



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 May 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Human Rights Situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in West Papua, Indonesia**

The human rights situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the highlands of West Papua affected by the ongoing conflict between the Indonesian National Military/Police Forces (TNI/POLRI) and the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB/OPM) remains highly concerning.

Our network has documented the presence of IDPs in Nduga, Mimika, Intan Jaya, Puncak, Pegunungan Bintang and Maybrat regencies. Caught up in the conflict, villagers have been forced to flee. We have received information about the takeover of healthcare centers, schools and civilian houses in areas of conflict by the military.<sup>(1)</sup> Tens of thousands of IDPs have taken shelter in other regions of the Papuan highlands due to the series of military operations that have intensified since 2018. IDPs have also sought refuge in the jungle, deprived of adequate living conditions and protection.

Indigenous Papuan women and children remain most affected by the ongoing conflict. As of April 2024, an estimated 76,919 people in West Papua, mostly indigenous Papuans, are internally displaced. <sup>(2)</sup> Based on several reports issued by human rights and humanitarian organisations in West Papua, at least 674 persons of Muara Bontoh (Yahukimo regency) have fled to the city of Dekai, at least 2,252 persons in Kiwirok and its surroundings have fled to the Oksibil region and the neighbouring country Papua New Guinea (PNG). In addition at least 37,000 persons from various districts in the area of Nduga have fled to Asmat Regency, Mimika Regency and Jayawijaya Regency. It is also reported that at least 1,000 persons from Intan Jaya have fled to Nabire Regency, Paniai Regency and Mimika Regency and at least 6,000 persons from Maybrat fled to Kmurkek, Sorong Regency and Sorong Municipality. <sup>(3)</sup>

It is not possible to accurately verify the number of IDPs in the Regencies of Pegunungan Bintang, Intan Jaya, Nduga, and Puncak in the past six months, nor the conditions in which they live, due to the ongoing conflict, the extreme isolation of these areas from media coverage and the inability of independent journalists to access them. <sup>(4)</sup>

IDPs are faced with a lack of basic access to healthcare services and education, as well as limited access to employment opportunities. <sup>(5)</sup> They have also been confronted with traumatic experiences such as door-to-door searches and harassment by members of Indonesian security forces. Such incidents have caused a growing distrust of the IDPs toward members of security forces and State authorities.

The Government of Indonesia, the Indonesian National Army (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) have repeatedly made statements indicating that all IDPs have returned to their villages and homes. At the beginning of 2024, an estimated number of 2.000-3.000 IDPs in the Maybrat Regency were reported to have returned home. <sup>(6)</sup> Despite their return, they continue to live under a heavy security presence, and their access to basic services remains limited. <sup>(7)</sup>

According to the observations and findings of the Justice and Peace Secretariats of the Catholic Diocese in West Papua, there are still many IDPs who are not able to return to their places of origin, including those from Maybrat. This information aligns with the information provided by the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM), which estimated that by the end of 2023, around 5,296 IDPs remained in temporary accommodation.

New internal displacements have occurred in response to the assassination of a military commander in the Paniai Regency on 11 April 2024. <sup>(8)</sup> The TPNPB has claimed responsibility for the killing. <sup>(9)</sup> According to information from human rights and humanitarian organisations in West Papua, approximately 2,600 persons from six villages in the districts Agadide and Ekadide, Paniai Regency and Papua Tengah Province have fled their homes in fear of potential security raids conducted by the TNI/POLRI. <sup>(10)</sup> The deployment of security force personnel and military equipment to Paniai and neighbouring regencies on 16 April 2024 has been reported by local sources. <sup>(11)</sup>

## We urge the Government of Indonesia to

- 1) Facilitate the return of IDPs to their villages and homes in a safe manner, through a process of meaningful consultation and ensuring that returning persons are not faced with harassment or threats of any kind.
- 2) Allow national and international human rights and humanitarian organisations, and national and foreign journalists access to West Papua to provide assistance to, and independently monitor the conditions of IDPs, respectively.
- 3) Provide compensation to the returning IDPs for the physical, psychological and property losses they have suffered.
- 4) Guarantee access to basic services for all IDPs including adequate temporary housing, food, water and sanitation, healthcare and access to education.
- 5) Invite the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs to conduct a country visit to West Papua to monitor the human rights situation and make recommendations.

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Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) Indonesia Komisi Untuk Orang Hilang dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan (KONTRAS) Indonesia NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.

- (1) IDP Update April 2024: New internal displacements in Paniai, Human Rights Monitor, April 17, 2024, available at: <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/reports/idp-update-april-2024-new-internal-displacements-in-paniai/>
- (2) Ibid
- (4) IDP Update April 2024: New internal displacements in Paniai, Human Rights Monitor, April 17, 2024, available at: <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/reports/idp-update-april-2024-new-internal-displacements-in-paniai/>
- (5) Ibid
- (6) Ibid
- (7) Ibid
- (8) Danramil 1703-04/Aradide Found Dead, TPNPB Admits Responsibility, SuaraPapua.com, April 11, 2024, available at: <https://suarapapua.com/2024/04/11/danramil-1703-04-aradide-ditemukan-tewas-tpnpb-akui-bertanggungjawab/sponsibility> – Voice of Papua (suarapapua.com)
- (9) Ibid
- (10) IDP Update April 2024: New internal displacements in Paniai, Human Rights Monitor, April 17, 2024, available at: <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/reports/idp-update-april-2024-new-internal-displacements-in-paniai/>
- (11) Ibid