



Sentencing of police and military brutality insufficient

In brief

At the end of March 2016, there were at least 32 political prisoners in Papua.

In the first three months of 2016, Indonesian authorities continue to react repressively to developments surrounding the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), a Papuan civil society coalition advocating self-determination and a representative to the West Papuan people to the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG). While cases of treason have considerably decreased in 2015, hopes of the cessation of this controversial law may be dashed by an ongoing investigation into seven prominent civil society members following a ULMWP event in Wamena, Jayawijaya regency.

The sentencing of four soldiers and two police officers in two separate brutality incidents that took place last year is a step in the right direction for state accountability in Papua. However, the light sentences received by the perpetrators showed that punishment received by security officers served merely as a slap on the wrist rather than meaningful punishment intended to secure justice for victims. The light sentences received by officers, particularly the 18-months' sentences each for two Jayapura city police officers found guilty of openly committing violence, sends a wrong message in the face of continual abuses.

The refusal of a visa permit to a French journalist following his documentary on West Papua throws President Jokowi's previous promises of media freedom in Papua into serious question. Increasing international awareness and interest on West Papua – as is reflected in concerns raised by the Solomon Islands at the UN Human Rights Council in March – will likely place increasing pressure on the Indonesian government to address historic and ongoing human rights abuses in West Papua.

Arrests

Seven people, including Catholic priest, questioned over ULMWP office
Reports from Wamena-based civil society groups stated that seven people were questioned by police in relation to the opening of a United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) office in Wamena. The building, which was built in the style

of the customary *honai*, is also the new office site for the Wamena Papuan Customary Council (*Dewan Adat Papua*, DAP).

The event, which took place on 15 February, was attended by hundreds of local community members in Wamena. A prayer session was held to mark the event, led by Father John Djonga, a Catholic priest and well-known local figure. Father John Djonga also led a ceremonial blessing ritual of the office building. An address by ULMWP leader Oktovianus Mote was read out by Markus Haluk, a member of the ULMWP Internal Affairs Working Team. A speech was also given by Dominikus Surabut, a local Papuan Customary Council (*Dewan Adat Papua*, DAP) leader and ex-political prisoner. In his speech, Surabut spoke about the Indonesian Government's failure to fulfill, respect and guarantee the rights of indigenous Papuans. The event also saw the erection of a ULMWP sign in front of the office building. According to local human rights sources, Jayawijaya intelligence officers (*Kasat Intel Polres Jayawijaya*) were briefly present to observe the event's activities but did not make any arrests that day.

The following day, on 16 February, the Head of Jayawijaya Regional Police (*Kapolres Jayawijaya*) and the Military District Commander of Unit 1702 (*Dandim 1702 Jayawijaya*) arrived at the ULMWP office site and forcibly removed the ULMWP sign in front of the building. Authorities reportedly explained to DAP elders that they had done so as the ULMWP was a banned organisation whose principles were opposed to the principles of *Pancasila* and warned them against activities that were in conflict with the State. Authorities reportedly seized the ULMWP sign as evidence, and also stated that the speeches conducted the day before would be used as evidence in court as it allegedly contained statements that were in conflict with the principles of Indonesian State. Shortly after, Jayawijaya police issued summonses to seven people who were involved in the opening of the DAP/ULMWP office. They were Father John Djonga, Dominikus Sorabut, Enjel Sorabut, Piter Wanimbo, Boni Mulait, Yesaya Dimara and Dr Gunawan. All seven men were summoned to be interrogated as witnesses to the opening of the DAP/ULMWP office, which police deemed as a case of treason. In the summonses, no single individual was accused with treason.

According to lawyers with the Democracy Alliance of Papua (*Aliansi Demokrasi untuk Papua*, AIDP), four of the seven men have already been [questioned](#) by police – Father John Djonga, Enjel Sorabut, Piter Wanimbo and Boni Mulait. Police reportedly [questioned](#) them regarding the opening of the office building and the ULMWP. It is understood that the seven men continue to face calls to be questioned, reportedly in relation to activities of 15 February, which continue to be regarded as a case of treason. However it remains uncertain if any of the seven men will face criminal charges.

Releases

Yusanur Wenda released on parole

On 20 January 2016, [Yusanur Wenda](#) was released on parole. On 20 January 2005, Wenda was arrested under accusations of arson and being a member of the Free Papua Movement (*Organisasi Papua Merdeka*, OPM). He was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment. Papuan civil society members have long argued that Wenda is an ordinary civilian and not an OPM fighter.

Note regarding the removal of two city arrest detainees from the political prisoner list

On 23 January, Edison Werimon and Soleman Fonataba were released from city arrest. City arrest forbade them from leaving Sarmi regency. In December 2013, the two men were arrested for the possession of a West Melanesian 14-star flag and allegedly treasonous documents. They were charged with conspiracy to commit treason under Articles 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code.

Political trials and cases overview

Four soldiers from Military District Command 1710 in Timika jailed

Human rights lawyers confirmed that four soldiers from Military District Command 1710 (*Komando Distrik Militer 1710*, Kodim 1710) involved in the killing of two young Papuan men in Timika have been sentenced to imprisonment. On 28 August, Imanuel Marimau and Yulianus Okare, both 23 years old, were [shot](#) dead and at least five others suffered injuries when soldiers opened fire on a group of people in Koperapoka in Mimika Regency. Two of the soldiers were reportedly drunk when they interrupted a traditional ritual held in a church courtyard by members of the Kamoro tribe in Timika in honour of a local man who had received a doctorate degree.

During a military court trial, Chief Sergeant Makher Mathijs Rehatta was found guilty of manslaughter and severe maltreatment under Articles 338 and 351 of the Indonesian Criminal Code and sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment. Chief Private Gregorius Bernadus Geta was found guilty of aiding manslaughter and aiding maltreatment under Articles 56, 338 and 351 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. First Sergeant Ashar was found guilty of maltreatment under Articles 351 and sentenced to nine years' imprisonment. First Private Imanuel Imbiri was found guilty of the unlawful use of sharp weapons under Emergency Law 12/1951 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. All four men were expelled from military service.

Two Jayapura City police officers sentenced

On 20 January, Chief Brigadier Suherman and Brigadier Dimanik of Jayapura City police were [found](#) guilty of openly committing violence under Article 170 of the Indonesian Criminal Code and were each sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. On 28 August 2015, the two police officers kidnapped and tortured three Papuan men – Elieser Awom, Soleman Yom and Yafet Awom. The three men were accused of stealing a motorcycle and were told that they were to be interrogated at a police station.

Cases of concern

ULMWP public discussion axed due to police presence

Papuan newspaper Tabloid Jubi [reported](#) that a public forum organised by the ULMWP was cancelled due to police presence at the venue. On 12 March, police officers blocked the forum from taking place at a student dormitory in Mimika. The forum, which was co-organised by the ULMWP Internal Affairs working team and the Central Executive Board of the Indonesia-Highland Student Association (DPP-AMPTPI), intended to discuss latest developments and the current situation in Papua, including the events that took place following the opening of the ULMWP office in Wamena, Jayawijaya Regency. Police reportedly blocked participants from entering the room where the forum was meant to take place. Plainclothes police officers were also guarding the area surrounding the student dormitory. Upon seeing the heavy police presence at the venue, the organisers then decided to cancel the public forum.

News

Indonesia bans French reporter from entering Indonesia

In early January, French journalist Cyril Payen was [reportedly](#) denied a visa request to visit Indonesia following a documentary he made about West Papua last year. In mid-2015, after obtaining the necessary visa requirements, Payen visited Indonesia and produced a documentary entitled "Forgotten War of the Papuans." The documentary was broadcast on 18 October on France 24 and reportedly resulted in the French ambassador in Jakarta being summoned by the Indonesian Foreign Ministry. International press freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) [condemned](#) Indonesia's refusal to let Payen visit and urged President Jokowi to keep his promise of opening West Papua to foreign journalists.

Solomon Islands raises concerns on Papua at the UN Human Rights Council

On 15 March, the Solomon Islands [raised](#) concerns regarding ongoing human rights violations in West Papua at the 31st regular session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Minister Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires of the Solomon Islands Mission the UN and the WTO in Geneva, Mr Barrett Salato stated concerns regarding violence perpetrated by Indonesian security forces. He stated that such violence showed "a strong pattern of racial discrimination that disadvantages indigenous Melanesian Papuans in their own land." The Solomon Islands urged Indonesia to facilitate access to West Papua for the UN Special Procedures, in particular the Mandates on Freedom of Expression, Association and Assembly and to allow for a human rights fact-finding mission to West Papua.

March 2016 Papuan Political Prisoners

No	Prisoner	Arrested	Charges	Sentence	Case	Accused of violence ?	Concerns reported re legal process?	Prison/ Place of detention
1	Arnes Silak	15 June 2015	Uncertain	Police investigation pending	KNPB Sentani Airport arrest	Uncertain	Uncertain	Papuan Police Headquarters
2	Yafet Keiya	28 May 2015	Uncertain	Police investigation pending	MSG demo in Nabire	Uncertain	Uncertain	Nabire
3	Ottis Munipa	28 May 2015	Uncertain	Police investigation pending	MSG demo in Nabire	Uncertain	Uncertain	Nabire
4	Wamoka Yudas Kossay	22 May 2015	Article 160 Indonesian Criminal Cod	10 months	MSG demo in Biak	Uncertain	Yes	Biak
5	Apolos Sroyer	20 May 2015	Article 160 Indonesian Criminal Code	10 months	MSG demo in Biak	Uncertain	Yes	Biak
6	Dorteus Bonsapia	20 May 2015	Article 160 Indonesian Criminal Code	10 months	MSG demo in Biak	Uncertain	Yes	Biak
7	Narko Murib	20 May 2015	Article 160	1.5 years	MSG demo in Manokwari	Uncertain	Yes	Manokwari
8	Alexander Nekenem	20 May 2015	Article 160	1.5 years	MSG demo in Manokwari	Uncertain	Yes	Manokwari
9	Yoram Magai	20 May 2015	Article 160	1.5 years	MSG demo in Manokwari	Uncertain	Yes	Manokwari
10	Othen Gombo	20 May 2015	Article 160	1.5 years	MSG demo in Manokwari	Uncertain	Yes	Manokwari
11	Ruben Furay	1 May 2015	Uncertain	Police investigation pending	Kaimana 1 May 2015	Uncertain	Uncertain	Kaimana

No	Prisoner	Arrested	Charges	Sentence	Case	Accused of violence?	Concerns reported re legal process?	Prison/ Place of detention
12	Sepi Surbay	1 May 2015	Uncertain	Police investigation pending	Kaimana 1 May 2015	Uncertain	Uncertain	Kaimana
13	Yosep Siep	9 July 2014	Articles 187, 164	Supreme Court appeal being considered	Pisugi Election Boycott	Yes	Yes	Released pending appeal
14	Marthen Marian	9 July 2014	Articles 187, 164	Supreme Court appeal being considered	Pisugi Election Boycott	Yes	Yes	Released pending appeal
15	Jhoni Marian	9 July 2014	Articles 187, 164	Supreme Court appeal being considered	Pisugi Election Boycott	Yes	Yes	Released pending appeal
16	Alapia Yalak	4 June 2014	Uncertain	Police investigation pending	Yahukimo arrests	Yes	Yes	Papua Police Headquarters
17	Jemi Yermias Kapanai	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
18	Septinus Wonawoai	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
19	Rudi Otis Barangkea	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
20	Kornelius Woniana	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
21	Peneas Reri	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
22	Salmon Windesi	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
23	Obeth Kayoi	1 February 2014	Articles 106, 108, 110 and Emergency Law 12/1951	3.5 years	Sasawa military raid arrests	Yes	Yes	Serui Prison
24	Piethain Manggaprouw	19 October 2013	Articles 106, 110	3 years	Third Papuan Congress demo in Biak	No	Yes	Biak

No	Prisoner	Arrested	Charges	Sentence	Case	Accused of violence?	Concerns reported re legal process?	Prison/ Place of detention
25	Oktovianus Warnares	1 May 2013	Articles 106, 110, Emergency Law 12/1951	7 years	Biak flag-raising, 1 May commemoration	Yes	Yes	Biak
26	Markus Sawias	1 May 2013	Articles 106, 110, Emergency Law 12/1951	4 years	Biak flag-raising, 1 May commemoration	Yes	Yes	Biak
27	George Syors Simyapen	1 May 2013	Articles 106, 110, Emergency Law 12/1951	4.5 years	Biak flag-raising, 1 May commemoration	Yes	Yes	Biak
28	Isak Klaibin	30 April 2013	Articles 06, 107, 108, 110, 160 and 164	3 years and 6 months	Aimas 1 May commemoration	No	Yes	Sorong
29	Jefri Wandikbo	7 June 2012	Articles 340, 56, Law 8/1981	8 years	KNPB activist tortured in Jayapura	Yes	Yes	Abepura
30	Darius Kogoya	1 May 2012	106	3 years	1 May demo and flag-raising	No	No	Abepura
31	Wiki Meaga	20 November 2010	106	8 years	Yalengga flag-raising	No	Yes	Wamena
32	Meki Elosak	20 November 2010	106	8 years	Yalengga flag-raising	No	Yes	Wamena



Father John Djonga, a Catholic priest and well-known local figure in Wamena, leads a ceremonial blessing of the opening of a ULMWP/DAP office building. Seven people are being investigated in connection to the event.

Photo credit: Flori G

PAPUANS BEHIND BARS



Papuans Behind Bars aims to provide accurate and transparent data, published in English and Indonesian, to facilitate direct support for prisoners and promote wider debate and campaigning in support of free expression in West Papua.

Papuans Behind Bars is a collective effort initiated by Papuan civil society groups working together as the Civil Society Coalition to Uphold Law and Human Rights in Papua. It is a grassroots initiative and represents a broad collaboration between lawyers, human rights groups, adat groups, activists, journalists and individuals in West Papua, as well as Jakarta-based NGOs and international solidarity groups.

Questions, comments and corrections are welcomed, and you can write to us at info@papuansbehindbars.org.