

I am writing this to express my grave concern on four Papuan political activists, who had been detained since 19 December 2016 in Manado, North Sulawesi Province for “rebellion” and recently have been released. But they are still being charged with rebellion and could face life imprisonment.

Since they were detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, they are considered prisoners of conscience.

They were protesting in support of the acceptance of the peaceful Papuan pro-independence umbrella group, United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP). They are currently detained in the Manado Resort Police headquarters, North Sulawesi Province and have been charged with “rebellion” under Article 106 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) and could face life imprisonment.

So I urge you to drop the charges against them as they have been arrested solely for the peaceful exercise of their human right to freedom of expression.

I also urge you to stop evoking vague and overbroad legislation to arrest, prosecute and punish persons for peacefully exercising their human rights.

Your prompt attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,