

I am writing this to express my grave concern on Oktovianus Warnares, a prisoner of conscience, who has served more than two thirds of his prison term and is eligible for parole. His sentence reduction was denied on the grounds that he has to first declare on paper his allegiance to the state of Indonesia according to Government Regulation.

Oktovianus Warnares, along with five other Papuan political activists, organised on 1 May 2013 a flag-raising ceremony of the Morning Star, a symbol forbidden under the Government Regulation. The event was held in the vicinity of a government building in Biak Numfor, Papua province to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the handover of Papua to the Indonesian government by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA).

The group was immediately arrested after the police opened fire on dozens who were gathering. Oktovianus Warnares and the other men were charged with "rebellion" (makar) under the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) and possession of ammunition and explosives under the Emergency Law. His lawyer claimed that the police planted the evidence to incriminate them.

So I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Oktovianus Warnares as he has been convicted and imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of his 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,