

**Joint Written Statement**  
**44th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**  
**Agenda Item 3: Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons**

*Joint statement of Franciscans International (General ESOCOC Status), Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) - World Council of Churches, Geneva for Human Rights, VIVAT International (ECOSOC Status);*

*Supported by International Coalition for Papua (ICP); TAPOL and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Papuan Tabernacle Church (JPIC Kingmi)*

**Title: Internal displacement of indigenous peoples due to expansion of security force operation in Papua**

**Background**

1. Since the killing of 19 Indonesian government contractors in the regency of Nduga on 2 December 2018,<sup>1</sup> the Government of Indonesia has deployed additional troops in multiple Papuan regencies of the central highlands<sup>2</sup> in an attempt to arrest the perpetrators and demonstrate military strength against the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB). The central highlands are known as the stronghold of the TPNPB.
2. The Government's approach to managing the conflict in West Papua through police and military intervention has far-reaching consequences for the indigenous peoples in the central highlands as it perpetuates the cycle of violence in the affected areas. Security force operations against the TPNPB often lead to further armed clashes and deployment of non-organic troops<sup>3</sup> from other regions in Indonesia and are often accompanied by rights violations and causing internal displacement of the indigenous population.
3. Since the beginning of 2020 at least seven civilians have reportedly been killed by security forces during such operations. Others have been subjected to torture as they are suspected to be associated with the TPNPB. All reported victims of torture and killings throughout 2020 were indigenous Papuans.

**Mimika Regency**

4. An escalation of the armed conflict in the regency of Mimika took place in early March 2020. The police and the military deployed additional troops to the Tembagapura district after TPNPB forces killed a police officer in the village of Arwanop on 29 February 2020. Subsequent armed clashes between TPNPB and Joint Security Forces<sup>4</sup> in multiple locations resulted in the destruction of infrastructure and fatalities on both sides. As of 15 April 2020, three civilians were reportedly killed in Mimika since the operation was launched. Observers stated that 1,531 indigenous Amungme people<sup>5</sup> fled to the town of

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://thediplomat.com/2018/12/massacre-in-nduga-indonesias-papuan-insurgency/>

<sup>2</sup> The area is isolated, hardly covered by any Government services and mainly populated by indigenous Papuans with the exception of a few small towns where the non-Papuans maintain small businesses or work in Government positions.

<sup>3</sup> In the Indonesian context, the "non-organic troop" means the troops that are not permanently part of the local territorial command. See book Political Reform in Indonesia After Soeharto by Harold Crouch (2010).

<sup>4</sup> Joint forces between the Indonesian Army (TNI) and Indonesian Police Force (POLRI):

<sup>5</sup> They are from from the villages Banti 1, Banti 2, Opitawak and Kimbeli.

Tembagapura on 6 March 2020. On 8 March 2020, observers already counted a number of 614 IDPs who travelled from Tembagapura to Timika. On 9 March 2020, buses of the mining company PT Freeport Indonesia brought 917 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the city of Timika, where they stayed with relatives or sought shelter in churches.<sup>6</sup> The Papuan Police Chief, Paulus Waterpauw, claimed in an interview with national media outlets that the villagers fled their homes because they feared violent acts by the criminal armed groups.<sup>7</sup>

### **Intan Jaya Regency**

5. A military operation has been taking place in the regency of Intan Jaya after TPNPB fighters killed two military members during an armed attack on 17 December 2019. Since the beginning of the operation, three indigenous Papuans were reportedly killed by security force members, during armed attacks in the Sugapa district, among them an eleven-year-old boy.<sup>8</sup>
6. According to the JPIC Kingmi Papua,<sup>9</sup> at least 15 villages in the districts of Sugapa, Ugimba and Hitadipa have been affected by the military operation, causing indigenous residents to flee their homes. Figures suggest that 1,237 indigenous peoples were internally displaced, 331 of them were women and children. The IDPs sought shelter in a catholic church in Sugapa. Others fled to the regencies Nabire and Mimika.

### **Puncak Regency**

7. A security force operation in the Gome district of the highland regency Puncak resulted in the internal displacement of over 1,500 indigenous peoples from eight villages, mainly women and children. Between 24 and 26 August 2019, joint security forces conducted raids in multiple villages with the goal of arresting two high-ranking TPNPB commanders. According to local informants, approximately 20 houses in Tegelobak were damaged or burned to the ground. During the operation, two indigenous villagers were reportedly killed. On 17 September 2019, joint security forces allegedly shot dead an indigenous villager and two children in the village of Olengki. Four indigenous women were injured by bullets during the incident.
8. While some villagers sought temporary shelter in the surrounding forests and neighbouring districts, about 1,500 IDPs fled to the village of Yenggernok, where they were accommodated in tents in front of the Gome Presbyterial Office of the KINGMI Papua Church. Volunteers from Yenggernok stated that they did not have enough food for the IDPs. Food supplies donated by the Gome Sub-district police, the Puskesmas, the Women Empowerment Agency and the Social Affairs Agency in Puncak had already diminished by 5 September 2019, while the armed clashes in Gome were still ongoing. Two indigenous villagers reportedly died in August 2019 after being displaced from their villages due to the living condition during the displacement.

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<sup>6</sup> See <https://papua.bisnis.com/read/20200309/414/1210693/kapolda-papua-kunjungi-917-pengungsi-mereka-ketakutan-diserang-kkb>

<sup>7</sup> The Indonesian police and military usually refer to TPN PB groups as ‘armed criminal groups’, usually abbreviated as KKB (Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata). The term is part of the Government position that the TPN PB is a criminal organisation. It does not acknowledge the TPN PB’s political agenda and its struggle for political self-determination.

<sup>8</sup> The XVII Cenderawasih Military Commander, Colonel Eko Daryanto, later claimed in an interview that his men opened fire at the boy because he was allegedly carrying a fire arm. Moreover, the security forces injured two minors and two adult Papuans with bullets.

<sup>9</sup> Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Papuan Tabernacle Church – JPIC Kingmi

## Lanny Jaya Regency

9. ELSHAM Papua<sup>10</sup> documented a further military raid in the Balingga District of Lanny Jaya Regency, Papua Province. The raid occurred in response to an exchange of fire between the Indonesian Infantry (TNI-AD) and TPNPB forces in the village of Timonikime on 1 December 2019 as military members implemented a social aid program. Subsequently, the TNI-AD launched several attacks against the TPNPB near Timonikime on 2 and 4 December 2019. The military members reportedly searched multiple houses in Timonikime. Seven houses were allegedly burned to the ground and two indigenous villagers killed during the raid. Indigenous Papuans from the villages Timonikime and Manggalome reportedly fled to the surrounding forests in fear of repressive acts by the military members. The total number of IDPs in relation to the incident is not known. The local government evacuated non-Papuan motorcycle taxi drivers and teachers from the districts Malagai, Balingga, Popome and Pirime to the town of Tiom.

## Maybrat Regency

10. In Maybrat regency, Papua Barat Province, residents of eight villages are currently seeking refuge in the jungle and neighbouring villages due to an increase in joint police and Brimob operations in the area.<sup>11</sup> Local newspaper Suara Papua reported, the operations took place between 15 to 23 April 2020, after the killing of one Brimob personnel by unknown assailant(s) while on guard duty near the logging site which belongs to a logging company Wanagalang Utama.<sup>12</sup> Police and Brimob reportedly conducted raids, sweeping, pursuit, arrests and torture of civilians, including destroying properties and frightening residents into running away from their homes.<sup>13</sup> The police arrested four people which consisted of one member of Maybrat Municipal Police, one member of KNPB,<sup>14</sup> and two local village leaders.<sup>15</sup> The joint operation personnel allegedly tortured another KNPB member Eko Lando Sakof by hacking his legs, paralysing him, and breaking his fingers before Brimob personnel handcuffed him.<sup>16</sup> They then took him to Alam bridge where they attempted to throw him into the river. Meanwhile, reports have suggested that among residents who fled to the jungle, one person died due to an existing illness. Civil society organisations<sup>17</sup> have urged the local authorities to establish an investigation into the facts related to the operation and have demanded that the matter should be resolved through peaceful dialogue and through respecting principles of the rule of law.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> ELSHAM is The Papuan Institute of Human Rights Studies and Advocacy.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://suarapapua.com/2020/05/06/warga-8-kampung-di-distrik-aifat-timur-mengungsi/?fbclid=IwAR0PPyUcxdQmVp95W-gnTH3c3MWPPTRpftgsQhDHGN9WngOoe5JggrtssA>

<sup>12</sup> See [https://suarapapua.com/2020/04/26/dunia-sibuk-corona-aparat-sibuk-tangkap-dan-teror-masyarakat-di-maybrat/?fbclid=IwAR0S3cLJwi0veto8KK8Q7\\_08NkdjmnWazdY5tyN6fBs9LCT9j4qCL1Ytd9E](https://suarapapua.com/2020/04/26/dunia-sibuk-corona-aparat-sibuk-tangkap-dan-teror-masyarakat-di-maybrat/?fbclid=IwAR0S3cLJwi0veto8KK8Q7_08NkdjmnWazdY5tyN6fBs9LCT9j4qCL1Ytd9E)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> National Committee of West Papua

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> The statement was signed by SKPKC Ordo Santo Agustinus, Komisi Kerasulan Awam (Kerawam) Keuskupan Manokwari-Sorong, LBH-PBHKP Sorong dan Koalisi LSM Papua Barat Wilayah Sorong Raya, Lembaga Bantuan Hukum (LBH) Papua dan Solidaritas Mahasiswa Maybrat (SMM) in Jayapura.

<sup>18</sup> See: [https://suarapapua.com/2020/05/01/pemprov-pb-didesak-bentuk-tim-pencari-fakta-terkait-pt-wanagalang-utama/?fbclid=IwAR35hejany9v\\_x87x1d9abo1c8R0ZYkCYW9k6X0FyZsG67fzMDc5w\\_NJ00s](https://suarapapua.com/2020/05/01/pemprov-pb-didesak-bentuk-tim-pencari-fakta-terkait-pt-wanagalang-utama/?fbclid=IwAR35hejany9v_x87x1d9abo1c8R0ZYkCYW9k6X0FyZsG67fzMDc5w_NJ00s)

## Update on situation of IDPs from the Nduga Regency

11. The security force operation in the regency of Nduga has been ongoing since 4 December 2018, following the Nduga incident.<sup>19</sup> A voluntary humanitarian aid team estimated that a total number of over 37,000 IDPs originating from 16 districts in Nduga were internally displaced as a result of the incident.<sup>20</sup> In August 2019, the Papuan Ombudsman Office visited refugees from Nduga in Wamena. Ombudsman estimated that 50,000 people were displaced<sup>21</sup> – a figure which has not been verified so far.
12. The Foundation for Justice and Integrity of the Papuan People (YKKMP) documented a total number of 182 civilian fatalities between 4 December 2018 and July 2019, consisting of 21 adult females, 69 adult males, 21 female minors, 20 male minors, 14 female toddlers (below 5 years), 12 male toddlers, 17 female and 25 male babies – all indigenous Papuans. The figures have risen to a total number of 243 fatalities as of 27 December 2019. The majority of them died as a result of exhaustion, sickness and hypothermia.
13. In July 2019, the Social Ministry prepared aid deliveries with a total value of € 44,079<sup>22</sup> for IDPs from Nduga, contained 50 tons of rice, toys, school supplies, sport supplies and supplies for vulnerable groups.<sup>23</sup> On 29 July 2019, a meeting between representatives of the local Government, the social ministry and the military was held at the KODIM 1702 military base in Wamena. However, the IDPs rejected the humanitarian goods because the social ministry insisted to distribute the goods through the military, which the IDPs regard as ‘enemies’. Their culture forbids them to receive help from the enemy party. In the end, the humanitarian goods were never distributed among the IDPs. The local Government in Nduga provided IDPs in the districts Mbua, Dal and Yal with basic foods, such as rice, instant noodles, cooking oil, sugar and salt. IDPs in the regencies Jayawijaya and Lanny Jaya reportedly received occasional visits for the provision of health services by the health department of Papua Province. The majority of IDPs from Nduga did not receive any humanitarian aid supplies from the Government - they feel forgotten and neglected. The central Government has failed to set up refugee camp in coordination with local Governments in IDP hotspots like Wamena. Such camps could help to coordinate distribution of aid deliveries and coordinate the effective provision of humanitarian services such as shelter, fundamental healthcare and education to the IDPs. Many of them - particularly the children – are traumatized by the security force operations and fear the presence of police and military members in their villages

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<sup>19</sup> Nineteen Government contractors were executed by the TPNPB in 2 December 2018, while twenty-two victims were allegedly killed by security force members. The most recent case of extra-judicial killing and torture of indigenous residents occurred on 24 February 2020 in the town of Kenyam. YKKMP has shared the results of their investigation with multiple Government agencies including the President’s office in January 2020. None of the Government agencies have taken any measures to investigate the human rights violations or provide humanitarian aid to the IDPs.

<sup>20</sup> The armed conflict in the Nduga Regency has been ongoing for more than 16 months, preventing indigenous IDPs to return to their villages. Schools, health centers and churches in Nduga are deserted as health workers and teachers have not returned to their assigned places of work.

<sup>21</sup> Ombudsman Republik Indonesia (22.08.2019): Temui Pengungsi Nduga, Ombudsman RI Temukan Fakta Ini, available at: <https://ombudsman.go.id/news/r/temui-pengungsi-nduga-ombudsman-ritemukan-fakta-ini>

<sup>22</sup> This is equivalent to IDR 740.000.000

<sup>23</sup> CNN Indonesia (22.7.2019): Bantah Ada Pengungsi Tewas, Kemensos Kirim Bantuan ke Nduga, available at <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20190722084743-20-414248/bantah-ada-pengungsi-tewaskemensos-kirim-bantuan-ke-nduga>

## **Situation of Indigenous Women and Children IDPs**

14. We are concerned about the cycle of violence which strongly affects the indigenous people in West Papua, in particular, children, women and elderly people. In Intan Jaya, 331 of the 1.237 IDPs were women and children, while in Puncak Jaya, most of the 1,500 indigenous peoples who were displaced from eight villages, are women and children.
15. The indigenous women and children fatalities among the IDPs are also very concerning to us. Among the IDPs from Nduga, between 4 December 2019 and July 2020, there were 77 women who died,<sup>24</sup> from total of 243 victims, all indigenous Papuans. They died mostly from famine and other illnesses, due to poor living conditions in the shelters.<sup>25</sup>
16. In some of the affected regencies, IDPs have received temporary aid from civil solidarity movements or/and government agencies. Many IDPs are left to themselves and feel neglected by the Government. They are stuck in multiple Papuan cities where they live in church facilities, temporary shelters or with relatives.

## **Recommendations to the Government of Indonesia**

1. Stop human rights violation against the indigenous Papuans and bring the perpetrators to justice.
2. Allow humanitarian access to West Papua for international humanitarian organisations as well as international observers and international journalists to freely report on the human rights situation in West Papua
3. Withdraw non-organic troops from the regencies of Nduga, Mimika and Intan Jaya in order to allow IDPs from these areas to return to their villages
4. Guarantee the provision of basic health care, education and social services to IDPs until they are able to return to their homes.

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<sup>24</sup> It is composed of 21 adult females, 21 female minors, 14 female toddlers, 17 female male babies.

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/08/01/182-reportedly-die-while-seeking-refuge-in-nduga-conflict.html>