

48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
27 September 2021

Delivered by Ms Rode Wanimbo

Madam President,

We draw the Council's attention to the human rights situation in Indonesia including in West Papua.

Civic space remains restricted and human rights defenders and activists face harassment and detention. We are particularly concerned about the use of article 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) on treason and treason with conspiracy against Mr Victor Yeimo, West Papuan pro-independent political activist. We commend the communication¹ by the UN special procedures on his case. Finally, we are also concerned at the continued judicial harassment of two prominent human rights defenders, Fatia Maulidyanti² and Haris Azhar,³ for expressing their opinion on an online talk show about the links between the military and mining concessions in West Papua.⁴

In the regency of Puncak, Papua Province, at least 4,862⁵ indigenous Papuans have been internally displaced as a result of an armed conflict between the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB) and Indonesian security forces. Since April 2021, at least five IDPs, including two women and three minors, have died in IDP shelters.

On 2 September 2021, following attacks on a military post in Maybrat Regency, the local military regional headquarters dispatched at least a hundred soldiers to hunt down suspected attackers. An estimated 2,000 villagers, comprising of mostly women and children, fled to the forests for fear of being targeted during the military retaliation.

We urge the Indonesian government to allow national and international humanitarian access to the regencies Nduga, Puncak, Intan Jaya, Jayawijaya, Mimika and Maybrat to ensure that the rights of IDPs in the central highlands are respected, protected and fulfilled in line with international human rights and humanitarian law.

Thank you.

¹ Communication by the UN Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights defenders; the promotion and protection of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression; on the right to peaceful assembly and of association; on contemporary form of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances; on torture, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, sent to the Government of Indonesia on 30 June 2021 See :

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=26495>

² Fatia Maulidyanti is the Director of the Commission for Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS), a leading human rights NGO in Indonesia.

³ Hari Ashar is the Executive Director of Lokataru Foundation.

⁴ In the video, the two human rights defenders discussed about the research undertaken by several human rights organisations on the involvement of current and retired army personnel in the gold mining business in the Blok Wabu area in Intan Jaya district, where thousands of indigenous people are currently being displaced.

⁵ This data was provided by the Social Affairs Department in Puncak Regency during the humanitarian visit conducted by the humanitarian workers of the Evangelical Church in Indonesia (GIDI) and one member of the Papuan Provincial Parliament (DPRP) during a field trip to the Puncak Regency between 6 and 12 July 2021.

A joint statement of

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia)

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