

# Human Rights Update West Papua – January 2019

covering October - December 2018



## Summary

The last quarter of 2018 was characterized by a significant increase in reported political arrests and cases of torture and ill-treatment. Police forces conducted mass arrests during various peaceful assemblies. Commemorations were organised in different areas of Indonesia, including Sulawesi Island, Java, Bali and the Moluccans. This indicates that peaceful political activity among civil society not only in West Papua but also in other parts of Indonesia was on the rise by the end of 2018, while police forces

Number of Victims	Q1 '18	Q2 '18	Q3 '18	Q4 '18
Extra-judicial executions or killings	2	5	1	4
Torture / Ill-treatment	12	10	8	50
Assaults against / obstruction of journalists	1	2	1	1
Violations of right to health (victims)	648	-	-	-
Violations against / obstruction of HRD	1	3	2	1
Violations of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)	-	1	-	-
Non-political arbitrary arrests	-	-	49	13
Political arrests	1	58	237	905
Treason charges (106 & 110 KUHP)	-	-	2	-
Violations of the right to fair and impartial trial	1	-	2	-

continued to severely limit freedom of assembly and freedom of expression for groups that challenge Indonesia’s unitary state doctrine. The increase in cases of torture and ill-treatment should be observed in direct correlation to the growing number of reported political arrests. Police forces continue to use excessive force against protesters and people documenting the abuses. The ICP is so far not aware of any of these cases being further investigated.

A very significant development is the escalation of armed conflicts in the central highlands. Cases like the killing of at least 17 road workers in Nduga or the killing of a motorcycle taxi driver in Lanny Jaya indicate that the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN-PB) is more determined than ever to fight against the Indonesian government and does not hesitate to attack unarmed persons if they are believed to cooperate with Indonesian security forces. Instead of seeking communication with the independence movement, the Indonesian Government has responded with additional deployment of troops in various highland regencies. During the reporting period, joint security forces launched military attacks and raids in the regencies of Mimika, Puncak Jaya, Lanny Jaya and Nduga. At least the raids in the Nduga Regency resulted in the killings of indigenous civilians and the displacement of hundreds of villagers.

### 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.*

### Police ill-treat five participants after peaceful event on human rights at the Papuan student dormitory in Makassar, South Sulawesi province

On the 13 October 2018, four men were allegedly intercepted and ill-treated by members of the Makassar Municipality Police (POLRESTABES Makassar) after participating in a peaceful event related to the human rights situation in West Papua. The event took place at the Papuan student dormitory yard in Lanto Dg. Pasewang Street in Makassar, South Sulawesi Province. A dozen plain cloth officers allegedly entered the dormitory yard around 4.30 pm and removed banners and posters, stating that the students did not have an authorisation for the event. At 7.00 pm, the students made orations and began to present self-composed poems,



Papuan students gathering at the dormitory yard

music and comedy performances. After the event, members of the local police arbitrarily arrested and subsequently ill-treated three students and one activist who participated in the peaceful event - Amri, Fahri, Atu and Wildan were physically ill-treated and subsequently detained for several hours at a police patrol vehicle. A police officer allegedly pointed his gun at Amri, between his chin and neck, and forced him at gunpoint to open his jacket and surrender his cell phone and bag. The police ill-treated Atu as he was recording the unlawful police operation. All arrested participants were released at 0.10 am.

[Read more case details](#)

### **Military members allegedly kill Anekanus Komarigi in Nduga Regency**



Injuries in Anekanus Komarigi's face after being tortured

On 1 January 2018, members of the military special forces (Kopassus) tortured Anekanus Komarigi (20) inside the Maleo Military Post, located in the Kenyam District of Nduga Regency. Anekanus Komarigi and three friends went to the Maleo military post to buy a motorcycle because some military members allegedly ran a second-hand motorcycle business. The friends sat down with two military members in front of the post to drink tea and eat cookies. As the military members went inside the post, Anekanus wanted to follow them inside to watch television. The military members prevented Anekanus Komarigi from entering and rudely pushed him outside. A subsequent dispute escalated into a brawl. Anekanus Komarigi reportedly picked up a machete and injured one military officer on the hand. Upon seeing this, other military officers approached and collectively beat Anekanus Komarigi in front of the military post. One officer released a shot and injured one of Anekanus's friends in the leg.

As bystanders witnessed the torture, six military members dragged Anekanus inside the military post to continue the torture. Anekanus Komarigi died around 3.00 pm on the spot as a result of the severe beatings. The head of XVII Cendrawasih command, Colonel Muhammad Aidi, stated in an interview with the independent media outlet 'Tabloid Jubi' that the military post was allegedly attacked by four civilians using sharp weapons in an attempt to rob fire arms.

[Read more case details](#)

### **Torture and Killing of Ishak Dewayekua – Disappointing verdict in military trial**

On 9 August 2018, a panel of judges at the Military Court III-19 in Jayapura found the three military members: first Sergeant La Dili Wance, Abiatar Harri Katoar and Fredrik Pattiasina guilty for collectively ill-treating Ishak Dewayekua, causing the victim's death. First Sergeant La Dili Wance was sentenced to one year and eight months imprisonment, while Abiatar Harri Katoar and Fredrik Pattiasina received an imprisonment sentence of one year and four months. The three defendants were charged with article 351 (1), (3), article 55 (1/1) of the Indonesian Penal Code (KUHP), article 26 and article 190 (1), (3) and (4) of the Law 31/1997 about military justice. The imprisonment period will be reduced by the period of detention. The three members were dismissed from military service. However, human rights activists criticized that the applied legal standards during the justice process were low and the verdict is disproportionate to the severity of the crime. The three military officers had unlawfully arrested and tortured Isak Dewayekua (23) on 18 November 2017 at the Yalet military post in Kimaam District of Merauke Regency. The following day, Ishak Dewayekua passed away due to the severe injuries sustained as a result of the torture. Later a military officer came to the family's house and asked where they wanted to bury the body. An autopsy under strict guard by the police and military personnel was performed on the same day in a local health center (PUSKESMAS). It was only then that the family was allowed to see Mr Dewayekua's body.

[Read more case details](#)

## Military member kills Papuan student Waroki Village, Nabire Regency



Daud Oyomi's body at the mortuary

On 21 October 2018 at 08.00 pm, Papuan theology student Daud Oyomi (27) left his house in Waroki Village, Nabire regency, with the motorcycle to buy water. Four military members in civil clothing were standing at junction. As Daud Oyomi passed the four military members, one of the soldiers suddenly draw his gun and fired a shot at Daud. The bullet hit Daud in the chest, causing his instant death on the spot. While three military members were able to flee, Staff Sergeant Surya Ganda Putra Silalahi, a member of the 1705 Paniai military district command, tried in vain to escape with Daud's motorcycle. Unable to start the engine, Sergeant Surya was separated from the other military members and hid behind Daud Oyomi's house. Around 8.30 pm a group

of villagers found Sergeant Surya and subsequently killed him in a mob attack, cutting his throat. At 10.00 pm the head of Nabire district police and the head of the local military command arrived in Waroki Village and talked with the villagers to calm down the situation and collect information on the circumstances of the killing. During the visit, three young villagers named Soloman Webi (18), Vadius Jadau (15) and Kores Voi (19) wanted to see Daud Oyomi's body at the Siritwini Hospital. When Brimob members saw the three friends looking for a vehicle, they offered to drop them at the Siritwini hospital. However, instead of bringing Soloman Webi, Vadius Jadau and Kores Voi to the hospital, the police officers detained them at the Nabire district police station as suspects in relation to the killing of Staff Sergeant Surya. One more villager was arrested on 22 October 2018.

[Read more case details](#)

## Law enforcement process and detention conditions of arrested Polish citizen

The Papuan Regional Police (Polda Papua) has completed the investigation against the Polish citizen Jakup Febian Skrzypski and submitted the case files to the public prosecutor's office in Wamena. According to Polda Papua spokesman Commissioner Kamal, the public prosecution has assessed the case files as complete and will soon initiate the trial against the Polish citizen. Jakup Skrzypski has been charged with the treason article 106 of the Indonesian Penal Code (KUHP), which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment. Skrzypski was arrested in Jayawijaya Regency on 26 August 2018 – the police suspects him being involved in weapon trade with the armed separatist movement TPN – OPM. He is currently detained at



Jakup Febia Skrzypski with KOMNAS HAM member Frits Ramandei

the Papua Regional Police Office in Jayapura. According to Skrzypski, the detention facilities are severely overcrowded. Many detainees sleep on the floor and share a limited number of bathrooms and toilets. He also expressed concerns over the hygiene conditions at the detention facility. There is no non-smoking area at the detention facility and many detainees smoke. The conditions at the bathrooms, the smoke and the lack of cleaning tools do not allow the proper hygiene of his contact lenses. Moreover, he is not allowed to have visitors providing him with basic supplies. Skrzypski stated in his letter that he feels discouraged, stressed and isolated, because he can't talk to the other detainees and has no reading material. The sensory deprivation already had a strong impact on his mental health and eating behaviour during detention.

[Read more case details](#)

## Security force operation in Lanny Jaya Regency

Local human rights defenders reported that the police has launched an operation in the highland regency of Lanny Jaya in order to arrest the local armed resistance (TPN PB) leaders Enden Wanimo and Purom Wenda. According to the information, joint security forces were deployed in Popome Village of Balingga District on 7 November 2018. The operation was confirmed by various local news outlets and is related to the killing of a

motorcycle taxi driver on 2 November 2018 by members of the armed resistance (TPN PB). Exchange of fire between security forces and the TPN PB on 3 November 2018 lead to the death of two TPN PB fighters.

[Read more case details](#)

## Dispersal of Peaceful assembly in Jayapura – police arrests 107 KNPB supporters and ill-treats four activists



ULMWP member Markus Haluk surrounded by arrested KNPB activists

Members of the Jayapura municipality police dispersed a peaceful assembly organised by the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) at the Pegunungan Bintang Student Dormitory in Perumnas III residential area in Waena, where the organisation celebrated the 10th Anniversary. One hundred fifty officers of the crowd control unit DALMAS backed up by military members forcefully dispersed the peaceful assembly on 19 November 2018 at 10.15 am. The police arrested 107 KNPB activists and temporarily detained them at the Jayapura Municipality Police Station (Mapolresta Jayapura). Among the arrested activists were

the secretary of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) Markus Haluk, the KNPB chairman Agus Kossay, and the KNPB secretary Vero Hubi. The police officers allegedly forced their way into the dormitory premises without showing a warrant and arrested all present activists. Several hours prior to the incident, the police came to the local KNPB branch office, broke parts of the equipment and ill-treated two KNPB activists who were preparing food as the police searched the KNPB office.

[Read more case details](#)

## Failed crowd control operation in Merauke – three residents ill-treated, 27 arrested

A failed crowd control operation in the City of Merauke has resulted in the arrest of 27 community members on the 24 November 2018. Prior to the incident, a group of local residents armed with machetes and sticks searched the alleged perpetrator of an attempted child abduction. As eight police officers came to the Karang Indah district around 6.00 pm to investigate the case, an argument between the residents and the police officers ended in a clash between both sides. Witnesses stated that the police told the group of residents to stop the search, kneel down and follow the police instructions. A heated argument escalated when a police officer allegedly hit a resident, which was viewed as the police siding with the perpetrator. As the crowd attacked, the police officers fired multiple shots at the residents. According to local human rights defenders, members of the Merauke District Police (Polres Merauke) severely beat Bonivasius Buyopu, Anselmus Erro and Melkior Jebe. Melkior Jebe was also injured by a bullet. Local human rights defenders claimed that the bullet pierced his upper body from the back to front, indicating that Melkior Jebe was trying to escape from the officers. The police arrested 27 residents and detained them at the district police station. According to information dating 26 November 2018, the police released five suspects, while 22 arrestees remained in custody - it is estimated that the police will press charges against them.



Arrestees during inter-rogation at the police station

[Read more case details](#)

## Commemorations of “Papuan Independence Day” - Police responds with mass arrests and ill-treatment



Protesters commemorating the 1<sup>st</sup> December in Abepura

The national police forcefully dispersed peaceful assemblies in commemoration of the 1st December and arrested **547 protesters** in multiple cities of Indonesia. Many indigenous Papuans consider the date as the 'Papuan Independence Day'. Human rights defenders reported that police officers applied excessive use of force against protesters and bystanders during the arrests in Jayapura. In various cities outside of West Papua, nationalist mass organisations carried out counter protests and backed up police forces during raids. In Surabaya, members of nationalist mass organisations joining a counter rally, threw stones at the Papuan protesters, injuring 16 people. Police forces in Jakarta surrounded 140 protesters in front of the Jakarta Legal Aid Institute (YLBHI Jakarta)

in Menteng and prevented them from conducting a protest march to the Dutch Embassy. Joint security forces reportedly conducted raids and acts of vandalism in branch offices of the West Papua National Committee (Komite Nasional Papua Barat, KNPB) in various Papuan cities. On 30 December 2018, police forces searched the KNPB office in Waena, Jayapura. The officers allegedly broke facilities and arbitrarily arrested a Papuan man named Larius Heluka who was only collecting animal food near the KNPB office. Similar acts of vandalism were reported during police raids of KNPB branch offices in Sorong and Timika. In the Asmath regency, police forces allegedly burnt the local KNPB branch office to the ground.

[Read more case details](#)

### Police officers obstruct Papuan journalist in Tomohon City, North Sulawesi

On 1 December 2018, members of the local police and the military obstructed Papuan journalist Piter Lokon in the city of Tomohon, North Sulawesi Province as he covered a prayer session in commemoration of the 1st December at the Papuan student dormitory. The event was organised by the West Papua National Committee (Komite Nasional Papua Barat KNPB), a political movement organisation that claims the right to political self-determination for West Papua through a referendum. Around 4.40 pm, joint security forces entered the dormitory building and seized net bags, bracelets and clothes with the morning star symbol. As Piter Lokon told an officer that he is a journalist covering the commemoration, members of the police, military special force unit (Kopassus), sub-district representatives and nationalist mass organisations (ORMAS) surrounded and collectively questioned him. The police officers took pictures of him and seized his bag with the camera, a lens and his mobile phone.



Piter Lokon surrounded by police, authorities and ORMAS members

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[Read more case details](#)

### Brimob officers collectively torture 3 bystanders witnessing mass arrests in Jayapura



Laorens Kerebea during custody at the police station in Jayapura

Members of the police mobile brigade (Brimob) tortured Benjamin Lagowan (27) and Laorens Kerebea (24) after they witnessed mass arrests and the ill-treatment of protesters during 1st December commemorations in Jayapura. On the 1 December 2018, at 11.15 am, Benjamin Lagowan witnessed police officers arresting a group of protesters in Abepura. As Benjamin Lagowan took out his cell phone to record the incident, a mobile brigade officer kicked him on the right thigh. Another mobile brigade officer hit Benjamin Lagowan

with a rifle butt on the shoulder. Subsequently, the officers turned to Laorens Kerebea and repeatedly punched him, stroke him with the rifle butt in the face and kicked his body. Laorens Kerebea sustained multiple bruises on the body and face as well as a bleeding nose and injury behind his right ear. After the torture both men were arrested and detained at the Abepura sub-district police station. The police officers continued to punch Benjamin Lagowan and Laorens Kerebea during custody at the station. A few minutes after the arrest, several Brimob officers also ill-treated Hendrikus Madai (27), after seeing he had taken photos of the police torture. The officers forcefully seized his cell phone and repeatedly beat Hendrik Madai with a helmet on the head.

Read more case details [here](#) and [here](#)

### Violence escalates in the highland regency of Nduga – at least 20 civilians killed



Grieving indigenous villagers gather around a grave – collected grenade shells have been placed in the foreground

An armed attack against construction workers on 2 December 2018 in the remote highland regency of Nduga resulted in the deaths of at least 20 civilians. On 1 December 2018, the project supervisor of the company PT Istaka Karya participated in the collective cooking of a pig in Wuridlak Village, which was attended by West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN-PB) guerrilla fighters. As the supervisor took pictures, the TPN-PB members became angry, suspecting him of being an undercover military member. On 2 December 2018, the TPN-PB fighters arrested 24 PT Istaka Karya's employees, who were working on the construction of the Trans Papua Road in the area. The resistance members brought the workers to the Kabo Mountain and killed 17 employees who they suspected to be members of the Indonesian military.

On 4 December 2018, at 11.30, joint security forces launched a military offensive in response to the massacre using ground troops and four military helicopters. Eyewitnesses claimed that one helicopter dropped explosives while the other three helicopters fired large calibre machine guns at various targets, including several villages. It is unclear which types of explosives were used. Witnesses claimed that the projectiles exploded in the sky and subsequently produced a dense smoke. Observers assessed that images of projectiles and characteristics of the wounds indicate the use of incendiary or white phosphorus - a chemical weapon prohibited for use against civilian populations under the international convention on certain conventional weapons. However, these allegations could not be verified. The military raids continued until 10 December 2018 in various districts of the Nduga regency.

On 13 December 2018, a rescue team succeeded to evacuate additional bodies and speak with eyewitnesses. The team found the bodies of two indigenous villagers named Nison Umangge and Mianus Elokberere. Both victims were 18 years old and allegedly killed when helicopters attacked on 4 December 2018. Several indigenous villagers stated that military personnel intimidated the villagers, making death threats. Some villagers with long hair and dread locks were allegedly forced to cut their hair. The team found an injured villager named Mentus Nimiangge (21) who died on 15 December 2018 as a result of a bullet injury. A further villager named Rabu Gwijangge was allegedly shot dead by military members. However, his body could not be found. Five more indigenous villagers - including two minors - have been reported missing since the beginning of the military offensive on 4 December 2018.

Read more on the case [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

### Mass arrests during commemorations of International human rights day in West Papua



Protesters commemorating the International HR day in Jayapura

Commemorations of the International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2018 were organised in the Papuan cities Timika, Merauke, Jayapura, Manokwari and Oksibil. In Merauke and Timika, police forces arrested a total number of 137 protesters. In Jayapura, approximately 700 police officers and additional military members blocked roads and dispersed crowds in multiple locations. In Merauke, police forces blocked the road to the parliament building and arrested 41 protesters. Police officers arrested 96 protestors in Timika, as the crowd was heading towards the local parliament building. In Jayapura, the masses gathered at multiple places and tried to walk to Abepura. Joint security forces blocked roads but did not conduct arrests. Police officers forcefully dispersed a group of KNPB supporters at BUPER

in Waena. Several protesters including the protest coordinator, Hosea Yeimo, were allegedly subjected to ill-treatments.

[Read more case details](#)

### **Military raid in the Tsinga District of Mimika Regency – two villagers arbitrarily arrested and detained**

Local human rights defenders have reported military raids in various villages of the Tsinga District, Mimika Regency, on 1 and 2 December 2018. The villagers claimed that members of the military Special Forces 'Kopassus' were collecting information about a local guerrilla command of the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN-PB). The military members seized the villagers' cell phones and returned them many days later, on 11 December. Two villagers named Joap Beanal and Minus Kum were arrested in Beanegogom village on 2 December 2018 for protesting against the raids that were allegedly conducted without warrants. They were detained for nine days before they were allowed to return to the village on 10 December 2018. Villagers allegedly fled in fear of arbitrary violent acts by military members.

[Read more case details](#)

### **Indonesian-wide commemorations accompanied by mass arrests – at least 107 peaceful protesters arrested, many ill-treated**



Injured protester in Jayapura

The 19 December 1961 marks the historic date on which the Indonesian army launched the Trikora operation, a military offensive aiming to seize and annex the former Dutch colonial territory of Netherlands New Guinea. Indigenous Papuans and Pro-Papuan activists in multiple cities throughout Indonesia organised peaceful commemorations on the 19 December 2018. In various cities, security forces responded with mass arrests or forcefully dispersed the crowd. According to human rights activists, security force members ill-treated protesters as they conducted arrests in Jayapura and Ternate, Maluku Utara Province. In the Javanese city of Malang, 16 peaceful protesters were subjected to ill-treatments by plain cloth officers and members of nationalist mass organisations. A similar incident was reported from Denpasar, Bali, where the forceful dispersal by police officers and members of nationalist mass organisations resulted in the ill-

treatment of four protesters. The most severe forms of torture and ill-treatment were reported from the city of Ternate. Plain cloth officers arrested 7 protesters and one student who allegedly recorded the arrests with his mobile phone. The eight arrestees were interrogated and collectively punished for participation in the demonstration. Security force members cut the protesters hair, forced them to open their clothes and collectively beat them on the back, the back of the head and the face.

[Read more case details](#)

## Police officers arbitrarily arrest and intimidate Raga Kogeya for exposing killings during military operation in Nduga Regency



Raga Kogeya during interview with BBC Indonesia journalist

On 18 December 2018, the Indonesian news outlet BBC Indonesia published a video about the military operation in the Nduga Regency on Youtube. The video contained footage of interviews with indigenous villagers from the Nduga Regency including Raga Kogeya, who comes from the affected area. During the interview the human rights activist demanded an investigation into allegations of extra-judicial killings. She mentioned that some indigenous Papuans had been killed by the explosives that the military had dropped during the attacks in Nduga. On 20 December 2018, police officers arbitrarily arrested Raga Kogeya and her two children (12 and 6 years

old) at 9.15 am at Trikora Road in the highland city of Wamena, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Province. Without showing a warrant, the police officers brought Raga Kogeya and her children to the police station and interrogated them. Raga Kogeya requested a lawyer, saying that she would not answer any question without legal counsel. The police also seized her cell phone and copied contacts and other data from her phone. Raga Kogeya and her children were released at 1.08 pm. After the release, Raga Kogeya travelled to the city of Jayapura, where she attended a meeting with other human rights defenders and civil society representatives to form a team with the purpose to evacuate the bodies of dead civilians and investigate human rights violations in relation to the military raid in Nduga. In the early morning of 24 December 2018, Raga Kogeya returned from Jayapura City to Wamena town. Members of the intelligence followed her to the Jayapura airport, taking pictures and recordings videos. The close surveillance continued as Raga Kogeya left the airport in Wamena. Plain cloth officers followed her to her house in Wamena, and have continued to monitor Raga Kogeya's movements closely.

## Joint security forces arrest six activists and disperse worship ceremony at KNPB office in Timika

On 31 December 2018, joint security forces raided the local office of the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) in Timika and arrested six KNPB activists. A large number of participants had come to the office to attend a New Year worship ceremony. At 8.10 pm, approximately 200 joint security force members armed with machine guns surrounded the KNPB office and forcefully dispersed the peaceful assembly. The security forces took off banners, seized KNPB symbols, documents and searched the office as well as the worship participants. Police officers allegedly broke some



Joint security forces gather seized belongings in front of the office

windows on the top floor and destroyed in front of the office a concrete monument carrying the symbol of the 'Mambruk' Bird— a symbol of cultural identity in West Papua that is also used by the independence movement.

[Read more case details](#)

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