

Human Rights Update West Papua – July 2017

covering April - June 2017

Summary

In the second quarter of 2017, the number of torture and ill-treatment cases has significantly increased while the cases of extra-judicial killings have dropped in comparison to the previous quarter of 2017. While the months January to April 2017 were comparatively quiet in terms of political arrests, activists and human rights defenders reported at least 321 political arrests during the second quarter of 2017, which mainly occurred in May. One can observe a greater variety of violations during the reporting period covering also violations against human rights defenders, political arrests and violations of the right to health. The strategy to criminalize peaceful political activists with treason charges continues to be commonly applied by law enforcement agencies in West Papua. The violations during this reporting period were equally committed by members of police and military units. At least four cases with the involvement of police officers were brought to the attention of police-internal investigation body PROPAM between April and June.

Number of Victims 2017	Q1	Q2
Extra-judicial executions or killings	4	1
Torture / Ill-treatment	7	17
Assaults against / obstruction of journalists	2	3
Violations of right to health	0	37
Violations against HRD	0	1
Political arrests	0	321
Treason charges (106 & 110 KUHP)	0	1

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In April, a group of Mobile Police Brigade (Brimob) officers burned down the village hall in Waghete and arbitrarily arrested six young villagers. Officers from the Manokwari District Police arbitrarily arrested and subsequently tortured Mansar Rumayom in Manokwari. In Timika, police forces opened fire at protesters who had gathered in support of the head of PT Freeport Indonesia. Three members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) heavily beat down and subsequently shot a drunken villager in Ayawasi Village of Maybrat Regency. A particular incident of concern occurred in Lanny Jaya Regency, where 37 villagers died between January and April due to an epidemic outbreak. Responsible health agencies responded late to the epidemic because they had not taken notice of the outbreak. In May, two military members attacked Yus Degei and Piet Degei with their knives in Uwibutu village of Paniai regency because a shop owner had accused the men of stealing. In Jayapura Regency, police officers arbitrarily arrested and tortured a local journalist while he was taking pictures of a political demonstration in Sentani. The event was one of several recent attempts to prevent journalists from taking media coverage. A police officer reportedly beat a staff member of the national human rights commission during a sweeping operation in Waena area of Jayapura municipality. By the end of May, a violent clash between a large number of protesters and military members in Jayapura lead to serious injuries among three protesters after the military members had opened fire at the crowd. In Manokwari, Ronal Auparay passed away after being tortured at the Manokwari District Police Station. Police officers had denied medical attention during the 20 days of detention. May also marked the peak of political arrests in the first half of 2017 with at least 320 arrests during peaceful assemblies in various cities of West Papua. In June, a minor became a victim of violence. Four police officer tortured 15-year-old Alberth Nawipa inside a police post at Potikelek Market in Wamena, Jayawijaya Regency, resulting in severe injuries which had to be treated at the general hospital for several days. In Yogyakarta, public prosecutors have demanded a sentence of six months imprisonment and one year probation for Obby Kogoya, a Papuan student who had been arrested and tortured during a peaceful assembly of Papuan students in support of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) at the Papuan student dormitory in Yogyakarta on 15 July 2016.

Read what [UN mechanisms observe and recommend](#) regarding West Papua on our website.

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.

Police officers burn the Waghete Village Hall to the ground

On 15 April 2017, a group of Mobile Police Brigade (Brimob) officers had come to Waghete Village of Deiyai Regency, where they drank alcohol with several young villagers. Around 3.00 pm a quarrel between villagers and the officers ended in a brawl between members of both sides. Subsequently, the Brimob officers arbitrarily arrested six young villagers and burned the meeting hall of Waghete Village to the ground.

Police officers torture Mansar Rumayom during interrogation in Manokwari



Mansar Rumayom after being tortured by police officers

On 14 April 2017, officers from the Manokwari District Police arbitrarily arrested Mansar Rumayom (20 years) around 08.00 pm at the GOLKAR Party branch office in Manokwari and subsequently tortured him during police interrogation. Police officers carried out the arrest because they alleged that Mansar Rumayom was involved in a robbery. The actual reason for the arrest and the torture could be the fact that the victim's father Onesimus Rumayom, was a political pro-independence activist who was killed by police forces during a riot in Sanggeng-Manokwari on 27 October 2017. Police officers repeatedly punched Mansar Rumayom in the face, on the back and kicked him with heavy boots on his legs. Mansar Rumayom sustained a cut on the lip, bruises on his back and bleeding injuries on both of his feet. The victim's family and local human rights organisation LP3BH have reported the incident to the police internal investigation body PROPAM.

Police opens fire at protesting Freeport workers

On 20 April 2017, police officers opened fire at a group of approximately 1000 Freeport workers in front of the Mimika District Court in Timika city. The workers were protesting against a judge's decision to detain Sudiro Petrus Selestinus, the leader of PT. Freeport Indonesia who had been accused of money laundering. When angry protesters started to throw stones at the police officers, the police forces instantly responded by shooting with rubber ammunition at the crowd. According to local sources, at least six protesters were injured by rubber bullets: Muhammad Faidzal (25) sustained injuries on the left buttocks, Zainal Arifin (44) was wounded on the right thigh, Pugu Prihantono (39) and Andrian W. Santoso (38) sustained injuries below the left knee. Two further protesters named Sakarias and Wibowo were reportedly injured during the dispersal.

Police officers shoot villager in Ayawasi Village, Maybrat Regency



Ulis Turot after Surgery at the Sorong General Hospital

On 20 April 2017, at 12.00 am, three members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) heavily tortured Ulis Turot in Ayawasi Village of Maybrat Regency. Prior to the incident, Ulis Turot had consumed alcohol and asked the owner of a small shop for cigarettes. The shop owner directly called a nearby police post for help, upon which three Brimob officers came to Ayawasi Village, where they approached Ulis Turot and began to collectively beat him. As Ulis Turot managed to escape. He ran to his nearby house and picked up a machete while the police officers were chasing after him. When the officers saw him with the weapon, they fired one shot at him. The bullet pierced Ulis Turot's torso from the lower back to the stomach. Eyewitnesses saw that the officers again beat Ulis Turot to the ground, handcuffed him and dragged him to the police car. Instead of hospitalizing Ulis Turot, the three Brimob officers brought him to the Kumurkek police station. After a short period of detention, local police officers accompanied Ulis Turot to Sorong General Hospital (200 km from Kumurkek police station) where he had to undergo surgery the following day.

Epidemic outbreak in Lanny Jaya Regency causes death of 37 villagers

Multiple local media outlets have reported the deaths of 37 villagers between 1 January and 25 April 2017 in the Awena District of Lanny Jaya Regency, Papua Province. The alleged reason for the deaths was an epidemic diarrhea outbreak in the villages Tinggira, Nambume, Eyumi, Uragabur, Yugimia and Indawa. At least four villagers had to be hospitalized in Tiom General Hospital, where they received medical treatment. According to the secretary of the Lanny Jaya health department, Mrs Dolly Kogoya, the diarrhea epidemic occurred because the villagers had consumed water from a water reservoir which was contaminated with human and domestic animal excrements. The water had not been boiled prior to consumption. The Lanny Jaya health department responded by distributing pans to boil water and deploying two doctors and five nurses to the affected areas where they should provide medical treatment in the affected villages. However, responsible government institutions had not taken notice of the epidemic outbreak until April 2017.

[Read more case details](#)

Military members attack two Papuan men with knives in Uwibutu Village, Paniai Regency



Medics providing medical first aid to Yus Degei at the Paniai General Hospital

Local human rights defenders from the Paniai Regency have reported that two military members attacked Yus Degei and Piet Degei in Uwibutu village of Madi district, Paniai regency. The incident occurred at 09.00 am on 1 May 2017, after the owner of a small shop in Uwibutu had accused the Papuan men of theft and subsequently reported them by phone to members of the nearby 753 military base.

A few minutes later, two members of the 753 Paniai military unit arrived at the location and instantly attacked the Papuan men using their knives. Piet and Yus Degei sustained serious stabbing and slashing wounds. Yus Degei was stabbed in the face, causing a deep wound on his left cheek. Piet Degei was

slashed on the back, leading to deep cuts near both shoulder blades on his upper back. Both men were brought to Paniai General Hospital, where they received intensive medical care.

[Read more case details](#)

Series of assaults against local journalists in West Papua



Yance Wenda sustained a cut on the inside of the lip and bruises on the back during the police torture

On 1 May 2017 around 9.00 am, police officers arbitrarily arrested local journalist Yance Wenda, as he was covering a peaceful demonstration by the pro-independence organization KNPB (West Papua National Committee) in Sentani, Jayapura Regency. The police officers arrested Yance Wenda after he had taken pictures of police officers arresting KNPB protesters near the Jayapura District police station. He was subsequently detained for four hours at the Jayapura district police station, where officers allegedly tortured him. According to Yance Wenda, several police officers beat him on the back, legs and arms using bare hands and a rattan sticks (see image). One officer kicked Yance Wenda in the face,

causing a deep cut in the inside of his lower lip. He was released around 1.30 pm.

One week before the incident, another TV reporter named Ricardo Hutahaeen was allegedly assaulted by police

officers in Jayapura. Police officers temporarily detained Hutahaean, seized his camera and deleted its content. Hutahaean, who heads an association of Papua TV journalists, and two colleagues also received death threats after covering a court hearing on a dispute between local politicians.

[Read more case details](#)

Police Officer beats Papuan human rights defender

A police officer from the Jayapura sub-district police allegedly beat Nareky Kogoya on 18 May 2017 during a police raid in Waena area of Jayapura municipality. According to Nareky Kogoya, several officers forced him to enter a police car on site after he had told them about his work as staff member at the Papuan representative office of the National Human Rights Commission (KOMNAS HAM). One of the officers allegedly punched his face inside the police vehicle causing a cut on his lip. The officer also threatened Nareky not to report the physical assault. Frits Ramandey, the head of the KOMNAS HAM Papuan representative office, stated in a public interview that the incident had been brought to the attention of the internal police investigation body PROPAM.

[Read more case details](#)

Military members open fire at protesters in Jayapura



Viktor Pulanda sustained two bullet wounds on the right shoulder and had to undergo surgery

A violent clash between a large number of protesters and military members occurred in Jayapura on 25 May 2017 after members of the Korem 172/PWY military base had allegedly burned several Bibles. The protesters gathered in front of the military base, where they erected road blocks on the main road. Military members forcefully dispersed the protest after angry demonstrators had allegedly thrown stones at police and military forces guarding the base. According to eyewitnesses, an armored vehicle drove towards the crowd while several soldiers were walking next to the vehicle.

The witnesses reported that the military members released several warning shots into the air and then allegedly opened fire at the crowd. Three protesters named Victor Pulanda, Edi Siep and Alvian Ukago were injured by bullets and had to be hospitalized. Subsequently, the military members targetted several housing areas near the Padang Bulan main road. Around 05.00 pm, army members carried out raids at Padang Bulan housing area II, where they challenged the residents to leave their houses and face them. As people did not respond to the provocation, the military members left the area. Military members carried out unlawful arrests in front of the military headquarters around 07.00 pm.

[Read more case details](#)

Ronald Auparay dies during police detention

Ronald Auparay passed away on the 29 May 2017 in Manokwari General Hospital after he had been arrested in the Sanggeng area of Manokwari Regency and subsequently detained at the Manokwari district police station for more than 20 days. Family members had reported the case to a local human rights organisation because Ronald Auparay was allegedly tortured during arrest. Police officers at the Manokwari district police station did not directly respond to Ronald's request for medical treatment during detention. According to the victim's parents, Ronald had suffered constant pain on the lower back, particularly during defecation. Furthermore, Ronald Auparay's parents stated that the district police did not send acknowledgement letters regarding the arrest, detention and prolongation of detention of their son.

320 political arrests throughout May 2017



Police officers arresting KNPB members and supporters in Merauke Regency

While the months January until April 2017 were comparatively quiet in terms of political arrests, activists and human rights defenders have reported 320 political arrests throughout May 2017. Most arrests occurred during peaceful assemblies like demonstrations or prayer sessions in various cities of West Papua. A smaller number of political arrests was related to the distribution of leaflets. Some arrests were allegedly accompanied by acts of violence against protesters, as was reported from the 1st May Commemoration in Sentani and a prayer session in Timika, which was organized by the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) on the 30 May 2017. In Timika, the leader of the local KNPB branch was charged with article 106 of the Indonesian Penal Code (KUHP). The article refers to the act of treason, which is punishable by a maximum imprisonment of twenty years. In all other cases of political arrests throughout May, the protesters were released without charges.

[Read more details](#)

Police officers torture 15-year-old boy in Wamena



Alberth Nawipa during medical treatment at the Jayawijaya General Hospital

Four police officers allegedly tortured a 15-year-old boy named Alberth Nawipa on 16 June 2017 at Potikelek Market in Wamena, Jayawijaya Regency. According to local human rights defenders, the officers hit Alberth Nawipa with bare hands, wooden sticks and rubber batons on the head, back and stomach. Subsequently, the officers forced him to clean up the police post at Potikelek Market. The police had arrested Alberth because he had allegedly thrown rocks at the Potikelek police post. Around 10.30 pm Alberth Nawipa felt a strong dizziness. He had to vomit, his nose started to bleed and he developed a swelling under his left eye. Alberth's parents immediately brought him to the Jayawijaya General Hospital in Wamena. He remained under medical observation due to the nose bleeding which continued until the following day, 11.00 am. Alberth was not able to lie on his back for several days due to the heavy bruises he sustained during the police torture.

[Read more details](#)

Papuan student faces six-months-imprisonment



Obby Kogoya being tortured by police officers during arrest

Public prosecutors have demanded a sentence of six months imprisonment and one year probation for Obby Kogoya during the recent court session on 19 June 2017. Kogoya was arrested during a peaceful assembly of Papuan students in support of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) at a Papuan student dormitory in Yogyakarta on 15 July 2016. He is charged with violation of articles 212, 213 and 351/ 2 of the Indonesian penal code (KUHP) and is currently undergoing trial at the Yogyakarta District Court. The articles refer to violence against law enforcement officers. The spokesperson of the Yogyakarta regional police, Mrs. Anny Pudjiastuti, claimed that

Obby Kogoya had injured a police officer with an arrow.

Obby Kogoya denies the allegations, stating that he did not apply physical violence against any police officer. Moreover, multiple pictures taken by journalists and human rights defenders show that police officers tortured the student during his arrest. Obby Kogoya's lawyer, Emanuel Gobay, said that police allegedly fabricated the charges. The trial was repeatedly delayed because the police did not submit any evidence for Obby Kogoya's involvement in the criminal offense. The lawyers of the 'Yogyakarta Legal Aid Institute' plan to deliver a written plea at the next hearing, scheduled for Monday, 3 July 2017.

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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.

