

## TNI: Guardians of Peace and Progress in Papua's Transformation

Jurnalists Agung - [PAPUA.KABARTERBARU.CO.ID](http://PAPUA.KABARTERBARU.CO.ID)

Nov 17, 2024 - 22:41



PAPUA- The Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) continue to spearhead efforts to accelerate welfare development in Papua, guided by Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2020. This mandate empowers the TNI to ensure security, assist local governments in delivering essential services, and foster inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders in the region.

As part of its mission, the TNI has deployed specialized Military Task Forces to

Papua, aiming to stabilize security and create a conducive environment for development. However, these efforts face persistent threats from the Free Papua Movement (OPM), whose acts of violence and intimidation disrupt daily life and the progress of welfare initiatives.

The challenges are immense. In one tragic incident, OPM forces murdered Glen Malcolm Conning, a New Zealand helicopter pilot, on May 8, 2024. Undeterred, TNI swiftly moved to secure the area, evacuating Conning's body alongside health workers, teachers, and even infants all without formal requests, reflecting pure humanitarian commitment.

Similarly, the successful release of Susi Air pilot Captain Phillip Mark Mehrtens on September 21, 2024, underscored the TNI's resolve. "These actions are not only about security but also about humanity and ensuring that Papua remains a safe place for everyone," stated Colonel Yogi Nugroho, Commander of the HABEMA Media Task Forces.

With a mission that transcends traditional military duties, the TNI collaborates closely with local governments to deliver critical services, from healthcare to education. Colonel Yogi emphasized, "Our priority is to ensure Papua remains secure and conducive, allowing welfare development to proceed unimpeded. This is a joint effort with all stakeholders to realize a safe and prosperous Papua."

The TNI's unwavering dedication to peace and development reflects a broader vision of harmony and progress in Papua. By addressing security threats and empowering communities, the TNI demonstrates its role as a transformative force in the region.

For further information, please contact:

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