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Media Release

APC condemns the massacre in West Papua

Jakarta, Indonesia--- The Asian Peasants Coalition (APC) strongly condemns the massacre on the eve of the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day in West Papua. Seven senior high school students were brutally massacred by the Indonesian military and police in Enarotali, Paniai district of West Papua on 9th December. The Indonesian military



and police mercilessly opened fire upon a crowd of people, mostly youths and children who were demonstrating against the torture of another 12 year old boy by Indonesian soldiers.

Human rights violation is happening elsewhere in Asia against the peasants struggling for land. This systemic violation of human rights must be stopped.

“The massacre is another way of the government to silence the Papuan people protesting against the mega-project Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate (MIFEE) covering 1.2 million hectares. Aside from MIFEE, the Indonesia government is also protecting big mining company like the *Freeport: Gold Mining* which has been operating in Papua for decades. Impunity reigns in many rural communities that have been heavily militarized to protect their investments”, stated Rahmat Ajiguna, APC deputy secretary general.

“According to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), Filipino farmers asserting for genuine land reform and social change are often subjected to human rights violations and abuse by the Philippine government and state forces. Under President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, more than a thousand activists and leaders of progressive people's organizations have been killed while hundreds remain incarcerated and languishing in jails due to fabricated cases”, added Rahmat, also the secretary general of the Aliansi Gerakan Reforma Agraria (AGRA) based in Indonesia.

We hold liable the Jokowi administration for the killings in West Papua. We demand for the punishment of the local police officer of Paniai District, the head of the regional Police (KAPOLDA) of West Papua and the head of national police of Indonesia (KAPOLRI).

We also call on the Indonesian government to stop the violence against the peasants in Takalar, South Sulawesi and other similar violence in other parts of Indonesia. ##