



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI(NSW)**

Prophetic. Pro-Active. Prayerful.

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

11 March 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to urge you to raise the human rights situation in Papua with the Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, during his visit to Australia next week.

Our Church partners in Papua continue to provide credible testimonies of an ongoing pattern of human rights abuses, despite the emerging democracy in Indonesia since 1998. This includes torture, restriction of freedom of expression, extra judicial killing, and the criminalization of Papuan human rights defenders, as well as the ongoing impunity for alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses. Meanwhile, the military and the special units of the police force continue to operate in excessive numbers and beyond legal boundaries. The UN Special Rapporteurs who visited Papua in 2007 stated these concerns.

We are deeply concerned with the increased isolation of Papua from international human rights observers since the Indonesian government decision in March 2009 to close down the Red Cross Office in Jayapura, as well as the Peace Brigade International.

Meanwhile, the extraction of natural resources has been conducted in a manner that constantly impoverishes indigenous Papuans despite the Special Autonomy Law No. 21/2001 that enshrines their rights. The Indonesian National Bureau of Statistics and the 2009 World Bank Report of 2009 have clearly demonstrated that Papua is the poorest Indonesian province even though it is ranked the country's third largest income earner.

In the spirit of mutual cooperation, we ask you to urge the Indonesian President:

1. to engage in an open dialogue with the Papuans to solve protracted conflicts, as was done successfully in resolving Aceh's conflict;

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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2. to take all necessary measures to prosecute the pending human rights cases at the Attorney General's Office, particularly the Wamena and Wasior cases;

3. to take all necessary measures to reform the Indonesian security sector to comply with international human rights standards and principles of democracy;

4. to release those Papuan political prisoners arrested and detained for simply taking part in peaceful, legal rallies.

We welcome your government's ongoing commitment to a good working relationship with Indonesia. We are confident that your raising these issues can only contribute to the well being of Papuans and to the development of Indonesian democracy attuned to the human rights of all its citizens.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Price rsm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Sharon Price rsm
Executive Director