

URGENT ACTION

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE COULD FACE LIFE IN PRISON

Four Papuan political activists have been detained since 19 December 2016 in Manado, North Sulawesi Province for “rebellion” (*makar*). Detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, the men are considered prisoners of conscience.

Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hese gem and William Wim are members of a pro-Papuan independence organization, the West Papuan National Committee (KNPB) in Manado, North Sulawesi Province, and were among at least 70 individuals who were arrested by the Manado Resort Police (Polres) on 19 December 2016. The Papuan activists were protesting in support of the acceptance of the peaceful Papuan pro-independence umbrella group, United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), as a full member of Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), a sub-Pacific intergovernmental organization. The protest also coincided with the anniversary of Indonesia’s first military operation in Papua (Operasi Trikora) in 1961 when it was a Dutch colony.

The protest was part of simultaneous demonstrations organized by KNPB in cities across Indonesia, including Jayapura, Merauke, Wamena, Nabire in West Papua Province, Manado in North Sulawesi Province, Gorontalo and Yogyakarta. At least 528 people, including children, were arrested nationwide on 19 December 2016. Most were released without charge the following day.

Currently detained in the Manado Resort Police headquarters, North Sulawesi Province, Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hese gem and William Wim have been charged with “rebellion” (*makar*) under Article 106 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) and could face life imprisonment.

Please write immediately in English, Indonesian or your own language urging the authorities to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hese gem and William Wim and drop the charges against them as they have been arrested solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression;
- Ensure that pending their release, Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hese gem and William Wim are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and have regular access to their family, lawyer of their choice;
- Stop evoking vague and overbroad legislation to arrest, prosecute and punish persons for peacefully exercising their human rights.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 MARCH 2017 TO:

North Sulawesi Regional Head of Police

Irjen Bambang Waskito

North Sulawesi Regional Police

Headquarters

Jl. Bethesda No. 62, Manado

North Sulawesi

Indonesia

Fax: +62 (0)431 841998

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 (0)21 345 0009

Email: webmaster@ksp.go.id

Twitter: @KSPgoid

Salutation: Dear Mr.

And copies to:

Chairperson National Human Rights
Commission (Komnas HAM)

Mr. Imdadun Rahmat

Jl. Latuharhary No.4

Menteng, Jakarta Pusat 10310

Indonesia

Twitter: @komnasham

Fax: +62 (0)21 3925 227

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Indonesia enshrines guarantees to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in its Constitution and national legislation. But legislation continues to be used to criminalize peaceful political activities and to imprison people solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights. 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.

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. 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 only receive disciplinary, as opposed to criminal, sanctions. See other Amnesty International's document for these issues: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/5480/2017/en/> , <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/5409/2016/en/> , <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/>.

The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) is an umbrella organization established in December 2014 and formed of different factions of the Papuan independence movement.

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is an intergovernmental organization, founded as a political gathering in 1983, composed of the four Melanesian states of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. Indonesia is an associate member, while ULMWP is an observing member.

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.

UA: 35/17 Index: ASA 17/5616/2017 Issue Date: 6 February 2017