

Human Rights Update West Papua – July 2018

covering April - June 2018

Summary

The second quarter of 2018 was characterized by a slight increase in the number of reported extra-judicial killings. Throughout the past quarters, this number varied between one and three cases. Local human rights defenders have now reported five such cases between April and June 2018. During this reporting period, there is a significantly high percentage of extra-judicial killings and torture cases which were related to the unnecessary and excessive use of firearms by the police and the military. This pattern indicates that security forces often fail to settle conflicts in a non-violent professional manner. Contrary to previous quarters, no cases of epidemic outbreaks or other health rights violations have been reported.

The figures for reported political arrests in 2018 appear to be considerably low in comparison to the years 2016 and 2017. One reason for this decline is the shrinking space for the freedom of assembly and freedom of expression in West Papua. In the past, police responded with mass arrests to large scale demonstrations which often took place simultaneously in multiple cities of Indonesia. The police changed its strategy after NGOs had brought the international community's attention to the high number of arrests. Since 2017, the police has increased efforts to prosecute leaders of peaceful political pro-independence groups, such as the West Papua National Committee KNPB. At the same time political activity by indigenous Papuans is closely monitored in all parts of Indonesia. Peaceful political demonstrations are often intercepted or blocked before they take place. The constant number of cases in which local journalists or human rights defenders were intimidated or obstructed, is a strong indicator of the repressive working conditions which still can be found in all parts of West Papua.

| Reported Number of Victims | Q3 '17 | Q4 '17 | Q1 '18 | Q2 '18 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Extra-judicial executions or killings | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Torture / Ill-treatment | 135 | 16 | 12 | 10 |
| Assaults against / obstruction of journalists | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Violations of right to health (victims) | 93 | 38 | 648 | 0 |
| Violations against HRD | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Violations of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) | - | 1 | - | - |
| Political arrests | 219 | 73 | 1 | 58 |
| Treason charges (106 & 110 KUHP) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Violations of the right to fair and impartial trial | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Read what [UN mechanisms observe and recommend](#) regarding human rights in West Papua.

The information in this report is collected by local human rights defenders. As human rights defenders face hostile working conditions and legal aid services are lacking in remote areas, this compilation of cases cannot be regarded as complete.



Joint security forces in front of student Houses in Heram District

Security forces unlawfully arrest 45 university students in Jayapura

On 4 April 2018, members of the local Police, Intelligence (BIN), police special unit 'BRIMOB' and the military district command 'Kodim 1701 Jayapura' searched several houses in the residential area 'Perumnas III Waena', located in the Heram District of Jayapura. The houses were inhabited by students of the Cenderawasih University in Jayapura. 45 students were arrested without a proper warrant. The police seized 35 motorcycles as well as laptops, a morning star flag and other political emblems during the house search. The students were detained at the Jayapura district police station. Two students

were brought to the sub-district police station in Abepura. According to the director of the Papuan Association of Human Rights Lawyers for Papua (PAHAM Papua), the security force members used unnecessary physical force against some students. At least eight of the arrested students were members of the West Papua National Committee (KNPB), an indigenous political movement organisation supporting the right to self-determination of the Papuan people.

[Read more case details](#)

Unprofessional conduct of security forces lead to shooting in Mauwa Village – one villager dead, one injured



Gerry Goo after his admission to the hospital

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Papuan Tabernacle Church (JPIC KINGMI Papua) has reported a further case of excessive use of force against a group of villagers in Mauwa Village, Dogiyai Regency. On 6 April 2018, army members came to Mauwa Village and released shots at an unknown target. Thereupon, a group of villagers blocked the road and asked the security force officers what the reason for the shooting was. Instead of communicating with the villagers, one of the military officers released a warning shot, commanding the villagers to get off the road. As the villagers still prevented the vehicles from

passing, the military officers requested back-up at the Moanemani sub-district police station. Around 7.45 pm, police forces arrived in Mauwa Village and attacked the villagers with teargas. Some security force officers opened fire at the group. While most of the villagers remained unharmed during the dispersal, Rudi Auwe (16) and Gerry Goo (18) were injured by bullets. Gerry Goo sustained two bullet injuries to the right shoulder as well as bruises on his back, arms and legs. He was brought to the Kamu sub-district police station where police officers allegedly tortured him. [He passed away on 9 May 2017](#) after doctors of the Dok II Hospital in Jayapura were not able to surgically remove the bullets.

[Read more case details](#)

Eight Papuan activists arrested as Solomon Islands' Government delegation visits West Papua



Police officers arrest Papuan activists in front of the governor's office

An unexpected visit to West Papua by a government delegation of the Pacific state Solomon Islands in April 2018 has raised concerns over a possible change in the government's stance towards the West Papua conflict among Papuan civil society. The Solomon Islands, under the former Prime Minister Manasseh Sogoware, was an outspoken supporter for the Papuans right to self-determination. The country repeatedly addressed the human rights situation in West Papua at the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Eight Papuan activists, who had launched a spontaneous peaceful demonstration in front of the Governor's office were arrested, temporarily detained and released on the same day.

[Read more case details](#)

Allegations regarding excessive use of force during military operation in Opitawak Village – at least one person dead and two injured

A military operation in Opitawak Village of Mimika Regency has cost the lives of at least one villager named Timotius Omabak. At least two other villagers – Ruben Kupugau and 15-year-old Kapin Wamang – were injured by bullets and had to be hospitalized. The incident occurred on 4 April 2018 at 10.15 am in the

Tembagapura District near the copper and gold mine of mining giant PT Freeport Indonesia. The military operation was confirmed by media sources and the Indonesian military (TNI). Infantry Colonel Muhammad Aidi of the XVII Cenderawasih military command stated in a public interview that members of the armed resistance movement (TPN) had allegedly burnt down villagers' houses after they were pushed back in a fire fight with the military.

However, a [video testimony](#) published online on 18 April 2018 describes a different version of the incident. The video shows a group of four indigenous women who witnessed the attack. According to the video testimony, the villagers had raised five Indonesian flags and gathered below the flags as the military forces approached and indiscriminately opened fire at them, killing two people and injuring at least three. Some villagers fled into the surrounding forest to seek shelter.



Two eyewitnesses from Opitawak village

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Police officers collectively ill-treat man and journalist during political debate in Nabire Regency



Police officers collectively beat Mando Mote in front of the guest house

Human Rights defenders of the Papuan Tabernacle Church (KINGMI Papua) have reported another case of ill-treatment from Nabire city on 5 May 2018. Mando Mote, a 29-year-old civil servant from Deiyai regency, was collectively beaten up by police officers as he tried to access the front yard of a guest house in Nabire, where the public election commission (KPU) had organized a political debate between politicians running for candidacy as regent of Deiyai Regency. The Papuan journalist Albert Youw (27) was attacked by several police officers in an attempt to prevent him from covering the ill-treatment. Albert

Youw recorded the incident with his mobile phone camera. As Mando Mote entered the yard to watch the debate, Police officers jumped at him and slapped his head from behind. Subsequently, a dozen police officers surrounded Mando Mote, some of them trying to calm down the situation, while others attacked him with kicks and punches. Mando Mote sustained a bleeding injury to his left temple and bruises on the right knee as a result of the ill-treatment. As police officers saw that Albert Youw was recording the ill-treatment with his mobile phone, officers grabbed his neck while another officer took his glasses, threw them to the ground and stomped on them. The officers finally succeeded to take Albert's mobile away. Several officers allegedly insulted Albert Youw, calling him 'shit journalist' ('wartawan tai') and 'stupid journalist' ('wartawan bodoh').

[Read more case details](#)



Scars on Yulianus Yeimo's head

Yulianus Yeimo passed away – number of dead victims in the 'Bloody Paniai Case' rises from four to five

Yulianus Yeimo - a victim of torture in the so-called 'Bloody Paniai Case' - passed away on 1 April 2018 in Ipakiye Village of Paniai Regency at the age of 19. According to the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Papuan Tabernacle Church (JPIC KINGMI Papua), Yulianus Yeimo showed signs of internal bleedings due to a severe head injury which he sustained as a result of torture by members of the Nabire 753 Arpita Military Battalion. The soldiers had severely beaten him with a rifle butt to the head, kicked him with heavy military boots on the chest and cut him with a knife on the head. After the incident Yulianus Yeimo suffered uncontrolled nose bleedings which lasted more than an hour, vomited clotted blood and often fainted without reason. The torture occurred on 7 December 2014 as an act of

punishment because Yulianus Yeimo and three friends – at the time of the incident 14 years old - reprovved a military officer for driving his motorcycle without light through Ipakiye Village. The soldier reported the incident to his comrades who drove back to the village to punish the children. The misconduct of the military members triggered a large protest at the Karel Gobai field in Paniai on the following day. Joint security members forcefully dispersed the crowd with fire arms, using live ammunition, causing the death of four high school students. At least 14 protesters were injured by bullets.

[Read more case details](#)

14 indigenous Papuans arbitrarily arrested in Nimbontong district

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk (JPIC) of the Christian Evangelical Church in Papua (GKI-TP) has reported the arbitrary arrest of a group of indigenous Papuans in the District of Nimbontong, Jayapura Regency. On 21 November 2017, members of the Jayapura District Police arbitrarily arrested 14 indigenous Papuans who were on their way home to Juk Lereh, Genyem District. During the detention at the Sub-district police station, the arrestees were accused of being members of the armed separatist movement. Prior to the arrest, a man had approached the group and gave one of the group members a document with a letter head of the 'Revolutionary Army of West Papua' (RAWP). Joint police and military members later stopped the bus at a control point in the Nimbontong area and searched the passengers' luggage inside the bus. On the way to the Jayapura District Police station, a police officer intimidated the arrestees, allegedly making death threats. A lawyer who wanted to provide legal assistance to the detainees was prevented from entering the police station and had to wait at the security post at the entrance gate. The officers also stopped a journalist from the local news outlet JUBI who wanted to enter the police station to cover the arrest. All group members were released on 22 November 2017.

[Read more case details](#)

Conflict over customary land in Tambrauw Regency – indigenous Mpur communities reject corn plantation company

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk (JPIC) of the Christian Evangelical Church in Papua (GKI-TP) reported a case about an ongoing land rights conflict in Tambrauw Regency between the Mpur Tribe and the agricultural company PT. Bintuni Agro Prima Perkasa (PT. BAPP), a subsidiary of the Salim Group. The conflict already began in 2015, as the company began to establish its plantation with a concession area of 19.369 ha on the tribe's customary land. The local government has prolonged the concession period, originally expiring in 2017. The Mpur tribe customary council had decided to collectively reject the company due to unresolved conflicts over the land. Before PT. BAPP kicked off its operations in August 2015, the company did not share any information with the Mpur communities regarding the type of plantation, the environmental impact of the project and the social benefits for their communities. On 17 November 2017, the Mpur tribe organised a customary consultation meeting, bringing together 105 participants, consisting of heads of clans and sub-clans as well as community members. The outcome of the meeting was a statement on the rejection of PT BAPP and its corn plantation.

[Read more case details](#)

Military member kills indigenous Papuan in Yapen Island

Local human rights defenders have reported a further extra-judicial killing case from Kepulauan Yapen Regency. A member of the Kodim 1709 Yapen Waropen military unit named Frits Raunsai killed 42-year-old Yohanis Bisai in his house. The incident occurred on 21 May 2018 in Anotaurai Village (Cengkeh Street), in the Yapen Selatan District. A group of men from the nearby Mariadei Village had come to Frits Raunsai's property, allegedly throwing stones at the house. The perpetrator saw the



Yohanis Bisai after admission to Serui General Hospital

victim sitting with two friends approximately 70 meters away from his house. He approached Yohanis Bisai and instantly attacked him, while accusing him of being responsible for the mob attack. The perpetrator punched Yohanis Bisai and subsequently stabbed him with his bayonett knife to the forehead, the chest and twice in the back. Yohanis Bisai was rushed to the intensive care unit of the General Hospital in Serui where he died due to the stabbing injuries. Members of the military police arrested and detained the perpetrator after the attack.

[Read more case details](#)

Unlawful arrest in Timika – three Papuans prosecuted and ill-treated

The 'Association of Human Rights Lawyers for Papua' (PAHAM Papua) has documented the unlawful arrests of five indigenous Papuans. Three of them were ill-treated during the detention. The arrests occurred in the night from 9 to 10 June 2018 at multiple locations in Timika City. According to PAHAM, the police officers conducted the arrests without a warrant. Apart from physical ill-treatments, the officers threatened Orpa Wanjomal at gunpoint and forced her to tell the whereabouts of possible evidence for the prosecution of her stepson. Police officers also obstructed a human rights lawyer and prevented relatives from meeting with the detainees at the police station. Police pressed charges against three arrestees. On 13 June 2018, a PAHAM human rights lawyer came to the BRIMOB headquarters to provide legal assistance to the detainees. He was accompanied by the detainees' family members. The relatives were only allowed to see the detainees for three minutes. Likewise, the lawyer was not given sufficient time to speak with the detainees. The police officers ordered the lawyer to keep a distance of four meters to the detention cell while providing legal advice to the detainees. PAHAM also reported that the families felt intimidated because police officers monitored their houses and surveilled family members.

[Read more case details](#)

Police and military collectively torture Papuan fisherman in Sorong



Frans Kbarek at the Naval Hospital in Sorong

head while the military officer beat Frans' head and leg with his rifle butt. As Frans tried to resist, the BRIMOB officer released several shots.

Various Papuan media outlets have reported about a shooting at the local fish market near the Puri Bridge in Klademak II, Sorong City. On 13 June 2018 at 6.00 am, a member of the police mobile brigade (BRIMOB) special forces named Syarifudin and a military officer reportedly tortured the local fisherman Frans Kbarek (21) and released multiple shots at him. Frans Kbarek sustained a bullet wound to the stomach, a cut in the lip, as well as bruises on his right cheek and left knee. He had to be hospitalized at the Naval Hospital in Sorong. The shooting followed a dispute between five fishermen and the security force officers who had prevented the group from leaving the port with their canoes. According to Frans Kbarek, the officers asked him and his friends to pay Rp. 300 000 (approximately 18€) for each fishing canoe leaving the port. Frans Kbarek refused to pay the money, arguing that the officers are misusing their authority to make money. Thereupon, the police officer pointed his gun at Frans Kbarek's

[Read more case details](#)

Papuan pastor and villager ill-treated in Kaimana Regency

The 'Papuan Institute for Human Rights Study and Advocacy' (ELSHAM Papua) reported the ill-treatment of a pastor and a villager in Kaimana Regency. According to ELSHAM, on 6 June 2018 a government official beat Rev. Edison Giay in a heated dispute over his testimonial report in relation to a boat accident. Jamsul Runtuk, the head of Yamor District, punched the pastor on the left temple and the chest. Thereupon, Rev. Giay reported the ill-treatment to the local police.

Ronald Kirihiu, a villager who accompanied Rev. Giay to the Kaimana district police station on 12 June 2018, was beaten by several police officers while Rev. Giay met with the local police chief. As Ronald Kirihiu defended himself, other police officers collectively beat and kicked him to the ground. Ronald sustained bruises on the right cheek and the head. He was then taken into custody and charged for violation of the Emergency Law, which is punishable with a maximum sentence of seven years imprisonment.



Ronald Kirihiu during custody

[Read more case details](#)

Joint security forces allegedly kill indigenous Papuan during crowd control operation in Jayawijaya Regency



Body of Pinggiget Murib

A mob violence on 6 June 2018 between villagers from Wouma and the neighboring village Welesi has resulted in the killing of Pinggiget Murib. Both groups used stones and traditional weapons such as bow and arrows. One officer from the police mobile brigade special unit and a military officer were wounded during the attempt to disperse the crowd with tear gas and fire arms. The independent Papuan media outlet 'Tabloid Jubi' published a witness testimony according to which Pinggiget Murib died as a result of severe bullet injuries sustained during the crowd control operation. The chief of Jayawijaya district police denied the allegations, stating that Pinggiget Murib had sustained lethal injuries caused by stones. The victim's family demanded a compensation payment for the killing of Pinggiget Murib from the Jayawijaya regional government.

[Read more case details](#)

Death threats against Papuan human rights defender

The chairman of the Human Rights Advocacy Network on Law Enforcement and Human Rights of the Papuan Central Highlands (JAPH-HAM), Theo Hese gem, has received death threats from the campaign team of Yahukimo Regent Abock Busop. On 25 June 2018, several campaign team members came to Theo Hese gem's house, insulted him and accused him of having corrupted government funds which were allocated to a village in Kurima district of Yahukimo Regency. The campaigners allegedly threatened to kill Theo Hese gem. According to Theo Hese gem, the threats are related to his commitment to support 199 former village leaders of Yahukimo Regency who were removed from their positions by Yahukimo Regent Abock Busop in April 2018. Theo Hese gem considers that the removal of the village leaders and the appointment of new village heads is not in accordance with the procedures described in Law 6 / 2014 on Villages.

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About the ICP: The International Coalition for Papua (ICP) of faith-based and civil society organisations works to address the serious human rights situation in West Papua and supports a peaceful solution to the conflict there. The Coalition together with its partners supports advocacy work and networking at the international level for Papua as a land of peace and documents human rights violations in the region in cooperation with local sources. The ICP recognises all human rights and their fulfilment through active participation of civil society. Therefore, the Coalition sees the need to support partners striving for the recognition of basic human rights and seeking peaceful solutions to the implementation of the right to self-determination. The Coalition supports all human rights including the freedom to express political opinions peacefully, the right to self-determination and the critical role of human rights defenders in a peaceful transformation of the ongoing conflict.

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