



Jesuit Refugee Service

Diocese of Daru-Kiunga

Newsletter

Hello! My name is Mariano Griva and I work for Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). As part of JRS' mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees, we bring you this newsletter. It is our hope that more and better information of events in West Papua will help you make more informed decisions about your future life choices.

The International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) was officially launched on the 15th of October 2008 in the United Kingdom (UK) Houses of Parliament

The launch of the International Parliamentarians for West Papua was attended by Hon Moana Carcasses Kalosil Member of Parliament (MP) representing Vanuatu parliament, Lembit Opik MP (UK Parliament), Jeremy Corbyn MP (UK Parliament) and Mr. Benny Wenda, West Papuan Independence Leader in the United Kingdom. This event was witnessed directly by West Papuan representatives from the Netherlands, university students (from Oxford, Exeter, Reading, and London) and UK based human rights and environmental groups. Main speaker of the official launch of IPWP was Ms Melinda Janki (international human rights law expert) who presented a paper on West Papua's legal rights to self determination. Speakers from IPWP include Andrew Smith MP (UK), Lord Harries (UK), Lembit Opik MP (UK) and Hon Moana Carcasses Kalosil MP (Vanuatu).

West Papuan leaders hope that members of the IPWP will encourage fellow Parliamentarians to join IPWP and support West Papua's right to self-determination, freedom and a

peaceful existence

West Papuan leaders also hope that the IPWP is willing to help with the following actions:

- lobby for a new act of self-determination in accordance with international law in which indigenous West Papuans are freely allowed to choose their international status;
- call for and support the immediate removal of Indonesian troops from West Papua;
- call for an international peacekeeping force for West Papua under the authority of the United Nations;
- request their governments to stop all arms sales to Indonesia until Indonesian troops in West Papua have been replaced by a peacekeeping force;
- conduct a fact finding mission to West Papua;
- encourage their governments to obtain through the UN General Assembly an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on West Papua's right to self-determination under international law;
- support the creation of a trust fund so that all revenues from current resource exploitation in West Papua are held in trust for the indigenous peoples of West Papua;
- call upon the UN secretary-General to

(i)conduct a review of the UN's role in the "act

of free choice;"

(ii) send a special UN observer to monitor human rights in West Papua;

- call upon the Indonesian Government to

(i) release Filep Karma, Yusak Pakage and all other prisoners of conscience immediately;

(ii) allow journalists free access to West Papua;

(iii) put an immediate stop to deforestation in West Papua since this is destroying the unique ecosystems of West Papua and causing global damage through climate change and the loss of biodiversity;

(iv) observe a moratorium on granting any oil and other mineral concessions until the ICJ has delivered its opinion.

The launch of International Parliamentarians for West Papua was supported by UK MPs, European MPs, US Congressmen, Australian Senators, New Zealand MPs, Vanuatu MPs, Papua New Guinea MPs and Guyana MPs.

Peaceful Papuans Beaten, Detained for Welcoming Formation of IPWP; Indonesian Parliamentarians Protest Launch

October 14 - 16 saw widespread rallies and demonstrations throughout the Indonesian archipelago intended to welcome the creation of an international parliamentarian caucus for West Papua (IPWP) in London October 15 (see report above). A major rally in Jayapura drew thousands of Papuans. Additional demonstrations and meetings took place in the West Papuan cities of Sorong and Manokwari, Papuan students outside of West Papua rallied in Makassar, Manado, Jogjakarta, Jakarta, Surabaya, and Bali. Papuans also demonstrated at the Indonesian embassy in Canberra.

In Jayapura, Buchtar Tabuni, chairperson of the Committee for International Parliamentarians for West Papua, was among many Papuans subjected to police scrutiny. He and 17 other Papuans were taken into custody for questioning by Jayapura city police. Lawyer Latifah Anum Siregar told the Jakarta Post that

those detained were "beaten in public and then forced at gunpoint to enter police cars."

One of the key organizers of the rally in Jayapura was brutally murdered on or about October 17. An autopsy conducted by the Jayapura District Public Hospital DOK II on the body of Yosias Syet of Sentani concluded he had died of torture. Another Papuan demonstrator, Martinus Grewas, was killed in Sorong, reportedly by security forces.

Reacting to the developments in London, a member of the Indonesian Parliament announced his intention to protest the formation of the IPWP to the British government, claiming the UK parliamentarians were supporting "separatism." Theo L. Sambuaga, chairman of the House's Commission I overseeing defense, information, foreign and political affairs, said the protest would be sent to the British Embassy in Jakarta. Sambuaga added: "We can't accept any efforts to support such a separatist movement, because it indicates foreign intervention in our country's affairs," he said. The House will also bring the case to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which has stated it will not tolerate any separatist movement."

Source: co-published by the East Timor and Indonesian Action Network (ETAN) and West Papua Advocacy Team (WPAT)

Papuans Voice Discontent with Government

Abdul Khalik, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta
November 12, 2008

Anyone who thinks the discussion on Papuan independence is over should listen to Hans Gebze and other young Papuans.

"We're not feeling like free people. We are still poor and alienated while many of us experience injustice on our home soil.

"So how can we rule out trying for independ-

ence?" Hans, a member of the Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI), said on the sidelines of a seminar on Papua here Tuesday.

More than 100 Papuans attended the seminar, which quickly turned into a forum for the Papuans to express their disappointment with Jakarta's policies.

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the situation in Papua since the establishment of the International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP), a caucus that aims to gather support for Papua from the international community. The group's ultimate aim is a self-determination referendum for Papua.

The Indonesian government has dismissed the organization, established in London on Oct. 15, as nothing more than a tiny collection of Papuans who lack international support.

Papuan member of the Regional Consultative Council (DPD), Ferdinanda Ibo Yatipai, said she could understand the animosity as Jakarta had treated Papua unfairly.

She was referring to alleged human rights violations against Papuans and exploitation of Papua's natural resources for the enrichment of Jakarta.

"We must unite to support the IPWP. Where's the money the government said had been given to the Papuans? We must find the embezzlers of the funds," she told the seminar.

Rights activist Syamsudin Radjab talked about the failure of the special autonomy for Papua since its inception in 2001.

"We estimate Rp 26 trillion in special autonomy funding has been given to Papua since 2001. But many Papuans aren't enjoying it. The government must explain where the money has gone," he said.

Syamsudin urged the government to initiate a comprehensive program that involved all stakeholders, such as NGOs and Papuan leaders, while opening a national dialogue to address Papua's problems.

"Indonesia must learn from the Timor Leste lesson. We can't pretend that everything is OK down there in Papua," he said.

Ibo said the IPWP had been established because Papuans were no longer able to make themselves heard by the government.

"We established a special committee for Papua at the DPD. But when we wanted to hold a dialogue with the President, the DPD chairman simply told us he did not want to attend the event. What can we do?" Ibo said.

University of Indonesia international relations expert Hariyadi Wirawan said the threat of disintegration was real. He said Papua today looked like Timor Leste before the 1999 referendum when the government believed the province would remain with Indonesia.

"That's why the government can't solve the problems in Papua with military might or by sending more and more soldiers to the provinces. Instead, the government must gather sociologists, anthropologists and NGOs to help them find

the root causes of the problems," he said.

Special Report: Defending Papua, Republic of Indonesia's main agenda in Pacific region

Jakarta Post

November 14, 2008

*Indonesia's relations with countries in the Pacific region have received sparse media attention in recent times. However, a series of recent incidents and demonstrations have brought into question Indonesia's right to sovereignty over Papua. The Jakarta Post's **Abdul Khalik** joined an Indonesian delegation in a dialog last week with senior officials from Papua New Guinea (PNG) in Port Moresby to discuss problems along the 760-kilometer-long border the countries share. The event was preceded by a visit by Indonesian officials to the border town of Merauke in Papua. The following are reports from the event.*

Home Affairs Minister Mardiyanto looked with admiration at the giant statues of Indonesia's first president Sukarno and his deputy Mohammad Hatta, which stand in the heart of Port Moresby.

"Both figures have united Indonesia, from Sabang to Merauke," an inscription beneath the monument reads, symbolizing the PNG government's formal recognition of Indonesia's territories, which include West Papua.

"Although PNG is a relatively small country, we have a very active embassy here, and the ambassador has been working well to provide us with all the information we need," Mardiyanto said, pointing to Indonesian Ambassador to PNG Bom Soeryanto, a retired general and former officer at the State Intelligence Agency.

Indonesia continues to fight a small-scale armed rebellion waged by the Free Papua Movement (OPM) as well as other pro-separatism organizations, including the International Parliament for West Papua, which questions the validity of the 1969 Act of Free Choice, or Pepera referendum, as a legal basis for Papua's integration with Indonesia.

Indonesian officials have acknowledged the importance of support from nations in the Pacific region, especially PNG.

Director general for legal affairs and international treaties at the Foreign Ministry Eddy Pratomo said some small countries in the Pacific, including Vanuatu, had advocated West Papua's right to independence in several regional forums.

"Thus far, PNG, under Prime Minister Michael Somare, has been our strongest supporter in preventing independent Papua movements in all regional forums. So, we need to enhance our relations with that country," Eddy said.

During a meeting with Mardiyanto, PNG Minister for Inter-government Relations Job Pomat reiterated his government's support for Indonesia's national integration.

"Let me once again reaffirm that the government of Papua New Guinea's stance, as it has remained over the years, is that the province of Papua remains an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia," he said.

However, the border area between the countries has been the sight of reciprocal suspicions and distrust since PNG declared independence in 1975.

Some PNG officials have accused Indonesia of seeking to prevent PNG from becoming a sanctuary for OPM separatists, who have been campaigning for an independent Papua since 1969.

Port Moresby's policy on border affairs has been overshadowed by fears of Indonesian expansionism, the country's superior military might and sympathy for West Papua's efforts to defend its cultural identity.

"We are a hundred years behind Indonesia's strength and sophistication in monitoring an international border," border police commander Sakawar Kasieng said.

PNG media, which has been very critical of Indonesia, has also accused its neighbor of attempting to covertly interfere with PNG's domestic politics.

PNG and Indonesia signed a treaty of mutual respect, cooperation and friendship on Oct. 27 1986 to regulate relations and define rights and obligations in border areas. In the ensuing 22 years, the countries have held regular meetings to discuss bilateral issues.

However, many issues remain unresolved, including the high number of Papuan refugees in PNG, alleged incidents of Indonesia's military crossing into PNG territory and PNG's reluctance to conduct joint security operations in border areas.

Last week's meeting offered no solutions to the problems.

"Much more attention should be paid to solving the problems and to the region in general to maintain support from PNG over the Papua issue. We can't take it for granted," University of Indonesia international expert Hariyadi Wirawan said.

He warned that support for Indonesia over the Papua issue could decline, citing the possibility that Australia and New Zealand could push PNG to reverse its stance on the matter.

Special Report: Government struggling to solve border problems and

disputes

Abdul Khalik , The Jakarta Post , Port Moresby | Fri, 11/14/2008 11:02 AM | World

Papua New Guinea's Inter-Government Relations Minister Job Pomat looked surprised when Home Minister Mardiyanto told him just seconds after they shook hands last week that Indonesia wanted the Skow-Wutung border post opened immediately.

The post, in the northern part of Papua, connects Jayapura in Indonesia and Vanimo in PNG.

Indonesia has been pushing for the opening of the Skow-Wutung border as an international gateway since last year, saying it will boost commercial activity and improve the prosperity of people in the border areas.

"The border post will also reduce illegal crossings because everyone seeking to cross will be required to show their documents. This way, tension and security threats will be minimized as we can better control people's movements," Mardiyanto said.

Eddy Pratomo, director general for legal affairs and international treaties at the Foreign Ministry, said Indonesia would adopt a "soft management" approach, under which people would need only a letter issued by local authorities, instead of a passport, to cross the border.

Border crossing issues have become a headache for the Indonesian government, which fears some of those crossing could be members of the Free Papua Movement (OPM), a separatist group campaigning for Papuan independence.

PNG has accused the Indonesian Military (TNI) of illegally entering its territory in pursuit of alleged OPM members.

A native Papuan, Martinus, 34, who lives near the border and frequently crosses to nearby PNG villages to sell basic commodities, said he hoped the opening of the border post would not affect his activities.

"This is the way we have lived for as long as I remember. In fact, I have family members who have been living in PNG for years now. I hope they will be allowed to come home," he said.

Martinus' relatives are among more than 25,000 Papuans who migrated to several provinces in PNG in the 1980s. Some of them have been accused by the TNI of being OPM members who conducted acts of rebellion against Indonesia from within PNG.

During a joint-border committee meeting with PNG last week, Indonesia voiced its demand for the neighboring country to allow its embassy to list Papuans wanting to return home.

"There are 708 Papuans who have expressed their intention to return home. We will facilitate it so they can go home immediately," said Kausar AS, director general of public affairs at Indonesia's Home Ministry.

A politics professor from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Ikrar Nusa Bhakti, urged Indonesia to build good relations with PNG to help deal with the OPM.

Papuans Seeking Asylum in Australia Asks Protection from Komnas HAM and DPR

21 October, 2008

TEMPO Interactive, Jakarta: Two Papua residents who had asked for political asylum in Australia came to the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) office for protection. The two Papuans, Yubel Kareni, 22, and Hana Gobay, 23 said they received threats from people against Papua's integration with Indonesia. "If we insist on returning to

Indonesia, they threatened to kill us because we were considered as traitors," Hana said at the Komnas HAM office yesterday.

Yubel and Hana said that on May 2004, they left for Australia along with 43 other Papuans, sailing on a traditional boat through Merauke, Papua. On January 2005 they arrived on Australia shores. Hana – who was a student at Manado University – said the 43 people were lured by the promise to receive free education in Australia. Each of them had to pay Rp 7 million to Herman Wainggai – later known to be the main leader of the Free Papua Movement (OPM).

In Australia, besides political asylum, they were also promised funding from the Australian government amounting US\$ 450 every two weeks plus free housing. They later discovered that they were to be politically indoctrinated to support Papua's separatist movement from Indonesia. Yubel didn't even know until recently that he was categorized as a refugee seeking asylum. "We felt deceived," said Yubel, who was a senior at Serui High school in Papua.

Komnas HAM has sent a letter to the Papua governor and the Papua Regional Police. The letter, signed by commissioner Johny Nelson Simanjuntak, requested that the two youths be given protection and given their rights, especially in the field of education.

ANTON APRIANTO | HERU TRIYON

IGSARPRI helping Papuans repatriate from PNG

By ANTARA News
Sep 7, 2008

Jayapura, Papua, (ANTARA News) - The Independent Group Supporting the Autonomous Region of Papua in the Republic of Indonesia (IGSARPRI) is making continuous efforts for the repatriation of Papuans living in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to their homeland in Papua or West Papua provinces, a spokes-

man said.

The chairman of the group's board of founders, Franzalbert Yoku, made the statement to ANTARA here on Saturday after accompanying nine Papuans Friday on their way from Port Moresby, the PNG's capital, to Jayapura, Papua's provincial capital and later to Jakarta, Bandung and Yogyakarta to pursue studies.

"The foundation has since 2006 been helping the repatriation of Papuans who have been living in PNG. It also cooperates with the ministry of education to give scholarships to Papuans who were born in the PNG to continue their studies in Java before working in Papua," he said.

He said the group's struggle was based on Law Number 21 on regional autonomy which aims to make Papuans masters in their homeland within the fold of the Unitary State of Indonesia.

The effort was fully supported by the central government, including the foreign ministry and other ministries concerned.

Papua Governor Barnabas Suebu met with officials of the Regional Taskforce on Tuesday to discuss preparations for the implementation of a plan to repatriate 192 families or 708 people late this year or early next year, he said.

Papuans left Australia to 'avoid crime charge'

Angela Flassy , The Jakarta Post ,
Jayapura | Fri, 11/21/2008
1:16 PM | The Archipelago

The return home from Australia of two Papuan asylum seekers was due to legal problems arising from the couples ongoing incidence of domestic violence -- and nothing else, Alfons Adadikam, chairman of the Melbourne based Victoria West Papua Association (VIWPA) said. He criticized the

Indonesian government for using the repatriation for political gain and said the repatriation was for no other reason.

Hana Gobay and Yubel Kareni were had repeated domestic violence problems. The last reported case was in July, when Yubel hit Hana over the head with a bottle, Adadikam said.

"Yubel was then detained. They were ordered to live separately and keep a minimum distance of 200 meters. Due to pressure from the Papuan community, Yubel was released on bail," he said.

Adadikam disclosed that the couple often quarreled with each other, including one incident last year when Hana stabbed Yubel in his stomach.

"Yubel should have been taken the police office at that time, but I asked the police to release him, as he need to go to the hospital. They kept the court imposed distance, but after living separately for few months, they began living together again," he said.

The association helped the couple, along with other 41 asylum seekers, since they came to Melbourne last year, he added.

He said the asylum seekers received social support beginning two weeks after their arrival. This included a biweekly allowance of A\$450 each, concessions for tram tickets, medication and accommodation.

Adadikam said he resented the couple's negative comments about the Papuan community in Australia, given after they returned home.

"If they want to return home, it's no problem. But at least they could

say farewell and admit that it was their decision to leave. We regret the manipulation of the news, its against the facts," Adadikam, who still holds Indonesia citizenships, said.

He criticized the Indonesian Consulate General in Melbourne, who, instead of helping Hana and Yubel with their problem, used it for political gain.

Wiwiek Setyawati Firman, Human Rights and Humanity Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, denied Adadikam's claims.

"They came home by their own will, that's what I know. Australia has its laws, we have ours. If they were involved in a crime, I think they should be punished. Many Australians have been punished here in Indonesia," Setyawati said Wednesday.