

**INDONESIA IS NOT THE FUTURE OF WEST PAPUA.
IT'S TIME FOR OUR RETURN INTO THE LARGE MELANESIAN FAMILY.**

**Chronicling the situation in West Papua, April-July 2021
Markus Haluk, ULMWP Executive Director in West Papua**

A. Actions by the Indonesian Colonial Government after declaring West Papuans Terrorists

On 29 April 2021, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Moh. Mahfud MD publicly declared "The government considers that organizations and people in Papua who commit massive violence are terrorists." After the announcement, the Indonesian government carried out inhumane acts against Papuans, which are summarized below.¹

1. 30 April-6 June 2021: Severed internet access in Papua, especially in Jayapura city and regency which is the center of the Papuan civil-political movement.
2. 9 May 2021: Nemangkawi Task Force Team from Indonesian National Police Headquarters arrested Mr. Victor Yeimo, Spokesman for the West Papua National Committee and the Papuan People's Petition and a number of student activities.
3. 21 May 2021: A joint military and police force of around 800 personnel evicted students from the Cenderawasih University Student Dormitory. Thousands of students are now displaced and have nowhere to stay. The officers also destroyed the students property, including their laptops.
4. 21 May 2021, Deputy Governor of Papua, Klemens Tinal, died in suspicious circumstances.
5. 28 May 2021: Special Detachment 88, Indonesia's Anti-terror Police, arrested 11 suspected terrorists from the Indonesian Islamic network *Jamaah Ansharut Daulah* in Merauke, West Papua.
6. May-June 2021: the TNI Commander, the Chief of Police in Papua, and Indonesian government civil officials visited Timika and Jayapura.
7. TNI/Polri troops dispatched to carry out operations in Puncak Papua, Intan Jaya, Nduga and other areas in Papua resulting in the shooting of civilians and displacement of villages.
8. 24 June 2021: the Director General of Regional Autonomy, on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs, issued a Radiogram Letter, appointing the Regional Secretary, Yance Julian Flassy as Acting Governor of Papua. This provoked a strong protest of support for Governor Lukas Enembe, and the next day, 25 June 2021, the people barricaded Flassy's office. In the meantime, Governor Enembe refused to capitulate and said "I am still alive, and I am still the Governor of Papua".
9. 3 July 2021: John Siffy Mirin, a member of the Indonesian House of Representatives, passed away. He was the only member of the Papuan delegation who refused to join the Special Committee on Special Autonomy for Papua. He spoke against it during meetings in parliament, and requested freezing discussion of Special Autonomy, and that instead the Indonesian government should negotiate with the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP).

A number of the above were in preparation for:

1. Discussion, stipulation and ratification of Special Autonomy Law Volume II by the Indonesian

Parliament in Jakarta; and the labeling of Papuans as 'terrorists' to silence their criticism.

2. The isolation of the Papuan movement in West Papua, in Indonesia, and in the international community. Recently, all civilian spaces in West Papua were brutally silenced, and TNI/Polri operations and violence increased in the Puncak district. In Indonesia, students in their dormitories in Bali, Sulawesi and Java are threatened and terrorized. In the international community the Indonesian government is trying to prevent the ULMWP from lobbying to become a full member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. (ULMWP has had Observer Status in the MSG since 2015).

B. Indonesia's racial violence against Papuans in 2019-2020

In 2020, the Indonesian government, through TNI/POLRI and civilian corporations and administrations, continued arbitrarily arresting, shooting, and killing Papuans. Since Jan-Dec 2020, there have been 63 violent incidents related to the TNI-POLRI apparatus which resulted in 304 civilians being named in newspapers. These violent incidents can be categorized into several types.

Extra-legal arrests: 36 cases, resulting in 245 victims. Persecution is the second most common act, with 32 cases and 61 victims; followed by shootings (14 cases and 24 victims), murder (11 cases and 24 victims), intimidation (4 cases and 6 victims), kidnapping (2 cases and 5 victims), dispersal of demonstrations not according to procedure (8 cases), and search/confiscation (5 cases).²

In 2019 West Papuans rose up against Indonesia's systemic racism in 23 cities in Papua, 17 cities in Indonesia, and 5 cities abroad. The movement in the Indonesian cities of Malang and Semarang (15-18 Aug), and Surabaya (16-17 Aug) was triggered by the racist rants of local residents and members of the TNI calling Papuan students 'monkey.'

In response to this movement, 6,500 additional BRIMOB Police and TNI personnel were sent to West Papua, resulting in 61 civilian victims in August-November including 35 Papuans--of whom 30 died from gunshot wounds from the TNI/Polri. 284 Papuans were injured and 22,800 were displaced. There were 35 cases of attacks on the media, including internet blocking, and 23 cases of attacks on human rights defenders. 6,000 Papuan students in Indonesia returned to Papua.

In response to Indonesia's systemic racism and human rights violations against Papuans, the United Nations Human Rights Council issued two statements of concern and sent two official communications to the Government of Indonesia. As usual, Indonesia denies all the allegations.³

This is a small picture of what the Indonesian Government has been doing in West Papua since it took over from the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) on 1 May 1963. Papuans continue to experience marginalization, racial discrimination, human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and labelling as terrorists, with the aim of exterminating Papuans on their own land. Exploitation of natural resources, control of land and forests by the government, Indonesian migrants and investors are all increasingly evident in Papua.

C. Development: the politics of the Indonesian occupation of West Papua

In the politics of occupation, colonial powers use terms or designations that are broadly recognised in order to realise their political goals. Development, Welfare, Special Autonomy, Pemekaran are terms used by the Indonesian government to enact its occupation and systemic racism in the Papuan nation. The Papuan people are tired of the politically-driven racist policies and empty promises, which they've endured since Indonesia's first president, Ir Soekarno (May 1963-1967), President Soeharto

(1967-1998), President Megawati Soekarno Putri (2001-2004), President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (2004-2014), and the current president Joko Widodo. (Presidents B.J Habibie (1998-1999) and KH Abdul Rahman Wahid (1999-2001) opened up democratic spaces for the Papuan people, and were consequently removed from office).

I limit myself to this brief map of what is happening in West Papua in terms of development, welfare, Special Autonomy and Pemekaran, but in fact it is President Widodo during his second term (2019-2024) that has aggressively increased the infrastructure control of Papua that he initiated during his first term (2014- 2019).

There are six basic political infrastructures of occupation and control in West Papua:⁴

- 1) Trans-Papua road, wharf, airport, railway line plan (Transportation and Logistics Infrastructure).
- 2) Control of resources (land, forest, minerals), determination of concessions, and granting of permits for resource exploitation (Infrastructure Investment).
- 3) Formation of new provinces and districts (Government Administration Infrastructure).
- 4) Establishment of new military commands: Kodamando military area (Kodam); Military resort command (Korem); Military district command (Kodim); Joint defense area command (Pangkowilhan); Police (Polres, Polda, Brimob), and the State Intelligence Agency's deployment of war troops (Security Infrastructure).
- 5) Mobilization and movement of people to Papua, especially to the expansion areas and investment centers (Social Infrastructure/demography).
- 6) Control over data, information, and communication (Infrastructure of Kominfo).

Six infrastructure projects for land tenure in Papua by Indonesia

No.	Form of Infrastructure	Form of Activity
1	Trans Papua Road	Transport Infrastructure, docks, airports, and railway line plans
2	Infrastructure Investment	Resource control (land, forest, minerals), establishment of concessions and granting of permits for resource exploitation
3	Bureaucratic Infrastructure	Formation of new provinces and districts, disarming local government authorities according to the mandate of Special Autonomy
4	Security Infrastructure	Formation of new military commands (Kodam, Kodim, Kogabwilhan) and police (Polres, Polda, etc.), as well as deployment of war troops
5	Infrastructure Social/Demography	Independent mobilization and movement of population to Papua, especially to the expansion areas and investment centers
6	Communication, Information	Infrastructure Control over data, information and communications

D. Deforestation and Environmental Crime

We are aware that Papua has 2/5ths (38%) of the remaining forest area in Indonesia, and that

companies are deforesting the land for oil palm, paper and pulp, and mineral extraction. Other causes for deforestation are the construction of civil infrastructure, settlements for transmigrants, trans-district roads, and even areas for the construction of TNI/POLRI infrastructure.⁵

In Mar-May 2020 satellite imagery identified the deforestation of 1,488 ha for oil palm; from the Manokwari region (372 ha), Merauke region (372 ha), Boven Digoel (222 ha) and Bintuni (110 ha). The Indonesian Monitoring Coalition (consisting of 11 NGOs) reports that deforestation in Papua increased greatly during President Jokowi's administration.

During the last 20 years the area of natural forest was reduced by 663,433 ha; 71% of this deforestation occurred between 2011 and 2019. So the average deforestation in Papua is around 34,000 ha per year; peaking in 2015 with 89,000 ha. Between 2015 and 2019 (Jokowi Ist cabinet) Papua lost 298,600 ha. The largest deforestation was in Merauke (123,000 ha), Boven Digul (51,600 ha), Nabire (32,900 ha), Bintuni Bay (33,400 ha), Sorong (33,400 ha) and Fakfak (31,700 ha).

The Indonesian government also offered Elon Musk's company a special place for rocket launches. The Biak Customary Council and the Ulayat rights owners openly protested against the government's plan, because the plan involves the surrendering and emptying of customary lands and destruction of the environment. A minimum of 700 ha of vacant land is required for these 'rocket launch' activities and other strategic projects.

E. Closing Notes

1. Within the current dynamics, Papuans see Indonesia creating a future not for Papuans but for 270 million Indonesians. This is a recipe for tragedy for Papua, and for Indonesia, for it will involve the sort of ethnic cleansing experienced by Aborigines in Australia, the native Indians in America and other indigenous tribes who became minorities, just as the West Papuans have become minorities during the Indonesian occupation since May 1963.
2. The ULMWP's effort to become a full member of the MSG was get support after fifty-five years of struggling alone. Since July 2015, when ULMWP was issued Observer Status in the MSG, West Papua has been recognised by others, including Indonesia (although Indonesia denies this).
3. For twenty years (from November 2001 to July 2021) the Indonesian colonial governments has failed to implement Special Autonomy in West Papua. Instead Indonesia has used Special Autonomy as a political means of furthering the occupation, for practicing the politics of systemic racism, and for accelerating the ethnic cleansing of Melanesians in West Papua. Therefore, the leaders of Melanesia, the Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean, European Union and the USA should cease their political support and funding of Special Autonomy. Instead, we ask for the support of regional and community leaders to encourage Indonesia to allow visits by the UN Human Rights Council, diplomats, journalists, academics, researchers, senators and congressmen.
4. A democratic solution for West Papua would have the Indonesian government permitting the Papuan people to exercise their right to self-determination. This was the solution recognised by Indonesia for the people of Timor Leste in August 1999; and pursued by Indonesia--from Sokearno to Widodo--for the Palestinians. Similarly, Indonesia pursued the right of political independence for the people of Pakistan from India, and the independence of many other Islamic nations. Yet, in West Papua, a Christian majority nation, the Indonesian government is a typical colonial power.
5. The Papuan nation's right to freedom and sovereignty does not contradict the Indonesian

Constitution. Rather, the preamble of the 1945 Indonesian constitution declares “Independence is the right of all nations ... therefore, colonialism in the world must be abolished.” Consequently, the Indonesian occupation of Papua must stop because it contradicts the Indonesian Constitution as well as the second principle of Pancasila. Furthermore, the struggle for independence and political sovereignty does not conflict with the Christian Scriptures, or the Koran, or the holy teachings of any other major religion. The political independence of the Papuan people also does not contradict the UN Universal Declaration. So now is the time for the government and the people of Indonesia, the leaders and the faithful in Indonesia, and the leaders of the international community to pray for and fully support the struggle for the political right of the Papuan people to be independent.

Special Greetings from West Papua Waaa..waaaa..waaaa...

ENDNOTES

¹ Markus Haluk *Meaning, History of Terrorism, Position of TPN/OPM, the motive of the Indonesian Government in labelling West Papuans* 13 June 2021 :pp2-20.

² *Papuans Are Prohibited from Talking: Reports on Violence by Indonesian Police and Indonesian National Armed Forces against Papuans in 2020*, Advocates Association (Papua) and KONTRAS Papua 2020:p4.

³ Veronika Koman, *West Papua Movement 2019. Protesting Racism and Demanding the Right to Self-Determination*, TAPOL, September 2020:p7.

⁴ *Strong Rule, Neglected Welfare: Updates on the Situation of Indigenous Papuans under the Indonesian Special Autonomy Status*. West Papua Church Council, Jayapura West Papua, April 2021:p15

⁵ Theo Vanden Broek, *Up Date Papua, 1-15 March 2021*