

Peace to you all!

First of all: allow us, religious leaders in the province of Papua, to ask God, the Source of all Life, and the population who has been victimized for forgiveness, for once again we who are called to a mission of humanity, failed to accomplish our duty to promote human dignity and to safeguard the value of life. Seemingly we could not prevent a repetition of the use of violence in the struggle of ideas or in coping with the problems which developed in the province of Papua which we all love. However, we will not deviate from our firm conviction that we have to promote the interests of the victimized population as far as we are able to do this.

Acts of violence are increasingly accepted and regarded as normal human behaviour and they happened in several places in the province of Papua; these shook our consciences and worried us greatly, and we fear that these will not be the last. We note some incidents of violence, which have happened in the near past:

1. The incident in the village of Wondoboi, Wasior district, Residency of Manokwari, on June 13-th, 2001. Five (5) members of the Mobile Unit of the Police Force were attacked and killed, weapons were stolen in the working area of the Vatika Papuana Perkasa enterprise by a group of people, who according to the Police Force of Irian Jaya belongs to TPN/OPM organisation. In the aftermath of this incident the Police Force of Irian Jaya initiated an extensive pursuit operation which seemingly deteriorated into a indiscriminative attack on the civil population by seizing and detaining them, by torturing at least 16 employees of the Vatika Papuana Perkasa enterprise, by mistreatment of the civil population, by killing at least 6 civilians, by the forced displacements of at least three villages(Isui, Kabou and Kubiari), by burning and destroying at least 51 houses of the civil population in Wasior, Wondama, Wondiboi, Senderawoi, Sanoba, Wombu, and Isey, by causing the disappearance of at least 7 persons, and by isolating up to now the Wondama area.

identified as Willem Onde and Yohanes Tumin, both the acknowledged leaders of the TPN/OPM group in Merauke. The finding of these corpses caused suspicions and worries in the hearts of the civil population since the authorities did not explain properly the cause of these deaths.

5. The incident in the village of Ansudu, Pantai Timur Betaf district, Residency of Jayapura on September 17-th 2001. A group of TPN/OPM assaulted 6 (six) employees of the Salaka enterprise surveying the area. One person was killed, the five others wounded.
6. The incident in Bonggo, Residency of Jayapura on September 23-rd 2001. A TPN/OPM group attacked the Army post (TNI Kostrad Yonif 511) in the transmigration area of SP-7(100 km. West of Jayapura). In this attack two soldiers lost their lives, one SSB radio was stolen, four soldiers sustained serious wounds, several housewives of the transmigrants were kidnapped and one member of the TN/OPM group was killed. Because of this incident Kodam XVII/Trikora launched a military operation to attack this TPN/OPM group.
7. The incident in Serui, Yapen-Waropen Residency, on September 23-rd 2001. Following the robbing and torturing of local people on a boat travelling from Serui to Dawai, hundreds of people destroyed the offices of the DPRD tk. II(residential parlement) Yapen-Waropen.
8. The incident in the Ilaga valley, Puncak Jaya Residency on September 28-th 2001. Following the attack on the Police Post and Army Posts(Koramil as well as Satgas Yonif 753) by a group of TPN/OPM Kodam Trikora XVII and the General of the Police Forces launched a joint campaign to avenge this attacks by the PTN/OPM forces. The effects of this campaign are still not known because of geographic reasons and because of poor telecommunications.

The incidents are not really incidental acts of violence anymore, but create a circle of systematic and planned violence, causing a chain of violence and revenge without end. This chain of violence causes:

1. Lives are lost, people are wounded both on the TPN/OPM side as well as on the side of the security-forces(TNI and Police), but mainly on the side of the civil population caught in between these opposing weaponed forces.

calling to promote humanism, we again appeal to you all in all clarity:

1. To put an end on all acts of violence, whether they are by the TPN/OPM groups, or by Army and Police units, because they undeniably victimize the local village population.
2. To promote and begin as soon as possible a real dialogue in between the Army, Police Forces and TPN/OPM groups, and if needed to use a third and by both parties acceptable instance to intermediate, and to settle all conflicts in a juridical court.
3. To establish as soon as possible a Committee to investigate infringes of Human Rights (KPP HAM) by the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) to investigate *pro justitia* in order to find the truth and possible human rights infringements, so that a juridical procedure can be initiated.
4. To end the closure of the conflict-area's at least for humanitarian aid by NGOs and for the Churches so that they can handle the victims, give help to people in distress, and psychological support to victimized families.
5. To end immediately the interrogation by the Police Force of the leaders of the GKI Synod in Papua and of the director of ELSHAM in the case of the Betaf incident, because these people are only interested in the truth and in humanitarian aid.
6. To end all measures to manipulate all these incidents of violence to promote certain economic interests, political interests, personal or group interests, because the people caught in between will suffer twice.
7. To the printing and electronic mass media: to forward exact and complete information and to be of service only of the victimized society.

We, the religious leaders in the province of Papua send to you all this appeal, which has an only goal: to establish the values of truth and justice in co-operation with all people of good will. May our purpose and our actions together always be blessed by God, Who knows All Truth.

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