

Message from Papuan political prisoner Dominikus Surabut to all April 2 demonstrators:

The Papuan nation is murdered and jailed due to Indonesia's colonialism

The democracy and freedom that the Papuan people are fighting for is a struggle to uphold and restore our identity and history. There are two main things: firstly, restoration of our traditional identity and history, and secondly: restoration of our modern identity and history. Traditionally, the Papuan people lived and developed for thousands of years in their Papuan homeland as a South Pacific, Melanesian negroid race. In modern times, since 1 December 1961 the Papuan nation unilaterally manifested itself as a nation and country among nations of the world, as guaranteed by the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of the United Nations. These two historical identities have been robbed or annexed by colonial Indonesia and its allies.

The effect of this annexation on the basic struggle of the Papuan nation has caused long suffering beneath the colonial yoke of Indonesia and its allies who are causing the Papuan nation to be murdered, jailed and exiled. Our natural riches are being exhausted in the name of the State, in the interests of global conspiracy. The Papuan people are being denied their highest ideals of freedom, humanity, justice, world peace and equality.

Democratic freedom guaranteeing equality, justice and peace is the primary goal which motivates us. The destruction of the Papuan nation cannot be separated from the failure to implement democracy. Democracy and freedom as experienced by the Papuan people is like a pond with no water and no fish. The fish in the pond have died because there is no water supporting them to live and reproduce. Discourses around democracy and freedom are the subject of lively discussions, particularly in terms of the Indonesian political system, which is 100% in conflict with democracy. In practice, Indonesian democracy produces authoritarian regimes covered by a thin veneer of democracy. Democracy and freedom cannot thrive in Papua if essential elements like civil and political rights are ignored.

From the moment the Papuan nation was annexed until today, the colonial attitude and behaviour of Indonesia towards the land and nation of West Papua has been to murder the Papuan people, jail Papuan activists and seize the riches of the Papuan people, forcing them into poverty, discrimination and marginalisation. The colonial will of Indonesia cannot reduce the desire of the Papuan nation to struggle on. Human rights violations in Papua become the source of our spirit, jail is a palace for us to struggle to be free of the imprisonment of the Papuan nation by Indonesia. Democracy and freedom cannot be sacrificed, just as to forgive does not mean to forget. The identity and the modern and traditional history of the Papuan nation has for around 52 years both shaped and strengthened our spirit to restore the rights to Papua.

This is the intention and the will of the people of the nation of Papuan, in asking support from all those who want universal freedom and democracy to help to create world peace and living equality. The struggle of the Papuan people for freedom is the golden bridge to protection, equality, justice, peace and welfare. If these indicators are fulfilled, then the people of the Papuan nation can participate in world development.

The Papuan nation is in no way an enemy of Indonesia nor of any other country. The Papuan nation needs political recognition of its dignity. The reason is that whatever crimes have been committed against the Papuan nation are valuable experiences for us to become even stronger. Freedom and democracy cannot be killed and jailed, their spirit is absolute and no person or State can defeat it.

Democracy and freedom must be given the proper space in the right place, so that they can grow, flourish, and raise the dignity of humanity everywhere. So the Papuan nation in particular can raise its dignity from ethnic cleansing.

To all democracy and human rights workers everywhere, we cannot be silent, we must join hands and spirits together to achieve democratic freedoms. Let the water flow, so that all those who thirst for the freedom to participate in democracy, let them and the world drink of it forever more. We must resist the enemy within ourselves and the enemy within the system, which destroys democratic freedoms. Democracy and human rights are not only an instrument of expansionist collaboration for political and economic interests of certain parties, a method which is often practiced, including by Indonesia.

Only animals can forget the past.

My respectful greetings to you all. I can't be with you in person today because I am in jail, but my soul and my spirit are with you. United and strong we will overcome.

Dominikus Surabut

2 April 2014