

Human Rights Update West Papua – October 2020

covering July - September 2020



Summary

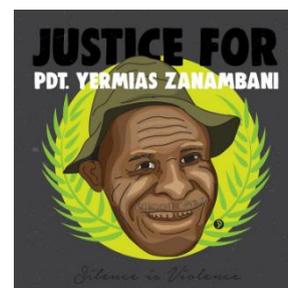
In the third quarter of 2020, several human rights indicators show a considerable deterioration of the situation, notably the significant increase in the number of extra-judicial killings (EJK) and the number of victims of torture and ill-treatment. The number of political arrests has risen sharply, mainly due to the increase in public demonstrations.

Six of the reported EJKs took place during security force operations in the regencies Mimika, Intan Jaya and Nduga,

which have become the hotspots of armed conflict. Military and police representatives have repeatedly justified such killings by publicly claiming that the victims were members of the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN PB) without providing any evidence. Those killings are then neither further investigated, nor are the cases transferred to the police or military internal investigation units.

The increase in the number of cases of torture and the steep increase in the number of political arrests are directly related to the rise in demonstrations opposing special autonomy in Papua. Although special autonomy is valid for an unspecified period, Article 34(6) of the [Law](#) of 2001 states that certain special autonomy funding shall be valid for 20 years only. While the central government has decided to extend the allocation of special autonomy funds beyond 2021, various Papuan groups have been voicing their opposition, mainly through public demonstrations. The rallies are often forcefully and violently dispersed by security force members even though the organisers previously registered the event with the local police as required by Indonesian law. The non-compliance with COVID-19 health protocols during the rallies is frequently used as an excuse to crackdown and use excessive force against protestors.

Religious leaders and groups like the Papuan Council of Churches (WPCC) and the Christian Youth Forum (FPK-TP) have also openly expressed their opposition towards special autonomy, known now in the public discourse as special autonomy volume II. They support self-determination for Papua as the solution and call for a peaceful dialogue between the Indonesian government and the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP). The killing of 68-year-old Pastor Yerimias Zanambani on 19 September 2020 has caused considerable international attention and solidarity actions.



Law enforcement operations targeting members of the political organisation West Papua National Committee (KNPB) also led to the arrest of its Chairman and the torture of some of its members. The KNPB is a political

Number of victims	Q4 '19	Q1 '20	Q2 '20	Q3 '20
Extra-judicial executions or killings	4+5	4+1	4+2	9+1
Torture / Ill-treatment	7	7	13	31
Assaults against / obstruction of journalists	1	-	-	2
Violations of right to health (victims)	9	-	-	-
Violations against / obstruction of HRDs	1	-	12	7
Violations of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)	-	-	1	-
Non-political arbitrary arrests	-	1	4	17
Political arrests	156	1	18	210
Treason & conspiracy charges (articles 106 & 110 KUHP) no. of accused	43	-	-	4
Violations of the right to fair and impartial trial & independence of judges	1	36	22	-
Internally displaced persons (Conflict), new additional cases	N/A	> 1,500	N/A	-

organisation promoting the right to self-determination through a referendum; their members are often criminalised and prosecuted. Three cases of the treason and conspiracy charges during this quarter are against KNPB members, while a fourth case is about a university student being investigated under those charges.

Compliance with the Indonesian criminal procedure code (KUHAP) in all stages of law enforcement is flawed. Human rights defenders reported two cases in which police officers prevented lawyers from meeting with detainees. A third case concerned a further attempt of criminalisation against Indonesian human rights lawyer Veronica Koman.

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

Local human rights defenders collected the information in this report. 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.

At least 33 victims of extra-judicial killings in West Papua throughout 2019

The ICP has documented the extra-judicial killings of 33 civilian victims by security force members throughout the year 2019. All victims were reportedly unarmed and – except for a single case – ethnic Papuans. The list does not include victims of extra-judicial killings during the forceful dispersal of a protest against racism in Wamena on 23 September 2019.

Download list [here](#)



*KNPB
Chairperson, Adam Sorry*

KNPB Chairman and minor arbitrarily arrested in Maybrat

Members of the Sorong Selatan District Police tortured and arbitrarily arrested Adam Sorry, Chairman of the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) Branch Office in Maybrat regency, on 1 July 2020. The police officers did not show a warrant or provided information regarding the reason for the arrest.

[Read more details](#)

Police investigator in Sorong prevents lawyers from meeting with detainees

Three lawyers of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) Kaki Abu were prevented from visiting four suspects who were arrested during a police raid in the regency of Maybrat between 15 and 23 April 2020. The Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Sorong Selatan District Police, Inspector Vhalio Agafe, reportedly prevented them from accessing the detention facility to talk with the four suspects, ignoring fundamental rights.

[Read more details](#)



Group of protesters in Malang

Students in Malang, Makassar and Bali demand investigation of human rights violations in WP

The Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) and the Indonesian Peoples' Front for West Papua (FRI-WP) organised peaceful protests in the Indonesian cities Denpasar (Bali), Makassar (South Sulawesi) and Malang (East Java). Local police forces dispersed the demonstrations in Bali and Makassar. Multiple protesters in Bali were reportedly subjected to ill-treatment during the crowd control operation.

[Read more details](#)

Police officers arbitrarily arrest and torture suspect in Keerom Regency

On 4 July 2020, members of the Keerom District Police reportedly arrested and tortured Yudi Kwimi. His relatives

claim that the arrest resembled a kidnapping. As one of the relatives tried to help Yudi Kwimi, an officer reportedly kicked him and told him at gunpoint to back off.

[Read more details](#)



Press conference at the ELSHAM office in Jayapura



Sedrik Kaikatu receiving at the Wasior General Hospital

Police in Wasior alleged of using excessive force and torturing suspect

On 11 July 2020, members of the Teluk Wondama District Police allegedly tortured Sedrik Kaikatu while he was being treated at the public hospital in Wasior, Papua Barat Province. Sedrik Kaikatu had sustained a bullet wound and a cut caused by a sharp item as police officers arrested him.

[Read more details](#)



Security force members evacuating the victims' bodies

Police operation in Maybrat Regency accompanied by arrests and torture

Military members reportedly shot dead two indigenous Papuans, Elias Karunggu, 40, and Selu Karunggu, 20, at the military post near Masonggorak village, approximately half a kilometre away from Nduga's largest town of Kenyam. The victims reportedly belonged to a group of 58 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the districts of Kegayem, Paro and Yenggelo.

[Read more details](#)

Allegations of fatal military violence in Boven Digoel

Members of the 561 Caraka Yudha Kodam Brawijaya Border Control Unit arrested Oktavianus Betere, who was accused of stealing. They tortured him inside a military post on 25 July 2020. The military members admitted him shortly after to a local community health centre (Puskesmas). Local human rights defenders claim that Oktavianus Betere was already dead at the time of admission.

[Read more details](#)



Students demanding high quality education instead of a military base in Tambrau

Multiple indigenous Papuans subjected to intimidation and torture since the establishment of new military bases in Tambrau

Human rights defenders have raised allegations on multiple cases of intimidation and violence against indigenous Papuans throughout late July 2020. Such cases have significantly increased since two military bases are being built in the regency of Tambrau, Papua Barat Province.

[Read more details](#)

Student in Trenate under investigation for participating in a peaceful rally for Papuan independence

On 2 December 2019, the Director of Khairun University expelled four students for participating in a peaceful demonstration in commemoration of the 'Papuan Independence Day'. One of the students, Arbi M. Nur, is accused of violating Article 106 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) on treason and Article 160 KUHP on incitement.

[Read more details](#)

Indo Govt pressures human rights defender Veronica Koman

The Indonesian Education Fund Management Institution (LPDP) is demanding the Indonesian human rights lawyer, Veronica Koman, to reimburse funds that she received as part of a scholarship program for her studies abroad.

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



People in Jayapura protesting against the integration of West Papua into Indonesia

Police disperse NY Agreement commemorations in Jayapura

The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), the Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) and the Indonesian People's Front for West Papua (FRI WP) launched demonstrations in multiple Indonesian cities on 15 August 2020. The rallies commemorated the 'New York Agreement'. Police officers arrested 32 protesters in Jayapura. In the Javanese city of Semarang, approximately 50 protesters were intimidated by police forces.

[Read more details](#)



Bruises in one of the victims' face after the torture

Joint security forces torture three indigenous Papuans in Sorong Selatan

Joint security forces tortured three indigenous Papuans on their way to the town of Teminabuan, the largest city in the regency of Sorong Selatan on 16 August 2020. Two police officers and a military member attacked the three Papuans and beat them up. The victims sustained bruises in the face and the body as a result of the assault.

[Read more details](#)

Police officers arrest Papuan activist for Facebook post

Police officers arbitrarily arrested Philipus Robaha on 24 August 2020 during a general traffic control in the outskirts of Jayapura City. They detained Philipus at the Jayapura municipality police station and questioned him from 11.00 am until 3.00 pm. They asked him about a critical Facebook post on the evaluation of 19 years of Special Autonomy by the regional leaders' forum in Sentani, Jayapura regency.



Papuan activist Philipus Robaha

[Read more details](#)



Relative Edo Kondologit expressing his anger about the local police in Sorong

Papua suspect killed during police detention in Sorong – Police chief blames detainee

A homicide suspect, 21-year-old Georg Karel Rumbino, died during police detention at the Sorong Municipality Police Headquarters (Mapolres Sorong) in the province of Papua Barat. On 27 August 2020, relatives brought Georg Rumbino to the police in connection with the murder of an older woman in their neighbourhood. Eight hours later, while he was still in custody, the family received the information that Georg Rumbino had passed away.

[Read more details](#)



Yan (Keiya Mabipai) Agapa in his house shortly after the incident

Police officers open fire at 16-year old Papuan in Dogiyai Regency

On 23 August 2020, police officers opened fire at a group of minors in the Ugapuga village of the Kamu district. The boys had consumed alcoholic drinks and stopped passing cars to bag for money. Yan Keiya Mabipai Agapa sustained a bullet injury in the left thigh as one of the officers took an aimed shot from a distance of approximately three meters.

[Read more details](#)

Raids, mass arrests and torture by security forces in Yahukimo

Joint security forces have launched raids in the town of Dekai, Yahukimo regency, Papua Province. The raids took place as part of the investigation into three murder cases in which all victims were migrants. The West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN PB) has claimed responsibility for two of the murders. Local human rights defenders claimed that sixteen residents were arrested and temporarily detained. Police officers tortured at least two arrestees during police custody at the Yahukimo district police station (Polres Yahukimo).



The Papuan police chief and military representatives during a press conference in Dekai, Yahukimo

[Read more details](#)

Police officers obstruct journalists at the district police station in Yahukimo



Papuan journalist Ruland Kabak

The Papuan branch office of the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI Papua) has condemned the obstruction of two Papuan journalists in the town of Dekai, in the Yahukimo regency. Ruland Kabak and Atamus Kepno wanted to obtain information about an ongoing investigation. Several police officers intimidated the journalists, refused to provide information on the case and prevented them from meeting with suspects.

[Read more details](#)

Joint security force members torture three indigenous Papuans in Boven Digoel for not using face masks

On 8 September 2020, joint police-military forces allegedly tortured three indigenous Papuans from the indigenous Kombai Tribe – among them one female – during a routine COVID-19 control in Boven Digoel's largest town Tanah Merah. Some COVID-19 task force members used their rifle butts to strike the victims on the back of their head and face while others kicked the victims with combat boots. The security force violence caused anger among many people in Tanah Merah and triggered subsequent riots.



Unrest at the regent's office in Tanah Merah

[Read more details](#)



The body of Demiana Wanmang at the site of crime

Joint security forces kill three indigenous Papuans near Freeport Mine in Timika

On 16 August 2020, joint security force members of the Tindak Nemangkawi Task Force shot dead Mrs Demiana Wanmang, Mr Demu Kiwak, and Mr Uterus Newegalen at Mile 69, an illegal gold panning site near the Grasberg Mine. The task force members likely mistook the group for members of the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN PB). The relatives reaffirmed that none of the victims were affiliated with the TPN PB. They demand an

independent and effective investigation into the extra-judicial killing.

[Read more details](#)

Indigenous leader reports palm oil companies to national human rights commission

The Chief of the Customary Council in South Sorong has reported palm oil companies from the districts Teminabuan and Konda to the national human rights commission (Komnas HAM RI). The companies allegedly ignored principles of Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). The companies hold concession permits which were the outcome of a compromise between the local government and the company. The local indigenous communities were not involved in the negotiations about the concessions. The local government approved the concession, although the affected indigenous communities three times declared to the government representatives that they reject the companies.

Verdict in treason trial in Sorong – Ten months imprisonment for eleven Papuan activists

On 17 September 2020, the panel of judges at the Sorong District Court found eleven Papuan activists guilty of criminal conspiracy as stipulated under Article 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP). All defendants were arrested on 27 November 2019, after planning a public event through which they allegedly supported the establishment of the separate state 'West Papua New Guinea'. The eleven political prisoners were released from the Sorong Class II Correctional Facility on 22 September 2020.

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

Papuan Pastor Yeremia Zanambani killed in Intan Jaya

Members of the Yonif 711/RKS/Brigif 22/OTA, DAM XIII/MDK Military Unit reportedly killed the 68-year-old Pastor Yeremia Zanambani on 19 September 2020. The killing happened near Bomba, a small village in the Hitadipa District. Rev Zanambani was a pastor and Bible translator working for the Protestant Evangelical Church in Indonesia (GKII). The killing happened a few hours after a lethal attack by the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN PB) which caused the death of an Indonesian soldier.



Pastor Yeremia Zanambani

[Read more details](#)



Michael Ipnun's body during the burial ceremony

Indigenous Papuan allegedly tortured during police custody in Merauke – Suspect shortly after dies in health centre

Michael Ipnun was involved in a traffic accident near the village of Sarmayam in the Tanah Miring District on 21 September 2020. According to information received, police officers took Michael Ipnun into custody shortly after regaining consciousness. Three villagers reportedly witnessed how Michael Ipnun's arms, legs and neck were tied to a chair at the Sarmayam Police post. The relatives stated that they found bruises all over his body which appeared not to be related to the traffic accident. Michael Ipnun's wrists, feet and neck showed marks indicating that Michael's extremities had been tied up.

[Read more details](#)

Police officer in Manokwari prevents lawyers from meeting with defendants

The Manokwari Institute for Research Study and Development of Legal Aid (LP3BH Manokwari) reported that a police officer named Andi Sudirman prevented three LP3BH Manokwari lawyers from meeting with two of their clients. Sudirman rejected the visit, stating it would go against the social distancing rules, which are part of the policy for the prevention of the COVID-19 infections.

[Read more details](#)



Police officers gather in front of the Cenderawasih University campus in Jayapura prior to the crackdown

Security forces disperse five peaceful demonstrations against the prolongation of West Papua's Special Autonomy

Papuan students have launched peaceful protests against the government's plan to prolong the special autonomy status for the provinces Papua and Papua Barat. Instead the students demanded a referendum over the political status of West Papua. The protests took place between 21 and 28 September 2020 in the cities Manado and Makassar, both located on the Indonesian island Sulawesi, as well as Timika, Nabire and Jayapura, Papua Province. All five demonstrations were either dispersed or prevented from happening. At least eight protesters were injured as a result of excessive force by security force

members or because the police failed to protect the protesters from violent pro-government groups. In total, police officers arrested 175 protesters. They were temporarily detained and released within 24 hours.

Read more details about forceful dispersal of

[protest in Manado](#),
[protest in Timika & Nabire](#),
[protest in Makassar](#),
[protest in Jayapura](#)

Three KNPB activists currently tried under treason charges at Sorong District Court

Three members of the movement organisation 'West Papua National Committee' (KNPB) have been standing trial at the Sorong District Court since 15 September 2020. Police arrested the activists about the killing of a Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) officer during a [raid in the Maybrat Regency](#) in late April 2020. They suspected the KNPB to cooperate with the perpetrators of the killing. The public prosecutor raised charges against defendants for alleged treason and criminal conspiracy as stipulated under Articles 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code, for being associated with the KNPB.

[Read more details](#)

Indigenous Papuan allegedly tortured during police custody in Merauke – Suspect shortly after dies in health centre



Albert Degei's body inside the body bag at the mortuary of Siriwini general hospital

The pastor Albert Degei was found dead in the Kalisemen Village of the Nabire Barat District on 22 September 2020. Relatives noticed multiple injuries on the victim's head, indicating that Rev. Degei was murdered. Human rights defenders went to the alleged site of crime where two farmers had reportedly found the body. The relatives are concerned that the police may attempt to cover up the case because they want to protect the perpetrator.

[Read more details](#)

Military member sentenced to 1 year ten months for killing four Papuans

A military court sentenced first sergeant Fajar to one year and ten months imprisonment. Sergeant Fajar was actively involved in the forceful dispersal of a protest of political supporters, which resulted in the killing of four indigenous Papuans. This took place in Basim Village in the district of Fayit, Asmath Regency, on 27 May 2019. One protester remained disabled for life as a result of the bullet injuries which he sustained during the incident. Human rights observers assessed the sentence as disproportionately low. The sentence fails to bring justice for the victims. It is a further example of the lack of accountability for perpetrators among the police and military.

The head of the Papuan representative office of the national human rights commission (Komnas HAM), Frits Ramandey, did not want to comment on the sentence and considered the case to be closed.

You can find more reports with the following links:

[3rd Quarterly Report 2019](#)

[4th Quarterly Report 2019](#)

[1st Quarterly Report 2020](#)

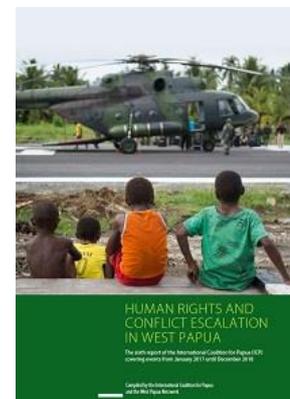
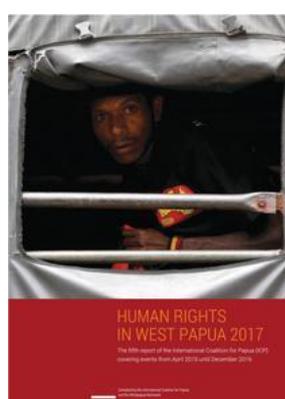
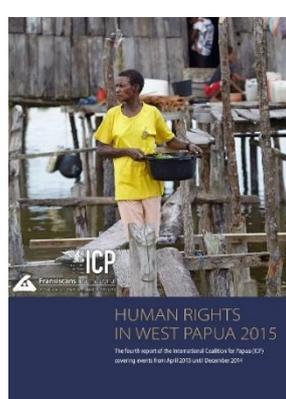
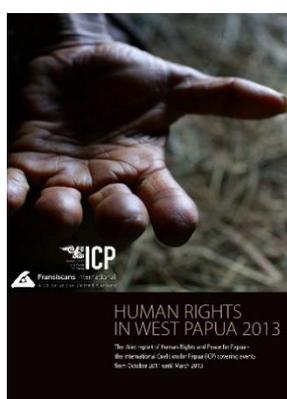
[2nd Quarterly Report 2020](#)

[ICP Human Rights Report 2019](#)

[ICP Human Rights Report 2017](#)

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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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