



## **UNITED LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOR WEST PAPUA - ULMWP**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Indonesian President's Visit: A Display of Disregard Amid the Suffering of the Papuan People**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo on July 23, 2024, to Jayapura-West Papua to commemorate Indonesia's National Children's Day at Istora Papua Bangkit is a stark reminder of the ongoing oppression and suffering of our people. While President Widodo celebrates, 62,000 Papuans, predominantly women and children, are displaced across eight conflict zones: Intan Jaya, Maybrat, Pegunungan Bintang, Nduga, Puncak Papua, Yahukimo, Puncak Papua, and Paniai in West Papua.

Menase Tabuni, our Executive President, passionately stated, "In his 10 years of presidency, Joko Widodo has visited Papua more than 15 times, each time stepping over the blood, bones, and anguish of the Papuan people. His repeated visits have yielded no benefits for indigenous Papuans. There is no roadmap to resolve the deep-rooted political and human rights conflicts in West Papua. Instead, the Indonesian government is preoccupied with conflicts in distant lands like Palestine and Myanmar. The infrastructure projects of roads and bridges are merely tools to accelerate Indonesian migration into Papua, facilitating military operations in our conflict zones."

Under President Widodo's rule, Papua's precious rainforests, the third-largest tropical forests globally, are facing destruction. Of the 34 million hectares of forest in West Papua, 13 million hectares have been seized by investors serving the interests of a few Indonesian elites. This is leading us towards ecocide.

Octovianus Mote, our Executive Vice President, has highlighted, "President Widodo's tenure has seen a grave suppression of freedom in Papua. Over 7,000 Papuans have been arrested and imprisoned during peaceful actions supporting ULMWP membership from 2015-2018, anti-racism protests in 2019, and various other demonstrations. Many of our people, especially the youth, have been tortured and killed by the TNI/Polri forces. President Widodo's promises in

2015 to open Papua to journalists, and the 2018 promise for a UN Human Rights Council visit, remain unfulfilled.”

Given these harsh realities, we, the leadership of ULMWP, firmly state, “The Papuan people, after 61 years of Indonesian occupation, face the threats of genocide, ethnocide, and ecocide. We urge the Papuan people and political elites within the colonial Indonesian system not to sell out the dignity and birthrights of the Papuan nation. We call on the Papuan people to stand firm and not sell their land, forests, and heritage to anyone.”

This message is issued to inform the public, especially our brothers and sisters in West Papua and beyond. May God bless us all. Thank you.

For media inquiries and interviews, please contact: Markus Haluk, Executive Secretary of ULMWP, +62 8524444 2502 or to Octovianus Mote, Vice President Executive of ULMWP, +1 203 520 3055

Jayapura, West Papua, July 22, 2024

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