

Human Rights & Torture in West Papua – What are the prospects for peace?

Br Budi Hernawan OFM

Thursday 18 November: 12.30-1.30pm @ the Centre for Global Action: Floor 2, James Smith Building, 55 Cuba Street, Wellington

Br Budi Hernawan, a Franciscan Friar from Indonesia, has been involved in monitoring human rights in West Papua and promoting the Papua Land of Peace interfaith movement.

Currently he is completing a PhD on human rights in Papua, through the Australian National University in Canberra. Prior to that, he worked in Papua from 1997-2009, primarily at the Office for Justice and Peace (*SKP/Sekretariat Keadilan dan Perdamaian*) run by the Catholic Church in Jayapura, Papua. This particular office, in which he was appointed director from 2005-2008, deals with the issue of human rights advocacy, research, documentation, monitoring the human rights situation across Papua and peacebuilding in conjunction with a wide range of non-governmental organizations, both national and international.

The SKP office was also instrumental in promoting Papuan peace movements under the banner of “Papua Land of Peace” in close collaboration with inter-faith leaders and civil society. SKP has largely contributed to the human rights documentation in the last decade that provides credible sources of information on the subject. Based on this long-term experience and expertise in this particular area, he is researching the issue of torture in Papua in relation to peacebuilding.

He holds B.A in Philosophy and Theology from "Driyarkara" School of Philosophy in Jakarta and a Masters Degree in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development from ANU.

A recent [widely-circulated video on the internet](#) has showed Indonesian security forces torturing Papuan civilians - revealing the routine violence employed by these forces to terrorize the Papuan people. Though the Indonesian government has acknowledged the video is genuine, calls for a genuinely independent and credible investigation of the incidents appear to be in vain as the Indonesian Government has stated that the security forces will investigate the matter themselves.

Br Budi Hernawan has been brought to Aotearoa New Zealand by Pax Christi. This Wellington event organized and promoted by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, Peace Movement Aotearoa and Global Focus Aotearoa.

Queries & RSVP to Martin de Jong, ph 04 496 1782, martin@caritas.org.nz