

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS RELEASED BUT STILL CHARGED WITH REBELLION

Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua, detained on 19 December for peaceful political demonstrations, have been released by the police. They are still being charged with rebellion (*makar*) and could face up to life imprisonment.

Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua, members of a pro-Papuan independence organization, KNPB (the West Papuan National Committee), were released on 11 January by the Papuan Provincial Police Force (Polda Papua) according to their lawyer. They are unable to travel and have been ordered by police to remain in Jayapura city, capital of Papua Province. Both are still being charged with “rebellion” (*makar*) and could face up to life imprisonment.

Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua were among at least 528 people, including children, arrested on 19 December following simultaneous peaceful political activities in many cities across Indonesia. Most people were released the following day without charge.

Legislation in Indonesia continues to be used to criminalize peaceful political activities and to imprison people solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and opinion, peaceful assembly conscience and religion. Many of those arrested are charged with “rebellion” (*makar*) under Articles 106 and 110 (crimes against the security of the state) of Indonesia’s Criminal Code.

Please write immediately in English, Indonesian or your own:

- Urging the authorities to drop the charges against Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua as they have been criminalised solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on them to stop evoking vague and overbroad legislation to arrest, prosecute and punish persons for peacefully exercising their human rights.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 FEBRUARY 2017 TO:

Papua Regional Head of Police

Irjen Paulus Waterpauw
Papua Regional Police Headquarters
Jl. Sam Ratulangi No. 8
Jayapura, Papua Province
Indonesia
Fax: +62 96 753 3763

Salutation: Dear Inspector General

Head of Presidential Staff Office (KSP)

Mr Teten Masduki
Gedung Bina Graha
Jl. Veteran No. 16
Jakarta Pusat, 10110
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 345 0009
Email: webmaster@ksp.go.id
Twitter: @KSPgoid

Salutation: Dear Mr

And copies to:

Chaiperson National Human Rights
Commission (Komnas HAM)
Mr. Imdadun Rahmat
Jl. Latuharhary No. 4
Menteng, Jakarta Pusat 10310
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21 392 5227
Email: pengaduan@komnasham.go.id

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY DR RIZAL SUKMA, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, 38 Grosvenor Square W1K 2HW, 02074997661, Fax 02074914993, kbri@btconnect.com, www.indonesianembassy.org.uk, Salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 289/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/5409/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Indonesia enshrines guarantees to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in its Constitution and national legislation. Dozens of peaceful political activists are currently imprisoned in the Papuan region (provinces of Papua and West Papua), some sentenced to as long as 20 years' imprisonment, for attending, organizing or participating in peaceful political activities or protests, or possessing, raising or waving the prohibited pro-independence 'Morning Star' flag of Papua.

Amnesty International has also documented the use of excessive force and firearms as well as torture and other ill-treatment against political activists and others accused of links to pro-independence groups. Accountability for such acts is rare, and at most security personnel receive disciplinary sanctions. See other Amnesty International's document for these issues:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/3010/2015/en/>, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/1932/2015/en/> and <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/3797/2016/en/>.

Amnesty International takes no position whatsoever on the political status of any province of Indonesia, including calls for independence. However, the organization believes that the right to freedom of expression includes the right to peacefully advocate referendums, independence or other political solutions.

Further information on UA: 289/16 Index: ASA 21/5480/2017 Issue Date: 13 January 2017