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TNI's Commitment to Accelerating Welfare Development in Papua Amid Security Challenges

Jurnal Agung - PAPUA.DOI.OR.ID

Feb 2, 2025 - 18:29



PAPUA- The Indonesian Armed Forces (**TNI**) remain steadfast in their commitment to supporting the **Acceleration of Welfare Development in Papua**, as mandated by **Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2020**. This directive outlines three primary missions for the TNI: ensuring **security stability**, assisting the **regional government** in providing essential public services, and fostering **inclusive social communication** with all stakeholders in Papua.

To fulfill this mandate, the **TNI has deployed military task forces** across Papua to safeguard stability and create a conducive environment for development. Ensuring security is crucial, given the persistent threats posed by the **Free Papua Movement (OPM)**, which continues to carry out acts of violence and disruption, obstructing the region's progress.

The OPM has frequently engaged in **intimidation, violence, and even murder**, targeting both **civilians and security personnel**. One of the most heinous acts occurred on **Monday, August 5, 2024**, when **Glen Malcolm Conning**, a New Zealand citizen and helicopter pilot for PT Intan Angkasa Air Service, was brutally murdered by OPM insurgents. The TNI swiftly responded on **August 6**, securing **Alama** and **evacuating the victims**, including health workers, teachers, and even infants, in a **purely humanitarian effort**—without any prior requests from the victims' families or the New Zealand government.

A similar humanitarian mission led to the **successful rescue of Susi Air Pilot Captain Phillip Mark Mehrtens**, who was held hostage by the OPM and liberated on **September 21, 2024**. These actions reaffirm the **TNI's dedication to safeguarding lives and restoring peace in Papua**.

"The TNI and Polri security forces will continue their mission in Papua to maintain security, stability, and ensure that OPM disturbances do not hinder the region's welfare development," stated **Colonel Yogi Nugroho**, Commander of the **HABEMA Media Task Forces**. He emphasized that the **TNI's operations are in direct support of the Indonesian government's program to accelerate development and improve the welfare of Papuans**.

With unwavering dedication, the **TNI remains at the forefront of securing Papua's future**, ensuring that every citizen can live, work, and contribute to the region's sustainable growth without fear of violence or instability.

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