



**Survival International USA**  
2325 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 413  
San Francisco, CA 94107

T: 415-503-1254

info.usa@survivalinternational.org  
[www.survivalinternational.org](http://www.survivalinternational.org)

**We help tribal peoples defend  
their lives, protect their lands and  
determine their own futures.**

October 29, 2010

Dear Mr. President,

On the occasion of your forthcoming visit to Indonesia, Survival International would like to draw your attention to the shocking video footage that has recently emerged, showing Indonesian soldiers torturing two Papuan villagers in the Puncak Jaya region of the West Papuan Highlands. The Indonesian government has confirmed that the men seen torturing the Papuans are soldiers. We have enclosed a copy of the video, which, we must warn you, is extremely disturbing.

The video will, no doubt, remind you of the conversation you relay in 'Dreams from my Father', in which your step-father spoke of the bloody death of a 'weak' man in West Papua. Unfortunately the peoples of Papua still suffer terribly at the hands of Indonesia's soldiers, who commonly kill, torture and rape them with impunity. This video is just one of many 'trophy' videos and photos taken by soldiers and used to further intimidate and humiliate their victims. The military operation is still continuing in this area, with many houses and churches being burned to the ground while the villagers flee.

A week after we reported on the torture video, Survival, along with a number of other organizations that hosted the torture film on their websites, was targeted by a massive cyberattack, knocking our website offline. This may have been a coordinated attack in defence of those who have committed torture against tribal peoples.

Please take the opportunity of your visit to call on the government of Indonesia to order a full independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the video footage and into the ongoing military operation in this region. Also, please urge the government to ensure that those responsible for the torture depicted in this film, and for the other human rights violations that have been reported in this area in recent months, be duly prosecuted. The treatment of the Papuans in the film is in clear violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Indonesia has ratified.

Please urge the Indonesian government to ensure that immediate action is taken to end the very serious human rights violations in the region, to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice, and to open up the region to international observers.

**Survival International USA is a  
501c3 nonprofit organization.**

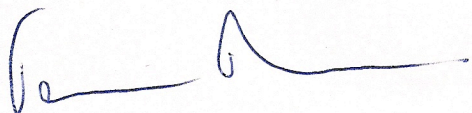
**Survival International:  
Founded 1969.  
Right Livelihood Award 1989.**

Registered office as above.



Survival also calls on the US government to suspend its military assistance to Indonesia, particularly its training and cooperation with Indonesia's elite forces Kopassus, until the culture of killing and torture with impunity in West Papua comes to an end.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line and a small loop.

Tess Thackara  
Director  
Survival International USA