

# WEST PAPUAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

## Regarding: Request to Free Viktor Yeimo

To: The Head of Police for Papua

In Jayapura,

Shalom,

Through this letter, we, as Pastors who are members of the West Papuan Council of Churches together with all of our congregations, would like to convey two points:

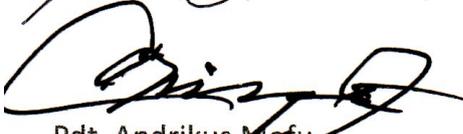
The first is that Viktor Yeimo and other colleagues who have been detained should all be immediately released. The reasons we say this are as follows:

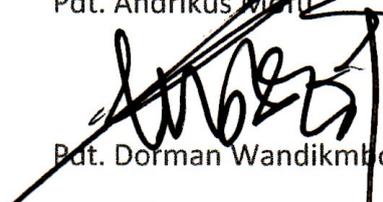
1. The process of arresting Viktor Yeimo and his friends was not carried out according to legal procedures because, when he was arrested the police did not present an arrest warrant and detention order and he was not accompanied by a lawyer.
2. The security forces and others who committed racist utterances in Surabaya (August 2019) received very light sentences while the victims of racism in Papua who speak out about racism are rewarded with between 4 and 7 months imprisonment.
3. From the two incidents above, we think that the Government is turning a blind eye to what the church and civil society consider the main problem or core issue, namely systemic racism against Papuans and marginalization. On the other hand, the government prefers to prioritize the issues of separatism and terrorism.

Therefore, as Church leaders, we call for Viktor Yeimo and his colleagues to be released unconditionally, in accordance with the spirit of Papuan Lives Matter. Thus we write this letter in the framework of carrying out pastoral and prophetic duties as the leadership of the Church.

Jayapura 8 May 2021

  
Pdt Benny Giay (Moderator)

  
Pdt. Andrikus Mefu

  
Pdt. Dorman Wandikmbu

  
Pdt. Socrates Yoman