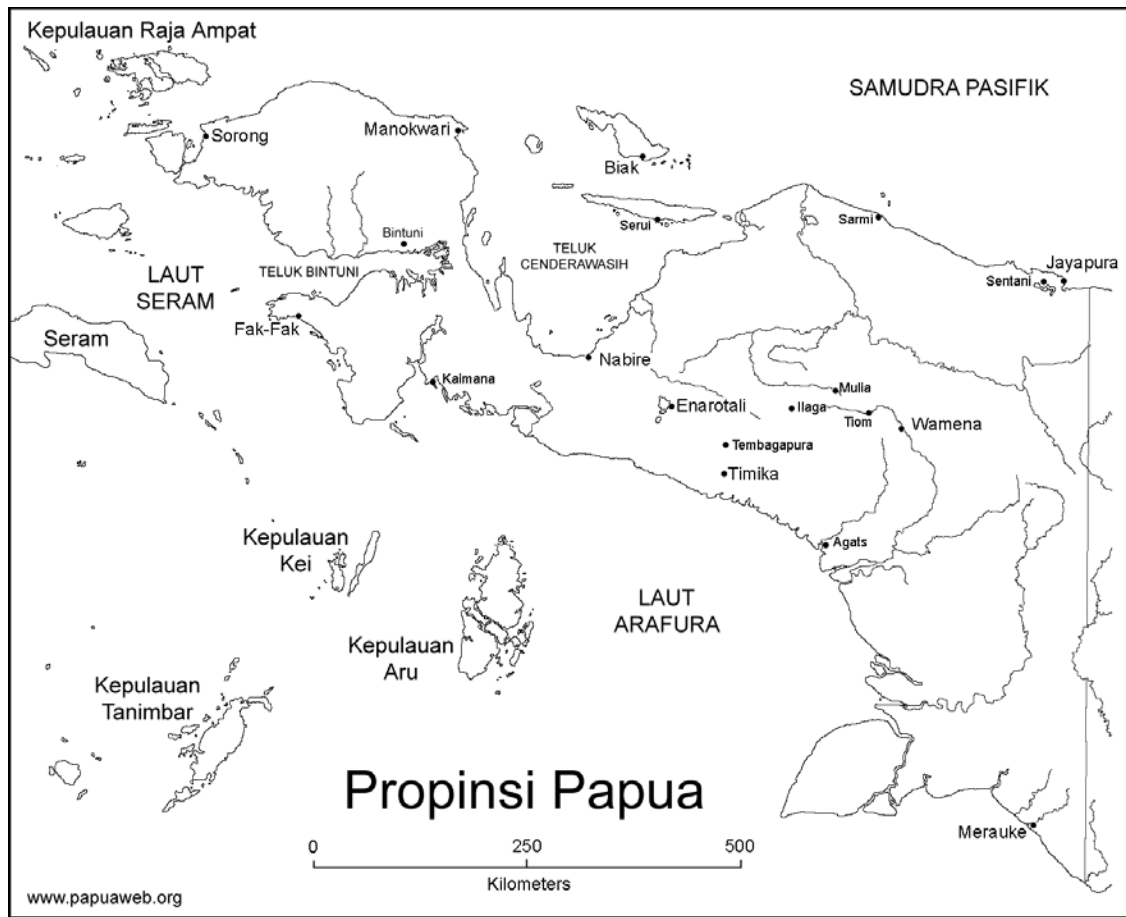


# *Some Information of The Office For Justice & Peace of The Catholic Diocese of Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia*



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Office for Justice and Peace (normally known by its Indonesian abbreviation SKP –Sekretariat Keadilan dan Perdamaian-) is an integral part of the Diocese Office in Jayapura, and exists since July 1998. At this moment it is staffed by three Franciscan brothers and lay-women. SKP works under direct responsibility of the Bishop of Jayapura, Most Rev. Dr Leo Laba Ladjar OFM.

**SKP'S SPIRITUAL BASE** is well expressed in the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero, as follows:

*It helps now and then to step back  
and take the long view  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete,  
which is another way of saying  
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith,  
No confession brings perfection.  
no pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the Church' mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.  
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeats that produces effects  
far beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything,  
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.  
This enables us to do something  
and to do it very well.  
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter  
and do the rest.  
We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference between  
the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders,  
ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen*

## **SKP's ACTIVITIES**

Activities SKP is involved in focus mainly on four aspects:

- I Reporting on Human Rights Violations**
- II Socialization of insight in problems**
- III Efforts towards solutions**
- IV Participation in a larger network**

## **I REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

For anyone who is a bit familiar with the situation in Tanah Papua it might be no secret that the indigenous people of Tanah Papua have suffered of a frequent use of force and political manipulation. After losing its status as a Dutch colony in 1962, it has become a part of the Indonesian Republic via international political

manipulations, ending dramatically its perspective to become an independent country. Although an “Act of Free Choice” has been staged under United Nations supervision in 1969, it left the population with no choice at all. This experience of international treachery has left deep, if not traumatic, marks in the heart of the indigenous population. This integration has been followed by bitter experiences of being suppressed during more than 30 years, including arbitrary killings, torture and disappearances. Brief, the people feel that they have had enough!

Although a lot of this suffering is still unarticulated as far as there is hardly a systematic documentation available, a number of recent experiences have been documented in a series of reports on Human Rights violations, starting off with a report by the Diocese of Jayapura in August 1995 (a report published under the responsibility of the now retired Bishop, Mgr. Herman Münninghoff ofm), which mainly focused on violations in and around a huge mining operation area in Timika (Freeport McMoran company). Since then several reports followed, edited by SKP as well as ElSHAM (a human rights organisation SKP is closely cooperating with).

SKP will keep on reporting on Human Rights violations. Via its own style of reporting SKP has tried to draw attention to underlying structures of repression in order to make clear that violations can not be looked at as just separate incidents or separate cases, or as results of individual misbehaviour. They are just part of a structural pattern.

Above that SKP tries to keep an open eye for a wide scope of what might be looked at as human rights violations. Based on the UN Declaration of Universal Human Rights, exposure of violations should not just focus on killings, torture and such, but should also focus on all varieties of intimidation or on limiting of rights such as employment, economic opportunities, speech, religious practice, cultural expressions and such.

## **II SOCIALISATION OF INSIGHT IN THE PROBLEMS**

The socio-political situation in Indonesia in general and specially also the situation in Tanah Papua has become very complicated over the last years. This means also that it is hardly understood by a large part of the population. The people often have to feel satisfied with just bits of information or with what a local paper tells them to believe. This is also especially true for church-workers and other educated people in the relative isolated inland of Tanah Papua. Therefore SKP has been involved in several efforts to socialize its understanding of the developments.

Besides a lot of meetings in the Jayapura-area, all the visits to the field have been partly spent on just discussing the situation, channeling information as an effort to make people more familiar with the problems and to complete the often very partial information they have and base their opinion/action on. The same socialisation function we serve when publishing in national or local papers. SKP publish normally under the series title of “Memoria Passionis”. Via these publications and others we have tried to picture the problems in Tanah Papua in perspective of a collective memory of suffering in the past.

In the second half of 1999 SKP has started to develop a course in Human Rights issues. The effort is connected with the need to build up a local circle of persons in various areas who can be instrumental in handling human rights issues. There is a real need to develop a course which is focusing on the specific situation and cultural background of Tanah Papua. Therefore, although starting with general material we hope to gradually complete the materials used with a very local substance. For the time being the main elements in the course (for a minimal full 4-day workshop) deal with [1] a general understanding of Human Rights, [2] an understanding of developments in Tanah Papua in relation with felt local human rights issues, [3] a capacitybuilding in reporting on human rights abuses, [4] ways to move to solutions, including an understanding of a reconciliation-approach, and [5] human rights issues related to the gender issue.

### **III EFFORTS TOWARDS SOLUTIONS**

Exposing human rights violations is just one side of the mission SKP stands for; another is the effort to look for solutions. It is our deep conviction that exposing problems/violations without a commitment to look for a solution is an odd activity and risks to be very contra-productive. On one hand exposure as such is a necessary part, as any solution has to start from a keen understanding and recognizing of what is really happening. On the other hand exposure risks to make the perpetrators more defensive, or worse, more aggressive, especially when no way is offered to cope with the problems or the wrong that has been done.

Based on above mentioned conviction SKP has committed itself to promote a dialogue among the parties involved, and where possible to look for ways of 'reconciliation' without lessening the effort that (social) justice has to be done. This commitment has motivated SKP to take a 'pushing' role to keep local channels for dialogue alive.

Efforts related to building up an atmosphere for reconciliation will be one of the main priorities of SKP in the future. This means on one hand that the SKP staff itself still has to deepen its understanding of "what reconciliation really stands for" and on the other hand to find a way to socialize this understanding. Doing this we hope that slowly openings will be made possible to more dialogue and 'healing of wounds'.

### **IV PARTICIPATION IN A LARGER NETWORK**

The mission SKP is involved in can not be done without joining in with other people and organizations. The reality focused on is just too much and too complicated, as well as too structural to become objective of an 'isolated effort' by whosoever. Therefore from the very beginning SKP has been looking for taking part in a workable and effective net-work.

### **CONCLUSION**

It might be clear that a lot has to be developed, and even we still don't understand yet a lot of the problems we really face. Nevertheless we have the feeling that it is more than worthwhile, even a necessity that the Church is involved in the mission to get

basic rights of people recognized, respected and promoted. We also have experienced that people are really hoping for the church to choose their side in their struggle and suffering; over the last years people in Tanah Papua have showed a great trust in the church, and the very church is often the only place left where they can “feel recognized and respected as real human beings”.

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