

# Survival



**Survival International**  
6 Charterhouse Buildings  
London EC1M 7ET  
United Kingdom

Phone +44 (0)20 7687 8700  
info@survivalinternational.org  
www.survivalinternational.org

President-elect Joko Widodo  
Rumah Transisi  
Jalan Situbondo 10  
Menteng  
Jakarta Pusat  
Indonesia

**We are the global movement  
for tribal peoples' rights. We help  
them defend their lives, protect  
their lands and determine their  
own futures.**

29 September 2014

Dear President-elect Joko Widodo,

**Re: West Papua**

Survival International, the global movement for tribal peoples' rights, has been campaigning for the rights of West Papua's tribal people since the 1980s. We remain extremely alarmed at the high numbers of killings, torture, rapes and arbitrary arrests that the Papuan people suffer at the hands of the Indonesian soldiers and police. We urge you to end the security approach which has brought such violence to the Papuan people; to demilitarize the region; to end the impunity that soldiers have enjoyed for so long and to ensure that those responsible for the gross human rights violations be brought to justice.

As of August 2014 there were 71 West Papuan political prisoners behind bars. Many are incarcerated merely for raising the West Papuan flag. These include Filep Karma whose trial was condemned by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which has called for his unconditional release. We urge your administration to release all West Papua's political prisoners unconditionally and to end the prosecution and persecution of those peacefully expressing their political views.

We welcome your remarks on opening the region up to foreign journalists and the spirit of transparency that this demonstrates. We also urge you to allow the UN and other human rights and humanitarian organizations – both international and local – to be able to travel freely in the region and work without intimidation, harassment or prosecution.

Survival welcomes your commitments to improve health and education in West Papua but cautions you not to prioritize this over dialogue and the recognition of long-ignored political, land and human rights. Previous attempts by Jakarta to 'develop' West Papua have been viewed with suspicion and hostility, especially those involving much-feared soldiers and the discredited Special Unit of Acceleration (UP4B). It is essential that Papua's tribal people are able to choose and control their own development and not have it imposed on them by Jakarta.

Founded in 1969  
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Survival International Charitable Trust  
Registered Charity 267444  
Company registered in England number 1056317  
Registered office as above

Survival welcomes your pledge to enter into dialogue with Papuan leaders and to move away from military solutions. Therefore, we call on you to enter into direct, high level, internationally-mediated dialogue with Papuan leaders to address not only their human rights and development needs, but also the fundamental civil and political rights that the Papuan people have been denied for so long.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Corry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Stephen Corry**

Director