

**55th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur
on the rights of internally displaced persons**

21 June 2024

Delivered by Ms. Lamberti Faan

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Thank you Mr. President.

The human rights situation of IDPs in West Papua remains gravely concerning. An estimated 76,919 people are internally displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict between the Indonesian Security Forces and the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB/OPM).ⁱ The lack of access for journalists and humanitarian organizations has made it difficult to accurately verify the exact number of IDPs.

We have received information about the ransacking of civilian infrastructure such as healthcare centers, schools, and houses by the military and their subsequent utilization as military posts.ⁱⁱ

It is estimated that 138 people have died in IDP camps since 2021 due to poor living conditions and a lack of access to basic services.ⁱⁱⁱ Indigenous Papuan women and children are disproportionately impacted by the lack of access to healthcare services, education, and livelihood opportunities. Inadequate nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women has had profound consequences on children.

Since the beginning of 2024, an estimated 2.000-3.000 IDPs living in Sorong Regency have reportedly returned to Maybrat Regency.^{iv} The Maybrat authorities claim that it is safe to return. However, returnees live under constant intimidation and surveillance by the military.

We call on the Indonesian government to provide support to the IDPs and guarantee their right to a safe return. We also call for unimpeded access for international humanitarian organizations to West Papua in order for much-needed aid to reach IDPs. We also call for independent actors such as the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur to be given access to the region to monitor and report on the human rights situation.

Thank you.

ⁱ 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/>

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.