

PUBLIC

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Fear of t

INDONESIA Yorenius Wenda

Alex Meage

15 others (names not known)

Killed: Agustinus Murip

Eliezer Alua

11 others

Several people were killed and around 200 others, including 25 children, were arrested during clashes between Indonesian security forces and civilians in Papua (Irian Jaya) on 6 October. Fifteen people remain in incommunicado detention, and Amnesty International is concerned that they are at risk of torture or ill-treatment. Two others have been missing since they were detained by the army.

Some of the detainees, most of whom were released shortly afterwards, told local human rights monitors that they saw the police beating, kicking and torturing prisoners with razors. The 15 people still in detention in Jayawijaya Police Resort (Polres) do not have access to lawyers or to their families, increasing the risk of torture or ill-treatment.

They were arrested during a joint operation by members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob), the police and the military to forcibly remove Papuan flags flying in several locations in Wamena town, Jayawijaya District. During the operation, the security forces opened fire, killing Agustinus Murip and Eliezer Alua, and injuring several others. Local people took to the streets to protest against the killings. During the ensuing violence, 11 people were reportedly shot by the security forces. Another 19 people are said to have been killed by local people, most of them believed to have been migrants from elsewhere in Indonesia. Members of the security forces were also injured.

After the clash, members of the military reportedly took Yorenius Wenda and Alex Meage from their homes. Both are believed to be members of a pro-independence militia group, the Papua Taskforce, *Satgas Papua*. Local human rights monitors have checked with Jayawijaya District Military Command (Kodim), but they denied knowledge of their whereabouts. Amnesty International fears that they may be tortured or killed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Human rights violations have escalated in Papua since mid-August 2000 when the government appeared to abandon its policy of tolerance and dialogue with supporters of Papuan independence in favour of more repressive tactics. Since then, Papuan flags, a symbol of local support for independence, have been forcibly removed, as the Indonesian security forces continue to clamp down on independence supporters in the region.

On 21 August, three people were shot dead and 12 injured when the police forcibly dispersed a group of people who had raised a Papuan flag outside a church in Sorong, on the northwestern tip of Papua. At least 28 people were detained in connection with the incident, including five children. Local human rights organizations had been predicting a crackdown on Wamena since 27 September

2000, when five people were beaten by the police during an earlier attempt to enforce the lowering of the Papuan flag in the area.

Tension in Papua have been increased over the years by the Indonesian government's transmigration policies, which have increased the number of non-native settlers in the province. Such policies have been viewed with suspicion and distrust by native Papuans, but direct attacks on settlers have been rare.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:

- urging the authorities to guarantee the safety of the 15 detainees in Jayawijaya Polres, and to ensure that they have access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment;
- acknowledging the authorities' duty to bring criminals to justice while urging them to follow correct procedures and to immediately release anyone who is not going to be charged with a recognisably criminal offence;
- urging the authorities to immediately clarify the whereabouts of Yorenius Wenda and Alex Meage, and to guarantee their safety;
- urging the authorities to carry out a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into killings by the members of the security forces in Wamena on 6-8 October, ensuring that those responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Brig. Gen. S Y Wenas
Chief of police for Papua
Head of Regional Police Papua
Jl. Sam Ratulangie No. 8
Jayapura, Papua
Indonesia

Telegram: Police Chief, Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 967 33763

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Prof Dr Mahfud MD
Minister of Defence and Security
(Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Barat No.13-14
Jakarta Pusat 10110
Indonesia

Telegram: Dr Juwono Sudarsono, Menteri Pertahanan Dan Keamanan, Jakarta, Indonesia

Fax: + 62 21 381 4535 / 384 5178

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Prof. Yusril Ihza Mahendra, SH
Menteri Kehakiman
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav. 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Telegram: Justice Minister, Jakarta, Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 5253095/310 4149/5225036

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 20 November 2000.