



We Need to Talk About **West Papua**

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Contents

Executive Summary

Chapter 1

West Papua in the Last Two Years

A. Racism vs Separatism	7
Flashback to Racism in Indonesia and Its Solution	7
Separatists' Effort to Ride the Racism Issue	12
B. The Bloody Tragedy of the of Wamena and Jayapura Riots.....	15
Surabaya incident	15
Papuan Students Exodus.....	17
Jayapura Riots I (August 29, 2019) and Jayapura Riots II (September 23, 2019)	19
Wamena Riot	22
C. United Nations General Assembly	25
United Nations General Assembly September 24, 2019	25
Vanuatu and ULMWP Political Barter	28
2020 UN Session	32
D. Conclusion.....	36

Chapter 2

Free West Papua Movement Organization

A. Free West Papua Movement Organization.....	38
Domestic Separatist Organization	38
Separatist Organizations Abroad	46
Disputes among Free West Papua Groups.....	47
Self-Claimed Presidential Declaration	49
Cargoism in West Papua	52
B. Internationalization of Free Papua Issue	54
United Kingdom	54
United States of America.....	57
Australia.....	58
Netherlands.....	60
New Zealand.....	61
Pacific Countries.....	62
Solidarity Campaign of International League of People's Struggle (ILPS)	66
Kenya, South Africa	66
C. Conclusion.....	68

Chapter 3

West Papua Integration to the Republic of Indonesia

A. The Dualism of the West Papua Integration.....	70
B. West Papua Integration Timeline	72
C. Dutch Puppet States.....	81
D. Conclusion	87

Chapter 4

Development in West Papua

A. West Papua Policy Dynamics Through Several Presidency Periods.....	89
West Papua in President Sukarno's Era	89
West Papua in President Suharto's Era.....	92
West Papua in President B. J. Habibie's	93
West Papua in President Abdurrahman Wahid's Era	94
West Papua in President Megawati Sukarnoputri's Era	95
West Papua in President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Era	96
West Papua in President Joko Widodo's Era	97
B. Development In Recent Years	104
The Rights and Authorities of Indigenous Papuans through Special Autonomy	106
Increasing Positive Perceptions of West Papua's Development.....	108
Development in Numbers.....	113
Human Based Development	130
C. Conclusion.....	140

Appendix

Appendix 1 Free Papua Armed Separatists Crimes in the Last Few Years ...	143
Appendix 2 The Chronology of Wamena-Jayapura Riots	162
Appendix 3 Political Prisoners of Wamena-Jayapura Riots.....	168
Appendix 4 Evidence of the Papuan Political Prisoners Involvement as Perpetrators of the Wamena-Jayapura Riots.....	172
Appendix 5 List of Political Parties and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Focusing on the Free Papua Issue	178

Executive Summary

On August 16-17, 2019, several members of Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI, lit. Indonesian National Army, Indonesian army) allegedly called Papuan students at the Papuan Student Dormitory in Surabaya, East Java, with racist remarks “monkeys.” Later known as the Surabaya Incident, the inappropriate comments caused protests from various circles, especially by indigenous Papuans. On August 19, 2019, the Governor of East Java Khofifah Indar Parawansa expressed her sincere apology for the racism incident.

The following month, twin protests took place in Wamena and Jayapura, Papua Province, which bloomed into riots on September 23, 2019. Many suspected that the Free Papua separatist group was the riot’s initiator because the Surabaya Incident racism issue got bigger after being resolved legally, instead of diminishing like the racism cases in other parts of Indonesia. Through various media, such as conventional media and social media, Papuan separatists escalated the Surabaya Incident and steered it into a separatism issue. Another indication can be from the riots’ timing that coincided with the 2019 UN Session held in New York, United States, on September 17-30, 2019.

A year later, Free Papua separatists took advantage of the Black Lives Matter issue in mid-2020 to raise their hashtag, Papuan Lives Matter, to raise the issue of Papua again ahead of the 2020 UN Session, which was held on September 15, 2020, in New York, United States. Fortunately, the issue’s escalation did not bloom into something destructive like Wamena-Jayapura Riots, September 23, 2019. In the past 2 years, several separatist figures’ names were proven to have initiated Wamena-Jayapura Riots and were arrested as political prisoners.

Free Papua separatists and the Indonesian government continue their tug of war. On the one hand, separatists still exploit Papuan history’s dualism as the basis for the struggle for independence. On the other hand, the Indonesian government has a legal basis that defines Papua as an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia. Separatist organizations also continue to develop within Indonesia and abroad, even though there are indications of division between them because each organization carries different interests.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian Government continues to strive to meet the Papuan people’s basic needs through various progressive policies. After President Suharto’s regime collapsed, President Bacharuddin Jusuf (B. J.) Habibie opened a dialogue with Papuans. The next Indonesian president, Abdurrahman Wahid, expressed his apology and opened a wider dialogue with Papuans. The following Indonesian presidents then began to add more programs that support the Papuan people’s needs. In recent years, development in West Papua has increased massively, especially in education, health, infrastructure, and transportation. These steps are Indonesia’s effort to be present and answer the needs of indigenous Papuans.

The Free Papua separatist movement does not stand alone. The involvement of various parties made the Free Papua Movement possible. Various foreign political and economic interests from several countries have allegedly provided support for the separatists. For example, one of the prime ministerial candidates in the 2020 Vanuatu general election, Ralph Regenvanu of the Vanuatu Justice and Land Party, used the Free Papua issue to get votes.

The Free Papua separatists' interests are not based solely on the indigenous Papuan people's interests but rather to accommodate the sponsors' interests.

On the other hand, the Indonesian government investigates the riots' masterminds for the last two years while simultaneously carrying out massive developments to meet the indigenous Papuan people's basic needs. The public should not be biased, given that;

1. The Free Papua Movement is not an original movement that voices indigenous Papuans' needs, but an engineered activity deliberately made by several entities with different interests.
2. Each of the Free Papua organizations or factions has its respective principles, indicating other vested interests in each organization.
3. In the past two years, the heavily ridden antiracism movement has not been a genuine aspiration from indigenous Papuans - but a movement engineered to perpetuate separatists' interests and cronies.

This book tries to explore other perspectives and straighten out the disinformations circulating in the community about the development of the Papua issue in the last two years to understand the Papua problem better and see the root of the problem.

Papua, December 2021

We Need To Talk About West Papua Team

CHAPTER 1

West Papua in the Last Two Years

In the past two years, the turmoil in West Papua has been heating up. The racist remarks towards Papuan students in Surabaya (August 16, 2019) caused an uproar that spread to other provinces in Indonesia. It's awful in West Papua as the racism issue culminated into the bloody Wamena-Jayapura Riots on September 23, 2019. Casualties fell, thousands of people took to the streets, and public facilities were damaged. Does the Indonesian government regard West Papua as a bench player? Is it true that indigenous Papuans are marginalized? Were the efforts to deal with the racial conflict merely lip service? Or are there certain parties with vested interests who deliberately escalate the situation?



A. Racism vs Separatism

FLASHBACK TO RACISM IN INDONESIA AND ITS SOLUTION

In this modern era, racism is still a thorny problem in Indonesia. Many Papuans bringing up the racism issue shows that racism is still prone in Indonesia. However, due to the separatists' attempt to heat the issue so that negative stigma stays on, the conflict resolution through dialogue and peace agreement is still a big challenge.

Ironically, some parties have been using racism to create an even bigger conflict between Papuans and non-Papuans. Moreover, Free Papua separatists also use racism as an excuse to demand a referendum based on Melanesian racial differences. In fact, Indonesia has 13 million Melanesians, spread as indigenous populations in three other provinces, namely Maluku, North Maluku, and East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)¹.

Racism and human rights violations that have occurred in West Papua continue to serve as a narrative to raise the Free Papua symbol, the Morning Star flag, all over the city. The Free Papua separatists turned a peaceful protest of anti-racism into a requisition for a referendum. Racism cases in West Papua must be resolved on an anti-racism plane, not on a separatism plane. Moreover, racism does not have any place under the Indonesian national motto, namely *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity). The government has been minimizing racism by fostering tolerance education between ethnic groups and religious communities.

Racism is a common problem, both in the world and in Indonesia. In Indonesia, racism does not only affect Papuans but also other minority groups. The government had successfully resolved many racism cases properly, but not the Papuans one. With a humanist, persuasive, and culturally appropriate approach, tolerance and mutual respect can develop within the sphere of different ethnicities or religions. Surprisingly, Papuan racism cases often arise and are difficult to resolve even though indigenous Papuans themselves are people with very high tolerance. This irregularity occurs because the existing racism cases are not organic but engineered by certain parties to heat the Free Papua issue.

Racism in Indonesia is a manifestation of Dutch colonialism that differentiates Dutch citizens and indigenous people's treatment. Racism continues even though the Dutch

¹ Antaranews. 2019. Ras Melanesia terbanyak ada di Indonesia. [online] Available at: <https://www.antaranews.com> [Accessed 16 January 2021]

have left Indonesia. Since the establishment of the Indonesian New Order under the Suharto era (1966–1998), minority groups in Indonesia have faced various forms of racism and discrimination. The existence of this systemic racism has resulted in a lot of racial violence in Indonesia. Many racial riots occur in areas with large transmigration waves, as has often been the case in Kalimantan, Lampung, Aceh, or Ambon. The conflicts mostly occur between individuals of different ethnic groups, but racist prejudice makes these conflicts escalated into ethnic groups divisions².

Conflicts often occur between indigenous tribes in Kalimantan, namely the Dayak tribe, and the immigrant tribe, namely the Madura tribe. From 1996 to 1997, there were racial riots between the Dayak and Madurese tribes in West Kalimantan. This riot occurred because of a fight between Dayak and Madurese youths during a dangdut showcase event. This conflict continued for approximately one year and killed approximately 200 people, including Maribas Village's head killed by the Madurese³.

In 1999, there was a riot between Malays, Dayaks, and Madurese in West Kalimantan, known as the Sambas Conflict. This riot occurred because the Madurese allegedly persecuted a Malay. A total of 265 people were killed, 38 were seriously injured, and 9 were slightly injured. Also, more than 2,330 houses were burned down, and mobs damaged 164 others⁴.



*The masses burned cars during the rioting in Ambon City (09/11/2011).
(Source: Beritasatu)*

2 National Geographic. 2020. Bagaimana Rasisme Bisa Terbentuk dan Bertahan di Masyarakat? [online]. <https://nationalgeographic.grid.id>

3 Liputan6. 2001. Dendam Laten di Bumi Borneo [online]. <https://www.liputan6.com>

4 Ibid.

Still, in Kalimantan, another conflict between Madurese and the Dayak exploded in 2001. This conflict started in Sampit, Central Kalimantan, and spread to Palangkaraya, even throughout Central Kalimantan. The Sampit conflict was triggered by a Dayak death allegedly killed by a Madurese. The Dayak began to look for the perpetrators and vent their anger by burning several houses and vehicles belonging to the Madurese. The investigation of the Dayak people's killings, which was considered too slow, led to an escalation of the conflict. Angry Dayaks finally attacked Madurese homes, citing revenge, resulting in four deaths. This is what ultimately worsens the conflict. The killings continue to occur for revenge and disrespect from both parties. When the conflict ended, about 500-1,300 people were dead, mostly the Madurese⁵.

Conflicts between Dayak and Madurese in Kalimantan have been persistent. Most of the conflicts are ignited by small fights that escalate into riots fueled by cultural differences between the two tribes. The Dayak despised how the Madurese would not adapt to Dayak culture even though Madurese lived in Dayak's land. However, these conflicts were finally resolved after various attempts and peaceful approaches were made. The government sought mediation between tribes to minimize misunderstandings and foster a sense of tolerance. The government also helped facilitate a peace agreement between the two tribes so that the riots would not recur.

Tribal Conflict	Year	Casualties	The Cause	Resolution
The conflict between Dayak and Madurese tribes in West Kalimantan	1996-1997	200 people died	Fighting between the Dayak Youth and the Madura Youth at an entertainment program, which led to inter-tribal riots	This conflict can be resolved after various dialogue, deliberation, and consensus between residents are held. The local government also seeks to build tolerance between communities so that harmful misunderstandings do not recur.
The conflict between Malays, Dayak, and Madura tribes in West Kalimantan	1999	265 opeople killed, 38 seriously injured, and 9 minor injuries	There are allegations of mistreatment committed by Madurese on Malays. The Dayaks joined the riot because of their dislike for Madurese, who were considered unethical immigrants.	Conflict resolution is carried out by holding several peaceful deliberation meetings, and consensus by gathering several representatives from each ethnic community and religious leaders and then dialogue about solutions to create peace and security in Kalimantan.

5 Tirtoid. 2001. Provokasi Elit Berujung Pembantaian Sampit. [online] <https://tirto.id>

<p>The conflict between Muslims and Christians in Ambon</p>	<p>2001</p>	<p>500 – 1.300 fatalities</p>	<p>The clash between Muslim Bugis youth and Christian youth from Mardika Village. The Muslim community, who did not accept it, finally attacked Mardika Village and sparked a prolonged inter-religious conflict. The conflict escalated due to the emergence of the Maluku Sovereignty Front, which exploited the rioting into a separatist movement.</p>	<p>The government resolved the conflict between religious communities in Ambon by military assistance to prevent the riots from getting bigger. However, this did not work because of the separatist groups' involvement, which made the riot even more out of control. These riots were resolved with a peace agreement and the submission of sharp weapons and homemade bombs in 2016.</p>
<p>The conflict between Muslims and Christians in Ambon</p>	<p>1999</p>		<p>The clash between Muslim Bugis youth and Christian youth from Mardika Village. The Muslim community, who did not accept it, finally attacked Mardika Village and sparked a prolonged inter-religious conflict. The conflict escalated due to the emergence of the Maluku Sovereignty Front, which exploited the rioting into a separatist movement.</p>	<p>The government resolved the conflict between religious communities in Ambon by military assistance to prevent the riots from getting bigger. However, this did not work because of the separatist groups' involvement, which made the riot even more out of control. These riots were resolved with a peace agreement and the submission of sharp weapons and homemade bombs in 2016.</p>
<p>The conflict between ethnic Lampung and Bali in Balinuraga village and Agom village, Lampung</p>	<p>2012</p>		<p>This conflict was the culmination of the conflicts that had previously occurred between the people of Lampung and Bali. The root of the problem from the conflict that occurred in 2012 was a dispute between Balinuraga Village and Agom Village youth, which eventually sparked riots between Lampung and Bali residents.</p>	<p>The Balinuraga conflict resolution occurred through conflict mapping efforts, information dissemination to conflicting communities, mediation, holding hearings, and making peace agreements that were attended and drawn up by representatives of each ethnicity and intermediaries.</p>



*Photo: The masses burned cars during the riots that took place in Ambon City (09/11/2011).
(Source: Antara)*

In 1999, there were riots between Muslims and Christians in Ambon. This conflict occurred because of a dispute between Muslim Bugis and Christian youths from Mardika Village. The dispute caused the Muslim Bugis to attack Mardika Village then the Christians Mardika retaliated. The conflict based on ethnicity, religion, race, and inter-group had devastated the City of Ambon, Maluku. The government continued trying to reduce the riots in Ambon. Still, due to the conflict's escalation, which continued without good intentions from the two warring parties, the government gave up. When the conflict heated up, an organization called the Maluku Sovereignty Front emerged. It was a legacy from the Republik Maluku Selatan (RMS, lit. Republic of South Maluku) separatists group. This separatist group worsens the riots that already happened. Many parties rode this conflict in their interest and made the riot even more difficult to control. In the end, the inter-religious conflict in Ambon was resolved with a peace agreement and the handover of sharp weapons and homemade bombs in 2016⁶.

In 2012, riots occurred in Lampung between Lampung and Bali ethnics in Balinuraga and Agom Villages. The 2012 riots were the culmination of an ongoing dispute between the Lampungnese and Balinese. This riot started with brawls between Balinuraga Village and Agom Village's youth, which could have been resolved amicably. However, due to the accumulation of previous conflicts, violence escalated between them. The resolution finally came into place through conflict mapping, dialogues between the conflicting communities, mediation, hearings, and making peace agreements⁷.

6 Ferranda, Ellen. Sejarah Perang Ambon 1999 Secara Singkat dan Lengkap. [online] <https://sejarahlengkap.com>

7 Utami, Anisa. 2014. Resolusi Konflik Antar etnis Kabupaten Lampung Selatan (Studi Kasus: Konflik Suku Bali Desa Balinuraga dan Suku Lampung Desa Agom Kabupaten Lampung Selatan. Universitas Diponegoro.

The riots resulted from the institutionalization of racism and the neglect of the growing issues of racism in Indonesia. The government prioritizes open dialogue, meetings between traditional leaders, or deliberations to resolve conflicts between tribes and religions. Although this approach can reduce the conflict, it cannot eliminate racism deeply rooted in society.

Inter-ethnic conflicts in Indonesia show how race, ethnicity, culture, and religion are prone to discrimination against small minorities. In the end, a peaceful agreement and conflict resolution finally ended the tragedy. However, these people had never seen their ethnicity difference as a motive to separate from Indonesia, or crudely said: “to establish its own state.” But the racism issue raised by the Papuans is a different case. The separatists utilize racism to demand independence. For this reason, the racism raised by separatist activists is not purely to defend the Papuans but rather to launch a Free Papua agenda. By peaceful means, Papuan racism can be resolved if there is no separatist agenda at work. Racism cannot be used as a basis for asking for independence because the Unity in Diversity, which is adhered to by Indonesia, emphasizes unity. Papua is an integral part of Indonesia and its final.

SEPARATISTS’ EFFORT TO RIDE THE RACISM ISSUE

Free Papua separatists use the racism case in West Papua to demand a referendum from the Indonesian government. The protest happened in West Papua (August-September 2019) after the Surabaya racism incident allegedly masterminded by the Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee) and the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP). Both separatists groups allegedly utilized the students to hold a demonstration, which ended in chaos⁸. The separatists infiltrated anti-racism protests involving thousands of citizens and students to launch their referendum agendas. Separatist organizations also continue to provoke the masses to rise various protests demanding independence based on alleged racial discrimination. This action certainly had many negative impacts on Papuans. The series of violence resulted in a lot of casualties and material losses.

Free Papuan separatists organizations, such as ULMWP (United Liberation Movement For West Papua), used the Surabaya racism incident to raise the issue to the international scene. ULMWP also requested assistance from other Melanesian countries such as Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji to support West Papua’s separation from Indonesia. The separatists and their supporters urged the UN to call out Indonesia about the racism issue and the need for a referendum.

8 Detiknews. 2019. Polri: 733 Mahasiswa Eksodus Diperiksa, Dimanfaatkan KNPB untuk Rusuh Jayapura. [online] <https://news.detik.com>



*Protesters protest against Papuan student dormitory siege in Surabaya (19/9/2019).
(Source: kompas)*

The racism that afflicts Papuan students in Surabaya on August 16, 2019, triggered a series of protests over racism in Indonesia. From August 19 to September 30, 2019, Papuans in Jayapura, Sorong, and Manokwari took to the streets. They demanded the elimination of all forms of discrimination experienced by Papuan students. This incident also triggered the protests that were partly orchestrated by Papuan separatist activists. The protests became momentum to demand a referendum for Papuans. The raising of separatist flags, called the Morning Star, in several places during the protests indicating that the movement was behind these protests.

Ralph Regenvanu from the Vanuatu Land and Justice Party has been promoting the concept of “One People, One Soul,” also known as the Wantok Blong Yumi Bill. Inspired by the Vanuatu founding father Walter Lini, the Wantok Blong Yumi Bill insisted that Vanuatu will only be fully independent should all Melanesian nations become independent. The separatists politicized this sentiment as the main key to their political identity as Melanesians. However, 13 million Indonesians of the Melanesian race spread across three other provinces outside of West Papua, namely Maluku, North Maluku, and East Nusa Tenggara (NTT). Papuan separatists consider the Indonesian government’s control of their territory a result of illegal annexation, and decisions taken do not involve Papuan votes.

In the midst-2020, the murder of George Floyd by American police sparked the Black Lives Matter movement. Separatists did not miss this opportunity to raise the copycat hashtag Papuan Lives Matter to insert their separatist agenda into the anti-racism movement. Racism cases with black people in America have a different history and context from that of Indonesia. The Black Lives Matter started with the struggle to abolish slavery and gain individual freedom, which later turned into a struggle for equal rights, eliminating segregation and repression against black people. Meanwhile, the Papuan case started with separatism and utilizing the racism issue to push for a referendum.

Even though Indonesia is considered slow in resolving racism in the country, especially in Papua, the government has made various efforts and approaches to reduce racism conflicts. The Governor of East Java Khofifah Indar Parawansa apologized for the alleged racist assault to Papuan students on August 19, 2019. She held a hearing involving Papuan students to find solutions on the problems⁹.

However, separatists deliberately steer the racism issue in West Papua to separatism, with a referendum as the only solution, which hindered the government's effort to resolve conflicts. In fact, the issue of racism and separatism are two different things. Racism conflict resolution requires a humanist approach to provide and guarantee protection for groups that experience racist acts. Meanwhile, conflict resolution for the issue of separatism uses a political approach that relates to state sovereignty. Protests because of racism in Surabaya, which ended in chaos, occurred because they were ridden by separatism. The problem of racism in Surabaya can actually be resolved well if there are no other interests behind racism. However, due to ongoing provocations by separatist activists who tried to heat the Surabaya racism incident, riots occurred in West Papua.

9 Kompas. 2019. Gubernur Jawa Timur Khofifah Minta Maaf, Situasi Manokwari dan Papua Diharapkan Kondusif. [online] <https://www.kompas.com>

B. The Bloody Tragedy of the of Wamena and Jayapura Riots

The racist incidents affecting Papuan students in Surabaya ignited a series of protests in Papua's major cities from August to September 2019. However, two riots were allegedly carried out on purpose just a day before the UN General Assembly, which was held on September 24, 2019, to re-heat the racism talk to be discussed at the UN Session. This rioting took place in Wamena and Jayapura, where thousands of students and Papuan people took to the streets to stage protests to interview racists, which ended in chaos. The action, which initially aimed to prosecute racism, had destroyed buildings, public facilities, vehicles and demanded self-determination for the Papuan people. Many casualties fell due to this protest; as many as 33 people consisting of civilians, security forces, and doctors. Among them, 29 non-Papuans were burned to death, at least 66 people were injured, and 8000 people fled to police stations, offices, government offices, and the local churches in Wamena¹⁰. Papuan separatist groups, namely the ULMWP and KNPB, masterminded the riot to raise the Free Papua issue¹¹.

SURABAYA INCIDENT

The incident that triggered a wave of protests in West Papua and even in several cities in Indonesia originated from the Papuan Student Dormitory's siege in Surabaya that occurred on August 16, 2019. According to the spokesperson for Front Rakyat Indonesia untuk West Papua (FRI-WP, lit. Indonesian People's Front for West Papua), the siege occurred on August 16, 2019, 4 pm, carried out by security forces and several community organizations. This siege occurred because of the alleged destruction of the Indonesian flag by Papuan students living in the dormitory. At that time, students who were in the dormitory were pelted and cursed at with racist remarks. On August 17, the police took 43 students to the police station to question the destruction of the Indonesian flag¹².

10 Kompas. 2019. 7 Fakta Baru Kerusuhan Wamena, 30 Orang Tewas hingga Dalang Kerusuhan Ditangkap. [online] <https://regional.kompas.com>

11 Kompas. 2019. Fakta Polda Papua Tetapkan 13 Tersangka Kerusuhan Wamena, 3 DPO hingga Diduga Terkait KNPB dan ULMWP. [online] <https://regional.kompas.com>

12 CNN. 2019. Kronologi Pengepungan Asrama Papua Surabaya Versi Mahasiswa. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com>

According to the police, the siege happened after various community organizations report the Indonesian flag's destruction. The mass surrounded the Papuan Student Dormitory, then the police asked the students to leave the dormitory, but they refused. After failing to make various persuasive efforts to expel the student, the police finally broke in. In the early hours of the morning, 43 students were brought to the Surabaya Police for questioning. The students were released because there was no strong evidence that they had damaged the Indonesian flag¹³.

The government followed up this case and arrested two people who committed hate speech and spreading hoaxes. Apart from that, the governor of East Java, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, has also apologized for the racism in the Surabaya Incident. The East Java government also took the initiative to hold a dialogue with Surabaya students to foster mutual trust between the people of East Javanese and Papuans¹⁴. The Mayor of Surabaya, Tri Rismaharini, also apologized and asked fellow residents not to be provoked and harm themselves¹⁵.

A few days after the Surabaya incident, protests emerged in 23 cities of Papua and West Papua Provinces, 17 cities in Indonesia, and three cities abroad (August 19-September 30, 2019). The protests were part of a long series of demonstrations demanding the elimination of racial discrimination against Papuans. The word 'monkey' offended many Papuans and considered it as racist remarks against them.

But, the anti-racism protests then turned into separatism demands. As discussed earlier, racism and separatism are two different things; we cannot confuse racism with separatism. Separatism has political content, while racism does not. It means that we cannot solve a racism problem with a referendum. Some of the protests that bloomed into riots were masterminded by the separatists, indicated by how they mixed separatism into the protests' cause.

The separatist rode the issue of racism in Surabaya and turned it into a call for referendum. The racism allegation which could have been resolved properly, ended up causing major riots in Papua.

13 Tempo. 2019. Kronologi Insiden Asrama Mahasiswa Papua Surabaya Menurut Polisi.

14 Liputan6. 2019. Upaya Pemda Jawa Timur Meredam Gejolak Insiden Asrama Mahasiswa Papua. [online] <https://surabaya.liputan6.com>

15 Liputan6. 2019. Risma Minta Maaf soal Insiden Asrama Mahasiswa Papua di Surabaya. [online] <https://surabaya.liputan6.com>



*Rioters burned buildings and public facilities in Wamena, Jayawijaya, Papua, on September 23, 2019.
(Source: CNN Indonesia)*

PAPUAN STUDENTS EXODUS

Lots of Papuan scholarship students study on other islands in Indonesia. Some of them attend college in Jakarta, Medan, Makassar, and other cities. These Papuan students are usually under an organization, namely the Papuan Student Alliance (AMP), which is currently a cadre organization of the KNPB separatist group. Many of AMP's senior students are members of the KNPB. These senior students who are free to intimidate junior students are masterminding the exodus of Papuan students¹⁶. Not only inciting students to return home, but these KNPB members also orchestrated anti-racism protests that led to requests for referendums or even riots.

According to reports, more than 800 students have returned to their hometowns¹⁷. The return of these students is in line with the declaration of the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papuan People's Assembly) issued on August 23, 2019, advised Papuan students to return and continue their studies in Papua, should there be no guarantee for their safety and security from the provincial government, district/city governments, and security forces at each study city¹⁸.

These Papuan exodus students created another problem in West Papua. The regional government found it challenging to distribute students to universities in West Papua. Exodus is merely disrupting students' opportunities for a better future.

16 Antara. 2019. Papua Terkini - KNPB diduga berada dibalik pemulangan mahasiswa Papua. [oline]

17 BBC. 2019. Eksodus mahasiswa Papua: 'Kosongkan Pulau Jawa' tapi 'pusing mau ditaruh di mana' [online] <https://www.bbc.com>

18 Ibid.



Thirty Papuan exodus student “representatives” came to the Papua People’s Assembly office in Jayapura, Papua, on December 17, 2019. (Source: jubi.co.id)

Papuan students of Ikatan Mahasiswa se-Papua (Imasepa, lit. the Papuan Student Association) held a peaceful demonstration in front of the Bandung Satay building on August 18, 2019. Also, demonstrations in Medan took place on August 19, 2019, involving dozens of Papuan students. Protesting students wore Morning Star clothes and attributes, sang fighting songs about independence Papua in front of the North Sumatra Regional House of Representatives building. The rally initially aimed at ending discrimination against Papuan students became a demonstration demanding a referendum. The students demanded a referendum as the most appropriate way to end acts of racial discrimination and human rights violations against the Papuan people. They think that the most democratic way the Indonesian government can do is self-determination¹⁹.

Demonstrations that took place in several cities in Indonesia were a response to the Surabaya racism incident. However, separatists utilized it and turned it into a self-determination demand for Papua that was not even close to solving racism.



Hundreds of exodus students came to the Papua People’s Assembly office, Jayapura, Papua, on January 14, 2020. (Source: jernih.co)

19 BBC. 2019. Unjuk Rasa Papua di Jakarta : ‘Tangkap dan adili aktor intelektual pengepungan asrama’. [online] <https://www.bbc.com>



An anti-racism protest attended by 130 people, started by walking from the Yogyakarta Papua Student Dormitory to Zero Kilometer Point, happened in Yogyakarta City, Special Region of Yogyakarta, on August 20, 2019. (Source: tirto.id)

JAYAPURA RIOTS I (AUGUST 29, 2019) AND JAYAPURA RIOTS II (SEPTEMBER 23, 2019)

Two riots took place in Jayapura, namely the Jayapura Riot I (August 29, 2019) and Jayapura Riot II (September 23, 2019). The KNPB was behind these two bloody tragedies²⁰. And the second one involved the Papuan exodus students. The first rioting took place on August 29, 2019. Thousands of Papuans in Jayapura City, Papua Province, protested against the discrimination and violence during the siege of the Papuan Students Dormitory in Surabaya City, East Java Province, which happened on August 16, 2019. Protesters burned several buildings, such as the Papua People's Assembly office in Abepura. They also burned down a wireless telecommunications tower belonging to PT. Telkom Indonesia in Jayapura City²¹. At the end of the day, the protesters occupied the Papua Governor's Office and replaced the Indonesian flag on the office's front with the Free Papua separatist flag²². KNPB separatist activist Steven Itlay played a role in mobilizing the masses from Sentani and conveyed the message of the chairman of the KNPB, Agus Kossay, to all KNPB members²³. Buchtar Tabuni, deputy chairman of the ULMWP, also played a role in inciting the mass during Jayapura riots on August 29, 2019²⁴.

20 Detik news. 2019. Ketua KNPB Ditangkap Terkait Kerusuhan di Jayapura. [online] <https://news.detik.com>

21 Tribun. 2019. TERKINI Kerusuhan di Jayapura Papua: Kronologi Kerusuhan hingga Wiranto Tanggapi Tuntutan Referendum. [online] <https://www.tribunnews.com>

22 Koman, Veronika. 2019. <https://twitter.com>

23 Kompas. 2019. Ditangkap, Ini Peran Ketua KNPB Mimika Steven Itlay dalam Kerusuhan [online] Jayapura <https://regional.kompas.com>

24 Berita Satu. 2019. Polisi akan Bongkar Peran Buchtar Tabuni di Kerusuhan Papua. [online] <https://www.beritasatu.com/nasional/>



As a result of the Wamena riot (9/23/2019), hundreds of residents fled Wamena. (Source: beritagar.id)

This riot paralyzed economic activity and shut down shops, offices, and public facilities²⁵. The mob burned down office buildings, shop houses, and vehicles they were passing by. The situation was tense; residents were scared and hiding in their homes even though the riots had ended. This riot caused material and psychological losses for the people of Jayapura. Four civilians were killed.

The second riot took place at Expo Waena, Jayapura City, on September 23, 2019. This riot broke out between Papuan students and local security forces. Students took up the Cendrawasih University (Uncen) and established a post there starting from the time when the Papuan exodus students arrived in Papua. KNPB then provoked students to rally in Papua cities²⁶. After negotiations between Papuan students, the campus, and the authorities, they finally agreed to be transferred to the Expo with the security forces vehicles.



Riot and burning of buildings at Waena Expo, Jayapura City, Papua Province, on September 23, 2019. (Source: Antara)

25 BBC. 2019. Jayapura rusuh, diwarnai aksi pembakaran dan penjarahan: ‘Ada yang mau mengacaukan Papua’ kata Wiranto. [online] <https://www.bbc.com>

26 Antara. 2019. Papua Terkini - KNPB diduga berada di balik pemulangan mahasiswa Papua. [online] <https://www.antaranews.com>

Not long after that, riots broke out and clashes between students and security forces could not be avoided. Police said a group of people suspected as KNPB attacked officers²⁷. The riot at the Waena Expo resulted in 3 people, suspected of being students, killed and 20 people injured²⁸. A soldier died and six others were stabbed. The police finally arrested 318 students suspected of being the riot maker²⁹.

ULMWP and KNPB allegedly masterminded the Jayapura Riot II. They took advantage of the Papua Student Alliance (AMP) exodus to carry out destruction and attacks on TNI and Polri officers at the Waena Expo³⁰. The police have arrested Ferry Kombo, former Chairman of the Student Executive Board (BEM, lit. Student Executive Board) of the University of Cendrawasih, and named him a suspect in the Waena riot. Ferry Kombo is connected to domestic and foreign networks, namely KNPB and ULMWP. Apart from Ferry Kombo, the police also arrested Alex Gobay, the mastermind behind the riots, and motivated junior students to participate in the protest³¹. Apart from Ferry Kombo, the police arrested Alex Gobay, who moved the junior students to protest and then stirred into riots³².



Rioters set fire to the Customs and Excise Office in Jayapura City, Papua, on August 29, 2019. (Source: Pojoksatu)

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- 27 Tirtoid. 2019. Polri Klaim Kerusuhan di Wamena dan Waena Libatkan KNPB. [online] <https://tirto.id>
- 28 CNBC. 2019. Jayapura Rusuh, 3 Mahasiswa Tewas. [online]. <https://www.cnbcindonesia.com>
- 29 Suara. 2019. Rusuh di Waena Papua, 733 Mahasiswa Ditangkap Polisi. [online] <https://www.suara.com>
- 30 Santoso, Aubrey. 2019. Polri: 733 Mahasiswa Eksodus Diperiksa, Dimanfaatkan KNPB untuk Rusuh Jayapura. Detiknews. [online] <https://news.detik.com>
- 31 Detiknews. 2019. Tangkap Ferry Kombo, Polisi Juga Kejar Aktor Intelektual Rusuh Papua Lainnya. [online] <https://news.detik.com>
- 32 Detiknews. 2019. Polisi juga Tetapkan Alexander Gobay Tersangka Rusuh Papua. [online] <https://news.detik.com>

After the exodus, Papuan students regretted doing the exodus and demonstration in Papua³³. Many students failed to continue their studies after returning to West Papua. Several Papuan student representatives in Java advised fellow Papuan students who had returned to Papua to return to the study cities and continue their studies³⁴. Some Papuan exodus students even stated that they got deceived³⁵.

Also, there was a misappropriation of funds for exodus Papuan students by the Director of Perhimpunan Asosiasi Kebijakan dan Hak Asasi Manusia Papua (PAK-HAM lit, the Papuan Human Rights Policy Advocacy Association), Mathius Murib. Using the exodus students' human rights to have education as his reasoning, the director proposed that the government send the Papuan students back to the study cities. But instead of using it for the students, the director used the fund for himself. Even though the government has disbursed grant funds to help return students to Papua amounting to IDR1.6 billion, Mathius used about IDR 369 million only for the exodus students³⁶. This corruption is very detrimental to the state and to the students who were promised aid funds.

WAMENA RIOT

On September 23, 2019, the riots in Wamena City, Jayawijaya Regency, raised questions and speculation about the alleged intentions behind this action, deliberately carried out by separatist activists. Why did this riot occur after the racism case of Papuan students in Surabaya occurred a month earlier, on August 16, 2019? And why did this riot occur the day before the UN session on September 24, 2019? Was it deliberately made so it could be raised in the UN session?

The bloody Wamena tragedy was allegedly triggered by hoaxes about a teacher making racist remarks at school on September 18, 2019. The school had mediated the misunderstanding between the teacher and the student related to the racist remarks and the case had also been solved amicably³⁷. However, residents and students in Wamena already believed the hoax spread through the online messenger. A group of people then attacked the related school and then the rioting spread to all corners of Wamena³⁸.

33 Saja, Hendo. Mahasiswa Papua Eksodus. [online]

34 Ibid.

35 Ibid.

36 Nusantara. 2019. Mathius Murib Ditetapkan Tersangka Kasus Korupsi Dana Mahasiswa Eksodus. [online] <https://nusantarapost.id>

37 Komnasham. 2019. Komnas HAM : Peristiwa Wamena adalah Tragedi Kemanusiaan. [online] <https://www.komnasham.go.id>

38 Tempo.2019. Salah Paham antara Kata Keras dan Kera di Kerusuhan Wamena. <https://nasional.tempo.co>.



Students hold a demonstration in Wamena, Jayawijaya, Papua, on September 23, 2019. (Source: Papua inews)



Crowds burned tires during riots at the entrance to Trikora Street, Wosi, Manokwari, on August 19, 2019. (Source: Antara Foto)

If not because of certain parties involvement in spreading the hoax and raising the racist remarks again, there wouldn't be any riot in Wamena or in Jayapura. The protest, which was allegedly carried out by 200 Wamena students, was infiltrated by unknown people who did not come from Wamena. But along the road to the school, the masses kept arriving and causing chaos at several points.

Stoning, burning people's homes and government offices could not be avoided. A total of 33 people were killed, 53 people were injured, 530 buildings belonging to the community were damaged and burned, 238 vehicles were damaged, and 17 government-owned buildings were burned, including the regent's office, and the Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN, lit. State Electricity Company) office³⁹. The riot also temporarily halted activities at Wamena airport⁴⁰.

This riot resulted in 5,000 residents taking refuge in 4 refugee points. Most of the victims who died were migrants. Some of the victims died because they were trapped in the shophouses that were burned by the rioters⁴¹. Many innocent civilians died because of this riot; several eyewitnesses said that the rioters threw arrows and machetes at migrants. When the rioting occurred, many people ran to save themselves from the masses' anger.

The Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia (Komnas HAM, lit. National Commission on Human Rights) considered that the riots in Wamena were inseparable from the racism cases experienced by Papuan students in Surabaya. Moreover, at that time, Papua's conditions were still susceptible to the Papuan movement's protest in August 2019. So that the teacher's racist remarks became another trigger. The KNPB provoked the protests into chaos by disguised as high school students and carrying out destruction to the streets.

39 Kompas. 2019. Ini Daftar Kerusakan Akibat Kerusuhan di Wamena Papua. [online] <https://regional.kompas.com>

40 BBC. 2019. Wamena: Dua bulan sejak kerusuhan, trauma dan rasa 'was-was' masih menghantui warga. [online] <https://www.bbc.com>

41 Detiknews . 2019. 23 Orang Tewas di Wamena, Sebagian Terjebak di Ruko yang Dibakar Pendemo [online] <https://news.detik.com>



Several buildings in Wamena City caught fire in riot on September 23, 2019. (Source: Antara Foto)

The KNPB was proven to have provoked peaceful demonstrations on August 19 and 29, 2019, and turned it destructive⁴². Meanwhile, in the Wamena Riot, the KNPB was suspected of triggering a riot to be discussed at the UN Session on September 24, 2019. This was supported by Benny Wenda's efforts as ULMWP leader to encourage the UN to discuss Papua's riots. In the 74th UN Session, Benny Wenda tried to enter the room together with Vanuatu's delegation. However, the United Nations did not allow him to enter due to strict regulations that only allow citizens and delegates to enter the UN General Assembly⁴³. The separatist efforts to politicize racism for their benefit caused many losses to society. The series of riots that occurred in West Papua caused innocent people to become victims. The riots could have been avoided if the separatists didn't incessantly use racism to open an opportunity to demand Papuan independence.

42 Santoso, Audrey. 2019. Polri: Dalang Kerusuhan di Wamena Diduga Kelompok KNPB. Detiknews. [online] <https://news.detik.com> [Accessed 17 January 2021]

43 CNN. 2019. PBB Disebut Tolak Benny Wenda Masuk ke Sidang Majelis Umum. [online] <https://www.cnnindonesia.com>

C. United Nations General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

The Wamena-Jayapura Riots, which was instigated by the separatist group Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee) and the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP) just a day before the 2019 UN General Debate⁴⁴, was a separatist step to raise the issue of racism to attract the attention of member countries of the UN Assembly. This riot made it easier for the Vanuatu delegation as the spearhead of Free Papua separatists to raise Papua's issue at the UN Session. Separatist deliberately set fire to riots in Papua the day before the UN session took place.

The 2019 UN Session took place in New York, United States, on September 17-30, 2019. Then the UN General Debate was held September 24-27, 2019. At this UN Session, there were delegations from the Pacific Islands, such as Vanuatu, who raised Papua's issue and past human rights violations that had occurred in West Papua when the Suharto military regime was still in control of Indonesia. Indonesia anticipated these Pacific Island countries' predictable steps from year to year.



Silvany Pasaribu, a young Indonesian diplomat who was a checkmate of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Bob Loughman, at the UN Session (9/26/2019). (Source: MediaIndonesia.com)

44 Surabaya Tribun. 2019. Cara Licik Benny Wenda Bawa Kerusuhan di Papua ke Rapat HAM PBB, Kapolri: ULMWP & KNPB Dalang. [online] <https://surabaya.tribunnews.com> [Accessed 17 January 2021]



Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai gave his speech on the 2019 UN Session. (Source: Reuters)

Vanuatu and several other Pacific countries' involvement in discussing human rights violations in West Papua is considered to violate state sovereignty boundaries embedded in the UN Charter. The politicization and internationalization of the West Papua issue have provided Vanuatu's many advantages both at home and abroad. Vanuatu's success in raising Papua's UN Session issue affected domestic political support and increased Vanuatu's popularity in the Pacific region.

In his speech regarding West Papua, PM Vanuatu mentioned, "Human rights violations are happening in the world today. Vanuatu strongly condemns the human rights violations committed against the indigenous people of West Papua. We call on the United Nations system to be used to find solutions to these human rights violations. Therefore, the Pacific Islands Forum leaders' resolution asked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the province of West Papua to carry out an assessment, supported by concrete evidence, of the human rights situation. Vanuatu endorses this resolution and calls on Indonesia, a neighboring country and partner in the region, to do the right thing and act responsibly and approve such a mission. I would like to recall the Charter of the United Nations' principles and reaffirm our belief in fundamental human rights, the dignity and value of the human person, and the equality of rights between men and women and countries large and small"⁴⁵

The Solomon Islands Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade also delivered a message related to Papua's human rights violations. He said, *"Concerning the West Papua issue, Solomon Islands conforms to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). The Solomon Islands reaffirms Indonesian sovereignty over Papua. However, it remains concerned about the escalation of violence and allegations of human rights violations that continue to be reported in West Papua. Solomon Islands welcomes Indonesia's invitation to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit and conduct an independent human rights assessment in West Papua. The Solomon Islands urges both sides to agree on a date for a visit immediately to ensure that the result is achieved as quickly as possible."⁴⁶*

45 UN. 2019. United Nations General Assembly 74th session: 10th Plenary Meeting. UN Docs. United Nations.

46 Ibid.



UN General Assembly on September 29, 2020. (Source: liputan6.com)

Apart from Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, Prime Minister Tuvalu Minute Alapati Taupo also delivered a short speech on Papua as follows: *“Likewise, the United Nations must engage with the people of West Papua to find a lasting solution to their cause. I want to thank and welcome Indonesia’s invitation to a mission to West Papua by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.”*⁴⁷

The three speeches delivered by delegates from representatives of Pacific forum countries emphasized resolving human rights violations in West Papua and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to come and see the current situation in West Papua. The speech has received different responses from several parties.

The Indonesian delegation responded to the speech of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu by emphasizing two points. First, the UN Charter teaches always to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries. He added that one country continues to show support for separatist groups that have claimed innocent civilians. He calls this a state-sponsored separatist movement, which is not justified by international law and the UN charter.

The second point, he said, was that Indonesia needed to inform UN members to see the motives behind the country’s statements and actions. Vanuatu wants to impress the world about its concern for human rights issues, while its sole reason is to support the separatist agenda. Vanuatu continues to take provocative actions, among others, by promoting the promise of baseless self-determination. What Vanuatu didn’t realize was that his provocation had raised hope and even sparked conflict. This is a very irresponsible act. Vanuatu’s provocation has resulted in damage to infrastructure that belongs to the everyday people of Indonesia. Hundreds of houses were burned. Public facilities were destroyed. Worst of all - the lives of innocent civilians also died⁴⁸.

Indonesia considers Vanuatu’s involvement in the West Papua issue, and the discussions at the UN general session have intervened in Indonesia’s sovereignty. Indonesia suspects that there are other motives behind it, seeing how Vanuatu has

47 Ibid.

48 Human Rights Papua. 2019. International Debate on West Papua. [online] <https://www.humanrightspapua.org>

supported the Free West Papua issue and how all Pacific Island countries take advantage of the West Papua issue to benefit their respective countries. In the end, separatist groups such as ULMWP collaborated with Vanuatu to internationalize the West Papua issue for money and power. With the ongoing campaign for an independent West Papua, it is undeniable that they will get aid funds from those who support their campaign.



The Indonesian delegation exercised its right of reply (Right of Reply) to respond to Vanuatu's statement that raised Papua's issue in the general debate on the 42nd UN Human Rights Council Session on (09/17/2019). (Source: jpnn.com)

VANUATU AND ULMWP POLITICAL BARTER

Vanuatu's efforts to raise West Papua issue to the international arena certainly raises questions about why the small Pacific Island nation is so passionate about fighting for the right of self-determination for the Papuan people. What is Vanuatu's real motives to nudge other countries' sovereignty at the UN session, is there any vested interest should Papua be separated from Indonesia?

After Vanuatu gained independence in 1980, its first Prime Minister Walter Lini said that Vanuatu was not fully independent if the entire Melanesian state was independent. This sentiment eventually led to the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) founded by Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS, lit. Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front). The initial focus of the MSG was to fight for sovereignty for the Melanesians⁴⁹.

49 Blade, Johnny. 2020. West Papua: The Issue That Won't Go Away For Melanesia. Lowy Institute. Australia.



*Benny Wenda with the Vanuatu delegation in one of the 2019 UN General Assembly offices.
(Source: jubi.co.id)*

The establishment of the MSG further strengthens the involvement of Melanesian countries in the issue of Papua. Moreover, Melanesian countries see Papuans as part of their community. Vanuatu made Papua's decolonization an excuse to protect Papuan people who were supporters of independence and promote Papuan sovereignty. Pacific Island countries have raised West Papua's issue in various international forums such as PIF, MSG, and even the United Nations.

In line with this, ULMWP also continues to make efforts to raise Papua's issue globally. ULMWP succeeded in creating a more united front and absorbing the main pro-independence organizations, including the KNPB. In 2015, the ULMWP was made the official observer of the MSG and made a bid for full membership⁵⁰.

In the same year, Indonesia officially became a permanent MSG member after 3 years as an official observer. The Indonesian government considers Indonesia's membership in the MSG very important because it represents thousands of Melanesians who are Indonesian citizens. This, of course, has received strong resistance from several countries and also the ULMWP.

After Indonesia entered as a permanent member, the alignments of the Pacific island nations of the MSG were split into two. Papua New Guinea and Fiji side with Indonesia, while Vanuatu and FLNKS continue to push for resolving the West Papua issue, and Solomon does not show partiality.

ULMWP's efforts to become a permanent MSG member continue to get resistance from several member countries. However, Vanuatu continues to push for ULMWP acceptance to become a permanent member. In June 2019, ULMWP re-applied for permanent membership to the MSG, with Vanuatu's full support. ULMWP strives to become a permanent member of the MSG to get full rights like other member countries.

50 Ibid.



Dr. Jacob Rumbiak, spokesman for ULMWP (far left), Charlot Salwai PM. Vanuatu (third from left), Benny Wenda, Chairman of ULMWP (center), Lora Lini, Vanuatu's special envoy for West Papua (second from right), and Vanuatu's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ralph Regenvanu (far right). They pose together after the PIF meeting in Tuvalu (08/16/2019). (Source: tabloid-wani.com)

Vanuatu's support for ULMWP cannot be separated from the political party that dominates the Vanuatu government, namely Vanua'aku Pati (VP). This political party adheres to the principles of the Melanesian Brotherhood in its foreign policy aspects. It is supported by the slogan "One People, One Soul," in which Ralph Regenvanu, Chairman of the opposition Vanuatu party, emphasizes Melanesian unity. The focus of advocacy on Melanesian colonies' decolonization is the party's main goal (Morgan, 2008 in Zahidi, 2020)⁵¹. Vanuatu's domestic politics also supports efforts towards Papuan independence. This confirms Vanuatu's support for ULMWP in raising Papuan issues in international institutions.

According to Zahidi (2020), lobbying efforts are also being carried out by Benny Wenda as the ULMWP representative to make Vanuatu continue to support Papuan independence. Benny emphasized the Melanesian Brotherhood as the main reason why Vanuatu should help West Papua. The Vanuatu government also considers that support for the ULMWP in Papuan independence is essential in domestic politics. With the Vanuatu principle prioritizing Melanesian brotherhood, the VP party needs votes to continue to be elected to lead the Vanuatu government⁵².

Vanuatu's support for Papuan independence is a continuation of its domestic politics, which is then implemented in foreign policy. Sticking to the Melanesian Brotherhood principles, Vanuatu has made the issue of Papua the main focus of its foreign policy. Vanuatu's efforts continue to raise West Papua issue to its advantage for Vanuatu to become a leader in the region. International recognition of Vanuatu's actions in the case of human rights violations and Papuan independence will boost Vanuatu's credibility in the world's eyes.

51 Zahidi, M. Syaprin. 2020. Analisis Kebijakan Luar Negeri Vanuatu Dalam Mendukung ULMWP Untuk Memisahkan Diri Dari Indonesia. Mandala: Jurnal Hubungan Internasional.

52 Mesak, Marinus. Yanyan M. Yani, dan Windy Dermawan. 2020. Chinese Involvement in Vanuatu and Solomon Island Foreign Policy Against The Papua Issue. Socie Polites.



Submission of the ULMWP report from ULMWP President Benny Wenda (left) to VFWPC President Pastor Alain Nafuki (3/4/2020). You can see Ralph Regenvanu (back, green shirt) watching the submission of the report. (Source: dailypost.vu)

Vanuatu's efforts to internationalize the West Papua issue raises additional questions about the Vanuatu campaign's funds and the ULMWP. Because making diplomatic trips around the world requires a lot of money. As we all know, the Pacific Island country is not a developed country, so that Vanuatu might use financial assistance from other countries. Based on Mesak et al. in their article entitled Chinese Involvement in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, Foreign Policy Against The West Papua Issue said that there is a relationship between China, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands on the issue of Papua. Vanuatu received aid from the Chinese government in its Belt Road Initiative, and Vanuatu used the funds to finance the Free Papua campaign⁵³.

The article assumes that if the funding pattern is that China provides a loan to Vanuatu, then when Vanuatu is unable to repay the debt, China asks for the rights to manage the port, which will later become part of China's Belt and Road Initiative⁵⁴. Then China provided financial assistance to Vanuatu to control the port. Vanuatu then used this financial aid provided by China to help the Free West Papua campaign together with ULMWP. By continuing to raise the West Papua issue, Vanuatu's popularity can increase both domestically and globally. The Papuan conflict management provides material benefits for Vanuatu with aid funds disbursed by the Chinese government.

What's more, Vanuatu can also become a leading country in the Pacific region. Meanwhile, China will also benefit if Vanuatu and other Pacific nations continue to push for West Papua secession. It is assumed that when the Pacific country is increasingly dependent on China, then if Papua becomes independent, China can easily control the Pacific Islands.

53 Mesak, Marinus. Yanyan M. Yani, dan Windy Dermawan. 2020. Chinese Involvement in Vanuatu and Solomon Island Foreign Policy Against The Papua Issue. Socie Polites.

54 Ibid.

2020 UN SESSION

At the 75th UN session in New York on September 22-29, 2020, Vanuatu again called out Indonesia about human rights violations in West Papua. In this year's UN Session, Vanuatu is the only country that still supports West Papua secession. This is because other Pacific countries realize Vanuatu's other interests from West Papua issue, which makes them reduce their involvement in supporting Papuan secession efforts. In his speech, Vanuatu Prime Minister Bob Loughman stated:

“There are a lot of human rights violations going on around us, but it seems the world is taking a selective approach to dealing with this. In our territory, the indigenous people of West Papua continue to experience human rights violations. Last year, the Pacific Islands Forum respectfully asked the Indonesian government to allow the UN Human Rights Commissioner's Office to visit West Papua's province. To date, there has been little progress on this side. Therefore, I ask the Indonesian government to answer previous requests from Pacific Leaders⁵⁵”.

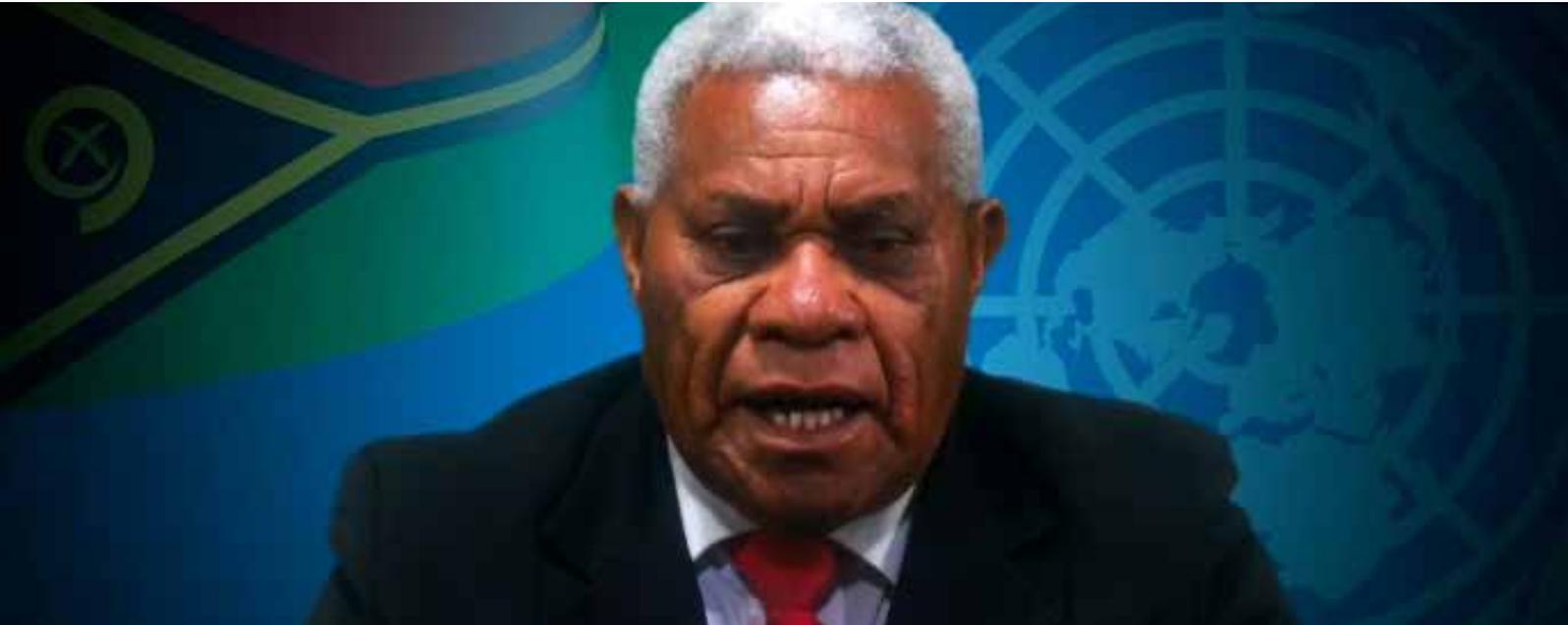
Responding to the statement made by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, diplomat Rayyanul Sangadji exercised Indonesian Rights of Reply, stating that Vanuatu had an excessive and unhealthy obsession with how Indonesia should govern its own country. Vanuatu should respect the principle of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. On the other hand, what Vanuatu has done does not respect other countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity and violates the UN Charter's principles.

Sangadji also said that the President of Indonesia had previously stated that we must take an excellent political relations approach between countries. But Vanuatu prefers to seek enemies and sow divisions amid the ongoing economic and health crisis by disguising their separatist advocacy as an issue of exaggerated human rights violations. Indonesia, which comprises more than 633 ethnic groups - a diverse and multicultural nation with thousands of ethnic groups and hundreds of local languages spread across more than 17,400 islands - is committed to human rights. Indonesia values diversity, respect, tolerance, and equal rights in the world's third-largest democracy. Indonesia promotes and protects human rights where every individual has the same rights under the law. Furthermore, Indonesia has ratified an international convention on eliminating all forms of racial discrimination, and Vanuatu has not even signed it.

The Indonesian diplomat also added, how can someone talk about indigenous peoples' rights when he has not even signed the International Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights as the core instrument of human rights. This raises the question

55 Statement on West Papua presented by Mr Bob Loughman, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu at General debate of the 75th Session of the General Assembly of the UN (New York, 22 – 29 September 2020) [online] <https://humanrightspapua.org>

of whether they care about the problems of indigenous peoples. More importantly, Vanuatu has not signed and ratified the convention against torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Vanuatu is better off fulfilling its responsibility to fulfill its people's human rights first than taking care of other countries' problems.



The Prime Minister of Vanuatu again touched on the Papua issue at the 2020 UN session (09/27/2020). (Source: cnbcindonesia.com)

The allegation of human rights violations is a fairy tale that Vanuatu has continued to sell and display at the UN Session for many years. Besides, separatist activists continue to romanticize past human rights cases that no longer reflect the current situation. In reality, many cases of human rights violations are committed by separatists. Based on the University of Gadjah Mada team's field research, from 2010 to 2020, 204 acts of violence occurred in West Papua Province, of which 118 cases were committed by the Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata (KKB, Armed Criminal Group, armed separatists). The number of victims of this violence reached 1,869, including 356 people who died, mostly civilians⁵⁶.

Indonesia also added that Vanuatu was not a representation of West Papua and would never be part of Papua. Papuans are Indonesians, and we play an essential role in the development of Indonesia and West Papua. Vanuatu does not appear to have a clear understanding of the UN charter's principles, which states to respect other countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity. Indonesia will continue to defend itself from advocacy against separatism under the guise of human rights violations. The provinces of Papua and West Papua are parts of Indonesia that have been irrevocable since 1945. This has also been firmly supported by the United Nations and the international community several decades ago with the UN General Assembly Resolution 2504 (XXIV).

56 Rahadi, F. (2020). Penelitian: Setengah Kasus Kekerasan di Papua Dilakukan KKB. [online] Republika.com. Available at: <https://republika.co.id> [Accessed 17 January 2021]



Various tribes and ethnicities in Indonesia. (Source: masbidin.net)

Vanuatu also delivered a speech regarding human rights violations in West Papua at the 45th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council on 26 September 2020. Representatives from Vanuatu delivered a speech stating:

‘Vanuatu welcomes the special rapporteur’s work for the discussion and his latest efforts towards promotion, protection, and fulfillment of indigenous peoples’ rights. Vanuatu knows that the high commissioner’s report for human rights does not address violence and discrimination by indigenous peoples in West Papua, Indonesia’s province. The indigenous peoples of West Papua have the right to live free from racial discrimination in a dignified manner and accordance with their culture.

Unfortunately, these rights are being violated by a new wave of violence against West Papuans in recent weeks. A few days ago, a pastor from a local church was killed in Intan Jaya province by an Indonesian military unit. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. The world must recognize this unacceptable situation, and the escalation of violent incidents must be condemned.

In this regard, the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on September 2 this year asked the Government of Indonesia to provide information on civil, political, and other related human rights issues. As stated at the Pacific Leaders Forum in 2019, Vanuatu called on

*Indonesia to fulfill its international human rights obligations and immediately facilitate the High Commissioner for Human Rights visit to complete his report to the council on the situation in West Papua*⁵⁷

The close relationship between the West Papua separatist movement and Vanuatu over the years has undoubtedly left many questions; how much will Vanuatu gain from its support for separatist activists? What happened in Vanuatu's domestic politics when they stopped supporting it? Is this purely the support of fellow Melanesians? or are there other vested interests? Did China's involvement in providing financial assistance to Vanuatu affect the Free West Papua campaign? And suppose you look at how much support Vanuatu has given to the Free West Papua Movement. In that case, there are indications that the Papua issue they are raising provides geopolitical benefits that make Vanuatu a leader in the Pacific Islands region to give Vanuatu power to regulate the surrounding archipelagic countries.

57 Statement on the human rights situation in West Papua by the Republic of Vanuatu delivered on 26 September 2020 during the 45th regular session of the UN human Rights Council. [online] <https://humanrightspapua.org>



Conclusion

West Papua current racism issue continues to be exploited by separatist groups to demand a referendum and Papuan independence. The Point Surabaya racism incident, which should have been appropriately resolved, ended up causing significant riots in Papua. This results from racism ridden by separatism, which makes this issue bigger and causes substantial damage. The riots that caused casualties could be avoided if separatism interests did not hang them and if there was no provocation from parties who had their agenda. Certain groups also used racism to create conflicts between Indonesians and the Papuan people a day before the UN General Assembly, which was carried out to get international attention for what was happening in Papua. In short, racism continues to be used to create riots in Papua for the sake of separatism by some separatist groups.

Separatist groups also use racism and human rights violations to seek international attention and seek support from Melanesian countries for Papua's secessionist efforts. Accusations of human rights violations are a fairy tale that Vanuatu has continued to sell and display at the UN Session for years. Also, separatist activists continue to romanticize past human rights cases that no longer reflect the current situation. In reality, many cases of human rights violations are committed by separatists. Based on the University of Gadjah Mada team's field research, from 2010 to 2020, of 204 total violence cases in Papua, 118 cases were committed by the KKB, resulting in 1,869 casualties, including 356 deaths, most of whom were civilians.

The support provided by the Vanuatu state for efforts to secede Papua seems impure to support the struggle of the Papuan people; there are several political interests they have achieved by exploiting the West Papua issue. What's more, Vanuatu received funding for a campaign on the issue of West Papua. By supporting Papuan independence, Vanuatu will gain recognition from other Melanesian countries and eventually become a leading state in the Pacific region. The issue of Papua is used as an effort to gain material benefits and power for Vanuatu.

CHAPTER 2

Free Papua and Political Interests

The Free West Papua Movement claims to fight for the Papuans' rights. However, it has become common knowledge that the separatist movement in any country is never a pure struggle and definitely hides another larger agenda behind it. What about the Free West Papua Movement? Is it true that this movement was born from the Papuan people's aspirations, or are there other interests riding on it?





A. Free West Papua Movement Organization

There are several organizations formed for the Free West Papua Movement, with the slogan Free West Papua. Even though they carry the same slogan, these separatist organizations often disagree because they have different interests. Some of these separatist organizations are based within the country, such as the Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee), Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance), and Organisasi Papua Merdeka-Tentara Pembebasan Nasional Papua Barat (OPM-TPNPB, lit. Free Papua Organization-West Papua National Liberation Army, the armed separatists).

While several others are based abroad, such as the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP), West Papua National Coalition for Liberation (WPNCL), the Federal Republic of West Papua (NFRPB, lit. Federal Republic of West Papua), and the National Parliament of West Papua (NPWP). Domestic factions often clash with foreign ones. They were often seen demonizing each other on social media. This is because each faction considers itself as the best struggle and has a different sponsor. Besides, each faction has its own version of Papuan President.

Considering all of the facts, are these separatists groups really fighting for the people's wishes, or are they just using the Papuan conflict for their own interests?

DOMESTIC SEPARATIST ORGANIZATION

Three separatist supporter groups are active domestically, which are Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee), Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance), and Organisasi Papua Merdeka-Tentara Pembebasan Nasional Papua Barat (OPM-TPNPB, lit. Free Papua Organization-West Papua National Liberation Army). All the three groups have different struggle characteristics, history of the establishment, and organization figures, yet give equally big contribution to the struggle for the Papuan people's independence.

1. Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee)

Several West Papua independence activists inside the country created the KNPB to carry out the Free West Papua Campaign. In practice, the KNPB often calls for a referendum and mobilizes the mass to protest.

The KNPB provoked the initially peaceful anti-racism protest in Jayapura on August 19 and 29, 2019, into riots. There is clear footage showing the KNPB occupied the governor's office of Papua and switched the Indonesian flag into the Free Papua flag (or the Morning Star) on August 29, 2019¹.



A member of the KNPB was seen switching the Indonesian flag in front of the Papuan Governor's Office, Jayapura City, with the separatist flag on August, 29, 2019. (Source: Veronica Koman)

The KNPB also supports various crimes committed by Organisasi Papua Merdeka-Tentara Pembebasan Nasional Papua Barat (OPM-TPNPB, lit. Free Papua Organization-West Papua National Liberation Army, the armed separatists), such as when the OPM-TPNPB killed security officers, killed a New Zealander at the PT Freeport Indonesia office, or when the armed separatists opened fire on an airplane carrying food aid for the Bintang Mountains' Regency residents.

1 Briantika, A. (2019) Polri Cek Video “Bendera Bintang Kejora” di Kantor Gubernur Papua. [online] tirto.id. Available at: <https://tirto.id> [Accessed 15 January 2021]



Wamena Airport, Jayawijaya, Papua, after a riot on September 23, 2019. (Source: Jurnal News)

On the Wamena-Jayapura Riots, September 23, 2019², the KNPB proved to have mobilized the mass to riot. The rioting will be used as material for the leader of the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP), Benny Wenda, who attended the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019, exactly one day after the riots took place, to push the discussion on West Papua on the 74th session of the UN General Assembly³.

Buchtar Tabuni became the link between the twin riots in West Papua and the Free Papua Movement abroad as Tabuni had high positions in the KNPB and the ULMWP.

Until today, there are at least three KNPB members named as political prisoners by Indonesian government:

1. Buchtar Tabuni

Buchtar Tabuni is the central leader of the KNPB and concurrently the second Deputy Chairperson of the ULMWP Legislative Body. Buchtar Tabuni coordinated the Wamena-Jayapura twin riots, which caused 37 deaths, damaged 600 public facilities, and displaced 17,000 people⁴.

Not only did he mobilize the masses to riot, but Buchtar Tabuni also had a direct relationship with the ULMWP leader, Benny Wenda, who attended the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019, exactly one day after the riots took place on September 23, 2019. By sparking riots, Buchtar Tabuni and Benny Wenda can freely raise the Free Papua issue at the UN Session.

2 Rahma, A. (2019). Polri Tuding KNPB di Balik Kerusakan Wamena. [online] Tempo.co. Available at: <https://nasional.tempo.co> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

3 Wardah, F. (2019). Menkopolhukam: Kerusakan di Wamena dan Jayapura Buat Menarik Perhatian Sidang Majelis Umum PBB. [online] VOA Indonesia. Available at: <https://www.voaindonesia.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

4 Tribun Jogja. (2019). Wakil Ketua ULMWP Buchtar Tabuni Ditangkap Polisi Terkait Kerusakan di Papua. [online] Available at: <https://jogja.tribunnews.com>



Rioters burned several buildings, such as the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papua People's Assembly) office in Abepura, Jayapura City, Papua Province, on August 29, 2019 (known as the Jayapura Riot I). (Source: Radar Sorong)

2. Steven Itlay

Steven Itlay is the Chairman of the KNPB in Mimika Regency, Papua Province. Itlay provoked the masses to riot in Jayapura City, Papua Province, on August 29, 2019 (known as the Jayapura Riot I)⁵. Itlay allegedly has connections with Benny Wenda, ULMWP separatist group leader, who visited the United Nations Session in New York, United States, on September 17-30, 2019.

Italy twisted the Surabaya racism incident on August 16, 2019, into a Free Papua separatism issue, culminating in Jayapura Riot I. Rioters burned several buildings, such as the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papua People's Assembly) office in Abepura. They also burned down a wireless telecommunications tower belonging to PT. Telkom Indonesia in Jayapura City. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million).

3. Agus Kossay

Agus Kossay is the chairman of the KNPB who masterminded Jayapura Riot I on August 29, 2019⁶. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million). A video footage showed how the protesters occupied the Papua Governor's Office and replaced the Indonesian flag on the office's front with the Free Papua separatist flag.

It is difficult to disband the KNPB because it has supporters from the Majelis Rakyat Papua Barat (MPRB, lit. West Papua People's Assembly), an organization formed by the Special Autonomy Law and financed by Special Autonomy funds in West Papua Province. Papuakini.co reported that the MRPB invited the KNPB and ULMWP to Rapat Dengar Pendapat (RDP, lit. hearing) on Special Autonomy on October 1,

5 Suwandi, D. (2019). Steven Itlay, Tersangka Kerusuhan Jayapura Ditangkap di Depan Gerbang Uncen. [online] Kompas.com. Available at: <https://regional.kompas.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

6 Suwandi, D. (2019). Ketua KNPB Dalang Kerusuhan Jayapura Ditangkap Saat Kendarai Motor Curian. [online] Kompas.com. Available at: <https://regional.kompas.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

2020⁷. The MRPB invitation to the KNPB is a strong indication that the KNPB has the ability to interfere and influence the MRPB decision and is likely to get a part of the Special Autonomy funds. CNN Indonesia also reported that the Merauke Police, Papua Province, arrested 50 members of Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, it. Papua's People Assembly), the MRPB counterpart in Papua Province, who held a hearing with separatists on November 16, 2020⁸.



The KNPB and AMP mobilized students and mass at the anti-racism rally in Jayapura City, Papua Province, on August 19, 2019. (Source: Akurat.co)

The KNPB wanting to interfere in Indonesian policies to regulate the Special Autonomy fund's extension is truly suspicious. As a separatist organization, the KNPB normally focuses on raising the issue of Papuan independence. Why did the KNPB suddenly become so interested in money matters under Special Autonomy? Does the KNPB have any relationship with some officials who have been allegedly corrupting Special Autonomy funds? Could it be that the corrupted Special Autonomy funds flowed for KNPB operations?

If there is a link between the KNPB separatist group and the corrupted Special Autonomy fund, then the Free Papua issue has taken a position in a vicious circle. If the KNPB and corrupt officials work together to take advantage of the Special Autonomy funds that should be for the development of Papua, then the evaluation of the Special Autonomy fund will be difficult to do because it is overshadowed by threats and mass mobilization of the KNPB. Meanwhile, if the Special Autonomy fund policy does not change according to the people's needs, then Papua people will find it difficult to feel the impact of development. It's a win-win situation for the KNPB who raised the issue of Papuan independence and obtained leaked funds from the government budget.

7 Papua Kini. (2020). Wow, MRPB Undang KNPB dan ULMWP di RDP Bahas Perpanjangan Otsus. [online] Available at: <https://papakini.co> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

8 CNN Indonesia. (2020). Lebih dari 50 Orang Jadi Tersangka Makar Terkait Rapat MRP. [online] Available at: <https://www.cnnindonesia.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

2. Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance)

Besides KNPB, there is also a student organization called Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance). AMP has a similar orientation to KNPB, namely fighting for Free Papua through a referendum. AMP's most conspicuous activity in public were demonstrations. Since 2013, AMP has been active in protesting in various cities. AMP's main task is to build activist bases among students by strengthening the Free Papua ideology. In a way, AMP is a separatist puppet assigned to cadre and mobilize students to expand their coverage of the Free Papua issue.

AMP also orchestrated the exodus of Papuan students. AMP influenced and forced Papuan students who studied in various regions in Indonesia to return to Papua by promising better education in Papua. The students were then mobilized to create riots in Jayapura, also known as the Jayapura Riot I, on August 29, 2019⁹. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million).

AMP deliberately formed student exodus posts to coordinate students before the riots. AMP lawyers admitted that AMP did mobilize students in Jayapura Riots I. Two AMP members were finally included in the list of political prisoners for their role in the Wamena-Jayapura Riots, namely:

1. Ferry Kombo

Ferry Kombo is the former Chairman of the Student Executive Board (BEM, lit. Student Executive Board) of the University of Cendrawasih, Jayapura City, Papua Province. Ferry Kombo allegedly mobilized the masses and rioters who caused Jayapura Riot I (August 29, 2019) through social media. Kombo is also involved with domestic and foreign separatist networks, such as the AMP, KNPB, and ULMWP. Security forces arrested Kombo as he was about to go to Wamena Town, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Province. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million) on the riot¹⁰.

2. Alex Gobay

Alex Gobay was the Student President of the Jayapura University of Science and Technology, Papua Province. Gobay's role was similar to Ferry Kombo. Gobay allegedly mobilized the masses and rioters who caused Jayapura Riot I (August 29, 2019) through social media¹¹.

9 Santoso, A. (2019). Polri: 733 Mahasiswa Eksodus Diperiksa, Dimanfaatkan KNPB untuk Rusuh Jayapura. [online] detiknews. Available at: <https://news.detik.com> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

10 Wahid, A. (2019). Aktor Intelektual Rusuh Papua Ferry Kombo Ditangkap Saat Hendak ke Wamena. [online] detiknews. Available at: <https://news.detik.com> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

11 Briantika, A. (2020). Tapol Papua Alexander Gobay Divonis 10 Bulan Penjara. [online] Tirto.id. Available at: <https://tirto.id> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

3. Organisasi Papua Merdeka-Tentara Pembebasan Nasional Papua Barat (OPM-TPNPB, lit. Free Papua Organization West Papua National Liberation Army)

Organisasi Papua Merdeka-Tentara Pembebasan Nasional Papua Barat (OPM-TPNPB, lit. Free Papua Organization-West Papua National Liberation Army, the armed separatists) uses military means in its struggle. On January 27, 2020, the OPM-TPNPB stated that it was responsible for the war in Intan Jaya and six other “*Defense Command Regionals*” in the Central Highlands of West Papua¹². Meanwhile, OPM-TPNPB General Goliath Tabuni claimed full responsibility for the war that has been carried out by all TPNPB troops throughout West Papua.

Acting as the Free Papua military wing, the OPM-TPNPB often committed violence against civilians. In 2018 - 2019, the armed separatists killed 49 civilians in Papua. OPM-TPNPB members live in the forest and focus on violence. They don't have any particular job or profession.

Unemployed and unskilled, the OPM-TPNPB members can kill anyone indiscriminately to perpetuate the conflict. Papuatribunnews.com reported that on March 7, 2020, as many as 790 residents of Tembagapura District, Mimika Regency, Papua Province, fled because the armed separatists occupied residents' homes, pointed weapons, and took away food. The OPM-TPNPB has been frequently shooting at Indonesian army posts¹³.

OPM-TPNPB also trains child soldiers and often performs sexual violence against women. Often engaging in violence, the Indonesian government calls the OPM-TPNPB as Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata (KKB, lit. armed criminal group) or Kelompok Separatis Bersenjata (KSB, lit. armed separatists group).

Gajah Mada University research showed that 64% of West Papua violence are related to the OPM-TPNPB armed separatist group. Many occurred in their operational areas, such as Puncak Jaya, Mimika, and Nduga. Throughout 2020, the OPM-TPNPB made at least five shooting cases and murder of civilians, child soldiers training, and rape. There are indications that the OPM-TPNPB created conflict to attract international attention.

12 Isidorus, R. (2021). Anggota TNI Tewas Ditembak di Intan Jaya, OPM Mengaku Bertanggung Jawab. [online] Berita Satu. Available at: <https://www.beritasatu.com> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

13 Azmah, R.(2020). Takut KKB Sudah Todongkan Senjata dan Merampas Makanan, 790 Warga Tembagapura Pilih Mengungsi. [online] papuatribunnews.com. Available at: <https://papua.tribunnews.com> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

ARMED SEPARATISTS' TERROR IN WEST PAPUA TIMELINE

Papuan armed separatist groups massacred 19 road construction workers in West Papua. The following is the armed separatists' criminal timeline throughout 2018:

Feb 12, 2018

Private SN was shot when he grocery shopped in Sinak Market, Puncak Jaya.

Apr 6, 2018

Armed separatists took hostage the entire Arwanop Village, Tembagapura, Mimika.

Apr 19, 2018

About 13 teachers evacuated from Arwanop Village, Tembagapura, Mimika from the armed separatists' hostage.

Jun 12, 2018

Armed separatists did a series of shooting in Nduga's governor election.

Jun 16, 2018

Armed separatists shot an Indonesian soldier patrolling for Eid Holiday in Yambi, Puncak.

Jun 22, 2018

Armed separatists shot a commercial airplane Dimonim Air transporting 17 soldiers sent to secure governor election in Papua.

Jun 25, 2018

Armed separatists shot a commercial twin-otter Trigana Air transporting 15 soldiers in Kenayam Airport.

Jun 26, 2018

Armed separatists shot dead a police officer and three civilians. They were reported missing in the governor election.

Jul 11, 2018

An exchange of shots happened between the armed separatists and police who delivered food assistance to Nduga.

Oct 17, 2018

About 16 teachers and medics were evacuated from Mapenduma, Nduga, from the armed separatists' hostage.

Nov 2, 2018

Armed separatists shot dead a motorcycle-taxi driver named Yanmar in Popome, Mokoni, Lanny Jaya.

Nov 12, 2018

Armed separatists shot a motorcycle-taxi driver named Aldi in Wiringambut, Lanny Jaya. Aldi was saved after he pretended to be dead.

Dec 2, 2018

Armed separatists shot dead 19 construction workers of Trans-Papua highway in Kali Yigi and Kali Aurak, Nduga.

Dec 3, 2018

Armed separatists shot Mbua military post, Nduga. One soldier dead, another sustained injuries.

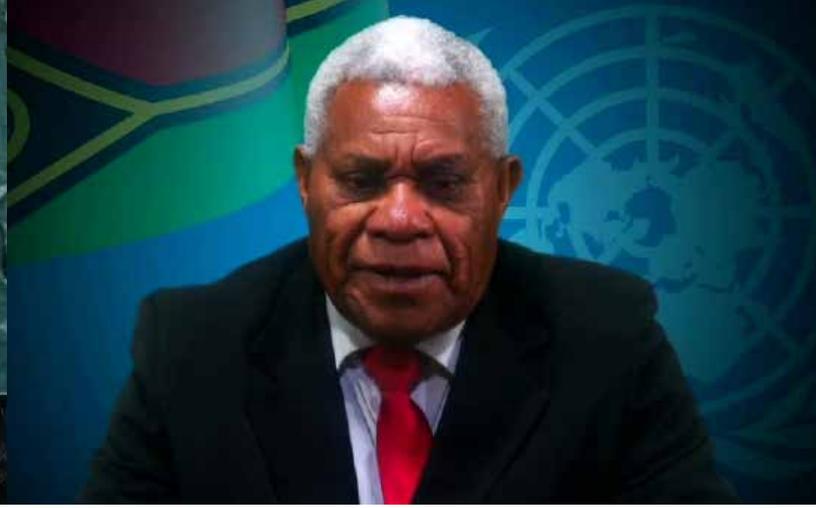
Dec 5, 2018

Armed separatists shot an Indonesian military helicopter evacuating the soldier's body in Mbua, Nduga.

Source: CNN Indonesia



Charlot Salwai (Vanuatu Prime Minister, 2016-2020) made a speech in the UN Session, September 2019. (Source: Detik)



Current Vanuatu Prime Minister Bob Loughman made a speech in the UN Session in September 2020. (Source: CNBC)

SEPARATIST ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD

Apart from existing domestic organizations, some West Papuan independence fighters have also formed organizations abroad and garnered various parties' support. Starting from the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) countries, Australia, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. The internationalization of the Free West Papua issue is considered an easy commodity for these countries and is being used for various interests, particularly economics and politics. Among several West Papuan separatist organizations abroad, one organization is more vocal in garnering support than others: the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP).

ULMWP (United Liberation Movement for West Papua)

The ULMWP is actively campaigning for Free West Papua abroad and has been lobbying to garner support for the UN session. As explained in Chapter 1, the ULMWP conducted many political barter with Vanuatu so that the Free Papua issue can be raised in the UN sessions and international stage.

ULMWP was established in 2014 and functions as an umbrella organization for several other West Papuan separatist organizations abroad, such as the Federal Republic of West Papua (NRFPB), the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation (WPNCL), and the National Parliament of West Papua (NPWP).

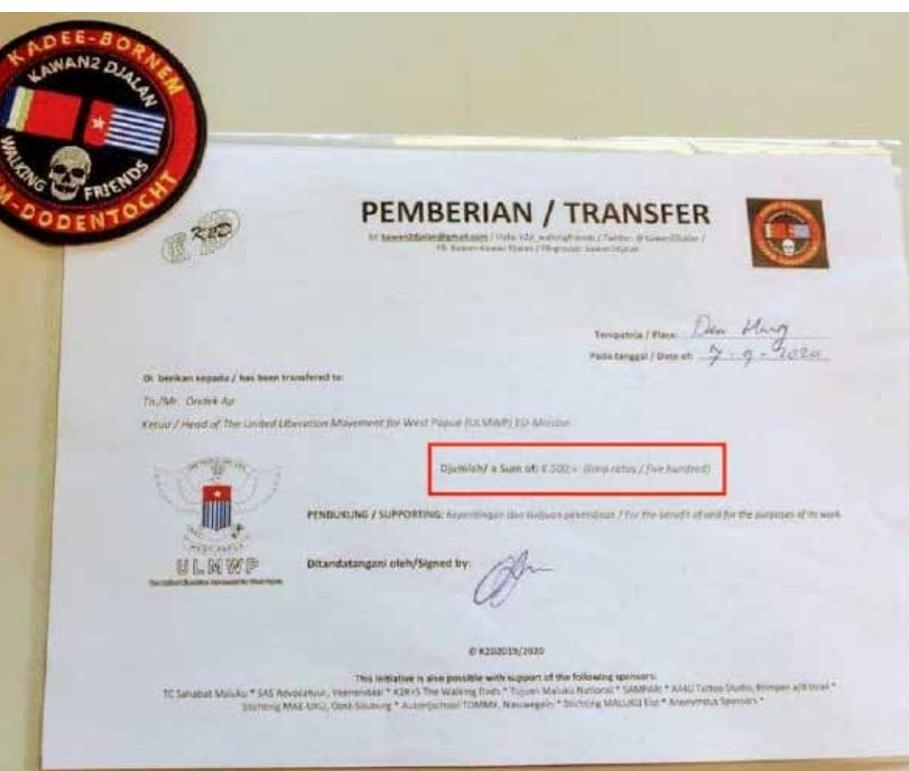
The central figure of the ULMWP is Benny Wenda, an Interpol fugitive who later received asylum from the City of Oxford, UK, and has remained there to this day. Moreover, several ULMWP figures also live abroad, such as Jacob Rumbiak (Australia), Octovianus Mote, Herman Wainggai (United States), Oridek Ap, and Raki Ap (the Netherlands).

The separatists' activities abroad generated support from several political parties, such as the UK Labor Party, the Australian Green Party, New Zealand Green Party, Vanuatu Land-and-Justice Party, Fiji Social Democratic Liberal Party, and

the Solomon Islands Democratic Party. However, political supports always have underlying interests. There are interests from each of the supporting parties entrusted to this movement.

A suspicious organization named the Walking Friends was found transferring EUR 500 to the ULMWP’s bank account. Although it wasn’t big, it became an indicator that the ULMWP might have been used for political parties and corporations’ interests. One of the OPM-TPNPB members, Benjamin Burton, called out the ULMWP in his Facebook account for tainting the Free Papua with foreign needs.

Also, there are rumors saying several ULMWP members have lived comfortably abroad by selling out the Free Papua issue. Each ULMWP member benefits greatly from the support provided by foreign political parties and corporations; and it shows.



Proof of money transfer to ULMWP from Walking Friends (Source: ULMWP EU Mission)



Screenshot of Facebook page of an OPM-TPNPB armed separatist group criticizing ULMWP

DISPUTES AMONG FREE WEST PAPUA GROUPS

The Free Papua movement was often claimed as the voice of the Papuan people. However, the factions inside the movement could not agree with each other. Some of the factions have been accusing each other of betraying the movement. If these Free Papua factions genuinely fight for the Papuans, shouldn’t they be under the same command? But, each group had gradually shown its real face under the mask of Free Papua narratives instead.

The OPM-TPNPB figure, Father Neles Tebay, firmly stated that the armed group would never join the ULMWP. The OPM-TPNPB claimed their armed struggle as the true struggle and that the ULMWP has been doing a fake struggle. They also warned the ULMWP not to copy the Free Papua Constitution's OPM version of July 1, 1971. The armed separatists insisted that they are the only military wing of the Free Papua Movement and that every Papuans and Free Papua factions should recognize the 58-years-old group.



**OPOSISI ULMWP TOLAK BENNY WENDA
SEBAGAI PRESIDEN WEST PAPUA**

"OPM TPNPB bersama KNPB menolak keputusan sepihak yang dilakukan Benny Wenda dalam mendeklarasikan pemerintahan sementara West Papua, dan juga TIDAK AKAN PERCAYA kepada Benny Wenda dalam Catatan perjuangan bangsa Papua."

**KETUA OPM TPNPB
Jeffrey Bomanak**

Chairman of OPM-TPNPB armed separatist group Jeffrey Bomanak rejects ULMWP's Benny Wenda Declaration of Government In-Waiting. (Source: Facebook Luis Balingga)



Ini sebenarnya juga percobaan untuk rakyat, bangsa Papua Barat. Kalau rakyat suka ditipu seperti sekarang, dengan benny wenda, artinya rakyat belum tahu apa artinya lekap kata MERDEKA. Merdeka itu memang bebas dari penjajahan... tapi lebih dari itu, merdeka itu artinya bebas dari penipuan. Sekarang ini kami lihat banyak negara merdeka, anggota dari PBB, tapi rakyat gampang ditipu oleh pemimpin2 yg mereka pilih...
Contoh: Surat palsu Oleh Benny Wenda dan kelompoknya. Jadi Rakyat Papua Mau pilih pemimpin yang bukan Jalan tipu atau pemimpin yang berjuang diatas kebenaran dan takut tuhan alah ?



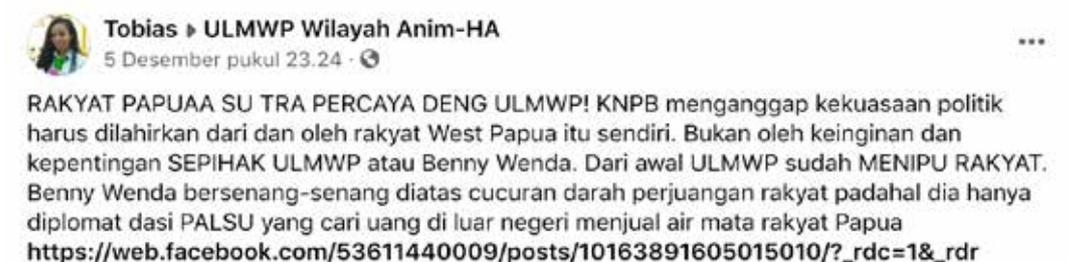
An OPM-TPNPB figure, Lewis Prai Wellip, called out the ULMWP for deceiving the people by forging a fake letter on Facebook.

With the OPM-TPNPB as a rival, the ULMWP has created the direst scenario in Free Papua's history: Benny Wenda formed an army to fight the OPM-TPNPB, risking ordinary Papuans getting caught in between. The ULMWP has been claiming a name over the OPM-TPNPB's armed struggle. The armed separatists called the ULMWP living off the bloody struggle of the OPM-TPNPB and that the ULMWP members are just a bunch of fake white-collared diplomats selling the tears of the Papuans. The OPM-TPNPB has even threatened to shoot anyone who joined the ULMWP.

On the contrary, Benny Wenda, as the leader of ULMWP, asked the OPM-TPNPB to admit that the ULMWP moves abroad have strengthened the support for Free West Papua. The ULMWP leader claimed that his organization is unifying all the Free Papua factions, denoting a higher position than the OPM-TPNPB. Wenda also believes that the ULMWP has made the Free Papua issue recognized internationally. He even established the West Papua Army (WPA) to rival the OPM-TPNPB.

On one occasion, the ULMWP accused the OPM-TPNPB of a fake group made by the Indonesian army and that the armed group got money from the government. The ULMWP insisted that the only legitimate military wing of West Papua is the newly established WPA.

That is just one example of the many disputes that have occurred between the Free Papua factions. What will happen to West Papua if one of these groups reign the region? Wouldn't the Papuans get caught in between their quarrel, or worst between their selfish war? Will the people of Papua ever prosper then?



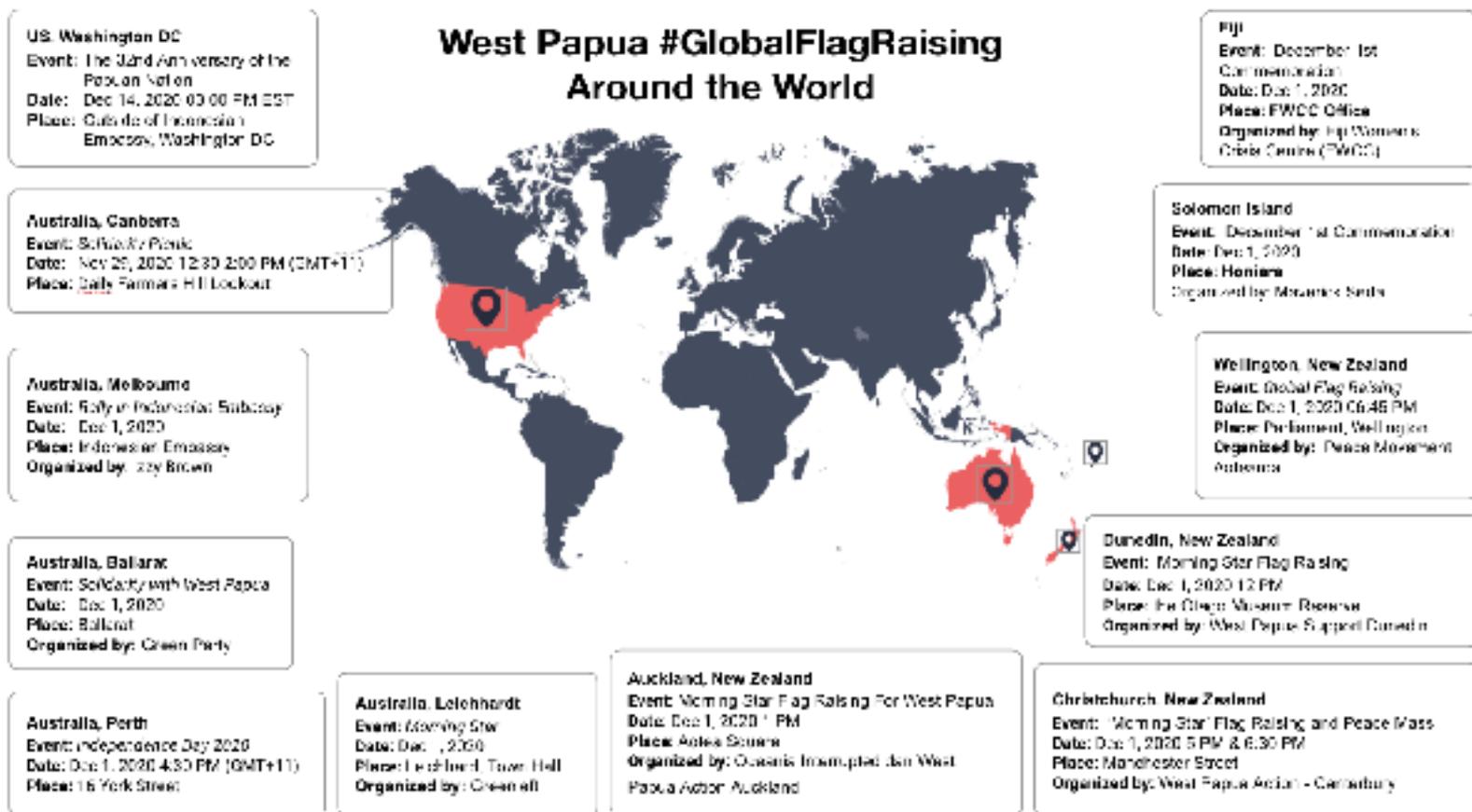
An OPM-TPNPB's supporter called out the ULMWP as fake diplomats on Facebook.

SELF-CLAIMED PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION

December 1st is often dubbed as the Free West Papua anniversary. From year to year, the separatists hold a protest on this particular date to attract international attention. In 2020, the protests were held concurrently in various countries, such as Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Not to forget, protests were also held simultaneously in several cities in Indonesia. However, in 2020, the ULMWP leader Benny Wenda made a unilateral declaration on Papuan independence and appointed himself as the interim president of West Papua¹⁴. The self-declaration took other Free Papua factions by surprise. The OPM-TPNPB armed separatists directly rejected Benny Wenda's declaration.

14 Adyatama, E. (2020). Deklarasi Pemerintahan Papua Barat, Benny Wenda Siap Duduk Bersama Jokowi. [online] Tempo.co. Available at: <https://nasional.tempo.co> [Accessed 6 January 2021]

Benny Wenda is not the first to claim as the President of West Papua. Previously, several factions had also declared their presidency. With how easy the Free Papua factions use the Papuan President title, it is hard for the public to take them and their struggle seriously.



December 1 #GlobalFlagRising celebrations in various countries.

The struggle for power among the Free Papua factions is not a particularly new thing. Several separatist figures, such as Forkorus Yaboisembut, Michael Karet, and Jeffrey Bomanak, had also declared unilateral presidency. The lack of interest in unity showed how the Free Papua factions only care about their respective goal. It also shows how the Free Papua issue's internalization was made for the separatists' gain, not for the people.

To attract the United Nations' attention to pushing another referendum for West Papua, separatists internationalized the Free Papua issue to several countries and received considerable feedback. These separatist figures lobbying for international support have long left Indonesia carrying the wounds they got from the second Indonesian President Suharto's military reign. With their past heartache still intact in their memory, these separatists could not and would not see how West Papua has bloomed over the last few decades under the Republic of Indonesia as a democratic country.

Some separatists have been living in asylums and work as full-time activists for the Free Papua Movement. If these lobbyists don't have full-time jobs to support themselves and their family abroad, how do they keep living comfortably, let alone have the money for the group's operation? Who are their sponsors? Which countries are providing for them? What will the sponsors get if they support the Free Papua Movement?



Benny Wenda ✓

December 1 at 7:13 PM · 🌐



Today, we announce the formation of our Provisional Government of West Papua. We are ready to take over our territory, and we will no longer bow down to Jakarta's illegal martial rule. From today, December 1, 2020, we begin implementing our own constitution and reclaiming our sovereign land.

On this day in 1961, the elected West New Guinea Council raised the Morning Star flag in Jayapura. Our national anthem and name, West Papua, were accepted. Diplomats from Australia, the... **See More**



ULMWP.ORG

Benny Wenda: Provisional Government of West Papua won't bow down to Jakarta - United Liberation Moveme...

*Benny Wenda's declaration as interim president of West Papua, December 1, 2020.
(Source: Benny Wenda)*

CARGOISM IN WEST PAPUA

Divisions in Papua do not only originate from political dynamics caused by a separatist agenda but are also propped by a history of cargo cult that once flourished in Papua. The cargo cult is a belief and is considered the religion of the Papuan people's origin. This is deeply ingrained in the Papuan people. They had become Christians but still took part in ritual practices related to a cargo cult at certain times.

Cargo cultism is a religious practice that emerged in traditional pre-industrial societies due to interactions with more technologically advanced civilizations. The cult sought to acquire wealth ("cargo") through magic and religious rituals and practices. Cult members believe that the gods and their ancestors sent the wealth. Cargo cults flourished in New Guinea and Micronesia and began after the West's arrival in the 19th century. However, similar behavior has emerged in other parts of the world.

The most widely known period of cargo cult activity occurred among the Melanesian islanders in the years during and after World War II. A small population of indigenous peoples observed, often directly in front of their dwellings, the largest war ever fought by technologically advanced nations. With the end of the war, the military abandoned the airbases and stopped dropping cargo. In response, charismatic individuals developed cults among remote Melanesian populations that promised to bestow on their followers deliveries of food, arms, Jeeps, etc. The cult leaders explained that the cargo would be gifts from their own ancestors, or other sources, as had occurred with the outsider armies. In attempts to get cargo to fall by parachute or land in planes or ships again, islanders imitated the same practices they had seen the military personnel use.

The cargo cult ritual is still practiced today by offering exalted chants of praise (wor) to those who are worshiped and offering the best of selected foods to the saints in heaven (Manseren Manggundi). Papuans believe that Manggundi will return at critical times. They jumped into the activity of gathering food. They danced, intending to get their arrival, under the command of a konor (a prophet).

The cargo cult is the hope of the Papuan people for the day of liberation, peace, prosperity, or living in prosperity without intimidation and oppression. This philosophy has become an ideology passed down from generation to generation in a long wait, especially with the lingering doubts the Papuan people have regarding all planning to develop the people's welfare.

The government's failures in fastly improving the welfare of the people in Papua have made cargo cult rise in Papua. This is what causes many government programs to run aground on the way. The Papuan people's trust in the Indonesian government is diminishing, resulting in gaps between the Papuan people and the Indonesian

government. Armed separatist groups later used this philosophy to fight against the Indonesian government, even though it became the cause of division inside the separatist groups.

B. Internationalization of Free Papua Issue

1. UNITED KINGDOM

One of the notable supporters in the United Kingdom came from politician Alex Sobel, a member of the British Labor Party and the chairman of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) about West Papua. Sobel held a meeting with the leader of the ULMWP, Benny Wenda, on March 23, 2019, titled West Papuan Rebellion: Where Next?

APPG itself, in general, has been proven to receive money from foreign governments, charities, banks, and corporations who use the forum as a platform to lobby parliamentarians members and steer government policies. Is this one of the reasons for the existence of the Free Papua issue? Has the Free Papua issue become a commodity for the separatists, political parties, and corporations?



Members of ULMWP granted asylum overseas. From left to right: Rex Rumakiek, Benny Wenda, John Anari, and Herman Wainggai. (Source: Lintas Papua)

WHO'S BEHIND THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE FREE PAPUA ISSUE?

It turns out that Papuan separatists, political parties, and companies from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, South Africa, the Pacific Islands, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand with economic and political motives have raised the Free Papua issue. But who are they?





Separatist leader Benny Wenda (left) with Alex Sobel from the British Labor Party (right). (Source: Twitter)

One might wonder, how much money did APPG on West Papua get from their sponsors? There are many foreign oil mining activities in Bintuni Bay, West Papua. There was a suspicion that the company operating in Bintuni Bay is a mining company that lobbied parliamentarians through APPG, which is interested in exploiting natural gas and oil in Papua. Apart from mining interests, the APPG on West Papua might target weapons companies to sponsor them because Indonesia was the UK's second-largest weapon buyer in 2004. With West Papua descending to chaos, the arms companies might sell more weapons to Indonesia.

Furthermore, on July 17, 2019, the Oxford City Council gave the Freedom of Oxford Award to Benny Wenda¹⁵. At that time, the Mayor of Oxford, Craig Simmons from the British Green Party, said the accolade was “well-deserved,” and Benny Wenda was “contributing so much both locally and internationally.” This award received criticism from British citizens aware that the Free Papua separatists have violated international law by using child soldiers, as reported by the Associated Press in June 2019.

Meanwhile, a non-governmental organization (NGO) called TAPOL UK raised concerns about separatism in Indonesia. It ranged from the Aceh separatism to the Timor Leste case, and now the Free Papua. TAPOL itself is funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust, CAFOD, The Bertha Foundation, Ford Foundation, and many individual donors. TAPOL's main donor is Sigrid Rausing. She's a Swedish philanthropist, a strong politician, and the giant British Tetra Park owner's daughter. She was involved in a tax scandal with the Swiss Bank and HSBC and a major donor for the England and Welsh Green Party. Not only that, but Sigrid Rausing Trust also funded the UK-based Bellingcat, a media specializing in social media networking. The Bellingcat might not reveal the numbers, but there were 8,244 social media posts per month on average that talked about the Free Papua issue. What benefit does TAPOL UK, the England and Welsh Green Party, the Bellingcat, and Sigrid Rausing get from supporting the Free Papua?

15 Detik News. (2019). Kota Oxford Beri Penghargaan ke Aktivis Papua Benny Wenda, RI Kecam Keras. [online] Available at: <https://news.detik.com> [Accessed 16 January 2021]



On July 17, 2019, the Oxford City Council gave the Freedom of Oxford Award to Benny Wenda.
(Source: Koreri)

2. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Free Papua separatist Herman Waingai established the West Papua Human Rights Center (WPHRC) on March 9, 2019. Even so, how Herman Waingai can establish this organization was not clear. Who funded him? How is the operation going? The WPHRC used the Black Lives Matter moment to petition at the Whitehouse urging the United Nations to investigate the West Papua conflict on May 21, 2020. However, the petition was closed with below 10% support.



West Papua Human Rights Center

@wphumanrightscen - Organisasi Nirlaba

Kirim Pesan

Beranda Tentang Acara Foto Lainnya

Suka

Q

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Tentang

Lihat Semua

The West Papua Human Rights Center is a group of academics and human rights activists who are willing to stand up for what is right and work toward a free West Papua that is independent from Military and corporate colonization.



Buat Postingan

Foto/Video

Singgah

Tandai Teman

POSTINGAN YANG DISEMATKAN

West Papua Human Rights Center

Facebook page of West Papua Human Rights Center

3. AUSTRALIA

It is no secret that many politicians, institutions, and individuals in Australia have benefited from Free Papua separatism issue. Previously, these parties in Australia were also active in supporting Timor Leste's independence and benefiting from the separation process. Apart from extracting oil, these Free Papuan beneficiaries also extracted helium from Timorese waters¹⁶. No wonder, if several politicians, organizations, and even companies in Australia actively provide support to the separatists for Free Papua. They argue that this support is to protect indigenous people (indigenous Papuans), but on the other hand, Australia also has problems with their own indigenous people, the Aborigines¹⁷. The actions of several parties in Australia are very contradictory to the attitudes and domestic policies of Australia which fully support Indonesian sovereignty over Papua. Following are the various engagements of several politicians, organizations and companies in Australia on the issue of Free Papua:

a. Political Parties

The Green Party of Australia has been declining in popularity. The Greens failed to overcome bushfires in Australia and were involved in sexual harassment, bullying problems, and antisemitism scandals. The Greens' concern for West Papua is just an attempt to boost the party's electability at the domestic level.



Veronica Koman and Jacob Rumbiak in the Australian Green Party National Conference in Brisbane, on May 20, 2018. (Source : Suara Papua)



Adam Bandt (right), new appointed chairman of Australian Green Party using a Free Papua flag pin during a meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo (left). (Source : Tribunnews)

16 Pos Kupang. (2020) Timor Leste Dibohongi Australia, Warga Australia Ungkap Borok Australia Mencuri Kekayaan Bumi Lorosae [online] Available at: <https://kupang.tribunnews.com> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

17 Lie, R. (2019) Australia Day adalah Sejarah Invasi Kulit Putih atas Aborigin [online] tirto.id. Available at: <https://tirto.id> [Accessed 15 January 2021]

b. Corporations

Not only political parties but corporations also have major interests in the Free Papua issue. The Rio Tinto Group, an Anglo-Australian multinational and the world's second-largest metals and mining corporation, allegedly raised the Free Papua issue to divert public attention from environmental damage done by its activity in West Papua.

c. Individuals

Support for the Free Papua issue also comes from individuals with personal interests:

1. Anthony Craig established a political party called Free West Papua Party of Australia and uses separatism as a catchphrase on social media.
2. Izzy Brown from Sail 4 Justice, who previously worked on the native Aborigines' land's justice and rights, suddenly switched to the Free Papua issue.
3. Lawyers Jennifer Robinson (Australian) and Veronica Koman (Indonesian) ride on the Free Papua issue to boost their popularity and career. After both advocates for the Free Papua, Jennifer had become a famous lawyer in London while Veronica earned an award from the Australian Nasional Australia (ANU) College of Law.



Anthony Craig



Izzy Brown



Jennifer Robinson

(Source: Free West Papua Earth Australia, Starnow, The Rhodes Project)

4. Australia is also the home for several Free Papua activists such as Lewis Prai Wellip (OPM-TPNPB), Rex Rumakiek (ULMWP), and Jacob Rumbiak (Spokesperson of ULMWP). Lewis Prai Wellip is the son of a former OPM separatist group leader, Jacob Hendrik Prai. Rex Rumakiek is a member of the ULMWP executive committee (the highest decision-making body of ULMWP after the Board Committee).



Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP)



Lewis Prai (OPM-TPNPB)

(Source: YouTube)

Moreover, Australia has also ignored several protests, such as on November 28, 2019, when a protest called “Vigil for West Papua” was held in front of the Indonesian Consulate in Sydney, Australia. A viral video shows how one of the protesters claimed to be paid AUD 50 each time. He is also willing to burn the separatist’s flag if he was to be paid double.



Free Papua protest in Australia. (Source: West Papua Melbourne)

4. NETHERLANDS

Free Papua separatists have made several protests in the Netherlands. A Free Papua separatist based in the Netherlands, Raki Ap, once hijacked an environmental protest #ClimateMarch in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on March 10, 2019, to call about Free Papua. His infiltration gained a lot of sympathy and exposure to the Free Papua issue.



"Solidair met **West-Papoea**
En met getroffenene **klimaatchaos**"

*Free Papua separatist infiltrated #ClimateMarch protest in Amsterdam, Netherlands (03/10/2019).
(Source: Free West Papua Campaign Netherland)*

5. NEW ZEALAND

In New Zealand, Free Papua supporters mostly came from the Green Party politicians and activists, such as Maire Leadbeater, Keith Locke, Barry Coates, Marama Davidson, Catherine Delahunty, Steffan Browning, and Jan Logie.



Supporters of the Free Papua movement in New Zealand include Catherine Delahunty and Marama Davidson, who held a protest at a trade fair held by the Indonesian government in Auckland City.

In May 2017, ULMWP chairman Benny Wenda and New Zealand's parliament members signed the Westminster Declaration to call and support the Papuan people's self-determination. The Members of Parliaments consist of politicians from the Green Party, Labor Party, and the National Party.

New Zealand's support for Free Papua can be seen as contradictory to their domestic policies. This is because their support for native Papuans is not in line with their policies towards indigenous Maori. Because of that, the party may have an underlying economic motive.

6. PACIFIC COUNTRIES

In Pacific countries, ULMWP conducts diplomacy with the aim of getting money. In return, ULMWP will support certain political parties to increase their political electability.

A. VANUATU

The biggest supporter of the ULMWP separatist group in Vanuatu is Vanuatu Land and Justice Party, Ralph John Regenvanu. During the 2019 Vanuatu general election, Regenvanu was one of the candidates for the Vanuatu Prime Minister. The separatists' leader from the ULMWP group, Benny Wenda, provided direct support for the second meeting at Owen Hall, Port-Vila, Vanuatu. Ralph Regenvanu's most significant political maneuver was to raise Free Papua's issue, which had succeeded in increasing its popularity. Previously, in the 2016 Vanuatu Election, Regenvanu only got 6 out of 52 seats. However, with the support of ULMWP in 2019, Regenvanu's popularity rose and earned 1,589 votes and 8 seats. As a form of bartering for its popularity, ULMWP members asked for money to fund the ULMWP office in Vanuatu for 2-3 years.

At first, Ralph John Regenvanu was just an ordinary politician but after he initiated the Wantok Blong Yumi Bill that said Vanuatu would not be fully independent until the rest of the colonized Pacific nations, like Papua, would be politically free. With Wantok Blong Yumi being finalized by the Parliament of Vanuatu in June 2010, Regenvanu is free to politicize the Papua issue for his personal and political party gain. In December 2010, Regenvanu formed the Vanuatu Land and Justice Party to be Prime Minister candidate.



Meeting between Vanuatu Foreign Minister Ralph Regenvanu, British politician Jeremy Corbyn, and separatist leader Benny Wenda in the UK. (Source: Tabloid WANI)

Wantok Blong Yumi Bill is considered as Vanuatu's commitment to supporting the Melanesian nation's independence. This moral attitude would fit perfectly in 1970 - 1980 when many Melanesian states were not independent. But for today, it is no longer relevant since all Melanesian nations are already independent. This aspiration was derived from the political spirit of Walter Lini, Vanuatu's founding father, who was born in 1942 and lived in the era of Melanesian nations' struggle for independence.

Wantok Blong Yumi Bill is not relevant to support the Free Papua because West Papua is already independent as an integral part of Indonesia, as proven by the following reasons:

1. West Papua has never been listed on the United Nations list of Non-Self Governing Territories (NSGTs). In Chapter XI of the UN Charter, it is stated that the countries included in the NSGTs list are countries/regions that do not yet have full sovereignty to run government independently. Meanwhile, the Papuan can run their own government guaranteed by the Special Autonomy Law.
2. Papuan people participate in West Papua's regional head elections. In 2014, 2.7 million Papuans participated in the general elections. The number continues to increase in the 2018 and 2020 regional elections, where 44 elected leaders are indigenous Papuans.
3. Under the Special Autonomy Law, the Papuan government has full power to manage government budgets independently. The region manages its own budget spending policies according to the needs of the region, whether for education, health, etc.
4. Under the Special Autonomy Law, the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papuan People's Assembly) was established to accommodate indigenous Papuans' aspirations.

These facts strengthen the notion that Vanuatu’s commitment to Free Papua through Wantok Blong Yumi Bill is no longer relevant. On the contrary, it disturbs Indonesia’s sovereignty and possibly other Melanesian nations in the Pacific if one day, Vanuatu decides to use the same political maneuvers for Vanuatu’s interests and ambitions.

B. SOLOMON ISLANDS

The spokesman for the ULMWP separatist group, Jacob Rumbiak, visited the Solomon Islands and met with the chairman of the opposition Solomon Islands Democratic Party, Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale on March 19, 2020. ULMWP tries to win the trust of the Melanesian Spearhead Group’s state members with the hope of becoming a permanent member of the MSG so that they can receive MSG funding and support. Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands Democratic Party received higher political electability by supporting the Free Papua Movement.



Chairman of the Solomon Islands Democratic Party, Hon. Matthew Wale (left) met with the spokesman for the ULMWP separatist group, Jacob Rumbiak, in the Solomon Islands, on March 19, 2020. (Source: jubi.co.id)

C. FIJI

ULMWP separatists group approached the Fiji opposition party, namely the Fiji Social Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA) to win the trust of the Melanesian Spearhead Group’s state members with the hope of becoming a permanent member of the MSG equivalent to a state so that they can receive MSG funding and support from other countries, companies, and conglomerates.

Meanwhile for SODELPA, the support for the Free Papua issue has given the party political popularity as an opposition party among Fiji’s constituents. Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa as the opposition leader back in 2017, also one of the three major tribal leaders in Fiji (that joined the confederation), reaffirming her identity as the defender of Melanesians.



Meeting of SODELPA with the ULMWP spokesperson Jacob Rumbiak. (Source: Suara Papua)

D. PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

Many PNG politicians have used the Free Papua issue to improve their positions, such as Powes Parkop (PNG National Capital District Governor) and Gary Juffa (PNG Oro's Governor). Given that the next general election in Papua New Guinea will soon be held in July 2022, many officials, including Powes Parkop and Gary Juffa, have begun rebuilding their image. The two politicians are proven to be close to OPM-TPNPB armed separatists when Powes Parkop came to the OPM press conference in Port Moresby on October 9, 2019. It is strongly suspected that OPM also received money from PNG for their operational activities.



From left to right: Powes Parkop and Gary Juffa use the Free Papua issue to boost their electability. (Source: Facebook)

7. SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN OF INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE (ILPS)

The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) is an international organization that seeks to coordinate anti-imperialist and democratic movements worldwide. ILPS promotes, supports, and develops the anti-imperialist and democratic struggle against imperialism. ILPS was established on May 2001 at Zutphen in the Netherlands, on the occasion of its First International Assembly, which drew participation from the representatives of mass organizations from 40 countries.

On July 1, 2020, in conjunction with the OPM-TPNPB armed separatist group's anniversary celebration, KNPB General Secretary Victor Yeimo posted a video featuring himself and ILPS Chairman Len Cooper, Deputy Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Regional ILPS Sarojeni Rengam, and ULMWP spokesman Jacob Rumbiak. Representatives from the ILPS showed their support for the right of self-determination for Papua on the Free Papua issue.

8. KENYA, SOUTH AFRICA

The ULMWP separatist office opening in Kenya is due to ULMWP chairman, Benny Wenda, joining the Vanuatu delegation in the 9th African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Summit on December 9-10, 2019. During the event, Benny Wenda met Daniel Mwambonu, chairman of the Global Pan Africanism Network (GPAN). Mwambonu then helped Wenda to open the ULMWP office in Kenya. The main objective is for ULMWP to sell the Free Papua issue and then ask for donations from political figures in Kenya. After that, this group could go further to ask for funds from other African countries.



Benny Wenda with the Chairman of ketua Global Pan Africanism Network (GPAN) Daniel Mwambonu in the 9th African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Summit (12/9/2019 - 12/9/2019)

ILPS ASIA-PACIFIC **IPMSDL** **MERDEKA**

WEST PAPUA WEBINAR SERIES
EPISODE 03:
THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

with

Jacob Itumbiak
Executive Director, West Papua & IZUMI

Victor Yelmo
Executive Director, Papua Barat

Loonie Tanggahma
Executive Director, Papua Barat

ZOOM

Separatist groups members on an ILPS event



ULMWP office in Kenya. (Source: Facebook of Bazoka Logo, ULMWP member.)



C. Conclusion

A deeper study on the Free Papua movement told us that Papuan independence is not the future for native Papuans, but only a form of power struggles of several groups with their respective goals. The movement itself is not solid, and there is too much foreign interference inside the cause. The Free Papua ignores what the people want, but only the factions' power struggle. KNPB, ULMWP, OPM-TPNPB armed separatists have their respective agendas and do not have the same goal for West Papua.

Some foreign political parties and corporations have been exploiting the Free Papua issue, not out of their concern for the people of West Papua, but to achieve their respective economic and political interests. In the end, the Free Papua issue existed because of deliberate maintenance. Meanwhile, the welfare of Papuans is forgotten.

Then, if the movement doesn't come from the people, why can't it be suppressed? It will take a long time to solve the Papua conflict, given the number of actors who maintain the issue has great influence both domestically and internationally. Not to mention that it's getting more complicated by the day. However, this is not a reason for Indonesia to stop defending its sovereignty and making policies that carry the interest of native Papuans.

CHAPTER 3

West Papua Integration to the Republic of Indonesia



A. The Dualism of the West Papua Integration

The Free Papua separatist groups have raised their version of West Papua integration into the Republic of Indonesia abroad. In their version, Papuan separatists held on to the independence given by the Dutch, which had broken the 1949 Dutch–Indonesian Round Table Conference agreement. Meanwhile, according to the result of the Act of Free Choice, West Papua was an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia.

The process of West Papua integration as part of the Republic of Indonesia is very long. West Papua’s integration is based on historical similarities as a former Dutch colony, just like the rest of the archipelago¹. However, due to various parties’ interests in this integration process, Papua’s historical dualism emerged.

West Papuan integration’s history’s dualism is a big hurdle for some Papuans to accept Indonesian governance. The improper reconciliation process then creates new human rights problems. These two gave rise to a pro-separatist Papuan generation that persists today.

Now, there are newer Free Papua movements, such as the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP), Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee), and many more. ULMWP initiated the Free West Papua Campaign (FWPC) on social media and successfully attracted public attention. The group also got support from a few member states of the United Nations (UN) these past years².

Although the history records West Papua’s integration into the Republic of Indonesia as an attempt to fight Dutch imperialism, some Papuans think differently. These people thought that Indonesia had snatched the independence that the Dutch had given to West Papua.

1 Kurniawan, E. (2016). Papua adalah Indonesia. [online] Bersatoe.com.

Available at: <https://bersatoe.com/papua-adalah-indonesia> [Accessed 13 January 2021].

2 Fikri, A. (2019). Bicara di Sidang PBB, Benny Wenda Ajak Komisioner HAM PBB ke Papua [online] Warta Ekonomi. Available at: <https://www.wartaekonomi.co.id> [Accessed 13 January 2021]



West Papua integration to the Republic of Indonesia. (Source: Kompasiana)

B. West Papua Integration Timeline

JULY 10-17, 1945

According to *Badan Penyelidik Usaha-Usaha Persiapan Kemerdekaan Indonesia* (BPUPKI, lit. Investigating Committee for Preparatory Work for Indonesian Independence), the Republic of Indonesia's territory covers the entire territory of Dutch's East Indies, stretching from Sabang (now a city in Aceh Special Region) to Merauke (now a city in Papua Province)³. Therefore, when Indonesia became independent from the Dutch, West Papua should have become independent as part of Indonesia.



An assembly of Badan Penyelidik Usaha-Usaha Persiapan Kemerdekaan Indonesia (BPUPKI, lit. Investigating Committee for Preparatory Work for Indonesian Independence) (Source: Goodnewsfromindonesia.id)

NOVEMBER 2, 1949

The Dutch-Indonesian Round Table Conference was held in The Hague, between representatives of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Indonesia and the Federal Consultative Assembly, representing various states the Dutch had created in the Indonesian archipelago and produced an agreement⁴:

3 Chryсна, M. (2020). Sejarah dan Peran BPUPKI dan PPKI bagi Indonesia Merdeka. [online] Kompaspedia. Available at: <https://kompaspedia.kompas.id> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

4 Welianto, A. (2020). Konferensi Meja Bundar, Belanda Akui Kedaulatan Indonesia. [online]

1. The Netherlands recognizes *Republik Indonesia Serikat* (RIS, lit. the United States of Indonesia) as an independent and sovereign country.
2. Recognition of sovereignty shall be carried out no later than December 30, 1949.
3. The West Papua issue will be held in negotiations again within one year after the recognition of RIS sovereignty.
4. Between the RIS and the Dutch Assembly, there will be a bilateral relation between the Dutch Indonesian Union headed by the King of the Netherlands.
5. Dutch warships will be withdrawn from Indonesia, provided that some corvettes (small warships) will be handed over to RIS.
6. The Royal Netherlands Army shall withdraw as soon as possible. At the same time, *Koninklijk Nederlands Indisch Leger* (KNIL; the Royal Netherlands Indies Army) would be disbanded with its indigenous personnel being given the option of demobilising or joining the newly formed *Tentara Nasional Indonesia* (TNI, lit. Indonesian National Armed Forces, Indonesian military).



The Dutch–Indonesian Round Table Conference held in The Hague, the capital of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on August 23–November 2, 1949. (Source: Tirto.id)

DECEMBER 27, 1949

The Kingdom of the Netherlands unconditionally and irrevocably transfers complete sovereignty over Indonesia to the Republic of the United States of Indonesia, excluding West Papua⁵.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1954

The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), an international organization for collective defense in Southeast Asia created by the Southeast Asia Collective Defense

Kompas.com. Available at: <https://www.kompas.com> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

5 Kristanti, E. (2017). 27 Desember 1949: Hari Kemerdekaan RI yang Diakui Belanda. [online]

Liputan6.com. Available at: <https://www.liputan6.com> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

Treaty, or Manila Pact, was signed. It was primarily created to block further communist gains in Southeast Asia⁶.

NOVEMBER 1957

The US Ambassador Gordon Main asked the Indonesian government to establish a SEATO base in West Irian. However, the Indonesian government and the people interpreted this as an attempt at another imperialism in the Republic of Indonesia's territory.

Meanwhile, the Central Committee (CC) of the Indonesian Communist Party distributed a telegram containing a call for solidarity to the communists and workers worldwide to support the Indonesian people's struggle in liberating West Irian from the Dutch's imperialism⁷.

DECEMBER 1, 1957

The Indonesian government announced a twenty-four-hour strike against all Dutch companies (Bartlett, 1986, p.100)⁸.

DECEMBER 2, 1957

In response to the government's call, the workers began to hold general strikes at Dutch-owned and Dutch-Indonesian owned mixed factories. As a result, Dutch people in business suffered losses of more than IDR 100 million. Three days later, the Indonesian government began closing the Dutch consulate in Indonesia. The Indonesian government also froze all transfers of Dutch company profits abroad⁹.

DECEMBER 1957

The New York Times magazine reported on the Dutch restlessness in Indonesia. It was reported that the majority of Dutch people living in Indonesia did not agree with the politics of the Dutch government in maintaining its grip on West Irian. It was also reported that one of the Dutch businessmen considered it "unreasonable" the Dutch government's reckless attitude to defend the jungle of West Irian. Instead, it imposed risk to all Dutch capital in other parts of Indonesia¹⁰.

6 Firman, T. (2020). Sejarah SEATO, Penangkal Komunis di Asia Tenggara yang Tak Berguna. [online] Tirto.id. Available at: <https://tirto.id> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

7 Subangun, T. (2017). Kronik Nasionalisasi Perusahaan Asing Tahun 1957. [online] Pedoman Bengkulu. Available at: <https://pedomanbengkulu.com> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

DECEMBER 27, 1958

President Sukarno issued Law Number 86 of 1958 concerning the nationalization of all Dutch companies in Indonesia¹¹, such as:

1. Plantation companies
2. *Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij* (NHM, lit. The Netherlands Trading Society)
3. Electricity company
4. Petroleum companies
5. *Centrale Burgerlijke Ziekeninrichting* (CBZ, lit. Central Civil Hospital) becomes Rumah Sakit Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo (Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital).

And other policies such as:

1. Moving Indonesia's tobacco auction market to Bremen, West Germany.
2. Dutch company workers strike in Indonesia.
3. Prohibiting *Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij* (KLM, lit. Royal Dutch Airlines) from crossing Indonesian territory
4. Prohibiting the screening of Dutch language films

AUGUST 17, 1960

Indonesia broke off diplomatic relations with the Netherlands¹².

DECEMBER 1960

Defence Minister General A.H. Nasution went to Moscow, USSR, and finally succeeded in an arms sale and purchase agreement with the Soviet Union worth USD 2.5 billion on long-term payment terms¹³. After this purchase,



Indonesian President Sukarno's speech regarding the nationalization of Dutch assets. (Source: Tirto.id)



The raising of the Papuan flag named Bintang Kejora (the Morning Star), alongside the Dutch flag on December 1, 1961, in Port Numbay (now Jayapura), West Papua. (Source: Salam Juang)

11 Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Indonesia. (1958). UU Nomor 86 Tahun 1958: Nasionalisasi Perusahaan-perusahaan Milik Belanda di Indonesia. [online] Available at: <https://www.dpr.go.id> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

12 Ruqoyah, S. (2015). Cerita Bung Karno Nekat Putuskan Hubungan dengan Belanda. [online] Viva.co.id. Available at: <https://www.viva.co.id> [Accessed 13 January 2021]

13 Sitompul, M. (2018). Jenderal Nasution dan Senjata Uni Soviet. [online] Historia.id. Available at: <https://historia.id> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

the Indonesian Armed Forces claimed that Indonesia had the strongest air force and navy in the southern hemisphere.

DECEMBER 1, 1961

The Netherlands broke the Dutch–Indonesian Round Table Conference agreement. The Netherlands is not just staying in West Papua but is preparing steps to separate West Papua from the Republic of Indonesia. The Netherlands forms the Papua National Council and unilaterally declares West Papua independence¹⁴.

DECEMBER 19, 1961

The Dutch move to form the West Papua State made Indonesia very angry. At Yogyakarta's North Square, President Sukarno announced the Tri Komando Rakyat (Trikorra, lit. People's Triple Command) containing:

1. Thwart the formation of the puppet state of Papua made in the Netherlands.
2. Raise the Indonesian flag in West Irian (now West Papua), Indonesia's homeland.
3. Get ready for general mobilization to defend the independence and unity of the homeland and nation¹⁵.



President Sukarno announced People's Triple Command in Yogyakarta's North Square. (Source: Mineneews.id)

The confrontation between Indonesia and the Netherlands could not be avoided.

Trikorra's operational command was called *Komando Mandala Pembebasan Irian Barat* (the Mandala Command for the Liberation of West Irian) with Major-General Suharto (the future President of Indonesia) serving as its commander. In preparation for the planned invasion, the Mandala command began making land, air, and sea incursions into West Irian. As a result, Indonesia began a policy of confronting the Dutch over control of Western New Guinea.

14 Suara Papua. (2015). Makna 1 Desember 1961 Bagi Rakyat Papua. [online] Available at: <https://suarapapua.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

15 Welianto, A. (2020). Trikorra: Pembebasan Irian Barat. [online] Kompas.com. Available at: <https://www.kompas.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

Sukarno also embarked on a policy of “progressive mobilization” to prepare the nation to carry out his commands.

Strategies developed by the Commander of Mandala to carry out these instructions included:

1. Infiltration (until the end 1962), namely by deploying infantry units around certain targets to create a strong de facto free area that is resistant to destruction by the enemy and to develop territorial control by unifying the local populace.
2. Exploitation (early 1963), namely carrying out an open attack on the enemy military host and occupying all important enemy defense posts.
3. Consolidation (early 1964), namely by demonstrating the power and absolute sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia throughout West Irian Barat.

Implementation Indonesia runs the infiltration stage, then carries out the Jayawijaya operation. However, before this stage could occur on August 18, 1962, the President ordered a ceasefire.

Although the physical confrontation did not occur, President Sukarno’s support from Asian-African countries, even to the Soviet Union, supported Indonesia with war equipment, namely 24 Tu-16 bombers and a group of MiG-19 and MiG-17 fighters, has worried the United States.

The United States is concerned that the Papua problem could lead to the Third World War. With British assistance, the United States facilitated the Indonesian-Dutch negotiations that resulted in the 1962 New York Agreement (NYA)¹⁶.



The signing of the New York Agreement on August 15, 1962, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, United States. (Source: Tabloid Wani)

Jan Herman van Roijen and C.W.A. Schurmann, representing the Netherlands, signed the New York Agreement, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, United States, on August 15, 1962.

The agreement contents include a road map for dispute resolution over the Papua/ West Irian region. Five days later (September 20, 1962), there was an exchange of ratification instruments between Indonesia and the Netherlands, but the exchange did not automatically take effect because the UN was involved.

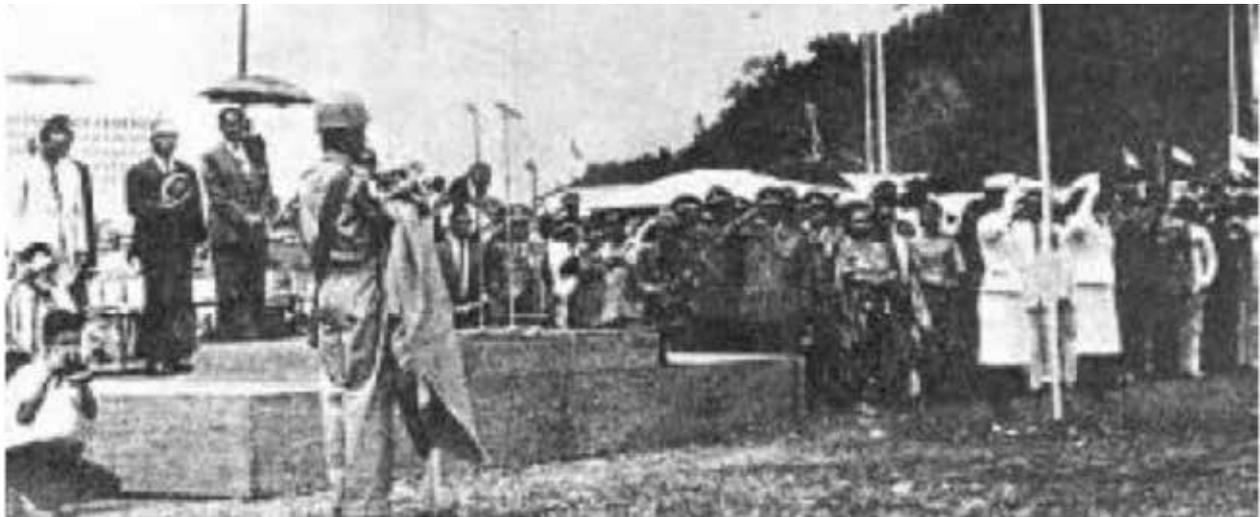
16 United Nations Peacemaker. (1962). Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Concerning West New Guinea (New York Agreement). [online] Available at: <https://peacemaker.un.org> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

So, the UN also brought this New York Agreement to the UN forum, which was later accepted and confirmed by UN General Assembly Resolution Number 1752, which only came into effect on September 21, 1962.

To avoid the Netherlands losing face, the New York Agreement negotiations regulate the transfer of power from the Netherlands over Papua land to be carried out indirectly. The Netherlands handed it over to the UN. Only then did the UN hand it over to the Indonesian government through the referendum or *Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat* (PEPERA, lit. the Act of Free Choice).

OCTOBER 1, 1962

The Deputy Governor-General of the Netherlands, H. Veldkamp, handed over West Papua to a United Nations agency specially formed to deal with the Papua issue, the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA)¹⁷.



Pengibaran bendera Merah Putih dalam upacara penyerahan Irian Barat dari UNTEA kepada Indonesia.
Sumber : 30 Tahun Indonesia Merdeka 1950-1964

The handover of the Papuan government to Indonesia by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA). (Source: Youtube.com)

MAY 1, 1963

UNTEA handed over the administration of western Papua to Indonesia. Hollandia, which was once the center of Dutch power in West Papua, was renamed Kota Baru. The momentum of May 1 has been commemorated as Papua's Day of Integration into Indonesia¹⁸.

17 Tempo.co. (2015) Sejarah Dunia Hari Ini: Irian Masuk Indonesia. [online] Available at: <https://dunia.tempo.co> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

18 Ibid.

MAY 4, 1963

President Sukarno came to West Papua. In front of thousands of Papuans in Kota Baru, President Sukarno relayed his speech:

“West Irian, since August 17, 1945 has been a part of the Republic of Indonesia. Some people might say, annex West Irian into our Motherland’s territory. Wrong! No! West Irian has been a long a part of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia...” (excerpt of Soekarno’s speech in Kota Baru, Jayapura, May 4, 1963)

SEPTEMBER 5, 1963

Western part of Papua was declared as a “quarantine area”. Indonesian government dismissed Nieuw Guinea Raad (New Guinea Council) and prohibited the Papuan flag and national anthem. Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM, lit. Free Papua Organization) opposed the decision¹⁹.

The referendum preparation process took seven years. In 1969, *Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat* (PEPERA, lit. the Act of Free Choice) was held in the presence of two UN envoys. West Papua was finally reaffirmed as part of the Republic of Indonesia and became the 26th province of Indonesia under the name of Irian Jaya.

The result of PEPERA was tested on the UN General Assembly and passed with the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 2504 on October 19, 1969²⁰.

After West Papua got united with Indonesia as Irian Jaya, Indonesia took these following steps:

1. West Papua has become the territory of the Republic of Indonesia since August 17, 1945, that was controlled by the Dutch
2. The Dutch promised to hand over West Papua to Indonesia in the Round Table Conference
3. The unification of West Papua with Indonesia is an act of reclaiming the Dutch-controlled area of Indonesia
4. The integration of West Papua with Indonesia was the will of Papuan people.

19 Suebu, C. (2017). Papua adalah Indonesia. [online] Papuanews.id. Available at: <https://papuanews.id> [Accessed 14 January 2021]

20 Syafputri, E. (2011). Pepera: Papua Sah Berdasar Resolusi PBB. [online] Antara News. Available at: <https://www.antaranews.com> [Accessed 14 January 2021]



On July 23, 1969, Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat (PEPERA, lit. the Act of Free Choice) was held in Fakfak. (Source: Tirto.id)

C. Dutch Puppet States

The attempt to liberate West Papua is a major effort to transfer the Dutch colonists' territory to Indonesian rule. In the Dutch–Indonesian Round Table Conference agreement on November 2, 1949, the Netherlands agreed to recognize Indonesian sovereignty and surrender all Indonesian territory to the legal government, but West Papua one year later. The Netherlands insisted that the people of West Papua have racial and cultural differences from other Indonesians.

However, the Indonesian government saw the Dutch efforts to defend West Papua as another attempt to take over West Papua's natural resources. In the journal "Poverty and Papua Conflict amid Abundant Resources" written by Sri Yanuarti, a Dutch geologist named J. J. Dozy made an expedition to the Central Mountains, Papua, to search for petroleum. At that time, Dozy found a hill in the shape of a tooth with a height of 131 meters rich in copper. Dozy then took samples of the soil to test at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands.

Meanwhile, President Sukarno was passionate about eliminating all forms of colonialism in the world. For Sukarno, the effort to return West Papua as part of Indonesia was an attempt to liberate West Papua from Dutch colonialism. As part of his political move to further eradicate colonialism, Sukarno and India's prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru tried to build a non-aligned movement that would win the support of the newly emerging nations of Asia and Africa. To realize it, the first large-scale Asian–African or Afro–Asian Conference—also known as the Konferensi Asia-Afrika (KAA, lit. Bandung Conference)—took place on April 18–24, 1955, in Bandung, Indonesia.

As reported in CNN Indonesia on April 19, 2015, in the 60th anniversary of KAA, CNN quoted an excerpt of Soekarno's speech, *"Let's make a new Asia and a new Africa, all of us, I believe, are united by things more important than things that seem to separate us. We are united, for example, by the same attitude of despising colonialism in whatever form it appears. And we are united when it comes to hating racism. And we are united because of the same determination in the effort to maintain and strengthen world peace."*

The KAA was an important step towards the eventual creation of the Non-Aligned Movement. A 10-point "declaration on promotion of world peace and cooperation", called Dasasila Bandung (Bandung's Ten Points Agreement), incorporating the principles of the United Nations Charter was adopted unanimously as item G in the final communiqué of the conference: (1) Respect for fundamental human rights and

for the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, (2) Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, (3) Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small, (4) Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country, (5) Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, (6) Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries, (7) Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country, (8) Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, (9) Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation, and (10) Respect for justice and international obligation²¹.



Konferensi Asia-Afrika (KAA, lit. Bandung Conference—took place on April 18-24, 1955, in Bandung, Indonesia. (Source: Goodnewsfromindonesia.id)

Indonesia's independence resulted from the end of World War II, which led to the Eastern Bloc defeat. However, the influence of Eastern and Western blocs after World War II was still tremendous. Papua's issue is a matter for indigenous Papuans with Indonesia and a narrative built by the Eastern and Western blocs who also want West Papua. In the book "Indonesia Against America, Cold War Conflict 1953-1963" (Wardaya, B. 2008. p.112), Indonesia has a strategic and important position for the Western bloc. Indonesia is an archipelago country with a very strategic geographic

21 Hadiani, V. (2018). Sejarah Singkat KAA, Kelahiran Dasasila Bandung (Bagian 2). [online] Dinas Pendidikan Provinsi Jawa Barat. Available at: <http://disdik.jabarprov.go.id> [Accessed 14 Januari 2021]

position between the Pacific Ocean, the Indonesian Ocean, the Asian Continent, and the Australian Continent. Indonesia also has 80 million people with abundant natural wealth. If Indonesia falls into the Eastern Bloc, the security of the Western Bloc countries will be threatened.

This statement is per historical conditions in November 1957 where US Ambassador Gordon Main requested the Indonesian government's approval to establish a SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization) base in West Irian (now West Papua). The SEATO was the Southeast-Asian version of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Each state member's military strength will be coordinated to provide a collective anti-communist shield to Southeast Asia. However, the government and the Indonesian people interpreted this as an attempt for imperialism in Indonesian territory. Meanwhile, the Central Committee (CC) of the Indonesian Communist Party distributed a telegram containing a call for solidarity to the communists and workers worldwide to support the struggle of the Indonesian people in liberating West Irian from the grip of Dutch imperialism.

The New York Times magazine reported that the majority of Dutch people living in Indonesia did not agree with the politics of the Dutch government in maintaining its grip on West Irian. It was also reported that one of the Dutch businessmen considered it "unreasonable" the Dutch government's reckless attitude to defend West Irian. Instead, it imposed risk to all Dutch capital in other parts of Indonesia.

The West Papua dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands ceased to improve with how the Netherlands broke the Dutch-Indonesian Round Table Conference agreement. The Netherlands is not just staying in West Papua but is preparing steps to separate West Papua from the Republic of Indonesia. The Netherlands forms the Papua National Council and unilaterally declares West Papua independence. The Dutch move to form the West Papua State made Indonesia very angry. At Yogyakarta's North Square, President Sukarno announced the Tri Komando Rakyat (Trikorla, lit. People's Triple Command) containing: 1) Thwart the formation of the puppet state of Papua made in the Netherlands, 2) Raise the Indonesian flag in West Irian (now West Papua), Indonesia's homeland, 3) Get ready for general mobilization to defend the independence and unity of the homeland and nation.

Indonesia's anger against the Dutch reflected the previous Dutch political move, namely the divide and conquer strategy. The Dutch once tried to break Indonesia's unity by giving independence to several parts of Indonesia unilaterally. Some of the puppet states include:

The Indonesian government's fear of this Dutch move was based on the political move *divide et impera*, which had been in use by the Dutch in Indonesia before. The Netherlands gave independence to several parts of Indonesia and made them a puppet state for the Netherlands. Here are the Dutch puppet states in Indonesia:

1. Negara Indonesia Timur (State of East Indonesia), (1946-1950)

The State of East Indonesia was the first puppet state formed by the Netherlands. This formation was based on the Malino Conference and the Denpasar Conference. The territory of the State of East Indonesia includes the regions of Sulawesi, Small Sunda (Nusa Tenggara), and the Maluku Islands. The State of East Indonesia was officially inaugurated in December 1946 with a president named Tjokorda Gde Raka Soekawati.

2. Negara Sumatra Timur (State of East Sumatra), (1947-1950)

The State of East Sumatra was a puppet state formed by the Dutch to protect oil fields, rubber and tobacco plantations. If the Netherlands wanted to colonize again, they would need a lot of funds. That is why the Netherlands tried as much as possible to influence the aristocracy and the wealthy population of East Sumatra to form a new country. Finally, after negotiations, an East Sumatra State was formed with Tengku Mansur as its president.

3. Negara Sumatra Selatan (State of South Sumatra), (1948-1950)

On July 21, 1947, the Dutch army launched an all-round attack in South Sumatra. This attack was named the 1st Military Aggression which resulted in the collapse of many areas. As a result of this aggression, many areas in South Sumatra were controlled by the Dutch until a puppet state called the State of South Sumatra was formed with Abdul Malik as president.

4. Negara Jawa Timur (State of East Java), (1948-1950)

The formation of the State of East Java is the long aftermath of the Battle of Surabaya on November 10, 1945. Finally, a puppet state called the State of East Java was formed with a leader named R. T. P. Achmad Kusumonegoro.



Dutch puppet states in Indonesia. (Source :Wikipedia)

5. Negara Pasundan (State of Pasundan), (1949-1950)

Different from other puppet countries, the State of Pasundan was formed politically to defend Indonesia. The Netherlands did form it, even providing facilities for the election of the State of Pasundan. At that time, Wiranatakusuma was a pro-republic figure, so his victory over Pasundan was a victory for Indonesia. Wiranatakusumah insisted on becoming president of the State of Pasundan so that West Java would remain part of Indonesia.

6. Negara Madura (State of Madura), (1948-1950)

The state of Madura was formed by the Dutch on the orders of Van der Plas. This state was merely a fabrication to ease the conquest of the East Java region. The territory of this country included Madura Island and also the small islands around it. The State of Madura was formed through false voting as the Dutch intimidated all parties. Finally, on February 20, 1949, the State of Madura was formed with R. A. A. Tjakraningrat as its leader.

Puppet states' formation made using the *divide et impera* politics became the Dutch strategy's mainstay in facing the Indonesian struggle for independence. This was the main base for President Soekarno to act decisively and finally chose the path of physical confrontation to liberate West Papua. Although no physical confrontation occurred, the United States worried about how Indonesia gained support from Asian-African countries. The Soviet Union supported Indonesia by providing war equipment, namely 24 Tu-16 bombers' air crafts that the West feared much and a group of MiG-19 and MiG-17 fighter aircraft. The US was worried that the West Papua problem could lead to World War III. So with British assistance, the US facilitated the Indonesia-Dutch negotiations, resulting in the New York Agreement in 1962. Then, on August 18, 1962, Sukarno ordered the Mandala Operation in West Papua to stop. With the non-aligned political strategy, Soekarno succeeded in bringing West Papua to the negotiation stage of the New York Agreement.

After that, Indonesia experienced a national political stability shock, facing several rebellions in 1963-1967 and resulted in a change of state leader. On March 7, 1967, the Provisional People's Consultative Assembly (MPRS) held a special session. It produced 26 decrees to remove President Sukarno from the government and appoint Suharto as the official President until the election was held. Since then, President Soeharto continued to resolve the West Papua dispute until the PEPERA result was tested at the UN General Assembly and passed as the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 2504 dated October 19, 1969. West Papua officially became a part of the Republic of Indonesia.



CONTENTS

	Page
Agenda item 98: Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian): report of the Secretary-General regarding the act of self-determination in West Irian (concluded)	1

President: Miss Angie E. BROOKS (Liberia).

In the absence of the President, Mr. Boyd (Panama) took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 98

Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian): report of the Secretary-General regarding the act of self-determination in West Irian (concluded)

4. I should like to pay a tribute to the Government of the Netherlands for organizing the results of the act of free choice. I should also like to commend the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for promoting and bringing about a happy settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. I should not forget to pay a due tribute to the Government of Indonesia, which has co-operated and taken an active part in that achievement.

5. The question of West Irian is only the final phase of the struggle of the entire Indonesian nation. It can only be viewed as part of the question of the territorial integrity and national unity of the whole Indonesian nation. Indonesia has always extended its support to the struggle of all nations and of all peoples striving for their freedom and independence. If we rejoice today with our Indonesian brethren, it is because we believe in the unity of our cause and in the identity of our destiny, which are those of all peoples fighting for their independence and freedom, whether in South Africa, in Southern Rhodesia, in Palestine or in South West Africa.

6. Before I conclude, I should like to welcome the role of

Resolutions adopted without reference to a Main Committee

B

The General Assembly,

Considering that a special issue of United Nations stamps has been decided upon by the Preparatory Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations with the words "Peace and progress" as the theme on the occasion of the anniversary,

Taking into account resolution 2499 A (XXIV) of 31 October 1969 by which the General Assembly decided that the theme of the anniversary should be "Peace, justice and progress",

Bearing in mind that steps have already been taken for the issue of stamps with the theme "Peace and progress",

1. Decides that the medals to be struck to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations will bear the emblem "Peace, justice and progress";

2. Decides that stamps with the theme "Peace and progress" may be issued;

3. Further decides that another set of stamps will be issued with the theme "Peace, justice and progress" and directs the Secretariat to take the necessary steps towards that end.

1837th plenary meeting,
 17 December 1969.

• • •

At the 1837th plenary meeting, on 31 October 1969, the President of the General Assembly, in pursuance of paragraph 3 of resolution A above, designated the members of the Committee for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations.

The Committee is composed of the following Member States: AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, CANADA, CHINA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUYANA, INDIA, IRAN, ITALY, LIBANON, MALAYSIA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, SOMALIA, SWEDEN, THAI, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UGANDA, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

2504 (XXIV). Representation of China in the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling the recommendation contained in its resolution 396 (V) of 14 December 1950 that, whenever more than one authority claims to be the Government entitled to represent a Member State in the United Nations and this question becomes the subject of controversy in the United Nations, the question should be considered in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the circumstances of each case,

Recalling further its decision in resolution 1668 (XVI) of 15 December 1961, in accordance with Article 18 of the Charter, that any proposal to change the representation of China is an important question, which, in General Assembly resolutions 2025 (XX) of 17 November 1965, 2159 (XXI) of 29 November 1966, 2271 (XXII) of 28 November 1967 and 2389

(XXIII) of 19 November 1968, was affirmed as remaining valid,

Affirms again that this decision remains valid.

1809th plenary meeting,
 11 November 1969.

2504 (XXIV). Agreement between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1752 (XVII) of 21 September 1962, in which it took note of the Agreement of 15 August 1962 between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian),⁴ acknowledged the role conferred upon the Secretary-General in the Agreement and authorized him to carry out the tasks entrusted to him therein,

Recalling also its decision of 6 November 1963⁵ to take note of the report of the Secretary-General⁶ on the completion of the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority in West Irian,

Recalling further that the arrangements for the act of free choice were the responsibility of Indonesia with the advice, assistance and participation of a special representative of the Secretary-General, as stipulated in the Agreement,

Having received the report on the conduct and results of the act of free choice⁷ submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with article XXI, paragraph 1, of the Agreement,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with article XXI, paragraph 2, both parties to the Agreement have recognized these results and abide by them,

Noting that the Government of Indonesia, in implementing its national development plan, is giving special attention to the progress of West Irian, bearing in mind the specific conditions of its population, and that the Government of the Netherlands, in close cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, will continue to render financial assistance for this purpose, in particular through the Asian Development Bank and the institutions of the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and acknowledges with appreciation the fulfilment by the Secretary-General and his representative of the tasks entrusted to them under the Agreement of 15 August 1962 between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands concerning West New Guinea (West Irian);

2. Appreciates any assistance provided through the Asian Development Bank, through institutions of the United Nations or through other means to the Government of Indonesia in its efforts to promote the economic and social development of West Irian.

1812th plenary meeting,
 19 November 1969.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 89, document A/5170, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Eighteenth Session, Plenary Meetings, 1255th meeting, para. 11.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, agenda item 26, document A/5378.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes, agenda item 98, document A/7725.

D. Conclusion

The Netherlands gave West Papua fake independence by breaking the Dutch-Indonesia Round Table agreement. The Free Papua separatists should not exaggerate a historical flaw that occurred because of the Dutch selfish unilateral steps to control the natural wealth of West Papua. The Netherlands entices the Papuan people with independence in the same way as the Netherlands does with other puppet states in Indonesia. West Papua is legally an integral part of Indonesia. Even the United Nations acknowledges it.



*West Papuans participated in the Act of Free Choice in West New Guinea in 1969.
(Source: Nabire.net)*

CHAPTER 4

Development in West Papua



A. West Papua Policy Dynamics Through Several Presidency Periods

Border Post Of The Republic Of Indonesia

The second President of Indonesia, Suharto (1967-1998), who reigned with a militaristic regime, has caused Papuans' deep wounds. The Free Papua separatists have been exploiting these old wounds to separate themselves from Indonesia. However, human rights cases that happened under President Suharto and the narrative that the Papuans did not advance are no longer relevant today. The people of Papua currently live in a modern way, are free to live their lives to the fullest, take any job they want, and pursue higher education. Even several presidents after Suharto have forged a special bond with Papuans. Indonesian presidents, such as Bacharuddin Jusuf (B. J.) Habibie, Abdurrahman Wahid, and Joko Widodo, have been sincerely trying to meet all the Papuan people's needs with a humanist approach.

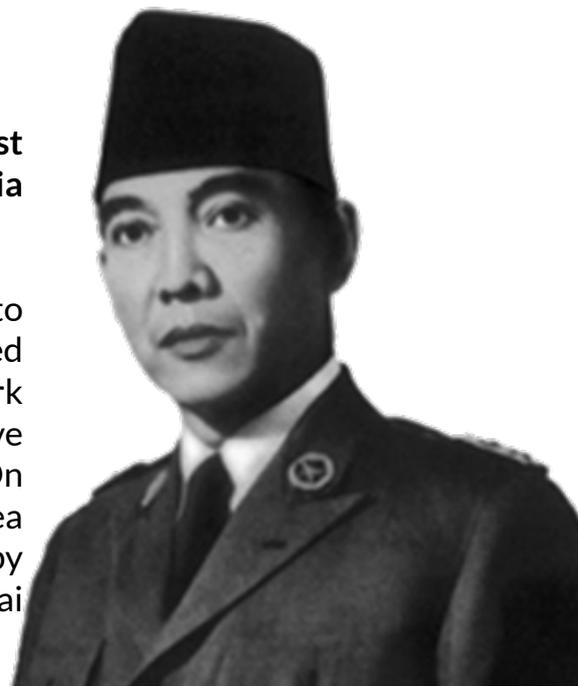
Furthermore, one president's mistake cannot be claimed absolutely as the country's fault, especially if the erring president had stepped down and replaced newer presidents who make better policies. Therefore, bringing up Indonesia's mistakes in the past to perpetuate Free Papua separatism is irrelevant. From a more positive and objective point of view, each president has a unique policy of elevating West Papua as an integral part of Indonesia. One of them is Otonomi Khusus (Otsus, lit. Special Autonomy) policy for Papua and West Papua Provinces so that indigenous Papuans have wider authority to manage their own regions. Special Autonomy is projected to bring social justice and welfare to, by, and for Papuans.

WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT SUKARNO'S ERA

Sukarno was an Indonesian politician who was the first president of Indonesia, serving from 1945 to 1967. Sukarno's biggest contribution to West Papua was to release West Papua from the scenario of a Dutch puppet state. Many literatures state that the Dutch tried to maintain their control over West Papua because the Dutch knew there were gold mines under its soil. The Dutch, which embraced imperialism and pursued gold, gospel, and glory, bravely violated the 1949 New York Agreement and unilaterally gave West Papua independence in 1961 even though West Papua was supposed to be an integral part of Indonesia. Sukarno immediately realized the Dutch strategy of turning West Papua into a puppet state. During Indonesia's independence in 1945, the Dutch also used the same divisive tactic of forming many puppet states to prevent Indonesian independence. At that time, the Dutch formed

Madura State, Pasundan State, East Java State, East Sumatra State, South Sumatra State, and East Indonesia State.

Anti-colonialism became Sukarno's source of motivation to expel the Dutch from West Papua. The Dutch have promised to hand over West Papua during the 1949 New York Agreement. However, the Dutch showed uncooperative actions and actually objected to releasing West Papua. On December 1, 1961, the Dutch formed the Nieuw Guinea Raad (New Guinea Council) and declared independence by giving the Morning Star flag and the national anthem "Hai Tanahku Papua" (lit. Oh My Land Papua).



*A Dutch woman was sewing the Morning Star flag in October 1961, before it was first used on December 1, 1961.
(Source: gelora.co)*

Responding to the Dutch's arbitrary attitude, on December 19, 1961, Sukarno declared the Tri Komando Rakyat (Trikorla, lit. People's Triple Command) which contained 1) Prevent the forming of the West Papua puppet state by the Dutch, 2) Raise Indonesian flag in West Irian (currently West Papua) and 3) Prepare for general mobilization. In previous years, Sukarno also made efforts to nationalize Dutch companies in Indonesia by issuing Law Number 86 of 1958 concerning Dutch companies' nationalization. The companies in question include plantation companies, Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij (NHM, lit. the Netherlands Trading Society), electricity companies, petroleum companies, and the Centrale Burgerlijke Ziekeninrichting (CBZ, lit. Central Civil Hospital) becomes Rumah Sakit Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo (Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital).



*The crowd in the Yogyakarta square when Sukarno declared the Trikora June 11, 1964.
(Source: goodnewsfromindonesia.id)*

Sukarno considered that the Dutch were colonizers in West Papua, just as the Dutch colonized Indonesia. So, in West Papua, Sukarno was motivated by political interests rather than natural wealth, as he did not want colonialism to occur in West Papua.

Sukarno's struggle and persistence in expelling the colony also reached the international level. JF Kennedy, the President of the United States at that time, also supported Sukarno's struggle¹, which showed different interests between the US Company Rockefeller and Kennedy in Indonesia and caused Kennedy's death. But in the end, Sukarno's struggle paid off as he continued to fight for Indonesia's claim over West Papua territory and mobilized support from developing countries which were currently supporting international decolonization. The Dutch then handed over West Papua to the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) through the 1962 New York Agreement². This agreement also stipulates that the people of West Irian will exercise their right via a referendum named Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat (PEPERA, lit. the Act of Free Choice) to join Indonesia or not before December 1969.



Sukarno's speech during the Liberation of West Irian (West Papua) on December 19, 1961. (Source: Lintas Parlemen)

Sukarno's focus in West Papua was for sovereignty from the Dutch, both through diplomacy and confrontation. Consequently, development-related programs in West

1 Greg Puolgrain, *JFK vs. Allen Dulles: Battleground Indonesia* (USA: Skyhorse, 2020), 9.
2 Fadrik Aziz Firdausi, "Sejarah Kemerdekaan Papua Barat dari Belanda & Gabung NKRI" *Tirto.id*, August 19, 2019, <https://tirto.id>

Papua were still not on Indonesia's priority agenda. In its development, history was again played by the Dutch. Sukarno's efforts to prevent the formation of the West Papua puppet state were twisted as a form of Indonesian colonization and the seizing of Papuan independence granted by the Dutch.

This historical dualism is still an obstacle to some Papuans today. This is one reason they find it difficult to accept West Papua as an integral part of Indonesia.

WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S ERA

Suharto was an Indonesian politician and military general who served as the second president of Indonesia, holding the office for 31 years, from Sukarno's ousting in 1967 until his resignation in 1998. The relationship between West Papua and Suharto was awful, as Suharto's era was also the forerunner of the growing embryo of separatism in West Papua. Separatists fighters were irritated by some of Suharto's military operations and guerrillas against the Indonesian government. President Suharto did these actions during his reign:

1. Signing the Freeport work contract exactly three months after Suharto was appointed president of the Republic of Indonesia;
2. Establishing the status of West Papua as a Military Operation Area;
3. Conducted several military operations including Operation Bharatayudha and Operation Pamungkas;
4. Put pressure on the Papuans when the Act of Free Choice (PEPERA) is implemented;
5. Limiting the movement of the mass media.

The first Contract of Work was signed between Freeport and Indonesia in 1967 represented by the Indonesian Minister of Mines, Ir. Slamet Bratanata and Robert C. Hills, President of Freeport Sulfur (Source: Berdikari Online)





Implementation of PEPERA by the West Irian (West Papua) People's representatives (08/02/1969) (Source: Papua News)

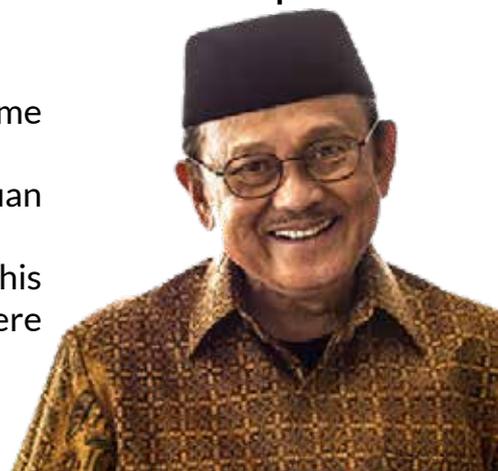


Members of the PEPERA Deliberative Council in Jayapura held Pepera on August 2, 1969 at the Jayapura State Building (Source: Batas Negeri)

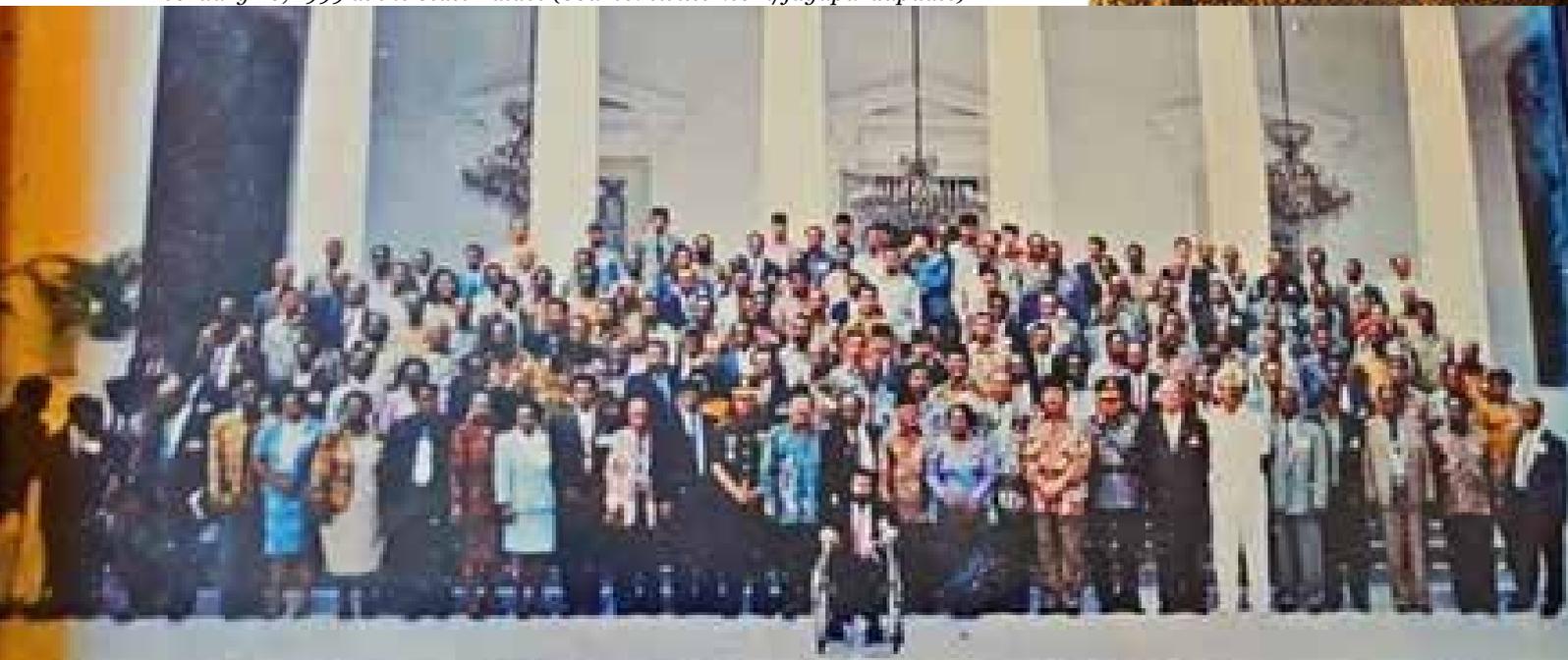
WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT B. J. HABIBIE'S ERA

Bacharuddin Jusuf (B. J.) Habibie was an Indonesian engineer and politician who was the third president of Indonesia from 1998 to 1999. President B. J. Habibie endured difficult times, fixed the bad relations from the previous presidential term, and undertook a lot of homework. Habibie is more democratic, some of Habibie's policies are completely inversely proportional to Suharto's, of course, this is a significant leap for the progress of the West Papua-Indonesia conflict. Here are some of Habibie's democratic policies that have succeeded in opening the door of the West Papua-Indonesia dialogue:

1. Abolishing the status of Military Operations Areas to become vulnerable areas;
2. Opening an informal dialogue with 100 Papuan representatives or representatives of Foreri;
3. Issued Law Number 40 of 1999 concerning the Press. This law provides freedom and rights for the press which were previously restricted during the Suharto era.



The West Papua 100 Team National Dialogue with President Habibie on February 26, 1999 at the State Palace (Source: twitter.com/jayapuraupdate)



WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT ABDURRAHMAN WAHID'S ERA

Abdurrahman Wahid, colloquially known as Gus Dur, was an Indonesian Muslim religious and political leader who served as the fourth president of Indonesia from 1999 to 2001. Continuing the dialogical efforts pioneered by President B. J. Habibie, Gus Dur has managed to forge an excellent relationship with West Papua. In fact, Papuan people loved Gus Dur. Gus Dur changed the name Irian Jaya to Papua and even allowed the raising of the Morning Star flag, on condition that it is raised lower than the Indonesian flag. He considers the Morning Star as a cultural symbol of the Papuan people, not a symbol of nationalism.



*The people of Papua enthusiastically greeted Gus Dur during his first visit to West Papua on December 31, 1999.
(Source: CNN Indonesia)*

Some of Gus Dur's policies that have succeeded in reducing the West Papua conflict are:

1. Visited West Papua two months after being appointed president;
2. Allowed the raise Morning Star flag but lower than the Indonesian flag;
3. Allowing and providing assistance of around 1 billion rupiah for the implementation of the Kongres Rakyat Papua (KRP, lit. Papuan People's Congress);
4. Initiated the Special Autonomy initiation during KRP II in response to Papuans wish of referendum. In fact, the initiation of Special Autonomy came from influential Papuan representatives such as academics.



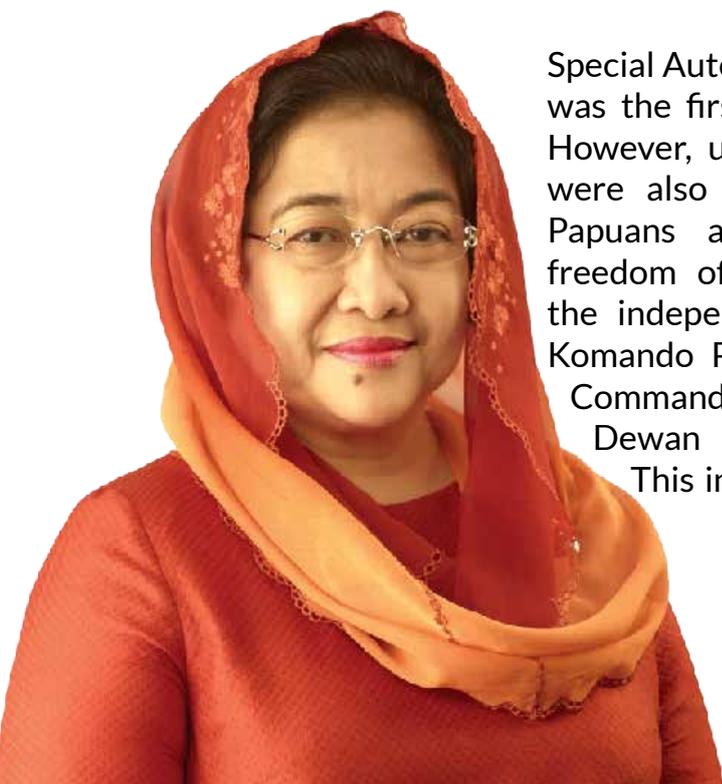


President Abdurrahman Wahid (right) accompanied by the governor of Papua during the 1998-2000 period Freddy Numberi (Center) met with the former Papua Presidium Council Theys Hiyo Eluay (left) (12/31/1999) (Source: Brilio)

WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT MEGAWATI SUKARNOPUTRI'S ERA

Megawati Sukarnoputri is an Indonesian politician who served as the fifth president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004, also the first President Sukarno's daughter. On November 21, 2001, President Megawati passed Law Number 21 of 2001 concerning Special Autonomy for Papua Province. Also, President Megawati also issued several other policies for West Papua, including:

1. The division of the West Papua region into three new provinces. Although the law on regional expansion was postponed, it became the main foothold for the next leadership;
2. Although she did not lead long, Megawati passed Law Number 21 of 2001 concerning Special Autonomy for Papua Province on November 21, 2001;



Special Autonomy policies during the Megawati presidency was the first milestone of development for West Papua. However, unfortunately, during the Megawati era, there were also repressive actions that caused controversy. Papuans again feel that there are restrictions on freedom of expression and repressive actions towards the independence movement. On November 11, 2001, Komando Pasukan Khusus (Kopassus, lit. Special Forces Command) killed Theys Eluay, chairman of Presidium Dewan Papua (PDP, lit. Papua Presidium Council). This incident left a deep mark on the Papuan people.



The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) Chairman, Megawati Sukarnoputri, announced the governor/vice governor candidates for the 2018 West Papua Governor Election. (Source: news.detik.com)

WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO'S ERA

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, commonly referred to by his initials SBY, is an Indonesian politician and retired Army general who served as the sixth president of Indonesia from 2004 to 2014. One of SBY's contributions to West Papua is the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papuan People's Council) in 2004 as mandated by the Special Autonomy Law, which had been delayed in previous years. West Papua is the only province in Indonesia with the MRP as a cultural representation of the indigenous Papuan people. Apart from that, SBY also issued several other policies:

1. The division of the West Papua region into three new provinces. Although the law on regional expansion was postponed, it became the main foothold for the next leadership;
Although she did not lead long, Megawati passed
2. Law Number 21 of 2001 concerning Special Autonomy for Papua Province on November 21, 2001;

*Papuan People's Council (MRP) Office in Kotaraja, Jayapura
(Source: lintaspapua.com)*

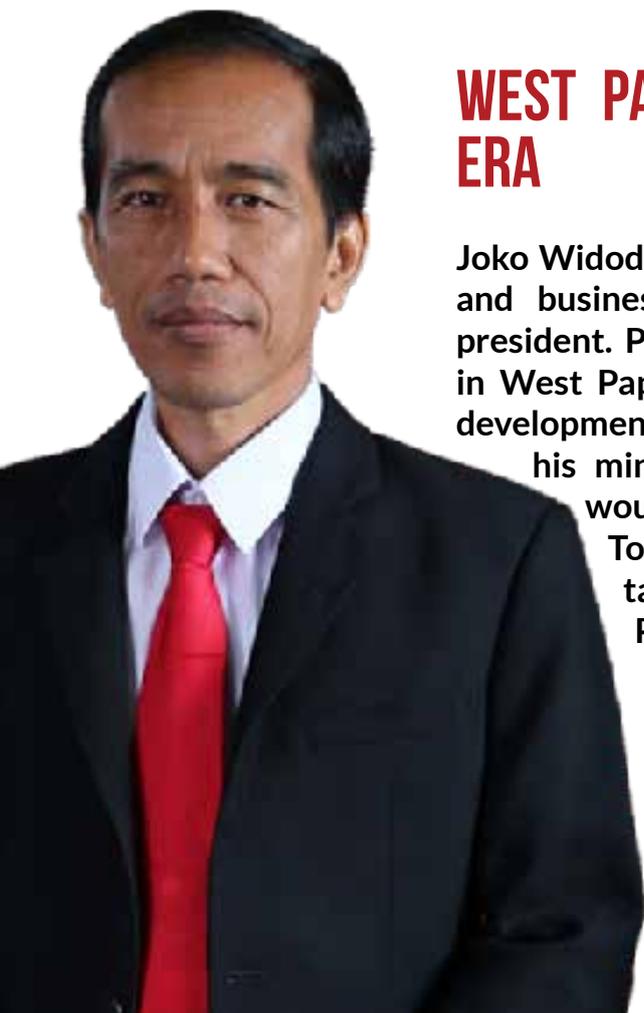




*SBY along with First Lady Ani Yudhoyono visited Cenderawasih University in Jayapura, Papua (11/22/2010)
(Source: Sumber: nasional.tempco.co)*

UP4B constructed roads, transportation and other public facilities such as health facilities, social economy, and education. as well as partiality for the indigenous Papuans. SBY started infrastructure development in West Papua, such as³:

1. Sentani airport development in Jayapura with a status of 80%;
2. Construction of the Jayapura fiber optic backbone network, which is already running, is around 60 %;
3. The construction of the Trans-Papua and West Papua roads at a cost of Rp. 11.3 trillion, with the reported status of 9 out of the 12 roads that entered MP3EI already built.



WEST PAPUA IN PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO'S ERA

Joko Widodo is also known as Jokowi, an Indonesian politician and businessman who is the 7th and current Indonesian president. President Jokowi has been making drastic progress in West Papua development as he accelerated infrastructure development in West Papua through the vice president and his ministers directly. Jokowi understands that the old wounds of human rights will not be erased quickly. To treat old wounds, Jokowi puts every measure and takes firm action against those who caused West Papua problems.

³ Ali Sodikin, “Prestasi Pembangunan Infrastruktur di Era SBY” Demokrat, September 22, 2017, <https://www.demokrat.or.id>

Jokowi's first visit after his second inauguration as president (October 20, 2019) was to West Papua (October 27, 2019), which implied how he put West Papua as his utmost priority. Jokowi proved his seriousness in advancing Papua with real work.

Currently, the Papuan people can experience the benefits of development directly. Some of the strategic steps taken by Jokowi in West Papua are as follows:

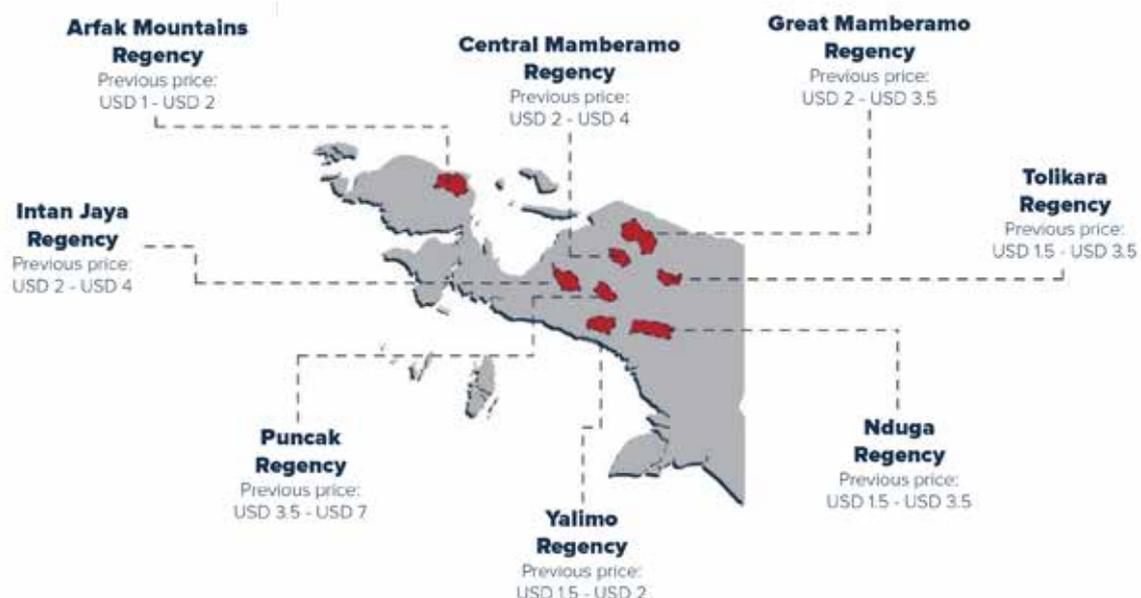
1. Massive and evenly distributed infrastructure development at the national, provincial, regional and inland scales;
2. Human development through education and empowerment;
3. Energy distribution program through one price fuel and distribution of Lampu Tenaga Surya Hemat Energi (LTSHE, lit. Energy Saving Solar Lights);
4. Bangga Papua (lit. Proud Papua) Program a.k.a Bangun Generasi dan Keluarga Papua Sejahtera (lit. Build a Generation and a Prosperous Family) to create quality human resources through improving children's nutrition and health;
5. Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Welfare Development in both Papua and West Papua Provinces.

President Jokowi has succeeded in continuing the development relay, a major concern since the previous presidency era. Jokowi has succeeded in connecting one region to another and opening up areas that have been isolated and difficult to reach. One of his achievements is connecting and unifying roads between regions, which has been a development policy in West Papua for decades. Although the programs are still in progress, Papuan can already feel the results.

President Jokowi is also the only president who has made the most working visits to West Papua. Since taking office from 2014 to 2019, President Jokowi has visited West Papua 12 times. Jokowi has never made such many working visits in other regions in Indonesia. Jokowi has been giving special attention that the government wants to give to West Papua's progress both through its infrastructure and its people.

One Fuel Price Program for Indonesia

USD 0.46/ per liter!



WHAT HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA JOKO WIDODO DONE FOR WEST PAPUA?

The Island of Papua became the main target of development in the first tenure of President Joko Widodo (2014-2019).

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Presidential Regulation 58/2017 on National Strategic Projects Outside Java, including a USD 31.6 trillion budget for Maluku and Papua's development.

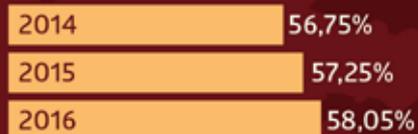


ONE FUEL PRICE PROGRAM FOR ALL REGIONS IN INDONESIA

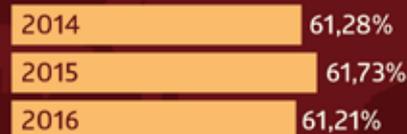


HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI) IN PAPUA AND WEST PAPUA INCREASED IN 3 YEARS

PAPUA



WEST PAPUA

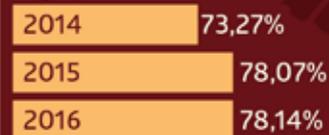


STUDENT PARTICIPATION INCREASED

7-12 years-old



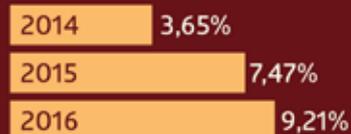
13-15 years-old



16-18 years-old



ECONOMIC GROWTH



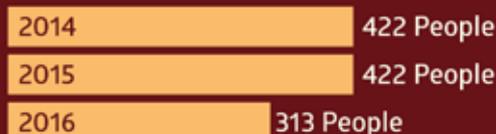
GINI RATION



POVERTY PERCENTAGE



MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE



INFANT MORTALITY RATE



STATE HEALTH INSURANCE RECIPIENTS IN PAPUA AND WEST PAPUA

3.337.269 per Juli 2017

ELECTRICITY

Distribution Substation
30,8 MVA

TRANS-PAPUA HIGHWAY

Total
3.259,45
of 10 segments



President Joko Widodo inspecting the construction site for the Trans-Papua Road on the Wamena-Mamugu section (05/10/2017) (Source: Republika)

1. Infrastructure based development

President Jokowi's intensive visit is in line with the massive infrastructure development program in West Papua. Under his leadership, Jokowi completes several major projects successfully. Jokowi's several major achievements during his leadership are summarized in various sources, including the bridge infrastructure, the Youtefa Bridge, which has become the newest icon of Papua Province. Furthermore, Jokowi also largely completed the construction of Trans-Papua road with a total length of 4,330 km.

President Jokowi has also built sea and air toll roads to reduce the price gap between western and eastern Indonesia. Papua now has five active seaports, such as Nabire Port, Pomako Port, Depapre Port, Moor Port, Kaimana Port, and Serui Port. To reach remote areas, President Jokowi built an air highway. There are 40 airports and 15 seaports in Papua and West Papua provinces connecting urban and inland areas.



President Joko Widodo and the Indonesian National Army (TNI) Commander when inspecting the construction site for the Trans-Papua Road on the Wamena-Mamugu section in (05/10/2017) (Source: Republika)



One of the pioneer airports or airfields in the inland of West Papua (Source: Fakta News)

Repairment project of the Port in Nabire in 2017. (Source: Kompas)

2. Human Based Development

Not only in infrastructure, but Jokowi also pays more attention to human-based development. As stated by former Vice President Jusuf Kalla, the main key to development in West Papua lies in human resources⁴.

The large amount of Special Autonomy funds allocated for education provides Papuan children with the opportunity to study in various fields. Domestically, more than 400 Papuan children receive scholarships to get education from undergraduate to doctoral degrees. Meanwhile, abroad, as many as 662 Papuan children have attended 17 well-known universities⁵. The government pays more attention to the education sector, especially in remote areas. One of these efforts is reflected in the construction of 1,191 New School Units and the rehabilitation of 67,253 study rooms in the Bintang Mountains District⁶. Jokowi's increased attention to human resource development in West Papua shows tangible results and is right on target. Many Papuan children who already have bachelor's degrees and are involved in various fields, even entrepreneurs, business people, are starting to spread among the indigenous Papuan people.

Moreover, 21 indigenous Papuan youths who founded PT Papua Muda Inspiratif are working together with the government to improve education and human resources in West Papua. This collaboration aims to develop the Papua Youth Innovation & Creativity Hub in 7 customary areas: Sorong, Jayapura, Fak-fak, Timika, Merauke, Biak, and Wamena, by adopting the concepts of Silicon Valley and the Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Center. The goal is to encourage Papuan youth to become businessmen and social entrepreneurs⁷.

4 Ardito Ramadhan "Jusuf Kalla: Pembangunan SDM Jadi Kunci Kemajuan Papua" Kompas.com, November 14, 2020, <https://nasional.kompas.com>

5 Biro Otsus Terus Benahi Program Beasiswa Pengiriman Anak Papua

6 Kemdikbud RI, "MEMBANGUN SEKOLAH BARU di PEGUNUNGAN BINTANG, PAPUA" Youtube video, posted on December 19, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com>

7 Metrotvnews, "Mengenal 'Papua Youth Creative Hub' yang Diresmikan Jokowi" Youtube video, October 29, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com>



Minister of National Development Planning, Prof. Bambang Brodjonegoro, according to Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2017, the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) formed the Papua Development Acceleration Team (09/29/2020). (Source: Youtefa Post)

Human-based development, especially for indigenous Papuans, has shown tangible results. Improving the quality of human resources is in line with the presence of developing tourism areas. The international public has even recognized several destinations, such as integrated areas in Sorong, Bintuni Bay, and Raja Ampat⁸.

As Indonesia's youngest provinces, the provinces of Papua and West Papua are like the country's precious children who continue to be noticed in the Jokowi administration. Jokowi's deep concern for Papuans is also manifested in Presidential Instruction No.9 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of Welfare Development in the Provinces of Papua and West Papua. Through this Presidential Instruction, the government takes a development approach by focusing on indigenous Papuans' welfare. Therefore, the development must be by socio-cultural conditions, customs and still pay attention to environmental sustainability. The vice president Ma'ruf Amin and other ranks of ministers would directly handle this acceleration of development.

Concrete achievements proved the development program that Jokowi promised during the presidential election campaign. Development in Jokowi's eyes is not only in physical development such as infrastructure but also the Papuan people. This received a good response from the Papuan people, evidenced by their full support for Jokowi - Ma'ruf Amin in the 2014 presidential election.

8 Timotius Gobay, "Pemerintah Mengintensifkan Pembangunan di Papua" Jawa Pos, November 17, 2020, <https://baliexpress.jawapos.com>



The facade of Wamena Airport in Wamena, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Province. (Source: papuainside.com)



The Trans-Papua road that cuts through forests, mountains and valleys connects all villages and cities in Papua and West Papua Provinces. (Source: politiktoday.com)



The Time Capsule Monument has become a new landmark of Merauke City, Papua Province, whose design adopts elements of indigenous Papuan culture. (Source: setkab.go.id)



Manokwari Port in Manokwari City, West Papua Province. (Source: mediaindonesia.com)



The front of the Papuan Women Market in Jayapura City, Papua Province. (Source: mediadesa.id)



Papua Bangkit Stadium with international standards in Jayapura City, Papua Province. (Source: 7to7papua.com)

B. Development In Recent Years



Transportation Facilities are in the Highlight for West Papua's Development

1. Building 10 Airports

6 airports in Papua Province

- ▶ Ewer Airport
- ▶ Kepti Airport
- ▶ Ilaga Airport
- ▶ Oksibi Airport
- ▶ Nabire Baru Airport
- ▶ Mopah Airport

4 airports in West Papua Province

- ▶ Rendani Manokwari Airport
- ▶ Wasior Baru Airport
- ▶ Waisai Raja Ampat Airport
- ▶ New Siboru Fakfak Airport

2. Building 6 Seaports

5 ports in Papua Province

- ▶ Depapre Port
- ▶ Nabire Port
- ▶ Pemako Port
- ▶ Moorishi Port
- ▶ Serul Port

1 port in West Papua Province

- ▶ Kaimana Port

3. Land Transportation Facilities

- ▶ Entrop Bus Terminal in Jayapura and
- ▶ The water bus dock at Lake Sentani
- ▶ Bus and water bus facilities. The State Cross-border Post Facility (PLBN) in Skouw

5. Jalan Trans Papua

Since 2018, the **1,071 km of Trans-Papua Barat Road** has been paved along 743 km and the rest are still in aggregate.

4. Development in the Arfak Mountains

- ▶ 139 kilometers of the Arfak-Manokwari Mountains road
- ▶ Irai Airport Development

The development of transportation infrastructure is expected to improve logistics efficiency by lowering logistics costs, increasing the efficiency of goods and services transactions, and encouraging the success of competitive national products.

Budi Karya Sumadi

Indonesia Minister of Transportation

Source: okezone.com

The Joko Widodo administration has been focusing on development in areas outside Java, especially West Papua. Jokowi's focused attention was proved by the many working visits to West Papua and massive infrastructure and human resource development.

Unfortunately, the efforts made by the government to advance West Papua have not gone smoothly. The Free Papua separatists have been constantly trying to hinder development by:



The workers for the Trans Papua route bridge project become victims of armed separatists in Kali Yigi and Kali Aurak, Nduga Regency (12/1/2018) (Source: westpapua.blog)



TNI troops evacuate teachers from the Arwanop valley after being held hostage by the armed separatist criminal group in West Papua (04/19/2018) (Source: suara.com)

- a. Infrastructure: The Free Papua armed separatists attacked the Papua Terang (Bright Papua) Survey Team in Wagemuga District, Paniai, which consisted of 33 members consisting of State Electricity Company(PLN) Experts, Cenderawasih University and Indonesia University Students, as well as Apparatus in 2018; the armed separatists also killed 19 Trans-Papua highway workers on December 2, 2018.
- b. Education sector: The armed separatists took 15 teachers and paramedics as hostages in Nduga for several days from 3-17 October 2018. The armed separatists even raped a female teacher in turns.
- c. Health Sector: The armed separatists shot 2 medical personnel who delivered Covid 19 drugs in Intan Jaya, resulting in 1 dead and 1 critical on May 23, 2020.



Members of the COVID-19 Task Force in Papua who were shot by the armed separatists were evacuated by the team (05/23/2020) (Source: nasional.tempo.co)

The OPM-TPNPB armed separatists also stated that it would kill anyone carrying out construction/development. Separatist efforts that always try to disrupt development indicate that development that makes the Papuan people more advanced and prosperous will eventually dim the issue of an independent West Papua. Also, separatists have been using an independent West Papua issue to legalize their interests, such as corruption, by taking village funds to buy weapons.

The separatist movement continues to launch its demands both at home and abroad. Unfortunately, Indonesia's demands were not accompanied by a clear plan for the future development of West Papua. For example, Benny Wenda, leader of the ULMWP separatists, asked in a BBC Talk interview regarding West Papua's future development plans. He said that the Papuan people do not need development, West Papua already has everything and has the potential to become a "green country."

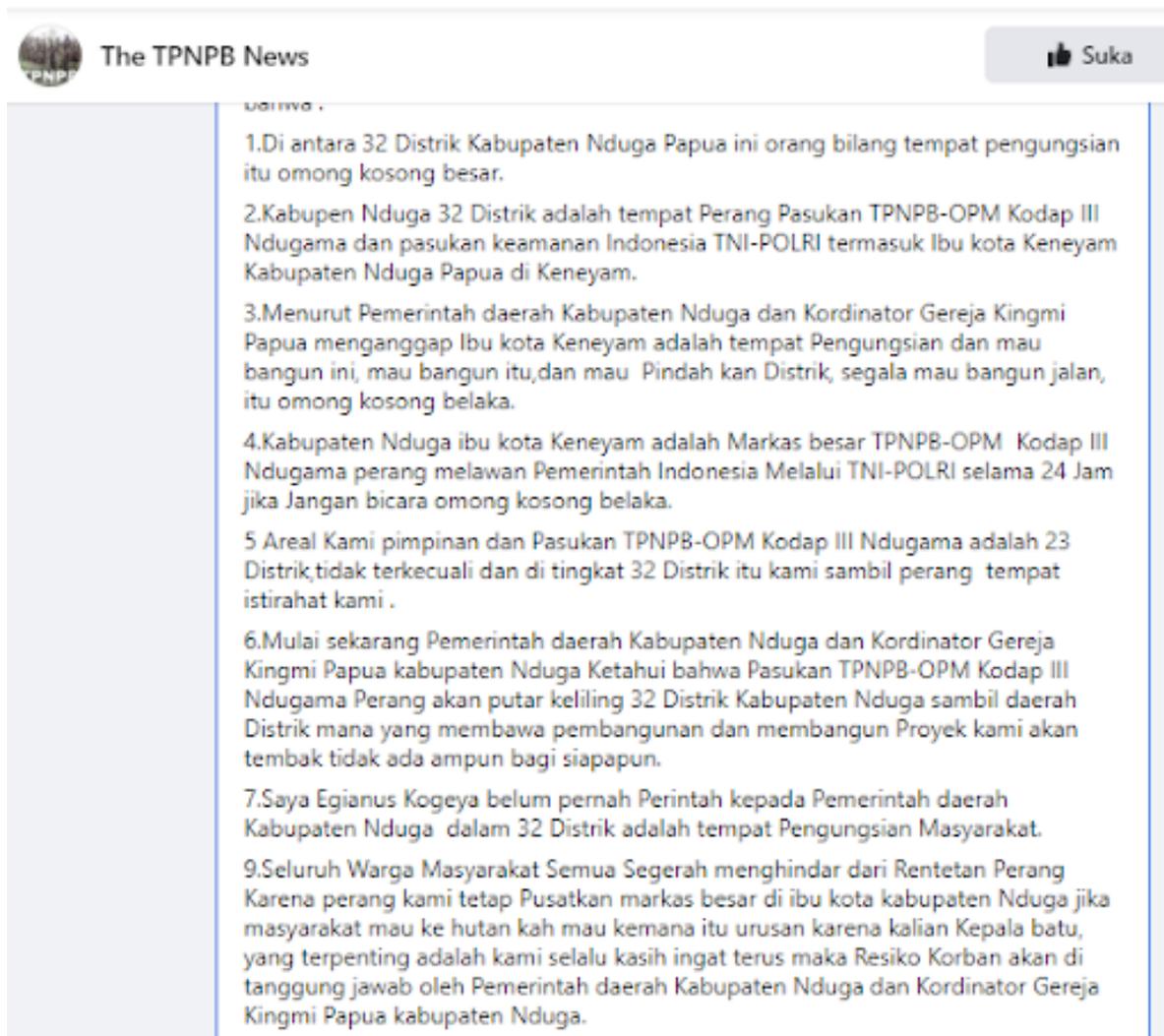
Separatists' rumors that Indonesia is not taking sides with the Papuan people is no longer relevant. Development projects in recent years have left a positive impression on the minds of the Papuan people. Currently, the Papuan people are enjoying the benefits of development in various cities to rural areas.

THE RIGHTS AND AUTHORITIES OF INDIGENOUS PAPUANS THROUGH SPECIAL AUTONOMY

As stipulated in Law Number 21 of 2001 concerning Special Autonomy⁹, Indigenous Papuans have been given the widest possible authority to regional governments in

9 Accessed from: ngada.org

various implementations of development and government administration except for authority in the fields of foreign policy, defense and security, monetary and fiscal, religion, and the judiciary. With this law's existence, the Papuan people have the freedom to choose the path to advance their own region.



TPNPB-OPM Facebook post threatening to kill anyone carrying out construction (03/28/2020)

To use the authority properly, the Special Autonomy Law's issuance was also accompanied by the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papuan People's Council). In this case, the MRP has an important role in protecting the indigenous rights of the Papuan people based on respect for customs and culture, empowering women, and continuing religious harmony on the land of West Papua. The MRP members are indigenous Papuans representing indigenous peoples, religious communities, and representatives of Papuan women. The MRP has the right and authority to give consideration and approval to all development implementation in West Papua carried out by the regional government.

The Papuan people have a vital role in the development process of the region. Through the special autonomy law, Papuan people are expected to make maximum use of their special rights and authorities in managing development in West Papua.

**UNDANG-UNDANG REPUBLIK INDONESIA
NOMOR 21 TAHUN 2001
TENTANG
OTONOMI KHUSUS BAGI PROVINSI PAPUA
DENGAN RAHMAT TUHAN YANG MAHA ESA
PRESIDEN REPUBLIK INDONESIA**

Menimbang:

- a) bahwa cita-cita dan tujuan Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia adalah membangun masyarakat Indonesia yang adil, makmur, dan sejahtera berdasarkan Pancasila dan Undang-Undang Dasar 1945;
- b) bahwa masyarakat Papua sebagai insan ciptaan Tuhan dan bagian dari umat manusia yang beradab, menjunjung tinggi Hak Asasi Manusia, nilai-nilai agama, demokrasi, hukum, dan nilai-nilai budaya yang hidup dalam masyarakat hukum adat, serta memiliki hak untuk menikmati hasil pembangunan secara wajar;
- c) bahwa sistem pemerintahan Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia menurut Undang-Undang Dasar 1945 mengakui dan menghormati satuan-satuan pemerintahan daerah yang bersifat khusus atau bersifat istimewa yang diatur dalam Undang-Undang;
- d) bahwa integrasi bangsa dalam wadah Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia harus tetap dipertahankan dengan menghargai kesetaraan dan keragaman kehidupan sosial budaya masyarakat Papua, melalui penetapan daerah Otonomi Khusus;
- e) bahwa penduduk asli di Provinsi Papua adalah salah satu rumpun dari ras Melanesia yang merupakan bagian dari suku-suku bangsa di Indonesia, yang memiliki keragaman kebudayaan, sejarah, adat istiadat, dan bahasa sendiri;
- f) bahwa penyelenggaraan pemerintahan dan pelaksanaan pembangunan di Provinsi Papua selama ini belum sepenuhnya memenuhi rasa keadilan, belum sepenuhnya memungkinkan tercapainya kesejahteraan rakyat, belum sepenuhnya mendukung terwujudnya penegakan hukum, dan belum sepenuhnya menampakkan penghormatan terhadap Hak Asasi Manusia di Provinsi Papua, khususnya masyarakat Papua;
- g) bahwa pengelolaan dan pemanfaatan hasil kekayaan alam Provinsi Papua belum digunakan secara optimal untuk meningkatkan taraf hidup masyarakat asli, sehingga telah mengakibatkan terjadinya kesenjangan antara Provinsi Papua dan daerah lain, serta merupakan pengabaian hak-hak dasar penduduk asli Papua;

Screenshot of the Republic of Indonesia Act Number 21 of 2001 concerning Special Autonomy for Papua Province. (Source: diskominfo.papua.go.id)

INCREASING POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS OF WEST PAPUA'S DEVELOPMENT

Indonesia has put Papua and West Papua provinces in a special place compared to other provinces. These two provinces have a broader authority and power through special autonomy to manage their own regions within the Republic of Indonesia framework. Papua and West Papua development originate from the people, the people, and the Papuan people.

The Papuan people have benefited from the development carried out by both the central and regional governments. The impact of development has made life easier for people, especially those living in remote areas. The community's high cost of living needs has gradually decreased, and the opening of new transportation routes both on land and in the air. The Human Development Index or HDI in the two Provinces also continues to show an increase. The positive response from the community has shown that development is right on target.

For years, development in Indonesia was still centered on the island of Java. This has created a huge gap between people's lives in the western and eastern regions of Indonesia. However, Jokowi has been trying to apply equitable development in all corners of the country, especially Papua. This is evidenced by Jokowi's intensive visits to Papua in parallel with the massive development there.



*Traders greeted President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) at Pharaa Market, Sentani, Jayapura, Papua, (12/27/2014).
(Sumber: Nasional Tempo)*

The development approach in West Papua is unique compared to other regions. In this case, the government must pay attention to and prioritize environmental sustainability, customary rights, and socio-culture. Development should also align with Special Autonomy's objectives by paying attention to respect for human rights, the realization of justice and the economy, and increasing welfare for the Papuan people.

To improve West Papuans' development and welfare, the government has distributed the Special Autonomy Fund since 2002. In addition, in 2006, the government began disbursing additional infrastructure funds aimed at accelerating infrastructure development. The special autonomy fund given to the two provinces is equal to 2%¹⁰ from the national general allocation fund and continues to increase from year to year¹¹ as well as making a significant contribution to development in West Papua. Since the enactment of Special Autonomy for Papua and West Papua, the government has distributed special autonomy funds for the two province amounting to Rp. 94.24 trillion¹².

Several cities in Papua and West Papua provinces have begun implementing the Special Autonomy funds for infrastructure and inter-regional connectivity. A Papuan leader, Izak Randi Hikoyabi, viewed infrastructure development that facilitates access for the community, and various sectors will also benefit from this development. "Currently, our children have been enjoying infrastructure development. They also feel they have a lot of easy access," During the Jokowi period, several mega projects have shown their results, as summarized in the figures below.

10 Pusat Kajian AKN Badan Keahlian DPR RI, *Akuntabilitas Dana Otonomi Khusus Provinsi Papua dan Papua Barat* (Jakarta, 2020), 6. <https://berkas.dpr.go.id>

11 "Penerimaan Dalam Rangka Pelaksanaan Otonomi Khusus Bagi Provinsi Papua," Badan Pengelolaan Keuangan dan Asset Daerah Provinsi Papua, <https://bpkad.papua.go.id>

12 Abdul Basith, "Salurkan dana otsus Papua Rp 94,24 triliun, Jokowi minta evaluasi," *Kontan*, March 11, 2020, <https://nasional.kontan.co.id>

One of the mega projects launched since 1980 is constructing the Trans-Papua road, but the construction has not been completed. This project was finally largely completed in 2018 during President Jokowi's era. The Trans-Papua highway is an important milestone for West Papua. This project has cost a huge amount of around IDR 12 trillion and has been going on since 2015-2018,¹³ This road stretches for 4,330 km connecting all cities and regencies in the provinces of Papua and West Papua.

Before the Trans-Papua road construction was complete, West Papuans needed to go through valleys, hills, and forests by foot to transport goods. This impacted the high prices of necessities and transportation. With the Trans-Papua road, people can travel in a relatively short time. Benjamin Akemi, a teacher in Tamra District, commented about the newly built road. "(In the past) we walked by foot through high mountains, valleys, peaks, until we were able to go to places where we teach. We don't use the plane, we walk. The construction was extraordinary. The Papuan people, they are happy."¹⁴

But there are still problems to be solved. Papua's geographical contours are full of mountains and surrounded by dense forests, sometimes making air transportation the only way.



13 "Jalan Trans-Papua Hampir Tersambung", Indonesia.go.id, last modified September 6, 2019, <https://indonesia.go.id>

14 Batas Negeri, "Trans-Papua dibangun, Warga Papua menuai Hasil," YouTube video, posted March 19, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com>



A number of pioneer planes serving flight routes to the inland of West Papua parked at the apron on the south side of Timika Airport (Source: jogja.antaraneews.com)

The Jokowi administration has pursued development through the Jembatan Udara (Air Bridge) program. To reduce price disparities in the interior and in urban areas, the Jokowi administration has even provided subsidies to reduce the very high logistics and cargo costs of aircraft. The Air Bridge program is very helpful for rural communities, especially to meet their basic daily needs. As expressed by Yosua Busup, the Korupun District Chief, Yahukimo said, “Now there is an Air Bridge, the prices of all goods have dropped, the people are very happy. They are happy now.”¹⁵

Development in Papua and West Papua is the realization of the 2015-2019 Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Nasional (RPJMN, National Medium Term Development Plan). The current existence of a more supportive infrastructure can indirectly facilitate the community towards economic and social welfare.

Not stopping at infrastructure, the government also pays more attention to West Papuan people’s health by the distribution of Kartu Indonesia Sehat (Healthy Indonesia Card), which is a health insurance card. The card received a positive response from the



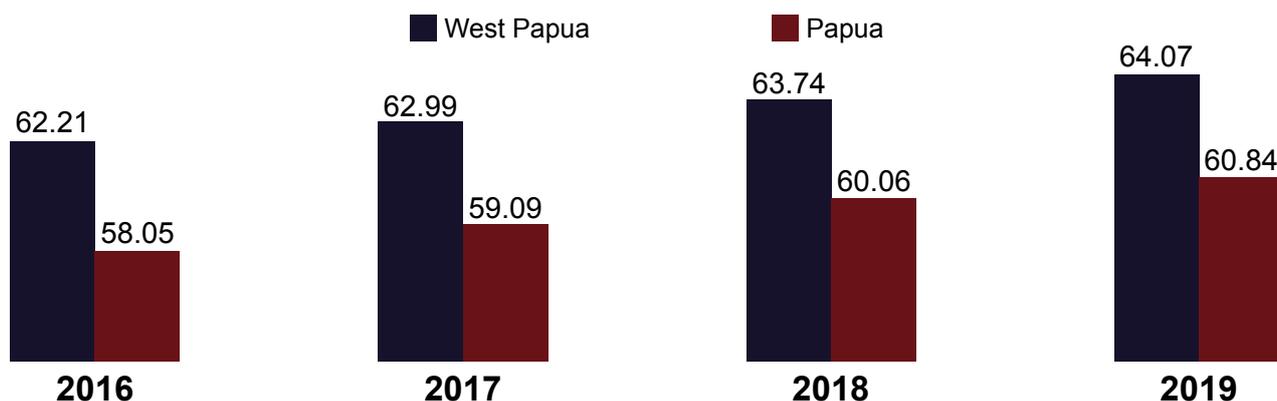
Distribution of Healthy Indonesia Cards in Wamena District, West Papua. Now the people there are protected by the National Health Insurance Program for the Healthy Indonesia Card. (Source:twitter.com/BPJSKesehatanRI)

15 Komunitas Penerbangan Indonesia, “Jembatan Udara, Indonesia Hebat,” YouTube video, posted July 26, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com>

community (Jamkesnews, 2019). On July 7, 2017 as much as 3,337,269 people in West Papua received the Healthy Indonesia Card and the number went up on November 1, 2019, to 5,112,762 people.”¹⁶ Indigenous Papuans do not need to pay the insurance fee because the government covered it with the Special Autonomy fund.

Human Development Index (HDI) increased along with Papua and West Papua’s development. HDI indicators include health, education and income.

Papua and West Papua Provinces Human Development Index Graph



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

The provinces of Papua and West Papua are provinces with the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in Indonesia. Still, the government’s full attention through development, health, and education indirectly impact increasing HDI. Although the movement of the numbers above is not very significant, it always shows a gradual increase. In 2018 alone, Papua province’s HDI was on 60.1, and West Papua province was on 63.7 outperformed neighboring Pacific countries such as the Solomon Islands with 55.7 and Papua New Guinea 54,³¹⁷.

The Jokowi administration has succeeded in elevating West Papua so that it can catch up with other regions. This achievement is evidenced by various development approaches, both physically, in infrastructure, and in the people. The Papuan people are happy with infrastructure development that supports the mobility of goods and people. They feel the benefits in real terms.

In 2018, researchers conducted in-depth interviews and surveys in several cities in West Papua to examine community responses to development performance. From the table above, it can be seen that the development performance received positive responses, especially in the health sector. The education sector has not improved much since previous years except for Sorong City, while the infrastructure sector has

16 “5 Juta Lebih Penduduk Papua dan Papua Barat Terdaftar BPJS Kesehatan,” Kabar Papua, November 26, 2019, <https://kabarpapua.co>

17 Berita Please, “Is It True the Highest Human Development Index Across Melanesian Countries is in East Indonesia?,” YouTube video, posted December 15, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com>

improved except for Wamena City. The findings above illustrate that the need for more government attention to the education sector in West Papua. The positive performance of the government must be improved from time to time. Simultaneously, areas that are considered to have less impact on society need to be evaluated so that both physical and non-physical development can run simultaneously.

Table of Increasing Positive Perceptions of Government Development Performance 2016-2018

Sampling District	Health	Education	Infrastructure
Sorong	Improved	Improved	Improved
Wamena	Improved	No Improvement	Improved
Yahukimo	Improved	No Improvement	Improved
Yalimo	Improved	No Improvement	Improved
Merauke	Improved	No Improvement	Improved
Jayapura	Improved	No Improvement	Improved

(Source: wawancara)

The subject of development must touch various aspects of life, such as the economy, politics, socio-culture, environment, and security. Therefore, development goals are not merely physical aspects such as infrastructure but also the quality of human resources. The recent acceleration of development in West Papua has positively impacted society, although matters related to increasing resources and basic human rights still need more attention.

Especially in infrastructure development, where many parties can directly see and feel the results. The perceived progress of infrastructure has left a positive impression on the community regarding the development performance carried out by the Jokowi administration.

DEVELOPMENT IN NUMBERS

The prolonged conflict did wonders of slowing the development in West Papua. For this reason, the Jokowi administration has taken a multidimensional approach, such as economic, infrastructure, social, cultural, and security approaches. The government does not prioritize one approach and ignore others because they are connected.

Although the Special Autonomy Fund's economic approach appears dominant, the Jokowi administration has not neglected other important factors.

The Special Autonomy Fund makes a real contribution to the development of West Papua in general. Several developments in numbers divided into several dimensions show the following results:

- 1. Cultural Identity:** The cultural identity of the Papuan people continues to be preserved and recognized. The government encourages the creation of cultural festivals and introduces Papuan culture abroad.
- 2. Economy:** The increasing Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of Papua and West Papua Provinces from year to year has resulted in a reduction in unemployment and poverty rates.
- 3. Infrastructure:** Road infrastructure shows improvement, while bridge infrastructure continues to grow.
- 4. Technology Access:** Papua province has the lowest level of technology access. However, the government has also built the telecommunication and internet network called East Palapa Ring so that access to information and communication can be integrated.
- 5. Education:** School enrollment and literacy rates in Papua and West Papua Provinces continue to increase.
- 6. Health:** Life expectancy in the Provinces of Papua and West Papua shows an increase.

Overall, development based on cultural identity, economy, infrastructure, access to technology, education, and health shows a very positive improvement. The Jokowi administration has indeed lived up to its promise to develop West Papua and provided tangible results.

1. Cultural Identity

The Papuan people need to recognize their cultural identity because of the prolonged discrimination due to the racial differences that are so striking between the Melanesian race and most Indonesian people who have a Malay race. The integration of West Papua into an integral part of Indonesia is not accompanied by cultural assimilation between Papuan cultural identity and Indonesian identity.

Facing this reality, the Jokowi administration continues to rebuild recognition of Papuan culture to remain protected as the influence of globalization enters the region. The Jokowi administration developed an approach by recognizing the rights of minorities, which gives Papuans the ability to express their cultural rights and identity.

Not only that, but the Jokowi administration also introduced Papuan identity or culture both nationally and internationally. In the national scope, it recently held the

development and utilization of Papuan culture through the Creative Arts Festival “Bunga Rampai Papua Culture Under The Moonlight” in collaboration with the Indonesian American Friendship Association (PIIA) The Indonesian Jesuit Alumni Association. The event featured the indigenous Papuan culture of traditional dance, traditional culinary, craft, fine arts, and Papuan regional music.



Picture of the festival “Bunga Rampai Papua Culture Under The Moonlight” on the Canisius Yard of Kolese Menteng Raya, Central Jakarta (11/21/2019) (Source:kebudayaan.kemdikbud.go.id)

In the international sphere, the Ministry of Education and Culture proposes that noken (woven bags derived from tree fibers) be recognized internationally as the Papuan people’s cultural heritage. These efforts paid off with the designation of Noken as a world cultural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on December 4, 2012, in Paris, France. Besides, on 9 November 2018, musical arts from Eastern Indonesia, especially West Papua, were featured in the Friendship Concert at the Opera House, Wellington, Australia. The agenda initiated by the Indonesian Embassy in Wellington aims to provide an understanding of the world that Indonesia and West Papua are part of the Pacific community.

Furthermore, West Papua is also known for its football players. Many Indonesian football stars were born in Papua’s land, including Rully Nere, Elie Aiboy, Eduard Ivakdalam, Christian Warobay, Titus Bonai Oktavianus Maniani, and Boaz Solossa.

Image of Friendship Concert at the Opera House, Wellington, Australia. (11/16/2018) (Source:tribunnews.com)





*Persipura vs Vanuatu football match at the Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium (7/15/2019)
(Source: bolasport.com)*

On June 15, 2019, Indonesia, together with Vanuatu, held a friendly match. Indirectly, Indonesia wants to show Vanuatu that all this time, the “black pearl” has played a significant role in the world of Indonesian sports. It’s not like Vanuatu’s accusation that their brothers, Papuans who are Melanesian, are not allowed to express themselves.

In recent years, festivals that promote Papuan culture have been held in several cities and are set to become a yearly routine. The cultural festival in West Papua aims to preserve and introduce the cultural heritage of the Papuan people to the world.

Table of Festivals in Papua and West Papua Provinces

No	Festival Name	Year Started	Regency / City
1.	Asmat Cultural Festival	1981	Asmat Regency, Papua
2.	Baliem Valley Cultural Festival	1989	Jayawijaya Regency, Papua
3.	Lake Sentani Festival	2007	Jayapura City, Papua
4.	Humboldt Bay Festival	2008	Jayapura City, Papua
5.	Raja Ampat Maritime Festival	2009	Raja Ampat Regency, West Papua
6.	Wondama cultural festival	2017	Wondama Bay Regency, West Papua
7.	West Papua cultural arts festival	2019	Manokwari, West Papua



Some pictures of festivals in West Papua (Source:lintaspapua.com)



Baliem Valley Festival: Baliem Valley Festival in Wamena Regency, Papua, taking place August 6-8, 2015 (Source:travel.kompas.com)

Raja Ampat Maritime Festival: The colossal dance of the opening of the Raja Ampat Maritime Festival from the Mbilin Kayam studio which tells the story of the life of the Raja Ampat marine community (10/18/2017) (Source: travel.kompas.com)

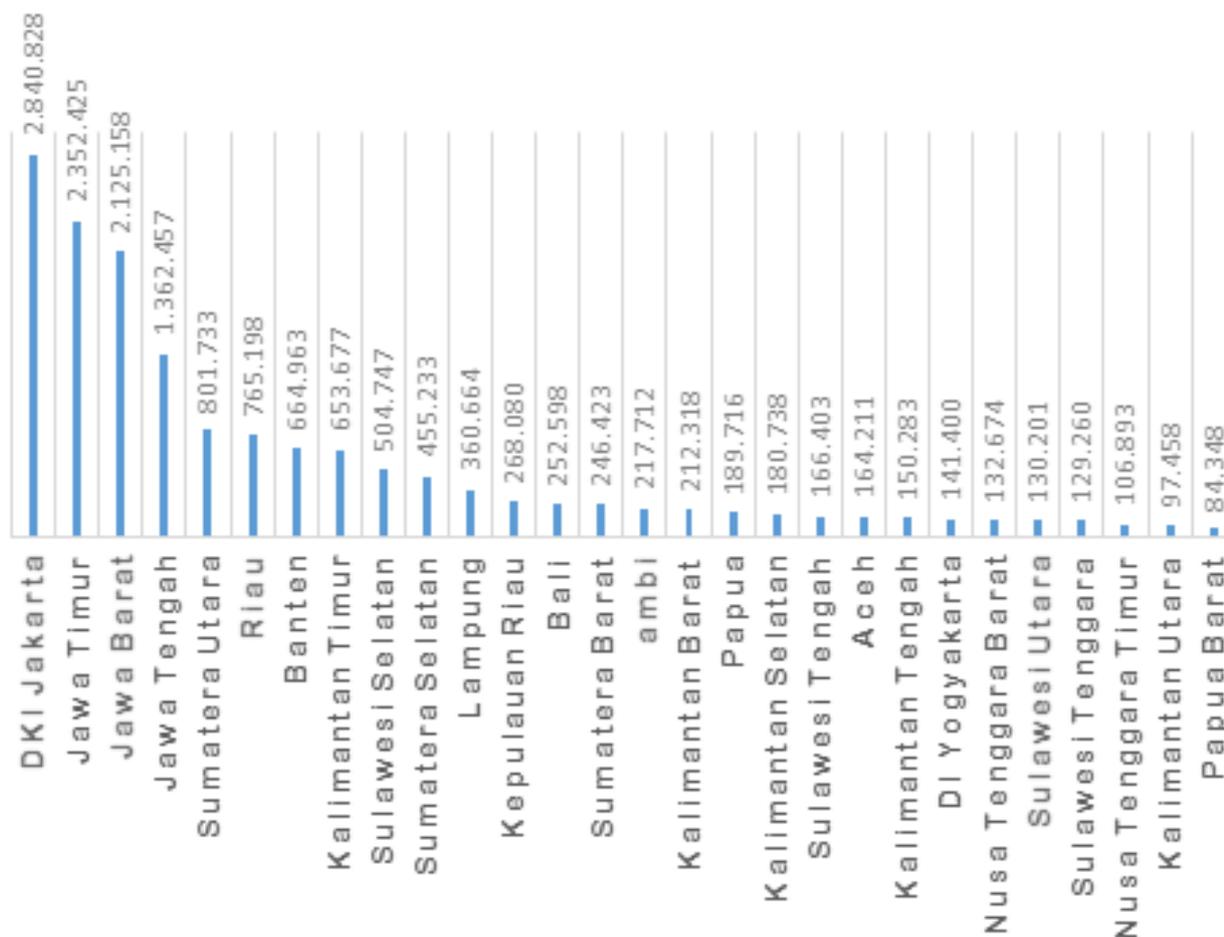
Cultural identity is the most important part of the Papuan people that should not be ignored because it is related to life's rights and basic values . The Jokowi administration's efforts in developing Papua by elevating local cultural identities show a progression from year to year. On various occasions, Papuan cultural identity has been introduced to audiences at the regional, national, and international levels.

2. Economy

One component in measuring regional economic growth is by referring to the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). Every year, the GRDP of Papua and West Papua provinces shows an increase. This has an indirect impact on the economic condition of West Papua, which in general shows a change for the better.

Papua and West Papua Provinces' contribution to national income in 2019 is in the 17th and 28th positions with a value of IDR 189 trillion and IDR 84 trillion from 34 Provinces in Indonesia. Furthermore, the GRDP of the two provinces shows a gradual increase every year, except in 2019, the GRDP of Papua Province shows a decline, although not significant. Most of the region's income comes from the mining and processing industries, especially coal, construction and forestry, fisheries, and agriculture.

GRDP Graph at the Current Price per Province (billion rupiah), 2019



(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics)

Table of GRDP at the Current Price of Papua and West Papua Provinces 2015-2019 (IDR trillion)

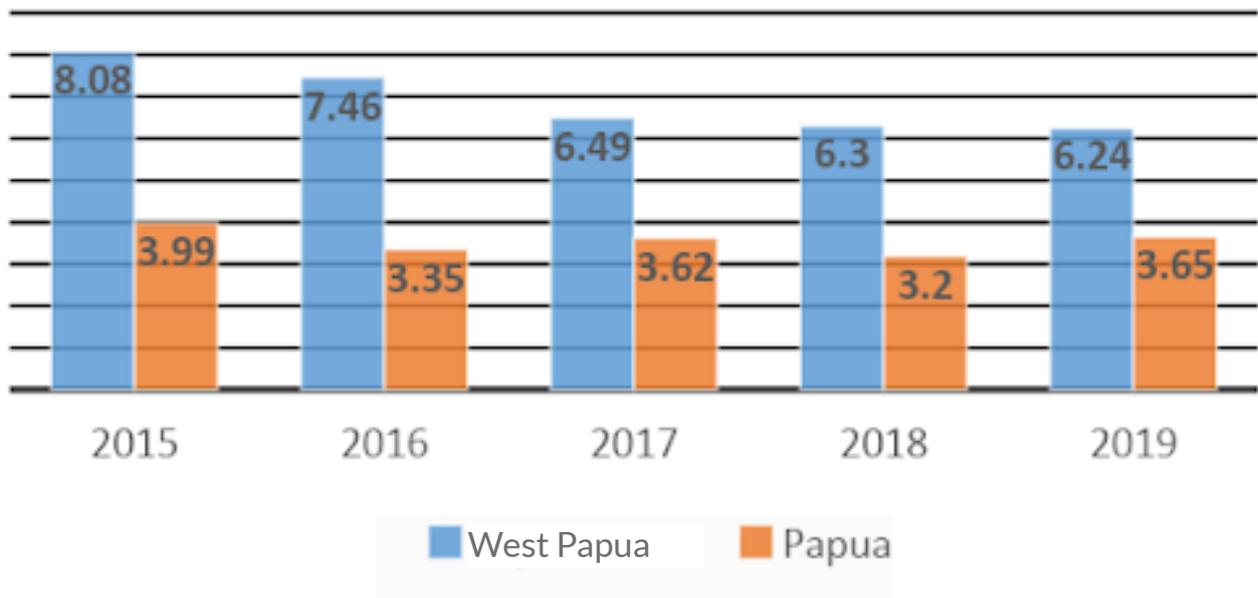
Province	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Papua	150	173	188	210	189
West Papua	62	66	71	79	84

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics)

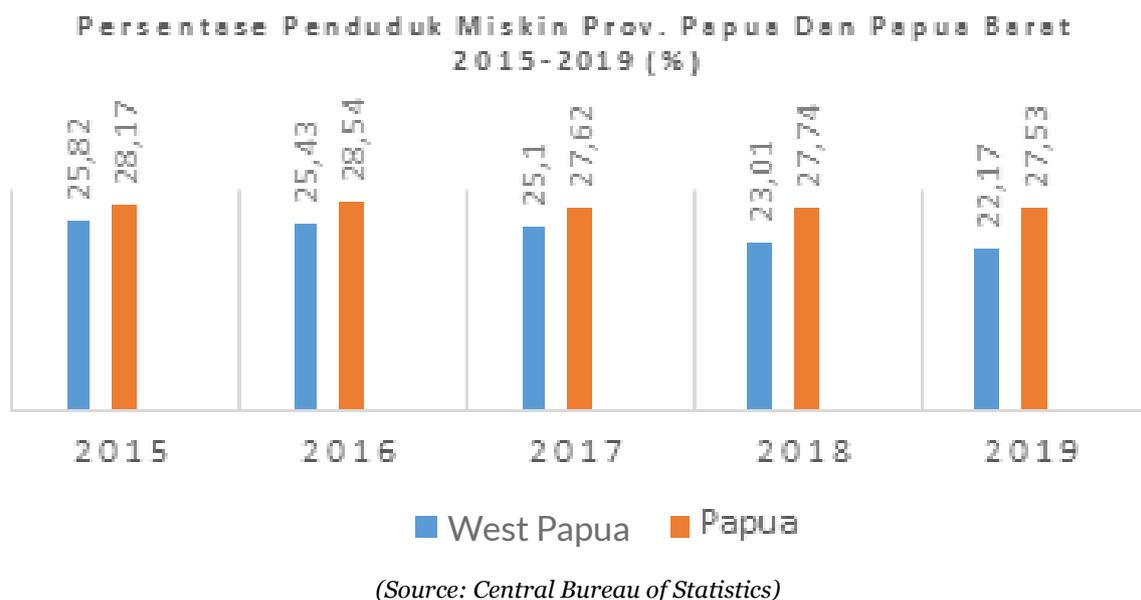
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In the 2015-2019 period, the average percentage of unemployment in Indonesia was 5%. The Open Unemployment Rate is an indication of the population with working-age categories that are included in the unemployment group. Groups included in the Open Unemployment Rate category are residents who are not working and looking for work, residents who do not work and prepare for businesses, residents who do not work and do not look for work because they feel they cannot get work, and finally are residents who are not working, are not looking for work, have already accepted into the workplace but not yet working (National Labor Force Survey).

Graph of Open Unemployment Rate by Province (%)



Percentage Graph of Poor Population in Papua and West Papua Provinces 2015-2019 (%)



Many poor people in Papua dan West Papua provinces are a collective work for the government, especially the regional government, which has full authority in regulating the Papuan people's welfare. Regional policies are structured so that indigenous Papuans' welfare increases and can be involved in economic development. These policies include affirmative action and also Governor Regulation Number 14 of 2019 concerning the Procurement of Goods and Services in Papua and West Papua. Both policies aim to accelerate welfare development for indigenous Papuans by providing opportunities and prioritizing indigenous Papuans in various opportunities.

Economic growth in the provinces of Papua and West Papua, in general, shows a positive number. The increase in GRDP indirectly resulted in a decrease in the open unemployment rate and the two provinces' poor population.

3. Infrastructure

It cannot be denied that infrastructure development in West Papua costs a lot. One of the projects that cost the most is Trans-Papua road construction. The Trans-Papua road is a national road connecting the provinces of Papua and West Papua.

The condition of national roads in the two provinces in the 2017-2018 period continued to improve. The data above shows that repair of damaged or "unstable" national roads in Papua is faster than in West Papua.

Table of Condition of National Road Length for Papua and West Papua Provinces in 2017 and 2018

2017					
Province	Total Length (km)	Done		Not Done	
		Km	%	Km	%
West Papua	1.326,39	1.043,49	78,67	282,89	21,33
Papua	2.636,79	2.149,99	81,54	486,74	18,46

2018					
Province	Total Length (km)	Done		Not Done	
		Km	%	Km	%
West Papua	1.326,39	1.068,66	80,57	257,73	19,43
Papua	2.636,79	2.306,5	87,47	330,29	12,53

(Sumber: Ministry of Public Development and Public Housing)



The Holtekamp Bridge is proof of Jokowi's commitment to Papua (Source: jabar.tribunnews.com)

In the 2016-2018, the two provinces' national bridges continued to increase to 180 km in West Papua and 4,713 km in Papua Province even though there is an increase in the "collapsed" bridges in Papua Province. Many villages in West Papua can finally enjoy electricity.

In October 2016, President Jokowi inaugurated six new power plants, including;

1. 2x10 MW Orya Genyem Hydro Power Plant
2. 2x1 25 MW Prafi Mini Hydro Power Plant
3. The 70 kilovolt Genyem-Waena-Jayapura High-Voltage Air Line along the 174.6 kilo meter circuit
4. High Voltage Air Line 70 kilo Volt Holtekamp-Jayapura along 43.4 kilometers of circuit
5. Waena-Sentani Substation 20 Megavolt Ampere
6. Jayapura Substation 20 Megavolt Ampere

Table of National Bridge Length based on 2016 and 2018 Conditions

(Sumber:Ministry of Public Development and Public Housing)

2016						
Province	National bridge length condition (km)					Total
	Good	Crumbling	Light Damage	Heavy Damage	Collapse	
West Papua	7.235	1.306	683	464	690	10.529
Papua	7.018	5.119	3431,2	3.941	280	22.699

2018						
Province	National bridge length condition (km)					Total
	Good	Crumbling	Light Damage	Heavy Damage	Collapse	
West Papua	9746,6	334,8	249	298,3	80	10.708,7
Papua	14633,8	5469,6	3431,2	1273	2605,5	27.412,1



Officers of State Electricity Company (PT PLN) Main Unit for Papua and West Papua Region (UIWP2B) connect electricity to areas in Papua. The electrification ratio for villages in Papua and West Papua is expected to reach 100 percent by 2020. (Source: petrominer.com)

4. Access to Technology

Access to information technology in Indonesia is quite slow because many areas outside Java do not have adequate network access. Today, cellular telephone coverage has covered almost all regions in Indonesia. The importance of network equity is to support economic growth, education, health, and others. All aspects of life in globalization cannot be separated from technology, especially the internet.

To measure the development of information and communication technology and find out the digital gap between regions, Indonesia uses standard measures such as the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Development Index. In Indonesia itself, the regions with the lowest ICT Development Index are in the eastern region, especially Papua Province. The West Papua Province has experienced a category shift from low to medium ICT Development Index from 4.84 in 2017 to 5.07 in 2018.

There are only a few network providers available in West Papua. Until now, there are three providers, such as Telkomsel, XL, and Indosat. Telkomsel is the only provider most widely used by the people because it covers even the remotest area. The limited number of network operators means that operator tariffs are quite high compared to other regions in Indonesia. The limited network operators in West Papua are primarily caused by the geographic conditions that are mostly still covered in forests, the population that is only concentrated in big cities, and the high maintenance costs. As a consequence, ICT in West Papua has quite a gap with other regions.



Dr Naomi Netty Howay, an inspiring woman from the east who uses technology and information to establish the Bunda Naomi Foundation that provides free health assistance to poor women in Maybrat Regency. (Sumber:porosjakarta.com)



What will 2020 bring for East Indonesia?

In **2020**, infrastructure development will soon start to advance Eastern Indonesia. What project will be the **highlight** of the year?

1. Railway system is ready to be built!

The construction of the first phase of **railway infrastructure** in West Papua from **Sorong to Manokwari** will begin soon this year, along **75 kilometers** of a total of **500 kilometers**.



2. Easier tourist access with 10 new airports

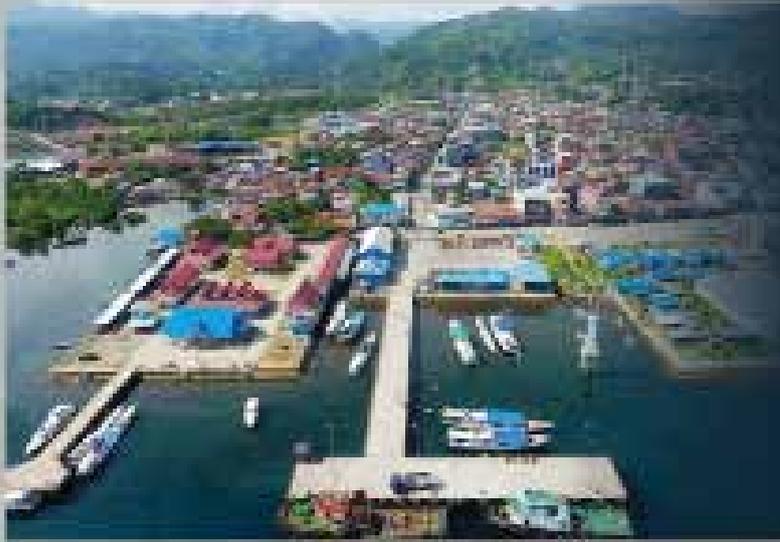
6 airports in Papua Province

- Ewer Airport
- Kapi Airport
- Ilaga Airport
- Nabire Baru Airport
- Oksibi Airport
- Mopah Airport

4 airports in West Papua Province

- Randani Manokwari Airport
- Waisai Raja Ampat Airport
- Wasior Baru Airport
- New Siberu Fakfak Airport

Source: emindonesia.com, indonesiabali.id, transportasi.id, nasidnews.com



3. Supporting local economy with 6 new seaports

5 ports in Papua Province

- Depapra Port
- Nabire Port
- Pormako Port
- Moorish Port
- Serui Port

1 port in West Papua Province

- Kaimana Port

4. Land Transportation Facilities

- Entrop Bus Terminal in Jayapura and
- The water bus dock at Lake Sentani
- Bus and water bus facilities
- The State Cross-border Post Facility (PLBN) in Skouw



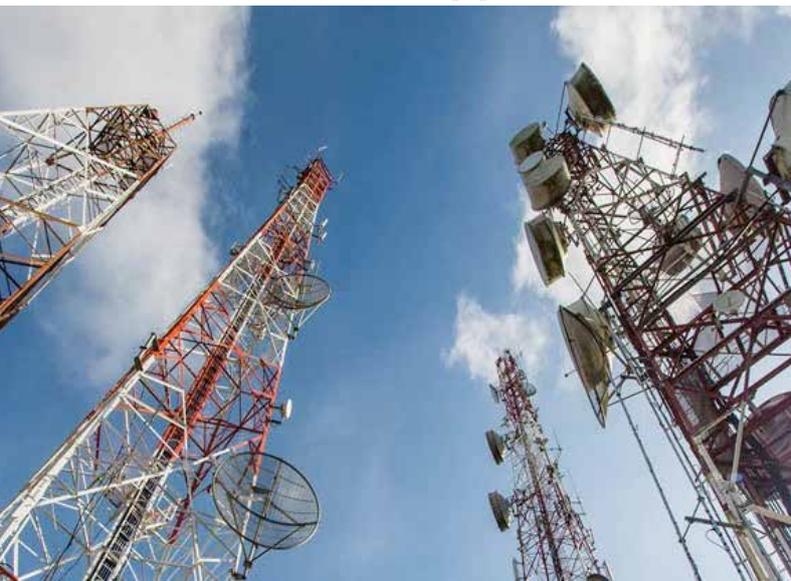
5. Development in the Arfak Mountains

- 139 kilometers of the Arfak-Mandokwari Mountains road
- Inai Airport Development

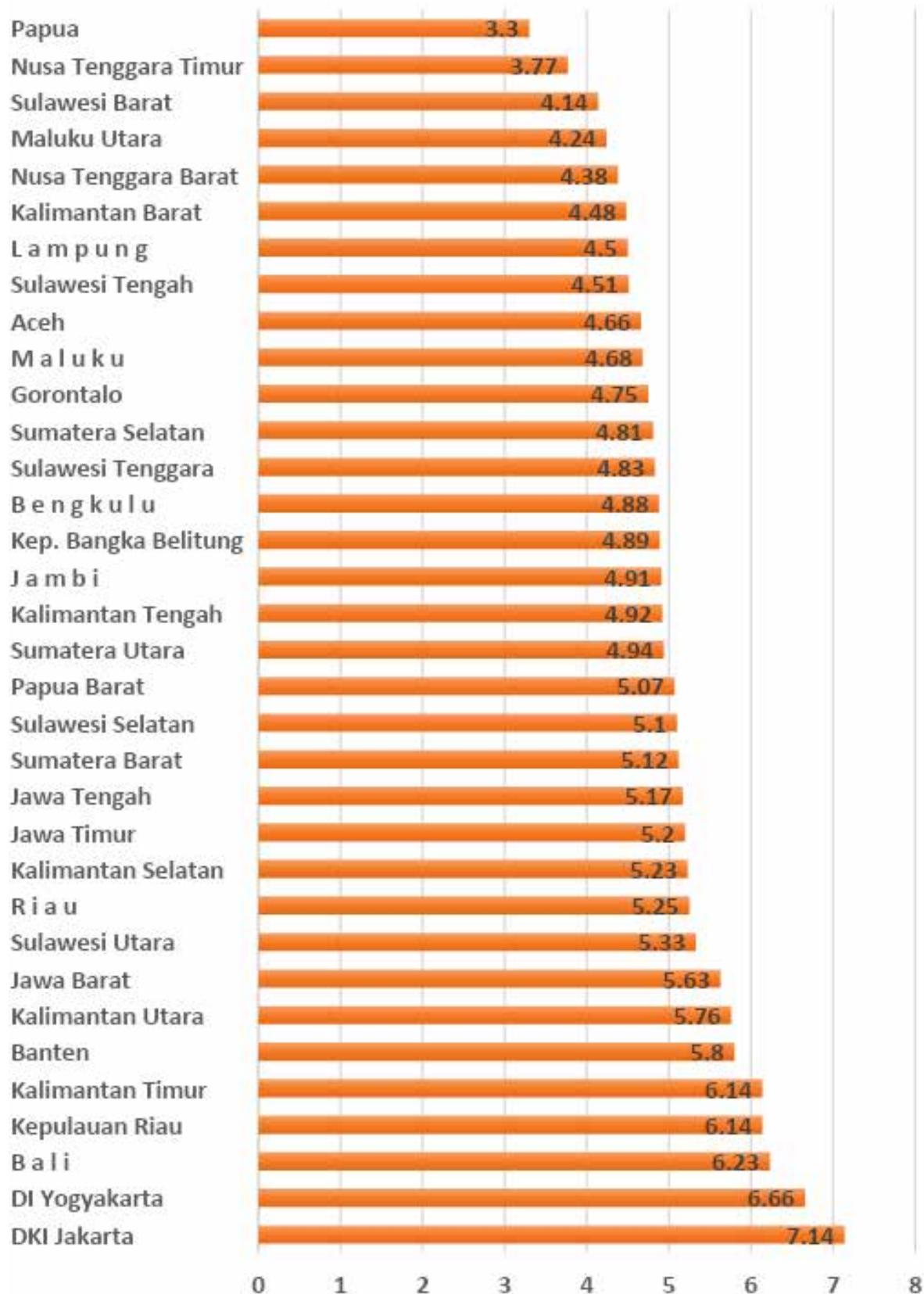
Source: tribunnews.com, indonesiabekid.id, transportasi.co, keadilannews.com

*XL-Indosat-3 Internet Network in West Papua.
(Source: www.zonapapua.com)*

*Palapa Satellite Illustration
(Source: republika.co.id)*



ICT Development Index Values by Province in 2018



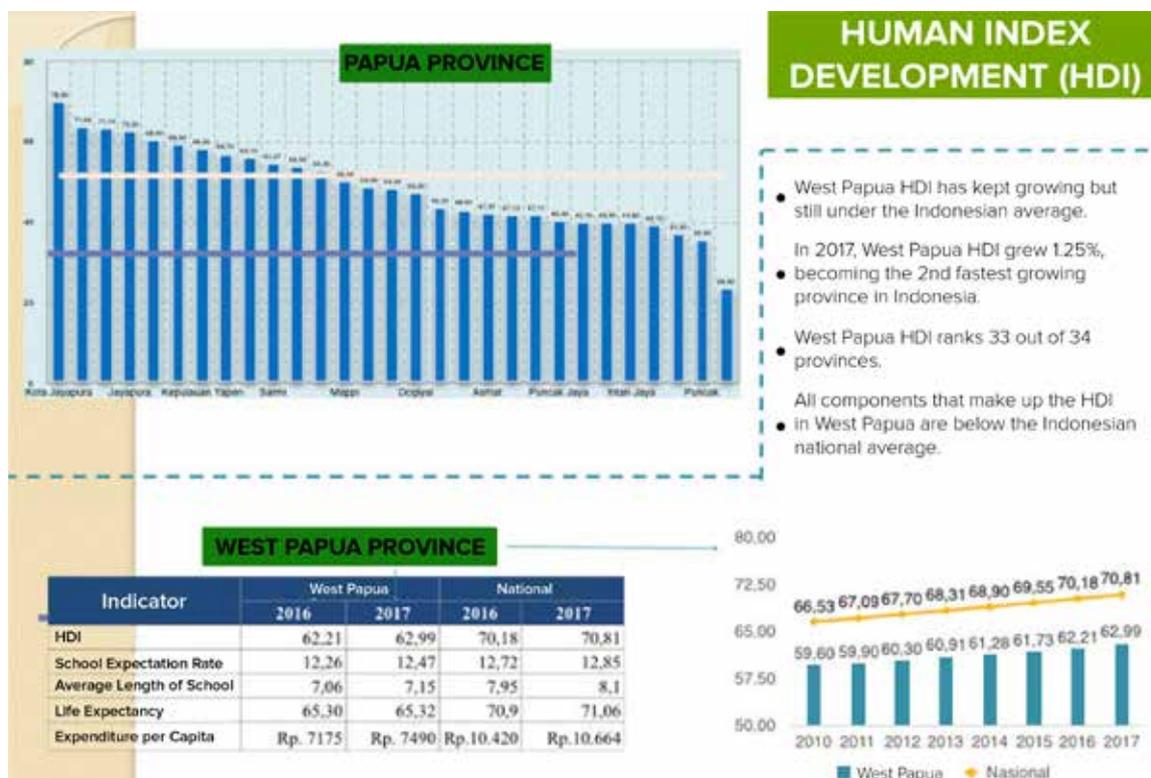
(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics)

Several cities and districts in West Papua, especially those in remote areas, still use 3G and even 2G while other areas can access the 4G network. This imbalance in technology has an indirect impact on development in general.

In 2016, the Jokowi administration determined the Palapa Ring or national fiber-optic network construction as a national strategic project based on Presidential Regulation Number 3 of 2016. The Palapa Ring development aims to integrate the existing network with the new network in eastern Indonesia or the East Palapa Ring and as the backbone for the national telecommunications system. The East Palapa Ring is built with a length of 4,450 km. Through this network, access to information and communication is expected to be felt evenly throughout Indonesia, especially eastern Indonesia. As of September 2020, the construction of the East Palapa Ring has been running 78.5%¹⁸.

5. Education

Apart from infrastructure development, human resource development through education is equally important. There is a close relationship between development and education, where development in the education sector will support development in other sectors. The Jokowi administration has not neglected the importance of human resource development, especially in the education sector. As regions with the lowest literacy and school enrollment rates in Indonesia, the Provinces of Papua and West Papua continue to improve their human resources quality.



Description: Papua and West Papua HDI infographics (Source: merdeka.com)

18 “Palapa Ring Paket Timur” Kerjasama Pemerintah Dengan Badan Usaha Kemenkeu RI, kpbu.djppr.kemenkeu.go.id



Elementary Papuan Students (Source: tribunews.com)

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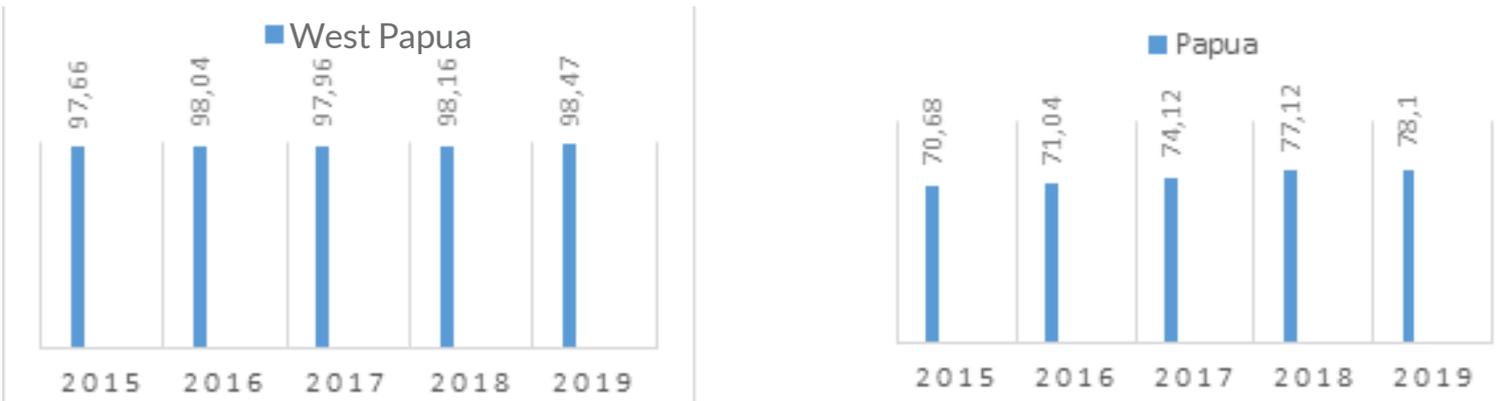
Table of School Participation Rates Papua and West Papua Province 2015-2019 (%)

West Papua Province					
Age	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
13-15	96.58	96.86	96.92	97.08	96.58
16-18	79.99	80.28	80.60	80.81	81.49
19-24	79.99	31.45	31.92	30.84	31.48

Papua Province					
Age	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
13-15	78.14	78.86	79.09	80.00	80.13
16-18	61.96	62.07	63.35	63.48	63.50
19-24	22.55	23.75	24.57	23.37	22.91

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics)

Graph of Population Literacy Rate Age 15-59 Years in Papua and West Papua Provinces 2015-2019



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

Unlike West Papua, the literacy rate and enrollment rate in Papua Province are arguably the lowest in Indonesia. The Jokowi administration’s efforts in developing the education sector have resulted in an increasing school participation rate, especially in the 2015-2019 period. Likewise, the literacy rate also shows an increase in the same period. This indicates a correlation between school participation and literacy rates where the increase in school participation has an indirect impact on increasing literacy rates in Papua province.

6. Health

In the health sector, the Jokowi administration has committed to improving access to health in Papua and West Papua continuously. One of the indicators used to assess health quality in an area is by looking at life expectancy. Although people’s life expectancy in Papua is low, this figure shows an increase from year to year.



*Task Force Infantry Battalion Raider 300/Bjw routinely provide door to door health services.
(Source: altadurinusantara.com)*

Life Expectancy Rate for Papua and West Papua Provinces based on Gender (2015-2019)

West Papua Province					
Gender	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	63.31	63.32	63.34	63.57	64.01
Female	67.15	67.16	67.19	67.43	67.78

West Papua Province					
Gender	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	63.30	63.44	63.45	63.67	63.87
Female	66.97	66.99	67.00	67.22	67.51

Source: Ministry of Health

The government also pays attention to human development, especially through health, education, and socio-culture. Without the support of qualified human resources and the respect for local culture, the development will fail.

The data above shows how the life of the Papuan people has progressed. The development has made it easier for Papuans to meet basic needs and accessibility. The increase in development in recent years shows Jokowi's concern for the Papuan people.

Therefore, it is also important for the Papuan people to be involved and take advantage of the various facilities provided by the central and regional governments to improve the quality of life. Qualified resources needed in West Papua are none other than for Papuan people to manage their own areas for welfare and improve the quality of life.

Jayapura Regional Public Hospital (RSUD) continues to be encouraged, starting from physical development, environmental management, to improving the quality of health services for the realization of a medical tourism hospital at Jayapura Regional Public Hospital. In the picture is the condition of Jayapura Hospital outpatient installation. (Source: bogopapua.com)



HUMAN BASED DEVELOPMENT

In human-based development, the Jokowi Administration has reduced unemployment, improved the economy, and introduced Papuan identity. However, several important things must be highlighted:

1. Indigenous Papuans Needs

Development and improvement efforts for the welfare of the Papuan people are still the main problem to date. The allocation of special autonomy funds to empower the people's economy has not been successful. It has even created new problems. Unclear management and the inability to allocate special autonomy funds are the main causes of development failure. This is coupled with the condition of the Papuan people who have different cultures that require different approaches. Development requires a special approach because it cannot be generalized from one region to another¹⁹. Special Autonomy, which was intended to improve the quality of life, especially in fulfilling the Papuan people's basic rights, is still far from expectations. Therefore, how development can adapt to the natural conditions and characteristics of the Papuan people and how the results can meet life's needs must be classified by the parties concerned.



Potential "birdwatching" tourist destinations in Tambrau Regency, West Papua, have been in great demand by foreign tourists (tourists). (Source: jakpusnews.pikiran-rakyat.com)

19 Elisabeth, A. et al, 2005. Agenda Dan Potensi Damai Di Papua. Jakarta: LIPI - The Friedrich Ebert Foundation - the West Papua, p.151.



Tambrau Conservation (Source: Travellink Indonesia)

On the one hand, the news in West Papua mostly focuses on politics and security issues. This indirectly instills thoughts in the public's minds and the central government that the main problems there only revolve around these two problems. In fact, there are other dimensions, such as socio-culture and the fulfillment of basic rights, that have not received significant attention. On the other hand, the government is actually carrying out large-scale developments such as building roads, national bridges, sports buildings, etc. Large-scale development is intended for the long term so that the impacts and benefits cannot be felt as early as possible. However, Papuan people feel that the development carried out often does not care about their life needs.

Basically, the Papuan people only want their basic rights protected, sufficient clothing and food, and people living on Papua's land can respect each other. The government has to take a different approach because each region in West Papua has its own problems to solve.

It is necessary to look at the different needs of each region. For this reason, the authors classify them into 3 main zones, 1) undeveloped areas, 2) new and developing areas, and 3) developed districts/cities.

Underdeveloped Areas

Most of the underdeveloped areas are located in the central highlands or the heart of Papua's island, including the districts of Yalimo, Yahukimo, Nduga, Lanny Jaya, and Tolikara, Mamberamo Tengah, and Puncak Jaya. Mountains surround these isolated areas' geographical contour and far from economic activities. These areas are far from development because transportation access is quite difficult. Most of the goods are imported from big cities in West Papua, such as Jayapura. Economic activities still depend heavily on small retail trade and agriculture, most of which are consumed for their own needs.

The basic needs of people living in this area include basic human needs such as clothing, food, and shelter. The health sector's need is equally important given the HIV/AIDS problem, and the death rate caused by malaria is so high in West Papua. Besides, special attention is needed in education, especially for tutors or teachers assigned there: Cultural, geographic, and weather conditions, present challenges for teachers, especially those outside the region. The inability to adapt to new situations can hinder the teaching and learning process.

New and developing areas

One of the developing areas where infrastructure development has just started is Wamena Regency. Districts/cities categorized as new or developing need special attention and management because this area is undergoing a transition. On the one hand, basic needs such as clothing, food, shelter, education, and health are still the main focus. On the other hand, the government needs to guide socialization and community-based empowerment so that the Papuan people are not left behind and can follow their region's development. The empowerment program that is introduced will have to adapt to the geographical and socio-cultural conditions, including the local community's customs.



Wamena Airport is one of the Modern Infrastructures in Wamena (Source: twitter.com/kemenhub)

Developed Areas

Districts/cities included in the developed category have adequate infrastructure facilities, such as Sorong, Jayapura, and Merauke. The government can carry out sustainable development by empowering the community's economy based on local potentials such as agriculture, tourism, and home industries.

One example of a community-based program is community-based tourism that has been implemented in Raja Ampat Regency. As an area known for its marine tourism, the local government needs to involve the community in managing their own tourist areas. The government needs to carry out socialization and guidance to put forward business fields that show more local culture. This community involvement is significant. Besides being able to increase income and welfare, they also act as supervisors to maintain the culture and preserve nature to create sustainable development for future generations. In this region, community empowerment aims to increase productivity and competitiveness so that Papuans can compete in various fields of work.

The government needs to evaluate and remap the development program based on the local community's socio-cultural conditions. So far, the government's development is deemed not on target because it ignores the main needs of the Papuan people. As a result, there was a feeling that the central government was not on their side and that the presence of the Special Autonomy Fund aimed at improving the quality of life for indigenous Papuans was in vain. It is no longer a matter of equitable development but development based on local priority needs that can actually improve the welfare of the people there.



The Papua Bangkit Stadium in Jayapura City, Papua Province, was built to international standards and will be the 2nd best stadium in Indonesia. (Source: medcom.id)



The interior of the Papua Bangkit Stadium in Jayapura City, Papua Province, can accommodate up to 40,000 spectators and has special facilities for people with disabilities. (Source: jawapos.com)

Zone	Conditions	Main Needs
<p>An undeveloped area.</p> <p>This area is mostly located in the Central Highlands of Papua.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Isolated areas with geographic contours surrounded by mountains and far from economic activities ● Transportation access there is quite difficult. ● Economic activities are still very dependent on small retail trade and agriculture, most of which are consumed for their own needs. 	<p>Clothing, food and shelter.</p>
<p>New and developing areas.</p> <p>One example of a developing area is Wamena.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of public facilities such as airports is already underway. ● Transportation access can be reached either by land or air ● Economic activity starts to increase 	<p>Basic needs such as clothing, food and shelter are still needed. However, guidance through socialization and community-based empowerment must be a concern.</p>
<p>Areas that have developed include big cities such as Jayapura, Manokwari, Sorong, Merauke and so on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Infrastructure facilities are very adequate. ● Economic activity is quite high 	<p>Community economic empowerment based on local potentials such as agriculture, tourism and home industries.</p>

2. Integration of Development for indigenous Papuans and migrants

The face of West Papua has changed due to the Dutch colonial legacy program in transmigration, which was continued in the Sukarno and Suharto era. Because of the transmigration program, people from outside the land of Papua or newcomers flocked to look for business opportunities. Migrants have indirectly boosted the economy in West Papua. Unfortunately, the increasing economic growth is not in line with the increasing welfare of indigenous Papuans. Economic growth has not touched society down to the lowest level. Even today, Papua is the province with the highest poverty rate in Indonesia, with 20% in the last five years²⁰. As a result, there is an obvious economic disparity between migrants and indigenous Papuans.

²⁰ See Chart of Percentage of Poor Population Papua and West Papua Provinces 2015-2019 (%)

In fact, the main problem lies in the unequal competition between migrants and local people. Armed with the skills and knowledge they have, newcomers can reach business opportunities by setting up shops and buildings that are more feasible and are involved in various economic activities. At the same time, the indigenous community only trades in the overhang or market aisles. This kind of scene can be found in traditional markets in various regions in West Papua²¹. Also, the presence of large companies presents new problems. Indigenous people are no longer confronted with migrants, but large companies often use security forces to deal directly with residents. The non-involvement of local communities in business affairs and natural resource management has sparked protests among local communities.



Yane Nari, a coconut shell craftsman who deals with waste that generates profits (Source: liputan6.com)

Basically, migrants, including companies in the land of Papua, had a positive and negative impact. The negative impacts include environmental damage caused by the company's arbitrary management of natural resources. Besides, the selfishness of immigrants makes life inequality even more unbalanced. However, migrants' presence has also positively impacted, such as opening up jobs and growing economic activity in various regions.



One of the modern chocolate processors in Ransiki, Arfak Mountains, West Papua (Source: travelmaker.id)

21 Ibid., 145

The migrants have inspired many locals to follow in their footsteps, for example, by entering the trade and services sector. Many indigenous Papuans have since pursued these two fields, and not a few of them have achieved success and empowered their fellow Papuans. For example, Markus Kabes is an entrepreneur in the automotive or repair service sector, and Paulinus Yarok works in laying hens who also learn from other non-Papuan breeders. The service sector, especially automotive and chicken breeders, is still a rare business sector in local communities.

The growth of the business community and indigenous Papuan entrepreneurs is proof that many locals have entered the business world. One of the organizations that house Papuan entrepreneurs is the Kamar Adat Pengusaha Papua (KAPP, Papuan Entrepreneurs Customary Chamber) or the Kamar Dagang dan Industri (KADIN, Trade and Industry Chamber) of indigenous Papuans. KAPP's existence aims to accommodate, protect, and protect Papuan traditional child entrepreneurs under the Special Autonomy Law (Lipi, tt)²². Most Papuans still think that becoming Pegawai Negeri Sipil (PNS, Civil Servants) can guarantee their lives rather than struggling in other fields such as business. This way of thinking is one reason why Papuans are hesitant to enter and cultivate other fields, especially business, ignoring the fact that Papua's land is an auspicious place to start a business. This condition is exacerbated by the low quality of human resources and skills, making it difficult for indigenous Papuans to be accepted to work.



Ransiki 72% is a partnership collaboration between the West Papua Provincial Government, South Manokwari Regency Government, Pipiltin Cocoa, Cokran Farmers' Cooperative "Eiber Suth", and the Green Trade Initiative Foundation (YIDH). (Source: lifestyle.kompas.com)

West Papua Deputy Governor Mohamad Lakotani (below, third from left) attending the launch of the 72% Cocoa Ransiki Pipiltin in Central Jakarta. (Source: lifestyle.kompas.com)

To overcome this problem, it is necessary to have the government create more empowerment programs involving local communities. The government needs to support the Papuan people engaged in business or services by providing funding or taking a partnership-based approach in various government projects.

22 Joni Haluk "Merintis Kekuatan Pengusaha Asli Papua" LIPI, Available on: <http://politik.lipi.go.id>

Furthermore, migrants who have businesses in West Papua are also encouraged to pay more attention to the Papuan people's traditional life instead of merely pursuing economic gain. The role of migrants is very significant in advancing local communities and vice versa.

3. Human Centered Design

The government has made various efforts, such as the development approach, but these efforts are still unable to win Papuans' hearts truly. This is due to the different meaning of development between the central government, regional governments, and the Papuan people. The central government views development using a political perspective and a security approach. These efforts seem to ignore the human element, which does not solve the root of the problem. A large amount of development funds in West Papua has also not resolved the prolonged conflict. Poverty and the low quality of human resources are still the main problems today.

In the end, the Papuan people's future lays on their human development. The development gives freedom, not freedom in a political sense, but as a human being who is free to exercise basic rights based on culture, freedom from ignorance, oppression, discrimination, backwardness, etc. This development pattern places an increase in the quality of human resources as a measure of development success. This does not mean neglecting physical development such as the economy and infrastructure, but how both of them can increase Papuan human resources.



Develop Regional Potentials Through Inspirational Young Papua (Source: beritabaik.id)

The government should be able to harmonize development based on the aspirations of the Papuan people. In this case, the local government is the one who best understands the main needs in West Papua. The approach taken to coastal communities is certainly different from mountain communities and between urban and rural communities. Development that ignores local Papuan needs has failed even before the start of development itself.

Furthermore, the government's responsibility here is to facilitate, encourage, and provide facilities and infrastructure to support multi-dimensional empowerment programs, such as education, health, natural resource management, preservation of identity and culture, training in various fields, etc. Because humans are the object and the subject, development must emphasize the regular and continuous transfer of knowledge, technology, and skills. What has been learned can be continued to create an independent, prosperous, and competitive society.

Human-centered development aims to realize the importance of their role in the environment or the surrounding community. The more knowledgeable the Papuan people are, the greater their role in taking on their region's roles and responsibilities. Indirectly this will support other development programs.

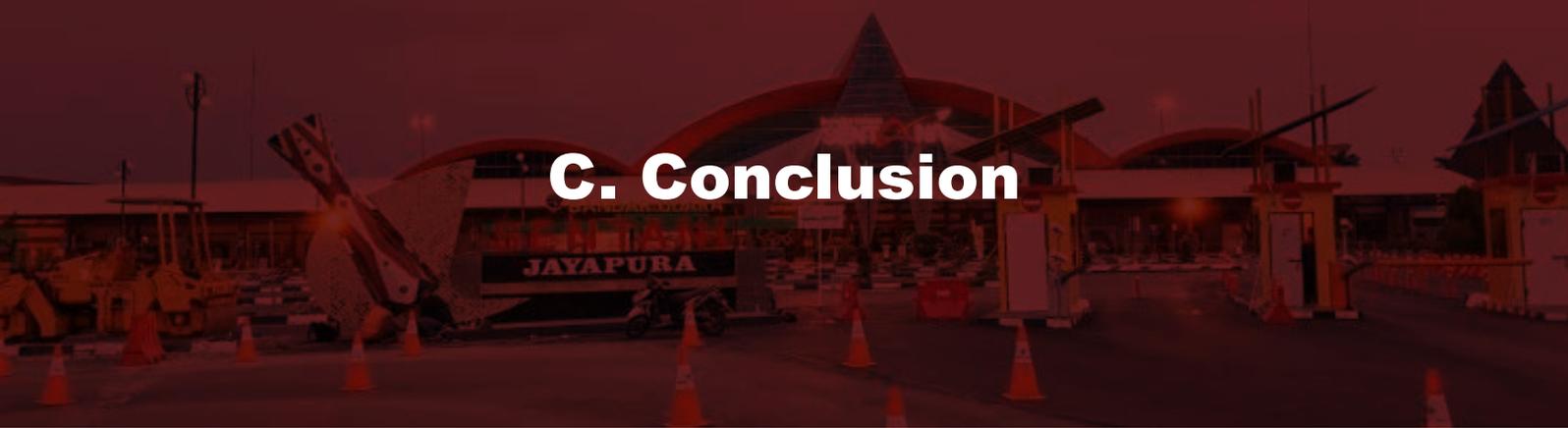


President Joko Widodo (left) and Minister of Public Works and Public Housing Basuki Hadimuljono (center) observe the Papuan Youth Creative Hub design model with the Papuan Special Presidential Staff, Billy Mambrasar (right). (Source: beritasatu.com)

4. Recommended Development Stages in West Papua

Based on the various explanations and data previously discussed, the authors recommend several development stages for West Papua.

- 1.) The government should remap the Papuan people's main needs based on each region's cultural and geographical conditions. In general, to see the Papuan people's main needs, it can be seen from the three zoning areas, namely undeveloped areas, new and developing regions, and developed areas. Each region has different needs and cannot be generalized. It is also necessary to view development from the perspective of the Papuan people themselves and not be dominated by the point of view of the central government.
- 2.) The government must increase community economic empowerment programs and provide funding for the Papuan people involved in the business world. Also, a partnership-based approach involves more Papuans in various government projects.
- 3.) The importance of placing human resource quality improvement as a measure of development success, but on the other hand, infrastructure-based development must run simultaneously.



C. Conclusion

The Papuan separatist group continues to spread propaganda and disinformation about West Papua through mass media. The goal is to attract the world's attention so that separatists continue to get funds from certain sympathizers. Although the relationship between Indonesia and Papua has improved, separatists are still using bad relations in the past to pressure the Indonesian government.

If we look deeper, the demand for these separatists does not represent the Papuan people who hope for a life of peace and prosperity. The acts of violence committed by the armed separatists while the development process was taking place had, in fact, hampered development for West Papua. So, is it correct to say that they are fighting for the Papuan people?

Separatist groups have never highlighted that the government's efforts and approach to West Papua continue to lead to a more positive relationship. Starting from the reign of Habibie to Jokowi, development policies in West Papua have never gone unnoticed by the government. This indicates that West Papua still hopes to become a region that has progressed together with other provinces in Indonesia. Especially during Jokowi's leadership, the peak of Indonesia's concern for the Papuan people was shown by the existence of a massive and evenly distributed development program, from cities to the rural areas.

Furthermore, Special Autonomy is proof that the government guarantees the rights and freedoms of the Papuan people to manage and advance their region. It means that Papuan development's progress lies in the hands of the native Papuans themselves, but there are still many shortcomings that need to be solved. The involvement of separatists who have used development funds, the lack of transparency in the use of funds, and corruption among the regional elite are still happening today, which is one of the many problems that hinder development. However, development should not be stopped because the progress of infrastructure and human resources in West Papua is clear evidence that local young generations can also develop their own regions.

The past conditions of a marginal and underdeveloped West Papua are no longer relevant today. Now the Papuan people are more advanced both in terms of infrastructure and human resources. The benefits of development are proven by statistical figures and are currently being enjoyed by the Papuan people. What the Papuan people are experiencing today is none other than another form of independence for them—freedom from ignorance, freedom from poverty, and freedom to live the Papuan people’s cultural life.

APPENDIX



APPENDIX 1

Free Papua Armed Separatists Crimes in the Last Few Years

The Free Papua Movement operating in West Papua has frequently been committing acts of violence against civilians and security forces. The Indonesian government does not condone separatist violence because it threatens and kills lives, thus categorizing this illegal act as a crime. As a result, Papuan armed separatists are given a special title, namely *Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata* (KKB; lit. armed criminal group). The following is a list of crimes committed by armed separatists in the last three years:

2018

According to the CNN Indonesia report, there were 26 cases of shootings by Free Papua armed separatists throughout 2018, which killed 29 people, 22 of whom were civilians, and the remaining 7 were security forces. The following is a timeline of the armed separatists' crimes in 2018:

February 12, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists shot Private First Class Sandy Novian when he shopped for the soldiers' logistics at Sinak Market, Puncak Regency, Papua Province.



(Source: bbc.com/indonesia)



(Source: radartasikmalaya.com)



TNI troops managed to free 20 elementary school contract teachers who were held hostage by armed groups in Aroanop Village, Tembagapura District, Mimika, Papua. (Source: merdeka.com)

April 6, 2018

A native Papuan from Arwanop Village, Tembagapura District, Mimika Regency, Papua Province, was evacuated after Papuan armed separatists took the entire village hostage.

June 12, 2018

A series of shootings occurred during the regional head election process in Nduga Regency, Papua Province.

June 16, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists killed a soldier from the Puncak Jaya Military Regional Command 1417 on a security patrol for Eid Holiday in Yambi District, Puncak Regency, Papua Province.

Free Papua armed separatists killed an Indonesian soldier in Yambi, Puncak, Papua on June 16, 2018. (Source: kompas.com)

Contact Shoot in the Yambi District of Papua, One TNI Soldier was killed

Kompas.com - 19/01/2019, 10:00 WIB

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June 22, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists shot at a commercial airplane Dimonim Air at Keneyam Airport, Nduga Regency, Papua Province, carrying 15 Indonesian soldiers to secure the regional head election process.



Free Papua armed separatists shot at a commercial airplane Dimonim Air at Keneyam Airport, Nduga, Papua on June 22, 2018. (Source: news.okezone.com)

June 25, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists shot at a chartered airplane Trigana Air at Keneyam Airport, Nduga Regency, Papua Province, carrying 15 Indonesian soldiers under the Papuan Police operational control.



Free Papua armed separatists shot at a chartered airplane Trigana Air at Keneyam Airport, Nduga, Papua, carrying 15 Indonesian soldiers under the Papuan Police operational control. (Source: papua.inews.id)

June 26, 2018

A policeman and three civilians were reported missing and then found dead during a regional head election in Nduga Regency, Papua Province.

The security forces escorted the regional head elections in Nduga, Papua, on April 10, 2009. (Source: bbc.com/indonesia)



One of the Free Papua armed separatists murder victims killed in the process of evacuation at Keneyam Airport, Nduga, Papua, on June 25, 2018. (Source: pilkada.tempo.co)





Free Papua armed separatists killed 3 civilians and injured a kid in Keneyam Airport, Nduga, Papua, after the armed group shot at the Trigana Air on June 25, 2018. (Source: pilkada.tempo.co)

July 6, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists shot Patrolman Rafindo Refli Sagala, guarding Keneyam Airport, Nduga Regency, Papua Province.

July 11, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists opened fire on a police helicopter flying to deliver food to Alguru Village, Keneyam District, Nduga Regency, Papua Province. As a result, there was a shootout between the security forces and armed separatists from 11:17 am to 5:00 pm East Indonesia Time.(GMT +9).



Patrolman Rafindo Refli Sagala was evacuated to Mimika by the security forces after he was shot at Keneyam Airport, Nduga, Papua on July 6, 2018. (Source: news.okezone.com)

The grieving families of the 3 civilians shot dead by the armed separatists in Keneyam Airport, Nduga, Papua on June 25, 2018, broke down when the victims' body arrived at Mozes Kilangin Airport, Timika, Papua, on the same day. (Source: beritasatu.com)



October 17, 2018

Security forces successfully evacuated 16 teachers and medical personnel held hostage by Free Papua armed separatists since October 3, 2018, in Mapenduma District, Nduga Regency, Papua Province.



Security forces in the process of evacuating 16 teachers and medical personnel held hostage by Free Papua armed separatists since October 3, 2018, in Mapenduma, Nduga, Papua. (Source: cnnindonesia.com)

November 2, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists shot dead a motorcycle-taxi driver named Yanmar after driving a passenger to Popone Village, Mokoni District, Lanny Jaya Regency, Papua Province.

November 12, 2018

Free Papua armed separatists shot another motorcycle-taxi driver at Waringambur District, Lanny Jaya Regency, Papua Province. Pretending to be dead, the motorcycle-taxi driver survived.

Shot, a motorcycle taxi driver in Papua pretends to be fainting

Antara | CNN Indonesia | Tuesday, 13/11/2018 11:22 WIB

Share:  



Shot by Free Papua armed separatists at Waringambur, Lanny Jaya, Papua, a motorcycle-taxi driver survived the assault by pretending to be dead on November 12, 2018. (Source: merdeka.com)

December 2, 2018

The Free Papua armed separatists kidnapped 34 Trans-Papua highway construction workers from the workers camp around Yigi and Aurak Rivers, then slaughtered 19 of them at Kabo Peak, Nduga Regency, Papua Province. Some of the workers survived by pretending to be dead and fled when the armed separatists left the bodies.



Shot by Free Papua armed separatists at Waringambur, Lanny Jaya, Papua, a motorcycle-taxi driver survived the assault by pretending to be dead on November 12, 2018. (Source: westpapua.blog)



December 3, 2018

After slaughtering 19 Trans-Papua highway construction workers on December 2, 2018, Free Papua armed separatists attacked the Indonesian National Army Infantry Battalion 755 Post in Mbua District, Nduga Regency, Papua Province, causing one soldier to be injured and one soldier killed.



Residents help security forces prepare coffins for 19 construction workers who were shot dead by Free Papua armed separatists in Nduga, Papua, on December 2, 2018. (Source: suara.com)



Free Papua armed separatists opened fire on a security forces' helicopter refueling before taking off to evacuate the body of Sergeant Handoko, who was shot dead by the armed group at Mbua, Nduga, Papua on December 3, 2018. (Source: kumparan.com)

2019

In 2019, the free Papua armed separatists' shooting toll was two less than the total casualties in 2018. BBC.com reports 23 cases of shooting by armed separatists in 2019. About twenty people are dead: ten civilians and ten members of security forces. The following are some of the major crimes committed by Free Papua armed separatists in 2019:

January 18, 2019

An armed group of Free Papua separatists under the command of Lekagak Telenggen shot Private First Class Makamu to death at Yambi District, Puncak Regency, Papua Province.



Private First Class Makamu was killed by the Free Papua armed separatists while delivering logistics to Yambi, Puncak, Papua, on January 18, 2019. (Source: papua.inews.id)



In this photo taken in May 2019, and released by the Free Papua armed separatists, men and boys members of the armed group posed with weapons in Nduga Regency, Papua Province. (Source: apnews.com)

August 12, 2019

Police Brigadier First Class Heidar was found dead after the Free Papua armed separatists kidnapped him in Usir Village, Puncak Regency, Papua Province.



Police Brigadier First Class Heidar was found dead at Usir, Puncak, Papua on August 12, 2019. (Source: Panrita News)

September 16, 2019

Free Papua armed group allegedly under Egianus Kogoya command shot Private First Class Sirwandi M. Sahidillah to death near Habema Lake, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Province.



Baharuddin and Ramlah, parents of Private First Class Sirwandi M. Sahidillah, showed their son's picture before the soldier's funeral. (Source: radarlombok.co.id)



Commander of the Papua Regional Military Major General Herman Asaribab visits civilians injured by Free Papua armed separatists attack who were treated by the Mimika Regional General Hospital on September 17, 2019. (Source: salampapua.com)

September 17, 2019

Free Papua armed separatists ambushed a convoy of security forces with shots causing 3 civilians to die and four others injured in Olenki Village, North Ilaga District, Puncak Regency, Papua Province.



Security forces helped an injured civilian after the Free Papua armed separatists ambushed a security forces convoy at Olenki, North Ilaga, Puncak, Papua on September 17, 2019. (Source: aceh.tribunnews.com)

September 23, 2019

A twin protest that ended in rioting took place in Wamena District of Jayawijaya Regency and Jayapura City, Papua Province. The riot was allegedly triggered by hoaxes about a teacher making racist remarks at school.

The riot in Wamena left 33 residents dead, 224 large and small vehicles damaged, 465 shophouses and 165 houses burned down. Meanwhile, the rioting in Jayapura left 1 victim dead, a member of the security forces. Further investigation found that the protests were organized by the Free Papua separatists to gain spotlight in the moment of the 2019 UN Session.



Smokes filled up every corner of Wamena, Jayawijaya, Papua, as rioters driven by Free Papua separatists set fire to buildings on September 23, 2019. (Source: regional.kompas.com)



Situation in Wamena, Jayawijaya, Papua after the riots on September 23, 2019. (Source: manado.tribunnews.com)

September 26, 2019

Free Papua armed separatists shot two civilians around the Muara Bridge, Amunggi Village, Ilaga District, Puncak Regency, Papua Province.



Two bodies of victims of shooting Free Papua armed separatists in Amunggi, Ilaga, Puncak, Papua on September 26, 2019 were sent to their respective hometown. (Source: papua.inews.id)

October 25, 2019

Free Papua armed separatists under Lekagak Telenggen killed three motorcycle-taxi drivers, namely Rizal, Herianto, and La Soni, in Hitadipa District, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Province. The three drivers were providing their service for the people of Sugapa District, Intan Jaya Regency. Their body was found with gunshot wounds to the head and cuts all over the body.

The bodies of three motorcycle-taxi drivers were found with gunshot wounds and cuts made by the Free Papua armed separatists in Hitadipa, Intan Jaya on October 25, 2019. (Source: news.detik.com)



December 18, 2019

In a firefight with Free Papua armed separatists in Sugapa District, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Province, two Indonesian army soldiers namely Captain Erizal Zuhri Sidabutar and Staff Sergeant Rizky were killed.

Captain Erizal Zuhri Sidabutar was killed in a firefight with the Free Papua armed separatists in Sugapa, Intan Jaya, Papua on December 17, 2019. (source: sumut.pojoksatu.id)



2020

In 2020, there were more than five attacks by Free Papua armed separatists on civilians and security forces. Here are the details:

February 26, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists shot an army post and a group of indigenous Papuans gathered to perform a stone-grilling ceremony near the post at Keneyam Village, Nduga Regency, Papua Province. The armed separatists' bullets pierced Yosman Wasiangge's back and Waslina Tabuni's neck. Yosman Wasiangge was badly injured while Waslina Tabuni's life could not be saved.



The Free Papua armed separatists shot indigenous Papuans, Yosman Wasiangge (left) and Waslina Tabuni (right), at Keneyam, Nduga, Papua, on February 26, 2020. (Source: medan.tribunnews.com)

March 2, 2020

Free Papua separatists shot at Tembagapura people hiding and taking shelter inside Tembagapura Police Station. A video showed how the security forces were trying to placate the people of Tembagapura while fending off the shots from the armed group.



Screenshot of a video circulating on the internet showing security forces protecting Tembagapura women and children from being shot by Free Papua armed separatists on March 2, 2020. (Source: kompas.com)

March 30, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists infiltrated the Freeport Indonesia office area at Kuala Kencana District, Mimika Regency, Papua Province, and shot dead a New Zealander named Graeme Thomas Wall and injured 6 Indonesian workers.



Security camera footage showed that the victim of Free Papua armed separatists shot, Graeme Thomas Wall, was laying on the ground while the medical team tried to save his life. (Source: suara.com)

May 22, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists shot two medics of the COVID-19 task force in Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Province. A medic was killed while another sustained a critical injury.



Two indigenous Papuan medics were evacuated after they were shot by the Free Papua armed separatists in Intan Jaya, Papua, on May 22, 2020. (Source: national.tempo.co)

May 29, 2020

A video circulating online showed when the Free Papua armed separatists brutally shot an indigenous Papuan farmer named Yunus Sani in Intan Jaya, Papua Province. Later on, a priest found the farmer's mutilated body inside a burlap sack.



Free Papua armed separatists intentionally posted the killing of an indigenous Papuan farmer, Yunus Sani, in Intan Jaya, Papua, on May 29, 2020, to their social media. (Source: suara.com)

August 17, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists shot a resident of Nduga in Nduga Regency, Papua Province, injuring the resident's cheek. The assault happened to coincide with Indonesia's Independence Day, August 17, 2020.

August 31, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists of Yahukimo Regency stated that their group is responsible for the death of two masons in Dekai Village, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Province.



Killed by the Free Papua armed separatists in Intan Jaya, Papua, on August 31, 2020, the masons' bodies were sent back to their respective hometowns. (Source: suarapapua.com)

September 14, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists shot two motorcycle-taxi drivers, Laode Anas Munawir and Fathur Rahman, at Hitadipa District, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Province. The assault left the two drivers badly injured.



Two motorcycle-taxi drivers, Laode Anas Munawir and Fathur Rahman, were evacuated after they were shot by the Free Papua armed separatists. (Source: regional.kompas.com)

September 17, 2020

The Free Papua armed separatists killed a motorcycle-taxi driver named Badawi by cutting his left arm so that Badawi bled to death at Hitadipa District, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Province at 10:50 East Indonesiatimes. The armed group then shot dead a soldier, Master Sergeant Sahlan, three hours later.



(Left) A motorcycle-taxi driver, Badawi, bled to death after the Free Papua armed separatists cut his left arm and (Right) Master Sergeant Sahlan was killed too after three hours at Hitadipa, Intan Jaya, Papua, on September 17, 2020. (Source: republika.co.id)

September 19, 2020

In an exchange of shots with Free Papua armed separatists in the army post of Hitadipa District, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Province, Private First Class Dwi Akbar Utomo was killed. The armed group then celebrated their kill by posting it on their social media account.



Private First Class Dwi Akbar Utomo was killed by the Free Papua armed separatists in Hitadipa, Intan Jaya, Papua, on September 19, 2020. (Source: aceh.tribunnews.com, bogopapua.net)

December 11, 2020

Free Papua armed separatists tortured and killed a preacher in Sory Village, Aifat District, Maybrat Regency, Papua Province.



*The Free Papua separatist group persecuted civilians to death then took photos of the corpse to terrorize the locals.
(Source: papua.inews.id)*

APPENDIX 2

The Chronology of Wamena-Jayapura Riots

The Wamena and Jayapura riots in September 2019 in Papua seemed to have occurred organically due to racist remarks. But aligning them with the world's timeline, the two riots unexpectedly coincided with the 2019 UN Session. The following is a detailed chronology:

SURABAYA INCIDENT

August 16, 2019

Indonesian community organizations and nationalists surrounded the Papuan student dormitory in Surabaya City, East Java Province, because there were allegations that the Papuan students destroyed the Indonesian flag in front of the dorm. The security forces were deployed to mediate between the people who were angry and made racist remarks. The recorded hate speech against Papuan students sparked a huge reaction from Papuans a few days later.



Community organizations and security forces surround a Papuan student dormitory in Surabaya, East Java, on August 16, 2019. (Source: jogja.idntimes.com)

August 17, 2019

Security forces brought 43 Papuan students living at the Papuan Student Dormitory in Surabaya City, East Java Province, to be questioned regarding the news of the destruction of the Indonesian flag.

Security forces brought 43 students of the Papuan Student Dormitory in Surabaya, East Java, to the police station for questioning. (Source: cnnindonesia.com)





Anti-racism rally held by Indonesian students in front of the Presidential Palace, Central Jakarta, Special Capital Region of Jakarta, on August 21, 2019. (Source: megapolitan.kompas.com)



Papuans held an anti-racism rally in Timika, Mimika, Papua, on August 21, 2019. (Source: cnnindonesia.com)

August 19, 2019

The Governor of East Java, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, and the Mayor of Surabaya, Tri Rismaharini, apologized to Papuans for the siege that happened at the Papuan Student Dormitory in Surabaya City, East Java Province, and racist remarks. Anti-racism protests due to racist remarks have spread to 17 cities in Indonesia and 3 cities abroad.

PAPUAN STUDENTS EXODUS

August 23, 2019

Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP; lit. Papuan People's Council) issued a notice to all Papuan students studying outside Papua to return to Papua immediately. The main student exodus post in Jayapura states that there were 6,000 Papuan students returning home to Papua.



Papuan students exodus from Mimika Regency posed at Mozes Kilangin Airport, Timika, Mimika, Papua, before flying back to study cities outside Papua, on March 13, 2020. (Source: seputarpapua.com)

JAYAPURA RIOT I

August 29, 2019

Thousands of Papuans in Jayapura City, Papua Province, protested against the discrimination and violence during the siege of the Papuan Students Dormitory in Surabaya City, East Java Province, which happened on August 16, 2019. Protesters burned several buildings, such as the Papua People’s Assembly office in Abepura. They also burned down a wireless telecommunications tower belonging to PT. Telkom Indonesia in Jayapura City. At the end of the day, the protesters occupied the Papua Governor’s Office and replaced the Indonesian flag on the office’s front with the Free Papua separatist flag.



Riot happened in Jayapura City, Papua Province, on August 29, 2019. (Source: tribunnews.com).



A separatist climbed the flagpole in front of the Papua Governor’s Office and changed the Indonesian flag with the Free Papua separatist flag on August 29, 2019. (Source: Twitter Veronica Koman)



Knpb Konsulat News

9 Oktober 2019 · 🌐

Sikap politik bangsa dimana wilayah yang belum berperintahan dalam Musyawara terbuka antara rakyat bersama rakyat didepan halaman kantor Gubernur Papua pada 19 Agustus 2019

<https://www.facebook.com/101988877844882/videos/505705526667638/>



Jayapura protesters occupied the Papua Governor’s Office on August 29, 2019. (Source: Facebook Knpb Konsulat News)

JAYAPURA RIOT II

September 23, 2019

A twin protests that ended in rioting took place in Jayapura City, Papua Province and Wamena District of Jayawijaya Regency. The riot was allegedly triggered by hoaxes about a teacher making racist remarks at school.

This is the second time a riot happened in Jayapura, in about a month after the first Jayapura Riot. Normally, an issue will eventually cool down after a few weeks, not to mention that a month has passed since the Surabaya incident. However, the Second Jayapura Riot did happen coincidentally with the Wamena Riot.

The riots were almost certainly planned as it also coincided with the 2019 United Nations (UN) General Debate that would start on September 24, 2019. In addition, the twin riots have a strong impression to be fabricated by reigniting the issue of racism that had cooled down.

In Jayapura Riot II, the only victim was a member of security forces, who was stabbed to death by an unknown person mingling with the student protesters.



*A riot happened in Expo Waena, Jayapura, Papua, on September 23, 2019.
(Source: cnbcindonesia.com)*

WAMENA RIOT

September 23, 2019

A twin protests that ended in rioting took place in Wamena District of Jayawijaya Regency and Jayapura City, Papua Province. The riot was allegedly triggered by hoaxes about a teacher making racist remarks at school on September 18, 2019.

The school had mediated the misunderstanding between the teacher and the student related to the racist remarks and the case had also been solved amicably. However, residents and students in Wamena already believed the hoax spread through the online messenger. A group of people then attacked the related school and then the rioting spread to all corners of Wamena. If not because of certain parties involvement in spreading the hoax and raising the racist remarks again, there wouldn't be any riot in Wamena or in Jayapura.

The riot in Wamena left 33 residents dead, 224 large and small vehicles damaged, 465 shophouses and 165 houses burned down. Meanwhile, the rioting in Jayapura left 1 victim dead, a member of the security forces. Further investigation found that the protests were organized by the Free Papua separatists to gain spotlight in the moment of the 2019 UN Session.

The protest, which was allegedly carried out by 200 Wamena students, was infiltrated by unknown people who did not come from Wamena. The residents of Wamena themselves were busy rescuing the migrants who were the targets of arson and murder by the intruders in the protesters. Some residents even testified that there were bearded adults wearing unfitting high school uniforms among Wamena student protesters.



Non-Papuans were targeted in the Wamena riot on September 23 2019 . They were chased, chased, and burned by the mob.(Source: tribunnews)

THE 2019 UNITED NATIONS (UN) SESSION

September 24, 2019

The 2019 UN Session took place in New York, United States, on September 17-30, 2019. Then the UN General Debate was held September 24-27, 2019. At this UN Session, there were delegations from the Pacific Islands, such as Vanuatu, who raised Papua's issue and past human rights violations that had occurred in Papua when the Suharto military regime was still in control of Indonesia. Indonesia anticipated these Pacific Island countries' predictable steps from year to year.

The Wamena-Jayapura Riots, which was instigated by the separatist group Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee) and the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP) just a day before the 2019 UN General Debate, was a separatist step to raise the issue of racism to attract the attention of member countries of the UN Assembly. This riot made it easier for the Vanuatu delegation as the spearhead of Free Papua separatists to raise Papua's issue at the UN Session.



The Indonesian delegation at the 2019 UN General Assembly used its Rights of Reply to respond to Vanuatu's raising the Papua issue on September 17, 2019. (Source: jpnn.com)

APPENDIX 3

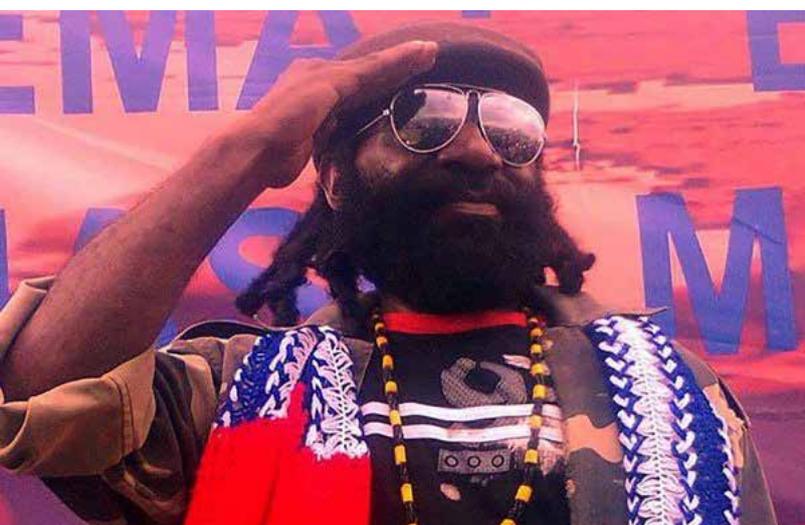
Political Prisoners of Wamena-Jayapura Riots

After the Wamena-Jayapura Riots in September 2019, Indonesian authorities named seven separatists as political prisoners. The term “political prisoner” is used to distinguish Papuan separatists who worked behind the scenes as masterminds of the Wamena-Jayapura Riots from those who took to the streets. These separatists come from various separatist groups, such as Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee) and the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP). There are also those from the Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance) who have been sowing the seeds of separatism among Papuan students who are still in school. The six political prisoners are:

1. BUCHTAR TABUNI

Buchtar Tabuni is the central leader of the KNPB and concurrently the second Deputy Chairperson of the ULMWP Legislative Body. Buchtar Tabuni coordinated the Wamena-Jayapura twin riots, which caused 37 deaths, damaged 600 public facilities, and displaced 17,000 people.

Not only did he mobilize the masses to riot, but Buchtar Tabuni also had a direct relationship with the ULMWP leader, Benny Wenda, who attended the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019, exactly one day after the riots took place on September 23, 2019. By sparking riots, Buchtar Tabuni and Benny Wenda can freely raise the Free Papua issue at the UN Session.



Buchtar Tabuni, the central leader of the KNPB and the second Deputy Chairperson of the ULMWP Legislative Body. (Source: pantau.com)

KNPB Chairman Arrested in connection with the Riot in Jayapura

Wilpret Siagian - detikNews

Wednesday, 18 Sep 2019 08:27 WIB

5 comments

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2. STEVEN ITLAY

Steven Itlay is the Chairman of the KNPB in Mimika Regency, Papua Province. Itlay provoked the masses to riot in Jayapura City, Papua Province, on August 29, 2019 (known as the Jayapura Riot I). Itlay allegedly has connections with Benny Wenda, ULMWP separatist group leader, who visited the United Nations Session in New York, United States, on September 17-30, 2019.



Steven Itlay is the chairman of KNPB Mimika, Papua. (Source: kashtra.co)

Italy twisted the Surabaya racism incident on August 16, 2019, into a Free Papua separatism issue, culminating in Jayapura Riot I. Rioters burned several buildings, such as the Majelis Rakyat Papua (MRP, lit. Papua People's Assembly) office in Abepura. They also burned down a wireless telecommunications tower belonging to PT. Telkom Indonesia in Jayapura City. At the end of the day, the protesters occupied the Papua Governor's Office and replaced the Indonesian flag on the office's front with the Free Papua separatist flag. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million).

3. AGUS KOSSAY

Agus Kossay is the chairman of the KNPB who masterminded Jayapura Riot I on August 29, 2019. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million). A video footage showed how the protesters occupied the Papua Governor's Office and replaced the Indonesian flag on the office's front with the Free Papua separatist flag.

Agus Kossay, the Chairman of KNPB Main Branch. (Source: merdeka.com)





Indicted for treason, the former chairman of BEM Uncen was sued for 10 years in prison

Saturday, 6 June 2020 - 12:36



Ferry Kombo is the former Chairman of the Student Executive Board of the University of Cendrawasih, Jayapura, Papua. (Source: benarnews.org)

4. FERRY KOMBO

Ferry Kombo is the former Chairman of the Student Executive Board (BEM, lit. Student Executive Board) of the University of Cendrawasih, Jayapura City, Papua Province. Ferry Kombo allegedly mobilized the masses and rioters who caused Jayapura Riot I (August 29, 2019) through social media.

Kombo is also involved with domestic and foreign separatist networks, such as the AMP, KNPB, and ULMWP. Security forces arrested Kombo as he was about to go to Wamena Town, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Province. Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million) on the riot.

5. ALEX GOBAY

Alex Gobay was the Student President of the Jayapura University of Science and Technology, Papua Province. Gobay's role was similar to Ferry Kombo. Gobay allegedly mobilized the masses and rioters who caused Jayapura Riot I (August 29, 2019) through social media.

Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million) on the riot.

The police also named Alexander Gobay as a suspect in the Papuan riots

Ahmad Bil Wahid - detikNews

Monday, Sep 09 2019 19:26 WIB

6 comments

SHARE f t g+

Alex Gobay, Student President of the Jayapura University of Science and Technology. (Source: indozone.id)



6. IRWANUS UROBMABIN

Irwanus Urobmabin is a member of the Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance) who is a suspect in Jayapura Riot I (August 29, 2019). Four people were killed, 31 offices were burned down, and the loss reached IDR 100 billion (USD 7 million) on the riot.

AMP mobilized the rioters in Jayapura Riot I and is controlled by the KNPB.



Irwanus Urobmabin, Salah satu anggota dari organisasi AMP (Sumber: papuansbehindbars.org)

Police Call 2 Intellectual Actors of Papua Riots Allegedly Mobilized by KNPB

Muhamad Rizky, Okezone · Monday September 9 2019 21:31 WIB



APPENDIX 4

Evidence of the Papuan Political Prisoners Involvement as Perpetrators of the Wamena-Jayapura Riots

The Wamena-Jayapura Riots (September 23, 2019) were not organic protests related to the Surabaya Incident (August 16, 2019) but were steered by interested parties. The following are some peculiar facts that show the artificial side of the Wamena-Jayapura Riots:

RIOTERS DELIBERATELY HUNTS NON-PAPUANS

In the Wamena riots on September 23, 2019, Wamena residents testified that they had seen rioters wearing school uniforms deliberately chasing, burning, and killing non-Papuans living in Wamena. Apart from that, rioters also burned and destroyed houses, buildings, and vehicles belonging to the migrants. Indigenous Papuans who are trying to save non-Papuans are also being chased and hunted down.

Because Wamena is a small town, the people of Wamena know each other quite well. Many Papuans and non-Papuans testified that the rioters who carried out the destruction and killings in Wamena were not Wamena residents. They were unknown people who came from outside Wamena.

NEWS > NATIONAL

Riot in Wamena, Government Office and Shophouse Set on Fire

Monday, 23 September 2019 | 11:05 WIB

By: Eko Priliawito, Bayu Nugraha



Rioters set fire to offices and shophouses in Wamena, Jayawijaya, Papua. (Source: viva.co.id)

September 27, 2019September 27, 2019

The Story of Wamena Junior High School Students Burned for Refusing to Demonstrate by KNPB Members Who Have Become Students

Admin - Region



Frans Tabuni, a middle-schooler, was burned by two rioters allegedly the members of KNPB wearing high school uniform because Tabuni refused to participate in the Wamena riot on September 23, 2019. (Source: kawattimur.com)



A general practitioner, Dr. Soeko Marsetiyo, who spent 1.5 decades of her life in the interior of West Papua, died in the Wamena riot ridden by separatists. (source: arsad corner)

WAMENA LOCALS WERE TRYING HARD TO SAVE THEIR MIGRANT NEIGHBORS

In Wamena Riot, indigenous Papuans living in Wamena hid migrants inside their houses to save them from rioters' attack. A Wamena resident of Sumatra descent testified that the natives had helped his family and 250 other migrants from the rioters.

A Papuan priest named Yason Yikwa evacuated 300 migrants to the church where he served, while a civil servant named Titus Kogoya hid 80 migrants in his family home. These two facts prove that the perpetrators of the riot were not residents of Wamena.

Yason Yikwa-Titus Kogoya, Protector of Migrants during the Wamena Riot

Kill Me First before Touch Refugees

FEATURES

18 October 2019, 16:11:58 WIB



Migrants who originally lived in Wamena took refuge using a cargo transport plane belonging to the security forces, which will take off from Manuhua, Wamena, Papua, on October 2, 2019. The fear and trauma caused by the riot caused migrants to leave Wamena. (Source: jawapos.com)

RIOTERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE KNPB SEPARATIST GROUP DISGUISED AS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The protest, which was allegedly carried out by 200 Wamena students, was infiltrated by unknown people who did not come from Wamena. Some residents even testified that there were bearded adults wearing unfitting high school uniforms among Wamena student protesters.

Several members of Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee) forced people and students to rally. A middle school student named Frans Tabuni refused to participate in the protests when two KNPB members in high school uniform ordered him. Because of his refusal, the two splashed fuel on Tabuni's body and burned him. It means that there was some deliberate effort to trigger the riot from the Free Papua separatists.



Frans Tabuni, a middle-schooler, was burned by two rioters allegedly the members of KNPB wearing high school uniform because Tabuni refused to participate in the Wamena riot on September 23, 2019. (Source: kawattimur.com)

WAMENA RIOT HAPPENED JUST A DAY BEFORE THE UN GENERAL DEBATE VISITED BY THE SEPARATIST LEADER

The Wamena-Jayapura Riots, which was instigated by the separatist group Komite Nasional Papua Barat (KNPB, lit. West Papua National Committee) and the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP) just a day before the 2019 UN General Debate, was a separatist step to raise the issue of racism to attract the attention of member countries of the UN Assembly. Not too coincidentally, the ULMWP leader, Benny Wenda, attended the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019, exactly one day after the riots took place on September 23, 2019. By sparking riots, Benny Wenda can freely raise the Free Papua issue at the UN Session.



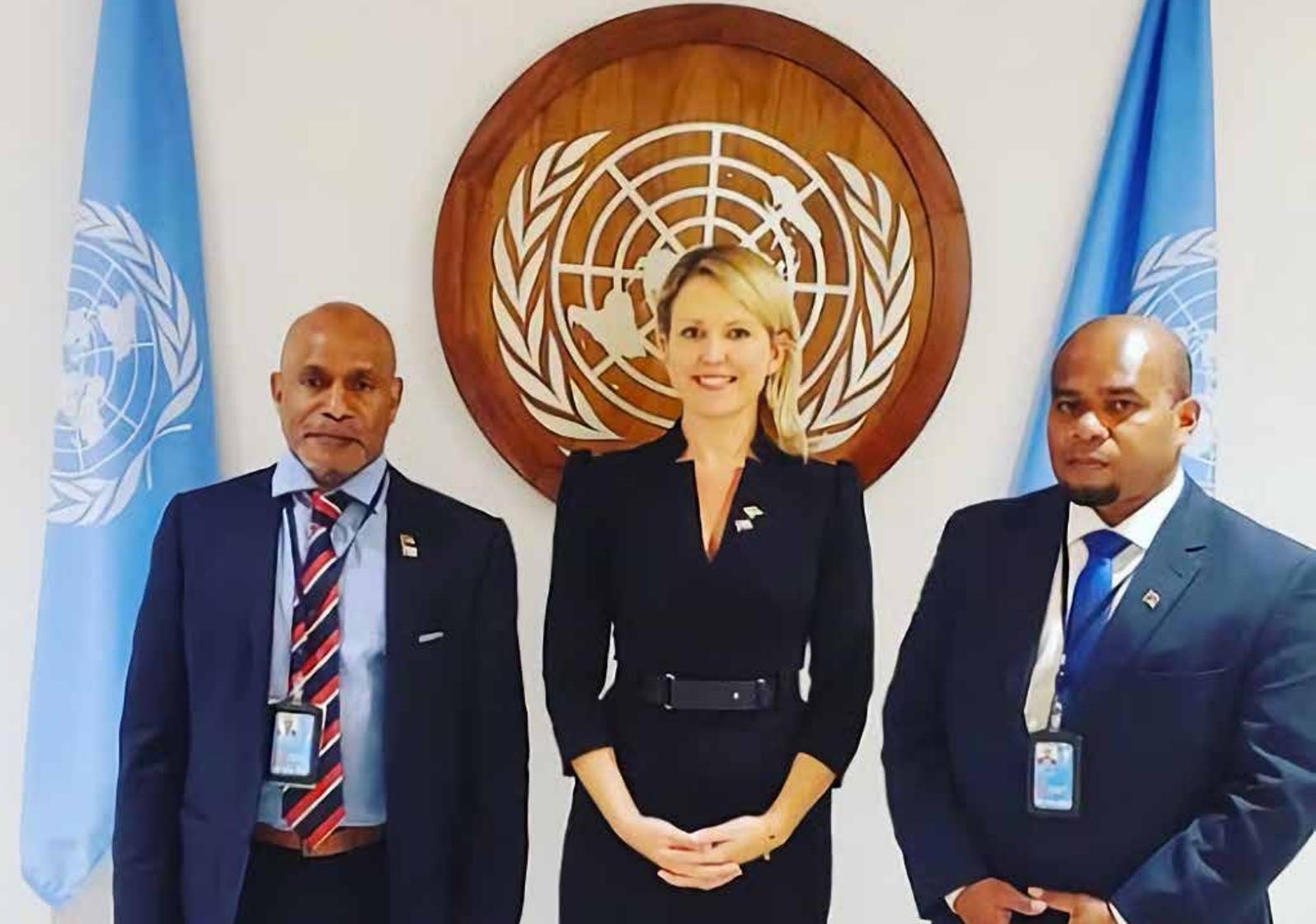
Wamena Riots on September 23, 2019. (Source: nasional.okezone.com)

WAMENA TRADITIONAL LEADERS APOLOGIZED FOR THE UNREST AND ASKED MIGRANT REFUGEES TO RETURN AND LIVE IN WAMENA AGAIN

Wamena traditional leaders, locals, and Papuan students expressed their apologies and condolences for the riots, which resulted in many victims from non-Papuan living in Wamena. They also asked for the Wamena migrant refugees to return to Wamena again for all of them have been precious neighbors for the natives.

BUCHTAR TABUNI HAS PROMINENT POSITION IN KNPB AND ULMWP SEPARATIST GROUPS

Buchtar Tabuni is the central leader of the KNPB and concurrently the second Deputy Chairperson of the ULMWP Legislative Body. Buchtar Tabuni also had a direct relationship with the ULMWP leader, Benny Wenda, who attended the UN General Assembly on September 24, 2019, exactly one day after the riots took place on September 23, 2019. Buchtar Tabuni was the main link connecting Wamena-Jayapura Riot with Benny Wenda, who visited the UN Session.



ULMWP separatist group leader Benny Wenda (left), a member of International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP) Jennifer Robinson (middle), and ULMWP Uni-European Mission leader Oridek Ap (right). (Source: tabloid-wani.com)

PAPUAN STUDENT ALLIANCE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STUDENT EXODUS AND WAS THE MAIN COORDINATOR WHO MOVED EXODUS STUDENTS TO PROTEST IN JAYAPURA

Aliansi Mahasiswa Papua (AMP, lit. Papuan Student Alliance) masterminded the exodus of students from outside Papua and provoked students to get involved in Jayapura Riot I on August 29, 2019. Papuan human rights lawyer Gustaf Kawer admitted that Ferry Kombo indeed planned the protest on Jayapura Riot I. Previously, AMP provoked clashes between residents and officials in Malang, Semarang, and Surabaya. Using anti-racism, all these clashes led to riots that culminated in Manokwari, West Papua, on August 19, 2019, and the Jayapura Riot I.

APPENDIX 5

List of Political Parties and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Focusing on the Free Papua Issue

A. LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES SUPPORTING FREE PAPUA

The Free Papua issue does not represent West Papuans' stance in the independence matter, but several overseas political parties' agenda. The following is a list of parties supporting Free Papua:

1. The UK Labor Party

The support from the UK Labor Party began to emerge when Alex Sobel, a member of the parliament of the United Kingdom from the Labor Party and the initiator of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) of West Papua, held a meeting with the leader of the United Liberation Movement of West Papua. West Papua (ULMWP) on March 23, 2019, with the headline "West Papua Uprising: Where Next?". Media found that APPG got funded by oil companies, foreign government, and charity, who used the APPG to reach the lawmaker.



The British Labor Party MP Alex Sobel (middle) with separatist leader Benny Wenda (right).

2. Australian Green Party

The Australian Green Party began to aggressively support the Free Papua Movement after its reputation fell due to Australia's bushfire scandal.



The recently appointed head of the Australian Green Party, Adam Bandt (right), meets Indonesian President Joko Widodo (left) with a Morning Star (Free Papua flag) badge on his lapel after the President's speech at the House of Representatives Chambers, Parliament of Australia, on February 10, 2019. (Source: wow.tribunnews.com)

3. New Zealand Green Party

The Greens, New Zealand politicians and activists, such as Maire Leadbeater, Keith Locke, Barry Coates, Marama Davidson, Catherine Delahunty, Steffan Browning, and Jan Logie, support the Free Papua Movement.

Declaration on independence for West Papua

Friday, 12 May 2017, 9:51 am

Press Release: [Green Party](#)

12 May 2016

Green Party celebrates historic declaration on independence for West Papua

The Green Party is celebrating the signing of a historic declaration in support of independence for West Papua.

Green MPs Catherine Delahunty, Barry Coates, Mojo Mathers, Jan Logie and Steffan Browning were joined by Labour MPs Louisa Wall, Carmel Sepuloni, Adrian Rurawhe and National MP Chester Burrows at an event at Parliament on Wednesday night, alongside Free West Papua leader Benny Wenda. The Declaration was also signed by Co-leader of the Māori Party Marama Fox and Labour MP Aupito S'ua William Sio at a later event.

4. Vanuatu Land and Justice Party

The biggest supporter of the ULMWP separatist group in Vanuatu is Vanuatu Land and Justice Party, Ralph John Regenvanu. During the 2019 Vanuatu general election, Regenvanu was one of the candidates for the Vanuatu Prime Minister. The separatists' leader from the ULMWP group, Benny Wenda, provided direct support for the second meeting at Owen Hall, Port-Vila, Vanuatu. Ralph Regenvanu's most significant political maneuver was to raise Free Papua's issue, which had succeeded in increasing its popularity.

Previously, in the 2016 Vanuatu Election, Regenvanu only got 6 out of 52 seats. However, with the support of ULMWP in 2019, Regenvanu's popularity rose and earned 1,589 votes and 8 seats.

At first, Ralph John Regenvanu was just an ordinary politician but after he initiated the Wantok Blong Yumi Bill that said Vanuatu would not be fully independent until the rest of the colonized Pacific nations, like Papua, would be politically free. With

Wantok Blong Yumi being finalized by the Parliament of Vanuatu in June 2010, Regenvanu is free to politicize the Papua issue for his personal and political party gain. In December 2010, Regenvanu formed the Vanuatu Land and Justice Party to be Prime Minister candidate.

Wantok Blong Yumi Bill's adoption encouraged the Vanuatu government to seek West Papua to gain observer status in the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). Wantok Blong Yumi Bill also stated that Vanuatu would ask the General Assembly of the United Nations for an opinion and advice from the International Court of Justice regarding the 1969 Act of Free Choice when the Dutch handed over West Papua to Indonesia. Of course, this greatly boosted Ralph Regenvanu's popularity.

Vanuatu minister wants stronger West Papua stance

4:43 pm on 7 June 2019

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Vanuatu's Foreign Minister Ralph Regenvanu says the Pacific Islands' Forum needs to be stronger in its stance regarding West Papua.



5. Fiji Social Democratic Liberal Party

ULMWP separatists group approached the Fiji opposition party, namely the Fiji Social Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA) to win the trust of the Melanesian Spearhead Group's state members with the hope of becoming a permanent member of the MSG equivalent to a state so that they can receive MSG funding and support from other countries, companies, and conglomerates.

Fiji opposition slams UN's rejection of West Papua petition

10:30 am on 5 October 2017

Share this     

The opposition SODELPA party in Fiji says it's disappointed by the United Nations decision to reject a petition from the people of West Papua calling for an act of self determination.



6. The Solomon Islands Democratic Party

The spokesman for the ULMWP separatist group, Jacob Rumbiak, visited the Solomon Islands and met with the chairman of the opposition Solomon Islands Democratic Party, Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale on March 19, 2020. ULMWP tries to win the trust of the Melanesian Spearhead Group's state members with the hope of becoming a permanent member of the MSG so that they can receive MSG funding and support. Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands Democratic Party received higher political electability by supporting the Free Papua Movement.

Pemimpin oposisi Solomon pertegas komitmen untuk West Papua

Reporter: Zely Ariane

March 21, 2020 2:08 pm



Chairman of the Solomon Islands Democratic Party, Hon. Matthew Wale (left) met with the spokesman for the ULMWP separatist group, Jacob Rumbiak, in the Solomon Islands, on March 19, 2020. (Source: jubi.co.id)

LIST OF NGOS FOCUSING ON FREE PAPUA ISSUE

Selain mendapatkan dukungan politik dari beberapa partai di negara lain. Gerakan separatis Free West Papua juga mendapatkan dukungan dari beberapa NGO yang secara aktif terus menyuarakan gerakan yang penuh dengan motif dan kepentingan asing ini. Apa saja NGO tersebut? Berikut ulasannya;

1. Sigrid Rausing Trust

The Sigrid Rausing Trust is an organization owned by Sigrid Rausing, the main donor of the Green Party and the TAPOL UK organization, which both have a great interest in Free Papua. Besides, Sigrid Rausing is the daughter of the owner of the giant British company Tetra Park. The Sigrid Rausing Trust also funds a British media called Bellingcat, which massively operates accounts voicing Free Papua's issue up to 8,244 posts per month. Certainly, these facts are not mere coincidences. Why is Sigrid Rausing so interested in the issue of Free Papua?

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

What we do:

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- Grantees
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 - Past Grantees
 - Programmes
 - Regions
 - Grantee Search
 - Human Rights Indonesia (Tapol)**
- Types of Grant and Application Process
- Impact
- Noticeboard
- Photographs

Human Rights Indonesia (Tapol)

Human Rights Indonesia (HRI) is a trust associated with the UK-based NGO, TAPOL, which promotes human rights, peace and democracy in Indonesia. HRI, through TAPOL, raises awareness of human rights concerns and their causes, especially in areas of conflict such as West Papua, advocates appropriate solutions, and builds the capacity of local civil society partners. The Trust provided core support to HRI as well as sub-grants to Indonesian organisations.

Grant History

2006-2013: £402,500

Website: <http://tapol.gn.apc.org>

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2. Sinchi Foundation

The British Labor Party has been playing the issue of Free Papua for at least 17 years by granting Benny Wenda residency status in the City of Oxford, led by the mayor of the British Labor Party. Not only that, the British Labor Party even formed 2 organizations that only focus on the issue of Free Papua, namely IPWP and APPG on West Papua, to seek support and money from politicians and companies. The International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) is led by Labor politician Andrew Smith and consists of international terrorist supporters and leftists who support separatist movements.

Meanwhile, APPG on West Papua, which seeks support from British politicians and money from corporations, is led by Labor politician Alex Sobel and consists of members of the British parliament, the majority of the Labor Party. However, it is not only political parties that appear to be exploiting the Papua issue. UK-based consulting firm IR Global set up the CSR agency Sinchi Foundation to interfere with Papua's issue. The Sinchi Foundation, created by IR Global, has a special Papua project and invites the Dutch-based separatist Raki Ap and collaborates with Benny Wenda in selling the issue of Free Papua in Europe.

Isn't it suspicious, an international company as big as IR Global has created an NGO to deal with the issue of Free Papua? Even though the flow of funds from the company is not as transparent as Bellingcat and TAPOL UK, is it possible for an international consulting firm like IR Global to be the second party to work according to the client's request as its source of money?

West Papua is the western half of New Guinea, it was separated from the Australian continent around 5,000BC, with its Melanesian populations settling there 40,000 years ago. West Papuans have developed hundreds of languages and thriving cultures which have been stable and satisfied the people's needs for thousands of years. Less than a hundred years ago, colonists discovered that this island is home to the richest gold and copper deposits, which set in motion a chain of deplorable and extractive events. West Papua came under Indonesian rule in 1961 and the authorities started mining West Papua's gold and copper, killing or detaining any local leaders and population who challenged their mission to control the island, both financially and morally. West Papua has been under brutal Indonesian military occupation for decades now, and it is estimated that over 500,000 indigenous Melanesian West Papuan people have been killed, yet the world remains blind.



“THE PEOPLE OF WEST PAPUA CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND THEIR RIGHT TO A REFERENDUM.”