

July 2025 Update: Human Rights and Conflict Developments in West Papua¹, Indonesia -
Covering Events from 1 April to 30 June 2025 (2nd Quarter 2025)

Violations	2024 Q3	2024 Q4	2025 Q1	2025 Q2
Torture	11 victims in 3 cases	9 victims in 7 cases	24 victims in 13 cases	4 victims in 3 cases
Freedom of expression	18 victims in 8 cases	2 victims in 2 cases	More than 3 victims in 3 cases	More than a dozen in 3 cases
Killings	6 victims in 4 cases	7 victims in 6 cases	6 victims in 6 cases	16 victims in 9 cases
Disappearances	-	2 victims in 2 cases	-	8 victims in 1 case
Intimidation	13 victims in 5 cases	2 victims in 2 cases	Dozens of victims in 3 cases	More than 19 victims in 5 cases
Criminalisation	-	-	-	More than 17 victims in 4 cases
Ill-treatment	54 victims in 13 cases	More than 38 victims in 12 cases	11 victims in 8 cases	More than 35 victims in 14 cases
Cultural rights	Dozens of victims in 3 cases	Dozens of victims in 1 case	Dozens of victims in 3 cases	More than a dozen victims in two cases
Arbitrary detention	233 victims in 9 cases	65 victims in 9 cases	81 victims in 11 cases	29 victims in 9 cases
Freedom of assembly	More than 279 victims in 13 cases	More than 87 victims in 6 cases	More than 68 victims in 7 cases	More than 30 victims in 3 cases
TOTAL	More than 313 in 33 cases	More than 122 victims in 23 cases	More than 118 victims in 30 cases	More than 118 in 31 cases

Table 1: Violation and victim data per quarter. A "+" symbol following a number indicates a certain count (the number given) plus an additional, less precise count (e.g., dozens, several). Each column is an independent set, reflecting the possibility of multiple violations per victim or case. Totals represent unique counts per column, not aggregate sums. You can conduct your own search and analysis in our case database at <https://humanrightsmonitor.org/cases/>.

Summary

Human rights

The human rights situation in West Papua between April and June 2025 continues to be dominated by ongoing [security force operations across the central highlands](#). Accordingly, the number of related violations, such as enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and ill-treatment, has significantly increased during the reporting period (see table above). Security force raids have reportedly been carried out with a high level of violence against the indigenous civilian population. Security raids in the Puncak Regency were accompanied by the burning of civilian houses in June 2025, while military members allegedly killed and disappeared a dozen indigenous villagers during a single operation in Intan Jaya in May 2025.

¹ The term West Papua, also sometimes referred to as Papua, Tanah Papua (Land of Papua) or Western New Guinea refers to the western half of the New Guinea islands and is recognized by the United Nations as part of Indonesia since 1969. It is comprised of the Indonesian administrative provinces Papua Province, Papua Barat Province, Papua Tengah Province, Papua Pegunungan Province, Papua Selatan Province, and Papua Barat Daya Province. The unresolved [conflict about the political status of West Papua](#) continues to cause violence and violations of human rights and indigenous people's rights.

The patterns of civil rights violations involving arbitrary detentions, torture, and violations of the freedom of peaceful assembly and the freedom of expression seem stagnant, with some fluctuations. Simultaneously, growing state repression against human rights defenders and non-violent political activists has caused the statistical figures on cases of intimidation and criminalisations to rise again.

A [Constitutional Court ruling on 2 May 2025](#) brings some hope for the future of free expression in Indonesia. The Court's ruling stipulates that government agencies, corporations, groups, institutions, or officials cannot file defamation reports under the Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law. The Court ruled that only individuals can be victims of defamation, explicitly recognizing that in a democratic society, criticism of government policies serves as essential public oversight and must be protected to prevent abuse of power.

The ruling strengthens the legal protection of human rights defenders and journalists in Indonesia who continue facing [systematic criminalisation](#), intimidation, and violence. Violence against journalists in Indonesia reached alarming levels in 2024, with security forces emerging as the primary perpetrators of attacks on press freedom. [Deputy Minister of Communication and Digital Affairs Nezar Patria dismissed concerns about press freedom, claiming that the situation remains "fine" because no media outlets have been permanently closed](#). However, human rights advocates argue that this perspective ignores the [systematic intimidation, violence against journalists, and its implications on journalistic work](#), particularly in conflict areas like West Papua.

The Molotov bomb attack against the office of the media outlet Jubi is a recent example of attacks on press freedom in West Papua. The case has faced significant delays in the law enforcement process against the perpetrators who are allegedly associated with the Indonesian military. [The case has reached a legal stalemate between the Papua Regional Police \(Polda Papua\) and the XVII/Cenderawasih Military Command \(Kodam XVII/Cenderawasih\)](#), with each agency presenting contradictory conclusions. On 17 May 2025, the Papuan House of Representatives (DPR Papua) announced it would escalate the matter to the TNI Headquarters (Mabes TNI) and the Indonesian National Police Headquarters (Mabes Polri) in Jakarta.

The lack of legal action against perpetrators has caused widespread impunity in West Papua. Yet, human rights defenders continue advocating for justice, with civil society groups pushing successfully for accountability. Nearly 11 months after the fatal shooting of Mr Tobias Silak in the Yahukimo Regency, [criminal proceedings commenced at the Wamena District Court against the four police officers on 24 June 2025](#). The trial process has sparked significant transparency concerns, as the victim's family and their legal counsel were not notified of the first hearing. In response to these procedural concerns, the Indonesian Judicial Commission in Papua [announced in late June'25 that it would monitor the trial proceedings following a request from the victim's family's legal team](#).

On 12-13 June 2025, a coalition of NGOs officially filed the [extra-judicial execution and mutilation of indigenous farmer Abral Wandikbo in Nduga Regency](#) to the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM), the Military Police (MP), and the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK) in an [attempt to seek justice through formal channels](#). The formal complaint surrounding Wandikbo's death represents another critical test of Indonesia's commitment to human rights accountability in West Papua.

Indigenous communities in remote areas face increasing pressure on their existence from the Government-driven development agendas and natural resource exploitation through private investors. The [Indonesian government's plan to implement another National Strategic Project \(PSN\) in the Papua Barat Daya Province](#) has sparked resistance from indigenous communities, who understand the massive palm oil development as an existential threat to their ancestral lands and way of life. The [Sumuri Indigenous community in the Teluk Bintuni Regency has issued a resolute rejection of the proposed expansion of palm oil plantations](#) on their ancestral land. Plantations and strategic project

areas in West Papua are protected by security forces. This has led to a conflicting situation where police officers can no longer fulfil their mandate as law enforcement officers. [Police officers in Sorong allegedly intimidated indigenous land rights holders](#) protesting against threats and coercive restrictions to sell their timber freely.

The [issue of nickel mining in the Raja Ampat Regency, a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2023 and the heart of the global coral triangle, attracted national attention](#) after Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Bahlil Lahadalia visited the region in June 2025. Following sustained public pressure and international scrutiny, the Indonesian government announced on 10 June 2025, the revocation of mining permits for four companies operating in Raja Ampat. However, this decision has been met with skepticism from environmental groups and indigenous rights advocates who view it as inadequate and potentially reversible. PT Gag Nikel, the largest operation run by state-owned PT Antam, was permitted to continue operations under increased monitoring, raising concerns about the government's commitment to genuine environmental protection.

Conflict

As of 30 June 2025, [more than 97,721 people in West Papua remain internally displaced as a result of armed conflict](#) between Indonesian security forces and the TPNPB. HRM documented 46 armed attacks and clashes throughout the second quarter of 2025, almost twice as many as in the [first quarter of 2025](#). The figure of IDPs keeps rising due to more security force deployments to the conflict zones and the associated growing number of armed hostilities. Indonesian security forces intensified operations in the regencies of [Nduga](#), [Yahukimo](#), [Intan Jaya](#), and [Puncak](#) between April and June 2025, resulting in the [killing of civilians](#), [the burning of civilian houses](#), and new internal displacements. A raid in Intan Jaya on 13 and 14 May 2025 was fierce. Some of the [bodies were hastily buried without a coffin](#). An evacuation team found mines near one of the burial sites, intended to harm those seeking to recover their remains.

Armed hostilities increased significantly in the regencies of Intan Jaya, Yahukimo, and Puncak due to increased military presence, [intensified security raids](#), and attacks against civilians by members of the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB). [On 14 April 2025, TPNPB members killed 15 illegal gold miners in the Yahukimo Regency](#) in a single incident. Accordingly, the period between April and June 2025 was marked by a high number of fatalities, particularly among civilians. HRM counted 18 civilians killed and four injured by the TPNPB. Meanwhile, twelve civilians were killed and eight wounded by security force members during armed clashes or counter-insurgency operations. Concerning the combatants, seven security force members were killed, and thirteen were injured during this period. In contrast, the TPNPB reportedly lost 10 combatants, with seven guerrilla fighters being injured during armed clashes.

Considering the continuous intensification of the armed conflict in West Papua and the aggravation of conflict driven displacements, the [Forum for Communication and Aspirations of the Papuan People \(FOR PAPUA MPR RI\), comprising members of both the Regional Representatives Council \(DPD RI\) and National Parliament \(DPR RI\), has issued urgent calls for the Indonesian government to abandon its security-based approach](#). The forum emphasized that the current security-focused approach has “proven ineffective and has exacerbated the conditions of civilian populations,” calling for immediate policy evaluation and cessation of military operations that have only added to civilian trauma and suffering.

The military is expanding its military infrastructure to remote areas in the conflict regions and surrounding regencies. HRM documented about a dozen cases in which [indigenous communities](#), [student movements](#), and [CSOs](#) protested against the formation of new military posts against their will in their immediate environment. Many fear that the military presence will rather attract armed violence

and human rights violations than bring security for the indigenous communities. Ironically, [Indonesian Human Rights Minister Natalius Pigay, who is a Papuan himself, expressed support for the formation of more military posts in conflict areas](#). The statement is emblematic of the discrepancy between policies serving the central government's interests and the aspirations of the people in West Papua.

Political developments

Indonesia has witnessed an alarming [resurgence of military influence in civilian affairs](#), raising serious concerns about democratic regression and the erosion of civilian supremacy since April 2025. On 23 May 2025, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani appointed an active military commander as Director General of Customs and Excise, an institution critical to the integrity of state revenue collection. The pattern includes the [controversial deployment of soldiers to secure prosecutors' offices nationwide](#), authorised by Presidential Regulation No. 66/2025 and a 2023 MoU between the TNI and the Attorney General's Office.

The militarisation has extended beyond high-level bureaucratic appointments. The proposal to send ["problematic" students to military barracks in West Java for behavioural correction](#) is a stark manifestation of the normalisation of military influence in civilian life. It is even more concerning that the [proposal again received support from the Minister for Human Rights, Natalius Pigaj](#). Equally troubling is the [Army's plan to recruit 24,000 new privates for "territorial development battalions"](#), a move that aims to position soldiers in agriculture, health, and education, which have exclusively been in civilian hands.

President Prabowo Subianto's administration has pursued an increasingly militaristic approach. In March 2025, controversial amendments to military law expanded the Indonesian Armed Forces' (TNI) involvement in civil affairs, sparking nationwide protests. When confronted about these concerns [in April 2025, President Prabowo dismissed criticism as "nonsense"](#), demonstrating his administration's unwillingness to address human rights concerns and civilian oversight of military operations. Simultaneously, the [government has undertaken efforts to rewrite national history textbooks](#), with Culture Minister Fadli Zon stating the project aims to "reinvent" Indonesian identity while potentially erasing documentation of past human rights violations committed by the Suharto regime.

Indonesia's current military modernisation program has significant implications for the conflict situation in West Papua, where local observers have claimed that the [Indonesian army used war drones and combat aircrafts to fight the TPNPB in the remote central Papuan highlands](#). The government has diversified its defense partnerships, [purchasing 48 KAAN fighter jets from Turkey in June 2025](#) and participating in [South Korea's fighter jet development program](#), while also considering the [Chinese J-10 aircraft as an alternative to U.S.-made options](#). Most concerning for regional stability is Jakarta's deepening defense relationship with Russia, formalized through [a strategic partnership declaration signed between President Prabowo and President Putin in June 2025](#). This agreement includes "military-technical cooperation" and created a \$2 billion investment fund. Meanwhile, reports emerged of Russia seeking access to the Manuhua Air Force Base on the island of Biak, Papua Province. [The Indonesian Government later assured Australia that Russian aircrafts would not operate from Indonesian territory](#).

Indonesia's foreign policy under Prabowo reflects a complex balancing act between major powers. While strengthening ties with Russia and China through high-level meetings and defense cooperation, Jakarta has simultaneously maintained relationships with Western allies, including [reaffirming commitments with both the United States](#) and Australia. [France](#) and [Thailand](#) have also deepened cooperation agreements with Indonesia, providing Prabowo's administration with diverse international support that may reduce external pressure for human rights accountability in the country and increase pressure on Indonesia's land and natural resources from additional foreign investors.

These recent political developments collectively indicate a shrinkage in political space for the peaceful resolution of the West Papua conflict under President Prabowo's leadership. The expansion of military authority through legal amendments and the appointment of military members to strategic government positions, combined with significant arms procurement and diversified defense partnerships, indicates a commitment to maintaining control through force rather than political dialogue. International partnerships prioritise mutual economic benefits, but have not resulted in meaningful pressure for peaceful conflict resolution. The government's efforts to rewrite historical narratives while dismissing human rights concerns over growing military influence demonstrate a systematic approach to legitimizing state violence and avoiding accountability for past and present human rights violations.

International developments

In late May 2025, Indigenous rights [advocates from across Indonesia presented evidence of systematic persecution to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) during a meeting held in the Republic of Congo. The Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) led the delegation that briefed Dr. Albert K. Barume on escalating patterns of criminalization, intimidation, and forced displacement affecting indigenous communities throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Following the May meeting, AMAN and other organisations facilitated a visit by Dr Barume to Jayapura, Papua Province, on 4 - 5 July 2025, in his capacity as an academic expert. As the visit was conducted outside his official role as a United Nations mandate holder, Dr Barume is not authorised to submit findings from the visit to the Human Rights Council. Indonesia continues to restrict access for official visits by UN Special Procedures mandate holders. Its overall record of cooperation with these key UN human rights mechanisms remains extremely poor.

Cases

Unlawful killings and enforced disappearances



Extrajudicial execution of civilian Yulli Kalakmabin by Indonesian military forces in Pegunungan Bintang Regency

On 19 April 2025, Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) members reportedly executed an unarmed indigenous Papuan named Mr Yulli Kalakmabin, 28, in Wanbakon Village, Serambakon District, Pegunungan Bintang Regency.

[Read more](#)

Military members alleged of hiding bomb in food deliveries – One person dead, one seriously injured in Puncak

On 6 May 2025, an attack involving heavy weapons occurred near the Kelanungin Village, Gome District, Puncak Regency, Papua, resulting in the death of Mr Deris Kogoya, and injuries to Mr Jemi Alom.

[Read more](#)





Military raid in Intan Jaya results in death of two indigenous civilians

On 18 June 2025, military (TNI) members reportedly shot dead three indigenous civilians in the villages Bulapa and Yoparu, Sugapa District, Intan Jaya, Regency, Papua Tengah Province.

[Read more](#)



Military operation results in civilian deaths and displacement in Intan Jaya – five killed, four injured, and seven missing

On 13 May 2025, a large-scale military (TNI) operation in the Sugapa and Hitadipa districts of Intan Jaya Regency, Papua Tengah province, resulted in the deaths and injuries of civilians.

[Read more](#)

At least three indigenous Papuans killed and one wounded during military operations in Puncak Regency

The Indonesian military (TNI) launched an operation involving air strikes and ground forces against the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB) in the districts of Gome and Gome Utara in late May 2025. Three villagers were killed and one was wounded during the raid.



[Read more](#)



Military raid in Tangma District accompanied by arbitrary arrest, torture, and killing of one civilian

Indonesian military personnel carried out raids in the Tangma District, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province, between 13 and 15 June 2025, killing an elderly civilian and torturing two indigenous Papuans.

[Read more](#)

Lethal police crackdown at market in Nabire: One Papuan killed, three injured

On 26 June 2025, a violent incident occurred at Karang Tumaritis Market in Nabire, Papua, following a disturbance involving intoxicated youths. Police officers fired live rounds and tear gas during the crackdown, resulting in the death of 20-year-old Eko Ikomou and serious injuries to three civilians

[Read more](#)



Military members accused of killing civilian in Puncak Regency

On 12 June 2025, 27-year-old Agibagi Tabuni was shot dead by members of the Indonesian National Army (TNI) near State Senior High School I (SMAN 1) Sinak, in the Gigobak Village, Sinak District, Puncak Regency, Papua Tengah Province.

[Read more](#)

Torture & ill-treatment



Military members recorded beating Papuan man in Deiyai

On 19 June 2025, at approximately 3:45 pm, military (TNI) members were recorded beating up a 22-year-old Weneiyo Peki in the town of Wagate, Deiyai Regency, Papua Tengah Province.

[Read more](#)

Security forces ill-treat two Papuan men in Dogiyai, Papua

On 16 April 2025, 19-year-old Damianus Goo and Mr Selpius Goo were subjected to torture by members of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), police officers, and civilians in Dogiyai, West Papua.

[Read more](#)



Indonesian security forces shoot five minors in Kimupugi Village, Dogiyai Regency



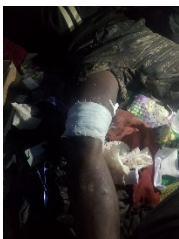
On the morning of 23 May 2025, five Papuan minors sustained bullet injuries as Indonesian joint security forces opened fire at them in Kimupugi Village, Dogiyai Regency, Papua Tengah Province.

[Read more](#)

Police officers torture Papuan man in Nabire while denying medical treatment during detention

On 17 April 2025, Mr Nando Mote was subjected to arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial physical assault, and inhuman and degrading treatment by members of the Nabire police in Nabire Town, Papua Tengah Province.

[Read more](#)



Police accused of shooting Papuan teenager in Dogiyai

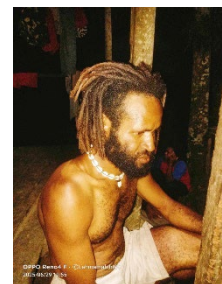
On 12 June 2025, police officers reportedly opened fire while patrolling the Deiyapa Village, Kamu Timur District, Dogiyai Regency, Papua Tengah Province, injuring 17-year-old Jebulon Pigai.

[Read more](#)

Security forces arrest and torture indigenous Papuan in Yahukimo Regency

On 28 June 2025, joint forces of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the Police reportedly raided houses in the Uam Village, Sumo District, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province. Mr Peranus Balingga was arbitrarily arrested and tortured.

[Read more](#)



Police officers accused of applying excessive force against Papuan man in Nabire: Victim shot down for no reason

On the evening of 7 June 2025, 25-year-old Maikel Edowai was reportedly shot by police officers at Taman Gizi Park in Oyehe, Nabire Town, Papua Tengah Province.

[Read more](#)

Arbitrary detention, intimidation, and criminalisation

Repression of peaceful protest in Manokwari: Two UNIPA students arbitrarily arrested and beaten



On 10 April 2025, two students were arrested without a legal basis, reportedly beaten during detention, and later released with visible injuries during a peaceful protest against the revision of the Military Law in Manokwari, Papua Barat Province.

[Read more](#)

Arbitrary detention of Catholic youth activist during bishop ordination in Timika

On 14 May 2025, the bishop ordination at the Three Kings Cathedral in Timika, Central Papua, was disrupted by the arbitrary detention of several indigenous Papuan Catholic youth activists by Mimika District Police



[Read more](#)



Police officers intimidate activist in Dekai, Yahukimo

On Saturday morning, 31 May 2025, Papuan political activist, Mr Er Giban, 18, was subjected to intimidation and ill-treatment by members of the Yahukimo District Police in Dekai, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province.

[Read more](#)

Arbitrary detention and use of force against human rights lawyer during peaceful protest in Jayapura

On 12 June 2025, police officers arbitrarily detained Mr Imanus Komba, a lawyer working for the Papuan Legal Aid Institute (LBH Papua), and a protester named Mr Kolki Gwijangge during a peaceful demonstration at the Abepura roundabout in Jayapura City.



[Read more](#)



11 Indigenous Papuans arrested following land conflict with palm oil company PT IKSJ in Sorong, Papua Barat Daya

The community had blocked the road in response to the arbitrary arrest and subsequent detention of 11 indigenous community members on 8 May 2025. The police pressed charges against them on 10 May under allegations of misappropriating company-owned diesel fuel.

[Read more](#)



Papuan youth unlawfully detained in Dekai, Yahukimo

On 5 May 2025, 17-year-old Ivan Kabak, a student at SMK Yapesli Yahukimo, was arbitrarily detained by members of the Damai Cartenz Unit Police Unit in Dekai, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province.

[Read more](#)

Legal team raises alarm over criminalisation and unfair trial at Wamena Court

Human rights organisations have condemned the trial process against Mr Rife Kerebea as unfair.

[Read more](#)



Ongoing detention of four activists in Sorong raises concerns over criminalisation, health, and due process



The four Papuan political activists, Mr Nikson May, 56, Mr Maksi Sangkek, 39, Mr Abraham Goram Gaman, 55, and Mr Piter Robaha, 54, have been held at Sorong City Police Headquarters since 28 April 2025 on charges of treason (makar) and violations of Indonesia’s Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law.

[Read more](#)

Freedom of expression, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Violent repression of student protest at Cenderawasih University results in property destruction by police officers



On 22 May 2025, a peaceful protest organised by students of Cenderawasih University (Uncen) in Jayapura City, Papua Province, was met with violent repression by joint forces of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) and Military (TNI).

[Read more](#)

Repressive police measures against protests demanding closure of PT Freeport Indonesia and revocation of TNI Law in Nabire and Jayapura

On 5 and 7 April 2025, Papuan students and solidarity organisations held coordinated protests in major cities across Indonesia. The demonstrations in the cities of Nabire and Jayapura were forcefully dispersed by police officers.



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Other violations

Mining waste contaminates irrigation and aquaculture in Biha Village – Farmers' livelihoods at threat

On 11 April 2025, farmers in Biha Village, Makimi District, Nabire Regency, Papua Tengah Province, raised urgent complaints concerning severe environmental degradation caused by gold mining activities operated by PT Kristalin.

[Read more](#)

Sumuri Indigenous community rejects palm oil expansion in Teluk Bintuni

The Sumuri Indigenous community, comprising 19 clans in the Teluk Bintuni Regency, issued a resolute rejection of the proposed expansion of palm oil plantations by PT. Borneo Subur Prima and PT. Farita Maju Utama.

[Read more](#)

Indonesian Navy wants to evict residents in Manokwari:

On 25 June 2025, 18 civilian families residing in the Sanggeng and Reremi areas in the Manokwari Regency were reportedly ordered to vacate their homes by the Indonesian Navy's Facility Maintenance Command (Fasharkan TNI AL).

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About Human Rights Monitor

The Human Rights Monitor (HRM) is an independent, international non-profit project promoting human rights through documentation and advocacy. HRM is based in the European Union and active since 2022. We are achieving our vision by documenting violations; researching institutional, social and political contexts that affect rights protection and peace; and sharing the conclusions of evidence-based monitoring work.

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