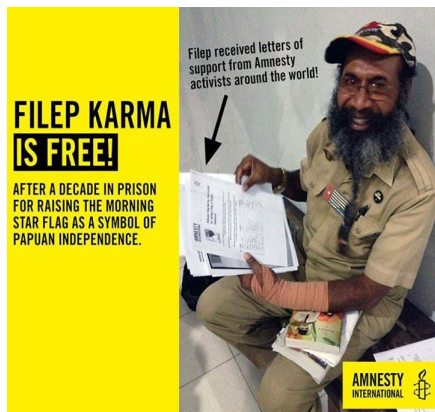




No One Can Ban Filep Karma's

Ideology

Victor Mambor Nov 27, 2015



Jayapura, Jubi – There have been various reactions to the recent release of Filep Karma, a Papuan hero who was jailed for over a decade in Abepura prison for treason. Papua police chief, Inspector General Paul Waterpauw, said he hoped Filep Karma came to his senses and stopped doing things that could harm himself.

Papuan Legislator Laurenzus Kadepa said Filep Karma's ideology cannot be restricted by anyone. Although he was imprisoned for more than 10 years, Karma never stop voicing the rights of indigenous Papuans from behind bars.

Kadepa questioned Paul Waterpauw's comment.

"What does it mean when police chief asked Filep Karma to change his behavior and ideology? I think the ideology of Filep Karma cannot be restricted by anyone and in any way," said Kadepa to Jubi on Thursday (26/11/2015).

He said Filep Karma had been a victim of an unjust law. He was convicted because of having thoughts that are considered against the ideology of Pancasila.

"He was subsequently arrested and sentenced to 15 years in prison. However the iron bars have not been able to limit the struggle of Filep Karma. He continued to speak out from behind bars," he said.

He further said, what was done by Filep Karma may be considered against the country, but not by his people. He even got support and sympathy of the Papuan people and even internationally.

"So I think it is not easy to change one's ideology. Because the mind is believed to be the truth. So, what's wrong with him. During this time he was fighting for ideology, not with violence, but a peaceful way," he said.

Filep Karma, Papuan political prisoner was arrested and detained since December 1, 2004 when he delivered political speeches and raised the Morning Star flag in the University of Cendrawasih. On May 26, 2005, the Jayapura District Court sentenced the 15 years in prison. He was then charged on criminal elements contained in article 106 and article 110 Criminal Code.

After serving his sentence, repeatedly states offer remission and pardon, but he always refused the offer. According to him, remission and pardon granted only to those who behave well and admitted his guilt.

"The reason given remission is for good behavior. Did I misbehave in the community? I am a good person. My belief on what is truth made me put into prison. Let me finish the sentence" said Filep Karma to Jubi a few months ago in Abepura Prison.

On November 19, 2015, Karma granted decade remission from the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights on the Minister of Law and Human Rights numbers: W.30-300-PK.01.01.02 2015 On Granting Remission Decades of 2015 To the Prisoners and Criminal Child Related with Article 34 paragraph (3) of Government Regulation No. 28 of 2006.

Although he refused it, but eventually he remained excluded from prisons. According to Karma, it is just a diversion from a small prison to a big prison.

Head of the division of corrections office of Kemenkumham Papua, Johan Yarangga said it is obliged to encourage Karma and every person who has been declared legally free live their freedom.

"We have no right to detain people without legal basis. Pak Filep Karma is free. There is no reason to arrest him," said Johan Yarangga on the Day of liberation of Karma.

Journalists attacked in two spate incidents

tabloid jubi VICTOR MAMBORDES 03, 2015 HUMAN RIGHTS



Suwarjono, AJI president (right) – Supplied
Jayapura, Jubi – The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) joins its affiliate Aliansi Jurnalis Independen (AJI – Indonesia) in strongly criticizing the actions of local police in Indonesia, in two separate incidents where journalists were harassed and attacked. The IFJ and AJI demand an immediate investigation into both incidents.

On December 1, Topilus B Tebai, editor of majalah-selangkah.com, was covering the preparations to commemorate the declaration of West Papua independence in Nabire in West Papua. Topilus was taking pictures of police vehicle inspections at the Heroes Cemetery. A police officer, allegedly claiming to be a police leader, kept distracting Topilus. Shortly after two other officers came over to Topilus and stopped him, asking for his camera. The officers continued to question Topilus and one officer tried to kick the journalist. Topilus told the officers he was a journalist and showed his press card, however the officers then started yelling and demanded to speak with the editor-in-chief of majalahselangkah.com.

Topilus protested against the officers' actions, telling them that they were violating Indonesia's press law. Officers told Topilus to delete the photos and that he shouldn't be photographing the police operations. Five more officers approached Topilus and forcibly removed his camera. Police officers then kicked Topilus and forcibly removed him from the Heroes Cemetery.

On the same day, Archicco Guilianno of ABC Australia and Step Vaessen of Al Jazeera were covering a rally organized by Papuan students in Jakarta when they were attacked and intimidated by local police. According to AJI police asked Guilianno to erase her footage of the rally, however when she didn't immediately comply but identified herself as a journalist, she was beaten by an officer. Vaessen recorded the incident and was then requested by police to delete the footage, when she didn't comply police forcibly removed the footage.

Suwarjono, AJI president said of the incident in Jakarta that: "The violence suffered by the two journalists in the

demonstration is evidence that the police have not been fully aware of the duties of journalists. Indonesia has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, police must understand the Convention, in order to avoid such an event again."

Victor Mambor, AJI Papua chairperson said of the incident in West Papua that: "The police chief must educate their officers to understand Indonesia Press Law. Most violations against journalist in West Papua happen to Indigenous Papuan journalists. This incident is a case of police discrimination."

The IFJ said: "The situation for journalists in Indonesia remains a key area of concern. These incidents highlight the environment that journalists in Indonesia operate within. Following the International Partnership Mission to Indonesia (IPMI) it is clear that journalists across Indonesia continue to be targeted for their work, which is a clear threat to press freedom. We call on the Indonesian government to investigate the situation and engage the local authorities to better understand the rights of journalists and media workers in Indonesia."

In November, the IFJ participated in the second IPMI, which visited Jayapura in Papua, Makassar in Sulawesi and Jakarta. The mission met with local journalists, civil society groups and government ministers to discuss the challenges for press freedom in Indonesia.

Attempt to steal 20% stake of Freeport mine

Jakarta. The operator of one of the world's biggest copper and gold mines was at the center of a major political scandal in Indonesia after confirming that the speaker of parliament tried to extort shares from the company to ensure its contract extension.

Maroef Sjamsoeddin, head of Freeport McMoRan Inc's Indonesian operations, told the parliament's ethics panel he secretly recorded a meeting in which speaker Setya Novanto asked for a 20 percent stake, estimated to be worth billions of dollars, in the US-based company's Indonesia unit.

His remarks on Thursday came after Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Sudirman Said reported Setya to the ethics panel last month and submitted a transcript of the conversation recorded by Maroef. In the recording, Maroef said, Setya indicated that a 20 percent stake be given to President Joko Widodo and Vice President Jusuf Kalla. Setya allegedly told the Freeport executive that he could ensure the miner's contract would be extended from 2021 to 2041.

The Indonesian government already has a 9.36 percent stake in Freeport's Indonesian operations, and is due to take another 10.64 percent stake under existing regulations.

Freeport had asked for an extension of its contract to give it legal certainty before investing billions of dollars in an underground phase at its Grasberg gold and copper sites in Papua province. Freeport generated 8.4 percent of its revenue last year from Indonesia.

The contract extension and now the political scandal are more headaches for Freeport in Indonesia, where new rules have banned the export of unprocessed minerals, forcing mining groups to build local smelters.

'Tip of the iceberg'

Joko is "monitoring and following this carefully," Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung told reporters on Friday.

"Some of it is hyperbole and some of it is fact. Let the ethics council investigate it," Pramono said, referring to the recording.

Vice President Kalla was quoted by Kompas newspaper on Friday as saying the Freeport case was just the tip of the iceberg and the government will pull out all stops to "clean up corruption no matter what happens."

Indonesia is routinely ranked as one of the world's most corrupt countries and the anti-corruption NGO Transparency International says its surveys show Parliament is perceived to be among its most corrupt institutions.

The allegations threaten to further erode investor confidence in Indonesia, analysts said.

"The multifarious affair surrounding Setya reeks of the sort of shady dealings and political conspiracy theories which makes investing and operating in Indonesia extremely precarious and challenging," Concord Consulting said in a note.

Suharto's Golkar

The parliament speaker is from Golkar, the party that the late and authoritarian president Suharto used as his political vehicle. Golkar supported Joko's opponent in the country's 2014 presidential election.

Freeport's Maroef told the ethics panel he met speaker Setya along with businessman Muhammad Reza Chalid at their request to discuss business at a Jakarta hotel in May and June.

"I took the initiative to record it ... because I was by myself and there was two of [them]," Maroef said, adding he'd used his phone to record the last meeting with the pair.

"The parliament speaker and his friend Reza told me they wanted a 20 percent stake and also asked for a hydroelectric power project," he said.

The pair said they were working with Chief Security Minister Luhut Pandjaitan and also wanted to be involved in Freeport's planned smelter project, Maroef added.

Luhut said earlier this week that Jakarta would not do an early extension of Freeport's contract because local regulations say negotiations can only begin two years before the contract ends in 2021, local media reported.

This was the parliament speaker's second brush with the ethics council in recent months. He was criticized after appearing next to US presidential candidate Donald Trump at a news conference in September in New York.

Reuters

Repression of Papuans could spell trouble for Indonesia



Crackdown will only strengthen resolve for independence. Indonesian police in riot gear face hundreds of Papuan students during a Dec. 1 protest in Jakarta. (Photo supplied by Kontras)

Indonesian rights activists said the brutal response of police toward protesting Papuan students has incited hatred and could further strengthen the resolve among Papuans to demand independence.

"If this approach continues, it is possible that in a few years no more Papuans will claim to be part of Indonesia," Budi Hernawan, activist with the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy, said at a Dec. 3 press conference in Jakarta.

Several hundred protesters, mostly Papuan students, rallied Dec. 1 in Jakarta to commemorate the anniversary of Papua's 1961 independence from Dutch colonial rule, in which the Morning Star flag was first unfurled. The Indonesian government has banned the raising of the Morning Star flag.

Police used tear gas and forcibly dispersed the protesters. At least a dozen students were injured, with one reportedly suffering a fractured skull. Some 306 students were arrested and later released.

In Nabire in Papua province, 32 people were also arrested during a simultaneous protest and later released.

Jakarta police chief Tito Karnavian told reporters that the police responded with tear gas after students threw stones at police. Two police officers were injured in the melee, he said.

Hernawan a former Franciscan missionary said the tactics used by police against Papuan protesters was similar to what was done against the people of East Timor, when that country was still part of Indonesia.

"The pattern is similar. Brutality committed in East Timor made people angry, fearful and increasingly consolidated the opposition movement," he said.

Puri Kencana Putri from the Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence said repressive acts indicate that there is no good news for human rights in Papua. She also questioned the commitment of the government for peace in the restive province.

"Police should have behaved in a more humane way," she said.

Meanwhile, Frans Nawipa of the Papua Students Alliance who participated in the rally said Papuans should have the right to determine their own future.

"We want to live in a society without constantly being victims of violence and cruelty," he said. He also questioned why a struggle for self-determination was considered a separatist movement.

"What we understand is that separatist movements use weapons. What we did was peaceful," he said.

Divine Word Father Paul Rahmat of Vivat International-Indonesia said he lamented the lack of church support in Papua in addressing the repressive violence used by Indonesian authorities against the Papuan people.

"Efforts in education, health and others have been made. However, we also need the voice of the church as an institution to protest such violence," he said.

A low-level insurgency has simmered for decades in resource-rich Papua.

10 bus loads of West Papuan students protest in Jakarta.

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - The Jakarta Police have secured several demonstrators from the Papua Students Alli-

ance (AMP) for raising the banned morning star flag, a symbol of the Papuan independence, during a rally around Hotel Indonesia, on Tuesday.

Operations Bureau Chief City Police Commissioner Pol Martuani Sormin revealed that the police had secured 127 people.

"The demonstrators were also carrying weapons," Martuani noted.

A total of 10 buses were used to transport the protesters to the Jakarta Police Headquarters.

Jakarta Polices Director General of Criminal Investigations Commissioner Krishna Murti remarked that the police will not detain the protesters.

He noted that the police will obtain information and record the identities of the students.

AMP spokesperson Abido confirmed that during the demonstration, the morning star flag was not raised. The demonstration was held to voice the aspirations regarding the expression of Papuan identity to mark December 1.

Abido urged the central government to grant freedom to the Papuans to live independently in determining their own rights as a democratic solution for the people of West Papua.

Papuans being arrested ahead of 1st December

Jayapura, Jubi – "In Papua, not only the freedom of expression is restricted, but the freedom of worship as well," Director of Jakarta Legal Aid Institute (LBH Jakarta), Alghiffari Aqsa told Jubi on Sunday (29/11/2015).

LBH Jakarta, Aqsa said, condemned the arbitrarily arrest of 17 people in Nabire on Saturday (28/11/2015) when cleaning the area at Taman Bunga Bangsa Papua in

Nabire. The arrest was connected with the preparation of a prayer rally on 1 December 2015.

“Nabire Police made the arrest without apparent reason, without a warrant or detention letter. Those who were arrested include Markus Boma, Frans Boma, Habakuk Badokapa, Sisilius Dogomo, Agus Pigome, Matias Pigai, Jermias Boma, Yohanes Agapa, Ales Tebai, Yesaya Boma, Adolop Boma, Matias Adli, Martinus Pigai, Aluwisius Tekege and 3 others,” said Aqsa.

This incident increases the number of violations against the freedom of expression and aspiration in Papua. And this time the freedom of worship is also violated. The local police’s act has violated the constitution, which guarantees the freedom of every citizen to worship. “If cleaning the park for worship is enough for an arrest, what is going to happen to those who plans to do a rally on 1 December? What is the police’s reference to arrest people who were preparing a space for worship?” stated Aqsa.

He further said commemorating the Papuan identity on every 1 December is part of the freedom of expression and aspiration of Papuans that guaranteed by the constitution, thus the Indonesian Government must protect it. The government should use a dialogue approach instead of repressive approach.

Therefore, LBH Jakarta urged the President Jokowi, Papua Police Chief and Indonesian Police Chief to not taking repressive act on next 1 December. The constitution must be enforced. “Guarantee the freedom of expression for Papuans in Indonesia on 1 December!” Aqsa firmly said.

Earlier, as reported by Antara News Agency, the Papua Police Chief Inspector General Paulus Waterpauw, on Saturday evening, told 17 civilians have been arrested because of raising the morning star flag. However, soon he corrected the statement by saying they were arrested not because of raising the morning star flag but rather trying to against the officers when to be dispersed in doing celebration at Lapangan Gizi Nabire. They even submitted an announcement letter about the celebration of the Papua Independence Day on 1 December and put the raising of the morning flag in the agenda. They were cleaning the field at that time and refused to be dispersed, said Waterpauw while adding the police have also sowed the flag-pole. *(Abeth You/rom)*

Member of the Secretariat of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, Kaka Rex Rumakiek, along with ULMWP Ambassador, Nai Amatus Douw, officiated at the raising of the Morning Star Flag in front of Parliament House, Canberra on 1 December 2015.

Action in Australia

A number of Parliamentarians attended to support the United Liberation Movement of West Papua, (ULMWP) including Greens Leader, Senator Richard di Natale, Greens Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, Senator Scott Ludlum, Greens Senator Janet Rice, ALP

Senator Claire Moore, and ALP MP, Ms Melissa Parke.

Co-Chairs of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, Mr Rod Little and Ms Jacki Huggins, and President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Ms Ged Kearney, and a number of church representatives also attended.

At the flag raising ceremony, Kaka Rex issued a ULMWP Statement calling on the Australian Government to actively encourage and assist PNG Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, to carry out the Pacific Islands Forum decision to arrange a high level Pacific human rights fact-finding mission to West Papua.

On the same day, Senator di Natale moved a motion in the Senate to acknowledge the rights of the people of West Papua, but the Government refused permission to debate the motion.

The full text of the ULMWP Statement is:

An Appeal to the Australian Government from the Leaders of the People of West Papua for Action on a Pacific Islands Human Rights Fact Finding Mission to West Papua
1 December 2015 -

We, the United Liberation Movement for West Papua Secretariat, leaders of the people of West Papua, urge the Australian Government to take immediate action to ensure that a high level human rights fact finding mission to West Papua is established as soon as possible in line with the decision of Pacific Islands Forum leaders in Port Moresby in September this year.

Since 1 December 1961 when the Morning Star flag was raised in West Papua for the first time, it has been a powerful symbol of our hope that we will live in peace and freedom in our land. Despite much violence and suffering for our people, we still hope for the day when there will be peace in our land.

We strongly believe that we can have peace and freedom in West Papua if our friends in Australia and in other parts of the Pacific support us.

As leaders of the people of West Papua, we express our deep concern about the on-going human rights

abuses committed by Indonesian security forces against our people.

We emphatically reject the repeated assertion by successive Australian Governments that the human rights situation in West Papua has improved. Our people continue to be killed, beaten, mutilated, tortured and raped by Indonesian security forces. Our people continue to be arrested and jailed for peaceful public demonstrations. If the Australian Government believes that the human rights situation in West Papua has improved, we urge it to give concrete evidence to indicate that this is the case.

The Pacific Islands Forum meeting in Port Moresby in September noted human rights concerns in West Papua and asked the Chair, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr Peter O'Neill, to consult with Indonesian authorities to arrange a fact finding mission to investigate the human rights situation in West Papua.

We urge Prime Minister Turnbull, Foreign Affairs Minister, Julie Bishop, and the Australian Government to actively encourage and support Mr O'Neill in efforts to arrange for a Pacific Islands Forum fact finding mission to West Papua as soon as possible. We also urge them to encourage the United Nations to take an active interest in investigating the human rights situation in West Papua.

We also ask that the Australian Government immediately stops Australian Federal Police training of the Indonesian counter-insurgency unit, Detachment 88, which we believe is directly implicated in the killings of many nonviolent activists in West Papua in the last few years. We want the killing of our young people, the rape of our women, and the torture, arrest and jailing of our people to stop.

Australia is a country in which human rights and political and civil freedoms are respected and protected. The people of West Papua want the same. We urge the Australian Government and the Australian people to help us in our struggle to end the violence and oppression in our beloved land.

The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) represents West Papuans inside and outside the country and is the umbrella group for the National Federal Republic of West Papua, the West Papuan National Coalition for Liberation and the

National Parliament of West Papua (incorporating the West Papua National Committee).

Adelaide action in Support



picture from Adelaide event 28/11/15

Locally in Adelaide, we held a fundraising lunch where supporters donated around \$600 towards our human rights campaigning. Interstate and overseas there were many events held. Reports of these can be found on Facebook at the Australia West Papua Association page and Free West Papua page .

Papua's Karma raises questions after release

Radio New Zealand International - December 1, 2015

Johnny Blades -- The West Papuan independence campaigner Filep Karma has questioned the veracity of the process around his early release from prison last month.

Mr Karma, who was released after spending eleven years in prison for raising the banned Papuan Morning Star Flag, has promised to continue his peaceful campaign for West Papua independence.

However he said after being forced to go to jail under an unclear degree, charged with treason, he had now been forced to leave prison with similar "dubious" treatment.

Filep Karma previously refused government offers of an early release from his fifteen year jail term be-

cause he did not want to admit guilt for a crime he didn't commit.

In the end, Indonesian officials forced West Papua's leading political prisoner to leave Abepura Prison under a remission directive.

In a statement, Mr Karma claimed he was given just an hour to leave prison, but accorded no opportunity to see the official government letter ordering his release, or the conditions around it.

Captivity

The statement is timely as it comes as West Papuans today mark Flag Day, the 54th anniversary of when Morning Star flag was first raised in a Papuan proclamation of independence.

The flag was later banned by Jakarta after it assumed control of the former Dutch territory, and Indonesian authorities take a dim view of Papuans who raise the Morning Star Flag or voice any separatist sentiment.

Filep Karma is not the only Papuan who has been jailed for raising the flag, but his 15-year jail term is the harshest sentence to date.

In 2011, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said that Filep Karma's detention was arbitrary because he was imprisoned for the exercise of his rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Indonesia's Political, Law and Security Minister, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, recently said Filep Karma was wrongly convicted of treason, or makar, which implies inciting armed revolt.

Filep Karma expected it would take time to adapt to being out of prison again after such a long time.

"The process of my exemption was very brutal," he said. "Even animals that are in captivity may need some time to adapt before being released into the

wild. I had been imprisoned for eleven years, but I have not been given the time to adapt. Am I, a Papuan, was nothing more valuable than an animal?"

Since it came to power a year ago, Indonesia's government of President Joko Widodo has been making clear efforts to foster economic development in Papua.

But long-running injustices related to the conduct of security forces in the region, as well as the state programme of transmigration continue to marginalise Papuans in their homeland.

Ideology to "never die"

The independence leader accused the Indonesian government of seeking to destroy his credibility for the sake of Jakarta's image and authority.

"My current status, released from prison, wasn't the result of a good will or good policy of the Racist Colonial Government of Indonesia as stated by Paulus Waterpauw, Papua Police Chief whom I consider as an invader's servant in the Land of Papua."

Mr Karma suggested that Mr Waterpauw would better serve his responsibility as head policeman in Papua by seeking arrests of unidentified people and military personnel "who continuously kill Papuans rather than dealing with what I believe about the Papua liberation ideology".

He said that this ideology would never die. The former Indonesian civil servant said that his freedom from prison had materialised because of growing international pressures against the government of Indonesia which he says "continues to commit crimes against humanity and human rights violations against its colony's people and against its own people".

RNZ International recently visited Filep Karma in Abepura prison, where he indicated he would continue to endorse independence for West Papuans. According to the online political prisoner database

Papuans Behind Bars, 47 political prisoners are currently detained in West Papua.

Concerns Over Possible Expansion of Military's Authority

<http://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/TNI-12012015125414.html>

Dewi Safitri 2015-12-01

At a training session in South Jakarta in mid-November, a military officer taught martial arts to 300 students from a public school.

The activity was part of a defense program recently added to Indonesia's national curriculum. The program, which is mandatory for schools in several provinces, marks the latest move by the Indonesian military (TNI) to make its presence felt in society, as well as gain more control over combatting drug trafficking and terrorism – areas traditionally handled by the police.

Human rights advocates and other observers, however, worry that the military is now trying to expand its authority at a time when past abuses allegedly committed by TNI members remain unresolved.

"Numerous human rights violations cases during the reformation period have not been resolved yet," Haris Azhar, director of the Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS), told BenarNews.

He was referring to the so-called reformation era that followed the end of the Suharto regime (1967-98), during which the military controlled many aspects of Indonesian society.

"What if similar cases happen in the near future? What is the resolution, while the old cases have not yet been resolved," Haris added.

Such concerns expressed by Haris and other observers have deepened with a draft of a presidential decree that has been circulating in recent weeks, and

which proposes to expand the military's powers by placing the TNI directly under the president's authority and not under the Ministry of Defense, where the military's authority still rests.

"The document being discussed by the defense ministry and TNI headquarters clearly intends to restore the TNI's role in maintaining public order and security, which is now the job of the police," Tempo, an Indonesian news publication, said in an editorial published last month.

"If this proposal moves forward, it will be a betrayal of the reform movement," Tempo opined.

Greater military role?

Fears that the military might be trying to restore its past prominent role – which, at times, was repressive under Suharto – first crept in back in March and April, when the TNI set up a special command to help police fight terrorists, and military forces staged counter-terrorism drills in Poso.

Poso, the capital of Central Sulawesi province, is a hotbed of terrorist activity where the country's most wanted militant, Santoso, heads the Eastern Indonesia Mujahideen (MIT) group.

The drills were unusual because the authority for combating terrorists formally rests with the National Police through its anti-terrorism unit, Densus 88.

A few weeks later, the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), a Jakarta-based think-tank, published a report that examined the very question of the Indonesian military's expanding role.

According to IPAC, the military is trying to increase its authority to combat terrorists by persuading the country's new president, Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, to authorize an expansion of its powers.

"The TNI has managed to position itself as the president's reliable ally at a time when he is under political pressure from all sides," IPAC Director Sidney Jones said when the institute released its report on May 25. "It is more important than ever that the Indonesian parliament exercise its oversight role

and ensure that the military restricts itself to defence, narrowly defined.”

“There would be less concern about the expansion of the TNI’s role if there had been any progress in the last decade toward improving military accountability, but there has been almost none,” Jones added.

‘Our obligation’

In October, the Jakarta Post quoted Gen. Moeldoko, the former head of Indonesia’s armed forces, as saying that an expansion of the military’s authority had been discussed during his command of TNI. But military spokesman Tatang Sulaiman denied that the former TNI chief, who retired a few months ago, had talked about widening the military’s powers.

“What authority expansion?” Tatang said. “[I]t is our obligation to guard the country’s strategic assets and help police,” Tatang said.

He also rejected allegations that the military was trying to undermine the police’s authority in combating terrorism and drugs.

“Our military have 14 major obligations, which includes law enforcement. If we saw people throwing a drug party in front of us while the police was absent at the moment, do you think our personnel would just neglect it?” Tatang said.

Human rights advocates worry, nonetheless, that President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo – who took office in October 2014 after campaigning on a pledge of making improvements to Indonesia’s young democracy – might give in to the military’s demand for a wider role by agreeing to implement the controversial decree.

“Who knows if the deal is silently signed? It’s dangerous. We need to keep our eyes on it,” said Haris of KontraS.

Forest Fires emit more CO2 than UK

Jakarta. Unreported forest clearing cost Indonesia up to \$9 billion between 2003 and 2014 in lost timber royalties – about three times the royalties it actually received, an investigation by the country’s main anti-graft agency showed on Friday.

An eight-month investigation by the country’s Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) estimated the value of the lost timber at up to \$81 billion, with the cleared land often used for growing crops or mining.

A copy of its report, seen by Reuters and due to be handed to government ministers on Friday, will put further pressure on President Joko Widodo who has been criticized by green groups and other Southeast Asian nations on forestry policy and for failing to stop the annual “haze” problem from forest-burning.

“Where does the money go – it goes to the corrupters,” Dian Patria, group head of corruption prevention for natural resources at the KPK told Reuters. “It could be \$9 billion, it could be more, because these are quite conservative figures.

“This is not only a corruption issue, it’s also about the long-term environmental impact.”

Home to the world’s third-largest tropical forests and a major palm oil and pulp and paper producer, Indonesia will be in the spotlight at the UN’s climate change conference in Paris in December.

Unregulated land clearing has long been a problem in the country, which lost 1.5 million hectares of tree cover last year, up from 1.1 million hectares in 2013.

The KPK report cited ineffective law enforcement, inaccurate production data and auditing by timber plantations, a lack of transparency on royalties data within government ministries, and poor coordination between central and regional governments as causes for the lost timber revenue.

Over the 12 years to 2014, Indonesia earned just \$3.2 billion from timber royalties, said the report, which comes as Joko’s government battles sluggish economic growth.

Late last month, Indonesia announced it would borrow \$4.2 billion from international agencies to cover a widening budget deficit.

The report, which did not name any companies or individuals, highlighted rising timber prices and land clearing for the rapid expansion of palm oil and pulp and paper production, as well as mining.

The worst year for state losses was in 2012, it showed, one year after the government signed off on its ban on primary forest clearing.

The KPK will hand its report to the forestry and finance ministries and the country’s audit agency, and will monitor

the development of action plans to correct problem areas, Patria said.

If no action was taken within 12 months it could hand its findings to its corruption investigations arm, he added.

FOUR KNPB ACTIVISTS JAILED FOR OPINIONS

VICTOR MAMBORDES 02, 2015 HUMAN RIGHTS



KNPB's flag – Jubi

Jayapura, Jubi –A lawyer for four activists of West Papua National Committee (KNPB) in Manokwari region, said the jail sentence of 1 year 6 months for them was too harsh because they simply expressed different views.

“Alexander Nekenem, Othen Gombo, Nopinus Humawak, Yoram Magay were convicted because of different views,” said lawyer Yan Christian Warinussy in a written statement received by Jubi in Jayapura on Monday (11/30/2015).

According to the Papuan human rights lawyer from the Institute for Research, Study and Development of Legal Aid (LP3BH) Manokwari, on Nov. 27, as the legal team received a copy of verdict number: 107 / Pid.B / 2015 / PN.Mnk on behalf of Alexander Dekenem et al. The letter stated that the defendants were sentenced to prison, each

for one year and six months, with their time in custody deducted.

Prosecutor Irna Indira Ruth sought two years imprisonment for them.

That ruling, the Warinussy is still waiting for an official copy of the decision of the Registrar Court of Manokwari, in order to learn the basic consideration of the judges who had declared the four defendants were found guilty so that sentenced them.

According to the Secretary of the Regional Parliament, Rafael Natkime, the verdict will never confine their ideology.

“Be in Jail is one of the highest sacrifices for fighters,” he said.

He said four KNPB activists were detained on May 20, 2015 during a peaceful demonstration in Manokwari with three agendas, first, demanding the state to immediately open access to foreign journalists in Papua, according to a statement the president of Joko Widodo, second was to immediately open the democratic space for the people of West Papua. And the last was to support the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) as representatives of Papuans in Melanesian Spread head Group (MSG). (Mawel Benny/ Tina)

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