

libertas

RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY'S NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL ISSUE JOHN HUMPHREY FREEDOM AWARD 2005 60 YEARS OF PAPUAN CONSCIOUSNESS

BY DAVID WEBSTER, HARRIS STEEL POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

ON THE FIRST DAY of December each year, people across the Indonesian-ruled territory of Papua (also known as West Papua or Irian Jaya) raise their flag: a white star on a red background, flanked by a field of blue and white stripes.

Each year, some of these people are arrested for displaying the Morning Star banner, banned by the Indonesian government since the 1960s. Last year, several hundred Papuans gathered to watch one flag-raising in the town of Abepura, part of a peaceful open-air prayer meeting. As the flag was raised, Indonesian police fired rubber bullets, then waded into the crowd, beating people with batons.

One flag-raiser, 45-year old Filep Karma, was arrested on the spot. Another man, Yusak Pakage, 26, was arrested for protesting outside the police station against Karma's arrest. Karma was sentenced to fifteen years in jail for "rebellion" and expressing hostility towards the State. Pakage received a ten-year sentence for his role in the peaceful flag-raising.

"Indonesia is a democracy," Pakage wrote in a September statement. "We raised the Bintang Kejora [Morning Star] flag with the aim of encouraging dialogue between the people of West Papua and the government of Indonesia.... We should sit together and have a democratic dialogue to find a solution to end the killings, the oppression and the injustices which have occurred systematically on West Papuan land."

Indonesia held democratic elections in 2004, its second since the fall of President Suharto's regime in 1998. It has made enormous strides towards

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democratization. In peripheral areas such as Papua, however, real power still lies with the Indonesian army which held power under Suharto. "Democracy in Indonesia is in danger," Pakage wrote, because it does not permit peaceful protest in places like Papua. Amnesty International reports that at least 72 people have been put on trial since 1998 for advocating an independent Papua. The jailings of Yusak Pakage and Filep Karma are just an example of many such cases over four decades of Indonesian rule. Many Papuans feel they were robbed of their independence. When they express this view, they are seen in Indonesia as challenging the unity of the State.

THE BEGINNINGS OF PAPUAN CONSCIOUSNESS

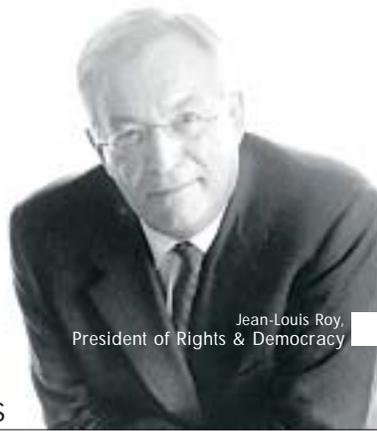
2005 was a year of anniversaries around the world: 60 years since the end of the Second World War and the formation of the United Nations. It was also 60 years since the beginnings of a Papuan consciousness. In 1945, American troops swept across Papua's coast, pushing back the Japanese. Many of them were African Americans, who looked like cousins to the Melanesian people of Papua. The largest American military base quickly became the Papuan community of Kampong Harapan, the city of hope (it is now Jayapura, the provincial capital). The Japanese had been driven out; Indonesian nationalists had declared an independent Republic in Jakarta; the world was being made anew. Some Papuan leaders threw in their lot with the Indonesians seeking independence for the Dutch East Indies; others agreed to work with the Dutch towards a separate and more gradual independence for Papua. It took until 1949 for the Netherlands to recognize the independence of Indonesia; when they did, they insisted on keeping Papua as a last bit of their Pacific colonial empire. Throughout the 1950s, the Indonesian government demanded control of Papua. In 1960, the Netherlands announced a

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Rights & Democracy
International Centre for Human Rights
and Democratic Development

Rights & Democracy (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development) is an independent Canadian institution created by an Act of Parliament in 1988. It has an international mandate to promote, advocate and defend the democratic and human rights set out in the International Bill of Human Rights. In cooperation with civil society and governments in Canada and abroad, Rights & Democracy initiates and supports programmes to strengthen laws and democratic institutions, principally in developing countries.



Jean-Louis Roy,
President of Rights & Democracy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON THE FRONTLINES of the global movement towards democracy, freedom and justice are the courageous individuals that defend human rights. With strength of conviction, they are willing to stand up to the State and demand respect for due process, peaceful dialogue and international obligations. With force of legal arguments, they demonstrate solidarity with their fellow citizens and a commitment to a world order based on the rule of law.

This year's John Humphrey Award Winner, Yan Christian Warinussy, is one of these committed and courageous human rights defenders. It is an understatement to say that it is difficult to be a human rights lawyer in West Papua; given the tense political situation that prevails, his is a dangerous profession. To defend the rights of the Papuans, Mr. Warinussy has and continues to risk his life.

I am very pleased that Mr. Warinussy will be able to come to Canada to accept the 2005 John Humphrey Freedom Award. As he meets our partners and fellow Canadians from coast to coast, he will teach us about the democratic struggle on the distant island of West Papua. He will also personify the universal values of human rights that can link us in solidarity with people on the other side of the globe. |

RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY'S NEWSLETTER

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COORDINATION: Louis Moubarak
DESIGN: Club Imprimerie Montréal
PHOTOS: Alex Hill, YPRI
TRANSLATION: Martine Geronimi,
Geneviève Peeren, Anne Talbot

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1001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. East
Suite 1100
Montreal (Quebec) Canada H2L 4P9

Telephone: (514) 283-6073
Fax: (514) 283-3792
dd-rd@dd-rd.ca
www.dd-rd.ca

WEST PAPUA AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

BY STEVE SMITH, OFFICER, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY

WEST PAPUA'S indigenous population is one of the most diverse on earth, consisting of 253 different language groups. Each group is unique not just in language, but follow distinct customs, religious practices, economic interests and social structures.

Indigenous peoples currently represent an estimated 65 per cent of West Papua's total population of more than 2.3 million citizens. Only 45 years ago, in 1960, they accounted for more than 97 per cent of a population of 736,700.

This change is directly related to Indonesia's take-over of West Papua in 1963. Hoping to consolidate its control of the island and undermine West Papua's growing independence movement, the Indonesian government implemented a policy that opened this part of the island to Indonesian migrants enticed there by the promise of cheap land and access to the island's abundant natural resources. This policy was supported by a new law declaring all land and natural resources property of the Indonesian state and severely limiting land claims by indigenous West Papuans. This disregard for the land, resource and cultural rights of West

Papua's indigenous peoples—as well as the brutal measures employed by Indonesia's military in its effort to enforce Jakarta's designs for West Papua—helped set the stage for an independence movement that continues to this day.

The plight of West Papua's indigenous population is mirrored in the struggles of indigenous peoples worldwide for recognition of their human rights. Indigenous peoples are among the most marginalized and impoverished members of society in every region of the world, a condition that is more often than not due to the loss of their land and resources.

Rights & Democracy is a committed supporter of the global struggle for indigenous peoples' rights, in particular the right to self-determination. Rights & Democracy continues to press ahead with its efforts to see these rights acknowledged through the adoption of international human rights instruments, notably the draft declarations on the rights of indigenous peoples that are currently before the Organization of American States and the United Nations. |

JOHN HUMPHREY FREEDOM AWARD



WINNERS

- 2005 Yan Christian Warinussy (West Papua)
- 2004 Godeliève Mukasarasi (Rwanda)
- 2003 Kimy Pernía Domicó (Colombia) and Angélica Mendoza (Peru)
- 2002 Ayesha Imam, BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights (Nigeria)
- 2001 Dr. Sima Samar (Afghanistan)
- 2000 Reverend Timothy Njoya (Kenya)
- 1999 Dr. Cynthia Maung and Min Ko Naing (Burma)
- 1998 Palden Gyatso (Tibet)
- 1997 Father Javier Giraldo (Colombia)
- 1996 Sultana Kamal (Bangladesh)
- 1995 Bishop Carlos F. X. Belo (East Timor)
- 1994 Campaign for Democracy (Nigeria) and Egyptian Organization for Human Rights
- 1993 La Plate-forme des organismes haitiens de défense des droits humains (Haiti)
- 1992 Instituto de Defensa Legal (Peru)

RIGHTS & DEMOCRACY presents the John Humphrey Freedom Award each year, since 1992, to an organization or individual from any country or region of the world for exceptional achievement in the promotion of human rights and democratic development. The Award consists of a grant of \$25,000 as well as a speaking tour of Canadian cities to help increase awareness of the recipient's human rights work. It is named in honour of the John Peters Humphrey, the Canadian human rights law professor who prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The winner is selected by an international jury composed of five members of Rights & Democracy's Board of Directors.

For further details, visit: www.dd-rd.ca or write Anyle Côté (acote@dd-rd.ca). |

60 YEARS OF PAPUAN CONSCIOUSNESS

Continued from page 1

ten-year plan for Papuan self-government. A semi-elected Papuan council became, in effect, an embryonic parliament for a new nation-state. On 1 December 1961, the new Papuan-designed flag was raised for the first time over the council building. To many Papuans, this marked their independence day.

Indonesian President Sukarno saw things very differently, ordering the mobilization of his country for war, using arms supplied by the Soviet Union. Alarmed that this might lead Indonesia into the communist camp, the United States under President John F. Kennedy intervened to force the Netherlands to the bargaining table. With no Papuans present, the Dutch agreed to hand Papua over to an interim UN administration, which would in turn transfer control to Indonesia in 1963. "Forced participation in Indonesian rule would be equivalent to a slave trade carried on by members of the United Nations," a group of Papuan councillors wrote angrily, but to no avail.

Under the terms of the transfer, there was supposed to be an "act of free choice" letting Papuans opt for Indonesian rule or independence. The act was held in 1969, but instead of a referendum, military authorities hand-picked 1,026 electors. Their vote was unanimous for Indonesia; it has since been described by the responsible UN Under-Secretary as a "whitewash." Arguing that self-determination had already taken place in 1945 with the Indonesian declaration of independence, Indonesian leaders never accepted that there was any Papuan right to separate.

The clashing beliefs over self-determination lie at the root of the human rights violations during 42 years of Indonesian control. Human rights groups have estimated Papuan deaths under Indonesian rule may be as high as 100,000. There have been extensive reports of arbitrary arrests and extra-judicial executions, coupled with what Amnesty International calls a "culture of impunity" in which army officers are rarely held accountable for their actions. A 2004 report from the Lowenstein human rights clinic at Yale Law School found "a strong indication that the Indonesian government has committed genocide" in Papua.

Papuans complain bitterly over transmigration from the heavily-populated Indonesian islands. For decades, the Indonesian government set ambitious targets for migration to Papua, designed to relieve population pressures in densely-populated Java while opening up the Papuan rain forest for economic development projects. The number of transmigrants never met the targets, but large numbers of "spontaneous migrants" have flooded into Papua. Major cities often have an Indonesian majority dominating the best jobs; some Papuans fear they are on the verge of being reduced to a minority in their own homeland.

Papua is also a resource conflict. It is one of three provinces providing the bulk of Indonesia's export earnings. Its extensive rain forests are divided up among logging companies, raising the spectre of large-scale deforestation and threats to the cultural survival of indigenous peoples. The US-based multinational, Freeport, maintains one of the world's largest mines in the Papuan interior, where it has excavated entire mountains in search of copper and gold. Canadian mining companies are prominent among those searching for more mineral deposits. BP (formerly British Petroleum) hopes to build a vast natural gas project in Bintuni Bay. Papua is treated as a treasure house for natural resources, but few benefits can be seen flowing to local people, who remain poor by Indonesian standards, with high infant mortality rates and a vast AIDS crisis.

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Hopes were high that the human rights situation would improve after the fall of Suharto. A team of 100 Papuan leaders met with Suharto's successor, asking for a dialogue on the history of Papua's integration into Indonesia and voicing the widespread aspiration for independence. Abdurrahman Wahid, Indonesia's first democratically-elected president, agreed to permit a Papuan National Congress in 2000. But military authorities cracked down after that Congress declared Papuans were "already sovereign as a nation and a people." In 2002, Indonesian soldiers murdered Theys Eluay, elected leader of the Papuan Presidium at the 2000 congresses, driving the peaceful independence movement underground. Offers of "special autonomy" have yet to be implemented, increasing Papuan distrust of Indonesian promises.

YAN CHRISTIAN WARINUSSY AND THE ROAD TO PEACE

Human rights defenders like this year's John Humphrey Freedom Award winner have also come under attack. Yan Christian Warinussy was defending six residents of his community jailed for a flag-raising in 2001 when he wrote to protest that they had been beaten in police custody, he was summoned by the police. They lined up the flag-raisers and threatened to "shoot you and your lawyer." In Papua today, human rights defenders on the front lines are often targeted for their activities.

Without brave individuals monitoring and advocating for human rights, countries moving towards democracy are unlikely to get there. Rights activists "are a part of democratization," according to Hina Jilani, the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders. "Their presence and activity in a state are both an indicator of democratization and a motor for its further development." The Indonesian government has not permitted Jilani to investigate Papua. Despite the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, backed by Canada among other countries, campaigning for rights remains a hazardous career choice for Papuans.

At the root of the rights problem, human rights defenders argue, is the perception that self-determination was stolen from Papuans. Papuans continue to protest; Indonesian government refuses to admit any validity to "separatism," which leads to repressive actions.

Many Papuan organizations are trying to break the cycle with a call for dialogue and transforming Papua into a "land of peace." This road offers the best hope for conflict resolution. /

SPREADING THE WORD:

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS WAKING UP TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND INDONESIAN MILITARY IMPUNITY IN PAPUA

BY ALEX HILL, INDONESIA PROJECT OFFICER FOR ALTERNATIVES, AN INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY NETWORK BASED IN MONTREAL

FOR ALMOST 40 years the world has looked the other way while Papua (West Papua or Irian Jaya) was ravaged in a program of repression by the Indonesian military. But this is starting to change.

The past three years have seen statements from the US Congress and Senate condemning Human Right abuses in Papua, and parliamentary committees in the UK, Ireland and New Zealand have spoken up in national and international forums against the history of regular abuses. Momentum is growing, the word is spreading; and due to the hard work and commitment of a handful of human rights defenders, the world is waking up to the tragedy of Indonesian military impunity against the indigenous peoples of Papua. A series of events starting with the fall of the dictatorial Suharto regime in 1998, the liberation of East Timor, the Bali bombings (2003 and 2005), and last year's devastating Tsunami in Aceh have put Indonesia under an increasingly bright spotlight. What the world is seeing, according to Edmund McWilliams of the Indonesia Human Rights Network in his report to a US Senate Committee, is a "fragile, fledgling democracy whose government is not yet capable of protecting the fundamental human rights of its people." He went on to point out that the US State Department's own reports indicate that "the principal threat to (human) rights... is (the military), a rogue institution with vast wealth and power that has committed crimes against humanity and perhaps genocide, and which remains unaccountable."

Papua is one of the Indonesian military's primary areas of operation, and the state uses the spectre of the largely peaceful independence movement to justify its actions. Papua was occupied by Indonesia in 1963, and incorporated into the Indonesian state through a controversial United Nations referendum in 1969.

Since then, various political groups have asked for a review of the process, and lightly armed guerrilla forces have struggled to establish an independent Papuan state. In response, the military has engaged in a campaign of terror, carrying out offensives against Papua's indigenous people. In this campaign, the military follows three main directives focusing on internal security, which translates into operations against the local population.

The military's first directive aims to protect major resource industries such as Freeport McMoran's gold and copper mine (the largest in the world) and BP's natural gas development projects in Papua. In these cases, the military seeks out lucrative "security" contracts from the companies. Reluctance on behalf of the company to hire the military's services can in turn lead to their employees' being targeted by the military, as was seen in 2002 when 3 employees of Freeport McMoran were killed by gunmen carrying Indonesian Military-issue weapons. It was this incident that sparked the first criticism of military activities in Papua within the US government.

Second, the military works to protect the unitary state of Indonesia by crushing any local expressions of resistance to state authority. Five separate operations over the past three years in Papua's remote regions have seen the military react by killing



hundred and destroying villages in response to local resistance to the appropriation of land and resources without compensation. An action that began in August 2004 in the high mountain town of Puncak Jaya continues today where, according to Ecologist magazine, "Indonesian soldiers have been burning villages, attacking civilians, raping women and killing men in a widespread, planned military operation."

Finally the military itself engages in economic activities that threaten the local population. The military generates 70% of its operating budget through non-government financing. Besides lucrative security contracts for resource companies, this mostly includes black market activities such as running prostitution rings that spread HIV-AIDS, illegal logging and smuggling. As a result Papua now faces the highest HIV rates in Southeast Asia, and boasts the world's most rampant illegal logging industry.

But while the world is starting to pay attention, the challenge for human rights supporters in Papua continues to grow. According to Tapol, the Indonesian Human Rights Campaign, an additional 12,000 to 15,000 troops will arrive in West Papua in the period from 2005 to 2009, bringing the troop presence up to nearly 50,000. All this in a province with a population of only 1.5 million.

Civil society in Papua (a loose coalition of 250 or more distinct tribes) has repeatedly called for a making Papua a Land of Peace, requesting that the Indonesian army and local militia groups lay down arms and respect human rights so that conflicts can be resolved through dialogue. However, anyone promoting even peaceful alternatives to full and unquestioned integration with Indonesia is an immediate target for arrest, torture or assassination by Indonesian security forces.

Foreign solidarity for Papua is growing. There is also a strengthening movement to pressure Indonesia to accept Special Rapporteurs for Human Rights and Judicial Independence. The past five years there have seen annual reports to the UN Commission on Human Rights on the situation in Papua. While some attention is being paid, a massive international solidarity movement is needed, similar to the movement in support of the rights of the people in East Timor, or the movement that came to the aid of the victims of the 2004 Tsunami in Aceh. The statements of foreign governments need to be followed up with concrete action to protect the Papuan peoples and bring to trial the Indonesia military officers behind human rights abuses. /

YAN CHRISTIAN WARINUSSY

JOHN HUMPHREY FREEDOM AWARD 2005 LAUREATE

HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER, Mr Warinussy is Executive Director of the Institute for Research, Analysing and Development of Legal Aid, also known as LP3BH, an organization committed to defending the rights of West Papuans affected by the Indonesian military's efforts to assert control over the region, which occupies the western half of the island shared by Papua New Guinea.

Mr Warinussy has distinguished himself by his frontline role as a defence lawyer to those in West Papua's remote regions who would otherwise have no legal representation. He also has played a leading role in the defence of West Papuan human rights campaigners working to expose human rights violations committed by the Indonesian military and paramilitary groups.

Mr Warinussy is also a respected community leader who has helped build bridges between West Papua's highland and lowland peoples. In the last year, he also served as an independent human rights advisor on the resettlement of West Papuans affected by a British Petroleum natural gas facility in Bintuni Bay. |



INTERVIEW WITH YAN CHRISTIAN

1. How is the current human rights' situation in West Papua?

Everyday, things seem to get worse. There are more violations, and the perpetrators of these violations continue to act with complete impunity. The Indonesian government has been inconsistent in its policies regarding West Papua. The Special Autonomy Law was passed but has not been implemented up until now. The government acts only in its own political and economic interests—not in the interests of the Papuan people. The Indonesian government does not treat Papuans fairly. We are seen as a people who are stupid, dirty and sick, hence, inferior. Our economic, civil, cultural and social rights are violated on a daily basis. We have extremely limited access to schools, to health services and to land. The government does not want to give us freedom or justice. Papuan people want peace. We want to live our lives peacefully and to have our culture respected and appreciated.

2. What role do you see the international community playing to put an end to the massive human rights abuses in West Papua?

We need help in many ways. In the past, the Institute for Research, Analysis and Development of Legal Aid (LP3BH) has organized campaigns with some international organizations and this has helped to highlight the deteriorating human rights situation in West Papua. The international community could help the Papuan people in the following ways:

By applying pressure on the Indonesian authorities to end human rights violations and to hold the perpetrators accountable for them.

By promoting human rights through advocacy.

By providing funds to the organizations in West Papua who work to defend human rights and who monitor and investigate abuses. Sadly, these organizations often lack funding to carry out this very important and necessary work.

3. What do Papuans need to feel that justice is being served?

There is impunity towards the perpetrators of human rights abuses in West Papua and this impunity needs to end.

There is a need to create a dialogue between the Papuan people and the Indonesian government to end human rights violations and to find a peaceful solution for West Papua.

On October 8th, Mika Lévesque, Asia Regional Officer, held a commemorative reception for Yan Christian in Manokwari, West Papua. She was representing Rights & Democracy.

WEST PAPUA ACTION NETWORK SINGS THE PRAISES OF YAN CHRISTIAN

BY LUISA DURANTE, FOUNDER MEMBER OF WESTPAN,
THE WEST PAPUA ACTION NETWORK

THE PEOPLE of West Papua have been under Indonesian occupation since 1963. During this time, the Indonesian authorities have done everything in their power to keep Papuans silent. Yan Christian Warinussy has been one of the exceptions to this: he has been speaking out against the oppression of his people from a young age. He has continued to speak despite death threats and the intimidation of his family. Courageously, he persists in seeking justice and defending those whose rights are being violated. He began his career as a human rights lawyer volunteering for a legal aid organization in Jayapura. Conscious of how his people were being unfairly treated by the Indonesian authorities, he was determined to improve their lives by demanding equal access to infrastructure and government services in order to satisfy the fundamental needs of his people.

Mr. Warinussy is well respected in all spheres of Papuan society and within the international human rights movement. A dedicated lawyer with a demanding schedule, he is always ready and willing to defend those in need. He defends people who would otherwise have no representation. He works with local community groups in isolated rural villages, cooperates with other lawyers and human rights groups, sits on government advisory committees, sits on advisory boards at UNIPA, and even coaches the local junior soccer team in its national league play.

CHANGING CHALLENGES INTO SOLUTIONS

He has negotiated peaceful settlements between indigenous groups and British Petroleum, who are developing a major liquefied natural gas project in Bintuni Bay area of Papua. He has helped the local communities to create development programs to handle any compensation offered by BP in an equitable manner. He was asked to be part of an independent advisory team to handle monitoring and evaluation of the resettlement of Papuans affected by the BP natural gas facility in Bintuni Bay. This work also involved preparing a study on how to involve the local communities in the process of deciding what type of security apparatus the company might use to police their operations, so that conflict between security forces and local villages in the region can be avoided. He provided needed information that helped to form the basis of the Special Autonomy Law. Mr. Warinussy took on a central role

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WEST PAPUA ACTION NETWORK SINGS THE PRAISES OF YAN CHRISTIAN

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helping to ensure that the Law was interpreted according to the spirit of the initial agreement.

He coordinated a public education team to promote Special Autonomy among community leaders as a peaceful tool to resolve grievances over Indonesian control of Papua. Most importantly, he worked through the media and public conference to encourage the establishment of the Papuan People's Council (MRP) to represent the Papuan community, as well as to oversee the implementation of the remaining aspect of the Law.

PERSISTENT, INNOVATIVE AND DETERMINED

Yan Christian has played a major role in protecting the human rights of the people of Wasior during and after the conflict that began in 2001. He has been conducting human rights monitoring and investigation ever since. His continual help is of utmost importance for the population of Wasior. In 2004 he was invited to join the National Human Rights Commission investigation into the 2002–3 conflict in the community of Wasior. Until now, Yan Christian has been applying pressure on the National Human Rights Commission to continue with the investigation and to hold the perpetrators accountable.

YAN CHRISTIAN, THE PRIDE OF HIS COMMUNITY

Yan Christian radiates with a confidence that touches all of the people he works with. This outspoken and dedicated human rights defender opens his home and his office to the community in which he lives. Yan Christian never passes up an opportunity to help his fellow Papuans. He works tirelessly night and day to improve Papuans' lives and to ensure that their rights are respected. When someone comes to his house or office with a grievance, he takes immediate action.



People in his community of Manokwari feel that without Yan Christian their situation would be much more dire. He exerts a positive influence on those around him and instils in them a sense of hope and empowerment. His courage and openness draw people to him while inspiring their trust.

He has demonstrated his strength and conviction in justice and true democracy and has challenged the legislators in West Papua. The victims of human rights violations are often able to pick up the pieces of their lives and work, with the help of Yan Christian, who provides encouragement and a sense of security and comfort for these people.

We wish to thank everyone working for human rights in West Papua and especially Rights & Democracy for providing the opportunity to honour the very important work of Yan Christian Warinussy and for bringing West Papua into the spotlight. Our sincere congratulations to Yan Christian and to all those who stand to uphold the values and ideals of human rights and freedom. |



RELATED LINKS

WESTPAN

<http://www.westpapua.ca/>

The West Papua Action Network is a group of dedicated Canadians and Papuans working in solidarity to voice concern about injustice in West Papua, and the associated destruction of its people, unique cultures and rare ecosystems. Visit their site for news, to become a member or to donate for the cause.

PACIFIC PEOPLES' PARTNERSHIP (PPP)

www.pacificpeoplespartnership.org

Pacific Peoples' Partnership is Canada's only non-profit, non-governmental social justice organization, devoted exclusively to working in solidarity with peoples of the South Pacific to promote their aspirations for peace, justice, security and sustainable development.

TAPOL

<http://tapol.gn.apc.org/>

TAPOL - which means political prisoner in Indonesian - is a leading English language authority on the human rights situation in Indonesia, including West Papua. Its website contains regular updates on the latest reports or violations of human rights, as well as information on meetings, events, and campaigns to support victims of human rights abuse in Indonesia.

KOMNAS HAM

<http://www.komnasham.go.id/>

National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia (Komnas HAM) is an Indonesian government body charged with investigating human rights abuses in Indonesia. Their website is largely in Bahasa.

PUBLICATIONS

John Wing & Peter King, Genocide in West Papua?

The role of the Indonesian state apparatus and a current needs assessment of the Papuan people (August 2005)

Available at: <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/centres/cpacs/wpp.htm>

The West Papua Project at the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney seeks to promote peaceful dialogue between the people of West Papua and Indonesia. Its website contains updates of latest activities and reports. This report in particular covers the threat posed by the Indonesian military to West Papua's stability, large scale military campaigns in the province, the HIV/AIDS explosion, and persistent marginalization of indigenous Papuans.

Indonesian Human Rights abuses in West Papua:

Application of the law of genocide to the history of Indonesian control (April 2004)

This report is the result of a day-long roundtable held at Yale Law School in 2002, which considered whether the Indonesian government's conduct towards the people of West Papua constitutes genocide, as defined by the 1948 Genocide Convention.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Make a donation to Yan Christian Warinussy's organization, the Institute for Research, Analysing and Development of Legal Aid, also known as LP3BH by visiting our website www.dd-rd.ca.

Become a member of WestPAN, Canada's West Papuan Network at www.westpapua.ca.