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Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Ivan Lewis MP  
Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

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Dear Minister,

Since International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP) was launched several months ago, the human rights situation in West Papua has deteriorated further. I have corresponded with your predecessor about this and would like to take this opportunity to once again urge the British government to bring influence to bear upon the Indonesian authorities.

The establishment of IPWP has resulted in a number of demonstrations of support in West Papua, reflecting the fact that until now West Papuans have struggled to get their voices heard internationally. However, as a result of these demonstrations 2 students have been arrested and mistreated. One, Buchtar Tabuni, has just been sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. 15 people are also being detained and face possible life sentences because of their role in demonstrating in support of International Lawyers for West Papua. In total, reports suggest that 50 people are currently being held as political prisoners across West Papua for attending peaceful demonstrations and supporting West Papuan independence. As you will be aware, Human Rights Watch has recently expressed concerns about the systematic torture of West Papuan prisoners by the Indonesian authorities.

Indonesia consistently claims it is making progress in relation to human rights in West Papua - and is believed by foreign governments. Yet, the authorities have not investigated any of the claims about use of torture made by Human Rights Watch and continue to impose restrictions on human rights organisations working in West Papua.

I am calling, once again, for the Foreign Office to use its influence with the Indonesian government and to act in support of human rights in West Papua. Specifically, Indonesia must demonstrate that it is genuinely making progress by releasing all political prisoners in West Papua, investigating reports of torture and allowing access for the International Red Cross and foreign journalists.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.

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