

PUBLIC

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Fear of torture

INDONESIA

Elias Tabuni (m)
Four other men (names unknown)

Elias Tabuni and four other men were detained by the military in the town of Wamena in Papua Province on 6 April. They are being held at the Jayawijaya Military District Command (Kodim) in Wamena and have reportedly been beaten.

The five men are among 11 people arrested on the night of 6 April in Wamena town, Jayawijaya District, Papua following an attack on the Jayawijaya District Military Command (Kodim). It is not known if they were involved in the attack. Six of the detainees have since been released. There is serious concern for the safety of the five remaining in custody as torture is commonplace in military custody.

The arrests took place following the killing of two soldiers on 4 April when a group of people broke into Kodim's armoury and stole guns and ammunition. Another person, said to be among the attackers, was also killed. The military have accused the pro-independence armed opposition group the *Organisasi Papua Merdeka* (OPM), Free Papua Movement of carrying out the attack, although local observers believe that the military may have been involved in provoking the incident.

Senior military officials have been quoted in the national media as ordering the military to "hunt the rebels until they are captured and quell the separatist movement". Additional troops have reportedly been sent to the area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", torture and ill-treatment and arbitrary detentions, have taken place for many years in Papua Province (formerly known as Irian Jaya) in the context of an independence struggle.

There have been a number of violent incidents in Wamena in the recent past. In October 2000 a series of raids by the police on command posts which had been established as centres for political discussion and where Morning Star flags, a symbol of independence were being flown, resulted in the death of one person and arrest of over 80 people. Revenge attacks by locals on non-Papuan residents of Wamena resulted in the deaths of some 24 people, while around a dozen Papuans were killed when security forces opened fire on the crowds. Many of those arrested were subjected to torture, and one person died as a result. Twenty-two Papuans were brought to trial and sentenced to terms of imprisonment in relation to the violence. Amnesty International believed many of them to have been prisoners of conscience. No member of the security forces has been brought to justice for human rights violations committed during the events.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:

- expressing concern about reports that Elias Tabuni and four other men currently being held in the Kodim in Wamena, Papua have been subjected to beatings and other forms of torture or ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to provide guarantees that they will not be subjected to further torture or ill-treatment and that allegations of such treatment will be immediately, thoroughly and independently investigated;

- urging that the five men are immediately transferred to police custody and charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released;
- urging that the five men are provided with access to lawyers, relatives and medical attention.

APPEALS TO:

Military Commander, Kodam VIII / XVII Trikora

Major General Nurdin Zainal

Pangdam VIII/Trikora

Jl. Polimak Atas Jayapura

Papua

Indonesia

Telegram: Kodam VIII/XVII Trikora, Papua, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 967 531642 (if someone answers ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Major General

Commander of the Armed Forces (Panglima TNI)

Lt. Gen. Endriartono Sutarto

Panglima TNI

Markas Besar TNI

Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No 13

Jakarta Pusat

Indonesia

Telegram: Panglima TNI, Markas Besar TNI, Jakarta, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 845 6805 / 520 1636 (if someone answers ask for the fax: "saya mau kirim fax")

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant General

COPIES TO:

Chairman

National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM)

Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara

Jl Latuharhary No. 4B

Menteng

Jakarta Pusat 10310

Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 3925227

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 May 2003.