

Report West-Papua

Current Situation - West Papua September 2005

Violence could erupt at any time

Rev Hermann Saud, Moderator of the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua (GKI), sent an urgent message to the Uniting Church in Australia on 3rd August calling on our help. Tensions were high in West Papua and Rev Saud believed a dangerous scenario was developing where Papuans could be provoked and serious violence would erupt.

The background to this current scenario is related to the fallout created by a Bill introduced into the US Congress. This Bill examines Indonesia's role in Papua and focuses on recent so-called reforms related to Special Autonomy for Papua.

The US Congress International Relations Committee Bill on Minority Protection examines the history of Papua and it examines Indonesia's role in the region. It also examines and raises concerns about human rights abuses. Importantly the Bill has a number of "reporting requirements" and these include a report on the 1969 Act of Free Choice and a report detailing implementation of special autonomy.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reacted to this initiative by claiming Papua is "Indonesia's domestic affair". He called on the US and other nations to "respect Indonesia's territorial integrity" and to "let us solve our own problems". The Indonesian National Youth Committee (KNPI) believed the US Congress had no right to question the status of Papua and sent a letter of protest through the US Embassy in Jakarta. Meanwhile there have been accusations suggesting some members of the Indonesian parliament (representing West Papua) have "collaborated with foreign elements" in an attempt to undermine the national integrity of Indonesia.

The Indonesian Parliament sent four representatives to Washington to lobby the Senate to refuse passage of this Bill. Meanwhile a delegation led by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is currently in the US to attend the UN Summit. This delegation will most probably also seek to lobby the Congress.

Dr Greg Poulgrain wrote in the Courier Mail (2nd August 2005) that the US Congress Bill "*sparked wild scenes across the province. Pro-independence activists rang church bells in celebration amid hopes that the US would now release all Papuans from the nightmare of army rule. Jakarta television showed 10,000 tribesmen in Panai district, in the Papuan highlands, vowing to fight for their rights to their land over which the army has complete control.*"

Rev Saud said some Indonesian media sources claimed Christian churches in West Papua are behind the emergence of this Bill while growing opinion across Indonesia believes the Christian churches in Papua are actually supporting separatism. These claims are false and the news gets worse as false rumours now claim Christians are preparing to attack Muslims throughout Papua.

Rev Saud remains deeply concerned about this situation. He fears a sudden outbreak of violence is about to take place in his homeland. This will undermine the good work of West Papua's churches and the wider community in maintaining a "Zone of Peace" in the region. Many local people will become victims.

Papuan leaders believe Indonesian security forces could use this situation as an opportunity to impose further repression in West Papua while an outbreak of violence could tear the community apart and unleash terrible reprisals.

Tension in West Papua is also being heightened because Papuans are under constant surveillance by intelligence personnel. Thousands of intelligence agents are said to be spying on locals. Meanwhile the continued arrival of thousands of Muslim migrants every week from the Indonesian islands on Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan and Sulawesi is changing local demographics. It is only a matter of time when indigenous Papuans will be a minority in their homeland.

US Congress Speaks Out

It is important to note that the 1962 "New York Agreement" that passed on Papua from Dutch administration to UN and then Indonesian administration was mediated by the US. Hence there is a particular interest in the US concerning the process that led to the so called "Act of Free Choice" in 1969 and Papua's incorporation into the Republic of Indonesia.

Congressman Eni Faleomavaega (American Samoa) and Congressman Donald Payne, submitted the Congress Bill H.R. 2601: Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 on the 9th July 2005. This initiative calls on the Secretary of State to analyse and report to the Congress on the 1969 Act of Free Choice and to also report to the Congress on the implementation of special autonomy. Congressman Faleomavaega and Congressman Payne have worked to bring attention to the plight of Papuans who have suffered under Indonesian rule for more than 40 years. In March 2005 they brought a petition the US Secretary of State and the UN Secretary General calling for a review of West Papua's political status and lending support to West Papua's right to self-determination.

This Bill raises critical questions in relation to the process where Indonesia incorporated West Papua into the republic. It also raises serious questions concerning the treatment of Papuans and the actions of Indonesian security forces. The Bill also focuses on the question of Special Autonomy for West Papua and notes that Law No.21 on Special Autonomy for Papua has "not been effectively realized".

This claim cannot be overlooked and it raises serious issues concerning Jakarta's real intentions in West Papua. It is important to note that the US Congress is not advocating any radical measures for West Papua. There is no support for independence or any form of separatism here. Rather, the stress is on the full implementation of political and economic reforms in the context of Special Autonomy. This is to take place within a united Indonesia.

In a recent press release Mr Faleomavaega made an important call for Australians to be involved. The Congressman went on to say.....

"It is my sincere hope that the Australian Prime Minister will seriously rethink his government's policy towards West Papua, and I urge all Pacific nations of the Forum Organisation not to turn their backs on West Papua.....history has been kind neither to the people of Indonesia nor the people of West Papua.

Under the military dictatorships of President Sukarno and Suharto, some one million Indonesians were brutally murdered, similar to the killing fields of Cambodia under Pol Pot. And by the same token, since the military takeover of West Papua by the Indonesian Army in 1969, approximately 100,000 West Papuans were murdered and tortured; and it continues even as I speak today.

In fact, according to human rights reports and West Papuans themselves, approximately 300,00 to 400,000 West Papuans have been murdered, tortured to death, and have disappeared at the hands of the Indonesian military.”

I am delighted to say that this bill requires Secretary Rice and the Department of State to re-examine the special autonomy law that was supposed to give autonomy to West Papua. It is my understanding that the autonomy law that was passed by the Indonesian parliament, while substantive, is worth nothing more than the paper that it was written on. The autonomy law is nothing but a sham, a complete farce, and the Indonesian government should be ashamed of its actions.”

We cannot allow the repeat of history. Rather, we must work to ensure that the central government acts in concert with the needs of the indigenous people of West Papua..... the Indonesian military and special forces have in the past three years alone murdered 81 indigenous Papuans, tortured, beaten and jailed 34 more Papuans, displaced some 6,393 from their homes, and burnt down 23 churches and 370 traditional houses.

For too long, the cries of the West Papuans have fallen on deaf ears, and I pray that with the concerted attention of the Congress the international community will support this effort.”

Papuan Church Leaders Speak Out

While the US State Department is entrenched in its support for the “the unitary state of Indonesia” and both President George W Bush and Secretary for State Condoleezza Rice are pushing for the full restoration of all military ties to Indonesia, Congressman Faleomavaega touches on some critical points.

He comments *“that the autonomy law that was passed by the Indonesian parliament, while substantive, is worth nothing more than the paper that it is written on. The autonomy law is nothing but a sham, a complex farce, and the Indonesian government should be ashamed of its actions”.*

This comment resonates with others. In a Joint Statement on 9th June 2005, Rev Herman Saud (Moderator of the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua) and Rev Socratez Sofyan Yoman (President of West Papuan Baptist Church) presented a number of concerns to military and civil leaders in Papua. Their first concern related to special autonomy.

“Special Autonomy is the Indonesian’s second betrayal package for the Papuans. The first one was the 1969 Act of Free Choice. If, as you say, Special Autonomy has been implemented, why does it not show any results?”

Rev Saud and Rev Yoman went on to say that the issue is no longer related to regional elections and special autonomy. Rather, there needs to be discussion about “the problems of our past and present”. The two church leaders say *“we need to have a dialogue about the problems that have happened on our land from 1962 to 2005.”*

This statement was made to representatives of the provincial government, military, police and provincial parliament at the Papuan Regional Parliament House in Jayapura. Other points concern recent attacks against local Papuan villages in the Puncak Jaya (highlands) area. Authorities claimed these attacks were carried out by Papuan resistance however Rev Saud and Rev Yoman state such claims are “pure manipulation of the TNI (Indonesian army).”

Rev Saud and Rev Yoman also state that the Papuan people are facing “systematic genocide” because Papuans are being tortured and sent to prison where many die. Papuans are also experiencing a crisis in health where medical assistance is beyond the reach of most people. Reference is also made to the continuing influx of migrants into Papua where six shiploads of people coming into Papua every week

Claims also state there are now many intelligence officers operating in Papua. Church leaders are being watched and spied on while an extra 7,000 intelligence officers are said to have been sent into West Papua recently.

Rev Saud and Rev Yoman also raise concerns about the militarisation of West Papua. An extra 15,000 troops will be brought into the region. In the next few years the total number of troops in Papua could reach 50,000. These two church leaders ask the question.... “*Are we all terrorists or robbers so you want to spy on all our activities and use soldiers to control us?*”

There are many more issues raised in this statement. Rev Saud and Rev Yoman believe Jakarta has betrayed West Papua. They believe Jakarta is not serious about providing West Papua with effective autonomy. They conclude their statement with the words...

“Our question is this – when will you be serious about building Papua? If in the coming years the situation is still the same, the church will surely take action and will speak to the world.”

West Papua’s Future

The Papua Customary Council (DAP) believes Special Autonomy provides no solutions to Papua’s situation. This indigenous body says Special Autonomy is simply a strategy to “divide and conquer” and to further disenfranchise the people.

In January 2005 the DAP met and subsequently announced that after three years the Special Autonomy legislation will be returned to Jakarta on 15th August 2005. The DAP believes Special Autonomy has brought great misfortune and it not very different from the “Act of Free Choice 1969. Here they claim special autonomy is “an Act of Free Choice Volume II”.

Consequently the DAP is asking the UN to instigate a review of the UN’s conduct in relation to 1969 Act of Free Choice while the US is being asked to support such a review. Rather than a return to Special Autonomy, they DAP wants a referendum or a plebiscite sanctioned by the UN and similar to what was offered in East Timor.

The DAP’s position is outlined with an appeal to uphold all respective faiths in West Papua. Papuans were called on to participate in special assemblies in Jayapura on 5th, 6th and 8th August together with the observation of UN International Day Indigenous People on 9th August. People also engaged in peaceful action on 15 August (the day the Special Autonomy legislation was “returned” to Jakarta and also the 43rd anniversary of the “New York Agreement” - when the US mediated a deal to pass administration of Papua from the Dutch to the UN and then Indonesia). DAP appeals stated that people must avoid provocation while the Papuan flag (the Morning Star) or other political symbols should not appear.

The potential for conflict here needs to be clearly acknowledged. West Papua's Governor, Yap Solossa asserts that it is too early to judge whether Special Autonomy has failed or not. Meanwhile Papua's military commander, Major General George Toisutta makes the ominous claim that the "*Indonesian military will defend Indonesia from any attempts of separation*".

Special Autonomy is not the only issue here. There are many ongoing issues that contribute to the tense and critical situation in West Papua today. A number of these are summarised below:

- (a) Claims that Special Autonomy funds have been siphoned off and used for military operation against Papuans.
- (b) Brutal military operations have driven people from their homes. Thousands of local people are afraid and are still living in the jungle in the Puncak Jaya area. Their homes were burnt down by the Indonesian army, their pigs were shot and their gardens were destroyed. Papuan leaders claim in October 2004 the Indonesian army orchestrated a conflict between local tribes in Puncak Jaya. Here Rev Elisa Tabuni was shot dead by Indonesian special forces ("Kopassus") after being falsely being accused on being OPM (Papua Freedom Movement).

Research indicates that 371 traditional houses have been burned, 6,393 people have fled into the bush, 78 people have died in bush (mainly from starvation and sickness) while the Indonesian army is using a local church as military outpost.

- (c) On the June 2nd 2005 a new sub-regional military command was inaugurated at Merauke in the south, near the border with PNG. West Papua's military commander said the additional command in Merauke was urgently needed to optimise the defence of West Papua. However few would say that Indonesia's neighbours present a military threat.
- (d) Earlier in March 2005, plans were announced to locate a division of strategic reserve command troops ("Konstrad") at Sorong in the west of West close the BP Tangguh natural gas project. This will increase the number of infantry battalions from three to six (or an increase of between 12,000 and 15,000 troops in West Papua over the next five years). This means there will be between 45,000 and 50,000 troops in West Papua. "Konstrad" units are highly specialised troops equipped with the most advanced weapons and who undergo rigorous training for combat. The decision to locate the new division in Sorong was said to have been made to safeguard external borders and maritime zones and to facilitate the army's ability to deploy troops at short notice.
- (e) Since July 8th 2005 the Indonesian army has been engaged in a prolonged military offensive in the Central Highlands (Pyramid) and hundreds of people have fled.

On July 14th Mr Pono Wenda was tortured by Indonesian soldiers. His face was slashed and he received cuts all over his body. Petrol was then poured over him and he was set on fire. Mr Wenda received serious burns and is in a critical condition. He is not expected to live.

- (f) There are serious concerns about the links between the Indonesian military and local East Timor-style militias. Two bases involving militia called "Satgas Merah Putih" are said to have been established near Manokwari.

- (g) There are also serious concerns about links between the Indonesian military and the militant “Laskar Jihad”. Remnants of this group moved on from the Maluku Islands and there is said to be some 500 dedicated followers with several training camps operating in Papua. *Rev Yoman comments “Wherever there are Indonesian soldiers, the militia and the jihadists are there too. They are inseparable”.*
- (h) West Papua’s new military commander, Major.General.George Toisutta served in East Timor and also served in Jakarta during the students protests in 1998 when 16 students were killed a clash between protesters and the military on 13th October. In 2003 he commanded military operations in Aceh and from 2004 was in charge of rapid reaction troops.

A report received in August from ELSHAM (Human Rights Organization in Papua) warns that Papuans are being provoked. There are fears that West Papua will experience levels of conflict similar to scenarios that have taken place in Ambon and Poso (Central Sulawesi). The 15th August 2005 became a time when Papuans started to agitate for a referendum along the lines of what was offered to East Timor.

Security forces are now on high alert and thousands of troops are reported to have been stationed along the border with Papua New Guinea. Approximately 5,000 troops have been placed in Timika (near the massive Freeport Mine) and ELSHAM claims that intelligence has increased operations throughout Papua. Militia are being trained in transmigration camps near Manokwari.

Recent Developments

- (a) In December 2000 30 people armed with sharp weapons attacked and set fire to the Abepura Police Station in West Papua. A policeman was killed and three soldiers were wounded. A security officer was also killed in a separate attack on an office nearby. Abepura police, assisted by Jayapura Police Mobile Brigade, began hunting down the attackers. Raids on student dormitories in Abepura led to 99 people being physically abused while three people were reportedly killed.

A case before the Human Rights Tribunal in Makassar took place recently and on Thursday 8th September Brigadier General Johnnnny Wainal Usman, former commander of Jayapura Mobile Police Brigade (Brimob), was acquitted from charges of torture and killing civilians during the raid on student dormitories. On Friday 9th September, Senior Commander Daud Sihombing, then chief of the Jayapura Police, was acquitted of similar charges.

Papuans were upset but not surprised with this verdict as they believe Indonesia law rarely operates in their favour. Several human rights groups made a statement declaring *“this decision shows that the state continues to retain impunity for top security officers after freeing almost all defendants in human rights cases in East Timor and Tanjung Priok (North Jakarta).” No senior military or police officers have been convicted of crimes against humanity in East Timor and in Tanjung Priok (when troops fired on Muslim protesters in 1984).*

- (b) Members of the US Congress are circulating a letter addressed to President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in the US House of Representatives. This letter asks the president to end ongoing military operations in West Papua and to open the region to international observers.

- (c) The Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, released a document “Genocide in West Papua? – The role of the Indonesian state apparatus and a current needs assessment of the Papuan people” on 14th August in Parliament House, Canberra. This is an important report as it documents recent events in West Papua and makes a number of recommendations that resonate closely with the wishes and concerns of our partner church in West Papua, I was present at the launch and endorsed the report.

On the 5th September 2005 Senator Bob Brown moved the following motion in the Senate (notice of motion no.229):

That the Senate – (a) notes the release of the report prepared by the University of Sydney’s Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, “Genocide in West Papua?” and (b) calls on the Australian Government to investigate the claims in the report and report back to the Senate.

The Question was put and the Senate divided – yes: 8 voices; no – 49 voices. Members of the Greens and Democrats voted in favour while government and opposition (ALP) members voted the motion down.

Personal Observations (9th to 14th September 2005)

I again visited West Papua from 9th to 14th September where I met with leaders of the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua (GKI) together with leaders of the Catholic and Muslim communities. The following observations were made:

- (a) Events surrounding the “return” of the Special Autonomy Law on 15th September were described to me as being peaceful. Meanwhile Papuans believe the circumstances of this “return” clearly suggest that Jakarta does not take the rights of Papuans seriously. They also claim that Jakarta simply cannot be trusted. A number of people said to me “*nothing has changed....it’s just the like the Act of Free Choice all over again...we are never consulted or never considered!*”
- (b) The circumstances of Aceh have created a degree of anxiety and frustration among Papuans. A peace accord has just been drafted between GAM (Aceh Freedom Movement) and Jakarta while Indonesian security forces are withdrawing from the province. Papuans ask “*why does Jakarta not want to dialogue with us?*” This is a good question and it simply reinforces the sense that no one wishes to talk to West Papua.
- (c) Rev Hermann Saud, GKI Moderator, indicated that a great challenge is “to keep the people peaceful”. Ongoing human rights abuses, an increasing military presence, increasing marginalisation as Papuans are denied access to the benefits of regional development and the continued arrival of outsiders to settle in West Papua are major issues. The GKI believes the whole future of indigenous Papuan communities is at stake. In the present circumstances there is little hope and the Papuan people have demonstrated considerable courage in not being provoked into violence.
- (d) Rev Saud believes West Papua’s future cannot be “seized” or “grabbed”. He cites strong theological reasons here with the comment that “*our future is in God’s hands....it is God who leads history and we must be patient for God to act*”. Rev Saud says “we need more Gospel” as West Papua’s future depends on forgiveness, reconciliation, love and obedience to God’s will. I do not feel Rev Saud or the GKI are walking away from an active engagement in present socio-political issues. Rev

Saud is simply acknowledging the human predicament and is trying to avoid utopian hopes. The church is deeply involved in socio-political issues and I believe it remains the most important voice in West Papua today that (i) speaks on behalf of the people, and (ii) has the trust of the people.

- (e) Together with the Catholic Church and the Papua Islamic Council, the GKI is actively promoting peace. An important workshop on peace and reconciliation took place in Jayapura from 11th to 15th September while West Papua's major religious organisations are working towards the celebration of the International Day of Peace on the 21st September. There are also plans to create an annual Day of Peace in West Papua that will take place on 5th February. Religious groups have been heavily involved in the promotion of West Papua as a "Land of Peace" while the Christian community understands the nature of the Gospel as being peace or "shalom".

The Uniting Church in Australia together with other overseas partners are being approached by the GKI to provide some assistance towards the financing this workshop together with financing preparations for the International Day of Peace on 21st September. A separate proposal is available.

- (f) There is considerable anxiety among church leaders concerning the outcome of the US Congress Bill H.R.2601. Rev Saud and Rev Awom (GKI Vice Moderator) both believe Papuans will be particularly vulnerable if the Bill fails to pass through the Congress. They believe the possible failure of H.R.2601 will provide a "green light" for further militarisation and an increased occurrence of human rights abuses in West Papua. Rev Saud' claims "*if the Bill fails then we all be slaughtered*".
- (g) GKI leaders are concerned over pressure being exerted on the US Congress from Jakarta to reject the Bill H.R.2601. They are particularly concerned that the peak representative church body in Indonesia, the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI), has sent a delegation to the US without consulting with the churches in West Papua and without including representation from West Papua. This is a very serious omission. It's possible that the PGI delegation will not adequately represent West Papuan concerns and there is a degree of suspicion that the delegation could be lenient on Jakarta.
- (h) The PGI's failure to consult with member churches in West Papua and the PGI's failure to include West Papuan representation in the delegation to the US is likely to lead to tension in the relationships between the GKI and the PGI.
- (i) Since West Papuan perspectives are being overlooked or, indeed, ignored, the GKI is proposing to establish its own **International Advocacy Campaign**. This will involve sending a small delegation from West Papua to Washington and New York to make representations to the UN and lobby members of Congress. Diplomacy is a critical response in the overall commitment to West Papua being a "Land of Peace" and the GKI leadership is approaching the Uniting Church in Australia to assist in the financing and implementation of this priority. Bill H.R.2601 presents a unique opportunity for West Papua to gain an international profile. Indeed, issues and injustices can only be dealt with peacefully through international diplomatic channels. This is a window of opportunity that simply cannot be missed! A proposal is available. **Details of this campaign are included at the end of this report.**
- (j) West Papua is increasingly looking to the experience of Black Africa as a source of inspiration and encouragement. This is largely due to the development of good relations with the South African Embassy in Jakarta while participation by GKI leaders in the recent Assembly of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches

(WARC) in Ghana made a big impact. Therefore, the GKI is seeking an opportunity to send a small delegation to Africa with the purpose of networking with churches and specifically meeting with Bishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. A proposal is available.

- (k) The church in West Papua is conscious that it is part of Melanesia and it therefore continues to look towards the Pacific for inspiration and fellowship. It was interesting to be accommodated in a hotel on a hillside in Jayapura last week that provided a view across the bay. On the other side, some 20 kilometers away, was the coast line of Papua New Guinea. Yet West Papua remains culturally isolated from its Pacific neighbours and there is a great desire to enter into fellowship with Pacific churches. An invitation to attend the Pacific Conference of Churches as an observer, for example, would help to break this isolation down.
- (l) The GKI is keen to seek opportunities for members and leaders to gain skills in English language, advocacy and community development. Opportunities in Australia are always being sought.
- (m) I have major concerns about the security, safety and welfare of GKI leaders. Both Rev Saud and Rev Awom informed me they are aware of a "list" that names people for elimination. This means certain people face the prospect of being kidnapped and murdered. Meanwhile "intel" agents are numerous and active throughout West Papua. Rev Awom believes he has avoided being kidnapped on a number of occasions while Rev Saud is also vulnerable. The Uniting Church in Australia must be aware of this situation and we must be prepared for such things.
- (n) Papuans continue to experience appalling health services while access to many other services are lacking. Mrs Mary Saud (wife of the Moderator) is a qualified mid wife and she operates a clinic in Abepura. Mrs Saud says few Papuan villages have even the most basic health services available and there is a great need for pharmaceuticals. The incidence of malaria is high with many fatal cases while West Papua experiences the highest rate of HIV/AIDS infection in Indonesia.
- (o) The GKI has established a Centre for Community Service through their economics and management training facility called STIE Ottow dan Geisler in Kota Raja (Jayapura). This centre is currently surveying local community development needs and is planning to develop a number of proposals in the near future. The Uniting Church is keen to support future proposals that focus on this kind of development in local communities.
- (p) Concern was expressed to me about the welfare and future of West Papuan refugees currently living in Papua New Guinea. The community on the Fly River near Kiunga are keen to establish links with the Uniting Church in Australia.
- (q) The GKI General Synod planned for late October has been postponed until early 2006. The meeting will take place in Wamena and invitations have been issued for Uniting Church in Australia representatives to attend.
- (r) The GKI is keen to receive visits from the Uniting Church in Australia and preparations are being made for a group from South Australia to visit Numfor and Biak in July 2006.

Further Action

Papuan people are losing patience with Indonesia and few people trust Jakarta. People are being called upon by church leaders and human rights workers to be extremely careful. They are being asked to resist provocation and to resist violence. Papuans are being called on to maintain their homeland as a peaceful place. Initiatives such as the planned International Day of Peace are a creative response to such a need.

Meanwhile Indonesian security forces are being called on to act in a professional and a humanitarian way. Papuan church leaders are seriously concerned about provocation by the military while they clearly believe the Indonesian Government has failed to implement Special Autonomy.

Thirdly, Papuan church leaders believe Congress Bill H.R.2601 presents a critical opportunity to pursue diplomatic avenues and raise West Papua as a significant issue on international agendas.

Finally, Papuan church leaders are deeply committed to their homeland. They wish to build effective relationships with overseas partners while also addressing fundamental needs in their community that embody a “holistic” approach to human kind.

Therefore, appropriate actions include:

- (1) Raising our concerns with the Australian Government and asking the Australian Government to make representations to the Indonesian Government about our concerns over:
 - (a) Papuan statements that Special Autonomy in West Papua has failed. We believe political and economic reforms that are acceptable to the community in Papua must be urgently implemented if serious conflict is to be prevented.
 - (b) The militarisation of West Papua. We need to ask why so many troops have to be stationed in West Papua and why “non-organic” units including “Konstrad” and “Kopassus” (who are highly trained and well armed) need to be stationed in this region.
 - (c) The presence of an East Timor style militia and the “Laskar Jihad” in West Papua. Both the militia and the “Laskar Jihad” have a known record involving attacks and the murder of civilian populations in East Timor, Ambon, Halmahera and Poso.
 - (d) The relationships between (a) the Indonesian military (TNI) and local militia, and (b) the Indonesian military (TNI) and the “Laskar Jihad” (who have links with other militant Muslim organizations in South East Asia). These ties are known to many and we must avoid an East Timor type scenario where such links between the Indonesian military and East Timor militia were once denied yet they led to terrible suffering and the widespread destruction of East Timorese society.
- (2) Raising our concern with the Australian Government over:
 - (a) Acknowledgement of Bill H.R. 2601 in the US Congress and the critical issues it raises in terms of West Papua’s incorporation into Indonesia, human

rights issues in West Papua and the implementation of Special Autonomy in West Papua.

- (b) Notice of Motion No.229 in the Senate (5th September 2005) - that notes the release of a report prepared by the University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the call on the Australian Government to investigate claims in the report. This motion failed to pass the Senate by 8 votes to 49 and we wish to express our disappointment that the Senate is unwilling to investigate the serious issues raised in this report.

(3) Making an effective response on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia in areas concerning:

- (a) Support for GKI initiatives in the area of workshops on peace and reconciliation together with the planning and promotion of an International Day of Peace.
- (b) Support for GKI initiatives to send a delegation to the US to make representations to the UN and lobby the US Congress on Bill H.R. 2601. This is an urgent priority!**
- (c) Support for GKI initiatives to explore relationships with Black African nations and to seek meetings with Bishop Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela.
- (d) Expressing concern and providing options to assist GKI leaders whose security, safety and welfare are under serious threat.
- (e) Support for GKI community development projects that are being planned and organised together with ongoing support for health care projects implemented by Mrs Mary Saud.

Rev John Barr
18th September 2005

International Advocacy Campaign for West Papua

General Objectives:

To engage in advocacy with members of the US Congress on the West Papua case.

To campaign with the purpose of raising West Papua as an international issue and to gain international support.

Specific Objectives:

To lobby US Congressmen and US Senators on the West Papua case.

To meet concerned groups in the US to raise West Papua issues.

To meet with the National Council of Churches in the US (NCC-USA) and Church World Service USA (CWS) to raise West Papua issues.

To visit Mr Kofi Anan, UN Secretary General.

Composition of the Team:

Reps. from the Council of Christian Churches in West Papua: 3 persons.

Reps. from the Papua Tribal Council: 2 persons

Representatives from NGOs in West Papua: 2 persons

Representatives from West Papua Academics/Intellectuals: 2 persons

Activities:

Visit the US Congress and Senate

Visit the US State Department

Visit the Robert F Kennedy Memorial Foundation

Visit the NCCC-USA and CWS

Visit UN Headquarters

Organizers:

USA: Octovianus Mote

Papua: Rev Hermann Saud (Chairperson, GKI di Tanah Papua)

Australia: Rev John Barr (Uniting Church in Australia)

Costs:

Travel - Domestic:	Rp. 60,000,000
Travel - International:	Rp.150,000,000
Travel within USA:	Rp.100,000,000
Visas:	Rp. 10,000,000
Fiscal/Tax:	Rp. 10,000,000
Travel Insurance:	Rp. 10,000,000
Accommodation (Indonesia):	Rp. 20,000,000
Accommodation (USA):	Rp.100,000,000
Advocacy Campaign:	
Materials:	Rp. 20,000,000
Equipment:	Rp. 10,000,000
TOTAL:	Rp. 490,000,000 (US\$ = Rp,10,000)
	US\$.49,000

Please note these costs are for 9 persons. The group is prepared to cut the number of people down to a minimum to 3 representatives to reduce costs. This will reduce the overall cost by approximately two thirds.

Hence can the team visit can go ahead once the amount of US\$.16,500 has been raised. The Uniting Church in Australia has already pledged \$US.5,000. We are looking for sponsors to provide a further US.\$11,500 as soon as possible.

Donations can be sent to the Uniting Church in Australia:

Rev John Barr
Uniting International Mission
PO Box A2266; Sydney South 1235, Australia
Phone 61 2 82674251; 0408826742; Fax 61 2 82674222; Email: jbarr@nat.uca.org.au

OR directly to the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua:

Ketua Sinode
Gereja Kristen Injili di Tanah Papua
Kotak Pos 1160
Jayapura 99222; Papua, Indonesia

Overseas money transfers to:

Name: Badan Pekerja Am Sinode GKI di Tanah Papua
Account No. 154-009-30-00176
Bank: Bank Mandiri
Branch: Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia

And please contact Mr I Rumbrar gkitanahpapua@yahoo.com or <jrumbrar@hotmail.com> or fax 0011 62 967 533192 to inform him about your transfer of money.

Rev John Barr 20th September 2005