

Human Rights Update West Papua – October 2019

covering July –September 2019



Summary

The 3rd quarter of 2019 was characterized by a significant and rapid escalation of the conflict in West Papua since mid-August with riots, horizontal violence and human rights violations taking place in several Papuan cities. The outbreaks of violence were triggered by acts of racial discrimination and assault against Papuan students in multiple Javanese cities. They constitute the worst escalations of violence in West Papua since the downfall of the military dictatorship under President Suharto. Long-growing tensions between indigenous Papuans and Indonesian migrants

Number of Victims	Q1 '19	Q2 '19	Q3 '19
Extra-judicial executions or killings	6	6+1	19
Torture / Ill-treatment	14	29	78
Assaults against / obstruction of journalists	-	-	4
Violations of right to health (victims)	63	-	> 60
Violations against / obstruction of HRD	3	-	2
Violations of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)	-	-	4
Non-political arbitrary arrests	4	1	750
Political arrests	14	3	437
Treason charges (106 & 110 KUHP)	3	-	22
Violations of the right to fair and impartial trial & independence of judges	1	3	-
Internally displaced persons (Conflict)	> 5,000		> 1,500
Internally displaced persons (natural disasters)	> 5,000	-	-

have for the first time manifested in outbreaks of horizontal violence against particular ethnic groups causing deaths among the non-indigenous and the indigenous population. The Indonesian police reportedly neglected attacks against indigenous residents while non-Papuans militant groups enjoy impunity.

The significant raise of extra-judicial killings (EJKs), torture and ill-treatment throughout the 3rd quarter support the observation that the conflict situation in West Papua has been significantly exacerbated. Both figures have more than doubled compared to previous quarters. The figures are likely to be higher, as human rights defenders are still facing difficulties to access the regency of Nduga where an ongoing security force operation has resulted in a high number of unverified fatalities and internally displaced persons (IDPs). A second security force operation in the highland regency of Puncak in late August 2019 has caused the displacement of an additional 1,500 indigenous villagers.

Authorities have limited the room for peaceful protest, freedom of assembly, media freedom and freedom of expression in West Papua through policy and practice. Additional security forces have been deployed to West Papua to prevent ethnic violence, riots and demonstrations. The internet was temporarily blocked and the Papuan regional police adopted an edict as a regulatory instrument for the prosecution of civil society actors. Accordingly, the aftermath of the anti-racism protests was characterized by a significant increase of arrests and prosecutions. In the past month, 22 Papuan activists have been charged with the articles 106 and/or 110 KUHP on treason. Authorities also used other vague legal provisions such as incitement and the electronic information and transaction law to criminalize activists, journalists and human rights defenders.

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.

Security force members kill indigenous woman and take her baby

On 4 July 2019, joint security forces killed an indigenous woman named Kenmalet Gwijangge (26 years) in the district of Mugi, Nduga regency. At the time of the incident Mrs. Gwijangge was carrying her one-year-old baby, Raina Nirigi. She and three other indigenous women were about to collect sweet potatoes in a garden near Muruldumu Village as security force members opened fire on the women. While three women were able to flee, Kenmalet Gwijangge sustained a lethal bullet injury and dropped with her baby on the ground. The security force members allegedly took the baby. Relatives found Kenmalet Gwijangge's body on 8 July 2019, but have no information regarding the whereabouts of her baby Raina. Many indigenous persons have been displaced due to a widespread security force operation in the regency of Nduga. They only leave their temporary forest shelters at night or in the late afternoon when the fog starts to set in the central highlands. It is possible that the security force members confused the women with members of the West Papuan Liberation Army (TPN-PB) because the fog prevented clear vision.



Kenmalet Gwijangge carrying her baby, Raina Nirigi (1 year)

[Read more case details](#)

Commemorations of Papuan independence proclamation – protesters face intimidation and restrictions on freedom of assembly



Police officers surround Papuan students during peaceful assembly in Surabaya, Java Timur Province

The Papuan Student Alliance (AMP), the Indonesian Peoples' Front for West Papua (FRI WP) and the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) organised demonstrations in commemoration of the 48th anniversary of the West Papuan Independence proclamation. On 1 July, students, sympathizers and political activists joined the peaceful demonstrations in 13 cities all over Indonesia. The protesters called on the Government to respect the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, stop ruthless natural resource exploitation and reduce the military presence in West Papua. All demonstrations were strictly monitored by large numbers of police officers. In some cities, the police prevented the demonstrations and blocked protesters from accessing public areas. In Surabaya, six protesters were arrested and later released.

Police officers and nationalist mass organizations (ORMAS) in Semarang and Bali intimidated the protestors and subsequently dispersed the crowd.

[Read more case details](#)

Salim Group builds palm oil empire in West Papua

Various NGOs expressed concerns over violations indigenous peoples' rights and national regulations by the SALIM Group and its subsidiaries. The Salim Group owns ten palm oil companies in the provinces of Papua and Papua Barat. At least four of the SALIM subsidiaries are responsible for deforestation, violation of FPIC (Free, Prior, Informed Consent) principles, and violence against local indigenous communities, including the destruction or eviction of their food sources and/or sacred places. PT Bintuni Agro Prima Perkasa, allegedly runs its palm oil plantation without environmental impact assessment (EIA).

[Read more details](#)



Salim Group logo

Update armed conflict in Nduga Regency: CSOs estimate a total number of 177 fatalities and more than 5,000 IDPs

According to a report released by the solidarity team for Nduga, the armed conflict in Nduga has resulted in the deaths of 177 persons, 5 cases of disappearances and 5,201 internally displaced persons (IDPs) between early December 2018 and end of June 2019. The team emphasized that the figures are preliminary because the geographical conditions and the ongoing armed conflict still prevent journalists and observers from covering in the Nduga Regency. Many indigenous families continue to hide in the forest, where they face malnutrition, hypothermia and no access to healthcare. The majority of IDPs have fled to neighbouring regencies like Lanny Jaya and Jayawijaya, where they live under difficult circumstances. Activists report that IDPs in the Jayawijaya regency suffer from acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, anaemia, myalgia and dysentery. At least 40 out of 139 deceased IDPs were less than five years old. Seventeen security force members have died between December 2018 and June 2019.



Dilapidated school, built for displaced children in Wamena, Jayawijaya

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

Commemorations of New York Agreement accompanied by arrests, violence and racism – Papuan students subjected to harassment and assault



Police SWAT team entering the dormitory building in Surabaya, Java Timur

On 15 August 2019, the Papuan Student Alliance (AMP) and the Indonesian Peoples' Front for West Papua (FRI West Papua) organised peaceful protests in multiple Indonesian cities in commemoration of the 57. Anniversary of the 'New York Agreement'. While the peaceful demonstrations in Salatiga and Yogyakarta proceeded smoothly, security forces and members of nationalist mass organisations (ORMAS) in the Indonesian cities of Malang and Ternate dispersed the peaceful assemblies. The police responded with mass arrests which were allegedly accompanied by violent acts against the protesters. Following the protests, Papuan students in the Javanese cities of Semarang and Surabaya were subjected to harassment, intimidation and racist acts. In Malang (Java Timur Province), a group of approximately 40 ORMAS members attacked the protesters, throwing stones, kicking and beating them with motorcycle helmets while shouting racist insults such as 'pigs' and 'monkeys'. According to information received, the police only dispersed the crowd after the Papuan students had defended themselves, causing injuries to one ORMAS member. Twenty-three students sustained injuries during the incident. On 16 August 2019, a larger number of ORMAS members gathered in front of the Papuan student dormitory in Surabaya, shouting racist insults such as 'animals', 'dogs', 'pigs' and 'monkeys' because a Papuan student had allegedly damaged a flagpole with an Indonesian flag in front of dormitory building. ORMAS and military members threatened to 'butcher' the students if they would leave the dormitory. The Police failed to take strict action against the racist insults and intimidation. On the following day, a police SWAT team forced their way into the Papuan student dormitory and arrested 43 students. Five Papuan students were allegedly subjected to ill-treatment and torture during the police raid. Further racist acts were reported from the Javanese city of Semarang, Java Tengah Province.

[Read more details](#)

Police prevents peaceful commemoration of the 'International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples'

Police officers prevented Papuan indigenous leaders to peacefully commemorate the 'International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples' in the highland town of Tiom, Lanny Jaya Regency. The officers intercepted the

group of about 200 participants and did not allow them to go continue to Tiom, where they wanted to gather on a large field. The group finally returned to Wamena. The head of Lanny Jaya District police, Officer Muryatmo Edi, allegedly refused to issue an acknowledgement letter as members of the Papuan Customary council (DAP) tried to register the peaceful commemoration at the local police station on 3 August 2019.

[Read more case details](#)

Leading ULMWP activist arrested and charged with document forgery



Bazoka Logo

Members of the Jayapura municipality police arrested the Head of the Politics Desk of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), Bazoka Logo on 15 August 2019. The police pressed charges against Logo for alleged document forgery. Bazoka Logo's lawyers stated that the arrest was not conducted in accordance with law enforcement procedures because the police failed to summon Bazoka Logo and provide an arrest warrant. Moreover, the police investigator interrogated the activist without giving him access to legal counsel through a lawyer, as it is stipulated in the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP). They regard the arrest as an attempt to criminalise the ULMWP activist, who had organised a peaceful demonstration in commemoration of the 'New York Agreement' on 15 August 2019. Other ULMWP members called on the

international community and pacific states to condemn the attempted criminalization.

[Read more case details](#)

Extra-judicial killings and internal displacements during security force raid in Puncak Regency

A series of extra-judicial killings (EJKs) have been reported from the remote highland regency of Puncak, where a security force operation is taking place since 24 August 2019 with the goal to arrest Goliat Tabuni and Anton Tabuni, two commanders of the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPN PB) controlling some areas in the regencies of Puncak and Puncak Jaya. According to information received, at least five indigenous Papuans have been killed and two persons died after being displaced from their villages. At least four women were injured during a security force raid in the village of Olenki and had to be hospitalised. It was reported that twenty houses in the villages of Tegelobak, Mitimaga and Kelanunggin were burned to the ground. The security force members allegedly seized gardening tools and killed pig livestock. Helpers estimated that more than 1,500 indigenous Papuans had been internally displaced and sought refuge in temporary shelters in Yenggernok Village. The IDPs stated that the situation in the village is still tense due to heavy security force presence. The villagers have to report to security forces if they want to go to their gardens to harvest sweet potatoes and other vegetables. The security force members permitted only a limited number of women to collect the crops.



Body of Yul Magai (18 years)

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

West Papua-wide anti-racism protests accompanied by violence

West Papua-wide anti-racism rallies throughout late August and September were accompanied by riots, chaos and violent security force crackdowns. The protests occurred in response to [acts of racial discrimination and assault by security forces and nationalist mass organisations against Papuan students](#) in the Javanese cities of Malang, Surabaya and Semarang in mid-August. The protesters also expressed their aspirations for political self-determination, arguing that Papuans are treated as 'second-class' citizens in Indonesia. The [government blocked the internet](#) across the Provinces of Papua and Papua Barat to hamper media coverage and prevent the

spreading of information through social media. Angry protesters in multiple cities set telecommunication infrastructure, a powerplant, shops, houses and government offices on fire, among them the Papuan Peoples' Council (MRP), the provincial parliament building in Manokwari and the Jayawijaya Regent's office in Wamena.



City of Jayapura during the Anti-racism riots – multiple buildings were set on fire

Since the first outbreaks of violence in mid-August, the police and military have deployed additional units in West Papua, 1,500 security force members to Wamena alone. The Papuan Regional Police reacted by adopting a 'Police Edict for the Protection of Security and Public Order', which inter alia criminalises persons and groups participating in demonstrations or undertaking other activities that promote political self-determination. The edict also states that any person distributing false information or news that may result in anger or hatred among other groups of individuals will be strictly prosecuted. [Church leaders called for the involvement of the international community](#). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Michelle Bachelet, said her office was "disturbed"](#) by the escalating violence in West Papua and encouraged the Indonesian Government "to engage in dialogue with the people of Papua and West Papua on their aspirations and concerns, as well as to restore internet services and refrain from any excessive use of force."



Mass arrests after crack down on student protest in Jayapura

The worst outbreaks of violence were reported from the regencies of Deiyai, Jayawijaya and Jayapura. On 28 August 2019, the forceful dispersal of a demonstration in Waghete, Deiyai Regency, resulted in the deaths of eight protesters. Fifty protesters were injured during the crackdown. According to information received, joint security forces prevented an ambulance from Deiyai General Hospital from providing medical first aid to injured protesters. The outbreaks of violence in Wamena and Jayapura both occurred on 23 September 2019. In Jayapura, police forces forcefully dispersed the crowd following a peaceful student

protest at the Cenderawasih University Auditorium. Four students were allegedly killed, and at least 24 injured during the crack down. 733 students, mostly Papuan students who had returned from other Indonesian cities in fear for their safety, were arrested. The police pressed criminal charges against six students. One of the students was charged with article 106 and/or article 110 regarding treason. The other 727 students were released the following day. The protests in Wamena, Jayawijaya Regency, occurred after a senior high school teacher allegedly addressed one of her Papuan students as 'child of a monkey'. The incident caused protests and riots in Wamena. According to the Head of the Papuan Regional Police Public Relations Desk, 28 civilians were killed and 77 others injured as a result of horizontal and security force violence. The majority of the victims are Indonesian migrants.

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



Body of Anolak Heselo (23 years)

Military members alleged of killing indigenous Papuan in Wouma District, Jayawijaya Regency

Four soldiers of the 756 Wim Anesili Wouma Battalion reportedly tortured Anolak Heselo (23 years) on 15 August 2019, in the district of Wouma, Jayawijaya Regency. Witnesses stated that the military members repeatedly beat him with rubber batons and dragged Anolak Heselo inside the military post, where they poured water over him and continued the beatings. A group of villagers brought him to the Jayawijaya General Hospital in the town of Wamena, where he died shortly after as a result of his injuries. On 17 August 2019, human rights defenders reported the incident to the responsible military commander (Danyon 756 Wimane Sili) because the victim's family requested an autopsy of the body. The military commander rejected the autopsy, accusing the human rights defender of influencing the family to request it. On 21 August 2019, members of the 756 Wim Anesili Wouma Battalion facilitated

an unofficial meeting with Anolak Heselo's parents in a restaurant in Wamena. During the meeting, military members handed over 100 million Rupiahs (US \$ 7,155) to the family. In return, the relatives signed a consent letter stating that the case was settled outside the law.

[Read more details](#)

Jayapura police alleged of neglect – Nationalist militant groups attack indigenous Papuans

Human rights defenders have reported a series of organised horizontal violence by nationalist militant organisations against indigenous Papuans in the cities of Jayapura and Fak-Fak. The attacks occurred after thousands of indigenous Papuans protested against acts of racial discrimination against Papuan students in the island of Java. Members of the 'Kelompok Nusantara' (Nusantara Group) and the 'Barisan Merah Putih' (Red White Front) consisting of Non-Papuans armed with weapons attacked indigenous Papuans. The majority of members of these two groups originate from the Islands of Java and Sulawesi and are former members of the police and the military and their sons. Thus, members of such groups have the support of security forces and often enjoy impunity.

On 20 August 2019, members of the Red White Front attacked Papuan anti-racism protesters in the town of Fak-Fak. During the incident, one person was reportedly killed, many injured. Red White Front members set the local branch office of the

Papuan Customary Council (Dewan Adat Papua, DAP) in Fak-Fak on fire. On 29 August 2019, multiple units of the Nusantara Group armed with machetes and slingshot arrows attacked indigenous Papuans in various locations in Jayapura. A seventeen-year-old Papuan boy was allegedly killed, many other Papuans injured. On 30 August 2019, a group of migrants attacked Rev. Daud Auwe and eight Papuan students as they were driving through the Argapura area in Jayapura. They stopped their car, attacked the nine Papuans with weapons and set the car on fire. On 1 September 2019, members of the Nusantara Group again attacked Papuans from the mountains living in a boarding school in Abepura. One person was killed and a dozen injured. The students had allegedly informed the police several hours prior to the attack about the potential danger. Despite these precautions, the police only arrived one hour after the attack had taken place.



Militant migrants in Jayapura attacked a group of Papuans using slingshot arrows

[Read more details](#)

Series of arrest and prosecutions after Papua-wide anti-racism demonstrations - authorities target political activists and human rights defenders

The Indonesian Government conducted a series of mass arrests and initiated a criminalisation campaign against political activists, students and human rights defenders in response to West Papua-wide anti-racism riots. Statistic data suggests that Indonesian police officers conducted 208 arrests and pressed criminal charges against 91 suspects. At least 25 of the detainees are members of the West Papua National Committee (KNPB), a political movement organisation promoting the right to self-determination through peaceful protest. The Police did not only prosecute activists in West Papua, but also in other parts of the archipelago. In Jakarta, [police officers arrested Surya Anta Ginting](#), spokesperson of the Indonesian Peoples Front for West Papua (FRI WP) and five Papuan activists. The [police also charged Indonesian human rights lawyer Veronica Koman](#) and executive board member of the National Independent Journalist Association (AJI), Dandhi Dwi Laksono, for tweeting about a racism against ethnic Papuans in Indonesia. Veronika Koman was forced to leave Indonesia and is currently living in exile. [She denied any wrongdoing and accused the police of power abuse](#). [UN experts released a public statement](#), calling on the Indonesian Government to “take immediate steps to protect Veronica Koman from any forms of retaliation and intimidation and drop all charges against her so that she can continue to report independently on the human rights situation in the country.” Amnesty International claims that [22 Papuan activists have been charged with treason](#) over the past few weeks based on their peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.



Erik Aliknoe, a Papuan student arrested on 19 September in Manokwari for his involvement in a peaceful rally

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

Police officers obstruct Papuan journalists covering student rally in Jayapura



A plaincloth officer escorts the three journalists away from the university campus in Jayapura

Members of the police obstructed the three local journalists Hengky Yeimo (Jubi), Benny Mawel (contributor for The Jakarta Post and Jubi) and Ardi Bayage (SuaraPapua.com) covering a protest of Papuan students in front of the Cenderawasih University Auditorium in Jayapura on 23 September 2019. Police officers allegedly pushed the journalists away and prevented them from taking further pictures. One of the officers allegedly insulted Ardi Bayagi, calling him a ‘dog’ while hitting him on the head. The police officers called the journalists provocateurs and the news outlet ‘Jubi’ a provocative media outlet. A plainclothes officer escorted the journalists away from the university campus where they were allowed to leave.

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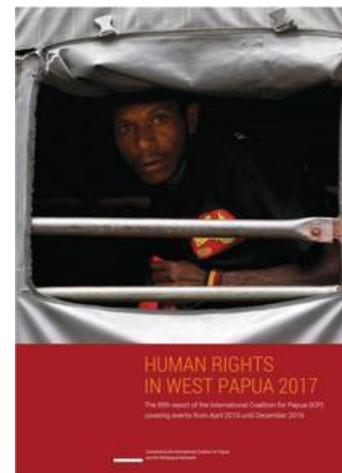
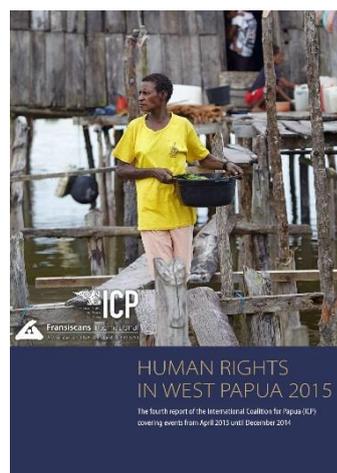
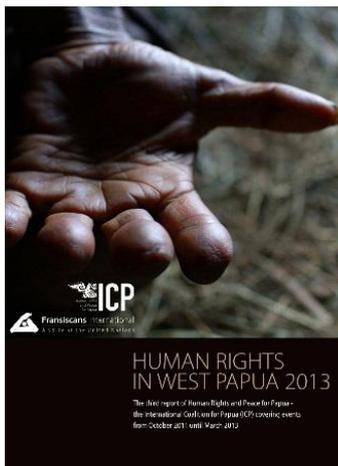
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About the ICP: The International Coalition for Papua (ICP) of faith-based and civil society organisations works to address the serious human rights situation in West Papua and supports a peaceful solution to the conflict there. The Coalition together 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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