

[Letter from Papua's Church leaders to the Chief of Police in Jakarta 22 November 2001]

Churches of Papua

Chief of Police, Republic of Indonesia
Police-General S. Bimantoro
Jakarta

Greetings in peace,

With this letter we, the Church leaders in Papua, wish to put forward our concern in relation to the safety of those witnesses connected with the case of the abduction and slaying of Theys Hiyo Eluay, Chairman of the Papuan Presidium Council.

1. As always, we are following carefully the developments of the investigation into the case of the kidnapping and slaying of the Chairman of the Papuan Presidium Council, which has brought a deepening fear for the witnesses, given that this case has a very serious political dimension.
2. As servants of God, we have been asked by the witnesses and their relatives to protect them in their confusion and fear; hence to the best of our ability we look for effective measures that can be taken to safeguard our community.
3. Because we are unable to provide a guarantee of protection, thus with respect we ask you, as the supreme commander of the police in Indonesia, to provide in a judicial and practical manner a leading guarantee of protection to all witnesses who are to become sources of information in uncovering the facts relating to the abduction and slaying of the Chairman of the Papuan Presidium Council.
4. We, the Church leaders in Papua, support the efforts of the police to uncover the truth by giving openness to all the established facts relevant to the kidnapping and the death of the Chairman of the Papuan Presidium Council, in order to uphold justice in Papua.
5. We urge the formation of an independent investigative team with a high degree of credibility, involving Komnas HAM and experts in international human rights, to bring to light the true facts in the abduction and slaying of Theys Hiyo Eluay in an independent, impartial, and transparent manner, for the sake of a sense of justice in the Papuan community, which is continuously being hurt.

Such is our Churches' concern, which we express to you, Sir, as the highest office- holder in command of the Police in Indonesia.

Yours respectfully,

Rev Herman Saud, MTh
Synod Chair, GKI of Papua

Mgr Leo Laba Ladjar, OFM
Bishop of Jayapura

Rev Dr Benny Giay
Kemah Injil Church of Irian Jaya

Jayapura, 22 November 2001

Copies:

1. Federation of Indonesian Churches, Jakarta
2. Indonesian Bishops Conference, Jakarta
3. Komnas HAM, Jakarta
4. Papuan Presidium Council, Jayapura