

## TNI's Mission to Support Welfare and Security in Papua: A Path Towards Lasting Peace and Development

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PAPUA- The Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) are fully committed to realizing welfare development in Papua, in line with Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2020. This directive mandates the TNI to undertake a vital mission encompassing three core pillars: ensuring security, supporting local governments in delivering essential services, and promoting inclusive communication with all stakeholders.

Together, these efforts aim to create a safe and prosperous Papua, despite the persistent threats from the Free Papua Movement (OPM).

Security is the foundation for development. The TNI's deployment in Papua focuses on building a safe environment where residents and stakeholders can work towards the region's growth without fear. "We are here to secure Papua so that development can proceed smoothly. Security is not just about operations it's about enabling the people of Papua to thrive," said Colonel Yogi Nugroho, Commander of the HABEMA Media Task Forces. However, challenges remain, as violent acts by the OPM continue to disrupt progress.

The OPM's actions include intimidation, attacks on civilians, and violent crimes, posing a direct threat to both unarmed residents and security personnel. Among the OPM's most heinous acts was the murder of New Zealand pilot Glen Malcolm Conning on August 5, 2024. Conning, who was working for PT Intan Angkasa Air Service, was brutally killed while assisting with logistics in the region.

"In a swift response, the TNI secured the Alama area the following day and evacuated survivors, including healthcare workers, teachers, and infants purely out of humanitarian duty, without any external request from the New Zealand government or victims' families," said Colonel Yogi.

In addition to maintaining security, the TNI continues to conduct humanitarian missions. One of the most notable operations was the release of Captain Phillip Mark Mehrtens, a Susi Air pilot held hostage by the OPM. His release on September 21, 2024, reflects the TNI's deep commitment to peace and humanitarian values. "These actions demonstrate our responsibility to protect lives and ensure that Papua remains a place of hope and opportunity," Yogi added.

The TNI's mission goes beyond military operations. It serves as a cornerstone in supporting the Indonesian Government's effort to accelerate welfare development. Working in synergy with local governments and communities, the TNI ensures essential services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure reach even the most remote areas of Papua. "We are working hand-in-hand with the people to ensure Papua's future is bright, free from violence, and rich in opportunities for every citizen," Yogi emphasized.

Authenticated by:

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