

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF PAPUAN CHURCHES
(Persekutuan Gereja-gereja di Papua)

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Report on the situation in Mulia
Based on a visit by the Pastoral Team
of the Ecumenical Council of Papuan churches (PGGP)
(*Official translation*)

The PGGP Pastoral Team led by **Rev. Lipiyus Biniluk** visited Mulia from 16 to 18 January 2007. This visit aimed to obtain a closer look and a deeper understanding of the situation of the communities in the Mulia and surrounding areas. People in this region experience fear as a consequence of the armed conflict between the separatist group TPN/OPM led by Goliat Tabuni and military and police units in December 2006.

As of 22 January, PGGP had already asked the House of Representatives of the Province of Papua (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Provinsi Papua*, DPRP) through Commission F to facilitate a meeting with members of the DPRP, in particular with the DPRP Chairman, the Governor of Papua, the Head of the Provincial Police and the Head of Military for Trikora XVII, in order to deal with the humanitarian problem in Mulia. However, as of the writing of this report, there has no response.

We the priests of the religious communities can wait no longer considering the situation of our congregations who are evacuating, suffering from starvation, sickness and fear while the Government of the Puncak Jaya Regency is busy preparing its Regent elections. In the light of our priority to make Papua a Land of Peace, we herewith directly report to the people of Papua what we have heard, seen and experienced ourselves in order to take steps in overcoming the humanitarian emergency situation.

Therefore we recommend:

1. To the Provincial Government of Papua to immediately support the Government of the Puncak Jaya Regency with humanitarian assistance in order to solve the humanitarian emergency situation in the Yamo District;

2. To the Government of the Puncak Jaya Regency to take immediate steps handling the emergency situation in particular the refugee problem in the Yamo District;
3. To TPN/ OPM, the Indonesian Military (TNI) and the Indonesian Police to guarantee the security of delivered food supplies and medical teams from any side so that the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) will obtain needed help in a humane way and as quickly as possible.
4. The decrease of non-organic military troops, units of the intelligence service and the Mobil Forces of the Police (Brimob) and the centering of these troops in the Capital town of the Regency and District in order to decrease fear and trauma experienced by local people and to avoid potential conflicts with the local population so that an atmosphere of safety can be restored as soon as possible.
5. To the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) in Papua to make an investigation soon in order to reveal the activators of the series of violent acts which caused deaths and loss of personal properties;
6. To all sides to quickly stop any politicization which sacrifices the people of Puncak Jaya.

Thus we report to the people of Papua and hope for common efforts to create Papua as a Land of Peace which is protected and blessed by the Almighty God.

Executive Board of PGGP

Bishop Leo L. Ladjar OFM
Chairman of PGGP

Rev. Andreas Ayomi
Chair I PGGP

Rev. Lipiyus Biniluk
Chair II PGGP

Rev. Hermann Saud
Chair III PGGP

APPENDIX

A. Chronology of Violence

13 November 2006

Riots occur in Mulia after the distribution of direct financial help (fuel compensation). According to witnesses the violence broke out because the names of one part of the local population were not on the list of people receiving monetary compensation. Another source in Puncak Jaya said that the perpetrators of the riots were youths who some time before were facilitated by the local political elite involved in determining criteria for the future Regent candidates in the Puncak Jaya Regency elections for the period of 2007 – 2012.

The riots caused the country a financial loss reaching billions of Rupiah as governmental buildings and houses of members of the DPRD were destroyed and burned down by the mass.

8 December 2006

Two members of the military forces, Joko Susanto (Kopassus) and Tobias Sirken (retired military officer), are killed. The two corpses are afterwards burned by TPN/ OPM. The occurrence of the killings coincides with the declaration of Lukas Enembe and Drs. Henock Ibo as candidates for Regent and vice-regent, on 8 December 2006. The same day the Morning Star Flag is raised at the Kumibaga mountain approximately 500 meter from the old town of Mulia. Following this incident part of the population, especially civil servants outside Mulia, the families of officials and other citizens leave Mulia by air transportation through Timika, Nabire and Jayawijaya whereas others could not leave Mulia to go about their daily activities as all the streets in and out of town were restricted or blocked for security reasons.

24 December 2006

A bigger Morning Star Flag than before is raised at the Kumibaga mountain. At the same time members of TPN/ OPM shout war invitations towards the Regent candidates pairs Lukas Enembe and Drs. Henock Ibo as well as Elvis Tabuni and Rev. Paulus Tabuni. Various letters are also circulating in the name of Goliat Tabuni supporting the candidate pair Elieser Renmaur and Wakerkwa. This letter is neatly typed and written in very correct language.

27-28 December 2006

An increase of military troops in Mulia by helicopter is reported.

29 December 2006

The traditional house of the Head of the GIDI (*Gereja Injili di Indonesia*) congregation **Laringgen Morib**, approximately three Kilometers from the old town of Mulia, is burned.

Amongst the burned properties of Laringgen Morib are the following:

1. A suitcase filled with clothing (long and short trousers, T-Shirts, underwear and children's clothing)
2. A big and a small rice wok
3. Five sleeping blankets

4. One ax and one machete
5. 20 aluminum zinc
6. 4 Noken (traditional bags to carry crops from the garden)
7. One dozen eating plates, two dozens spoons, one dozen of drinking bowls
8. One Sony Tape recorder (value 1 Million Rupiah)

The head of another GIDI congregation Dainus Game also had property in the burned house:

1. One guitar

5 January 2007

The members of TPN/ OPM flee when Brimob troops arrive at the flag raising location. Afterwards the Indonesian military arrives establishing a permanent post and raising the Red-and-White Indonesian Flag until now.

Not far from the burned house **Gumi Morib (34)** is killed at 2pm by Brimob undergoing an operation against those responsible for the flag raising. The victim is buried according to Lani tradition by his family on 6 January at 2 pm in the village of **Terewarak**, Dondopaga, approximately 50 meters from the location of the shooting.

6 – 7 January

The Lani people in the Yami Regency begin to evacuate. They leave from two GIDI areas to three other areas on the other side of the Yamo river. After a two days of heavy walking on foot, one part of the group reaches the village Kiyage. Two bridges of the Yamo river which connect the Yamo District with the Capital of Puncak Jaya Regency are destroyed by the IDPs as they were afraid of military operations or of being chased by the military or supporters of Goliat Tabuni. The IDPs leave all their livestock behind.

Table 1

The service areas of the GIDI Church and the evacuated congregations

No	Church	GIDI Service Area	Number of congregation members	Evacuation destination	GIDI Service Area
1.	GIDI Dokome	II	300	Yokolobi	I
2.	GIDI Nowome	II	480	GIDI Yambuni	I
3.	GIDI Imilineri	II	350	GIDI Tiolome and Kota Baru	I
4.	GIDI Kalome	III	150	Putbakak, Ilabraui and to GIDI Area IV	IV & V
5.	GIDI Bereleme	III	567	Putbakak, Ilabraui and to GIDI Area IV	IV & V
6.	GIDI Purbalo	III		GIDI Wundu	V
7.	GIDI Igunikime	III	250	GIDI Temu	V
8.	GIDI	Mulia	90	Kota Mulia	Mulia

	Talilome			
TOTAL		2.187		

A total number of **2.187 IDPs** originate from Area II and III fleeing to the areas I, IV and V:

- Yamo Area I: 1.118 people
- Yamo Area IV: 1.152 people
- Yamo Area V: 680 people
- Total number of these three areas: 2.950 people.

Adding the number of the population receiving the IDPs, we count **5.137** people suffering from hunger. Within this number the people fleeing to Kiyage have not yet been included, remembering that the whole GIDI congregation in Yamo consists of **5.361** people. One group of IDPs fleeing to the city of Mulia are accommodated by families and another group stays at the GIDI complex in the old town of Mulia.

Pastors visiting Mulia and witnessing the circumstances report that the situation of the congregation in Yambuni needs particular attention as seven to eight families stay together in one traditional house (*honai*), and in former kiosks or pig stalls without proper food. The pastors are asking for logistical support in order to help the IDPs. They also suffer from sicknesses such as malaria, scabies and swollen spleens. Access is difficult to those IDPs who live in areas where the bridges to the city have been destroyed and people there suffer from fear and trauma towards Goliat Tabuni's group and the Indonesian Military who control certain locations, in particular the streets from the District to the city of Mulia.

IDPs in **Ilabraui** live with five to six families in one traditional house (*honai*) without proper food. IDPs from **Igunikime** who are accommodated in Temu experience difficulties with the local inhabitants (*Wano* clan) due to different traditions. After the IDPs had received a part of a potato field they were asked to go back to their place of origin or search for edible ferns in the forest as there was not enough food.

Four IDPs have already died due to a lack of food and medicine:

No.	Name	Sex	Age
1.	Tanno Telenggen	M	50
2.	Laya Morib	M	30
3.	Mitiles Morib	M	20
4.	Walia Wonda	M	41

Volunteers and members of the medical aid team of the Health Department already requested that the Department send medicine and health personnel to the refugee areas. This however has not been approved yet due to the experience of the year 2004 when the security forces found medicine in Guragi/ Tingginambut which they suspected was given to OPM/ TPN instead of to the health center.

B. Response of the Puncak Jaya Regent Government

1. The Puncak Jaya Government attended a Ceremony of Prayer asking for peace and urging the IDPs of the community to come back to their villages. The ceremony was organised by the Head of the GIDI congregation in Mulia, Rev. Dainus Game, and attended by approximately 1.000 people. The Regent Frans Kristantus and his Secretary Henock Ibo, the Head of the Puncak Jaya Police Yakobus Marzuki, officials of the local government and PGGP were amongst those attending the ceremony and giving directions and peace appeals to members of the congregation and other people living in the area.
2. The Secretary of the Puncak Jaya government promised six tons of rice and medicine from Wamena to overcome the crises in the refugee areas in the Yamo District. He also asked the church for security guarantees for these services and hoped the church would aid in developing communications with the group of Goliat Tabuni.
3. The Secretary of the Puncak Jaya government asked the church to support the reconstruction of the bridges which was destroyed by TPN/ OPM in the Tingginambut region in the year 2004 as the government has already spent Rp. 50.000.000 per bridge.

C. Closing Remarks

1. The conflict starting in August 2004 has isolated the region around Mulia as two main bridges in the Tingginambut Region were destroyed hampering the transport of supplies from Wamena.
2. War appeals and letters indicate a politicization of the masses leading to the sacrifice of the general population.
3. The high presence of Indonesian military, Brimob and units of the intelligence service working against the activities of TPN/ OPM might turn into a conflict with the general population who does not speak the Indonesian language fluently.
4. The attention and staff of the local government at this time is focused on the Regent elections. That is why a strong push from the Governor is needed. Otherwise the process in the field will be delayed and not completed.