

# JAILED FOR RAISING A FLAG

Filep Karma is serving 15 years in prison for raising a flag. A prominent advocate for the rights of Indonesia's Papuan population, Filep Karma was arrested for taking part in a peaceful ceremony on December 1, 2004, which included the raising of the Morning Star flag, a symbol of Papuan independence.

Amnesty International considers Filep Karma to be a prisoner of conscience who has been imprisoned solely for the peaceful and legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of expression. Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Mr. Karma has been beaten by guards and is continuing to experience serious health problems in prison. The organization calls on the Indonesian government to free Filep Karma and all other prisoners of conscience.



## INDONESIA

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

**FILEP KARMA** was one of hundreds to participate in a peaceful ceremony on December 1, 2004, to commemorate the 1962 declaration of Papuan independence. Indonesian police advanced on the crowd, firing shots and beating people with batons. Police bullets reportedly injured at least four people, and police reportedly beat a human rights monitor who was trying to photograph the police attack on the crowd.

After forcing an end to the ceremony, police arrested Filep Karma and reportedly beat and stomped on him during transport to the police station. A group of about 20 people were later arrested at the police station when they went to protest Mr. Karma's arrest, but all were subsequently released, except for **YUSAK PAKAGE**. Mr. Karma and Mr. Pakage were later charged with rebellion for their alleged role in leading and organizing the flag-raising event. In May 2005, a court sentenced Filep Karma to 15 years in prison and Yusak Pakage to 10 years on charges of treason for having "betrayed" Indonesia by flying the Papua flag. Yusak Pakage was released in July 2010 following a presidential pardon.

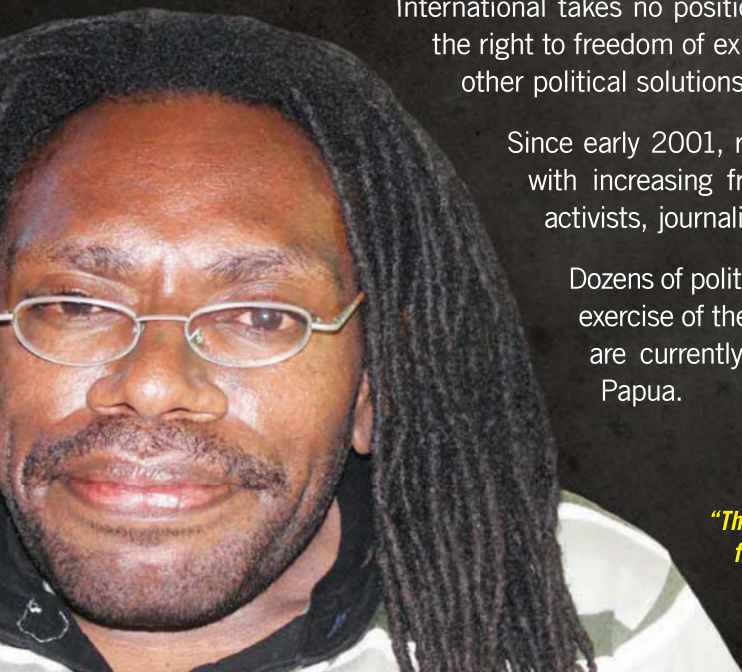
**BACKGROUND:** Papua occupies the western half of the island of New Guinea and was granted limited autonomy under Indonesian rule in 2001. Many in Papua would like to separate from Indonesia and form their own nation. Supporters of independence have been among those jailed as prisoners of conscience in Indonesia. While Amnesty International takes no position on the political status of any province of Indonesia, it believes the right to freedom of expression includes the right to peacefully advocate independence or other political solutions.

Since early 2001, repressive legislation limiting freedom of expression has been used with increasing frequency against government critics, including labor and political activists, journalists, and independence activists.

Dozens of political activists have been arrested and convicted solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression. Numerous prisoners of conscience are currently behind bars for their peaceful political activities in Maluku and Papua.

*"Thank you to everyone at Amnesty International across the world... from someone who has suffered and who now smiles again thanks to Amnesty."*

—Yusak Pakage, Indonesia, upon his release in July 2010



## SPEAK OUT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!

Please send politely worded letters to the President of Indonesia, urging him to bring about the immediate and unconditional release of Filep Karma and all those imprisoned solely for the legitimate exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

**For more information about this case, go to:**  
[www.amnestyusa.org/filep](http://www.amnestyusa.org/filep)

**To take action on other Individuals at Risk, go to:**  
[www.amnestyusa.org/prioritycases](http://www.amnestyusa.org/prioritycases)

### SEND LETTERS TO:

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