

The Papua Monitor: Q4/2024



January 2025 Update: Human Rights and Conflict Developments in West Papua¹, Indonesia -
Covering Events from 1 October to 31 December 2024 (4th Quarter 2024)

Violations	2024 Q1	2024 Q2	2024 Q3	2024 Q4
Torture	10 victims in 4 cases	2 victims in 2 cases	11 victims in 3 cases	9 victims in 7 cases
Freedom of expression	3 victims in 3 cases	10 victims in 2 cases	18 victims in 8 cases	2 victims in 2 cases
Killings	6 victims in 5 cases	3 victims in 3 cases	6 victims in 4 cases	6 victims in 5 cases
Disappearances	-	1 victim in 1 case	-	2 victims in 2 cases
Intimidation	More than dozens of victims in 4 cases	1 victim in 1 case	13 victims in 5 cases	More than 12 victims in 2 cases
Criminalisation	-	1 victim in 1 case	-	-
Ill-treatment	10 victims in 6 cases	34 victims in 7 cases	54 victims in 13 cases	More than 36 victims in 11 cases
Cultural rights	-	Dozens of victims in 4 cases	Dozens of victims in 3 cases	Dozens of victims in 1 case
Arbitrary detention	5 victims in 4 cases	93 victims in 7 cases	233 victims in 9 cases	65 victims in 9 cases
Freedom of assembly	Dozens of victims in 2 cases	More than 107 victims in 6 cases	More than 279 victims in 13 cases	More than 87 victims in 6 cases
TOTAL	More than 29 victims in 19 cases	More than 132 victims in 19 cases	More than 313 in 33 cases	More than 221 victims in 45 cases

Table 1: Violation and victim data per quarter. A "+" symbol following a number indicates a certain count (the number given) plus an additional, less precise count (e.g., dozens, several). Each column is an independent set, reflecting the possibility of multiple violations per victim or case. Totals represent unique counts per column, not aggregate sums.

Summary

Human rights

Between October and December 2024, armed violence intensified and police deliberately restricted civil society activities, as reflected in human rights statistics. The period saw a marked increase in torture incidents, particularly in the Intan Jaya Regency, where cases followed a pattern of arbitrary detention and torture. Enforced disappearances, occurring exclusively in conflict-affected regions, were documented as part of this pattern.

¹ The term West Papua, also sometimes referred to as Papua, Tanah Papua (Land of Papua) or Western New Guinea refers to the western half of the New Guinea islands and is recognized by the United Nations as part of Indonesia since 1969. It is comprised of the Indonesian administrative provinces Papua Province, Papua Barat Province, Papua Tengah Province, Papua Pegunungan Province, Papua Selatan Province, and Papua Barat Daya Province. The unresolved [conflict about the political status of West Papua](#) continues to cause violence and violations of human rights and indigenous people's rights.

Ill-treatment and arbitrary detention remained frequent throughout the fourth quarter of 2024, particularly during the [1st December commemorations](#), [Human Rights Day](#) on 10 December, and October's [anti-transmigration protests](#). Public trust in law enforcement deteriorates due to authorities' failure to hold human rights violators accountable. The [case of Mr Tobias Silak's unlawful execution](#) by security forces in Yahukimo in August 2024 remains unresolved despite an investigation by the National Human Rights Commission. On 23 June 2024, [Komnas HAM chairperson Mrs Atnike Sigiro confirmed that the shootings of Mr Naro Dapla and Mr Tobias Silak constituted human rights violations](#). Relatives have pursued justice through advocacy, the ['Justice For Tobias Silak'](#) Campaign, media engagement and demonstrations throughout [September](#), [November](#) and [December](#) 2024.

Journalists and human rights defenders remain particularly vulnerable. On 16 October 2024, [attackers on motorcycles firebombed the JUBI news office](#), destroying two vehicles. Despite substantial evidence, including witness statements and CCTV footage, police have made no arrests. Similarly, the Manokwari City Police have failed to apprehend suspects in the [armed attack against human rights defender Mr Yan Christian Warinussy](#) in July 2024.

Violence in Sugapa District, Intan Jaya Regency, escalated significantly. Between October and December 2024, human rights defenders documented [three enforced disappearances](#) and [two extrajudicial executions](#) by military personnel. The [military also seized land from the Moni Tribe](#) in Silatugapa Village without consent for a new battalion construction.

On 1 November 2024, [Indonesia's Supreme Court rejected an appeal from the indigenous Awyu tribe](#) regarding [PT Indo Asiana Lestari's environmental permit](#). Despite [17 months of legal opposition](#) supported by the Coalition to Save Papua's Indigenous Forests, the ruling endangers customary forests through palm oil expansion. Indigenous Papuans face increasing land appropriation and deforestation, accelerated by projects such as the Central Government's [Strategic National Project in Merauke Regency](#).

Conflict

[Over 85,103 people remain internally displaced](#) in West Papua due to conflict between Indonesian security forces and the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB). The fourth quarter saw 37 armed clashes, bringing 2024's total to 135. [Police statistics cite 203 "acts of disruption" causing 92 casualties](#), marking a significant increase from 2023's 107 clashes. [Military raids in Kroptak District and Oksop District](#) displaced approximately 5,000 indigenous Papuans in early December.

Between October and December, nine security force members were killed and twelve injured, while six TPNPB combatants were killed. Civilian casualties were highest, with ten killed and seven injured by the TPNPB, and eight killed and four wounded by security forces. The [arrest of West Papua Army \(WPA\) leader Mr Jemmy Magai Yogi](#) on 16 October 2024 is not expected to affect ongoing violence, as most attacks are conducted by the TPNPB, a separate armed group with a different command structure.

Political developments

Following his inauguration on 20 October 2024, President Prabowo Subianto's administration [announced plans to continue transmigration programmes](#) in eastern Indonesia, particularly West Papua. After initial

statements about improving national unity, the Transmigration Minister later [claimed the programme would only involve internal population transfers within West Papua](#). These contradictory statements sparked [protests led by the West Papua National Committee \(KPNP\) across multiple cities](#), met with water cannons, tear gas, wooden sticks, and rubber ammunition in Jayapura and Nabire.

Prabowo's [cabinet appointments](#) have raised concerns about [military influence in civilian governance](#), with several key positions filled by military and police officials. His [mandatory military boot camp for cabinet members](#) and increased military involvement in civil matters echo the Suharto era. The administration's use of military force to implement national strategic projects, [including the conversion of 2 million hectares in Merauke Regency into plantations](#), has provoked widespread [local and international opposition](#).

International developments

On 1 October 2024, the World Council of Churches, alongside Amnesty International and TAPOL, hosted a [UN Human Rights Council side event on West Papua](#). The event highlighted findings from the [Permanent Peoples Tribunal](#), addressing extrajudicial killings, displacement, civil liberty restrictions and land grabbing, with contributions from Papuan human rights lawyer Leonardo Ijie.

A new documentary, "[Frontier War – Inside the West Papua National Liberation Army](#)", has revealed evidence supporting the argument of potential [crimes against humanity during Indonesian forces' attacks on indigenous villages in Kiwirok District](#) between September and October 2021, demonstrating systematic attacks against civilian populations.

Cases

Unlawful killings and enforced disappearance



Yonif 509 Balawara Yudha military members accused of torture and extra-judicial killings in Intan Jaya

Military members are accused of involvement in a series of torture and killings of indigenous Papuans in the Intan Jaya Regency in October and December 2024.

[Read more](#)

Military members alleged of executing indigenous Papuan in Ilu District, Puncak Jaya

On 24 October 2024, members of the 753 Military command post in Ilu reportedly shot dead Mr Tuju Wonda, 25, in the village of Alukme.

[Read more](#)



Military members allegedly kill 16-year-old Papuan in Intan Jaya

Human rights defenders allege that members of the Yonif 509/BY military unit tortured 16-year-old Yulianus Abugau in the Mamba Village, Sugapa District, on 8 December 2024.

[Read more](#)

Indonesian Air Force member burns wife to death in Jayapura

Sergeant First Class Marius Bernadus Mabur (SFC MM), a member of the Indonesian Air Force (TNI AU), has been accused of burning his wife, Elis Agustina Yotha, alive, resulting in her death.

[Read more](#)



Military members allegedly kill two Papuans in Pegunungan Bintang – Military officials claim victims were TPNPB members

On 28 November 2024, a tragic incident unfolded in Parim Village, Serambakon District, Pegunungan Bintang Regency, when Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) personnel killed Mr Methodius Uropmabin and Mr Nerius Oktemka.

[Read more](#)

Torture & ill-treatment



Military members alleged of torturing Papuan man in Deiyai Regency

Military members reportedly tortured Mr Meki Pekei in the Deiyai Regency, in the late afternoon of 27 November 2024. Mr Pekei was admitted to the hospital on the same day to receive medical treatment.

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Police members torture journalist in Sorong - Family demands justice

On 29 December 2024, Mr Rabin Marselino Yarangga, a journalist, was attacked by a mob and later tortured by police officers during detention at the Sorong Police Station.

[Read more](#)



Military members shoot three Papuans in Dogiyai Regency

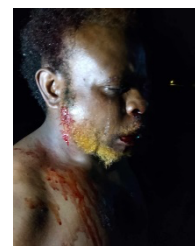
A shooting incident involving the Indonesian military (TNI) occurred in Dogiyai Regency, Central Papua (Papua Tengah) Province, on 16 December 2024, leaving three civilians injured.

[Read more](#)

Shooting on Christmas Eve in Dogiyai Regency – Security forces alleged of opening fire at residents

On 24 December 2024, Mr Febrian Agapa, 20, was seriously injured after being shot at close range by the driver of a vehicle from a convoy escorted by security forces.

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Environmental activist beaten in Teluk Bintuni Regency: Perpetrators allegedly police officers

On 20 December 2024, environmental activist Sulfianto Alias was beaten by a group of individuals in Teluk Bintuni, Papua Barat Province.

[Read more](#)

Arbitrary detention, intimidation, and criminalisation



Police detain sixteen students on Human Rights Day in Sentani, Jayapura

On 10 December 2024, a group of students from the Walter Post School of Theology (STT) in Sentani, Jayapura were arbitrarily stopped by police while they were driving to a public commemoration worship for Human Rights Day.

[Read more](#)

Nabire: 1st December commemorations with police repression

On 1 December 2024, police officers searched the Paniai Male Student Dormitory in Nabire following a morning worship service commemorating the 1st of December. Police forces detained 11 students without providing a warrant.

[Read more](#)



Jayapura: 1st December commemoration - protester arrested

On 1 December 2024, Mr Malvin Yobee, a former political prisoner and Papuan activist, was arrested in front of the Good Shepherd Parish Catholic Church in Abepura, Jayapura City. He staged a solo protest to commemorate the 1st of December.

[Read more](#)

Freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Attack on Jubi office raises alarms over press freedom in Papua

On 16 October 2024, an attack targeted the Jubi editorial office, known for its coverage of human rights and environmental issues. Two individuals threw Molotov cocktails into the office yard, setting ablaze two operational vehicles parked in front of the building.

[Read more](#)



Possible reenactment of transmigration program triggers West Papua-wide protests



On 15 November 2024, thousands of Papuans went to the streets after the West Papua National Committee (KNPB) called for peaceful demonstrations against the central Government's plan to relaunch the transmigration program, with West Papua being one of the target areas. Police officers in the towns of Jayapura and Nabire reportedly cracked down on protesters.

[Read more](#)

1st December commemorations met with police repression in Makassar and Yogyakarta

Protests by Papuan students in the cities of Yogyakarta, Java Tengah Province, on 1 December and Makassar, Sulawesi Selatan Province on 2 December 2024, were forcefully dispersed by police officers. The protests were held in commemoration of the 1st of December 1961.

[Read more](#)



Other violations

Conflict escalation in Intan Jaya comes with civilian casualties and further internal displacement



The Indonesian military continues to intensify its operations in West Papua, leading to increased displacement of indigenous communities and severe human rights abuses. Since 18 October 2024, the Indonesian military has been engaged in a counterattack against the TPNPB Kodap VIII Intan Jaya troops in Sugapa District. Reports also indicate that the military has seized land belonging to the Moni Tribe in Intan Jaya Regency.

[Read more](#)

About Human Rights Monitor

The Human Rights Monitor (HRM) is an independent, international non-profit project promoting human rights through documentation and advocacy. HRM is based in the European Union and active since 2022. We are achieving our vision by documenting violations; researching institutional, social and political contexts that affect rights protection and peace; and sharing the conclusions of evidence-based monitoring work.

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