

## Human Rights Update West Papua – May 2017

covering January - March 2017

### Summary

In the first quarter of 2017, security forces killed four indigenous Papuans while the perpetrators remain untouched by law. The killings occurred in the regencies Kepulauan Yapen, Jayawijaya and Dogiyai. These Papuan regencies continue to be classified as 'red zones', where security force members tend to label indigenous Papuans as supporters of separatist movements. Hence, security force operations are conducted with a high level of violence. The majority of violations were committed by police officers during arrest or detention, where victims are vulnerable to acts of torture. The period between January and March 2017 revealed a case pattern, comprising violations such as extra-judicial killings, torture, violations of indigenous peoples rights, limitations regarding media freedom and violations of the right to fair trial.

Number of Victims 2017	Q1
Extra-judicial Executions or Killings	4
Torture / Ill-treatment	7
Assaults against / Obstruction of Journalists	2

The majority of reported violations occurred in January 2017. A large scale police operation in Dogiyai caused the death of two Papuan men, while dozens of victims were allegedly tortured and ill-treated during the sweepings. In Berap village of Jayapura regency, members of local police heavily tortured David Tarkuo during the arrest and detention. Police officers tortured 21-year-old Edison Hese gem to death during detention at a police post and the Jayawijaya General Hospital. In Dogiyai regency, at least three men were tortured by members of Moanemani sub-district police as a group of villagers demanded the release of Ferdinand Tebai, who had previously been arrested while trying to file a complaint against a traffic offender. In February, a team of human rights lawyers expressed their concern over three defendants who were undergoing trial at the Nabire District Court of Papua Province. The men did not receive sufficient medical treatment during detention. In the same month, the customary council in Paniai regency reported growing tensions in Nifasi village caused by a long-lasting conflict over concessions between two competing mining companies. One mining company was backed up by members of the military, leading to heavy military presence in Nifasi. In March, the Indonesian migration department deported two French journalists after filming media coverage in West Papua, similar to a case in 2014. On 27 March 2017, Yapen District Police allegedly executed the head of the local armed independence group Maikel Marani (28 years) in the early morning hours in Kontinuai Village, of Yapen Islands Regency.

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.*

### Otis Pekei and Melkias Dogomo die after allegedly being tortured during Police Detention in Dogiyai Regency, Papua

Between September 2016 and January 2017, joint police forces carried out multiple sweeping operations in the Dogiyai regency. The sweepings were part of a Indonesian wide police operation named 'Mantap Praja', which was commanded by the head of the Indonesian National Police to secure local elections. For this purpose the head of Nabire Sub-district police, Mr. Semmy Ronny Thabaa, had deployed additional police units under his command to Dogiyai.

Melkias Dogomo (33 years) was arrested during a police sweeping on 23 December 2016 and subsequently detained at the Moanemani Sub-district police station for several hours. Melkias Dogomo was allegedly

tortured during detention causing severe injuries which resulted in his death on 7 January 2017. On 10 January police officers arbitrarily arrested Otis Pekei (21 years) near the Tuka river and brought him to the Moanemani Sub-district police station where he was allegedly tortured during detention. Police officers brought Otis Pekei's dead body to his family's house around 3pm in the afternoon. Apart from the two dead victims dozens of villagers reported that they were beaten or insulted during the police sweepings. Police officers seized traditional weapons, machetes, gardening tools and other sharp items but also clothes and bags with morning star symbols.

### **Police Officers shoot David Tarkuo in Berap Village**

On 11 January 2017, at 15:00 East Indonesia Time (EIT), three black pick-up trucks loaded with police officers came to Berap village and stopped the vehicles in front of David Tarkuo's house. The officers then surrounded the house, one of them firing a gunshot at the front door of the house. Hearing the gunshot, David Tarkuo jumped up and tried to escape through the back door where he was ambushed and arrested by two police officers. David Tarkuo's wife witnessed that one of the officers allegedly fired one shot at Mr. Tarkuo's right thigh. Subsequently, the officers dragged him out of the house and lifted him on one of the cars.

On the way to the police station David Tarkuo asked the officers for water to drink, whereupon one of the police officers took an aqua water bottle and threw the bottle at him. As the car passed Waibrone village, the police officers tortured David Tarkuo. One officer lifted the victim's left leg while another officer shot David Tarkuo's left knee cap. The victim was then taken to the district police office in Jayapura, from where he was transferred to the Bhayangkara police hospital. According to David Tarkuo's wife, the victim only received basic medical treatment and medication for one week since his hospitalization on 11 January 2017. The victim sustained heavy injuries in both legs and is unable to leave his bed.

### **Police officers torture Mr. Edison Hese gem to death in Jayawijaya General Hospital**

Local Papuan human rights defenders have compiled a credible report about a recent torture case in the Papuan highland city of Wamena. On the 11 January 2017, at 02:00 am, six police officers of Jayawijaya District Police arrested Mr. Edison Hese gem (21 years old) in Irian Street in Wamena. Police officers, alleged that Mr. Hese gem was drunk and tried to steal a dog. According to the officers, Mr. Edison Hese gem tried to resist arrest, whereupon the officers collectively beat him until he sustained bruises to the face and body. The police officers then brought Mr. Hese gem to the police post at the airport (POLSEK KP3) because the detention facilities at the district police station were allegedly full. Mr. Edison was severely tortured during detention resulting in a series of injuries. He sustained an injury to the back of his head and bruises to his face.



Medic points on the spot where an officer knocked Edison's head against the wall

At 5.30 am the officers brought Mr. Edison Hese gem to the Jayawijaya general hospital. The police officers pulled Mr. Hese gem out of the car and threw him to the ground. Subsequently, two officers took his arms and dragged him from the vehicle to the Emergency room, while the other officers collectively kicked him to the lower back and repeatedly hit the victim's head with rifle butts. One officer knocked Mr. Edison Hese gem's head several times against the wall while he was meant to be receiving medical treatment. The torture was witnessed by hospital medical personnel who came to provide medical first aid to Mr. Edison Hese gem (*see picture on the left*).

After the medics treated some of Mr. Hese gem's wounds for 30 minutes, the officers again brought him to the POLSEK KP3 police post. When the officers re-admitted Mr. Edison Hese gem a second time at 14.30, he was

already unconscious. Mr. Edison Hesezem died on the 13 January at 1.00 am inside the hospital due to the severe injuries he suffered during torture. [Read more case details](#)

### Police torture Deserius Goo, Ferdinand Tebai and Aleks Pigai



Deserius Goo sustained a severe head injury, bruises in the face and on the back

On 20 January 2017, members of the Moanemani Sub-District Police tortured Deserius Goo (22 years), Ferdinand Tebai (20 years) and Aleks Pigai (30 years) at the Moanemani Sub-District police station (Polsek Maoanemani) in Dogiyai regency. Ferdinand Tebai had come to Moanemani Sub-District police station in order to file a complaint against a driver who had almost crashed him and subsequently sought shelter at the police station. Instead of settling the dispute by de-escalative means, one officer arrested and allegedly punched Ferdinand Tebai.

Approximately 15 minutes later, Deserius Goo, Aleks Pigai and several other men came to the Moanemani Sub-District Police station and demanded the release of Ferdinand Tebai. Seeing the group of you men, the police officers released several warning shots to the air in order to disperse the group. While most of the men were able to escape, Deserius Goo and Aleks Pigai were arrested and allegedly beaten up by a group of police officers, some of them using sticks. Diserius Goo and Ferdinand Tebai sustained bruises in the face and on the back. In addition Deserius Goo suffered a severe cut on the head (See picture above).

### Human Rights Lawyers concerned about detention conditions of three Papuan defendants

A team of human rights lawyers expressed their concerns regarding the detention conditions of three defendants (*see picture below*), who are currently undergoing trial at the Nabire District Court of Papua Province. On 13 October 2016, officers from the Papua regional police arrested Aloysius Kayame at the Sentani Airport. Jemmy Magay Yogi and Demianus Magay Yogi were arrested on 16 October 2016 in Waena, Jayapura. All suspects were charged due allegations of threats, extortion, possession of firearms and treason. The police justified the arrests in relation to a conflict over customary land which had occurred after Jemmy, Demianus and Aloisius had claimed compensation for the use of their ancestral land for a public road.



According to the lawyers, the defendants were repeatedly transferred to different detention facilities. The last transfer to Nabire State Prison took place on 5 February 2017, where they were denied access to sufficient medical treatment. Furthermore, the public prosecutor in charge and the police officers at the Papuan Regional Police station in Jayapura and the Nabire district police station did not allow the defendant's family to visit Jemmy, Demianus and Aloisius more than once a week. According to human rights lawyer Gustaf Kawer, all defendants were permanently handcuffed during detention. The handcuffs were

only opened when the defendants had to go to toilet. The human rights lawyers state that such treatment of defendants during the law enforcement process violates articles 58, 60, 61 and 63 of the Indonesian criminal procedure code (KUHAP) and is equal to physical forms of torture during detention. [Read more case details](#)

## Indigenous community in Nifasi Village face heavy military presence due to conflict between mining companies



The customary council for the Papuan customary area of Meepago reported of increasing tensions in the area around Nifasi village of Nabire Regency, due to an ongoing conflict between two gold mining companies in the area. The operation area of both companies belong to the Wate tribe. Particularly villagers living in Nifasi village are heavily affected by the conflict, which has resulted in extensive military presence around the gold panning sites at the nearby Masairo River.

In September 2016, PT KEL established a base camp, which is constantly secured by 30 military members of the Yon 753 Raider Unit began to secure mining operation by PT KEL in Nifasi. Furthermore, a control post, which had been built by the Nifasi community to control the transportation of excavated soil by PT KEL, was forcefully occupied by the military members and re-established as a military control post (*see picture on top*). On 14 February 2017 Arif Setiawan, Head of PT KEL together with several military members from the Indonesian Military headquarters in Jakarta organized a meeting with the Nifasi community at the local military base in Makimi. The villagers were invited to have lunch and speak about further ways of cooperation. However, the villagers perceived the meeting as an attempt of intimidation and fraud. All villagers refused to sign the attendance list and asked Arif Setiawan to conduct the meeting in Nifasi village in order to involve all villagers.

[Read more case details](#)

## Indonesia deports two French Journalists from West Papua

Indonesia has deported two French journalists from the province of Papua. Jean Frank Pierre and Basille Marie Longhamp were shooting a documentary film on the nature and culture of the Papua Province and were forced to leave the country via Timika airport on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Officials in Jakarta said that the two had ordinary visas without the required permits to work there. They have been banned from entering Indonesia for the next six months.

[Read more case details](#)

## Yapen District Police officers allegedly execute Maikel Marani



Local human rights defenders in Yapen Island reported that a special police force unit under command of Yapen District Police allegedly executed the head of the local armed independence group Maikel Marani (28 years) in the early morning hours of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Kontinuai Village, Angkaisera District of Yapen Islands Regency. According to eye witnesses, special force members in black uniforms and balaclavas approached the house of Maikel Marani's in-laws at 01:00 am, where Maikel had stayed over night. The witnesses stated that Maikel Marani was unarmed at the time of arrest. When Maikel Marani tried to escape a special forces officer released shots at him, one of them hitting Maikel's leg.

Despite no further attempts to avoid the arrest, the officers again fired several shots at Maikel Marani causing his instant death on the spot. Subsequently, the police officers tortured two other villagers with the initials H.S. (30 years) and F.A. (28 years) and forced them at gunpoint to show where Maikel Marani had hidden his weapons.

[Read more case details](#)

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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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