

“They still intimidated even in jail!”

Jayapura, 5 Juni 2004. Obviously, 20-year sentence and even life sentence is not enough for seven prisoners of the Wamena case who serve their sentences in the Sinapuk Jail, Wamena, since they are still intimidated by the intelligence of the Military District Command and the Police Mobile Brigade inside the jail compound,” explained Ms Anum Siregar, a member of the legal team for the Wamena Case of 4 April 2003.

Kanius Murip (50), Kimanus Wenda (46), Enos Lokobal (37), Michael Heselo (31), Numbungga Telenggen (26), Yaprey Murip (19) and Des Wenda (20) told the Team that since last April, the hall at the jail, which used to be available for them for a gathering with their families or for exercise, has been occupied by the military and the police mobile brigade personnel for their own purposes. The prisoners lost their chances to meet with their families and also their chance to do some exercise. They felt annoyed all the time and even felt intimidated.

The legal team complaint to the Head of the Wamena Jail, Mr Hendro Sekaryanto S.Sos, and urged him to take any legal measures. However, he admitted that he was under pressure of the 1702 Military District Command of Jayawijaya so he had no choice. The legal team also reported to him that the prisoners desperately needed medical assistance for their illnesses due to torture they had suffered. Jigi Jigibalom, the prisoners of the Bolakme case of 5 November 2003, in particular, has been suffering from chronic cataract so he always screams during the night.

Many observers strongly argue that the sentence for the seven prisoners is absolutely unfair. “They have been waiting for the decision of the Supreme Court since we believe that they are the victims of a political game. This is very obvious as the legal proceedings were bizarre. The prosecutor was almost silent. The Judges threw their words to the prisoners. Many intelligence were hanging around the court room or following our lawyers wherever they went”, explained Ms Frederika Korain, a member of the Coalition of NGOs for Protection and Upholding of Human Rights in Papua.

The military operation which deployed the Strategic Force of the Army (*Kostrad*) 413 “Samber Nyawa” and the Special Forces of the Army (*Kopassus*) following the burglary of the arsenal of the 1702 Military District Command of Jayawijaya has caused casualties amongst innocent victims. The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) established an Inquiry Commission on Human Rights Violations under Law No. 26/2000 based on the allegation that the military and police personnel committed gross human rights violations. This Commission has been doing its interrogation to the military and police personnel. The Commission, chaired by Anshari Thoyib, is scheduled to wrap up its interrogation this month and will analyse the whole facts and findings to conclude with their final conclusion.

Last April, Theo van Boven, the UN Special Rapporteur on the question of torture reported this case during the 60th Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/56/Add.1) saying that he sent two urgent appeals to the Indonesian Government with regard to the allegation of arbitrary detention and torture against Elias Tabuni, Yapenas Murib, Kanius Murib and other four men. The Coalition of NGOs found the fact that Yapenas Murib died in the military custody due to torture he had suffered (*)