

## STOPPING THE VIOLENCE IN PAPUA

It has been more than half a century since Papua was 'integrated' into the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and in recent years the approach taken by Jakarta, the 'development approach', is still ignoring basic human values and human rights. If this is the approach taken, how can it ensure that Papuans are Indonesian citizens? Discrimination against Papuans is still prevalent in various places in Indonesia. This has created such a sense of injustice at all levels of society, and so pervasive that the Papuan people can no longer be reticent in expressing their discomfort at being part of Indonesia.

Since the security approach remains a priority for Jakarta, the level of violence continues to escalate, even targeting church workers. This is of special concern for those living and working in conflict areas. Two months ago, the murder of Pastor Yeremia Zanambani, allegedly involving security forces acting without compunction, only added to the sense of injustice. Until now, the government has not taken any steps to prevent the practice of killing in Papua. Countless casualties have fallen.

Therefore, we churches in Indonesia declare:

1. A deep concern over the occurrence of various incidents of violence experienced by Papuans (residing either inside or outside the province of Papua) who have become victims of nationality/ stigmatization and even victims of murder. Some in Papua - as internally displaced persons - are still living in refugee tents, their lives grossly affected by the continuing limitations, especially women and children.
2. We strongly urge the Indonesian government together with the Indonesian Parliament, immediately to stop the security approach. What has been occurring, carried out by security forces, has resulted in many casualties and has caused deep fear and trauma for the Papuan people. In order to stem the rising toll of casualties, we ask the government and parliament to help implement a policy of withdrawal of non-organic troops in Papua. The current level of military operations in Papua is nothing less than a nightmare.
3. Request the state to take immediate action to resolve various incidents of human rights violations that have occurred in Papua. Action needs to be taken against perpetrators of violence and human rights violators, in accordance with the laws in force in the Republic of Indonesia. This is important to ensure a sense of justice for Papuans, and to foster the trust of Papuans in the laws applicable in Indonesia.
4. Conflict resolution in Papua should always prioritize equal and dignified dialogue by eliminating violence, to create the land of Papua as a land of peace.

Thus, we convey this statement as a form of solidarity from the churches in Indonesia towards problems in Papua, especially ahead of Christmas 2020 so that it can be celebrated with peace and joy.

**December 17th, 2020**

- 1 Rev. Elson Lingga, Bishop of GKPPD Synod
- 2 Rev. Dorkas Orienti Daeli, General Secretary of BNKP Synod



3 Rev. Paul Ulrich Munthe, General Secretary of GKPS Synod



4 Rev. Rehpelita Ginting, General Secretary of GBKP Moderamen Synod



5 Rev. Wardinan S. Lidim, Chairperson of GKE Synod



6 Rev. Abednego Juwarisman, Chairperson of GJTU Synod



7 Rev. Debora Sinaga, Head of Diaconia Department of HKBP Synod.



8 Rev. Marganti Gabe Panggabean, Head of Bureau III of GKPA Synod



9 Rev. Rita Purba, Leader of GPKB Synod



10 Rev. Adventus Nadapdap, Head of Research and Development of HKI Synod



