



## *Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM) Free Papua Movement*

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### ***Press Statement, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2006***

#### ***Port Vila, Vanuatu – Dr. Otto Ondawame, International Spokesperson of the OPM condemns the violence in West Papua.***

Dr. Ondawame announced today that the OPM office in Port Vila, Vanuatu has called upon the Melanesian Spearhead Group (Vanuatu, Fiji, Papuan New Guinea, Solomon Island, Kanaky) and the international community to take notice of yesterday's violence in West Papua.

He drew attention to the ongoing atrocities occurring in West Papua, which have been, and are continuing to be, completely ignored by the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the International community as whole.

“How long do our cries go unheard?”

He made special reference to yesterday's violence in the West Papua's capital Port Numbay (Jayapura) where up to four members of Indonesia's security forces were killed in a clash with West Papuan students.

“Yesterday's violence that caused unnecessary death of four members of Indonesian armed forces and wounded innocent people of West Papua will not solve the ongoing problem in West Papua, rather, it will be provoke the situation and prolong the conflict with serious consequences. We do not want that the history of East Timor in the post-referendum repeats again in West Papua in the absence of our ignorance.”

“OPM strongly condemns any form of violence because violence will never solve the conflict. In democratic spirit, we must use the existing international institutions to solve this immediate conflict. We call upon the Government of Indonesia to find an appropriate peaceful channels to end this violence and future possibility escalation of new violence”, stated Dr. Ondawame.

Surely the central government of Indonesia must be realistic and wise enough to map out the reasons behind the recent demonstrations occurring in the major urban cities – Port Numbay, Timika and Jakarta, and their demand for closing down Freeport Mine.

As long as the Government of Indonesia does not take the appropriate steps to dialogue with the leadership of OPM, the conflict will likely continue. “Upon good faith we urge the Government of Indonesia with the assistance of a international mediator to open dialogue with our leadership.”

The issue of West Papua is not an internal matter for the Government of Indonesia to resolve given the historical evidence that clearly questions Indonesia’s claim of sovereignty over West Papua. We have to remind the international community in which West Papua came under Indonesian control.

“The root cause of the ongoing conflict has been the violation of the fundamental human rights including the rights to self-determination and independence during what was known as Act of Free Choice in 1969 - 1,025 West Papuan elders were coerced and manipulated into voting unanimously on behalf of some one million West Papuans for inclusion in Indonesia. This Act of “No Choice” has been regarded in the international community as a fraudulent tactic that was used by Indonesia’s military regime to annex West Papua”.

*For more information, please contact OPM Press Secretary Mr. Clinton Lee, +678 42 601*