



Papuan Bishop calls on people to stop selling land

Benny Mawel, Jayapura July 5, 2017



Giving in to corporations for financial gain 'means trading off cultural heritage, leads to poverty for future generations'

Bishop John Philip Saklil of Timika in Papua with local people in one of his parishes. Bishop Saklil has called on Papuans to stop selling their lands because they will lose their rights and identity if they do. (Photo by Benny Mawel)

A Papuan bishop has warned people that selling their land for money risks not only their future but also their cultural identity.

Bishop John Philip Saklil of Timika in Papua said land is part of the cultural identity of indigenous Papuans and selling it means they are trading off their cultural heritage.

"I'm worried that future generations of Papuans will have nothing; losing their rights to the land and its treasures," Bishop Saklil said.

"If you want to make money, stop moving to cities and remain in the villages to plant and cultivate the land," he said.

The bishop said he is afraid that if the congregation ignores his warning, Papuans will have no more land and will remain poor and destitute in their own country.

Wiry Supriyadi, coordinator of the Jayapura-based Papua People's Network — an organization that provides advocacy for people's economic, social and cultural rights- said that losing property rights is a real threat to Papuans.

"It's a great concern that a large portion of land in Papua has been sold to developers," said Supriyadi.

He said that 441 mining and non-mining companies have already secured permits to operate in Papua and manage a concession area of about 29 million hectares from Papua's total landmass of more than 43 million hectares.

"Almost half of Papuan land has been bought up by corporations in a dishonest, deceitful way," he told ucanews.com on July 3.

John Gobay, chairman of the Papuan Customary Council, called on fellow Papuans to heed Bishop Saklil's warning as part of a campaign "or else corporations will control the whole of Papua."

"All communities must communally guard their land," he said.

He also called on the government to protect the rights of indigenous people, by creating a policy to prohibit people from selling their land, including sanctions for those breaching it.

"Without it, the bishop's call would be useless," he said, adding that the bishop's fear that Papuans will lose their ownership of land can become a reality one day if no action is taken.

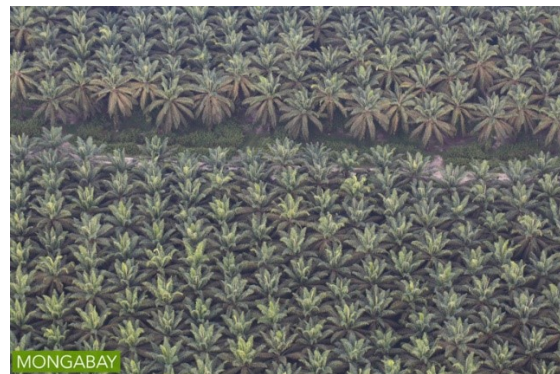
Engelbertus P. Degey, head of Mapia Tengah district, agreed with the bishop, but asked the church to engage seriously with all parties.

"The church has a big influence. I hope Timika Diocese can be more focused in order that the 'Stop Land Selling campaign' will be more effective," said Degey on July 3.

He hoped the church would unite all communities, government and non-governmental organizations to support the campaign.

Indonesian Forests, Indonesian Palm Oil, Jokowi Commitments

21 July 2017 / Philip Jacobson & Hans Nicholas Jong



Mounting outcry over Indonesian palm oil bill as legislators press on

Justified as a means of helping small farmers, assailed as a corporate trojan horse.

The bill cements the right of oil palm planters to operate on peat soil, at a time when President Joko Widodo is trying to enforce new peat protections to stop another outbreak of devastating fires and haze.

The bill has also been criticized for outlining a variety of tax breaks and duty relief schemes for palm oil investors, although those provisions have been dialed back — but not completely eliminated — in the latest draft.

The bill's main champion in the House of Representatives is the Golkar Party's Firman Soebagyo. He says it will help farmers and protect Indonesian palm oil from foreign intervention. Responding to mounting public criticism, some cabinet mem-

rs recently asked the House to abandon the bill, but Soebagyo, who is leading the deliberations, says they will continue.

JAKARTA — A new palm oil bill is the latest battleground in the fight over how to regulate Indonesia's plantation sector in the wake of the 2015 fire and haze crisis, one of the worst environmental disasters in the country's history.

Legislators pushing the bill say it will help farmers and protect the nation's palm oil industry from foreign intervention. But critics say it is actually a plum deal for large corporations, as well as a means for vested interests to undermine peatland protection measures President Joko Widodo installed to prevent a repeat of the 2015 fires, which burned an area the size of Vermont, emitted more carbon daily than all of Europe and sickened half a million people.

The Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI) has expressed its support of the bill. The lobby group's leaders speak often of a conspiracy by Western soybean and rapeseed oil interests to undermine Indonesian palm oil for competitive purposes. The Southeast Asian nation is the

world's largest producer of the commodity, found in everything from chocolate to laundry detergent.

Firman Soebagyo, a member of House of Representatives Commission IV overseeing agriculture, plantations, fisheries, maritime affairs and food, is leading the deliberation on the bill. He frames it as needed to counter a foreign assault on Indonesian palm oil and ensure that the country's poorest citizens can prosper. It is the same argument he has used to excoriate sustainability pledges made by the world's largest refiners and users of palm oil. As a result of public pressure, consumer goods giants like Unilever and processors of the oil such as Wilmar International have promised to purge their supply chains of deforestation, peatland conversion, land grabbing and labor abuses; but while some Indonesian officials support these policies, Soebagyo and others have worked to dismantle them.

"We won't be lied to by developed countries that propagandize about palm oil harming the environment," Soebagyo said last year with regard to the bill. "We oppose this negative campaign, because palm oil is our future." President Jokowi's administration responded to a mounting public outcry over the bill last week when State Secretary Pratikno sent a letter to the agriculture minister outlining criticisms of the bill. And then on Monday, at a meeting with the House's Legislation Board, which is headed by Soebagyo, cabinet members questioned the need for the bill, since it overlaps with existing laws. Soebagyo replied that the ministers had not seen the latest draft of the bill, dated July 13, and that the House would press on.

Perhaps the greatest point of contention is that the bill cements the right of oil palm interests to operate on peat soil. The large-scale drainage of Indonesia's peat swamp regions by plantation firms is the chief underlying cause of the fires that burn almost every year across the now-dried-out landscapes. These fires are a carbon bomb that makes Indonesia one of the top greenhouse gas emitters. After the 2015 disaster, President Jokowi declared a moratorium on peatland drainage. Industry groups and some government officials have spoken out against this and other measures on the grounds that they hurt investor confidence.

Specifically, green groups point to an article of the bill that says plantations can exist on peat. While the stipulation is vague, critics argue it could be used to undermine attempts to keep plantation firms from expanding further into the nation's peat zones, at a time when many are pushing for them to be dislodged from peatlands they already control.

"This is a 'rubber article' — its interpretation is so wide, you can easily play around with it," Greenpeace campaigner Annisa Rahmawati said in an interview. "It could be used to undermine the spirit of Jokowi's commitment." Farmers need to be allowed to plant peat with oil palm, Soebagyo believes. "For peat, the only thing farmers with two or three hectares can really make money off of planting is oil palm," he said on the sidelines of Monday's meeting. "If they're not allowed to do that, how will they live? Are watermelon and pineapple really enough?"

One of the bill's selling points, according to Soebagyo, is that it obligates companies to form "partnerships" with farmers. In principle this is not new: oil palm firms have long been required to give the local community 20 percent of their land for smallholder cultivation. Companies typically ignore this mandate, with government officials failing to hold them accountable.

"It's rubbish," Rahmawati said of the notion that the bill does anything more for farmers than existing legislation. "The laws aren't the problem," she added. "The problem is the implementation and enforcement of those laws."

Another point of contention is corporate handouts. Previous drafts of the bill outlined a variety of tax breaks and duty relief schemes for palm oil investors; a coalition of NGOs decried that as "a corporate effort to drain state finances." While those provisions were dialed back in the latest draft, it still mentions "fiscal incentives" to be provided by the state, suggesting that such measures could be laid out in implementing regulations to be issued by one or more ministries after the bill's passage.

New draft or not, the bill remains a problem, said Khalisah Khalid, head of campaigns at the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi), the country's largest environmental pressure group and a member of the coalition. "They're claiming they're a big industry Indonesia should take pride in, but they're always asking for privileges while there's never been an improvement," she said in an interview. The 2014 Plantation Law "already gives them many privileges."

Indonesia recently introduced a major subsidy via the Crude Palm Oil Supporting Fund, which, along with an increase in the required rate for blending palm oil with diesel fuel, is meant to prop up domestic demand for the commodity. (The CPO Fund, as it is known, was also justified on the basis of helping small farmers, but last month the Oil Palm Smallholders Union (SPKS) sued its management body, claiming the fund has only been used to benefit large companies.) Of the financial measures of-

ferred in the palm oil bill, Gadjah Mada University professor Rimawan Pradiptyo said in February, “Such excessive incentives will trigger the expansion of oil palm plantations, which will affect the sustainability and diversity of our forests.” Soebagyo replied to concerns about the bill fueling unsustainable land clearing by pointing to an article in the latest draft that obliges the government to draw up a masterplan for the industry. “We don’t have a blueprint and thus there’s no limit on how many hectares [plantations can expand].” The latest draft says nothing about a floor or ceiling for potential expansion, although such details could be stipulated in implementing regulations. It gives the government five years to create the masterplan.

The backlash against the bill is also about what it does not do. At a time when a huge number of oil palm firms are accused of grabbing indigenous lands, the bill says nothing about the need for companies to obtain free, prior and informed consent of communities before operating in their territory. At a time when reports of forced labor and other abusive practices are cropping up with increasing regularity, the bill says nothing about worker treatment.

In the country’s easternmost region of Tanah Papua, where the industry is quickly expanding into some of Indonesia’s last best forests, civil society groups under the banner of the Papuan Coalition of Palm Oil Victims said lawmakers should be using their time to debate the long-awaited indigenous rights bill instead. “That’s much more important than this palm oil bill,” said John Gobay, a representative of the Meepago Tribal Council, one of the groups.

Samsung partnership with Korindo ignites another fire scandal



Forest clearance in Korindo's PT Papua Agro Lestari concession in Papua, Indonesia. Image: Mighty

By Deborah Lapidus Tuesday 4 July 2017

Because controversies about exploding phones and corruption weren’t enough, Samsung has entered into a joint venture with deforestation-linked Korean-Indonesian conglomerate Korindo, reveals Mighty Earth’s

Samsung’s phones are not the only thing in their business catching on fire. Samsung IT subsidiary, Samsung SDS, announced on June 19 that it has entered into a partnership with the notorious forest destroyer, Korindo Group, to form a joint venture in the logistics sector in Indonesia.

As we documented in our Burning Paradise report, Korean-Indonesian agribusiness Korindo has cleared 30,000 hectares of

rainforest and had nearly 900 fire hotspots on its palm oil concessions in Papua and North Maluku, Indonesia since 2013.



FSC to investigate Korindo's palm oil operations in Indonesia

We also found that Korindo has taken land from indigenous communities without their consent. Yet, just as Korindo has been losing more and more major global customers over its bad track record and is now being investigated by the Forest Stewardship Council, Samsung decided to proudly announce a new partnership with the company.

Samsung is no stranger to these types of allegations itself. A report released in December 2016 by a group of Korean human rights lawyers called Korean Transnational Corporations Watch (KTNC Watch) documents deplorable human rights violations that they observed on their field investigation to Samsung palm oil plantations in Riau province of Sumatra, Indonesia. The Samsung plantation companies are called PT Inecda and PT Gandaerah, and are part of a joint venture with the Indonesian Ganda Group. Ganda Group has a well documented history of human rights abuses, including coming under scrutiny in 2013 for forcibly evicting villagers from their homes and destroying them.

The report describes how the indigenous communities who have lived on this land for centuries have seen it snatched by Samsung’s plantations, with important ancestral and cultural sites taken over by the plantation. The company has diverted the rivers to irrigate the palm oil plantation, leaving the rest of the surrounding area with a severe water shortage.

In addition, the pesticides and other toxic chemicals used on the plantation are polluting the waterways. Local communities can no longer get the clean water they need to drink, clean, or wash. The plantations are also resulting in a major loss of biodiversity, which threatens the food and livelihood of the indigenous communities.

Samsung has been found offering bribes to discourage efforts to claim communal rights to the land, paying certain community members to spy on their neighbors and report back.



A former well site near the plantation dormitories, now abandoned because the water dried up.

Photo Credit: Advocates for Public Interest Law

The report also documents extensive human rights violations of workers on Samsung's plantations. There are frequent instances of child labor identified on the plantations and many workers report bringing their children or spouses to work to help them meet the high daily quotas set by Samsung.

Workers are expected to handle toxic chemicals and work in a setting with inadequate safety conditions. There are no formal contracts, very low wages, high daily quotas, and long hours. Workers that live on the plantations are also subject to very poor, unhealthy living conditions.



An elementary school child is taking a break on top of heavy equipment while working with his father at the PT Ghandaera plantation, picking, bagging, and moving grains of palm oil fruits (November 12, 2016). Photo Credit: Advocates for Public Interest Law



Worker's housing inside the Samsung plantation. Photo Credit: Advocates for Public Interest Law

Given the unsavory operations of both Korindo and Samsung in Indonesia, it is no surprise that these companies would see eye to eye on how to conduct business in the country. But just as this new partnership brings new opportunities for growth to both companies, it also brings new opportunities for Samsung's millions of consumers around the globe to take action to end both companies' abuses in Indonesia.

Given the unsavory operations of both Korindo and Samsung in Indonesia, it is no surprise that these companies would see eye to eye on how to conduct business in the country.

Samsung can't afford another PR nightmare right now, as it's working to build back its reputation following the recall of 2.5 million phones and as its CEO is on trial for massive corruption scandals in South Korea.

The last thing Samsung needs is to be caught up in a scandal over forest destruction and species extinction. If enough Samsung customers take action, we can convince them to drop the partnership with Korindo, sending a clear message to Korindo that forest destruction is bad for business.

Deborah Lapidus is campaigns director, Mighty. This post is republished from Mighty with permission.

Log Delivery out of Papua should be watched



Illustration of illegal logging – IST

Kaimana, Jubi – The change of Forestry Minister's regulation on forest wealth affects wood processing systems and the like in each region.

Regulation of Papua and West Papua Governor in 2017 that all logs logged by logging companies in Papua are no longer sent out without processed.

Chairman of DPRD Kaimana, Frans Amerbey requested that the regulation of these two governors should be reinforced.

According to him, eliminating round wood shipments out of Papua and West Papua in 2017 will have an impact on development.

"It's a rule that must be upheld, and certainly its consideration refers to the higher rules. So we have to be more firmly and supervise the implementation, so there is no violation," he told Jubi in Kaimana, July 1.

He said that the policy against the rules already applies. If a logging company has not yet established an industry, it is judged to be the company's sole reason.

"For me, if the timber industry is built in that area the impact is large, there will be an absorption of labors, the sale of agricultural products can be absorbed, if there is a good economic increase. So, the rules should be more assertive," he said.

Separately, the Coordinator of Forest Service (Dishut) of West Papua for Kaimana District, F.I. Lawalata said, his role is only regional representatives of public servant there, while related authority, administration and licensing submitted to Dishut West Papua.

Residents of Kaimana, who is also an ulayat owner in the Buruway District, Sonny Tana, hopes that all HPHs operating in Tanah Papua comply with appli-

cable regulations, and can establish industries to reduce unemployment. (*)

Swim For West Papua

In August 2017 six young swimmers will embark on a 69km journey up the length of Lake Geneva. They will carry with them a petition and the voices of thousands of people demanding an internationally supervised vote for the people of West Papua.



Swim for West Papua is the Free West Papua campaign's 2017 grass roots movement to secure a free and fair independence referendum for the West Papuan people who have been the victims of gross human rights violation and slow-motion genocide which began in the 1960s. This 'people-power' petition directly compliments the higher diplomatic efforts of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) and International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP).

Swim for West Papua is your chance to add your voice and demand the United Nations uphold their mandate and put human rights before mineral rights, so the West Papuan people can determine their own future without fear of reprisal. You can make a difference. Sign the petition here.

The Petition can also be found on the Free West Papua Campaign website

Add your voice, #BackTheSwim and help #LetWestPapuaVote.



The Petition.

"As concerned citizens from around the world, we call on you to urgently address the human rights situation in West Papua and to review the UN's involvement in the administration of West Papua that led to its unlawful annexation by Indonesia - and the human rights abuse that continues today. We call upon you to: appoint a Special Representative to investigate the human rights situation in West Papua; put West Papua back on the Decolonisation Committee agenda and ensure their right to self-determination - denied to them in 1969 - is respected by holding an Internationally Supervised Vote (in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolutions 1514 and 1541 (XV))."



Raise awareness by printing the #BackTheSwim sign and taking a photo with it. Send us your #BackTheSwim pictures on Facebook and Twitter and we'll share your support with the world! Follow the Swim for West Papua Team's incredible journey and encourage them as they train for this epic feat! #BackTheSwim #BackTheSwim & #LetWestPapuaVote

Vanuatu continues to raise West Papua human rights violations



Delegates have started arriving in Port Vila for the 14th regional meeting of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific/European Union (ACP/EU) Parliamentary Assembly being hosted by Vanuatu that will open at the National Convention Centre tomorrow morning. The Chairman of the local Taskforce Committee organizing the program for the meeting, the Acting Clerk of Parliament, Leon Teter, says they expect around 66 delegates at the meeting and so far 44 participants have confirmed their presence. They include the co-president of ACP, Ibrahim Rassin Bundu who arrived on Sunday and the acting co-president of the EU, Cecil Kashetu Kyenge and the co-secretary of ACP, Mr. Leonard Emile Ognimba, and the co-secretary of the EU Parliament, Mrs. Donatella Pribaz.

West Papuan Leaders from the ULMWP are attending the conference as guest of the Vanuatu Government and will speak to representatives of the other Nations present *Below is the Official Publication produced by the Vanuatu Government for the conference*

Port Vila ACP-EU heard that more 1 000 West Papuans killed

Published: 21 July 2017



West Papuan leader Octo mote at the meeting

West Papuans were never allowed the proper act of self-determination guaranteed by the inalienable right to self-determination as expressed in UN human rights Covenants and by the 1962 New York Agreement, a treaty between the Netherlands and Indonesia handing provisional administration of the territory from one country to the other.

Indonesia arrived in West Papua in 1963 and immediately began violently suppressing all West Papuan aspirations for independence. West Papuans have suffered horrendously under Indonesian rule, including thirty years under Suharto dictatorship and now nearly twenty under a more democratic, but ultimately colonial, regime. More than a hundred thousand (and perhaps hundreds of thousands) have died because of Indonesia's annexation. Human rights violations, amounting to 'crimes against humanity', continue with impunity.

Indonesian state authorities, Indonesian settlers and Indonesian (as well as foreign) companies have steadily but fully assumed control over every aspect and arena of West Papuan life. Indonesian claims to have developed West Papua ignore the fact that development has primarily benefited Indonesians not Papuans. Ethnically, culturally and politically, West Papua is part of the Melanesian Pacific, not Southeast Asia. Papuans are black-skinned Melanesians like the people in neighbouring Papua New Guinea, the Solomons Islands, and Vanuatu. Indonesia and especially its security forces treat West Papuans as sub-human because of this racial difference. For decades, the Indonesian government has sent tens of millions of Indonesians from more densely populated regions to its outer, more sparsely populated islands, including West Papua. A parallel voluntary migration continues to this day. In the early 1960s, indigenous Papuans constituted 97% of the population. Today, Papuans are almost a minority in the territory and are already outnumbered in the towns and cities, along the coasts and in the major areas of plantation agriculture. Their culture, the very names of their places, their words and rhythms, the skills, traditions and knowledge that have served for millennia, are being discounted, wiped out, leaving them bewildered and unprepared in an alien world.

Amnesty International has estimated that more than one hundred thousand (or about 10 percent of the population) have been killed by Indonesian security forces. Other estimates of the deaths, are in the several hundred thousands, one quarter or more of the indigenous Papuans.

On-going violations of the human rights of indigenous West Papuans, including torture, extra-judicial execution, forced disappearances and the beating and shooting of peaceful protestors, amounting in some instances to 'crimes against humanity,' with estimates ranging up to a half-million killings during Indonesia's 54 year occupation of the territory

A Yale University report is one of several defining Indonesian rule as genocidal.

The worst period of killing occurred during the 1970s and 1980s, at the height of the Suharto military dictatorship, when West Papua was officially a "military operations area." Although an even greater percentage of East Timorese likely died after Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975, the exterminationist violence employed is the same and Indonesian racist attitudes of superiority towards "subhuman" black Papuans is greater still.

CALL for ACP-EU Resolution on West Papua

· ACP-EU Parliamentarians can voice their concern and they can support Papuan rights, including the right to self-determination by rallying to the call from the 8 Pacific Island Countries for justice and respect for the right to self-determination.

· They can get regional and global intergovernmental bodies such the African Union, CARICOM and other regional and sub-regional multilateral bodies to pass resolutions and restrict commercial and other relations with Indonesia.

· As member states of the United Nations ACP –EU countries can insist on an internationally supervised referendum on independence (or at least the re-listing of West Papua as a non-self-governing territory).

· Support with one voice the proposed resolutions in the upcoming Joint ACP-EU parliament meeting in month of October and also the resolution on West Papua to be adopted at ACP Council of Ministers meeting in November 2017

· Call on ACP-EU Parliamentarians to urge their respective governments to address the issue of West Papua at the multilateral level and assist Indonesia to resolve this 54 year crisis.

Fifty years in the making: Refugees in Australia's first Manus camp offered PNG citizenship

Almost half-a-century after Australia set up its first refugee processing centre on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, its West Papuan residents have been offered PNG citizenship.



By Stefan Armbruster

Australia's first refugee camp on Manus still stands, forgotten in time, and still houses some of the original West Papuan residents and their families.

Called 'Salasia Camp' by Australian authorities, it marked the start of refugee processing on Manus almost fifty years ago.

A handful of rusty corrugated iron houses on a bare concrete slab, stand a short distance from a beach on the edge of the island's main town Lorengau.

It was built by Australia and used to avoid a diplomatic confrontation with neighbouring Indonesia by isolating a small number of influential West Papuans - also known as West Irians - on Manus.

Only few hundred metres away is the Australian-run refugee transit centre, across the island from the Lombrum

detention centre, where hundreds of current day refugees are slowly being evicted as it is shut down.

Indonesia: Activist Priest Challenges Nation's Treason Law

July 15, 2017 UCAN 0 Comment Catholic, Human Rights, Indonesia, Southeast Asia

An Indonesian priest in Papua has joined rights activists in filing a judicial review of the country's treason law in the Constitutional Court.

They said the right to freedom of expression is being abused by authorities who slap treason charges against people for simply taking part in peaceful demonstrations. The activists want the court to clarify what provisions in the law justify the charge and whether they are constitutional.

The law is used as a tool by the government to suppress the voices of Papuans protesting against injustice and rights abuses, said Father John Djonga.

"Ordinary Papuans stage demonstrations to protest abuses by the state apparatus, as well as lack of health and education services, but they are later arrested and charged with treason," he told ucanews.com on July 13.

Their lawyer, Yusman Conoras, said the government is applying the law in a very discriminatory way.

"In Jakarta, every day there are people demonstrating and it is treated casually. However, if in Papua people hold rallies, they are considered separatists," he said.

Over-repressive measures are dangerous because they trigger and foster resentment, he said.

According to the Setara Institute for Democracy and Peace 2,214 civilians and 489 political activists in Papua were victims of rights abuses last year, many of whom were arrested during demonstrations.

"We would buy Freeport now"

Staff reporter10 Jul 201710:59 News



So peaceful from above: Freeport is considering the expansion options for Grasberg as the dispute goes on

There's no resolution to the Freeport-McMoRan (US:FCX) and Indonesia dispute over a new licence for the massive Grasberg mine but the signs are good, says Jefferies.

Freeport and Indonesia have been at the negotiating table since February.

The argument is over the contract of work Freeport signed in pre-democratic Indonesia for the West Papua operation, which had sales of 500,000 tonnes of copper and 1.1 million ounces of gold in 2016.

The government of Joko Widodo is pushing for 51% state ownership of the project (up from around 10% now), and for Freeport to build a smelter and 10-year rolling licences.

Jefferies analyst Christopher LaFemina said there had been progress, even if no deal has been signed.

"Since February, the Indonesian government has issued Freeport a temporary mining licence that is valid until October 10, the government and Freeport have entered into an MoU confirming that the existing contract of work would continue to be valid until a long-term agreement is reached, Freeport has resumed export of copper concentrates, and both sides have noted that negotiations have gone relatively well," he said.

"We would buy Freeport shares now, ahead of an agreement."

LaFemina noted the US-based miner had not followed through on its threat of arbitration if there was no deal by June.

It's not all smooth-sailing, however, after Freeport sacked thousands of striking workers.

The miner has deemed a large proportion of 4,000 strikers to have resigned after not turning up to work for five days in a row, although a Freeport Indonesia spokesman told Reuters production was normal despite the loss of 10,000 workers this year.

Freeport Indonesia mine workers extend strike for fourth month

JAKARTA/TORONTO (Reuters) - An estimated 5,000 workers at the giant Grasberg copper mine operated by Freeport-McMoRan Inc's (FCX.N) Indonesian unit will extend their strike for a fourth month, a union official said on Friday, in an ongoing dispute over layoffs and employment terms.

The escalating labor issue comes as Freeport, the world's largest publicly traded copper miner, is snarled in a lengthy and costly dispute with Indonesia's government over rights to the Grasberg copper and gold mine.

Freeport resumed copper concentrate exports from Grasberg, the world's second-largest copper mine, in April after a 15-week outage related to that row, but a permanent solution is yet to be found.

Copper prices CMCU3 hit a 4-1/2 month peak on Friday, fueled by strong growth in top consumer China, a weak dollar and worries about supply disruptions.

Freeport is pushing back against revised government rules that require miners to pay new taxes and royalties, divest a 51-percent stake and relinquish arbitration rights. The Arizona-based miner wants an 'investment stability agreement' that replicates the legal and fiscal rights under its existing agreement.

Freeport Indonesia union industrial relations officer Tri Puspital told Reuters on Friday that the strike was extended because there is still no solution for worker concerns.

The strike began in May after Freeport laid off some 10 percent of its workforce to cut costs.

In May, Freeport said that mining and milling rates at Grasberg were affected by the strike, and investors will look for more information when the company reports second-quarter financial results July 25.

Indonesia said last week it would invite Freeport chief executive Richard Adkerson to Jakarta this month to try to settle a dispute, but a company spokesman would not confirm whether he would attend.

Freeport shares were down about 1 percent on New York at \$12.93 Friday morning.

Reporting by Wilda Asmarini in Jakarta, Susan Taylor in Toronto and Maytaal Angel in London; Editing by Andrea Ricci

INDONESIA: Torture occurs repeatedly as perpetrators enjoy impunity



June 23, 2017

A Statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on the occasion of International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Torture remains a serious problem in Indonesia, even after 18 years of police and legal reform. The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has noted some fundamental problems that prevent the elimination of torture in the country: 1# Indonesia has yet to issue a national law to punish the practice of torture; 2#, torture is embedded in the culture of police investigation; 3#, the pre-trial detention mechanism under Indonesia's Criminal Procedure (KUHAP) Code encourages the practice of torture in custody; 4# overcrowded prisons in Indonesia also contribute to the practice of torture; 5#, there is little accountability for the perpetrators of torture.

Until today, the Indonesian police are still the most frequent perpetrators to commit torture. This is linked to the fact that the police are also an agency that deals with the community the most. Aside from law enforcement, the police also oversee public order and security, issuing of driving licenses, dealing with terrorism, conducting vehicle and motorcycle safety operations. At all levels however, there is no proper oversight mechanism for the police. It is thus not surprising that the incidents of police abuse of power is high, compared to the military, prosecutors or

prison guards. One of the key abuses is torture committed to obtain confessions from suspects or even witnesses. Police investigators still consider that forced confessions will make the investigation process easier, despite this not being in line with the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). This occurs due to the lack of knowledge of the police investigators, and also the lack of effective oversight mechanism. In reality, victims of torture are mostly poor, uneducated people with little understanding about their legal rights. Despite the enactment of Law No. 16 of 2011 on Legal Aid, the law has yet to function effectively for the poor who face criminal investigation processes. The majority of torture cases involve suspects who are unable to access lawyers or public defenders. When public defenders are present, the police are unhappy, due to their lack of perspective upon the right to have legal counsel at every judicial stage.

The AHRC recently reported a case of torture of three detainees in the custody of Jakarta Metropolitan Police (Polda Metro Jaya) (AHRC-UAC-050-2017 and AHRC-UAC-049-2017) to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment calling for his intervention. The police tortured the detainees to force them to confess to a theft they did not commit. This case is unfortunately representative of police torture in Indonesia, where police commit multiple violations, ignore the right to legal counsel, and fabricate evidence.

There are also cases in which victims have died from police torture, and their families face difficulties in seeking justice. The problem is that the internal mechanism (ethic mechanism) and internal investigation conducted by Propam, a special unit within the police institution that investigates police abuse and violence, is not easily accessible to the public.

Apart from torture to obtain forced confessions, police are also known to torture victims for personal reasons, as in the case of Mr. Afriadi Pratama. In a love triangle between Mr. Afriadi, police officer Mr. Adil S Tambunan and Eka Boru Niraja, there was a fight between the two men in which Mr. Adil was stabbed. Mr. Afriadi tried to escape, but was arrested without a warrant, detained and tortured to death (AHRC-UAC-006-2017).

Light punishment and impunity also contribute to the bad picture of law enforcement in dealing with torture cases. Indonesian judges and prosecutors fail to impose high standards of law in prosecuting and sentencing a case of torture before the court. In the case of four police officers who tortured Mr. Suharli to death (AHRC-UAC-014-2016) for instance, while the judges recognized that the victim's death was caused by torture, the judges were not brave enough to levy a heavier sentence to properly punish the police officers.

Lack of external oversight role

Other independent agencies, particularly the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), also failed to develop high standards of law in dealing with torture cases. In 2016, the commission received 135 torture complaints, with 120 cases committed by the police, and the remaining committed by military, prison guards and other government officers. Despite Komnas HAM having a written agreement with the police, in fact it does not contribute to ensure effective law enforcement over torture cases. In some cases, Komnas HAM merely notes that individual torture does not fall within the scope and requirement of crimes against humanity, and therefore it transfers the case to police or even military if the perpetra-

tors are military personnel to be prosecuted before the military court.

The National Police Commission (Kompolnas) also fails to contribute to eradicating torture cases. Lack of mandate and authority is the main problem faced by the Kompolnas, because its mandate, as regulated by Presidential Decree No. 17 of 2011, only allows it to make recommendations, nothing more. The recommendations mostly go to the institutions where the perpetrators come from.

Meanwhile, the parliament, in particular the Commission III dealing with law and human rights, has yet shown its contribution and seriousness as part of an external oversight mechanism, to hold hearings with the Chief of National Police to mitigate torture and strengthen legal instruments to combat it. Despite Indonesia ratifying the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment since 1998, the government and the parliament have failed to develop high legal standards to prosecute and punish torture.

Considering the above situation on 26 June 2017, the AHRC urges the Indonesian government to consistently implement the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The government should develop high standards of law to prosecute and punish torture, including finishing the drafting of the New Penal Code by the Parliament, which is ongoing for the last 10 years. The government should also develop effective oversight mechanisms to ensure that all forms of torture and abuse of power conducted by state agents are punished, and that the culture of impunity is abolished.

Last but not least, the AHRC would like to congratulate the Indonesian civil society, which has been consistently working against torture for many years. Let us strengthen our work and network, and not let victims walk alone while seeking justice, because justice for torture victims is justice for all.

Around 150 West Papuan people in Nabire arrested, including children. Many tortured. JULY 8, 2017

URGENT NEWS – We have received urgent reports from West Papua that between 30th June and 6th July, around 150 West Papuan people were arrested and many of them tortured, by the Indonesian police for peaceful actions. A chronology of events reported follows.

Initial arrests

According to the West Papua National Committee (KNPB), on 30th June West Papuan activist Yanto Waine went missing for 3 days and it emerged that he had been arrested on Mulia Road in Nabire, West Papua. On 4th July West Papuan people peacefully demonstrated for his release and at least 31 of them were then arrested too. The police promised that 3 of the activists would be arrested the next day but only Yanto Waine was released, and this took place on 6th July.

Mass arrests

After Yanto Waine's release, around 150 West Papuan people peacefully marched to the Indonesian police station in Nabire to call for the release of the remaining detainees and everyone were reportedly arrested for doing so. Nine West Papuan youths and children were also among those arrested.

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AWPA SA inc is an incorporated Non government organisation that supports West Papuan Human rights and Papuans rights to self determination . Our newsletter is published every 3 months. For those wanting more frequent news please email us to arrange monthly email updates .