

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Commissioner Ferrero Waldner  
DG External Relations  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi,  
Brussels B1049  
Brussels  
Belgium

January 19<sup>th</sup> 2007

Dear Commissioner,

I am sure that you will be aware of my concern about the human rights situation in West Papua and that, together with colleagues I have sponsored a written declaration calling on the European Commission to do more to address the situation. I am hopeful this will gain wide support from MEPs but in the meantime I wish to raise two very specific issues with you in relation to West Papua.

Over the 2006/2007 Christmas and New Year holidays, it was reported that upwards of 2000 Indonesian military personnel moved into Mulia, the provincial capital of the Puncak Jaya region of West Papua. This act of aggression seems to have been aimed at traditional warriors from the Free Papua Movement who entered Mulia on December 24<sup>th</sup> then moved into surrounding mountains to hide from the army, following reports that they were responsible killing two policemen earlier in the month. Previous military operations in the Puncak Jaya region have led to a situation of famine amongst the local community and in 2005, according to a study carried out by the University of Sydney, over 6000 people were displaced and hundreds of homes, churches, clinics and schools burned to the ground by Indonesian troops.

Human rights workers operational on the ground over the Christmas period were not allowed access to people in the government medical posts because of the presence of the military. Human rights workers are also unsure that the warriors from the West Papua Movement are responsible for the deaths of the two policemen and fear that the Indonesian authorities are using the case as an excuse to provoke conflict. The wider struggle for West Papuan liberation is non-violent and, as ever, it is West Papuans families and children who will suffer at the hands of the Indonesian military. However, the Puncak Jaya region is very remote and the Indonesian army is denying that troops are in the area. I am, therefore, urging that the Commission use its influence to determine the scale of the operation being undertaken and to seek guarantees from the Indonesian authorities that troops will be withdrawn and the human rights of those living in Mulia will be upheld.

Also under threat at this time is the Indigenous Church of West Papua. Indonesian police occupied the Church's synod office on December 29<sup>th</sup> and two pastors were assaulted. The attack follows allegations that the church is promoting West Papuan independence, an charge

denied by the Chair of the Church's Bureau of Justice and Peace, who is heavily involved in human rights work in the country. Tension increased when protestors organised a demonstration outside the synod office and called on the army to leave, so the church's staff could carry out their work safely and freely. I am not aware if any further action has been taken against the church but again, would urge the Commission to do what it can to prevent an escalation of violence and to seek reassurances from the Indonesian government that the church and others involved in human rights work are not being persecuted or intimidated.

I trust you will recognise the urgency of these matters and give them your immediate attention.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Lucas". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.