

URGENT ACTION

TWO POLITICAL ACTIVISTS CHARGED WITH REBELLION

Two Papuan political activists have been detained as a result of their peaceful political activities and charged with “rebellion” under the Indonesian Criminal Code. They are prisoners of conscience and could face up to life imprisonment.

At least 528 people, including children, were arrested on 19 December for coordinated peaceful political activities in cities across Indonesia. This included Jayapura, Merauke, Wamena, Nabire in West Papua Province, Manado in North Sulawesi Province, Gorontalo and Yogyakarta. After one day, most of the people arrested were released without charge. However, two activists from a pro-independence student organization, KNPB (the West Papuan National Committee), **Hosea Yeimo** and **Ismael Alua**, have been charged with “rebellion” (*makar*) under Articles 106 and 110 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) and are currently detained by the Jayapura Resort Police, West Papua Province. They could face up to life imprisonment. Amnesty International considers Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua to be prisoners of conscience who are detained solely for the exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

These simultaneous activities were in support of a peaceful Papuan pro-independence umbrella group, the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP). The gatherings were for this group to be accepted as a full member of Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), a sub-Pacific intergovernmental organization.

Please write immediately in English, Indonesian or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua as they are detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights to freedom of expression and assembly;
- Calling them to ensure that, pending their release, Hosea Yeimo and Ismael Alua are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and are provided with regular access to their family, lawyer and any medical treatment they may require;
- Urging them to stop using vague and overbroad legislation to arrest, prosecute and punish persons for peacefully exercising their human rights.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 FEBRUARY 2017 TO:

Papua Regional Head of Police
 Irjen Paulus Waterpauw
 Papua Regional Police Headquarters
 Jl. Sam Ratulangi No. 8
 Jayapura, Papua
 Indonesia
 Fax: +62 967 533763
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:
Chairperson National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM)
 Mr. Imdadun Rahmat
 Jl. Latuharhary No. 4
 Menteng, Jakarta Pusat 10310
 Indonesia
 Fax: +62 21 39 25 227
 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/asa21/3010/2015/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.

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