

“Fire Papuan Chief of Police!”

Jayapura, 14 May 2005. Indonesian Chief of Police, Gen Pol. Da'i Bahtiar, received a special welcome from the community of the victims of 10 May incident when they organised a rally at the front of the KontraS office in Padang Bulan, Waena, expressing their grievances. “We appeal and urge you as the supreme commander of the police to immediately fire the Papuan Chief of Police and to hold him accountable before the court for the violent act committed by his subordinates. It is proved that he is no longer capable to control his personnel in protecting and serving the people in Papua” stated the statement of the Coalition of the protection of the 10 May’s victims. This public statement was read before the public, journalists and even the newly appointed Jayapura chief of Police, AKBP Paulus Waterpauw.



As a solidarity commitment with the victims, nine non-government organisations signed this petition including, Legal Aid Foundation of Papua, KontraS Papua, ELSHAM Papua, Customary Papuan Council of Papua, SKP Keuskupan Jayapura, LP3AP, Legal Team of the victims, Bureau of Justice and Peace of the Christian Evangelical Church in Papua and Bureau of Justice and Peace of the GKII Church in Papua. During this rally, some people delivered speeches, including the representative of the Papuan Customary Council, some students and a Christian reverend. Last but not least in a bandage, one of the victims stood up to manifest the suffering of the victims. Seemingly, the police got nervous and sent a platoon of police in anticipating any unexpected risks due to the spreading rumor that the victims would blockade the street where the Indonesian Chief of Police would pass by.



This maneuver flared the tension so the Director of KontraS Papua, Pieter Ell, told the Jayapura Chief of Police that there would not be any movement to blockade the street. They would continue to demonstrate their grievances within the KontraS' compound. Having heard this explanation, a truck full of police personnel was ordered to stand by far away from the hot spot.

This peaceful rally run smoothly until the delegation of the Chief of Police passed by without any willingness to halt a second to pay tribute to the victims even though he slowed down for few seconds. On the way back home, this delegation went by in a high speed ignoring the victims who waved their hands asking for stop.



The incident of 10 May drew a wide-ranged reactions in the national level thank to the video record broadcasted by Metro TV. During the clash, dozens of civilians were injured and some of them were in serious condition. Similarly, some police officers were also injured. As a consequence of this riot, the Jayapura Chief of Police, AKBP Moh Son Ani, was fired and replaced by AKBP Paulus Waterpauw (*).

