

FOI reference: FOI Request 0919-14 from Dr Jonathan Levy – Digest of Information to be released

Relevant extracts from wider text are detailed below

Certain material relevant to this Freedom of Information request has been withheld under Exemption Section 27 - International Relations and Section 38 Health and Safety

2012

FCO information note for Minister Brown on Papua – January 2012

“2011 saw a deterioration in the security situation in the provinces of Papua and West Papua and stronger demands from Papuans for a dialogue with the central government. The violence reached a peak in October 2011 when police violently dispersed the Papuan People’s Congress after its leaders declared independence and appointed a ‘West Papuan’ government. Three people were killed and five have been charged with treason. Low-level but violent clashes between the Indonesian security forces and armed insurgents have intensified in the central highlands.”

FCO information note for Minister Swire on Papua – 23 October 2012

“There have been small signs of progress towards dialogue over recent years led by Father Neles Tebay, Vice Bishop Jayapura and co-founder of the Papuan Peace Network. Papuan demands for dialogue on the future governance of the province remain high. Dialogue still means very different things to the wide range of people involved although President Yudhoyono has expressed commitment to enter into a dialogue process.”

“Since the beginning of 2012 tensions have continued to rise in Papua, culminating in a series of violent incidents in June in the provincial capital, Jayapura, and the fatal shooting by the security forces of Mako Tabuni, a deputy leader of the activist movement, KNPB (the National Committee for West Papua).”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 03 December 2012 09:16

To: FCO

Cc: Rebecca Razavi

Subject: Papua- 1 Dec and UK flag discovery

“You'll obviously be aware of the 3 policemen that were shot last week, and that Tito Karnavian's convoy was attacked as well. This is just a quick update on what has happened subsequently- particularly of note is the discovery of the UK flag amongst arrested OPM members.

Friday 30 November:

Media reporting that some members of OPM are claiming responsibility for the Police attacks. This is being denied by other members of OPM. Internal divisions within OPM continue to make it difficult to pinpoint exactly who was behind the attacks. I spoke to the **REDACTED S.27/S.38** today and they too hadn't been able to confirm who had carried out the attacks and said that the OPM was becoming increasingly more disparate as an organisation.

On Friday evening 6 suspects responsible for the police killings were arrested. Worryingly it's being reported that in the house believed to be the local OPM coordinating post, police found various flags- including the Union flag and the US flag. (<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/opm-claims-responsibility-for-fatal-attack-on-police-in-papua/559087>)

We are urgently trying to confirm these reports directly with the Police. The media outlets reporting the flags are generally reliable so we could reasonably assume that a Union flag was there. This is potentially a worrying turn of tactics by the OPM- trying to implicate UK support behind their actions.”

2013

From: FCO

Sent: 25 October 2013 06:09

To: FCO

Subject: Papua 6 weeks Updates

“On 16 September at least 94 people were arrested and then released without charge as police moved to disperse demonstrations across Papua celebrating the International Day of Democracy on 15 September. Thousands of Papuans took part in the demonstrations, which also supported Vanuatu's intention of raising the question of West Papua's political status at the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September. The Papuan National police had issued a ban on

demonstrations on 11 September, rejecting a notice by the West Papua National Committee (*Komite Nasional Papua Barat*, KNPB) of their intention to demonstrate in several cities on 16 September, reportedly because the KNPB logo used in the notice contained a symbol of the Papuan Morning Star flag.”

“Both the founder of the Free West Papua Campaign Benny Wenda and West Papuan political prisoner Filep Karma have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2013.”

2014

Email From: FCO

Sent: 03 February 2014 07:31

To: Mark Canning

Cc: Rebecca Razavi

Subject: Papua Update: Oct 2013-Jan 2014

“Visit of MSG countries’ leaders. Foreign Ministers from PNG, Fiji, Solomon islands who are Melanesian Spearhead group members (MSG) visited Indonesia from 11 to 15 January 2014 to assess West Papua National Coalition for Liberation application to join the MSG. The delegation visited Papua and West Papua. On Monday 13 January, a number of people who had been hoping to meet the delegation were arrested and subsequently released, including Markus Haluk (Benny Wenda’s brother in law). There are allegations that those arrested were also beaten up.

Comment: For now, West Papua National Liberation Coalition’s application to join the MSG is dead in the water.”

“Police cracked down KNPB rallies. On 26 November police cracked down on rally organized by the KNPB in Jayapura and arrested at least 28 political activists. There was an allegation that the body of a KNPB activist, Matthius Tengget, was later found in Lake Sentani. It has also been alleged that he was shot by Brimob paramilitary units. However Police declined to confirm the incident.

Series of events around 1 December. On 30 November 2013 the Police raid on suspected paramilitary-style group unit based in Sentani, near the provincial capital of Jayapura and killed one person. Papua Police spokesman said his officers undertook a raid on the village based on initial suspicions it was being used as a separatist military training ground. They call themselves the Cyclops King Group. He also said that people in the house fired shots at the police. Villagers said that a man shot during the raid was the village secretary, identified as Eduard Bunyan however police claimed the victim shot was an OPM member, Colonel Amos Sorontauw. Police said they confiscated some firearms, bladed weapons and a separatist flag, although some media reports claimed six homemade bombs were also seized during

the raid. It is said the aim of the raid was to intimidate local people into not taking part in celebrations of their national flag day on the 1st December.

Attack against Police Station. On 5 January 2014, an armed civilian group of 20 people attacked the Kulirik Police post in Mulia, Puncak regency, Papua. Eight firearms from two police personnel on guard at the post were taken. Puncak Jaya district police chief said that the perpetrators responsible for the attack are allegedly members of the Yambi Group under the leadership of Leka Telenggen. Leka is affiliated with the leader of the Free Papua Movement (OPM), Goliat Tabuni, who resides in Tingginambut district.

Shootings in Puncak Jaya. On 24 January a TNI soldier was shot dead in Pintu Angin, Puncak Jaya allegedly by the OPM led by Yambi. The TNI soldier was escorting an entourage of 25 people, including the Puncak Jaya Military commander, the Puncak Jaya Police chief and the 751st Raider Infantry Battalion commander. In retaliation, three (alleged) separatists were killed and a rifle was confiscated from the armed group. Governor Enembe later downplayed the incident saying that it was linked to criminal activity, rather than the separatist movement.”

FCO DipTel – 4 March 2013 – Papua Update

“Update on Papua after the killing of eight Indonesian soldiers and four civilians last week”

“The police have denied that the killings were connected with Papua’s prolonged secessionist movement saying that it was related to a local election (official results were due to be published on the day of the killings, it is suggested that the losing candidate orchestrated the incident). The main Papuan insurgency group, OPM, (believed by NGOs to have carried out the attack) have refuted this connection- but at the same time have not admitted carrying out the attacks.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 06 March 2013 11:40

To: Mark Canning; Rebecca Razavi

Subject: Papua- recent developments and international support

“Recent shootings of 8 soldiers and 4 civilians:”

“There was consensus that the Free Papua movement group, OPM,- or at least some elements of the group, carried out the attack.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 13 May 2014 11:10

To: FCO

Cc: Rebecca Razavi

Subject: The Second 2014 Papua Round-Up

“Rally commemorating the integration of Papua to Indonesia: On 1 May, KNPB commemorated the integration of Papua into Indonesia on 1 May 1963. In their rally, they rejected the Papua integration to Indonesia.”

“Puncak Jaya remains the red-zone area in Papua as a faction of Papua’s separatist group led by Goliat is active and often launches attacks on Indonesian security personnel.”

“On the 5 April there was a clash between the security forces and approximately 40 civilians on the Papua - PNG border in the Wutung area. The border crossing was closed following the shoot-out. The group blocked the road and lowered the Indonesian flag and raised the West Papuan and UN flags. A number of buildings were damaged as a result of the incident. A soldier and a police officer suffered minor injuries in the clash.

On 10 April a separatist group attacked a Gunung Pawa border post between Papua and Papua New Guinea. No one was hit in the gunfire, but the border officials fled, allowing this group to tear down the Indonesian flag and put up Morning Star flag. The separatists also set fire to a number of kiosks around the border post. A week later on 16 April an armed group in Papua fired on a Skouw Wutung border post between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, injuring one civilian.

Comments: These increasing incidents were carried out to disrupt the security of the region during the election period. The trend shows that these groups launched the attacks in the border area so that they could escape from Indonesian security officers”

“On 18 April a man was assaulted on his way to a mosque for dawn prayers. The assailant belongs to a group that wants to gain Papua’s independence by putting Muslims and Christians against one another. That incident was followed by a clash on 21 April between the victim’s relatives and friends and a group of people who supported the perpetrator. Three people, two civilians and a soldier were wounded in the skirmish.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 30 May 2013 09:35

To: Mark Canning

Subject: For Info- Unsubstantiated Allegation of Mass Killings and Closed Hearing Session on Papua between Parliament and GOI

Unsubstantiated Allegation of Mass Killings and Closed Hearing Session on Papua between Parliament and GOI

“Summary

On 22 May 2013, KNPB issued a report on knpbnews.com stating that Indonesian security forces committed mass killings in the regency of Puncak Jaya, Papua. KNPB reported 11 fatalities and 30 people are missing.”

“Comment

The allege mass killing in Puncak Jaya is baseless and contacts have also expressed that there is no evidence to support this claim by KNPB. It is believed that this is an effort by KNPB to spread disinformation.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 01 August 2014 13:25

To: FCO

Cc; Rebecca Razavi

Subject: Shooting in Papua

“I just wanted to let you know before you head home for the weekend that there was another shooting today in Papua.

This one reportedly took place in the Lanny Jaya district where there have been similar incidents already this year.

It is being reported that Free Papua Movement (OPM) fighters attacked police and soldiers and there was an exchange of fire in which 5 OPM fighters were killed and 2 Indonesian soldiers were shot and injured.

We will talk to colleagues and contacts here over the weekend and get back to you with an update on Monday by which point it should be more clear.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: Thursday, August 01, 2013 01:04 PM

To: Jennifer Anderson (Sensitive)

Cc: Mark Canning

Subject: Fatal Papua Shooting

“There was another fatal shooting in Papua yesterday.”

“Most reports sticking to the facts of the incident and not speculating on perpetrators, although some reporting places blame with the OPM. However as ever there are conflicting stories and from here is it almost impossible to decipher the true culprits.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 04 August 2014 10:16

To: FCO

Subject: RE: Shooting in Papua

“On Monday 28 July afternoon, an OPM unit shot at a group of police who were on duty to increase local people’s awareness of the law in a village in Lanny Jaya Papua, resulting in two officers First Brigadier Zulkifli and Second Brigadier Prayoga being killed and two others injured. Four other police officers were injured in the attack.

Lanny Jaya Regent, Befala Jigibalom said that a faction within OPM led by Puro Wenda was responsible for the attack on Monday. For reference, the regent added that the rebels, comprising about 100 people, have occupied Pirime Balinga and Kwiawagi hamlets and transformed the two remote areas into their stronghold.

After Monday incident, on Friday 1 August morning, Papuan police and military officers who were in patrol to Parime district Lanny Jaya Regency were intercepted and shot by members of OPM. In the exchange of gunfire, five members of OPM were shot dead and two military soldiers were injured.

Several hours ago, an armed group in Jawali district, Lanny Jaya shot at the car that took Lanny Jaya provincial secretary Christian Sohilait and a group of police officers who guarded him from Wamena to Tiom. One police officer was injured in that attack.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 15 August 2013 10:11

To: Jennifer Anderson

Cc: Mark Canning

Subject: REST LOCSEN: Papua Update

“**The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)** has recently shifted focus somewhat from trade issues and returned to its earlier political mandate with potential challenges ahead for Indonesia. The 25th anniversary meeting in June was attended by a delegation from the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation (WPNCL) who have submitted their application for membership.”

Email From: FCO

Sent: 28 August 2014 12:04

To: FCO

Subject: Papua: Chairman of the Sorong Raya West Papua National Committee (KNPB) was found dead

“Just want to flag up that Marthinus Yohame, the chairman of the Sorong Raya West Papua National Committee (KNPB) was found dead on Tuesday inside a gunny sack floating on the sea.

Email From: FCO

Sent: 29 August 2014 03:21

To: FCO

Subject: RE: Papua: Chairman of the Sorong Raya West Papua National Committee (KNPB) was found dead

“In their latest press release, KNPB declared 3-day national public mourning for the death of Marthinus but did not call for retaliation. KNPB alleged that the Indonesian government, including the President and Papua Governor and Papua Chief of Police are responsible for the incident. They also called urged Amnesty International, Indonesian Commission of Human Rights and its branch in Papua to investigate this case.”

From: FCO

Sent: 12 September 2014 06:55

To: FCO

Subject: Second Quarter Papua Update: June - August

Sorong: Marthinus Yohame, the chairman of the Sorong Raya West Papua National Committee (KNPB) was found dead on Tuesday inside a gunny sack floating on the sea.

Email From: FCO

Sent: 12 September 2014 06:55

To: FCO

Subject: Second Quarter Papua Update: June - August

“The chairman of the Sorong Raya West Papua National Committee (KNPB) was found dead, series of incidents took place in Lanny Jaya province, Puncak Jaya continues to see episodes of violence.”

“**MSG:** On 26 June, The Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) rejected the application for membership by the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation (WPNCL) filed a year ago in New Caledonia.

Comment: Papuan activists believe that this decision is also influenced by the policy of free trading between Indonesia and PNG, the establishment of the Police Academy in Fiji and the status of Indonesia as an observer in MSG. The requirements set in the meeting would bar any Papua liberation organisation to have a membership in MSG

“**Election-related incident:** At least 36 people were arrested in Jayapura, Timika, Fak-Fak and Wamena during July 2014 for their peaceful involvement in calling for a boycott of the Indonesian Presidential Elections on 9 July. Local human rights activists reported that Papuans in these areas faced intimidation from police who attempted to force them to vote in the elections.

Lanny Jaya: On Monday 28 July, an OPM unit shot at a group of police who were on duty in Lanny Jaya Papua, resulting in two officers killed and four others injured. It was claimed that a faction of OPM led by Puron Wenda was responsible for the attack. On Friday 1 August, Papuan police and military officers who were in patrol to Parime district Lanny Jaya Regency were intercepted and shot by members of OPM. In the exchange of gunfire, five members of OPM were shot dead and two military soldiers were injured. On 4 August, an armed group in Lanny Jaya shot at the car that took Lanny Jaya provincial secretary Christian Sohilait and a group of police

officers who guarded him from Wamena to Tiom. One police officer was injured in that attack.

Comment: While KNPB members has consistently been targeted since their formation in November 2008, there has been an observably increased crackdown on them since April 2014. In the past five months, a total of 81 KNPB members were arrested.”

“Political Prisoners: At the end of August 2014, there were at least 74 political prisoners in Papuan jails. On 21 July after serving their 3 years sentence in Abepura prison. Forkorus Yaboisembut and four other political prisoners were released from. Forkorus was the chairman of the Papuan Customary Council. In October 2011 he played a key role in the formation of the Third Papuan People’s Congress and read out a political declaration about the self-determination of the Papuan people. In the same event he was also elected as the president of the newly-declared West Papuan Federal State.”