UK) and Chairman of Demmak, the Koteka Tribal Assembly, Mr. Benny Wenda, who was imprisoned and tortured in Indonesia and accepted as a refugee in the UK, acknowledged that ILWP is very important for his people in West Papua

Indonesia Orders ICRC Out of Papua Over Jail Visits

On April 23, **Reuters** informed that Indonesia has ordered the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to leave the politically sensitive Papua region after its officials visited separatists in jail, the foreign ministry said.

Foreign ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah

said that the government was offended both by the ICRC's failure to obtain proper permission to operate in Papua and by the prison visits.

The ICRC said it runs sanitation projects in Papua and also visits detainees, including jailed members of the secessionist Free Papua Movement (OPM), to ensure they are treated properly. "People accused of crimes which might be called subversion, or rebellion could be at risk of being discriminated against", said Vincent Nicod, the head of the ICRC's Indonesia delegation.

The dispute follows last year's release of stricter new rules on the funding of foreign non-governmental organisations in Indonesia.

The trial of Buchtar Tabuni

Indonesian Public Prosecutors have triggered an attack against a Political Prisoner, Buchtar Tabuni, at the Jayapura District Court, 22 April 2009, in Jayapura, West Papua

On Thursday 22 April 2009, Buchtar Tabuni, was taken by members of the public prosecution team and police from prison to attend a hearing of his trial at the Jayapura District Court. The hearing was scheduled to hear the testimony of an expert witness.

Upon entry to the courthouse Buchtar requested to be put in the cell at the back of the court. He said that wished to see his defense lawyer's as had been the usual practice before the trial commenced. Team members of public prosecutor and police responded to his request with repressive actions by dragging and beating Buchtar and forcing him into the court cell.

During the incident Buchtar Tabuni said he was held tightly by 3 of the team members of public prosecutor office while he was attacked by members of the Indonesian Police and Indonesia security forces intelligent agents, who were wearing civilian's clothes and carrying pistols. The Police and intelligence agents

beat him and kicked him. This resulted in him suffering back and backbone pain and a wound to his left arm and blisters on his feet. A witness also independently verified that he saw the members of public prosecutor drag Buchtar forcefully and police beat him.

Buchtar said that he was trying to protect his head and face from the attackers while being held and dragged. Buchtar said that members of public prosecutor who were holding his arms had also laid their hands on him. He said that he was hit by a hard object at his back and his arm when he covering his head during the attack. This was confirmed with the medical report (Fig.2 below), that states 1.there is a scratch wound at left elbow; 2.there is a pain in the back bone; 3.there is a pain oat the leg marks of beaten. The diagnose states there is a wound (ulkus luka) and marks of in sharp object (trauma tumpul).

One of Buchtar's defense lawyers said the hearing was cancelled because the expert witness did not show up. He said that Buchtar Tabuni's defense team was angry at the police and members of public prosecutors because these two institutions used violence against their client.

He said that the incident happened while team of defense lawyers were waiting in their room and had not realized that Buchtar had been taking to the courthouse through another gate (not the usual one). The defense lawyer also reported that 80% of the courtroom was stacked by Indonesian security forces members, including intelligent agents.

The defense lawyer said that in front of judges, the public prosecutor pronounced that he got a direct order from his superior (office of Chief Public Prosecutor) to bring Buchtar through non-formal gate, but did not state a clear reason for this change of procedure. The Judge asked the Public Prosecutor to take Buchtar Tabuni to the hospital and that he be checked by a doctor immediately.

Instead Buchtar was taken to Abepura prison by Public Prosecutor and left there. His de-

fense lawyers came at the prison and asked officials of the prison to provide a medical treatment and check (visum report) in the prison for Buchtar.

Buchtar received a medical check by a nurse, appointed to work as a health worker in the prison. Some of his defense team then went to the police office to report the incident.

Paula Makabory from Institute for Papuan Advocacy and Human Rights said today, "This attack on Buchtar Tabuni shows the fundamental bias in the Indonesian judiciary system in courts prosecuting West Papuan political prisoners. There is little hope that Indonesian judicial procedure will bring about a fair or safe trial for Buchtar Tabuni and the many other West Papuan political prisoners."

"A culture of injustice, persecution and Human Rights abuse exists within Indonesian state institutions which are hostile to West Papuan people. Indonesian state institutions, such as public prosecutors office and the court system, which have obligations under International law and Indonesia's national laws to ensure justice for West Papuan people are actually at the fore front of the attack on the indigenous people of West Papua and their civil & political rights."

Reported by Paula Makabory
Institute of Papuan Advocacy and Human Rights (IPAHR)

Nine Sugar Firms to Take Up West Papua Plantation Offer

April 20, 2009

Nine sugar producers have taken up a government invitation to invest in sugar plantations in Merauke, West Papua Province, a step forward in Indonesia's goal to reduce its dependence on imported raw sugar, a senior official from the Ministry of Agriculture said.

The companies may seek to occupy more than 114,000 hectares, but at this stage the government has only offered 90,000 hectares, ac-

ording to the ministry's Web site. The lands offered by the ministry were originally intended for prospective migrants under the government's transmigration program, but were never taken up, said Achmad Mangga Barani, the ministry's director general of plantations, adding that the land did not infringe upon environmentally sensitive rainforest.

M Yamin Rachman, chairman of the Indonesian Refined Sugar Association, or AGRI, welcomed the ministry's plan. He emphasized, however, that a lack of infrastructure remained a major problem. He urged the government to improve infrastructure to attract the attention of investors.

SPECIAL AUTONOMY LAW NO 21 YEAR 2001 IS A GIGANTIC KILLING MACHINE THAT DESTROYS THE SURVIVAL OF NATIVE WEST PAPUANS

Report received from Socrates Sofyan Yoman, President of the Fellowships of Baptist Churches of West Papua

Jayapura, West Papua
10 March 2009

Special autonomy law no 21 year 2001 which has been supported by international community was a final and peaceful solution to the political conflicts between the people of West Papua and the government of Indonesia. The aims of the special autonomy law are to protect and develop any aspects of the native West Papuan lives and to respect basic rights of the native West Papuans. However, after seven years of its implementation, the special autonomy law has become a biggest killing machine and a serious, structural and systematic threat to the lives of the native West Papuans. We report the following facts that have happened during the time of the implementation of the special autonomy law.

Various kinds of destructive operations that destroy the lives of the native West Papuans during the special autonomy era:

- Military operations;
- Transmigration programs;
- Economic occupation and marginalization of the native West Papuan economic life;
- Destruction of the native West Papuan forests;
- Illegal logging;
- Illegal fishing backed by Indonesian military and police;
- Shopping centres and luxurious hotels constructions that have marginalized native West Papuans from their own land.

The murder of Opinus Tabuni on the 9th of August 2008 in Wamena by Indonesian military and police. The shooting incident of the native West Papuan civilian has never been brought to justice.

Indonesian military (TNI) has created conflicts in Tingginambut village, Puncak Jaya regency since 15th of January 2009 and maintained them until now. The Indonesian military blamed OPM for the conflict. The main aim is to get military projects that can generate funding. The funding is necessary for increasing military operations in West Papua, getting more military equipments from developed countries such as USA, UK, Australia and the European Union and earning higher ranks within military institution. Thus, creating a climate of fear and traumatic experience for the native West Papuans is a way to achieve the above goals.

Human rights and political activists such as Filep Karma, Yusak pakage, Buktar Tabuni, Sebilom Sambom and many other native West Papuans were arrested with subversive (MAKAR) charges.

There is a sharp increase in the development of military institution in West Papua. Various infrastructures of Indonesian state forces such as Army, Navy, Air Force, and State Police are

being established in all parts of West Papua. The TNI personnel have increased in numbers. They appear in many forms of disguises such as motorbike riders. They stay in various corners of streets and watch the native West Papuans. This situation is threatening the native West Papuans. Military personnel are more than the native West Papuans.

We can show an example of an over-military presence in West Papua by looking at military posts established in only one region of West Papua. Puncak Jaya regency, for instance, has the following military posts:

1. - TNI Post at Irinmuli village;
2. - TNI Post at Tanoba village;
3. - TNI and Police Posts at Tingginambut village;
4. - TNI Post at Kalome village;
5. - TNI post Yibinggame village;
6. - TNI and Police posts at Mulia town;
7. - Special Forces (KOPASSUS) Post at Mulia town;
8. - Mobile Brigade Post at Mulia town;
9. - Mobile Brigade Post at Kulurik village;
10. - TNI Post at Kumipaga-Gigeme hill;
11. - TNI Post at Mondu village;
12. - TNI Post at Yamo village;
13. - TNI and Police posts at Mebagaluk village;
14. - Special Team Post at Wuyuneru village;
15. - District military headquarter and Police headquarter;
16. - Special Forces (KOPASSUS) at Purulome village;

- 17. - Special Team Post near Regency office;
- 18. - Mobile Brigade Post at Yiginikime;

This fact shows that indeed military and police dominantly occupy Puncak Jaya regency.

My own experience during a visit to Wamena on the 11th to 17th of February 2009 was a very shocking one. I witnessed security personnel watched and controlled daily activities of the native West Papuans in public places such as Yibama, Sinakma and Woma markets. They were every where and in every corner of streets. Most of them were in their disguised faces as motorbike riders. This is a very serious threat to the freedom of the native West Papuans. The native West Papuans cannot express themselves freely in their own native land. The native West Papuans do not have freedom during the implementation of the special autonomy law. I believe what I saw in Wamena also occurs in all parts of West Papua from Sorong to Merauke.

Indonesian parliament and government continued to approve extensions of regencies and provinces in West Papua. However, the extensions did not take into account the realistic requirements for an extension of a region such as the size of region, population, and natural and human resources. The Indonesian parliament and government collaborated to destroy the native West Papuans by continuously extending number of regencies and provinces. The extensions do not take into account the size of the local native West Papuan population. This policy is in line with the new military strategic operations which uses transmigration program as its new tactic. The number of migrants in the new extended regions has increased sharply. The native West Papuans' ownership of the land is at risk. Their lands are being taken away for the purpose of 'development'. New government offices and shopping centres were built on the land that has been taken away from the native West Papuans.

The extension of regencies in West Papua has caused problem to the educational process in

the villages in West Papua. More and more teachers were recruited as government officials such as head of districts, heads and officials of various government departments within the newly established regencies. As a result, most schools now suffer a huge loss of teachers and a huge number of children do not have proper education. The future of these children and the native West Papuans is bleak and darker because it has been systematically and structurally destroyed.

Another case of a school, which lost the only teacher it has, happened at Tomeraw village, Merauke regency. A primary school teacher was intimidated and chased away by military. His pigs were killed by military personnel. The teacher escaped to save his life and the school has been without teacher since his escape.

The extension of regencies has also brought problems to health services in West Papua. Health services in towns and villages are worst. Death rate of native West Papuan mothers and children increased sharply. Most medical workers were recruited to be head of districts and sat in government structural positions as heads and officials of various government departments. Many health centres suffer loss of medical workers. Again, this is another systematic and structural killing of the native West Papuans committed by Indonesian government during the special autonomy.

Economically, the native West Papuans are marginalized. Migrants dominantly occupy all economic sectors in West Papua. There is no protection or policies to help the native West Papuans in economic sectors. The government is silent and seems to just allow worst things to happen.

Shopping centres and luxurious hotels were constructed along the road. Lands of the native West Papuans were taken away for this purpose. There was not any empowerment training for West Papuans in order for them to get jobs in the newly established shopping centres and hotels. This is another cruel killing and a process that does not respect humanity.

The creation of poverty for native West Papuans by economic actors was another form of a killing process committed and protected by Indonesian government.

The number of migrants entering West Papua during the special autonomy time has increased sharply and has been out of control. Every day and every week there are aeroplanes and passenger ships transporting 5000 to 6000 people to West Papua. The native West Papuans are indeed in the threat of extinction. Lands that have been taken away and destruction of forests have been out of control. The economic lives of the native West Papuans have been marginalized and they are living in very poor condition because of permanent and systematic process that has created the situation.

The following threats have occurred during the implementation of the special autonomy:

Mil- Military violence;

- - Various exploitations;

- - Human rights abuses;

- - Killing, torture, arrest, and imprisonment;

- - Economic rights abuses;

- - Educational rights, health rights, and freedom of expressions are seriously threatened.

Indonesian government and parliament has issued government regulations, presidential decrees that contradicted with the special autonomy law.

During the implementation of the special autonomy the native West Papuans did not have freedom to exercise democracy; there was no freedom to move and act, and no freedom of expressions. The military and police had used their forces and violence to oppress any expression of the freedom of the native West Papuans.

Indeed, the special autonomy law is a killing

machine that threatens the survival of the native West Papuans. Therefore, we suggest that a peaceful dialog at an international level between the people of West Papua and the government of Indonesia should be conducted and initiated by a third neutral state.

Reported by

Socrates Sofyan Yoman

President of the Fellowships of Baptist Churches of West Papua

Jl. Jeruk Nipis Kotaraja, PO Box 1212

Phone: 62-967-583462

HP: 08124888458

The mysterious death of Agus Rewang

GKI (Christian Evangelical Church in the Land of Papua)

11 May 2009

Another death has occurred, this time in the municipality of Jayapura, when Agus Demianus Rewang, 45, died after being held in custody for five days by the police in the district of Muara Tami.

The victim was arrested by the police on 30 April for allegedly causing an affray and other misdeeds, in violation of Articles 406 and 335 of the Criminal Code.

On 1 May, the police handed over the arrest warrant (for Agus) to the head of the kampung, not to the family of the victim. Then, on 5 May, the police delivered the body of the victim in a coffin to his home in dock II 9, North Jayapura along with a card mounted on a cross, containing the victim's name, his date of birth and his date of death.

The police said that when the victim fell ill, he was given Rp 40,000 (US\$4.00) and told to go

to Jayapura for treatment, but the police later heard that he had died. They said they had heard that he had committed a crime across the border in PNG.

His colleagues said that if this was the case, he should have been arrested by PNG police.

The family of the victim has not been informed of the results of any autopsy. A witness, together with a doctor who were in the operating theatre (where the victim was treated?) said that they noticed black bruises on the victim's back while there blood was oozing from his mouth.

The victim was one of the many Papuans who fled to PNG in 1984 following the killing of Arnold Ap. He returned home to West Papua in 2005 but frequently visited his wife and children who remained behind in PNG.

At the beginning of April this year, the security forces intensified security along the border between Indonesia and PNG in the wake of an armed skirmish between the Indonesian security forces and armed groups in the border region.

The GKI report includes three photographs, one of the victim on a bed surrounded by medical personnel, one of his backside and one of his coffin with a photo of the victim on top.

PNG to repatriate more than 700 Indonesians to RI

Andi Haswidi

The Jakarta Post

May 14

Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are currently cooperating to repatriate 708 Indonesians, from various backgrounds, currently living in the neighboring country, according to a state official.

Speaking after a bilateral meeting between President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Michael Somare in Manado on Thursday, presidential spokesperson Dino Patti Djalal said the Indonesian migrants were mostly from the provinces of Papua and West Papua.

“[The Indonesian immigrants] have expressed their willingness to voluntarily come back to Indonesia. We are currently in active cooperation with the Papua New Guinea government to facilitate the repatriation,” Dino told reporters.

Whole villages of undocumented migrants from Indonesia line the PNG side of the border. Many are traditional migrants but others have fled the unstable conditions of the restive province with no intention of returning.

Yudhoyono and Somare were in Manado to attend the World Ocean Conference and the Coral Triangle Initiative Summit.

Dino said the two countries had agreed during the bilateral meeting to improve cooperation on border issues.

“Border issues are sensitive but the two leaders agree that the spirit for cooperation is strong. In the past, cooperation on border issues faced many challenges, particularly border crossings both from Indonesia to PNG and vice versa,” Dino said, adding that the meeting was also attended by Indonesian Military commander Gen. Djoko Santoso.

The latest major cross-border violation allegedly occurred when six Indonesian soldiers and five pro-West Papuan separatists were killed in a bloody fight on the border of Indonesia and PNG following several violent incidents coinciding with April's legislative election.

The clash also resulted in the destruction of a university, a church building, fuel depot and many houses at Batas, a check point on the border near Wutung, West Sepik Province.

The violent incidents forced the closure of the border to all travelers as well as traditional villages from Wutung going to their gardens on the Indonesia side of the border. Some separatists reportedly crossed the border to escape the police and military.

The Indonesian National Police said that the Free Papua Organization (OPM) was behind the series of attacks, as banners and fliers distributed during the incidents called for the sabotaging of the legislative elections.

When asked whether the meeting discussed separatists who fled to PNG, Dino said it did not touch on the issue. Somare, however, expressed his support for Indonesia's national union and territorial integrity.

Dino added that the bilateral meeting also discussed ways to improve economic relations between the two countries through, among other things, boosting bilateral trade.

“In terms of bilateral trade, the potential is big, but so far we have only managed to record about US\$100 million a year. So, the two leaders have agreed to launch an annual meeting between economic ministers from the two countries,” he said.

Further talks will be carried out at the ministerial level for the arrangement of the annual meeting, Dino said.