

Question for written answer E-003902/2022

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Following up the West Papuan issue in the context of EU-Indonesia free trade agreement negotiations

This follows up our previous question on human rights in West Papua¹. West Papua was annexed by Indonesia in 1963 leading to a genocide as reported by Yale University and others²³. Today hundreds of West Papuan activists remain in detention. Zode Hilapok died in custody 10 months after his arrest⁴. Filep Karma died in November in strange circumstances⁵. Victor Yeimo continues in custody and is due to stand trial⁶.

Since 2001, the Union has provided EUR 4.7 million in support for Indonesia's efforts to promote West Papua's sustainable development. In the same period, the EU has also provided EUR 112 million in funding for projects related to climate change, deforestation, education, health and human rights, including in West Papua.

1. Will the VP/HR ask the Indonesian Government to investigate Zode Hilapock's and Filep Karma's deaths?
2. Will respect for human rights in West Papua, including the release of political prisoners, and authorisation of a visit to West Papua by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights be conditions for negotiating a free trade agreement with Indonesia?
3. EU development funds are being allocated to Indonesia, yet deforestation and human rights abuses are endemic in West Papua. Has the Commission considered suspending these funds?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-005382_EN.html

² Lowenstein Clinic Releases Report on Human Rights in West Papua, <https://law.yale.edu/yls-today/news/lowenstein-clinic-releases-report-human-rights-west-papua>

³ Elmslie, Jim and Webb-Gannon, Camellia, 'A Slow-motion Genocide: Indonesian Rule in West Papua', *Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity*, Volume 1, No 2, 2013.

⁴ <https://asiapacificreport.nz/2022/10/26/morning-star-flag-protester-in-west-papua-dies-of-mystery-illness/>

⁵ <https://www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au/blog/west-papuas-mandela-filep-karma-dies-under-mysterious-circumstances/>

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/15/indonesia-free-imprisoned-papua-activists>