



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rijnstraat 8
2515 XP Den Haag
Postbus 20061
2500 EB Den Haag
Nederland
www.rijksoverheid.nl
The Netherlands
www.netherlandsandyou.nl

Contact

Asia and Oceania Division
DAO@minbuza.nl

Date 30-01-2019
Re Your open letter d.d. 04 December 2019

Dear Mr. De Jager,

Thank you for your open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Your letter was transferred to the Asia and Oceania Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for further handling.

In your letter, you speak about arrests that took place in Papua and throughout Indonesia on December 1, 2018. You express your concern about the human rights situation in Papua. Finally, you urge the Netherlands government to raise this issue with the Indonesian government.

On January 10, 2019, Minister Blok of Foreign Affairs responded to the situation in Papua in an open correspondence with the Dutch parliament. The minister confirmed, as you mention in your letter, that 500 people were arrested (and later released) during demonstrations regarding the celebration of "West Papuan National Day". The minister also expressed that he finds recent messages about the situation in Papua worrisome. You can find the full document online (in Dutch).¹

We can assure you that the human rights situation in the Indonesian provinces Papua and West Papua is a regular agenda point in diplomatic contacts between the Netherlands and Indonesia. The situation is also continuously brought up during high-level meetings and visits. When Minister Blok visited Indonesia in July 2018, he discussed the human rights situation in Papua both with human rights defenders as well as with the Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi. Also within the EU, the Netherlands pleads to keep the situation in Papua on the agenda in contacts with Indonesia.

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including our colleagues at the Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta, continue to monitor the situation closely. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending us your informative quarterly Papua Human Rights Updates.

Yours sincerely

Southeast Asia and Oceania Division
Asia and Oceania Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

¹<https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/kamervragen/detail?id=2018Z23982&did=2019D00194>