



Finally a vote in the U.N. in 2019 seeking self determination for West Papua.

West Papuan support groups have been patiently waiting for some exciting news about West Papua since it was annexed by Indonesia in 1969 after the Act of No Choice vote was taken. 1022 hand picked West Papuans who were held remotely separated from family and threatened with violence to themselves and family all voted in favour of joining Indonesia. Papuans have been preparing for the last few years to have that decision revisited and allow all West Papuans to have a vote about self-determination. Vanuatu has been offering to sponsor the motion to be moved at the U.N. for some time and now after intense lobbying behind the scenes the Papuan leaders have announced it is moving ahead for a vote on them matter in 2019.

Indonesia has been fiercely opposing West Papua in every forum it can, particularly in the Pacific where fellow Melanesian people have supported West Papua. They have bribed nearly every country in the region to prevent their support. We hear about China spending money in the Pacific but Indonesia is also one of the biggest funder in the region.

It will be a herculean task for West Papua to garner the number of votes it needs. But there has been a lot of back room work already done in Africa and the Caribbean with ex colonial countries who have not publicly made public statements. In some cases, we will be asking countries to abstain rather than vote in favour of Indonesia. In Australia, it is an uphill battle but well worth applying pressure and educating the Australian people about what has been happening in West Papua where the media is not allowed to go.

Indonesia: Speaking for rights

Y Max Walden [Lowy institute 98/18](#)

Last month, Amnesty International held a major press conference for the release of its first research report on Indonesia since opening a dedicated office in Jakarta.

Representatives of all major local and international media outlets, including newswires, Al Jazeera, the ABC, and *The Australian*, were in attendance for the unveiling of a harrowing

report entitled *“Don’t bother, just let him die”: Killing with impunity in Papua*.

A wider trend in Indonesia has seen human rights issues marginalised across the archipelago under the current administration.

Unlike press conferences held by other local rights organisations, this one was conducted in both Indonesian and English in the ballroom of a 4-star hotel. Amnesty International Indonesia’s charismatic executive director Usman Hamid appeared onstage amid lit-up banners, as if on a television talk show.

The report documents extrajudicial killings in the troubled provinces of Papua and West Papua, where a combination of huge mineral wealth, poverty, and a long-standing separatist movement have catalysed allegedly widespread abuses against the local population.

The report claims at least 95 people have been killed unlawfully by security forces since 2010. Usman told the assembled media that most cases are not related to political activities, in contradiction to government claims that the violence is to “eradicate the separatist movement”, and he went on to say not a single perpetrator had been brought to a civilian court: “Accountability is very rare in West Papua compared to many, many other provinces.”

When President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo was elected in 2014 with the backing of many civil society organisations, there was great optimism that past human rights abuses, including the massacres of more than a million leftists in 1965–66, would be addressed.

Usman acknowledged early progress under Jokowi’s government, and that he is the only president to make regular visits to West Papua – where he travels at least twice a year. Moreover, the release of several political prisoners and ostensible lifting of media restrictions in Papua were also applauded.

But Usman also noted that mass arrests have occurred in Papua during Jokowi’s term, and that to date “the overall state of accountability remains to be unchanged”.

In practice, media freedom in Papua hasn’t improved either.

arlier this year, the Australian chief of the BBC's Indonesia bureau, Rebecca Henschke, was arrested and expelled from the province for "hurting the feelings" of the military. A wider trend in Indonesia has seen human rights issues marginalised across the archipelago under the current administration.

Activists have observed rising religious intolerance, anti-LGBT crackdowns, and, more recently, extrajudicial killings, for which perpetrators have enjoyed almost total impunity. Ahead of Jakarta hosting the Asian Games this month, police shot dead 11 suspected criminals in only 10 days.

The government's ban last year on Hizbut ut-Tahrir – an ultraconservative Islamist organisation whose members mobilised in a number of mass demonstrations to bring down Jokowi's former ally, then-governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama – has spurred accusations from the religious right-wing that Jokowi is an authoritarian.

Many human rights activists are also disappointed and concerned with growing repression. A number of people have been jailed for insulting the president, and parliament recently made it illegal to "disrespect parliament or its members".

In this environment, Amnesty International can potentially play a vital role. When the BBC reported the sentencing of an 18-year-old for supposedly posting memes insulting to Jokowi on Facebook, for example, Amnesty International was the only rights organisation quoted.

Amnesty International opened a central Jakarta office in December 2017, pledging to campaign against the death penalty and other causes, and hired dozens of internet-savvy young professionals. By contrast, Human Rights Watch works with a local team of one: the well-known journalist Andreas Harsono, whose work to date has been vital for international coverage of human rights in Indonesia.

Despite the Jokowi administration's longstanding preoccupation with domestic affairs, Indonesia is still deeply concerned about its international image. Next year it will take up a two-year term on the UN Security Council and wants to be seen as a regional leader within ASEAN, and as a moderate, Muslim-majority democracy that protects the rights of minorities.

Jakarta's vocal offers of support to help Myanmar progress to become a successful pluralistic democracy is testament to this ambition. As was the Jokowi administration's facilitation of peace talks between Islamic scholars from Afghanistan and Pakistan in May.

Heading to the 2019 Indonesian presidential election, human rights are unlikely to be a priority for Jokowi or his rivals. Jokowi will likely point to his heavy investment in regional infrastructure, a recently touted decline in the poverty rate to single-digit figures, and the introduction of a basic form of universal healthcare – all noble achievements.

In late July, Jokowi's cabinet announced a "team" supposedly given the job to address past human rights abuses, consisting of the Attorney General's Office, the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM), the National Police, and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. It will be headed by the security minister Wiranto, a former general who was indicted by a Dili-based UN court in 2003 for crimes against humanity during East Timor's independence vote in 1999.

Vanuatu presents draft UN Resolution for West Papua to Pacific Islands Forum

Daily post Vanuatu

Vanuatu presented its draft UN Resolution for West Papua at the recent Pacific Islands Forum Officials Committee (FOC) Meeting and the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting held at the Taumeasina Resort in Apia, Samoa from 7 to 10th August 2018.

This intervention to the Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting this week was made by Vanuatu's Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade — Ralph Regenvanu after Forum Officials Committee earlier at the FOC meeting considered the draft UN resolution and noted Vanuatu's intention to submit the resolution at the United Nations General Assembly in 2019.

The Foreign Ministers Meeting noted the draft resolution to the United Nations General Assembly ('Realisation of the right of the Papuan people to self-determination in the former colony of the Netherlands New Guinea (West New Guinea).

Recalling the Pacific Islands Leaders' current position regarding Papua (West Papua), Vanuatu was able to receive support from member countries while Australia,

Papua New Guinea and Fiji reportedly expressed their reservations for the draft resolution.

However, members of the PIF noted Vanuatu's intention to take the resolution forward to the UNGA in 2019.

With the inclusion and support by Foreign Ministers for Vanuatu's UN Resolution for West Papua in the outcomes from the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting, Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai will now take the draft resolution to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Summit to be held next month in Nauru.

Newly appointed Special Envoy for the Decolonisation of West Papua for Pacific Islands States, Lora Lini confirmed that at the recent PIFS meeting in Samoa, Leaders from some member countries have indicated to Vanuatu that they will raise this issue at the Leaders Summit in Nauru.

Vanuatu seeks Forum support for West Papua, but kept off outcome list

By Alexander Rheeney in Apia [asiapacific reportnz](#)
August 11, 2018



PNG Foreign Minister Rimbink Pato at yesterday's Forum Foreign Ministers conference ... Pacific still divided over West Papua issue. Image: Samoa Observer/Misiona Simo

Vanuatu has asked Pacific Islands Forum member states to support its resolution to the United Nations General Assembly next year to grant West Papuans self-determination.

The plight of the indigenous population in Indonesia's two respective provinces – Papua and West Papua – continues to be highlighted on the international stage by the Vanuatu government, despite the Melanesian Spearhead Group secretariat Director-General Amena Yauvoli declaring recently that the issue could not be raised at the Port Vila-based subregional grouping.

The issue of West Papua was put forward by Vanuatu as part of its agenda, which went before the Forum Officials Committee in its Pre-Forum Session in Apia, Samoa, this week.

According to the committee, Vanuatu had asked for the support of member states for the resolution to the UN General Assembly in 2019.

Listed under "other matters" of agenda 9(b), the committee stated that it: "*Considered Vanuatu's request for support from Members on a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly ('Realisation of the right of the Papuan peoples' self-determination in the former colony of the Netherlands New Guinea (West New Guinea)').*

"Recalling the Leaders' current position regarding Papua (West Papua), the Committee noted Vanuatu's intention to take the resolution forward at the UNGA in 2019."

The outcomes from the two-day forum officials conference were put to the Forum Foreign Ministers conference in Apia yesterday, which then used it to determine the agenda for next month's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Summit in Nauru.

No reference to West Papua

There was no reference to West Papua in the outcomes document that was distributed to the media, following a press conference that was convened after the conference.

However, the joint statement released by the Forum Foreign Ministers conference late yesterday does make reference to the Biketawa Plus Declaration, wherein the foreign ministers meeting in Apia agreed to a draft recommendation to address "emerging security issues" which will be put to leaders in Nauru. The region continues to be divided on the West Papua issue, with the Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Rimbink Pato, last month reportedly assuring the Indonesian government in a meeting in Jakarta that PNG supports Indonesian control of West Papua.

Alexander Rheeney is co-editor of the Samoa Observer and was formerly editor-in-chief of the PNG Post-Courier.

Indonesia's Papua Media Blacklist

Authorities Equate Journalism with Doing "Something Wrong to Indonesia"

Phelim Kine [Human Rights Watch](#)
Deputy Director, Asia Division

“Why am I now on the Indonesian government blacklist? For how long? For what reason? For going to Papua? This is devastating for me.”

— Belinda Lopez, graduate student and former Jakarta-based journalist



“Why am I now on the Indonesian government blacklist? For how long? For what reason? For going to Papua? This is devastating for me.”

That was the reaction of Australian graduate student Belinda Lopez on August 4 when immigration authorities at Ngurah Rai International Airport in the Indonesian province of Bali abruptly aborted her honeymoon by informing her she was on an official blacklist and banned from the country. She was deported 24 hours after her arrival.

Lopez's "crime" appears to be that she was once a journalist. Immigration authorities repeatedly asked her if she was reporter and if she had "done something wrong to Indonesia." She had previously worked at the Indonesian English-language newspapers *The Jakarta Post* and *The Jakarta Globe*, and had been deported from Papua in 2016 on suspicion of "being a reporter." This likely led to her being placed on a blacklist.

There is a deeply rooted perception among many Indonesian government and security agency officials that foreign media access to their Papua and West Papua provinces (collectively referred to as "Papua") is a recipe for instability in a region already troubled by widespread public dissatisfaction with Jakarta, and a small but persistent armed independence movement.

Despite the rhetoric of Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's announced opening of Papua to foreign media in May 2015, the grim reality is journalists are still blocked from reporting there. Violations of media freedom for foreign journalists in Papua, along with visa denial and blacklisting of reporters who challenge the official chokehold on Papua access, continue unabated. In February, Indonesian authorities arrested BBC correspondent Rebecca Henschke for tweets she made while reporting from Papua. She was questioned for 17 hours by immigration and military officials before being freed.

Government restrictions on foreigners have extended to United Nations officials and academics Indonesian authorities perceive as hostile. In June, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, decried the government's seeming refusal to make good on an official invitation to visit Papua.

Until Jokowi honors his commitment to open Papua for foreign media, the immigration blacklist of anyone "suspected of being a reporter" is likely to grow.

FREE WEST PAPUA CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

An Extract from the newsletters produced by Benny Wenda's campaign groups in Oxford, England. ULMWP stands for The United Liberation Movement for West Papua. It is the peak body of West Papuans seeking self-determination. It was formed in 2014 in Vanuatu when over 30 West Papuan civil forces groups came together.

The newsletter can be found at <https://www.freewestpapua.org/>



You already know that Benny Wenda was elected Chairman of the ULMWP and ULMWP head offices were opened in Vanuatu in January this year – we are still thrilled about this development and the opportunities it has opened up for the ULMWP and the Free West Papua Campaign to make significant progress at the diplomatic level, putting West Papua on to the international agenda.

Benny and the ULMWP have been travelling across the world representing West Papua, building international political support, and thus garnering worldwide support for the West Papuan cause. These relationships are built in the offices of parliamentarians, in the hallways of bureaucratic meeting rooms, in the public of individual nations and communities, and in conference rooms, within which sit some of the most influential people in the world.

A lot of this progress must be kept confidential for security reasons and for fear of Indonesian intervention. We are sure you understand why we therefore cannot share many details of the progress. We can however promise you that West Papua is making significant strides in the international community thanks to the ULMWP, the West Papuan people, and all individuals and groups who actively contribute to West Papua's campaign.

On June 11, 2018, the national trade organisation, FIRST Union, with the over site of West Papua Auckland, New Zealand, officially opened the West Papua Desk. It is intended to be a hub for organising events, and to provide community space for

raising awareness of West Papua's fight for independence and human rights violations. We were delighted with the solidarity shown from New Zealand with Benny stating:

"The journey is sometimes dark and weary, but a ray of hope from our Pacific family can light the way on this long road. June 11, 2018 is now a great day to remember on this path to freedom. We will write it down in history as a day of friendship between neighbours."

We are also pleased to let you know that the ULMWP now have three offices open in West Papua, with another four planned. We are, as always, concerned of the threat from Indonesia and the possibility of these offices attacked. In the past, offices in Wamena and Fak Fak have been forcibly closed by the Indonesian military, so, we remain alert.

What's Next for Indonesia-Fiji Military Ties?

The Diplomat : Prashanth Parameswaran August 22, 2018



On August 13, the defense ministers of Indonesia and Fiji briefly held an official meeting in Jakarta. While few specifics were publicly disclosed about what was discussed, the interaction nonetheless put the spotlight on the still young but growing defense relationship between the two countries in spite of the challenges that remain.

Indonesia and Fiji have long had a diplomatic relationship, which dates back to 1974. But the defense component of ties more specifically has only seen an uptick in recent years, in spite of some of the continued complications it creates for Fiji's positions on issues such as West Papua

both at home and abroad with some regional states. Notable steps have included Jakarta's assistance in capacity-building and reconstruction as well as some collaboration among their police forces, with officials from the two countries also talking up some more ambitious areas for cooperation as well that have yet to be realized.

Within that broader context, a notable development came in September 2017, when there was finally the inking of a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation in September 2017 between Fiji's Defense Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola and Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu. The agreement, which had been talked about for months previously, covered a range of areas – including exchanges, visits, dialogues, research, information-sharing, and capacity-building – across common issue areas to include counterterrorism and peace-keeping. Both sides had indicated that it would lead to the deepening of security cooperation in a wider range of areas.

Last week, in another indicator of the ongoing defense ties between the two countries, Ryacudu received Kubuabola at the offices of the Indonesian defense ministry (KEMHAN) on August 13. While the meeting was quite brief, according to the ministry, one of the items under discussion was the advancement on exchanges of naval officers between both sides.

The discussion of the item itself was no surprise: it had been floated as one of the areas for further cooperation previously as well. Few details were disclosed about exactly how this would play out, though the initial focus as laid out was on education and only for a few officers over a few days. That was testament to both the nascent nature of defense ties between the two sides as well as the need for calibration between their bilateral ties as well as other bilateral relationships in the region as well.

Nonetheless, with the MOU signed and given the willingness of both sides to gradually expand the scope of their defense ties, how things actually evolve in the coming months will continue to be of interest to not only the two countries, but other actors in the region and beyond.

Papuans hold simulations rallies in Java and Bali protesting 'illegal' New York Agreement

Suara Papua - August 15, 2018

Bastian Tebai, Semarang -- The Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) and the Indonesian People's Front for West Papua (FRI-WP) have called on all Papuan students through their city committees in Java and Bali to declare that the 1962 New York Agreement was illegal.

The AMP and FRI-WP said that the agreement, which was signed on August 15, 1962 and used as the basis for the 1968 "Act of Free Choice" (Pepera), was illegal because it did not involve a single representative from the Papuan people.

On Wednesday August 15, the AMP and FRI-WP commemorated the agreement in their respective cities.

Demonstrations were held by AMP committees in Makassar (South Sulawesi), Malang (East Java), Yogyakarta (Central Java), Jakarta and the satellite city of Tangerang, Semarang (Central Java), Surabaya (East Java) and Bandung (West Java). In Bali, Solo (Central Java) and Bogor (West Java), the AMP commemorated the agreement with public discussions.

The peaceful AMP demonstration in Yogyakarta today was blocked by police and reactionary mass organisations (ormas). Likewise during a peaceful demonstration in Surabaya the front gates to the Papuan Kamasan Dormitory was vandalised by an ormas and Surabaya police.

During the simulations protests today, the AMP called on the regime of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and Vice President Jusuf Kalla, the Dutch government, the United States and the United Nations to, first, give the right to self-determination to the nation of Papua as a democratic solution that must be implemented.

Second, acknowledge and affirm that the New York Agreement was legally and morally invalid because it did not involve a single representative of the Papuan people.

Third, they called for the withdrawal of all organic and non-organic TNI (Indonesian military) and Polri (Indonesian police) from the land of Papua.

Forth, the demanded the closure of the Freeport gold-and-copper mine, the LNG Tangguh gas field operated by BP, the MNC Group LNG plant, the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE) in Merauke and other multi-national company projects in West Papua which continue to be the masterminds behind humanitarian crimes in the land of Papua.

Fifth, that the UN take responsibility for and be actively involved in a manner that is just and democratic, in a process of self-determination, the straightening out of history

and resolving the human rights violations against the Papuan nation.

Notes

Following the launch of the Trikora military operation which was aimed at harassing and forcing the Dutch out of Netherlands New Guinea in 1961-62 and under the threat that Indonesia would move from armed infiltrations to a large-scale military attack, US sponsored negotiations led to the signing of the New York Agreement on August 15, 1962 in which the Netherlands agreed to hand over administration of Western New Guinea to Indonesia pending a UN administered plebiscite. Seven years later under the newly installed Suharto dictatorship, the treaty led to the so-call "Act of Free Choice" in 1969 in which 1025 hand-picked Papuans "voted" at gun-point for the territory remain part of Indonesia.

[Abridged translation by James Balowski. The second part of the article contained an explanation of the New York Agreement and "Act of Free Choice". The original title of the article was "15 Agustus: AMP dan FRI WP Sebut New York Agreement Ilegal".]

Indonesian police arrest 49

Suara Papua - August 16, 2018



The 49 arrested Papuan students in Surabaya police station after the protest. Image: Suara Papua

By Bastian Tebai in Surabaya

Indonesian police last night arrested 49 Papuan students who live at the Kamasan Papuan Dormitory in the East

Java provincial capital of Surabaya and they are being held at the district police headquarters (Polrestabes).

There were two reasons for the arrests, according to information gathered by *Suara Papua* news service.

First, opposition by mass organisations (*ormas*) to planned peaceful demonstrations rejecting the 1962 New York Agreement which were held earlier this morning, in which the Papuan student dormitory was the gathering point for protesters.

Second, the residents of the dormitory refused to put up the national Indonesian flag in front of the dormitory as part of the August 17 national celebrations of Indonesian independence tomorrow because they said they “did not feel part of” the Indonesian state.

Local residents, the *ormas* and police ended up forcing the Papuan students to fly the red-and-white Indonesian flag.

Yesterday afternoon, Papuan students were involved in a clash with a combined group of police and *ormas* who vandalised and then demolished the front gate of the Papuan dormitory.

A number of *ormas* joined police in the incident, including the militant Patriot Garuda, the Pancasila Youth (Pemuda Pancasila) and the Bastions of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (Benteng NKRI) groups.

According to information gathered by the Surabaya Legal Aid Foundation (LBH), these “reactionary” groups earlier attacked the Papuan students who were refusing to put up the national flag.

Students defend themselves

The Papuan students living at the dormitory tried to defend themselves and, according to several media reports, one *ormas* member was injured by a sharp instrument.

Since then, the dormitory has been surrounded by police and “reactionary *ormas*”. Later in the evening, police arrived and tried to arrest several Papuan students resulting in an argument that continued until 11pm last night.

In the end, all of the Papuan students – 49 people – were taken away and held at the Surabaya district police office.

Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) secretary-general Albert Mungguar told *Suara Papua* the incident that occurred in Surabaya was the same as that which was carried out by the Indonesian military against the people of Papua.

“Nationalism is not something that can be forced. Nationalism is related to ideology, it is born out of the people’s consciousness.” Mungguar said.

“If today the Papuan people and Papuan students don’t want to fly the red-and-white flag, what should be done by the state and its citizens is to ask, why don’t Papuan students have a sense of Indonesian nationalism, not to pressure them, force them, like they were possessed by the Devil, enforcing their view through acts of violence.”

Unconditional release

Regarding the 49 Papuan students, who were still being held at the Surabaya district police office today, the AMP is demanding their unconditional release in the name of upholding human rights and the principles of democracy.

“We condemn the repressive actions by police, in this case the Surabaya Polrestabes and reactionary *ormas*. And we call for the immediate release of our 49 comrades who were arrested for no rational reason,” said Mungguar.

Earlier in the day, simulations actions were held in several cities in Java and Bali coordinated by the AMP rejecting the New York Agreement which was signed on August 15, 1962.

Pacific Media Centre notes:

Following the launch of the Trikora military operation which was aimed at harassing and forcing the Dutch out of Netherlands New Guinea in 1961-62 and under the threat that Indonesia would move from armed infiltrations to a large-scale military attack, US sponsored negotiations that led to the signing of the New York Agreement on August 15, 1962. Under this agreement, the Netherlands agreed to hand over administration of Western New Guinea to Indonesia pending a UN administered plebiscite.

Seven years later under the newly installed Suharto dictatorship, the treaty led to the so-called “Act of Free Choice” in 1969 in which 1025 hand-picked Papuans “voted” at gun-point for the territory remain part of Indonesia.

Bastian Tebai is a Suara Papua journalist.

Translated by James Balowski for the Indoleft News Service. The original title of the article was “Asrama Papua di Surabaya Dikepung, 49 Penghuni Diangkut ke Polrestabes”.

Police in Ternate violently break up protest commemorating New York Agreement



Suara Papua - August 15, 2018

Arnold Belau, Jayapura -- A peaceful action that was to be held by the Indonesian People's Front for West Papua (FRI-WP) in Ternate, North Maluku, was forcibly broken up by local police on August 15.

Action coordinator Rudhy Pravda told Suara Papua that the action by 22 protesters was to be held to commemorate 56 years since signing of the New York Agreement on August 15, 1962.

Rudhy explained that the FRI-WP had followed the legal guidelines by submitting a notification with Ternate district police (Polres) three days prior to the action. Police responded however with a written rejection on the grounds that the action conflicted with the sovereignty of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI).

"We said that we would still hold the action no matter what the consequences. Given the situation we held the action but with the position that we would accept bear the risk from Ternate Polres. Prior to the action being broken up we held negotiations with police, there were several FRI-WP members who had been interrogated by four plain-clothed intelligence officers while they were waiting for protesters to arrive. They tried to intimidate them saying that they were not allowed to hold action and if they insisted on protesting they must be prepared to accept the risk including saying 'if you want to die please go ahead'", Rudhy explained.

Rudhy said that the information on plans to block and break up the rally was obtained from protesters attending an earlier rally at the same location. He said that they wanted to negotiate with police but were instead threatened and intimidated.

Then before they had even unpacked campaign materials for the action, they were surrounded by plain-clothed intelligence officers and uniformed police who prohibited them from holding the protest no matter what, without being willing to negotiate their legal rights.

'I was pushed and shoved including a female demonstrator who was also pushed and shoved and they tried to use violence. The female action coordinator she was pulled and grabbed by intelligence officers. Although we were determined to continue with the action they out-numbered us so in the end we weren't able to hold the action", said Rudhy.

Field coordinator Gamaria Mansur meanwhile said that in addition to breaking up the action, police also confiscated and tore up protest materials such as banners, placards and propaganda.

She added that earlier there had been an argument between protesters and police. "Police intimidated protesters with threats, [saying] 'do you want to die', and calling us traitors and the like. I was also pulled and grabbed, then after I shouted I was finally let go", she explained.

When sought for confirmation on the incident, FRI-WP chairperson Surya Anta said that he strongly condemns the violent actions by police in Ternate.

"We strongly condemn it. The police's actions in prohibiting and breaking up the action violate Indonesia's own laws and regulations on freedom of expression", he asserted.

As of submitting this report for publication, Ternate police chief Assistance Superintendent Azhari Juanda, who was contacted by Suara Papua through his official Facebook account, has yet to respond.

Notes

Following the launch of the Trikora military operation which was aimed at harassing and forcing the Dutch out of Netherlands New Guinea in 1961-62 and under the threat that Indonesia would move from armed infiltrations to a large-scale military attack, US sponsored negotiations led to the signing of the New York Agreement on August 15, 1962 in which the Netherlands agreed to hand over administration of Western New Guinea to Indonesia pending a UN administered plebiscite. Seven years later under the newly installed Suharto dictatorship, the treaty led to the so-call "Act of Free Choice" in 1969 in which 1025 hand-picked Papuans "voted" at gun-point for the territory remain part of Indonesia.

[Abridged translation by James Balowski for the Indoleft News

Past human rights cases get little attention in Jokowi's speech

Margareth S. Aritonang The Jakarta Post | Thu, August 16, 2018 |

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has claimed his administration will keep its commitment to settle unsolved past human rights abuses without any elaboration on how to realize it.

"The government aims to resolve cases of past rights abuses and to improve protection of human rights to prevent similar cases from taking place in the future," Jokowi said in his state of the nation address during a plenary session before lawmakers at the House of Representatives on Thursday.

He cited that the government would work based on a 2018 regulation stipulating the implementation of the national human rights action plan. However, he stopped short on how his administration would settle the prolonged unsolved cases as he will reach the end of his term next year.

Jokowi had included the settlement of past abuses cases in his top priority agenda during his presidential campaign and after he officially took office in 2014.

There are six major human rights violations, namely the 1965 communist purge, the 1989 Talangsari incident in Central Lampung, the 2001 and 2003 Wamena and Waissior incidents in Papua, various kidnappings and unresolved shootings in the 1980s, the May 1998 riots and the disappearances of activists that remain unresolved.

Activists have lambasted Jokowi and his administration's slow progress to settle the abuses and take the perpetrators to court nearing the end of his term in office.

A doctoral graduate from Harvard presents a dissertation on Papua and colonialism

<http://tabloidjubi.com/eng/a-doctoral-graduate-from-harvard-presents-a-dissertation-on-papua-and-colonialism/>



Jayapura, Jubi – Veronika Kusumayarti, a doctoral program alumnus in anthropology from Harvard University, held a discussion related to her dissertation 'The latest ethnography of colonialism, experience, history and political awareness in West Papua' on Friday (8/10/2018) in Jayapura.

Joined the author, as speakers in the discussion were the rev. Dr Socrates Yoman, Papuan literary and cultural activist Andy Tagihuma, historian and lecturer Albert Rumbekwan.

In the discussion attended by some student and women activists, lecturers as well as priests, the author shared her experience in compiling research materials throughout Papua from 2012-2016. In general, her dissertation was about the history of Papuans who made the first contact with foreigners or Dutch missionaries until the integration era where Papua invaded by Indonesia.

"Until the awareness of indigenous identity was emerged from Papuans," she said during her presentation held in P3W Hall. She further said Papuans made contact for the first time with missionaries in 1855 along with the arrival of the German missionaries Ottow and Geissler in Mansinam, while the Catholic missionaries have served in Fakfak and Merauke. "Then in 1962, the British and Australian missionaries divided their service area on the north coast which is now dominated by GKI, whereas the Catholic missionaries carried their service in the south coast area. Meanwhile, in the mountainous areas, different churches played the role, such as Kingmi in Paniai regional, GIDI and Baptist Church in Lanny," she said.

Meanwhile, Papuan intellectual Benny Giay appreciated Veronika for her academic work. "This is an important lesson for indigenous Papuans about their history. It reminds me of my writing about people's vote 'Pepera', " he said. (*)

Reporter: Hengky Yeimo Editor: Pipit Maizier

Papuan Film Festival pictures the voiceless

12 August 2018 <http://tabloidjubi.com/eng/papuan-film-festival-pictures-the-voiceless/>



Jayapura, Jubi –

Jayapura City, Tuesday, 7 August 2018, visitors crowded in Lokabudaya Expo Museum Waena, Heraum sub-district to attend the Papua Film Festival held by a film community Papuan Voice for three days from 7 to 9 August 2018.

A festival participant Mecky Yeimo said the films screened in the festival provide a lot of information about the land disputes between native landowners and investors. “I am happy because as Papuans we can get a lot of information about the deprivation of the rights of indigenous people in Papua,” he said.

Further, he said Papuans are commonly known for their culture of oral tradition, and the information in the films becomes an interesting issue to discuss in the future.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Pusaka Foundation Frangky Samperante, who met Jubi at the same

WWW.awpa-sa.org.au visit our website for more information .
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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 .

place, said FFP is a forum where people can find out the facts that occurred in many areas in Papua. “Films can be the basis for people to make a judgment based on the information they see and hear,” said Samperante.

Furthermore, he considered this film community could become an agent for Papuans to voice their aspirations and to express their expressions.

Police come to ULMWP Region Animha during regional meeting

Tabloid Jubi 11 August 2018 By admin

Jayapura, Jubi – The local police came to the regional meeting of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Region Animha which attended by regional leaders and delegates that held in their office in Merauke on Saturday (7/29/2018).

According to Deputy Chairperson of the ULMWP Region Animha, Ms Pangkrasia Yeem in a statement received by Jubi on Friday (08/03/2018), Merauke Police leading by the Head of Regional Police Intelligence Budi Santoso had entered the ULMWP Office without permission when the meeting had just finished.

They asked what the meeting was about,” told Yeem. Then she explained to the police that it was the first meeting after the ULMWP Region Animha declared on 14 July 2018. “And the ULMWP has been sitting together with Indonesia in the Melanesian Spearhead Group,” she said.

After the visit, the ULMWP Region Animha continued their discussion on Thursday (08/02/2018) and read a

statement rejecting the results of the 1969 Act of Free Choice. The event was held in the ULMWP Region Animha office and run smoothly.

In her statement, the Deputy Chairperson of the ULMWP Region Animha Pangkrasia Yeem said that the Act of Free Choice occurred 49 years ago in Papua from 14 July to 20 August 1969 was not valid because of not in accordance the international mechanisms.

"Its implementation was also full of intimidation, terror and manipulation. In practice, Indonesia mobilized the troops on a large scale to Papua to overcome the Free Papua movement," she said. (*)

Reporter: Zely Ariane Editor: Pipit Maizier

Papua pastor a ray of light for HIV patients

Protestant reverend helps victims forsaken by their families; battles stigma that disease is a 'curse from God'

<https://www.ucanews.com/news/papua-pastor-a-ray-of-light-for-hiv-patients/83004>

Ryan Dagur, Jakarta August 10, 2018

The death of a 20-year-old congregation member in 2005 from HIV-AIDS remains deeply imprinted in the memory of Clasina Karma, a Protestant pastor in Jayapura, the capital of Indonesia's Papua province.

The young man was diagnosed with HIV at the age of 15 and five years later was excommunicated by his family for his lifestyle choices and the heavy stigma attached to the disease in this part of the world, said Rev. Clasina, a pastor attached to the Evangelical Christian Church of Papua. "He was alienated by his family and sent to live alone.

They told him he had been cursed by God," she told ucanews.com in Jakarta.

Clasina led the funeral service for the man, whose name is being withheld out of courtesy for his family.

"His experience was a turning point for me to start campaigning against this disease," said Clasina, a mother of five who manages to juggle the responsibilities of motherhood with her role as a sister to the sick and dying.

She began visiting villages in remote areas, meeting peo-

ple in local communities and holding gatherings with old and young alike — a routine she still follows day in and day out.

"First I read everything I could get my hands on about HIV so I could fully understand it, then I went out and spread the word that this is something people need to be aware of, not just afraid of," she said.

"I always say that if we don't raise our awareness about this, people in Papua will become extinct someday."

In the last five years she has teamed up with government officials to run a preventive program stressing the perils of certain high-risk lifestyles.

Now her pulpit is the main channel she uses to teach people how to avoid contracting the disease and also how to best cope if it afflicts them or one of their loved ones, friends or colleagues.

Her achievements were recorded in a documentary directed by Wenda Maria Imakulata Tokomodowir that was screened on July 24 at @america, the cultural center attached to the U.S. embassy in Jakarta.

"She has chosen a path to safeguard the future of the people of Papua," Tokomodowir said.

HIV is one of many threats to social stability in a region rocked by a long-simmering independence movement among indigenous people from Papua, the filmmaker added.

Alarming spike in numbers

Since the first case of HIV was recorded in Indonesia in 1987, the country now boasts the third-largest population of patients per capita in the Asia-Pacific after India and China, according to a report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Papua province and its neighboring West Papua are now battling the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the country. Papua has a population of 3.6 million, 82 percent of whom are Christians.

But while Indonesia has an official infection rate of 0.2 percent, that jumps tenfold in Papua, where at least 2.5% of the adult population and 3% of people aged 15-24 are HIV/AIDS patients.

Clasina said there are various "triggers" explaining the disease's rapid spread in this enclave. However the main problem is that people who live promiscuous lifestyles do so with scant regard for the health and safety of themselves or their partners.

"Many people have sex with someone other than their partner. Hence, they can easily transmit [HIV] to others," she said.

The influx of commercial sex workers from other areas, notably Java and Sulawesi, coupled with a lack of systematic STD testing, has aggravated the situation, she said.

A report by the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of Brisbane, Australia in 2016 confirmed the dangerous impact "infected sex workers" can have.

Military personnel are another group responsible for "importing" the disease, it said.

"Many people in Papua who have paid jobs get infected with HIV when they visit brothels and then spread the infection to their partners at home," the report stated.

Campaigning for change

Clasina has been campaigning since 2013 to effect change through such means as promoting circumcisions using the non-surgical prepex method for adults, especially Christians, which is said to reduce transmission rates by up to 60 percent.

"This is a contentious issue for many Christians because they see it as an Islamic rather than a Christian tradition," she said.

When people object, she points them to a passage in the Bible explaining that Jesus was circumcised. Statistics show that 2,000 Christian men in the region have now been circumcised.

Constat Karma, secretary of the AIDS prevention unit under the provincial government, said the involvement of religious leaders like Clasina makes their job easier and produces better results.

"People place more trust in religious leaders so we always encourage them to get involved," he said.

A prophetic role

Clasina said she is just following the teachings of Christ as she roams the region. While she hasn't been imbued with the heavenly power to heal the sick, she can make their lives better and keep some of the uninfected safe. "I don't want to see more people get sick because of this disease," she said. "But for those who do, I want to be there for them. This is part of my responsibility as a shepherd tending to my flock."

She said she hopes more religious leaders follow in her footsteps, regardless of their faith.

cross before West Papua rejoins the international community of nations, and that is to be listed on the UN Decolonisation Agenda.

Vanuatu appoints special West Papua envoy

Radio NZ Pacific news 9 August 2018

The Vanuatu government has appointed Laura Lini as special envoy for West Papua.

Ms Lini is the daughter of Walter Lini, who is known as the founding father of the Pacific nation.

The United Liberation Movement of West Papua has welcomed the move with spokesperson Jacob Rumbiak saying they are pleased and impressed and thank Vanuatu Foreign Minister Ralph Regenvanu for the appointment.

"Melanesian sovereignty runs deep in the veins of all ni-Vanuatu, and especially in Laura's family," Mr Rumbiak said.

"In the 1970s both West Papua and Vanuatu were struggling for their independence.

"Vanuatu got there first and it was Laura's father, as Prime Minister, who pledged not to abandon West Papua or the Kanak of New Caledonia," he said.

Mr Rumbiak said there was now just one more river to