

Minister of
Foreign Affairs



Ministre des
Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

Ms. April Ingham
Executive Director

MAR 05 2020

Mr. Muavae Va'a
President
Pacific Peoples' Partnership
director@pacificpeoplespartnership.org

Dear Ms. Ingham and Mr. Va'a:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 8, 2019, addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, regarding the situation in Papua, Indonesia. I regret the delay in replying to you.

The Government of Canada remains committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, both at home and abroad, and engages bilaterally and multilaterally to support other governments in fulfilling their international obligations.

While the Government of Canada recognizes and supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia, Canada also hopes to see a peaceful resolution to the ongoing situation in Papua. The government will continue to monitor and raise Canada's concerns with Indonesian officials as appropriate. Canada reviewed Indonesia's human rights performance through the United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review in 2012 and 2017, and provided recommendations specifically pertaining to the strengthening of minority rights, the protection of human rights defenders and accountability for the activities of security forces.

Canada also provides support for initiatives aimed at strengthening inclusive governance in Indonesia. For example, Canada delivers the Advancing Democracy through a Strong and Inclusive Electoral Process project, with the goal of increasing inclusive representation in Indonesian elections. Voices at risk: Canada's guidelines on supporting human rights defenders were issued to better equip Canadian officials at home and abroad to provide effective support for those who stand up for others, including in Indonesia. These guidelines are illustrative of the ongoing steps being taken by Canadian officials in Indonesia to promote the protection of human rights, which includes bilateral advocacy and capacity building.

Please be assured that the Government of Canada will continue to monitor the situation in Papua.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Champagne'.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.

Canada