

Australia West Papua Association

AWPA SA (inc) Newsletter January/February 2010



Current issues and plans for 2010

AWPA SA is looking forward to another year of activity , hopefully busier than the last .We are once again having a stall at the Womadelaide Festival in conjunction with AETFA, the Adelaide East Timor Friendship Association and are bringing the Papuan Asmat Woodcarver over again . We are holding a fundraising BBQ on Sunday 28th February (see separate flyer) to raise funds for last year's winner of our Youth Travel prize to buy art and craft goods in West Papua when they travel there in the middle of the year . We hope our woodcarver will be able to be present at the BBQ and show some progress on this year's carving .

Our AGM decided to continue to build on our work with youth and we are examining further activities including stalls at Universities. Also when our travel prize winner returns we will have some presentations.

On the fundraising front we are looking at another quiz night and a Cultural evening with West Papuan singers and dancers performing again.

Below are a selection of reports. One report is from the major Indonesian Human rights organisation on events of last year followed by some calls for a better dialogue between Papuans and the Indonesian Governments . We were hoping there would be more news on environmental issues following the UN Copenhagen meeting , particularly about the forests in West Papua . It appears that matters relating to financial support to save forests in developing countries for carbon offsets by richer countries is not to be settled in the immediate future . We expect more news later.

West Papuan Human rights in Drastic decline in 2009

The Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Kontras) and the Papua representatives of the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) feel that in 2009 the human rights situation in Papua experienced a drastic decline. The country continues to ignore the protection of equality and human dignity, as well as the supremacy of law in Papua. As a result, Papuans are still a long way from experiencing justice and prosperity.

Throughout 2009, Papuans were increasingly made out to be criminals and security personnel discredited people with accusations of being separatists.

"The criminalisation of people who raised [the Morning Star] flag, the breaking up of peaceful demonstrations and the shooting to death of Kelly Kwalik are reflections of a lack of government will to carry out dialogue with the community," said Matius Murib of Komnas HAM Papua, accompanied by Kontras' Haris Azhar and Syamsul Alam during a 17 January 2010 [discussion on] human rights in Papua in 2009 and projections for 2010.

Activists were also still being monitored and sometimes experienced intimidation when investigating cases of human rights violations or while meeting with diplomats and representatives from international organizations.

The Papuan identity cannot be fully realised because the peaceful action of raising a flag is seen as a violation of the law. However, this is part of respect for culture and is a civil and political right of every person. This is

guaranteed under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which were ratified by the Indonesian Government in 2006.

Papuan people have been precluded from participating fully in the public arena due to the unwillingness of the government to implement policies to increase Papuans' participation in politics.

The inconsistencies regarding the implementation of the Law on Special Autonomy by the provincial and central governments has led to a lack of confidence from the Papuan people. The government's policies have only given rise to a wider social gap and further corruption without any significant improvements.

As such, the government needs to take notice of the study by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) and outlined in the book 'Papua Road Map' (2009), which concluded that the failure to carry out development was not one dimension of the problem, but rather flowed into all public sectors such as education, health and the local economy.

At the moment there are no clear priorities regarding the protection of human rights in Papua. The government has still not formed a Special Regional Regulation for the Protection of Human Rights or a Commission for Truth and Reconciliation in Papua as a framework for the implementation of the law under the Law on Special Autonomy.

"We ask the central and provincial governments to prioritise the interests of the Papuan people," said Murib.

[A 17 January 2010 Detikcom article entitled 'Ciptakan Suasana Kondusif, Aparat Harus Ditarik dari Papua' quoted Murib as calling on the government to withdraw security personnel from Papua in order to promote a climate conducive to dialogue between the government and Papuans.

"As long as security personnel remain in Papua, dialogue will be difficult," he said.

Bintang Papua News, 13 January 2010

Against the background of the adoption of Special Autonomy for Papua, there is growing support for seeing dialogue as the only solution to the conflict in Papua.

According to observations by this newspaper, calls for dialogue continued to be made throughout 2009 and into 2010, in the media as well as in demonstrations in a number of cities.

Prior to the National Committee for the Liberation of West Papua, the Jakarta-based LIPI, the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, called on the Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to provide space for dialogue. Similar calls have been made by the Papuan Baptist Church, the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation, followed by the Papuan caucus in the DPD, the Regional Representative Council and at the end of 2009, by the DPR, the National Parliament, to which there were responses from DAP, the customary councils, and the MRP, the Papuan People's Congress.

Most surprising of all was the support expressed by the DPR-Papua, whose GOLKAR members had previously strongly opposed the idea of dialogue between Papua and Jakarta. But then at the beginning of 2010, the DPR-Papua changed its opinion on the question of dialogue between Jakarta and Papua, with its member Weynand Watory expressing strong views in favour of dialogue.

After speaking at a Public Discussion, the deputy chairman of Commission A of DPR-Papua said that the DPR-Papua now supports dialogue.

'The DPR-Papua is very supportive, there are many problems that have never been talked about; it was just a monologue by Jakarta. Incessant talking about this regulation or that regulation having been adopted and focusing all the time on the adoption of the 2001 Special Autonomy Law for Papua,' he said.

This man, a lecturer at the University of Indonesia, said the idea of dialogue had first been voiced by Papuans at their Fourth Congress in Manokwari and addressed to the Indonesian Government through the

Coordination-Minister for Political and Legal Affairs, a position held at the time by Susilo Bambang Yudoyhono.

The Rector of the STFT, the College of Theology, Pastor Neles Tebay also expressed the same opinion. He said that the Indonesian Government can no longer use violence as the means of resolving the conflict; the only way to handle the issue is dialogue, he said.

'Recent shootings in Papua are a sign that the conflict has not yet been resolved. The Republic of Indonesia is now a democratic state with a government that respects humanitarian values, and needs to pursue the path of dialogue,' said Pastor Tebay, who has published many papers about dialogue between Jakarta and Papua.

He also said that the shooting of OPM leader Kelly Kwalik [on 16 December last] will not succeed in silencing democracy and was a retrogressive step taken by the Indonesian government in the era of democracy.

'The door to dialogue has not been shut, despite the killing of Kelly Kwalik. This is clear from the fact that a number of individuals and national institutions in Jakarta have also expressed support for dialogue, indicating growing support for the idea.'

Both Watory and Tebay have urged Jakarta not to lose sight of developments in Papua; they also said that the Papuan issue is gaining the attention of the international community. 'If violence continues to be pursued to resolve the Papuan issue, domestic and international support for dialogue will continue to grow and people will be asking, why has it been possible to resolve the issue of Aceh at the negotiating table, but not achieve the same thing for Papua,' said Tebay.

A different view of the dialogue process

Prof. Damien Kingsbury The Age 15/1/10

Indonesia's eastern-most province(s) of West Papua remains troubled, with numerous recent political arrests, the continued use of torture and, not least, the killing on December of separatist leader Kelly Kwalik. Kwalik had already arranged with the police to live peacefully while the umbrella West Papua Coalition for National Liberation (WPNCL) attempted to engage the Indonesian Government in dialogue. Others, notably in the Indonesian army (TNI), saw their own interests in seeing Kwalik dead and thus keeping alive the low-level conflict.

It was hoped that when Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was elected for a second term in 2009 he would take the opportunity to fulfil the second half of his 2004 election promise of bringing peace to Aceh and West Papua. However, Yudhoyono has been beset by opponents, both within the legislature and in the TNI, either setting up circumstances that have been claimed as a cover-up for fraud, or calling for his impeachment for such a cover-up.

Yudhoyono is struggling to keep his head above political water, so taking on a task as divisive among Indonesia's economically self-interest elites as finding an equitable solution to the West Papua problem might be just enough to push him under. Regardless of the willingness of the WPNCL to find a middle way and Yudhoyono's in-principle agreement, he has his hands full just surviving.

It is not at all certain that Yudhoyono will find the clear political space, much less the cohesive authority, to embark on a dialogue for resolution of the West Papua problem in his remaining term in office, much less the coming year.

More hopefully, when his political capital was high, Yudhoyono's strong support for a compromise resolution to the separatist war in Aceh is seeing that now autonomous province enter its fifth year of relative peace. There have been some troubling incidents in Aceh since the 2005 peace agreement, but these have been relatively minor compared with other post-conflict environments.

Indonesian Govt Gives Green Thumb-Up To Plant Papua 'Food Estate'



The government has finalized plans and is ready to move ahead with the country's first integrated food production zone in Merauke, Papua, a minister told the Jakarta Globe on Sunday.

"Drafting of the regulation has been finished and it is ready to be signed by the president," Agriculture Minister Suswono said.

The food estates, as they are known, are designed to stimulate large-scale investment in the agriculture sector and beef up food security. The developers will be prevented from exporting any of their produce until the nation's food needs have been met.

If the pilot project, which aims to attract domestic and international investors with a series of tax breaks, is successful, the government hopes to establish similar zones elsewhere in eastern Indonesia.

The completion of the food estate regulation was one of the objectives of the government's program for its first 100 days.

According to the ministry, the pilot project will see 1.6 million hectares of land in Merauke transformed into an integrated farming, plantation and livestock zone, where companies will grow, process and package their products in one place.

The government plans to give investors financial incentives such as tax breaks and reductions in customs and excise duty, according to the ministry.

The government will also look to streamline the land acquisition process and facilitate immigration for foreign workers.

However, Suswono stressed that "the government will put Indonesian investors in the first priority before inviting foreign investor to invest in Merauke." Overseas investors will have to work with a local partner and will be restricted to a maximum 49 percent ownership of any joint venture.

In addition to farming, the project will support a wide range of agricultural businesses, including, post-harvesting industries such as sorting and grading, packing, storage and processing as well as agri-tourism.

One million hectares of lands will be available to produce food crops such as rice, soy bean and corn. The rest will be split between plantations, fisheries and livestock. Investors will have to purchase a minimum of 1,000 hectares of land each.

But the development, under which many residents will be forced to sell their land, has met opposition from locals and non-government organizations, who have warned of social and environmental problems.

The Indonesian Farmers Union (SPI) has said that the food estate regulation will lead to a “land grab” by big businesses at the expense of locals.

“This will eventually lead [the country] to losing sovereignty in our food [production],” the union said. “Food estates could also lead to feudalism because the role of the indigenous farmers will be just to provide labor to the capital owners.”

Bungaran Saragih, a former agriculture minister, expressed similar concerns. “There is potential for social conflict between the original residents and the newcomers,” he told the Jakarta Globe last month.

SPI said on its Web site that a handful of local investors have showed an interest in the Merauke project so far: PT Bangun Tjipta, Medco Group, PT Comexindo Internasional, PT Digul Agro Lestari, PT Buana Agro Tama and PT Wolo Agro Makmur.

The union also said executives from Binladin Group, a Saudi Arabian conglomerate, have visited Merauke to examine the project’s potential.

Investing in the Future of Papua & West Papua Infrastructure for Sustainable Development

Below is an extract from a recent report

Prepared by the World Bank and funded by AusAID, released in Oct 2009 .

Full report of 111 pages can be found at

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/MYAI-7ZU7WF?OpenDocument>

“The Province of Papua of the Republic of Indonesia was provided Special Autonomy under Law 21/2001 in recognition of the fact that “the management and use of the natural wealth of Tanah Papua has not yet been optimally utilized to enhance the living standard of the natives, causing a deep gap between the Papua Province and the other regions, and violations of the basic rights of the Papuan people.” The goal of Special Autonomy was to help Papua and Papuans catch up to the rest of Indonesia in terms of living standards and opportunities.

Yet, now almost a decade later – and after the split into two provinces: Papua and West Papua – progress toward this goal has been slow. In recognition of this, the Indonesian central government issued Presidential Instruction 5/2007 (Inpres 5/2007) on the Acceleration of Development of Papua and West Papua instructing all relevant technical ministries to devote special attention to the two provinces and to coordinate their programs with the governors of both provinces.

The authors of this report do not aim to set out a master plan for the development of Papua and West Papua – that must be done by the Papuans and West Papuans themselves (with donor assistance as needed). This report does, however, provide what the authors hope is useful guidance on the principles that such development must adhere to if it is to be economically, environmentally, culturally and physically sustainable. This report is the result of numerous missions undertaken between November 2008 and August 2009 to interview stakeholders, collect data and present preliminary findings and was entirely funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) through their Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative (IndII).

Water Quality

In most of Papua and West Papua, water is abundant, but few households have access to piped water, and none have access to piped potable water. The neglect of maintenance of installed capacity is a chronic problem, tied to failure to collect appropriate user fees for water delivery. Half of the water that enters the

system is lost for technical and administrative reasons. Yet the cost of rehabilitating the existing piped water systems and expanding piped water delivery is not at all prohibitively high. Investment in water supply is relatively low cost. The total cost of adding 95,000 urban connections and 261,000 peri-urban and rural connections (109,000 of these in the highlands) by 2020 – to reach the targets of 80% urban and 60% rural piped water service – is about USD 250 million (IDR 2.5 trillion). To put this cost in perspective, it is roughly the cost of building about 250 kilometres of good road, or about one tenth of the total transfer payments the governments of Papua and West Papua received from Jakarta in 2008. Sanitation infrastructure is in poor shape in Papua and West Papua. Solid waste is being dumped where it threatens ground water and where it is likely to spread after heavy rains. Sewage treatment no longer is undertaken in Sorong, the only town that once had a sewage treatment facility. Building codes governing waste disposal are not enforced. In the two towns where sewage sludge is collected from septic tanks, Jayapura and Sorong, it is now dumped untreated in locations where it leaks into streams and groundwater, contributing to waterborne disease. In other locations, there are no sanitation services.

Investment in sanitation is less costly than investment in water supply. Even more so than water delivery, improvement in sanitation services can be achieved at relatively low cost. For USD 50 million (IDR 500 billion) it would be possible to provide eight towns with sewage sludge treatment plants and to install a piped sewage system in Jayapura.

Water and sanitation delivery must be better managed. More dramatically than for other infrastructure, the barrier to improved water and sanitation infrastructure is not cost and it is not technology. The key shortcomings are in maintenance and in management of the water and sanitation systems, including enforcement of user fees that cover operating costs. Water and sanitation services could be dramatically improved; for the cost of 300 kilometers of good road, all the major towns and much of the rural area could have much improved piped water delivery and all the major towns could introduce treatment of sewage sludge. This budget includes the construction of a piped sewage system for Jayapura.

Proper operation and maintenance of the water and sanitation systems will require budgeting discipline and revenue collection. The water system should cost about USD 30 million (IDR 300 billion) per year to operate and maintain. With about 459,000 connections, the O&M cost of about USD 66 per connection per year cannot be treated lightly. Collection of user fees will be important both on the coast and in the highlands. However, these developments are constrained by the cost of computers and power supply, and the limited (satellite) transmission capacity. The main challenges are to increase coverage of the telecommunications network and to increase its carrying capacity, or bandwidth. This can be achieved through a combination of submarine fibre optic cable to major coastal cities of Papua, fibre optic or microwave links to the interior (co-located with roads, pipelines or power lines if feasible) and increased deployment of new more cost-effective satellite technologies to remote locations.

Public sector support may be needed for remote locations. Investment in telecommunications comes primarily from the private sector, which is also responsible for operations and maintenance. The private sector is profit-driven, and therefore less inclined to service more remote and sparsely-populated areas. There are opportunities for partnerships

Water sources

Today, fewer than 25% of households in Papua and West Papua have access to piped water, which is inexpensive and of reasonable quality compared to alternative sources. The majority of the population continues to rely on surface water, groundwater and rainwater (Table 17). With the exception of the highlands in Papua and the mountainous areas in Papua Barat, where surface water is relatively abundant all year round, water is in short supply during the dry season and is deemed unfit for human consumption without some form of treatment (such as chemical filtering or boiling).

Water borne gastrointestinal disease is a severe problem in Papua and West Papua.

Sanitation

Over one-third of all households in Papua and West Papua currently lack any form of on-site sanitation. A large portion of the rural population, as well as many low-income households in urban areas, discharge human waste directly into rivers, lakes, and open space. The resulting contamination of surface and

groundwater has led to high incidences of waste-transmitted diseases and environmental degradation of water sources, especially in densely populated areas.

On-site sanitation services are limited to major cities. Households in urban areas have usually established pit latrines or septic tanks. Only in two cities in Papua and West Papua are septic tank emptying services available. In Jayapura, a private company operates a fleet of sludge trucks (*truk tinja*) and dumps the sludge in a location nearby the city, without any form of treatment or protection. The government of Kota Sorong used to operate a fleet of sludge trucks but no longer does so.

The trucks used to dump the sludge in a sludge treatment facility (IPLT). This facility was not maintained, so that private operators now dump sludge on an uncontrolled dumpsite. Sludge discharge facilities are not available elsewhere

in Papua or West Papua. In Manokwari, citizens either discharge the sludge manually, by dumping into a nearby river, or sometimes build an additional septic tank.

Off-site sanitation services are non-existent. In the early 1990s, the Ministry of Public Works used part of the proceeds of an ADB loan to finance the construction of a wastewater treatment plant and piped sewerage system in Kota Jayapura. The system was never used, fell in disrepair, and it now covered by a bus terminal that was built over it.

Editors note

When we ran our youth Travel prize to West Papua last year, this report had not been published, so we were unable to give accurate advice about available facilities. If we have another quiz we might include some questions from this report. The executive summary is well worth reading.

By Stephen Coates (AFP)

JAKARTA — Indonesia's military has failed to dismantle its "dangerous business empire" as ordered under a 2004 law designed to enhance civilian rule in the budding democracy, a human rights watchdog said Tuesday.

Promises of increased oversight by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, a market-friendly ex-general, were "totally inadequate" and left the military unaccountable to government, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report. "It's outrageous that despite the parliamentary directive the government has no plan to take over ownership or management of a single business," HRW researcher and report author Lisa Misol said in a statement.

"Promising to monitor them more closely simply isn't good enough."

Despite a 2004 law ordering the military (TNI) to get out of the business sector by the end of 2009, the generals still control 23 foundations and over 1,000 cooperatives including ownership of 55 companies, the report says. These interests had gross assets worth 350 million dollars in 2007 and turned a profit of 28.5 million dollars, according to official figures cited by the report.

Yudhoyono issued a decree on October 11 promising greater oversight, but HRW said the measures merely entailed a partial restructuring of the business entities and required no divestment. An inter-ministerial oversight team established on November 11 has no clear authority, lacks independence and is not required to report publicly, HRW said. "Nor do the new measures address accountability for human rights violations and economic crimes associated with military business activities," it added, citing examples including the killing of protesters by military personnel.

In 2007 in Pasuruan, East Java, HRW said navy personnel opened fire on villagers who were protesting over expropriations of land by the navy decades earlier, killing four.

The sailors were providing security for a state-owned company that had leased the land from the navy to operate a plantation.

"In other examples, the military has had a prominent role in large timber operations that have displaced communities from their ancestral lands and fuelled rampant illegal logging," it said.

"Military units providing protection services to companies have earned off-budget cash payments, raising serious corruption concerns... The military also has been implicated in illegal businesses and extortion operations." A spokesman for Yudhoyono refused to comment on the HRW report and military press officers were unavailable.

HRW said money-making ventures by the military "contribute to crime and corruption, impede military professionalism and distort the function of the military itself". Former defence minister Jowono Sudarsono admitted last year that "rogue elements" of the military could be behind a spate of shootings targeting employees of US miner Freeport McMoRan in eastern Papua province.

Unidentified gunmen ambushed and killed an Australian mine worker and two Indonesians including a policeman in July near Freeport's massive gold mine, which pays troops for protection.

Sudarsono rejected suggestions of direct military involvement and police have blamed poorly armed Papuan separatists, but the mine has long been linked to alleged human rights abuses by the security forces.

During his tenure as defence minister from the time Yudhoyono took office in 2004 until last year, Sudarsono argued the military should be allowed to keep its smaller business interests to support soldiers' families. The task of bringing the Indonesian military fully under civilian control remains incomplete more than a decade after the collapse of general Suharto's military-backed dictatorship.

Indonesian General Not Fit for Civilian Defense Post

The appointment of Lieutenant General Sjafrie Sjamsuddin as Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Defense undermines human rights accountability and civilian control of the military, said the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN).

"This is Suharto redux, leaving the military in charge of itself" said John M. Miller, National Coordinator of ETAN. "Sjamsuddin appointment clearly demonstrates that the 'reformer' President Yudhoyono would rather reward former military colleagues than hold them accountable. This sets back the limited efforts to bring the Indonesian military under civilian control."

"Sjafrie is a poster boy for the argument that U.S. military training does not instill respect for human rights in Indonesian officers, especially those belonging to [Kopassus](#)," said Miller. The Obama administration is currently [considering resuming training of Kopassus](#).

General Sjamsuddin has spent [most of his career](#) in Indonesian military's brutal Kopassus special forces. Trained in the U.S. in 1985 and Australia in 1993, he is accused of coordinating several of the most notorious events in East Timor, including the 1991 [Santa Cruz massacre](#) and the post-referendum violence in 1999. He was military commander in Jakarta at the time troops opened fire on protesters in May 1998.

Human rights groups in Indonesia [have protested Sjamsuddin appointment](#) citing his human rights record. They also point out that [the appointment violates Indonesian law](#), which prohibits the promotion of active duty soldiers to political posts.

"Sjamsuddin not only defends the military's system of territorial command, he has little understanding of the need for civilian supremacy over the military," said Miller.

Background

Sjamsuddin was [refused a visa](#) to accompany President Yudhoyono on his visit the United States in October 2009.

Sjamsuddin (also spelled Sjamsoeddin) played a key role in the counter-insurgency campaign in Aceh throughout 1999, arriving in East Timor just three days before the UN-organized referendum on independence. General Sjamsuddin and other senior TNI officers reportedly met to discuss "plans to destroy vital infrastructure, and to kill key pro-independence leaders, in the event that the ballot result favored independence," according to [a report commissioned by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner For Human Rights](#) (OHCHR). An eyewitness identified Sjamsuddin, dressed in civilian clothes, as directing the attack on Bishop Belo's official residence on September 6, 1999. The OHCHR report identifies Sjamsuddin as belonging to a group of senior officials "known or alleged to have been involved in planning and coordinating the militias and the violence more generally. A strong case can be made that these officers and officials bear individual criminal responsibility by virtue of their participation in a 'common criminal purpose' that led to the crimes against humanity committed in 1999.

Sjamsuddin participated in the invasion of East Timor in 1975 and served a number of tours there. According to [Inside Indonesia](#), "He has also taken at least five specialist military courses in the U.S., including one on Terrorism and Low Intensity Conflict which, according to Sjafrie, involved training by US Special Forces flown in from Peru on 'how to create terror'. Sjafrie topped his class." He commanded the Kopassus SGI (Intelligence Task Force) in East Timor in the early 1990s. [Gen. \(retired\) Theo Sjafei accused Sjamsuddin](#) of masterminding the November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre.

In a 2008 [interview with the Jakarta Post](#) Sjamsuddin defended the Indonesian military's (TNI) territorial role. Ending the TNI's territorial function, which stations troops down to the village level throughout Indonesia, is crucial to finally ending military influence.

"It's not appropriate today to talk about civilian supremacy.... Differentiating between civilians and the military will only lead to a dichotomy, which is narrow-minded..." he said in the same interview. "TNI territorial commands are in the form of military deployment as a defense force. Therefore, if the function is scrapped, TNI will lose its strength."

ETAN was formed in 1991 to advocate for self-determination for occupied East Timor. The U.S.-based organization continues to advocate for democracy, justice and human rights for Timor-Leste and Indonesia. ETAN recently won the 2009 [John Rumbiak Human Rights Defenders Award](#). For more information, see ETAN's web site: <http://www.etan.org> .



Banning looms as draconian officials remain Sun, 01/10/2010 3:51 PM | Special Report

The recent public outrage over the banning of five books deemed controversial by the Attorney General's Office and the disappearance of George Junus Aditjondro's recently released book linking President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's inner circle with the Bank Century bailout debacle has raised the serious issue of vestiges of long-forgotten, ancient authoritarian rule mind-set among government officials. The Jakarta Post's Niken Prathivi digs deeper into the issue.

Presumably, a longing for the glorious days of the authoritarian Soeharto era has prompted officials from the Justice and Human Rights Ministry and the AGO to stubbornly pursue their plan to ban more books.

The ministry is currently reviewing 200 recently published books, with 20 of them under strict reviews that are likely to end in removal from bookstore shelves.

Most of the books, according to the ministry, are subject to screening as they fueled movements toward the nation's disintegration.

Apart from carrying themes revolving around the restive provinces of Papua and Maluku, most of the books are also about religious discrimination and smear.

"It is indeed our duty to review any printed publications, especially those containing provocative motives to disintegrate the nation," Hafid Abbas, the ministry's research and development division head, said recently.

He added that filtering out published books was part of his division's main efforts "to maintain the nation's unity".

"We are facing a silent war against foreign adversaries who are trying hard to destabilize Indonesia's sovereignty through publications. Therefore, we have to be prepared and fight back."

Hafid cited the example of an annual book, arranged by a local NGO and allegedly sponsored by the UN, which encouraged the independence of West Papua from Indonesia.

"This kind of publication is politically driven by foreign entities," Hafid said..

Previously, the AGO banned five books in Indonesian, including the translation of *Pretext for Mass Murder: The September 30th Movement and Soeharto's Coup d'Etat in Indonesia* by John Roosa. Others include *Six Paths to God* by Darmawan M. M, and *Resolving the Mystery of Religious Diversity* by Syahrudin Ahmad.

The two other banned books were *The Voice of Churches for Suppressed People, Blood and God's Tears in West Papua* by S. Sofyan Yoman, and *Lekra Never Burns Books* by Roma Dwi Aria Yuliantri and Muhidin M. Dahlan.

WWW.awpa-sa.org.au visit our website for more information .

We can be contacted at info@awpa-sa.org.au or phone 83454480 or 83401847.

By mail at P.O.Box 29 Kilkenny 5009

AWPA SA is an incorporated Non government organisation that supports West Papuan Human rights and Papuans rights to self determination