



PASTORAL STATEMENT: We Live Uncomfortably in Our Land

Because of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) member Churches from Nias Islands, Mentawai Islands, Sumatera, Java, Kalimantan, the UEM Moderator and the vice Moderator of the UEM Asia Region, the General Secretary of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (CCI) and Head of the Papuan Bureau of CCI with the staffs of the UEM Regional Asia; conducted a solidarity and pastoral visit to one of the UEM member churches in Indonesia, namely the Evangelical Christian Church in The Land of Papua (*GKI-TP*). The visit was carried out on February 2nd - 9th, 2022 in conjunction with the 167th Celebration of the Induction of the Gospel in Papua Land on February 5th, 2022 in Mansinam Island, Manokwari. Therefore, GKI-TP received this visit in Manokwari and Sorong, West Papua.

The visitation is an expression of the joy of togetherness in celebrating the Induction of the Gospel into the Land of Papua which has changed civilization, making a new civilization as if the light after the darkness; also as an expression of empathy and togetherness over the struggles experienced by GKI-TP to fulfil their ecclesiastical vocation to the increasingly difficult situation in Land of Papua. They must not bear these difficulties alone. This expression of empathy was expressed through a dialogue with the Governor of West Papua, a conversation with the GKI-TP (Synod, Classis, congregations and refugee groups), the Forum for Religious Harmony (FKUB) of West Papua Province, the Communion of Churches in West Papua (PGGPB), indigenous peoples, NGOs, company representatives, the West Papuan People's Council (MRPB) and the Regent of Sorong. The delegation also participated in socio-economic empowerment efforts through cacao cultivation in Classis of Ransiki, South Manokwari, as well as attending the 167th Celebration of the Induction of the Gospel in Papua Land in Mansinam Island and conveying pastoral messages to the people by the Chair of the GKI-TP Synod, UEM Moderator and General Secretary of the CCI.

Through the visits and pastoral conversations, it is known there are developments in various sectors in the Land of Papua. However, this visit also made us even more concerned about humanitarian issues that are still happening and have not been completely resolved, and there is a tendency for them to become more and more complex. Humanitarian issues that we hear, see or feel include:

- a. We heard that there are thousands of refugees because of the conflict between the TNI (Indonesia National Army) and some groups considered as separatists, such as in Nduga, Kebar, Wamena, Intan Jaya, Puncak Papua, and Pegunungan Bintang. We also saw, met and had a dialogue with refugees in the Aitinyo Maybrat area. They lost their property, heirlooms as inheritance from their ancestors and a symbol of their pride as Papuan indigenous people.
- b. We heard and saw directly that these conflicts are also related to one another such as seizure of natural resources, mining, illegal logging, gold theft, conversion of forests to oil palm plantations, seizure of customary lands in Sorong and Manokwari.
- c. We heard that there are massive and systematic efforts to rid Papuans of their own land.
- d. We heard about the silence of humanitarian activists (lawyers, community advocates) and church workers (pastors, elders, Evangelist) by stigmatizing them as rebels and even being intimidated and losing their lives.
- e. We heard and felt that the community has been traumatized, especially women and children and are afraid to return to their own hometowns because there is no guarantee of security and protection for them from the authorities.
- f. We heard the demands of the local people for the security forces to stop the intimidation and the government to withdraw non-organic troops.



- g. We heard and saw that investments in Papua, such as palm oil plantations in South Manokwari and Sorong districts, have resulted changes in the social order of Papuan people's lives and do not provide many benefits for indigenous Papuans such as in meeting basic needs (education, health, basic infrastructure and economic empowerment).
- h. We have heard that there is public unrest in Papua due to domestic violence and rampant social ills such as prostitution, alcoholism and the use of narcotics and illegal drugs.
- i. We heard about the criminalization of children who are charged with the murder of 4 TNI soldiers in Kisor by the legal apparatus (police, attorney, and judiciary)
- j. We heard that the preparation of Law Number 2 of 2021 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 21 of 2001 concerning Special Autonomy for the Papua Province was carried out without evaluation and involvement of the Papuan people through the Papuan People's Council (MRP) of West Papua in accordance with the provisions of Article 77 of the Law. 21 of 2001 so that the majority of the Papuan people reject the implementation of the Law No. 2 of 2021.

After hearing, seeing and feeling the struggles faced by the church and society in Papua; based on theological reflections from:

- Chairperson of the GKI-TP Synod Rev. Andrikus Mofu, in his remarks on the 167th anniversary of the Celebration of the Penetration of the Gospel in the Land of Papua, said that: **Whoever mentions Papua mentions the Gospel and whoever mentions the Gospel has a vocation to fight against the powers of darkness, underdevelopment, poverty and humanity. All of this must be fought at all times; tyranny, plunder, behavior that is inconsistent with the Gospel, must be resisted. Human rights violations must be fought. GKI-TP is at the forefront of fighting all this. For this reason, the churches are called upon to close ranks with the GKI-TP.**
- PGI General Secretary Rev. Jacklevyn Manuputty asserted that **Churches that have accepted the Gospel or the Good News have ignited the light dispelling the darkness. The church must be increasingly critical of realizing that the Gospel often overlaps with colonial and neo-colonial people. As a result, conflicts of interest are unavoidable. The churches together with the GKI-TP are challenged to manifest the gospel in the work of liberation, consistently being witnesses to the truth. The church must continue to raise a prophetic voice and have prophetic courage to present the year of God's grace; offer love and forgiveness and deliverance.**
- Moderator of the UEM Rev. Willem T.P. Simarmata stated: **The land of Papua is a land blessed with abundant natural resources. I must say, with these enormous natural resources, it is unlikely that there should be poverty and hunger in this land. Therefore, evangelism and the church are called to be able to prosper all members of their congregation, in particular providing adequate education so that Papuans are able and efficient to manage, maintain and enjoy the wealth of their own land. However, we are also concerned about incidents such as human rights violations, poverty, stunting or malnutrition in children, discrimination and racism that the Papuan people are still experiencing today. Indeed, we see progress in development in various places. However, infrastructure development must also be accompanied by community welfare, the creation of justice and peace and an end to various forms of violence against the community.**

Therefore, we state, among other things to:



1. GKI TP:

Stay strong and steadfast in carrying out your ecclesiastical vocation to bring about peace, justice and the integrity of creation for all creatures in the Land of Papua, for that:

- a. We are committed to continue to walk together, hand in hand with GKI-TP in presenting the signs of God's kingdom on the earth of Papua.
- b. We appreciate the efforts made with other churches, local governments, NGOs and indigenous peoples in fighting for justice and peace in the Land of Papua.

2. Churches/ Ecumenical Institutions

- a. Strengthen and improve communication and partnerships between UEM member churches and CCI to carry out the task of proclaiming the Good News, advocacy, social diaconia and human resource development in Papua.
- b. Improve communication and cooperation among church denominations in Papua in the struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.
- c. Intensify trauma healing assistance programs for victims of violence in Papua.
- d. Praying for the struggle of the church and society in the Land of Papua

3. Government

- a. Appreciate and support the enactment of Presidential Decree No. 1 of 2022 concerning the Land Use and Investment Management Task Force
- b. Support the West Papua Provincial Government to ratify natural resource management regulations that favor the interests of the Papuan people and support Sorong Regency to maintain the customary rights of indigenous people through Regional Regulations and Regents Regulations and continue to encourage the Government of Indonesia, particularly the Indonesian Parliament to immediately ratify the Bill on the Protection of Indigenous Peoples.
- c. Provide security guarantees and protection for refugees to return to their hometowns and continue their normal lives.
- d. Stop the militaristic approach and prioritize dialogue and cultural approaches to create a peaceful Papua
- e. Urge the President of the Republic of Indonesia to immediately resolve issues of human rights violations and activate the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in accordance with the mandate of Article 46 of the Law on Special Autonomy.
- f. Pay attention, respect local wisdom, maintain the integrity of creation and include Papuans in developing Papua.

4. State Institutions/NGOs:

Ask the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) and the National Commission for Children to provide assistance to children who are victims of conflict in Papua.


Sorong, February 7th, 2022

The Delegations of Solidarity Visit to Papua 2022:



1. United Evangelical Mission (UEM) Communion of Churches in Three Continent, Region Asia:

a.	Rev. Willem TP Smarmata , Moderator	
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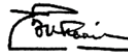
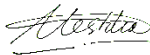
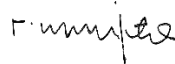



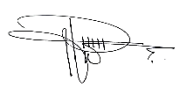


b.	Rev. Rosmalia Barus , Vice Moderator	
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2. Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI):

a.	Rev. Jacklevyn Manuputty, General Secretary	
b.	Ronald Rischard T, Papua Bureau Head	

3. The United Evangelical Mission Member Churches in Asian Regional:

a.	Rev. DR. Tuhoni Telaumbanua, Ephorus of Nias Christian Protestant Church (BNKP)	
b.	Rev. Mestika Ginting, Diaconia Bureau Head of Karo Batak Christian Protestant Church (GBKP)	
c.	Rev. Ramos BB Simanjuntak, Ephorus of Christian Angkola Protestant Church (GKPA)	
d.	Rev. Dr. Deddy Fajar Purba, Ephorus of Simalungun Christian Protestant Church Simalungun (GKPS)	
e.	Rev. Firman Sibarani, Ephorus of Indonesia Christian Church (HKI)	
f.	Rev. Parlindungan Binsar Sababalat, Ephorus of Mentawai Christian Protestant Church (GKPM)	
g.	Rev. Ramses Pandiangan, Ephorus of Batak Christian Community Church (GPKB)	



h.	Rev. DR. Budi Cahyono, General Secretary of East Java Christian Church (GKJW)	
i	Rev. Abednego Juwarisman, Chairperson of Christian Church of Northern Central Java (GKJTU)	
f.	Rev. Dr. Simpon F. Lion, General Chairperson of Evangelism Kalimantan Church (GKE)	