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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	VC-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	OMB-00
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00
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O 101113Z AUG 04
 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1722
 INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
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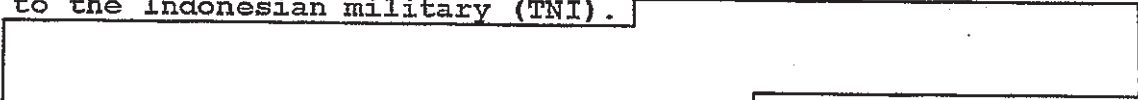
FBI PLS PASS CTD/GAO - DEARDORFF

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/09/2009
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KJUS, MARR, ASEC, ID
 SUBJECT: POLITICAL FALLOUT FROM TIMIKA INVESTIGATION

- REF: A. 03 JAKARTA 13797 (INDONESIAN POLICE COOPERATION WITH FBI)
- B. JAKARTA 7139 (INDONESIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL DISCUSSES CONTROVERSIAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT DECISION)
- C. JAKARTA 7140 (MEGAWATI ON TERRORISM CASES ELECTION AND TIMIKA)

Classified By: Political Officer Henry M. Rector. Reason 1.4 (b,d)

1. (C) Summary. Three well-known Papuan human rights groups publicly accused Attorney General Ashcroft August 4 of "suppressing evidence" linking Antonious Wamang, who was indicted in the August 31, 2002 murder of two U.S. citizens, to the Indonesian military (TNI).



The three human rights groups, as well as other leading Papuans, claim that

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES E LAHIGUERA
 CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 9 AUG 2029
 DATE/CASE ID: 29 MAY 2007 200600513

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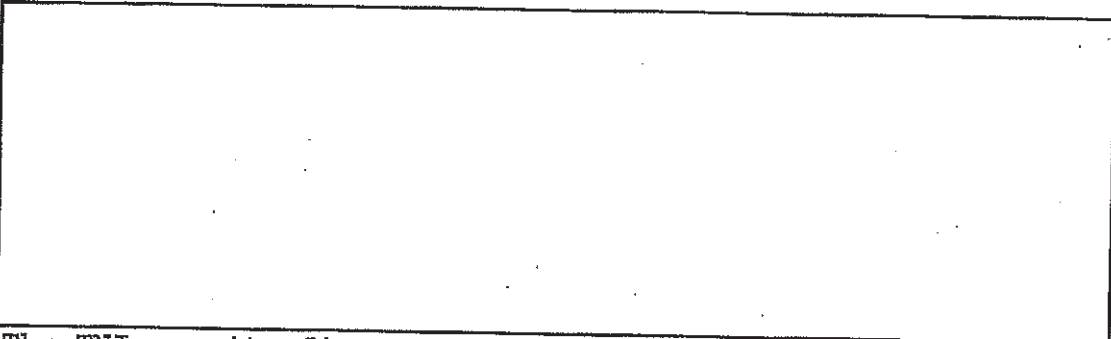
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Wamang cannot get a fair trial in Indonesia, and are urging that he be brought to the U.S. End Summary.

Groups Say Ashcroft Suppressed Evidence

2. (U) On August 4, a coalition of three Papuan human rights groups (ELSHAM, LEMASA, and YAHAMAK) released a joint press release challenging Attorney General Ashcroft's June 24 statement on the findings of the joint U.S.-Indonesian investigation into the August 2002 murders of two U.S. citizens near Timika, Papua. The Papuan groups' press release, a rambling three-page document, charges that Attorney General Ashcroft "suppressed evidence" linking rogue separatist rebel Antonious Wamang, indicted by a U.S. grand jury in the killings, with the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI). The groups allege that Wamang had business ties to the TNI and obtained ammunition from the TNI that he later used in the Timika attack. This allegedly fits the TNI's pattern of "using civilians to stage attacks." The statement also cites former Papuan Police Chief I Made Pastika's 2002 remarks (since retracted, reftel) that he believed the TNI was involved in the attacks. In sum, the groups argue that the TNI was probably behind the Timika killings, and urge the U.S. to "think before it acts" in normalizing military-to-military ties. The groups also urge that Wamang be brought to the United States.

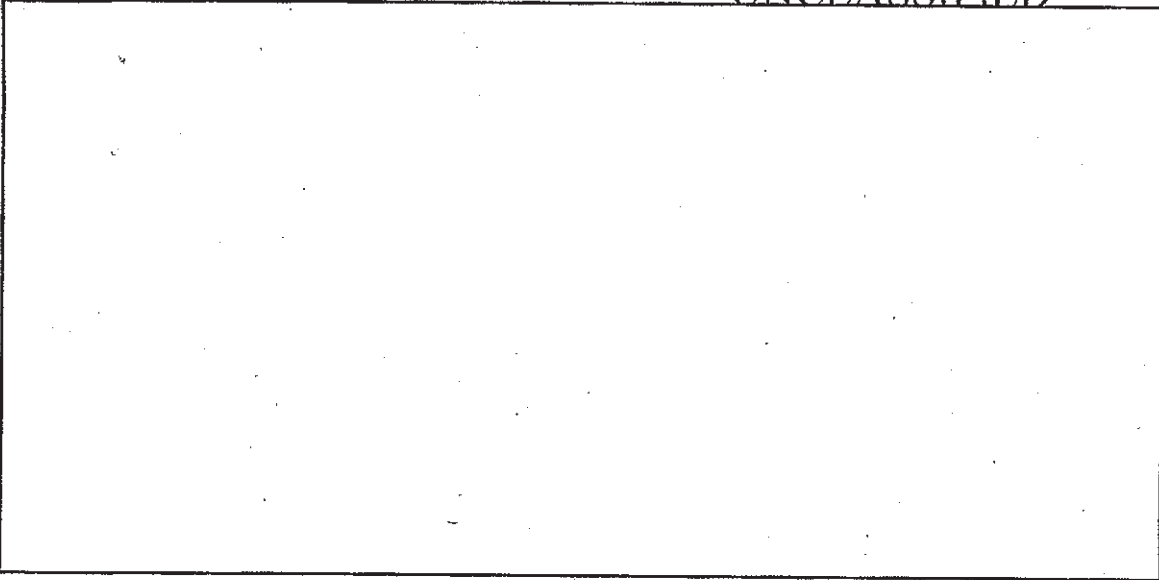
3. (U) The statement appears over the names of four well-known Papuan activists, Dr. Benny Giay, Tom Beanal (president of the Papua Presidium), Mama Josepha Alomang, and John Rumbiak.



The TNI won its first round of its lawsuit against Elsham, which has appealed the judgment. In early July, TNI Commander-in-Chief Sutarto reiterated his determination to see the case through successfully, calling Elsham "traitors" for tarnishing Indonesia's reputation abroad.

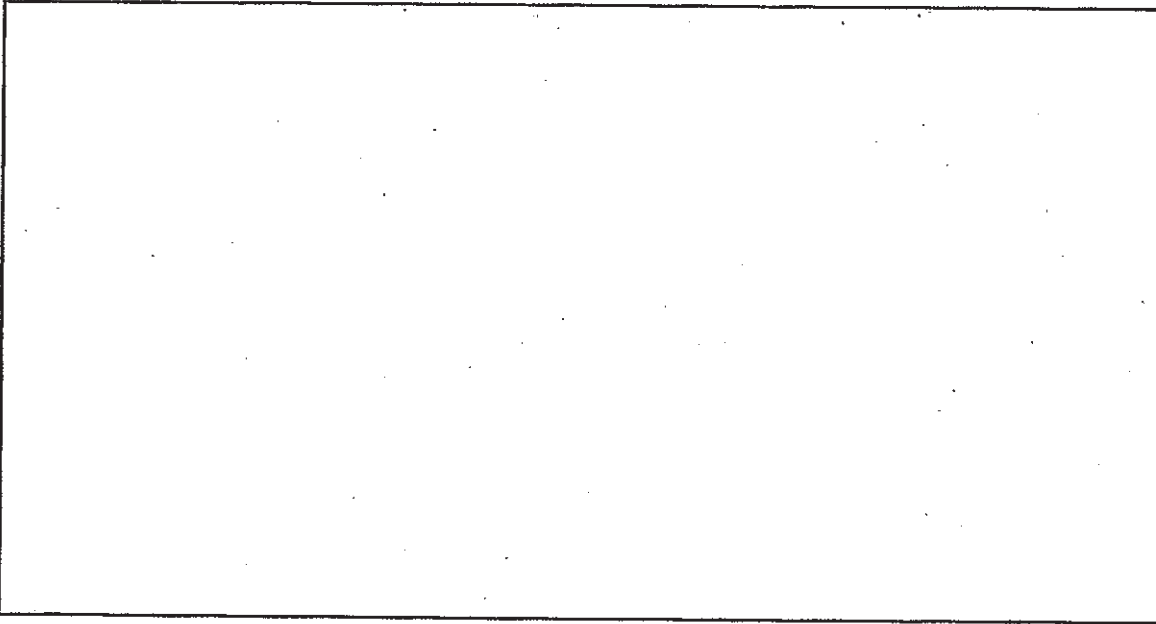
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Try Wamang in U.S.

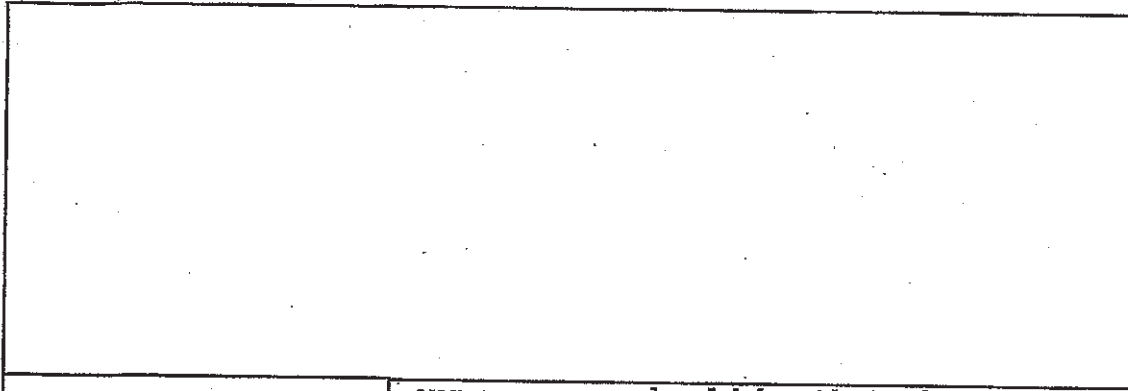
7. (C) The Papuan groups' statement also calls for Wamang, who was indicted by a U.S. Grand Jury in connection with the Timika murders to be "brought safely to the U.S." Wamang himself was quoted in a July 30 August Australian ABC interview admitting his guilt, apologizing, and expressing his desire to be tried in the U.S.



Comment

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[redacted] our message should be that the single U.S. interest is to bring the individual(s) responsible for the murders to justice. This is our line in private discussions with the GOI, in addition to a caution that the GOI should not use the case as a public justification for a crackdown on legitimate Papuan advocacy groups. We will also continue to press Indonesian officials, as we have in recent meetings with Attorney General Rachman and President Megawati (refs B,C) that the Indonesian government needs now to arrest and fairly try Wamang in an Indonesian court.

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