URGENT ACTION

FOUR PAPUAN ACTIVISTS RELEASED BUT STILL CHARGED

Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hesegem and William Wim, detained for peaceful political demonstrations on 19 December 2016 in Manado, North Sulawesi, have been released by the police. They are still being charged with rebellion (makar) and could face life imprisonment.

Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hesegem and William Wim, members of a pro-Papuan independence organization, the West Papuan National Committee (KNPB), were released on 28 January 2017 by the North Sulawesi Regional Police Force (Polda) according to their new legal advisor. While they were detained, there was miscommunication between them and their previous lawyer, therefore their release was not made known to Amnesty International. They are unable to travel and have been ordered by police to remain in Manado, North Sulawesi. They are still being charged with “rebellion” (makar) and could face life imprisonment.

The four men were among at least 528 people, including children, arrested on 19 December 2016 following simultaneous peaceful political activities in many cities across Indonesia. Most people were released the following day without charge. Legislation in Indonesia continues to be used to criminalize peaceful political activities and to imprison people solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and opinion and peaceful assembly. Many of those arrested are charged with “rebellion” (makar) under Articles 106 and 110 of Indonesia’s Criminal Code (crimes against the security of the state).

1) TAKE ACTION
Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:
- Drop the charges against Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hesegem and William Wim as they have been criminalised solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression;
- Stop evoking vague and overbroad legislation to arrest, prosecute and punish persons for peacefully exercising their human rights.

Contact these two officials by 22 March, 2017:
North Sulawesi Regional Head of Police
Irena Bambang Waskito
North Sulawesi Regional Police Headquarters
Jl. Bethesda No. 62
Manado, North Sulawesi Province
Indonesia
Fax: +62(0)431 841998
Salutation: Dear Inspector General

Ambassador Budi Bowoleksono
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036
T: 202.775.5200
F: 202.775.5365
Email: faisal@embassyofindonesia.org
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION
Here’s why it is so important to report your actions: we record the number of actions taken on each case and use that information in our advocacy. Either email uan@aiusa.org with “UA 35/17” in the subject line or click this link.
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Indonesia enshrines guarantees to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in its Constitution and national legislation. Dozens of peaceful political activists are currently imprisoned in the Papuan region (provinces of Papua and West Papua), some sentenced to as long as 20 years’ imprisonment, for attending, organizing or participating in peaceful political activities or protests, or possessing, raising or waving the prohibited pro-independence ‘Morning Star’ flag of Papua.


The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) is an umbrella organization established in December 2014 and formed of different factions of the Papuan independence movement.

The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) is an intergovernmental organization, founded as a political gathering in 1983, composed of the four Melanesian states of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia. Indonesia is an associate member, while ULMWP is an observing member.

Amnesty International takes no position whatsoever on the political status of any province of Indonesia, including calls for independence. However, the organization believes that the right to freedom of expression includes the right to peacefully advocate referendums, independence or other political solutions.

Name: Hiskia Meage, Emanuel Ukago, Panus Hesegem and William Wim
Gender m/f: all m

Further information on UA: 35/17 Index: ASA 21/5642/2017 Issue Date: 9 February 2017