



## United Nations Universal Periodic Review Recommendations Template

### 1. Issue

*What is the issue of concern (and can you link it to any human rights in the UDHR or specific human rights treaties)?*

#### **BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Human rights abuse by Indonesian Soldiers to local Papua New Guineans who access goods and services in an Indonesian border station of Sota, PNG-Indonesia international border, Morehead LLG, in the South Fly District, Western Province. This is in-line to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### 2. Summary of Information

*Share your story: What are the facts and examples of the issue raised, who is affected (e.g. women, children, men, older people, Indigenous), how many people are affected, how are they affected? Can you reference any supporting research or documents to provide independent evidence?*

PNG shares International border with Indonesia through Western Province and West Sepik province respectively.

Informal border trade has been taking place without any regulations and the lack of full presence of PNG government in particular in Morehead LLG border, South Fly District, Western Province. Local SMEs, villagers and individuals have been frequenting the Indonesian Sota station to access to trade or goods and services as it is very expensive to access similar services in Port Moresby or Daru town for that matter due to costs involved.

Local PNGans have been supplying natural resources such as deer horns, deer penis, wallaby skins, turtle shells, fish maws, live animals or plant species etc...trading with Indonesians for cash and survival as PNG Government has neglected some of the remote villages. Poaching activities are common.

Despite having a patrol post in Weam (Bensback area, Morehead LLG, government presence is lacking as this patrol post isn't staffed by government officers. Thus, this has indirectly encouraged the illegal activities to take place without any control or regulation measures by relevant authorities.

Due to the lack of governments presence in the area to monitor the border, Indonesian military personnel have taken advantage of this situation to abuse Papua New Guineans. The human rights abuses have not been reported. People have succumbed to it and accepted the treatments because there is no other way to access services or to make money through cheap means. Here are some experiences or accounts of human rights abuses:

1. People have been threatened under gun-point to reduce prices of natural resources meant for trade despite the value of the product;
2. People have been subjected to physical abuse: beaten up, stripped off, theft of properties by soldiers, push-ups or any form of unaccepted punishment;
3. In one instance, a villager was forced to eat a live goanna (lizard) which he brought it for sale;

Such continuous abuse has left our people lose their hard-earned resources earmarked for sale or deprived of their rights and fair treatment.

Should UDHR be interested in investigating these abuses, this can be organized to collect more statements from the local people who have become victims of these human rights abuses by Indonesian Soldiers despite obtaining clearance to enter the border through formal passports.

### **3. Recommendations**

*What are your SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) recommendations for the issue raised?*

<https://www.dtp.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/u4/Drafting%20SMART%20Recommendations%20at%20the%20UPR%20with%20video.pdf>

**Recommendations:**

1. PNG Government must establish a border post in this part of the area (Morehead) similar to Wutung border post in West Sepik province to monitor and regulate trade, provide security, and control movement;
2. PNG Government through its ambassadors must raise these concerns during high level talks encouraging close working relations and condemning such abuses along the PNG-Indonesian border.
3. With the COVID 19 pandemic, tighten up our international borders to ensure movement is controlled.