

**Indonesia Country-wide Risk: Low / West Papua: High**

Following the proclamation of apology from President Joko Widodo for human rights violations and the commission of atrocity crimes in Indonesia's past, the government has now begun to implement a non-judicial settlement plan for victims and families of victims. It includes the establishment of scholarships, vocational training, home renovation funding, and health insurance for those who have been affected by these past crimes.<sup>1</sup> While these incentives have been welcomed by those who benefit from the plan, there has also been criticism of its limitations. As reported in Aljazeera, Amnesty International's Indonesian Director, Usman Hamid, thinks that there needs to be more accountability for those who committed the crimes, and that the law should reflect these efforts alongside the non-judicial plan. As noted in the article, not a single person has ever been held accountable for any of the 12 mass human rights violations committed in Indonesia that the plan covers.<sup>2</sup>

Regionally, the Indonesian President has called on a cessation of violence in Myanmar, and in May 2023 offered Indonesian humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, which Indonesia has stated will be delivered in two stages. In providing this assistance the President spoke on ASEAN's five-point consensus plan, one of which calls on ASEAN to provide humanitarian assistance. In an ASEAN press release, the President stated that there had been some agreement between Indonesia and the Myanmar Junta, that would allow aid into the country.<sup>3</sup> This agreement, alongside Indonesia's act to rectify past wrongs, speaks to the country's current move towards a more pronounced human rights agenda that seemingly hopes to sway ASEAN governments. Included in these incentives are the addition of Indonesian legislation that hopes to curb gendered violence, and workshops to amend the nation's Electronic Media laws to better encompass the risks associated with hate speech.

More regionally, there have been ongoing concerns about human rights violations being committed on the island of Lombok, where the government is investing heavily to build a tourist precinct that has been titled the "new Bali." In March 2023, the UNHCR released a statement concerned with increased military presence and the intimidation of the local indigenous populations who have stated that they were pressured into ceding their land to developers.<sup>4</sup> Since then, there have been further reports of military intimidation, environmental degradation, and a lack of consultation with the people of the region, the Sasak, by developers and government alike.<sup>5</sup>

Recommendations

The Indonesian government should:

1. Appoint a senior official as National R2P Focal Point to coordinate national and international efforts to implement R2P.
2. Ensure the nation's move to compensate victims of atrocity crimes and human rights abuse is ongoing.
3. Ensure legislative decisions do not compromise Indonesia's democracy and will not lead to human rights abuse across all regions.
4. Ensure legislation that is stalled at Bills that does criminalise human rights abuse, is advocated for and adopted into legislation.
5. Work to further implement legislation to stop hate speech and discrimination and hoax news, and to effectively eliminate sexual and gender-based violence.

International partners should:

1. Encourage Indonesia to take active steps to fulfil its responsibility to protect.
2. Continue to explore avenues for cooperation with the Indonesian government and society in the areas of combatting disinformation and misinformation related to the pandemic.
3. Continue to provide humanitarian assistance when requested to help the government and civil society tackle challenges that stem from a lack of access to basic infrastructure.
4. Explore dialogue with Indonesian officials to help discourage the use of hoax news as justification for military and police intervention.

**West Papua**  
**High Risk**

The region remains volatile and there is high risk of human rights violations and atrocity. Due to the kidnapping of the New Zealand pilot, Phillip Mehrrens, the Indonesian government have deployed more military personal, which has increased tension. There has also been a breakdown in communication between the kidnapers, the West Papua National Independence Army (TPNPB), and the New Zealand government of late, with the New Zealand government unwilling to accept the TPNPB's demands that include recognising West Papua's freedom, ceasing military support for Indonesia, and to stop New Zealand citizens from working in and travelling to the region.<sup>6</sup> According to reports coming from local church officials, the region has also seen an increase in the suppression of student voices, disruption of learning activities due to violent clashes between Indonesian forces and liberation groups in nearby locations, and the early and unjudicial release from prison of Indonesians who had been convicted of human rights abuses in 2014.<sup>7</sup> These are exacerbating tensions while limiting freedom of speech.

Recommendations

The Indonesian government should:

1. Address entrenched racial discrimination, hate speech, fake news and incitement against West Papuans, and provide clear advice to security forces to abide by international law and refrain from the use of violence and torture.
2. As a member of the UN Human Rights Council, ensure human rights are protected in all Indonesian territories, including freedom to protest and gather and freedom of speech.
3. Refrain from manipulating news to serve the interests of the Indonesian forces in the region.
4. Consider the aspirations of West Papuans and the underlying issues fuelling the protests, and endeavour to consider these aspirations in future dealings with the province.

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<sup>1</sup> Jessica Washington and Syarina Hasibaun, "Indonesian Rights Abuse Compensation Plan Fans Fear of Impunity," *Aljazeera*, June 28, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/28/indonesian-rights-abuse-compensation-plan-fans-fears-of-impunity>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Anon. "Indonesia Reiterates Call for Cessation of Violence in Myanmar," *ASEAN Kominfo*, May 8, 2023, <https://www.asean2023.id/en/news/indonesia-reiterates-call-for-cessation-of-violence-in-myanmar>

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<sup>4</sup> Anon., “Indonesia: UN Experts Alarmed by Reports of Increased Militarisation and Intimidation Around Mandalika Project,” UNHCR, March 1, 2023, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/03/indonesia-un-experts-alarmed-reports-increased-militarisation-and>

<sup>5</sup> Hans Nicholas Jong, “Indonesia’s Mandalika Megaproject Still Trampling on Indigenous Community’s Rights: Report,” *Mongabay*, June 14, 2023, <https://news.mongabay.com/2023/06/indonesias-mandalika-megaproject-still-trampling-on-indigenous-communitys-rights-report/>

<sup>6</sup> Damien Kingsbury, “I Was Involved in Talks to Free a Kidnapped Kiwi Pilot in West Papua. With Negotiations Stalled, What Happens Now?” *Conversation*, June 9, 2023, <https://theconversation.com/i-was-involved-in-talks-to-free-a-kidnapped-kiwi-pilot-in-west-papua-with-negotiations-stalled-what-happens-now-206933>

<sup>7</sup> Anon. “ASIA/Indonesia: Tense Situation in Papua: Catholics Are Trying to Resolve the Conflict,” *Agenzia Fides*, May 29, 2023, [http://www.fides.org/en/news/73835-ASIA\\_INDONESIA\\_Tense\\_situation\\_in\\_Papua\\_Catholics\\_are\\_trying\\_to\\_resolve\\_the\\_conflict](http://www.fides.org/en/news/73835-ASIA_INDONESIA_Tense_situation_in_Papua_Catholics_are_trying_to_resolve_the_conflict)