

**PAPUANS
BEHIND BARS**



Papuans Behind Bars

QUARTERLY UPDATE

April–June 2025

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Cover: Rife Kerebea during one of his court sessions at the Wamena District Court, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua
Pegunungan Province, 14 May 2025. Source: Supplied

Papuans Behind Bars

Quarterly Update

April–June 2025

Summary

During the second quarter of 2025, we recorded 47 cases of arrests, almost all of which were arbitrary and one of which involved arbitrary detention. It was noted that 30 people were released, while 17 were prosecuted, and torture or other ill-treatment occurred in 19 of the cases. In addition, we also saw that at least five human rights defenders were victims of arbitrary arrest.

In this period, at least nine detainees from previous periods received court judgments. Five were charged with possession of firearms and/or bladed weapons, two were charged with murder, while the rest were charged with violence against property/persons and theft with violence. They received sentences ranging from seven months to 10 years in prison. In addition, one activist had his prison term extended for no apparent reason.

Background

This period coincides with the six months of Prabowo Administration that not only have shown deepening democracy regression,¹ but also a worsening economic situation. This period showed the highest rate of Indonesia's foreign debt (USD 427 billion in May 2025), amounting to about 39% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The National Statistics Bureau (BPS) also alarmed the public about the highest rate of unemployment (5.2% of the population). Furthermore, in April 2025 the World Bank announced that around 68% of the population (around 194 million) were considered poor according to its methodology applied for Indonesia as an upper middle-income country (UNMICs).² In its standard, the World Bank used the threshold of purchasing power parity (PPP) of USD 3 per day for Indonesians. This figure was in contrast with the National Statistics Bureau (BPS) version that used the threshold of around IDR 20,000 (USD 1.23) per day, a method considered by experts as

¹ TAPOL, More than putting the Government's house in (a new) order: Prabowo's programme of militarisation takes shape, 5 June 2025, available at <https://tapol.org/publications/prabowos-programme-militarisation-takes-shape>.

² World Bank, the World Bank's Updated Global Poverty Lines: Indonesia, 13 June 2025, available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2025/06/13/updated-global-poverty-lines-indonesia>.

outdated and which has not been renewed since 1998.³ According to BPS data in September 2024, the poor in Indonesia was only around 8.5% of the population (24 million).⁴

On 15 April, TAPOL, a member of Papuans Behind Bars network, launched an annual report on the situation of freedom of expression and assembly in West Papua throughout 2024. The report highlighted a worsening situation for freedom of expression and assembly in 2024 compared with 2023, with a 42.9% increase in incidents of arbitrary dispersals and 51.4% more individuals being arrested.⁵

On 29 April, the Constitutional Court (MK) made a positive decision by ruling that the criminal defamation provisions in the infamous Electronic Information and Transaction (EIT) Law could not be applied against government agencies, groups of people and corporations. The judicial review on the EIT Law's criminal defamation provisions before the MK was submitted by an environmental human rights defender who was once criminalized by the provisions in 2024 for his work against an environmental degradation in an island in Central Java.

On 8 May, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected as the new Head of Catholic Church Pope Leo XIV. In 2003, Cardinal Prevost OSA visited some areas in West Papua when he served as the head of the Agustinian Order (OSA) to celebrate five decades of OSA mission in the area.⁶ We also received information that as the head of the Agustinian Order, he proposed the Vatican Church to appoint Father Bernard Baru OSA as the new Bishop of Timika.



Image 1. Pope Leo XIV appears on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, 8 May 2025. (Vatican Media)

³ BBC, *Garis kemiskinan versi Bank Dunia dan pemerintah, mana yang lebih realistis?*, 18 June 2025, available at <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/c4gezkelj4yo>.

⁴ BPS, *Memahami Perbedaan Angka Kemiskinan versi Bank Dunia dan BPS*, 2 May 2025, available at <https://www.bps.go.id/id/news/2025/05/02/702/memahami-perbedaan-angka-kemiskinan-versi-bank-dunia-dan-bps.html>.

⁵ TAPOL, *West Papua 2024 Freedom of Expression and Assembly Full Report*, 15 April 2025, available at <https://tapol.org/publications/west-papua-2024-freedom-expression-and-assembly-full-report>.

⁶ BBC, *Kunjungan Robert Prevost ke Papua dan harapan perdamaian – 'Saya kaget ternyata dia yang menjadi Paus'*, 10 May 2025, available at <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/cr7zrdnmvl7o>.

On 10 June, the Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources revoked four out of five mining operation permits (IUP) belonging to four mining companies who extracted nickel in Raja Ampat, Papua Barat Daya Province. The GoI stated that the four-mining operation permits overlapped with the protected Raja Ampat Geopark area designated by UNESCO and also violated several environment safeguards.⁷ The revocation of the mining permits in Raja Ampat happened after widespread protests made by the environmental activists and Papuan activists who also received support from the head (*Bupati*) of Raja Ampat administration. Another company affiliated to the state mining company PT Gag Nickel was still allowed to operate.⁸ The nickel mining industry was part of the Prabowo Administration's priority program of 'downstreaming industry' as a step to increase the production of car electric batteries.

Civil society organizations criticized the Minister of Culture's attempt to rewrite 'official' history of Indonesia, including to whitewash the role of President Prabowo Subianto's involvement in the past atrocities with some that were already documented in the official investigations. The Minister of Culture also denied that there was a systematic racial rape against the Chinese women during the May 1998 riot despite the fact that it was already recognized by the May 1998 Riot Presidential Fact Finding Team (TGPF) and the National Human Rights' (Komnas HAM) judicial investigation.⁹ Some historians were also concerned that the rewriting 'official' history project would also strengthen and cover the historical injustice for the Papuans who experienced systemic human rights violations since being controlled by the Indonesian state in 1963 including the situation during the 1969 Referendum.



Image 2. Civil society coalition members protest during a hearing between the parliament and the Ministry of Culture, 2 July 2025. (MetroTV on YouTube)

⁷ Kementerian Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral, *Siaran Pers*, Nomor: 054.Pers/KM.01.03/SJI/2025, 10 June 2025, available at <https://www.esdm.go.id/id/media-center/arsip-berita/pemerintah-cabut-empat-izin-perusahaan-tambang-di-raja-ampat>.

⁸ Mongabay, *Mengapa PT Gag Nickel di Raja Ampat Bisa Tetap Jalan?*, 17 June 2025, available at <https://mongabay.co.id/2025/06/17/mengapa-pt-gag-nikel-di-raja-ampat-bisa-tetap-jalan/>.

⁹ Civil Society Coalition against Impunity, *Civil Society Coalition Against Impunity Strongly Condemns the Statement by the Minister of Culture on the May 1998 Tragedy*, 24 June 2025, available at <https://tapol.org/news/civil-society-coalition-condemns-minister-of-culture>.

Indonesian lawmakers (government and parliament) intensified the discussion and debate of the amendment to the existing Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) which was scheduled to be passed by end of 2025 to match with the entry into force of the new Criminal Code (KUHP) in January 2026. Civil society organizations criticized the current KUHP draft law that provides more power for the police to conduct surveillance while ignoring the much-needed human rights safeguards such as the habeas corpus and shortening the pre-trial detention period.

To date, there has been no update with regards to the Indonesian government plan to issue amnesty or pardon for Papuan political prisoners.¹⁰

In early June, Minister of Human Rights Natalius Pigai released information about the numbers of internally displaced Papuans (IDPs) as being around 60,000 people, but he was only mentioning IDPs from two regencies (Intan Jaya and Puncak) in Papua Tengah Province.¹¹ Meanwhile, data from Human Rights Monitor mentioned at least 97,721 Papuans being displaced internally in West Papua by mid-June, with new Papuans becoming IDPs from Jayawijaya, Intan Jaya, Yahukimo, Puncak and Nduga regencies after new armed clashes between Indonesian security forces and armed pro-Papua independence groups (the West Papua National Liberation Army/TPNPB).¹²

New Cases

There were 47 new Papuan political prisoners (43 men and 4 women) between April and June 2025. Eight of these were linked to a protest organized by the local branch of the West Papua Student Independent Forum (*Forum Independen Mahasiswa West Papua*, FIM-WP) in Nabire City, Papua Tengah Province, on 7 April 2025. The protesters organised the demonstration to mark the 58th anniversary of the start of the Freeport mining operation in West Papua (1967), two years before the UN-led referendum to determine the political status of West Papua in 1969. The protesters raised their voices to demand the closure of the company who they accused of committing natural resources exploitation and environmental degradation by producing hazardous wastes that cause suffering to the local Papuan Amungme people.

FIM-WP also called for the central government to pull out all non-organic military (TNI) personnel and stop the food and energy estate National Strategic Project (PSN) in Merauke, as well as for the right to self-determination for the Papuan peoples.¹³ The protest organizers had already submitted a notification letter to hold the demonstration, but the

¹⁰ See Papuans Behind Bars Q1 (January—March) 2025, <https://papuansbehindbars.org/q1-2025/>.

¹¹ Tempo, *60 Ribu Warga Intan Jaya dan Puncak Jaya Papua Mengungsi Akibat Konflik*, 7 June 2025, available at <https://www.tempo.co/hukum/60-ribu-warga-intan-jaya-dan-puncak-jaya-papua-mengungsi-akibat-konflik-1673030>.

¹² Human Rights Monitor, IDP Update June'25: Humanitarian crisis in West Papua reaches new dimensions, 13 June 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/news/idp-update-june25-humanitarian-crisis-in-west-papua-reaches-new-dimensions/>.

¹³ Cepos online, *Demo Tuntut Freeport Ditutup, Ini Pernyataan Sikap FIM-WP di Nabire*, 7 April 2025, available at <https://www.ceposonline.com/nabire/1995850866/demo-tuntut-freeport-ditutup-ini-pernyataan-sikap-fim-wp-di-nabire>.

police refused to confirm receipt of the protest notice on the grounds that it was against the Law on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly in the Public Sphere (No. 9/1998).

On 10 April, dozens of student union activists from the University of Papua (Unipa) in Manokwari City, Papua Barat Province, held a peaceful protest against the amendment of the Military (TNI) Law and the National Strategic Project (PSN) in West Papua. Joint police and military forces disbanded the protests with tear gas and arrested two students. After the students regrouped and involved members of local parliament (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Papua Barat*, DPRPB) and Papuan People's Assembly (*Majelis Rakyat Papua Barat*, MRPB) demanding the release of the students, the Manokwari Police Forces (Polres) released them without charges on the same day. However, the two students were reportedly beaten during the arrest.¹⁴

Four members of Federal State of the Republic of West Papua (NFRPB), a pro-Papua independence group, were arrested by the Sorong City Police on 28 April. The four men were Nikson Mau, Abraham Goram Gaman, Maksi Sangkek, and Piter Robaha. They were charged with treason for distributing invitation letters for a peace dialogue at several provincial government offices in Sorong City, Papua Barat Daya Province. The four men were immediately detained and charged with treason or *makar* (Article 106 of the Criminal Code) and hate speech under the Electronic Information and Transaction law.¹⁵



Image 3. Abraham Goram and his co-defendants, with their lawyer, Yan Christian Warinussy (centre), at the Sorong City Police Headquarters, 17 May 2025. (Suarasorong.com)

Police from the Cartenz Peace Task Force or Satgas Damai Cartenz arbitrarily arrested Ivan Kabak a.k.a Larangen Solongkik on 5 May at a high school in Dekai, Yahukimo regency, Papua Pegunungan Province. Joint police of Damai Cartenz were already in front of the school's gate, using a car with dark glass. They then kidnapped and brought him to Yahukimo Police Resort. The police claimed that Ivan Kabak was involved in several

¹⁴ Human Rights Monitor, Repression of peaceful protest in Manokwari: Two UNIPA students arbitrarily arrested and beaten, 5 May 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/case/repression-of-peaceful-protest-in-manokwari-two-unipa-students-arbitrarily-arrested-and-beaten-in-manokwari/>.

¹⁵ Antara, *Polisi tetapkan empat anggota NFRPB tersangka makar*, 5 May 2025, available at <https://papuabarat.antaranews.com/berita/64429/polisi-tetapkan-empat-anggota-nfrpb-tersangka-makar>.

unrelated murder cases. He was detained and charged with premeditated murder under Article 340 of the Criminal Code.¹⁶

On 8 May, 11 members of the Malamoi Papuan indigenous community in Sorong Regency, Papua Barat Daya Province, were arrested by the police and charged with allegations of stealing and selling diesel oil belonging to a palm oil plantation company. One of the 11 arrested Malamoi people was the landowner where the plantation company operates.¹⁷

Timika Resort Police officers arbitrarily arrested Malvin Yobe and friends on 14 May at Tiga Raja Cathedral in Timika, Mimika regency, Papua Tengah Province, for staging a spontaneous silent and peaceful demonstration in the church courtyard after the ordination mass for the new bishop of Timika Diocese Mgr. Bernardus Bofitwos Baru OSA. The ordination ceremony was attended by the Vatican's Ambassador and many Catholic bishops from across Indonesia. Malvin and friends strongly reject the statement and alignment of the Archbishop of Merauke on the National Strategic Project (PSN) that destroys indigenous land and the indigenous peoples' rights in Merauke, Papua Selatan Province. Malvin Yobe was released later the same day from Jalan Baru Police Station.¹⁸

Indonesian military (TNI) personnel reportedly arbitrarily arrested seven people during an operation in Janamba Village, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Tengah Province, on 14 May. The arrestees were local villagers Misael Tabuni and his wife, Peles Hondani and his wife, Daniel Hondani, and Julius Janambani. However, the whereabouts of them are still unknown.¹⁹ A day earlier, a large-scale military (TNI) operation in the Sugapa and Hitadipa districts of Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Tengah province, was carried out to suppress the armed pro-Papua independence group (TPNPB). One of the areas of the military operation was Janamba village. The Indonesian military forces claimed that they managed to kill 18 TPNPB armed members during the operation.²⁰ It was also reported that at least four civilians were killed and several others were wounded from shots during that operation. Around 950 families in the affected armed clash areas had to relocate to the forest.²¹

¹⁶ Human Rights Monitor, Papuan youth unlawfully detained in Dekai, Yahukimo, 18 June 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/case/papuan-pupil-arbitrarily-detained-after-school-graduation-in-dekai/> and Police (Polri) Headquarters, *Satgas Ops Damai Cartenz-2025 dan Polres Yahukimo Gelar Reposisi & Rekonstruksi Tindak Kekerasan terhadap Warga Sipil*, 15 May 2025, available at <https://mediahub.polri.go.id/in/image/detail/170284-rekonstruksi-percobaan-pembunuhan-warga-sipil-di-yahukimo>

¹⁷ Jubi, *11 warga ditangkap, Masyarakat Adat Malamoi palang PT IKSJ Sorong*, 5 June 2025, available at <https://jubi.id/domberai/2025/11-warga-ditangkap-masyarakat-adat-malamoi-palang-pt-iks-j-sorong/>.

¹⁸ Human Rights Monitor, Arbitrary detention of Catholic youth activist during bishop ordination in Timika, 6 June 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/case/arbitrary-detention-of-catholic-youth-activist-during-bishop-ordination-in-timika/>.

¹⁹ Human Rights Monitor, Military operation results in civilian deaths and displacement in Intan Jaya – five killed, four injured, and seven missing, 30 May 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/case/military-operation-results-in-civilian-deaths-and-displacement-in-intan-jaya-at-least-four-killed-five-injured-and-seven-missing/>.

²⁰ Jubi, *TNI sebut tewaskan 18 anggota OPM, TPNPB membantah, apa yang sebenarnya terjadi di Intan Jaya?*, 21 May 2025, available at <https://jubi.id/indepth-stories/2025/tni-sebut-tewaskan-18-anggota-opm-tpnpb-membantah-apa-yang-sebenarnya-terjadi-di-intan-jaya/>.

²¹ Human Rights Monitor, Military operation results in civilian deaths and displacement in Intan Jaya – five killed, four injured, and seven missing, 30 May 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/case/military-operation-results-in-civilian-deaths-and-displacement-in-intan-jaya-at-least-four-killed-five-injured-and-seven-missing/>.

Police personnel from the Satgas Damai Cartenz arrested Praedy Wanimbo in Maki District, Lanny Jaya Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province, on 15 May. He was immediately charged with possessing firearms or munitions under Article 1 of the 1951 Emergency Law. The Satgas Damai Cartenz also arrested an active police officer from the Polres Lanny Jaya for selling tens of fire ammunition to Praedy who the police claimed is affiliated to the armed pro-Papua independence group under the leadership of Komari Murib.²²

On 3 June, four environmental human rights defenders from Greenpeace Indonesia were arrested by the Jakarta Police Force at a hotel where they had taken direct action to protest against nickel mines in Raja Ampat, West Papua, during the Indonesia Critical Minerals Conference & Expo. All of them were released without charges after being questioned.²³

Abepura police personnel arrested a demonstrator and a human rights defender (lawyer) from Papua Legal Aid Institute (*Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Papua*, LBH Papua) in Abepura, Jayapura, on 12 June. They were both arrested during a demonstration by the Southwest Papua Youth Alliance (*Aliansi Pemuda Papua Barat Daya*) against nickel mining in Raja Ampat. According to Imanus Komba from LBH Papua, he was suddenly dragged away and his neck was choked by police personnel. He was also beaten with a baton. In less than half an hour, they were both released by the police and they returned to the ranks of the protesters.²⁴



Image 4. A staff member of the LBH Papua and a protester were arrested in Jayapura, Papua Province, on 12 June 2025, during a protest against mining in Raja Ampat. (Jubi/Larius Kogoya)

²² Inews, *Seorang Anggota Polri asal Sultra Jual Puluhan Amunisi ke Jaringan KKB Terancam Dipecat*, 20 May 2025, available at <https://kendari.inews.id/read/597114/seorang-anggota-polri-asal-sultra-jual-puluhan-amunisi-ke-jaringan-kkb-terancam-dipecat>.

²³ Kompas.com, *Polisi Tindak Aktivis saat Gelar Aksi di Konferensi Nikel International*, 4 June 2025, available at <https://lestari.kompas.com/read/2025/06/04/135558286/polisi-tindak-aktivis-saat-gelar-aksi-di-konferensi-nikel-internasional>.

²⁴ Jubi, *Staf LBH Papua dan seorang demonstran 'cabut izin PT Gag' di Abepura ditangkap polisi*, 12 June 2025, available at <https://jubi.id/polhukam/2025/staf-lbh-papua-dan-seorang-demonstran-cabut-izin-pt-gag-di-abepura-ditangkap-polisi/>.

Ongoing Case Updates

On 15 April, the panel of judges at the Nabire District Court convicted Jefri Douw and Albertus Pigai guilty of the possession of sharp weapons under Article 2 of the 1951 Emergency Law and sentenced them to eight months in prison.²⁵ Both were among the 99 people arrested by the police in Nabire City, Papua Tengah Province, on 15 August 2024 during the commemoration of the 1962 New York Agreement²⁶ in various locations in that city organised by KNPB Nabire activists.²⁷

On 20 May, the panel of judges of the Jayapura District Court sentenced Yenoarius Agapa, alias Bidapode, to seven months in prison, while the prosecutor demanded 10 months' imprisonment. Yenoarius was charged with committing violence jointly with others (Article 170.1 of the Criminal Code/KUHP).²⁸ He had been arrested with two other men by the Jayapura police forces when they participated in a demonstration against transmigration in Jayapura on 15 November 2024. The three men, Yanuarius Agapa, Alex Youw, and DD, were arrested when police forcibly dispersed the demonstration using water cannons, tear gas and warning shots. Meanwhile, another of the three, Alex Youw, was still on trial at the end of June, charged with possessing sharp weapons under the Emergency Law (No. 12/1951), with the prosecutor demanding 12 months' imprisonment.

On 2 June, the panel judges at the Nabire District court convicted Mozes Rumbrapuk for possessing firearms and ammunition under the Emergency Law (No. 12/1951) and sentenced him to ten years' imprisonment.²⁹ Mozes was arrested by the Satgas Damai Cartenz personnel on 25 October 2024 in Nabire City. The Satgas Damai Cartenz claimed that Mozes was the arms dealer to the local armed TPNPB group between 2023 and 2024.³⁰

On 12 June, the panel of judges at the Wamena District Court found Rife Kerebea alias Erik, guilty of premeditated murder of 13 gold miners in Yahukimo regency and sentenced him to 8 years in prison, four years less than the prosecutor demanded.³¹ Rife and another man were arrested by Satgas Damai Cartenz on 16 August 2024. Rife, who works as a village office employee, was arrested at his home in the presence of his wife and children in the early hours of the morning. After being briefly detained at Nduga police station, on 18 August 2024 he was reportedly taken to Timika. The next day he was flown to Jayapura for medical treatment and detained at the Papua Police, where he was detained until 18

²⁵ Jefri Douw on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/3pu570k8hmk>, and Albertus Pigai on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/czgw6kgxnao>.

²⁶ The New York Agreement was signed on 15 August 1962 by the Indonesian and Dutch governments, hosted by the US government, concerning the hand over of the administration of West Papua to Indonesia from the UN Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) on 1 May 1963, pending a referendum to implement the Papuan peoples' right to self-determination in 1969. Full text of the 15 August New York Agreement is available at <https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%20437/volume-437-i-6311-english.pdf>.

²⁷ See Papuans Behind Bars Q3 (July—September) 2024, available at <https://papuansbehindbars.org/q3-2024/>.

²⁸ Yenoarius Agapa on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/jc9eur4jd1c>.

²⁹ See the Nabire District Court Decision record at <https://putusan3.mahkamahagung.go.id/direktori/putusan/zaf0468315a883b2a8d4313231353236.html>.

³⁰ RRI, *Satgas Ops Damai Cartenz Menangkap Pemasok Senjata Api KKB*, 6 November 2024, available at <https://rri.co.id/daerah/1101831/satgas-ops-damai-cartenz-menangkap-pemasok-senjata-api-kkb>.

³¹ Rife Kerebea on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/b5tt4bbc8ln>.

December 2024. When the case was transferred to the prosecutor's office, Rife was transferred to Wamena.



Image 5. Rife Kerebea during one of his court sessions at the Wamena District Court, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province, 14 May 2025. (Supplied)

According to his lawyer, Rife has been tortured since his arrest and detention. He was arrested without being shown an arrest warrant. He was immediately handcuffed and his head was covered with a black cloth. He was beaten and threatened with death if he did not confess. His left calf was even shot at close range. He was also forced to sign the investigation report without being given the opportunity to read it first. Police claimed that Rife had joined the TPNPB led by Egianus Kogoya and was

involved in a number of criminal cases since 2022. These include stealing weapons (18 June 2022) and the shooting down of an aircraft in Kali Brasa Yahukimo (17 February 2024).³²

On 13 June, the panel of judges at the Nabire District Court found Ken Boga guilty of murder and sentenced him to nine years in prison, one year more than the prosecutor's demand.³³ Nabire police officers allegedly arbitrarily arrested Ken Boga at Karang Market, Nabire, in the afternoon of 3 September 2024. Boga was arrested because he was allegedly involved in actions that caused the death of a security guard named Supriyono at a security post of a company in Nabire on 23 August 2024. Boga's arrest and whereabouts were covered up by the police, making it difficult for family and friends to get a chance to see his condition. During his detention, Boga claimed to have been abused by a number of police officers. He was forced to confess. Apart from Boga, the police also arrested two other men, Agustinus Tagi and Yeremias Magai who died in custody. According to the Magai family through their lawyer, the three arrested had been tortured to confess. However, all three of them were in another district about 100 kilometres away from the murder scene at the time of the incident.³⁴ In his statement to the Magai family, the police chief claimed to have been pressured by the brother of the murder victim, who is a senior officer at the Cenderawasih Military Command.

On 13 June, the panel of judges at the Nabire District Court convicted Jemmy Magai Yogi guilty of smuggling ammunition (charged under the Emergency Law) and sentenced him to 10 years in prison, two years less than the prosecutor's request.³⁵ The defendant appealed the verdict. The Satgas Damai Cartenz Peace Task Force claimed that Jemmy Magai Yogi was a leader of an armed group and arrested him in Dogiyai, Papua Tengah Province, on 16 October 2024. On the same day, the panel of judges at the Nabire District Court also

³² Detik.com, *Peran Strategis Rife Kerebea di Kasus KKB Bantai 13 Pendulang Emas Yahukimo*, 18 August 2024, available at <https://www.detik.com/sulsel/hukum-dan-kriminal/d-7495454/peran-strategis-rife-kerebea-di-kasus-kkb-bantai-13-pendulang-emas-yahukimo>.

³³ Rife Kerebea on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/b5tt4bbc8ln>.

³⁴ TAPOL, Yeremias Magai murder must be investigated, perpetrators must be tried, 12 October 2024, available at <https://tapol.org/publications/yeremias-magai-murder-must-be-investigated-perpetrators-must-be-tried>.

³⁵ Jemmy Magai Yogi on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/7gof7ienos>.

convicted Maais Herlik Imburi, alias Mais Karuapi, for possessing and distributing ammunition to Jemmy Magai Yogi and sentenced Mais to 10 years in prison.³⁶ The Satgas Damai Cartenz personnel had arrested Mais Karuapi on 19 October 2024, in Nabire City.³⁷



*Image 6. The trial of Jemmy Magai Yogi at the Nabire District Court, 4 January 2025.
(Jubi/Hengky Yeimo)*

On 2 June, one of the Papuan political prisoners, Yotenus Wonda, reportedly escaped from Nabire Prison with 19 other prisoners, 11 of whom including Yotenus were said to be affiliated with armed groups.³⁸ Yotenus had been convicted by the Nabire District Court for attempting premeditated murder in Tingginambut, Puncak Jaya, Papua Tengah Province, and was sentenced to six years in prison.³⁹ The Satgas Damai Cartenz reportedly arrested two TPNPB suspects, one of whom was Yotenus Wonda on 5 October 2024 in Tingginambut District, Puncak Jaya Regency. The police claimed they were arrested because they were allegedly involved in a number of attacks on civilians and security forces, including one on 17 March 2024 that injured one TNI member and killed another.

Issues of Concern

A journalist who witnessed an anti-Freeport Mining company protest in Nabire City on 7 April 2025 organised by the FIM-WP said that, after the protesters were dispersed with tear gas, those arrested were also treated violently. According to protest organisers, police took two mobile phones, IDR 600,000 (USD 37) in cash, a Bible, and demonstration props. The arrested demonstrators were released without charges the same day at around 3pm, but the confiscated items were not returned by the police.

³⁶ Maais Imburi on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/xvf536bv5ts>.

³⁷ Jubi, *Satgas Cartenz tangkap terduga penyuplai amunisi ke WPA Paniai*, 20 October 2024, available at <https://jubi.id/polhukam/2024/satgas-cartenz-tangkap-terduga-penyuplai-amunisi-ke-wpa-paniai/>.

³⁸ Tempo, *Kronologi 19 Anggota OPM Kabur setelah Bacok Sipir Lapas Nabire*, 3 June 2025, available at <https://www.tempo.co/hukum/kronologi-19-anggota-opm-kabur-setelah-bacok-sipir-lapas-nabire-1633149>.

³⁹ Yotenus Wonda on Papuans Behind Bars, <https://tapol.uwazi.io/en/entity/z077935wlp>.

Nabire police personnel arbitrarily arrested Nando Mote in Nabire City, Papua Tengah Province, on 17 April. He was arrested in a sweeping operation and was allegedly involved in a theft case. From the time he was arrested until he was detained at Nabire Police Station, he received various forms of torture or other ill treatment from the police. For example, he was hit with a gun butt, hit with a stick, and shot with a rubber bullet in the leg without warning or explanation.

After eight days in detention, the real perpetrator of the theft was arrested but Nando was still detained. For his injuries, he was taken to a clinic for examination but did not receive proper treatment due to alleged intervention by police officers with the clinic staff. The bullet was lodged in his leg for ten days until he had a fever and the wound became infected and festered. It was only removed on the tenth day with the help of a detainee who had worked as a medic. Nando was released on 5 May, i.e. 18 days after being arrested, after his parents were informed of his whereabouts through a smuggled letter and they went to Nabire police station with a human rights lawyer.⁴⁰



Image 7. Gunshot wound on Nando's right calf. (Tadahnews/Yogo)

On 22 April 2025, the day that it was due to end, KNPB Timika Chairman Yanto Awerkion found his probationary period for parole extended to April 2026 for no apparent reason. Yanto, who was arrested on 23 September 2022, was tried and convicted of possession of firearms and was sentenced to 2 years and 9 months imprisonment. Since 24 May 2024, Yanto has been on parole with an obligation to report to the correctional body every two months. The KNPB Spokesperson has called this case a fabricated attempt to criminalise the KNPB.

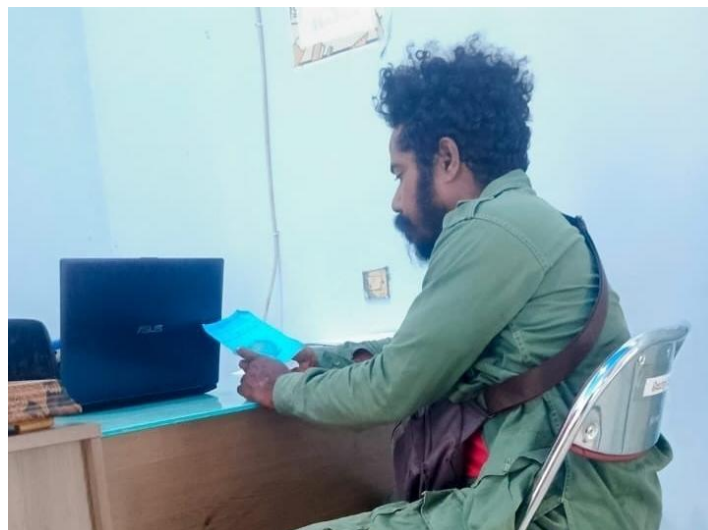


Image 8. Yanto Awerkion reporting to the Class IIB Prison in Timika, Papua Tengah Province, 22 April 2025. (Supplied)

⁴⁰ Human Rights Monitor, Police officers torture Papuan man in Nabire while denying medical treatment during detention, 3 June 2025, available at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/case/torture-and-arbitrary-detention-by-police-officers-in-nabire/>.



Image 9. Wounds on Ortizan's body, allegedly caused by torture by police personnel. (Human Rights Monitor)

Three police personnel arrested Ortizan Tarage who was fishing in the area of a training complex in Sorong City on 10 May. The arrest was made without explaining any reason for it. Ortizan was taken to the Sorong Police detention centre. There he was beaten with sticks, bamboo, a hose and iron. Ortizan suffered injuries to his face, calves, thighs, shoulders and hands. Even the skin on his thighs and calves peeled off. He was forced to admit to stealing two motorbikes, after previously confessing to stealing one. Ortizan was taken to hospital but forced to walk on his own. Even when he fell in front of the hospital, the police forced him to stand up and continue walking.

He spent four days in hospital where, according to his lawyer, he was not given serious treatment. Discharged from the hospital, he vomited blood and had pain in several parts of his body. He was diagnosed with kidney disease. He was then threatened by the police not to

report the acts of torture. On 22 May 2025, the victim's lawyer from LBH Kaki Abu reported the torture against his client to the Sorong City Police. They asked for the police personnel involved in the torture to be sacked and punished. As at the end of June 2025, there was no information on the progress of this case.⁴¹

Enforced disappearances may have been carried out by the Indonesian military (TNI) personnel against seven Janamba villagers, in Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Tengah Province, in mid-May during the security operation there to hunt down the armed pro-Papua independence group (TPNPB), mentioned above. The local villagers, identified as Misael Tabuni and his wife, Peles Hondani and his wife, Daniel Hondani, Julius Janambani and another unknown person, have not yet returned home.

In this period, we documented harassment, intimidation, attack and arbitrary arrest against five human rights defenders; four arbitrary arrests against Greenpeace Indonesia activists carried out by the police in Jakarta, and the arbitrary arrest of one human rights lawyer from LBH Papua, accompanied by ill treatment by the police in Jayapura, West Papua.

⁴¹ Jubi, *LBH Kaki Abu laporkan penganiayaan terhadap tahanan di sel Polresta Sorong*, 23 May 2025, available at <https://jubi.id/domberai/2025/lbh-kaki-abu-laporkan-penganiayaan-terhadap-tahanan-di-sel-polresta-sorong/>.

Papuans Behind Bars aims to provide accurate and transparent data, published in English and Indonesian, to facilitate direct support for prisoners and promote wider debate and campaigning in support of free expression in West Papua.

Papuans Behind Bars is a collective effort initiated by Papuan civil society groups working together as the Civil Society Coalition to Uphold Law and Human Rights in Papua. It is a grassroots initiative and represents a broad collaboration between lawyers, human rights groups, adat groups, activists, journalists and individuals in West Papua, as well as Jakarta-based NGOs and international solidarity groups.

Questions, comments and corrections are welcomed, and you can write to us at info@papuansbehindbars.org

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