



Kompleks Pertanian III, Jalan Palapa XI No. 22
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Press Release

Urging the State and Corporations to Protect and Respect Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Papua

The Pusaka Bentala Rakyat Foundation has documented the situation in Papua from April 2020 to the present, June 2020, and has uncovered cases of violence, arrests, destruction of property, internal displacement, intimidation and death threats experienced by indigenous peoples and Environmental Human Rights Defenders, namely: the Moskona indigenous people in the Regency of Teluk Bintuni (April 2020), Aifat indigenous people in Maybrat Regency (April May 2020), Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Kampung Ikana, Kais Darat, South Sorong Regency (June 2020), and in Kali Kao, Jair District, Boven Digoel Regency (June 2020), Papua Province. Some cases involve recurring violence against Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

Based on reports and investigations we have carried out, these alarming cases of violence, which all occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, seem to be related to indigenous peoples and Environmental Human Rights Defenders having taken a stance to speak out and defend basic rights, the right to life, land rights, the right to the environment, the right to food, the right to their livelihoods, which are at risk of being lost or taken from them, to serve the vested interests of corporations and the accumulation of capital in the palm oil plantation and logging industries.

Environmental Human Rights Defenders are the vanguard of the struggle for environmental sustainability and human survival on earth. The state has the obligation to protect and respect the rights of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, as regulated and guaranteed in international policies and legislation, including: Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (December 1998); Article 28C of the 1945 constitution; Article 100 of Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights; Law No. 11 of 2005 concerning Ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Article 10 of Law No. 13 of 2006 concerning Protection of Witnesses and Victims; Article 66 of Law Number 32 of 2008 concerning Environmental Protection and Management; Article 4 of Law No. 14 of 2008 concerning Transparency of Public Information; Articles 9 and 11 of Law No. 16 of 2011 concerning Legal Aid.

Likewise, corporations have the obligation and responsibility to respect the rights of Environmental Human Rights Defenders, as stipulated in the international Declaration of Human Rights Defenders (1998); United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and



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Human Rights (2011); and best standards and corporate commitments on sustainable management.

In order to prevent violence and provide justice to indigenous peoples and Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Papua, we request and urge:

1. The Indonesian National Police must ensure legal protection for citizens and Environmental Human Rights Defenders, and strive to enforce the law in a serious and just manner when they receive reports from indigenous peoples or Human Rights Defenders;
2. The National Human Rights Commission should carry out its functions in accordance with Article 8, Article 9 and Article 10 of its Regulation No. 5 of 2015 concerning Protection of Human Rights Defenders, to monitor and take action to prevent various potential threats and violations of human rights related to business activities in Tanah Papua. It should also urge legal institutions to ensure legal protection for citizens and environmental human rights defenders;
3. National and regional governments should, to the greatest degree possible, carry out their obligations to prevent human rights violations and ensure everyone receives protection from threats / acts of violence;
4. Corporations must respect the rights of Environmental Human Rights Defenders to speak out about their rights, and must not take actions that threaten the safety of Environmental Human Rights Defenders. They must also take responsibility for any incidents of violence that occur, whether they are directly involved or through other parties.

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A Brief Report on the Cases of Violence and Human Rights Violations Experienced by Human Rights Defenders in Papua, in the Period April to June 2020

Violence and intimidation against residents and activists resulting from the hunt for suspects after the death of a Brimob member in the concession of the timber company PT. Wana Galang Utama.

16 April - 07 May 2020

Joint forces from the Indonesian military and police carried out an operation to hunt down people who are believed to have taken weapons belonging to Brimob Police officer First Brigadier Mesak Viktor Pulung (deceased) who died (14/04/2020) while on duty at the base camp of the timber company PT. Wana Galang Utama (WGU), South Moskona District, Teluk Bintuni Regency. This operation was carried out in the administrative areas of South Moskona sub-district of Bintuni Regency and South Aifat and Far East Aifat sub-districts of Maybrat Regency.

The operation made the local villagers flee and take refuge in the forest as they were scared and felt insecure. During the operation there were also reports of residents being tortured, damage to homes and arrests.

Piter Masakoda, an Environmental Human Rights Defender who actively spoke out about the Moskona Tribe in the Bintuni Bay District and their rights, was caught up in the the operation. Piter Masakoda was placed under surveillance and felt under indirect pressure from members of the local police force.

On May 7, 2020, the Maybrat Regional Government, community and religious leaders, high-ranking officers from the South Sorong Police Headquarters and Sorong District Military Commander, made a joint agreement relating to the operation to find those who took the weapons.

Cases of Violence Against Onesimus Wetaku and Family

Monday, June 1, 2020

Martinus Ohee, a resident of Kampung Ikana, committed violence against Isak Ky (age 60) and his family beating them with machetes. Another of the victims, Dorkas Ky (Isak Ky's son and wife of Onesimus Wetaku), was struck three times and Safira (Dorkas Ky's child, age 10 years) was also hit. Martinus Ohee also attacked Ones Wetaku with a machete until his left hand was cut open and struck Ariance Wetaku (39 years old) with a machete on the victim's back and head. At the fourth strike, Ariance was protecting his head until it was cut by a machete. At the time of the incident, the Village Head of Ikana, Sadrak Wetaku (around 50 years old) was present, along with Baltasar Ky, Herman Sowe and Yance

Gerewas, but they did not take any significant action to prevent the perpetrator's actions or tell him to stop. On the contrary, the words they spoke were provocative.

Ones Wetaku has reported this persecution to the South Sorong Police Station (June 20, 2020). The police station has sent a letter to summon the perpetrators.

Ones Wetaku suspected the attack was related to conflict and tension between residents who supportive and opposed the existence of the oil palm plantation company PT. Putera Manunggal Perkasa, a subsidiary of ANJ Group, which operates in their customary territories. For some time Ones Wetaku and Yakob Sowe have been actively demanding their rights to land which has been used as oil palm plantations and palm oil mills.

In July 2019, pro-company residents carried out an attack on Yakob Sowe, causing damage to his house and property in Kampung Ikana. The case was reported to the local police, who went as far as conducting an inspection in the village, but there was no meaningful resolution. The assailant was never convicted or detained.

Ones Wetaku has been threatened with death and experienced terror several times. In March 2018, Onesimus Wetaku's wife was attacked using a machete by one of the residents (with initials HS) who was serving as the company's public relations officer. HS also cut ornamental plants owned by Yakob Sowe's family and uttered insulting words that demeaned his and Ones Wetaku's families.





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Cases of Attack on Petrus Kinggo and Family

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Four people who work and live in the area of the oil palm plantation company PT. Tunas Sawa Erma POP A, (Korindo Group), Camp19, using a truck, came to Kali Kao Hamlet, Jair District, Boven Digoel Regency. Two of them came into the house of Petrus Kinggo, while searching for Petrus Kinggo in a harsh and aggressive tone. Two other people stood on the side of the road while watching over the residents and showing unfriendly faces.

The two men also entered several other residents' homes, asking about Petrus Kinggo's whereabouts and making threats. They were carrying bows and arrows and machetes when they showed up at at Wiwo Gonekasan family's house and Natalis's house, threatening violence. Wiwo's house window was struck with a machete until it broke, but Petrus Kinggo was not around.

The incident left the residents of Kali Kao, Petrus Kinggo and his family, feeling worried and insecure. Petrus has reported the incident to the Police Station at Camp19. Officers staffing the police outpost have collected information from witnesses and documented evidence.

In June 2019 Petrus Kinggo experienced a similar incident involving a member of the armed forces (with initial R) and several other people whose names are unknown. They came and knocked on the Petrus Kinggo's house loudly at midnight, in a drunken state. They asked about Petrus's whereabouts, but he was not at home at the time, he was at his in-laws' house in Kali Kao.

Petrus later met this soldier who intimidated him, made accusations and asked about his connection to the death of a person he did not know. Petrus Kinggo felt these attitudes and actions were taken to intimidate him and his family.

In August 2018, Petrus Kinggo found his picture distributed in the concession of PT. Berkat Cipta Abadi (owned by Korindo Group) and allegedly was distributed by Korindo companies. In September 2018, Petrus Kinggo met with the Korindo company manager to ask why the photo had been circulated, but no explanation or clarification has been given to date. The distribution of Petrus Kinggo's photo occurred again in May 2020, some time after PK had aided the family of Marius Betera, who died after being beaten by police officers at the General Office of PT. Tunas Sawa Erma POP A, Camp 19, Jair District, Boven Digoel Regency, Papua Province (May 16, 2020).



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