



## 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council

### Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons

25 June 2021

*Oral Statement delivered by Ms Yuliana Langowuyo*

Thank you Ms Chairperson.

Franciscans International and the co-sponsors welcome the Special Rapporteur's annual report on the housing, land and property issues in the context of internal displacement.

We would like to raise your attention on the internal displacement in the highlands of West Papua, due to the on-going internal conflict in Indonesia. Our network documented the presence of IDPs in Nduga, Mimika, Intan Jaya, and Puncak regencies. Being caught up in the conflict between the Indonesian security forces and the pro-independence group, the villagers were forced to flee to protect their lives. We received information on instances in which health care centers and schools in the area of conflict were taken over by the military. Some tens of thousands of IDPs have continuously taken shelter in other regions of the Papuan highlands since the series of military operations of the last two years.<sup>1</sup> Some others sought refuge into the jungle, deprived of adequate living conditions and protection. They are facing traumatic events and conditions from the security forces operations which included door-to-door searching. Harassment of civilians has been reported as common practice too. The conduct of security operations causes the growing distrust among the IDPs towards the members of the security forces and state authorities, including those offering food supplies, health care services and educational activities.

A recent displacement took place in Puncak Regency at the end of April 2021. Following the killing of the Papua Provincial head of the Indonesian Intelligent Service by an armed wing of the pro-independence movement, the Indonesian government sent additional troops to reinforce the already existing military forces in Puncak Regency. There have been allegations of harassment and intimidation of civilians by members of the Indonesian security forces. Also as a result, thousands

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<sup>1</sup> The Humanitarian Crisis in West Papua: internal conflict, the displacement of people and the coronavirus pandemic, August 2020, International Coalition for Papua (ICP), Foundation for Justice and Integrity of the Papuan People (YKKMP), Papuan Institute for Human Rights Studies and Advocacy (ELSHAM Papua), and Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Papuan Tabernacle Church (JPIC Kingmi Papua). Accessible at <https://www.humanrightspapua.org/hrreport/623-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-west-papua-internal-conflict-the-displacement-of-people-and-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

of villagers fled to seek protection including in nearby churches while leaving behind their houses, lands and properties. Most of them are indigenous Papuan women and children. The representative of the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) who visited the area on June 3rd where the IDPs were sheltered in the towns of Ilaga and Gome.<sup>2</sup> These towns are already overstretched in clean water and health services. Mabuga and Mayuberi.<sup>3</sup>

We urge the Government of Indonesia to allow national and international human rights and humanitarian organizations to access West Papua to monitor the situation and assist the IDPs, and more importantly to find a sustainable solution to this on-going conflict through a peaceful dialogue.

Thank you.

Endorsed by

1. Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the Franciscans in Papua (JPIC Franciscans Papua)
2. International Coalition for Papua (ICP)
3. TAPOL
4. The Commission for Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS)
5. VIVAT International
6. Geneva for Human Rights / Genève Pour Les Droits de l'Homme
7. Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR)

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<sup>2</sup> Information shared by the Komnas HAM representative office in Papuan, Mr. Frits Ramandey, in an interview with media outlet Jubi. Accessible at <https://jubi.co.id/komnas-ham-sampaikan-temuannya-di-kabupaten-puncak-ke-pemprov-papua/amp/>

<sup>3</sup> Information received from the KINGMI Church in Papua as 30 May 2021.