

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Condemn the Violence against Indigenous People of Iwaro, West Papua**

On 23 October 2017, the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) apparatus served in the palm oil plantation area of PT Permata Putera Mandiri (PT. PPM, the subsidiary of ANJ Group), took brutal and violent action to the victim named Yan Ever Mengge aka Bowake, the villager of Puragi, Distrik Metamani, Kabupaten Sorong Selatan, Provinsi Papua Barat.

There were three apparatus ganging up the victim Bowake, hitting his back, hips, neck and back part of his body with the butt of their rifle. They wore their military boots, and kicked his ribs and stomach, head and knees, which have caused him unable to walk, bruised his body, caused him vomiting blood, headache and unable to sleep. Now the victim suffers from pain, trauma, and have not got justice and remedy of the suffering he and his family have undergone.

The violence against indigenous people of Papua was frequently committed by the Indonesian Army or police apparatus securing the areas of plantation, mining, logging and other natural resources exploitation in Papua.

The violence and threat committed by Brimob apparatus against the indigenous people of Iwaro tribe have occurred several times in 2017. Such occurrence has happened since Iwaro tribe settling in Puragi village and the surroundings held "pemalangan adat" over their customary land, forest and village as their food source, which have been demolished, evicted and eliminated by PT PPM without prior discussion and approval from the land owners.

In 2015, there were four villagers, landowners, sending to jail after conducting demonstration and protest to demand their rights which have been seized by the company. The demand was not acceptable and the villagers were imprisoned. The police apparatus disregarded the report and demand of the community. Moreover, PT PPM has no intention to settle the community demand and even use the force approach to protect their business.

The mentioned violence committed by Brimob apparatus and involving PT PPM as the owner of palm oil plantation is an inhuman, unjust action, and violates constitutional right to be freed from torture, rights to security and freedom of expression. On the contrary, state apparatus, Indonesian National Army and Police (including Brimob) should exercise the constitution to protect the citizen, and do not commit violence on behalf of and in the interest of investment.

Thus, we condemn and loudly protest the violence and unjust action suffered by Iwaro tribe.

1. We urge the provincial government of West Papua and local government of Kabupaten Sorong Selatan, as well as Head of Regional Police of West Papua Province, to take "immediate action" to withdraw the Brimob apparatus served in the plantation area, investigate and sentence those involved in the violence action;

2. We demand them in order to terminate the force approach, any forms of intimidation physically and verbally to the indigenous people of Papua;
3. We demand the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Agrarian and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency, Minister of Environment and Forestry, provincial government of West Papua, and local government of Kabupaten Sorong Selatan, to conduct the performance audit and give sanction to the activities, business license and permits of all the subsidiaries of ANJ Group, operated in Kabupaten Sorong Selatan. They were also involved in the violence and human rights violations, and suspected to involve in illegal land grabbing, peatland and forest destruction;
4. We urge PT PPM and ANJ Group to hold accountable for the incident, immediately fulfil and restore the victim' rights and the demand of indigenous people of Iwaro.

Sorong, 20 November 2017

**Solidaritas untuk Korban Kekerasan dan Masyarakat Adat Iwaro, Papua Barat  
(Solidarity for the victims of violence and Indigenous People of Iwaro, West  
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