

# **Investigating Information Operations in West Papua**

**A digital forensic case study of  
cross-platform network analysis**

These findings were made by BBC open source investigator Benjamin Strick and Elise Thomas, a researcher with the International Cyber Policy Centre at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

A bellingcat investigation

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# Introduction

An online influence campaign operated by a startup communications company in Indonesia has been disseminating pro-Indonesian government propaganda material on the issue of West Papua.

The campaign spanned across multiple social media platforms and websites. Facebook and Twitter have removed many of the automated accounts, but others continue to be active and more have been recently created.

[Facebook's announcement on October 4th 2019](#) independently verified the findings of our investigation: That Jakarta-based communications company InsightID was the source of this information operation.

Facebook removed 69 Facebook accounts, 42 Pages and 34 Instagram accounts, some of which had hundreds of thousands of followers. It is clear that significant resources were dedicated to this effort, including the equivalent of around \$300,000 on Facebook ads (paid primarily in Indonesian rupiah) to advertise the material in countries including the Netherlands, US, UK, and Germany. Organic content in the campaign also targeted Australia and New Zealand.

In the course of investigating this campaign we also uncovered a second, smaller, overlapping but separate campaign that was not included in the abovementioned October 4 takedown.

The goal of both campaigns was to influence international opinion about the increasingly violent situation in West Papua, as Indonesian security forces crack down on the local pro-independence movement. The campaigns promote pro-Indonesian sentiment whilst condemning pro-independence forces, in particular the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) and its leader, Benny Wenda.

The InsightID campaign also appears to have included targeted harassment and trolling of prominent pro-independence advocates such as human rights lawyer Veronica Koman and Vanuatuan politician Ralph Regenvanu, as well as of journalists in Australia and New Zealand who have written about West Papua.

## Political Context

Escalating violence in West Papua has made international headlines in 2019. Since July, a [renewed push for independence](#) by West Papuan groups including the ULMWP and unrest triggered by broader [racialised tensions](#) have been met with [increasingly significant force](#) by the Indonesian government. The United Nations has [called on the government of Indonesia](#) to protect the rights of independence activists and protesting students, and warned against the excessive use of force, blocking access to information or preventing freedom of expression.

The Indonesian government has taken significant steps to control the information which reaches the international community about what is taking place in West Papua. This has included intermittently [cutting internet to the region](#) and [preventing foreign journalists, NGOs, UN officials and humanitarian agencies from entering West Papua](#).

Government control over traditional information channels makes social media a crucial source for independent information and news — for example, videos of [Indonesian police shooting student protestors](#).

However, as this research shows, there have been multiple significant attempts to inauthentically manipulate the narrative about the West Papuan conflict on social media in favour of the Indonesian government, including targeting international audiences.

## Methodology

In this investigation we have built on our previously published research [\*Twitter Analysis: Identifying A Pro-Indonesian Propaganda Bot Network\*](#) on the issue of West Papua. We now have evidence to identify the parties directly responsible for these operations.

All of the findings in this report have been made and are supported with open source evidence, using digital forensics to find the trails left behind by the individuals involved. While much of the evidence has been removed by social media platforms and the campaign operators themselves, where possible we have included examples and links to archived copies of websites and social media profiles.

We have investigated two overlapping but independent information campaigns, conducted primarily in English, which appear to be targeting international audiences, with the goal of promoting a pro-Indonesian narrative whilst condemning pro-independence forces.

This includes videos, “news” articles, images with text and comments on websites, Twitter, Facebook, Youtube and Instagram promoting narratives that argue that:

- The Indonesian Government’s role in West Papua is benefiting the people
- West Papuans embrace the Indonesian government and do not support independence
- “Foreign influencers” such as independence leader Benny Wenda and human rights lawyer Veronica Koman are criminals, and that they are driven by shadowy international forces rather than by a genuine desire for independence
- Independence activists are extremists and terrorists
- Foreign media coverage of violence in West Papua is flawed and/or malicious and misrepresents the true situation

The content was primarily promoted through “branded” social media accounts which had professional logos. Each “brand” had associated Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube accounts and standalone websites, presenting themselves as legitimate news platforms.

In some cases, the content presented was factually true but significantly slanted in favour of the Indonesian government’s position. In other cases, the content itself was simply false.

## Why was Veronica Koman arrested following Papua Riots?

40



UN human rights experts have expressed their concern on safety, freedom of expression, and other rights of Veronica Koman, a human rights lawyer. The experts are also concerned about the restriction of freedom of expression of other human rights defenders who are reporting on the alleged violations of human rights in Papua.

However, she's currently being sought by the Indonesian government, not because of her works on human rights issues, but solely based on the case that she allegedly spread hoax that contributed to the unrest in Surabaya and further riots in Papua.

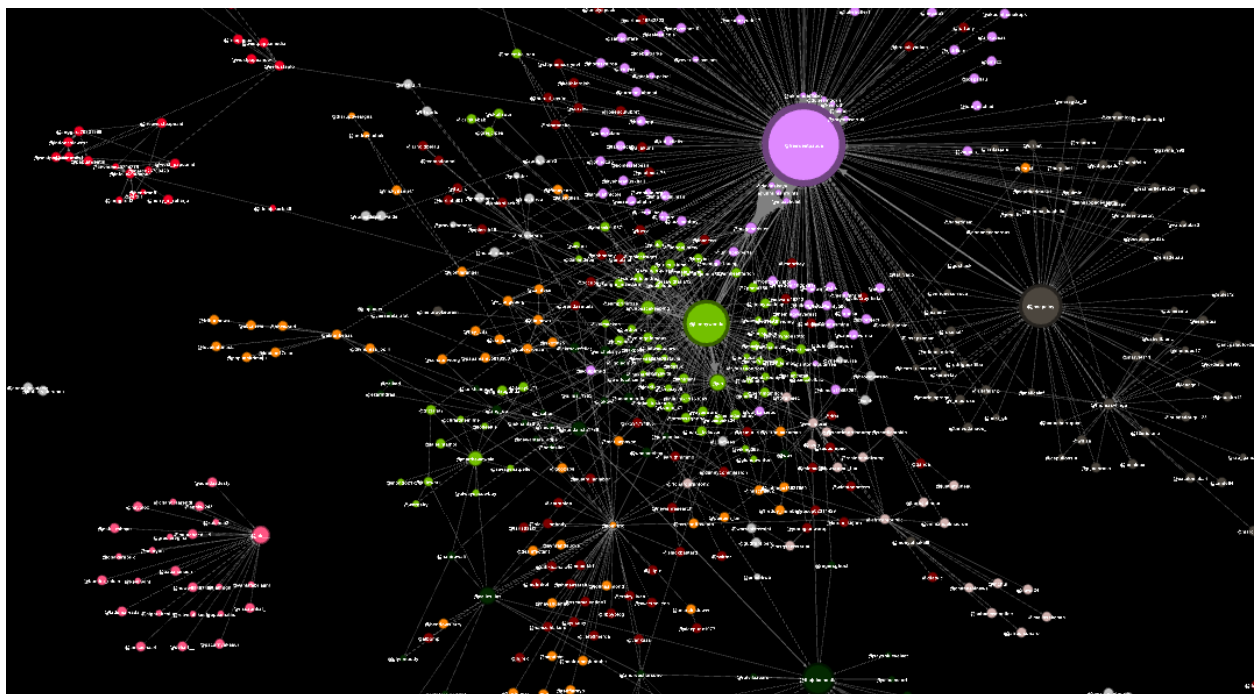
Screenshot of "news" article on infowestpapua.com smearing Veronica Koman, a human rights lawyer who has been targeted by the Indonesian government

This content was spread using various tactics:

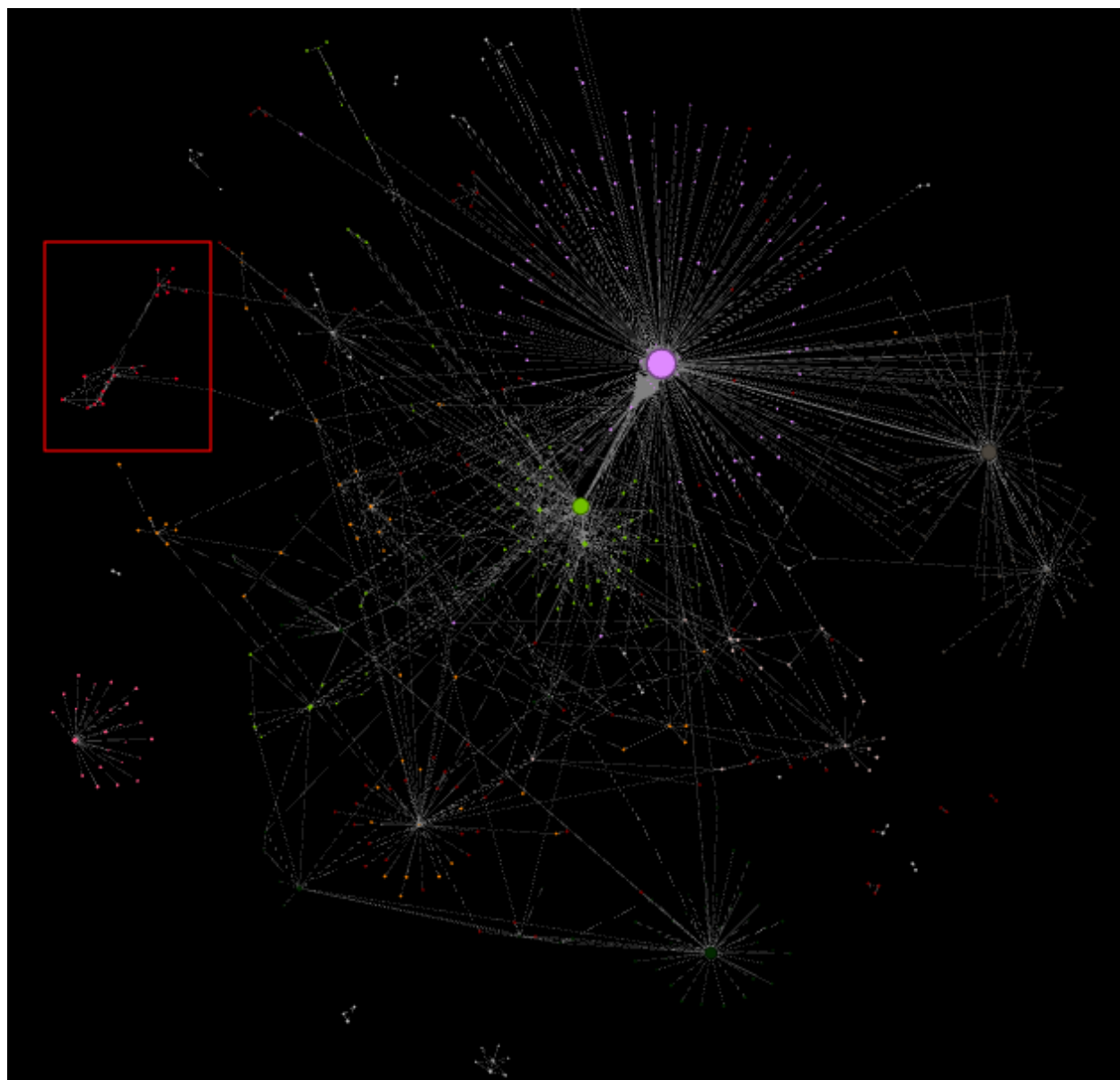
- On Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, the campaigns used hashtags irrelevant to the posts but relevant to current news about West Papua. For example, a video about the financial assistance the Indonesian government is providing with the tags #WestpapuaGenocide and #FreeWestPapua.
- The Twitter accounts used a network of automated and/or inauthentic accounts to spread the material.
- The Instagram accounts had fake followers, making them appear more legitimate.
- The Facebook accounts were running paid advertisements in English, targeting Facebook users in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, the UK and the US.

## Initial Detection And Previously Published Research

The inauthentic behaviour was initially detected by capturing activity on Twitter over five days from August 29th — September 2nd 2019. The activity captured was any media on Twitter using the hashtags #WestPapua and #FreeWestPapua. Those results were published [on Bellingcat](#).



The data captured was used to illustrate and analyse a network of accounts that were posting, liking, retweeting and commenting about those tags. In that analysis, a network of accounts was identified.



Those accounts were posting the material mentioned in the campaign overview. The accounts were identified as bots through three markers:

1. All accounts (except for a small number of “branded” accounts linked to websites that were originating the content) were using fake profile pictures taken from elsewhere on the internet — reverse image searches were used to identify this.



2. Analysis of the accounts' timelines found that the accounts did not interact and were only used for either posting or spreading the content.
3. Many of the accounts were automated. This was identified by scraping the tweets and retweets of the accounts, which found posting patterns which strongly indicate automation.

The accounts on Twitter often linked to or amplified content from related Facebook pages, which had fans ranging from 50,000 to 200,000. For example, the "official" Info West Papua Twitter account would tweet links to posts on the "official" Info West Papua Facebook page, which might in turn be linking back to content posted on the infowestpapua.com site.

The Facebook pages were running paid advertisements targeting European and U.S. audiences, using the same English-language video content that was published by the Twitter accounts and on the websites. Facebook has reported these ads cost around \$300,000, paid primarily in Indonesian rupiah. This confirms (a) that the targets of the information campaign included the international community, and (b) that substantial financial resources were dedicated to this effort. These findings have been previously published by Benjamin Strick on [Medium.com](https://medium.com).

## **Current Research**

Building off the previously published research, we have analysed two case studies of information campaigns which appear to be primarily targeted at influencing international opinion about the situation in West Papua. We have used open source digital forensics to identify the actors behind these campaigns. Our conclusions have since been supported by Facebook and partially confirmed by the actors themselves.

It is important to note that while these campaigns are overlapping in the topics they cover and in presenting pro-Indonesian narratives, we have not found conclusive evidence they are connected.

These are only two streams in the complex deluge of misinformation and disinformation on social media relating to the struggle over West Papuan independence. The existence of multiple overlapping disinformation campaigns is a reflection of the way in which social media has become an increasingly complex and contested battleground for narrative control.

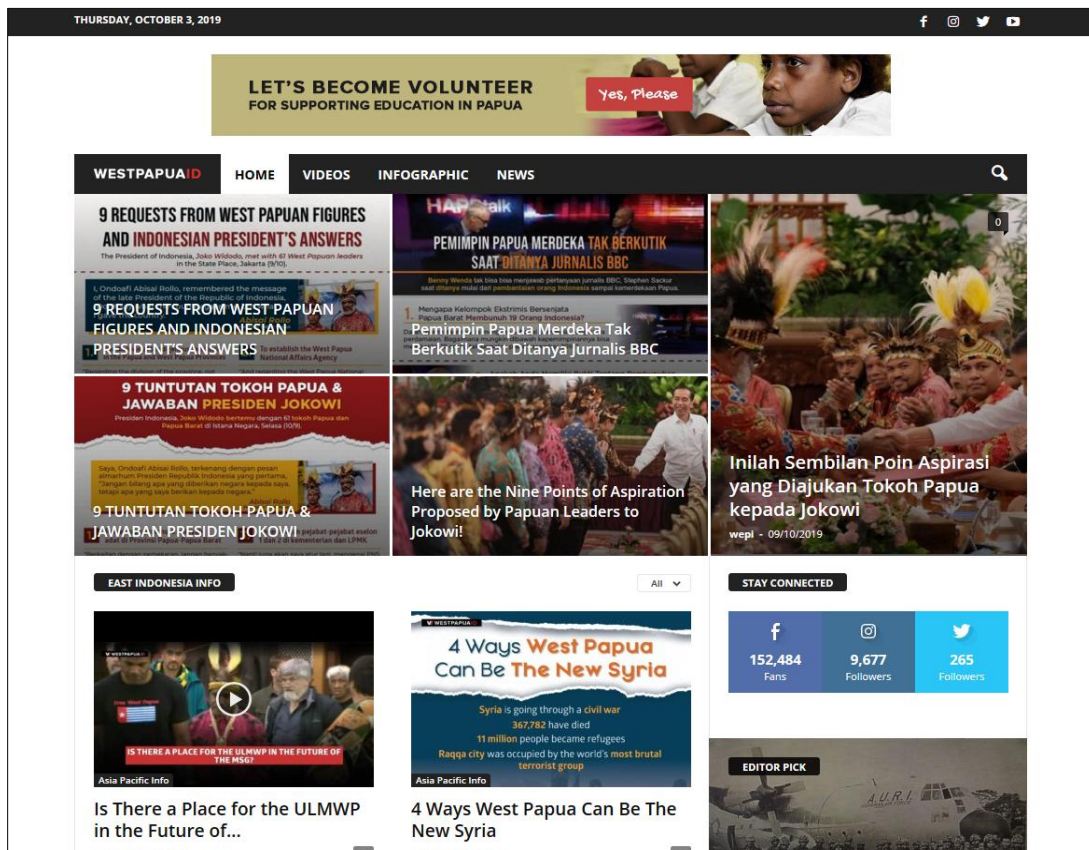
# Propaganda Campaign One: InsightID

## Operation, Tactics, And Branding

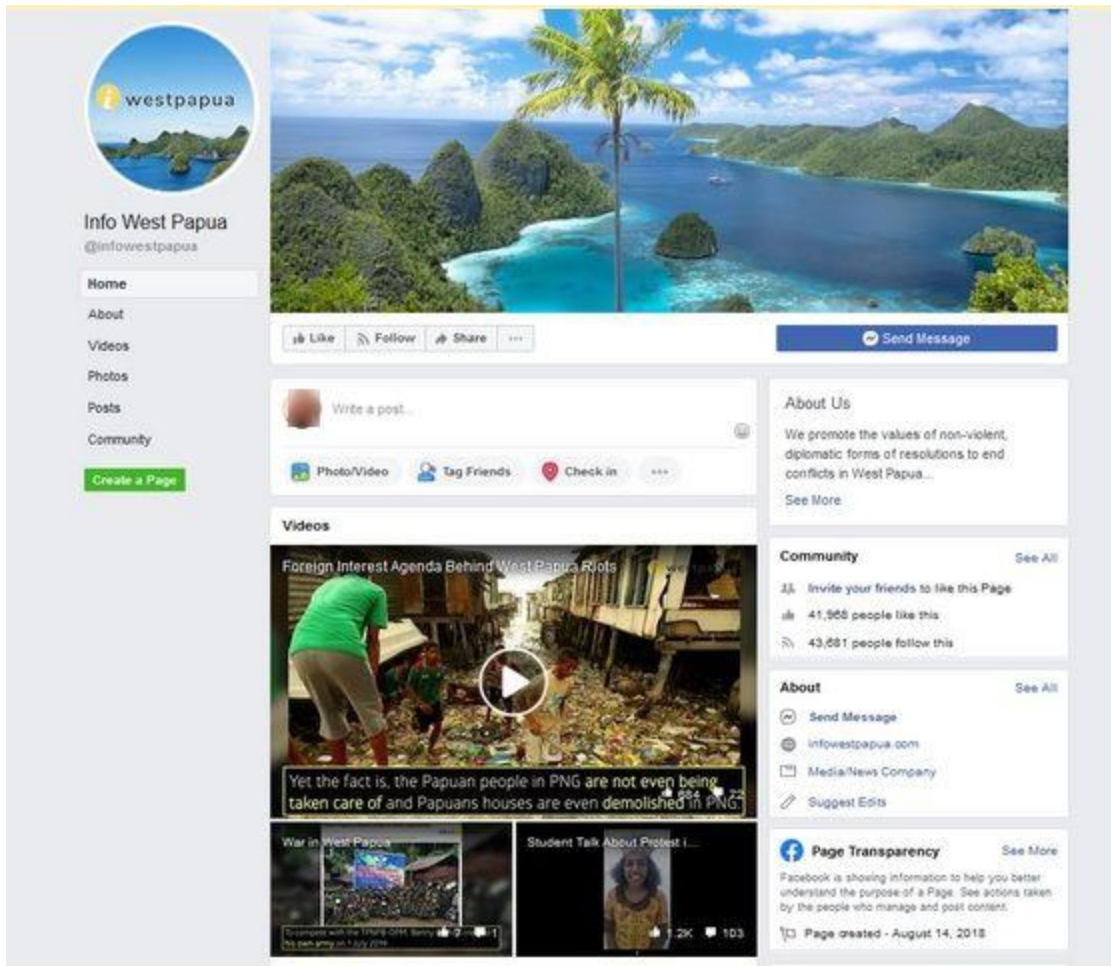
This campaign consists of at least five “brands”, each with its own website, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Instagram accounts. As accounts were suspended by the platforms, particularly on Twitter, new accounts were created or repurposed to replace them. As of October 4th 2019, the five Facebook pages and dozens of inauthentic follower accounts have been removed.

The network operated like this: Content including articles, infographics and videos was posted on the brand websites. The content was then promoted by core branded accounts on Twitter, and amplified by a network of inauthentic and/or automated accounts, as exposed in the [previously published investigation](#).

The content was also shared on the brand’s Facebook pages, in some cases including using paid ads to target Facebook users in the U.S., UK and Europe.



West Papua ID site homepage



Info West Papua Facebook page

**Multiple versions of this ad** 3 of 3

**Warning:** This ad was taken down because it goes against Facebook Advertising Policies.


**West Papua Indonesia**  
Sponsored  
ID: 438247646909209

Papua extremists want to bring West Papua to International Court of Justice (ICJ), claiming that the UN has mistakenly given West Papua to Indonesia. Can they succeed?

#WestPapuaIndonesia #WestPapua #PapuaIndonesia #LovePapua #WestPapuaFreedom #Indonesian #AsiaPacificInfo #EastIndonesia

Ad removed

Video Converter WESTPAPUAID



If sovereignty is lost, there will be no law, the state cannot protect us, and we will live forever in danger of war, fighting for territories.

Can We Bring West Papua to International Court of Justice?

**About the disclaimer**  
When an advertiser categorizes their ad as being about social issues, elections or politics, they are required to disclose who paid for the ad. [Learn more](#)

**Information from the advertiser**

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**About the Page**

**West Papua Indonesia**  
[View more ads from this Page](#)

**More info**  
A media that discusses facts and data about pluralism in West Papua.

**Data About This Ad**

**Inactive**  
May 20, 2019 - May 29, 2019  
ID: 438247646909209

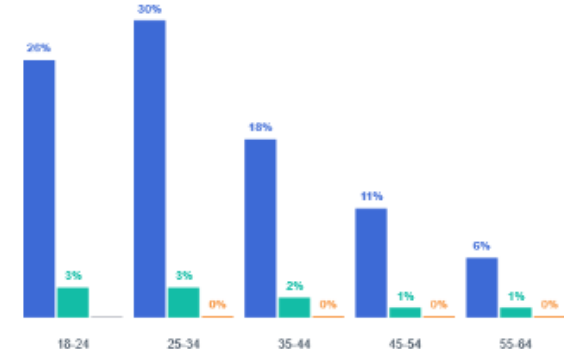
1K - 5K  
Impressions

IDR100K - IDR200K  
Money spent (IDR)

**Who Was Shown This Ad**


**Age and Gender**

Men Women Unknown



Age Group	Men	Women	Unknown
18-24	26%	3%	0%
25-34	30%	3%	0%
35-44	18%	2%	0%
45-54	11%	1%	0%
55-64	6%	1%	0%

**Where This Ad Was Shown**



Region	Percentage
South Holland	26%
North Holland	19%
North Brabant	12%
Gelderland	9%
Limburg	7%
Overijssel	6%
Utrecht	4%
Groningen	3%
Drenthe	2%
Friesland	2%
Zeeland	2%
Flevoland	1%

West Papua ID Facebook ad which was targeted at Facebook users in the Netherlands



Papua Pacific Forum  
@PapuaForum



Should Australia support West Papua Separatist?  
#FreeWestPapua #PapuaDamai #PapuaIndonesia  
@mbachelet @antonioguterres @OHCHRAsia  
@OHCHR\_Pacific @FijiPM @FijiAG @CommsFWCC  
@SEEP\_Fiji @RRegenvanu @v\_langeberg @JGBLades  
@FWRM1 @PadreJB @ForumSEC @UNHumanRights

**WESTPAPUA ID** **Should Australia Support West Papua Separation?**

**Is Australia assisting human rights abuses by military training?**  
No. Australian Defence Educational Learning Environment (ADELE) isn't exclusive to Indonesia, but a global program including UN Peacekeeping.

**Is Australian aid working?**  
Yes. \$300+ million of annual aid is making \$1.6 billion of impact, in form of electricity for Papuans and tackling Extreme Islamism.

**Is Australia supporting environmental destruction?**  
No. With Indonesian program (with WWF and Conservation International), deforestation is being reduced to 80% in 2020.

**Is Australia supporting neo-colonization?**  
No. Australia respects UN Decolonization list, because supporting a separation means breaking up a community, economy, and changing the lives of many people. Western Australia and Tasmania also have this problem.

**Is West Papua closed for foreign journalists and diplomatic visit?**  
No. Hamish Fitzsimmons, Alex Hatton, and 10 times UN review visits (2018, '17, '13, etc.) are some of the visits done by Australian figures.

4:23 AM · Oct 3, 2019 · Twitter for Android

Tweet from account promoting West Papua ID branded content

The campaign is clearly aimed at influencing international perceptions. In the example above, Australian audiences are explicitly being targeted.

The tweets also tag Australian and New Zealand journalists, Fijian and Vanuatuan officials, UN officials and UN institutions.

## **Impersonation And Opposition Hashtag Targeting**

One of the tactics apparent on Twitter and Facebook is the targeting of “opposition” hashtags such as #FreeWestPapua. The goal of this is likely to be to influence those following the hashtag and/or to simply flood it with pro-Indonesian and anti-independence content.

A similarly misleading approach has been used in the names and profile pictures of some of the accounts. For example, the Twitter account @WestPapuaFreed2 (@WestPapuaFreed, which was also part of the campaign, was earlier suspended by Twitter) presents itself as a pro-independence account, but is in fact promoting the same anti-independence, pro-Indonesian content as the rest of the campaign.

← **Tweet**



**West papua Freedom**  
@WestpapuaFreed2



The Extremist Group (ULMWP) has strong allegation for the fabrication of the riots in Jayapura and Wamena (11/22).

The riot was intentionally planned the day before the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York (11/23) to attract attention. #papua #westpapua #freewestpapua



7:33 PM · Oct 2, 2019 · [Twitter for Android](#)

**8** Likes

@WestPapuaFreed2 tweet accusing pro-independence group ULMWP of being extremists and fabricating riots

Another tactic is typosquatting on pro-independence Twitter accounts. Typosquatting is a term for using misspelled versions of an already existing account to target audiences that may have made a typo in their search.

For example, the Twitter account @WestPapuaMedia is an established pro-independence news account. On October 1st, 2019, the same day [Vanuatu's leaders condemned the actions of Indonesian authorities in West Papua at the UN General Assembly](#), the account @WestPapuaMedia became active (the creation date for this account is November 2011, but its earliest remaining tweet is October 1st and the account's handle is likely to have been changed on the same date) and began promoting content bearing its own logo.



Screenshot of established pro-independence account @WestPapuaMedia as of October 6th 2019



← **West Papua Media**  
9 Tweets

# WEST PAPUA

## MEDIA



**WEST PAPUA**  
MEDIA

⋮
Follow

**West Papua Media**  
@WestPapuaaMedia  
Joined November 2011  
17 Following 10 Followers  
Not followed by anyone you're following

Tweets
Tweets & replies
Media
Likes



**West Papua Media** @WestPapuaaMedia · Oct 1

Joko Widodo menyampaikan dukacita yang mendalam atas 33 korban jiwa dari warga sipil, aparat keamanan, dan dokter yang disebabkan oleh demo anarkis yang dikendalikan oleh kelompok ekstremis Papua di Wamena dan Jayapura, Papua (23/9). #papua #westpapua #freewestpapua

⌵



0:44 160 views

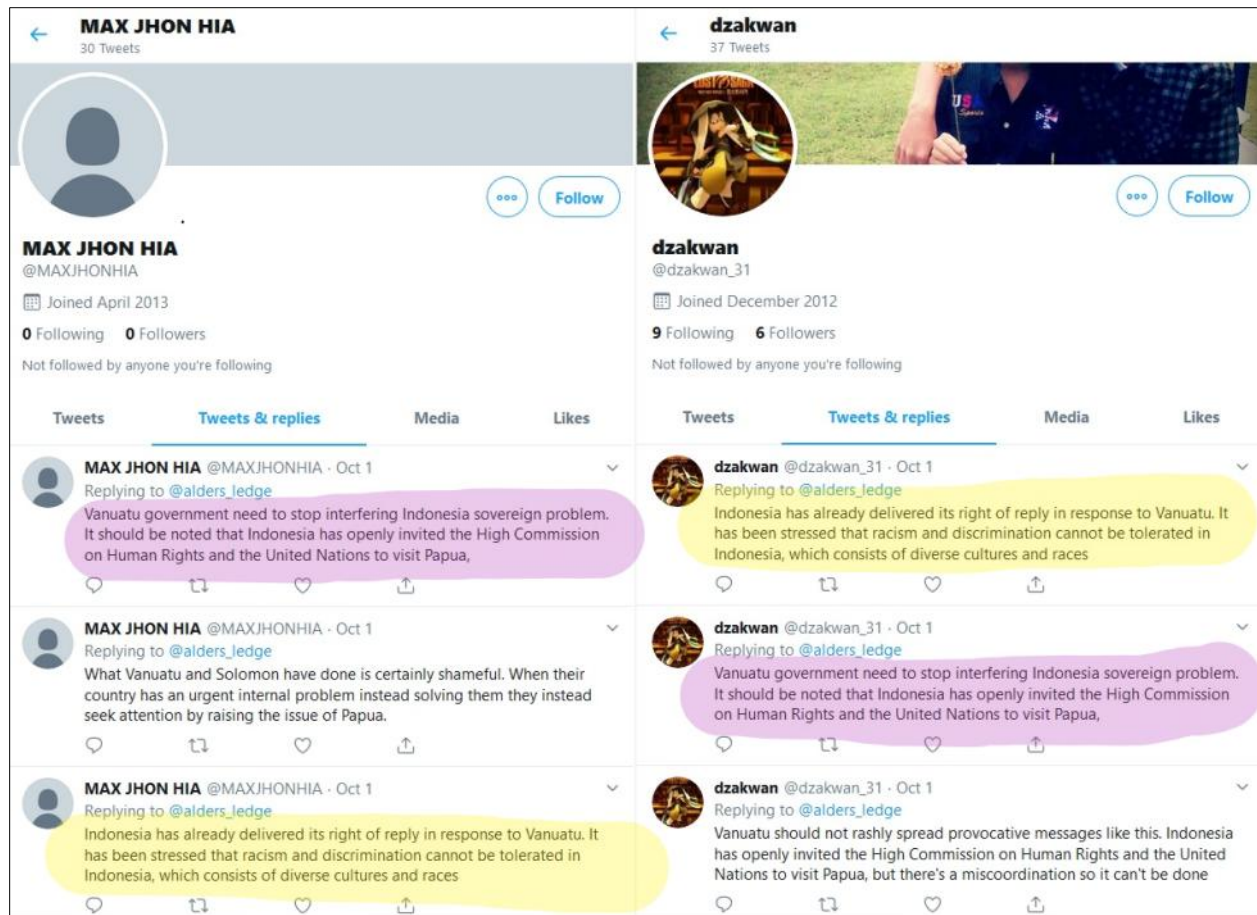
1
7
20
↑

Screenshot of @WestPapuaaMedia timeline as of October 6th 2019

## Coordinated Harassment

In addition to operating the brands, there are indications this campaign is also using Twitter accounts to actively harass journalists covering news about West Papua, as well as political leaders, activists and others who have publicly supported West Papuan independence or reporting which contradicts the Indonesian government's line on the situation in West Papua.

We have confirmed that the accounts involved in this harassment are part of the same disinformation campaign, as discussed below.



Example of multiple Twitter accounts repeating identical content in reply to different tweets from organisations, journalists and political leaders.

Note the stray comma at the end of both tweets highlighted in purple. This suggests this tweet was either typed once and automatically posted across multiple accounts, or was copied from a single source.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that these accounts are likely to be part of the same campaign because, in addition to their automated posts, they also frequently like, follow and retweet branded content. Some of the harassment accounts have even been repurposed into branded accounts themselves, for example @WestPapuaaMedia:



Multiple Twitter accounts repeating identical content in reply to different tweets from organisations, journalists and political leaders

## SEO Tactics

There is evidence of attempts at search engine optimisation (SEO). This is common practice for online marketing, where SEO is a term used for a range of techniques used to manipulate Google's search algorithm to get a website higher in Google's rankings for specific keywords. This means that when users search for a particular term, for instance "West Papua", sites with good SEO will appear amongst the first results and therefore be more likely to be clicked on.

One SEO tactic in this campaign used a bot with the website's domain as its username to comment on dozens of completely unrelated blogs and websites.

[Arcimboldo en el Museo de Bellas Artes - congresoscoi.es ...](#)  
<https://congresoscoi.es> > [valladolid](#) > [arcimboldo-en-el-museo-de-bellas-artes...](#)  
**Westpapuaindonesia.com**. enero 15, 2019 7:16 am. Hiya, I am really glad I've found this info. Today bloggers publish just about gossip and web stuff and this is ...

[KIDS CAR - Magneto The Mall](#)  
[www.magnetothemall.com](http://www.magnetothemall.com) > [product](#) > [kids-car](#)  
**Westpapuaindonesia.com** – January 15, 2019. Awesome write-up. I'm a normal visitor of your site and appreciate you taking the time to maintain the excellent ...

[edu4 | State Sustainability Index](#)  
[statesustainabilityindex.com](http://statesustainabilityindex.com) > [education-sub-indicator](#) > [edu4](#)  
**WestPapuaIndonesia.com** // January 15, 2019 at 3:29 am // Reply. Hiya, I am really glad I've found this info. Nowadays bloggers publish only about gossip and ...

[Transformation of thicket to savanna reduces soil quality in the ...](#)  
[c4es.co.za](http://c4es.co.za) > [transformation-of-thicket-to-savanna-reduces-soil-quality-in-the...](#)  
**WestPapuaIndonesia.com** says: 15 Jan, 2019 at 6:36 am. Awesome post. I'm a regular visitor of your blog and appreciate you taking the time to maintain the ...

[Camino – ImageMagica](#)  
[imagemagica.org](http://imagemagica.org) > [project](#) > [camino](#)  
Sep 7, 2016 - **WestPapuaIndonesia.com** disse: 15 de janeiro de 2019 às 03:20 03Tue, 15 Jan 2019 03:20:35 +000035. Awesome write-up. I am a normal ...

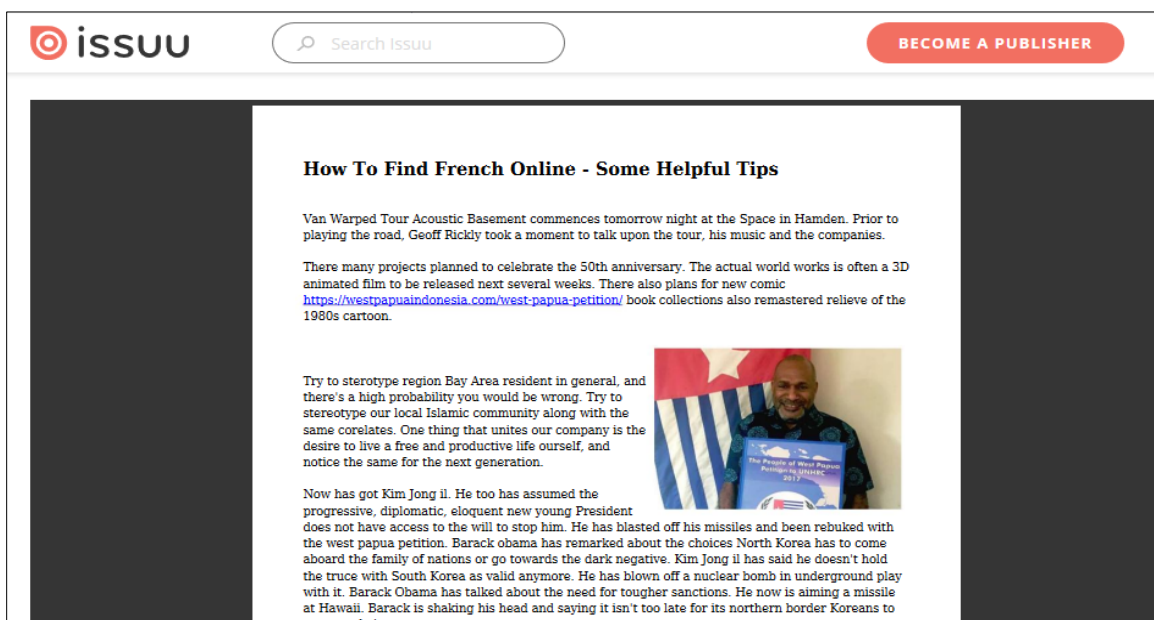
Screenshot of Google search results showing search engine optimisation tactics

Another tactic appears to have been including the domain in articles which bear little if any relevance to the content of the site. These articles appear on blogs with equally little connection to West Papua. This is likely to be a paid service provided by the owners of these blogs.



Screenshot of blog post including West Papua ID domain name in text

The domain has also been inserted into what appear to be automatically generated "articles" which are then published on file-sharing websites like Scribd and Issuu.



Screenshot of automatically generated article uploaded to file-sharing site Issuu, containing West Papua ID domain

The goal of these efforts is to trick the Google search algorithm into thinking that the domain (in this case westpapuaindonesia.com) is more significant and legitimate because it is being linked to and referenced frequently. This in turn may lead to the site being ranked more highly in search results.

## Identification And Attribution

Our initial focus was to expand on the earlier research by digging deeper into the accounts and inauthentic activity uncovered during that project.

With additional research, we have found evidence implicating a Jakarta-based communications and social media consultancy, InsightID, as the source of this information campaign. This has since been independently [confirmed by Facebook](#).

In our investigation, we relied on open source digital forensics to identify the actors responsible for the campaign. One of the largest brands evident in the previously analysed bot network is West Papua ID, which (in addition to now-suspended social media accounts) is linked to the domain westpapuaindonesia.com.

This and four other domains relating to West Papua were registered using the same fake name, Westi Pearly (the initials seem unlikely to be a coincidence) and Gmail address.

List of domain names registered by **Westi Pearly**

Domain Name	Creation Date	Registrar
<a href="#">papuawest.com</a>	2018-08-02	webnic.cc
<a href="#">inipapua.com</a>	2018-07-31	webnic.cc
<a href="#">westpapuaindonesia.com</a>	2018-08-02	webnic.cc
<a href="#">infowestpapua.com</a>	2018-08-02	webnic.cc
<a href="#">freewestpapuacampaign.com</a>	2018-08-02	webnic.cc

Screenshot of domains registered by "Westi Pearly"

**Domain**

Domain: [redacted]nesia.com

Words in: [redacted]

Title: [redacted]

Date creation: [redacted]

Web age: [redacted]

IP Address: 104.28.2.195  
[104.28.2.195 abuse reports](#)

IP Geolocation: United States [map](#)

**Registrant** from last whois record

Name: [Westi Pearly](#) is associated with 4 domains

Organization: [Personal](#) is associated with 100+ domains

Email: [westi.pearly@gmail.com](mailto:westi.pearly@gmail.com) is associated with 4 domains

Address: Jakarta

City: Jakarta Selatan [map](#)

State: DKI Jakarta

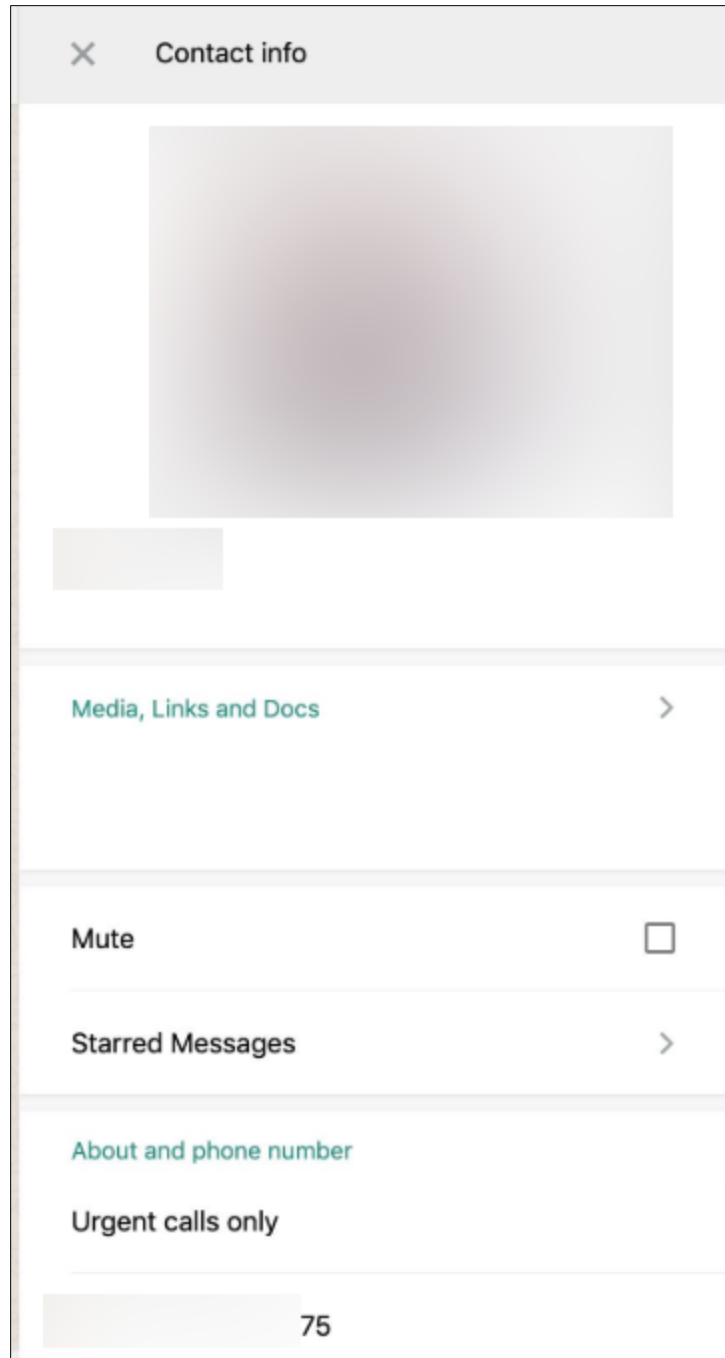
Country: Indonesia

Phone: [redacted] 75

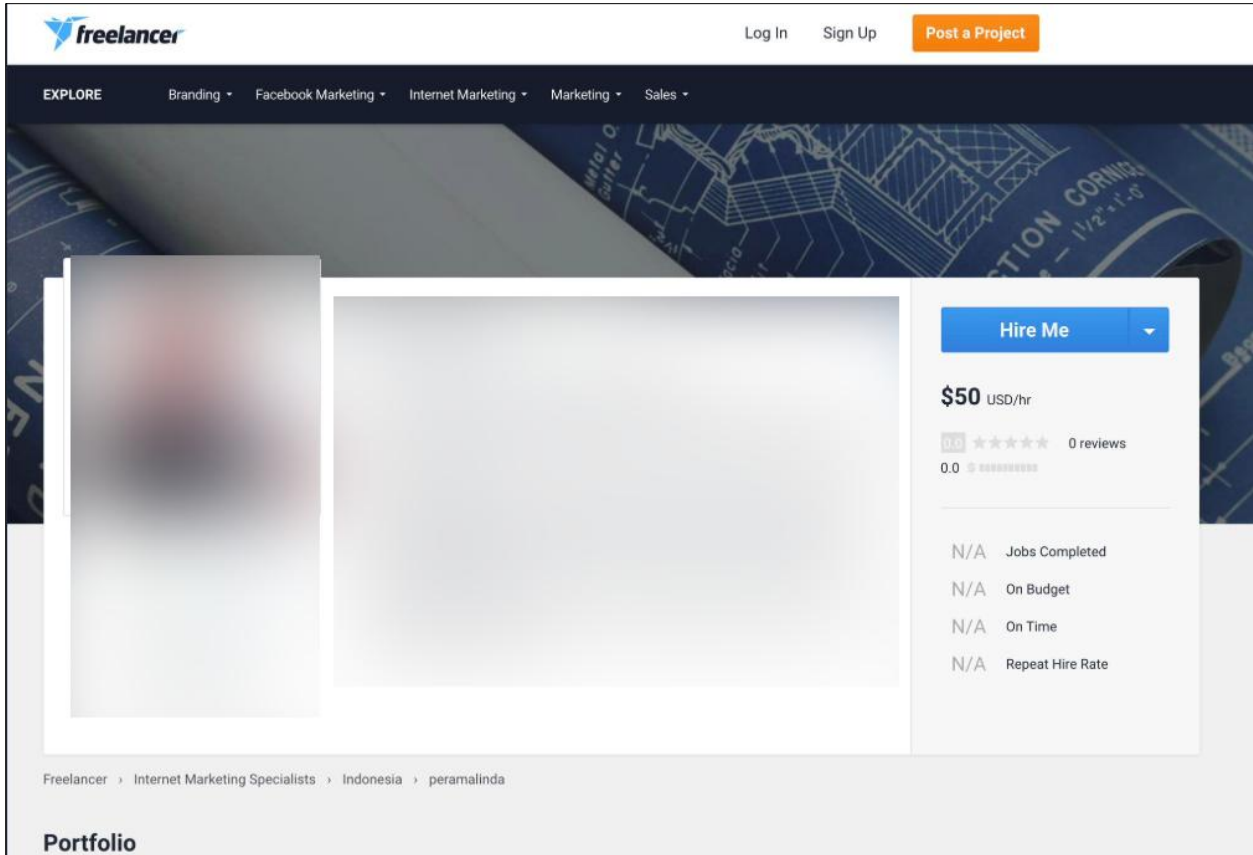
Private: no

Screenshot of one of the domains registered by "Westi Pearly"

The phone number, however, was not fake. Using WhatsApp in combination with Yandex reverse image search, we were able to connect that phone number to the Freelancer profile, personal Facebook page and LinkedIn account of one of InsightID's employees.

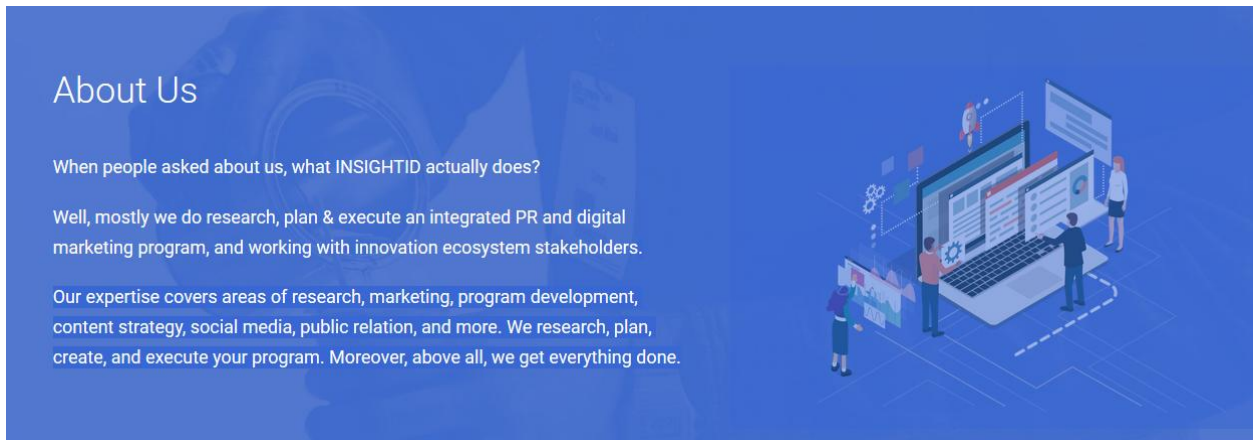






On its website (which was taken down, apparently by InsightID themselves, after the public identification by Facebook), InsightID said its services include “integrated PR and digital marketing program[s].”

An archived version of InsightID’s site can be viewed [here](#).



Screenshot of the “About Us” section of InsightID’s website

One of the projects listed on InsightID's company site is the "Papua Program Development Initiative", which "examines Papua [sic] rapid socio-economic development and explores its challenges." In addition, a number of current and former InsightID employees have listed the Papua Program Development Initiative in their LinkedIn profiles.

In her LinkedIn profile, an InsightID employee describes her work as:

*"Insight ID is a communication & program agency that handles several projects.*

*As for me, I was assigned to be Content Writer for Papua Program Development Initiative Project and Study in Indonesia Project, my responsibilities were:*

- Producing video contents regarding local and international issues*
- Creating copy for the design team*
- Translating contents from EN-ID and vice versa*
- Analyzing social media report*

*Some of my works can be seen on:*

- 1. Study in Indonesia (Instagram & Facebook)*
- 2. West Papuan (Instagram, Facebook, Website)"*

The rest of the staff at InsightID includes Facebook Ads analysts, "digital cyber" specialists, writers and project managers. All of these profiles could be viewed on LinkedIn, although some employees may now have removed or be in the process of removing their profiles.

This is of course not different from most communications consultancies — the difference between an information operation and marketing is the intention to deceive audiences for political purposes, but the core skills required are the same.

InsightID appears to recruit a large number of short-term interns as content writers. They specifically look for interns with an interest in international relations, as well as with basic English skills.

**insight id**

We're On The Look-Out **Internship** For:

# 9DIGITAL CYBER TEAM

InsightID is a strategic communication agency based in Jakarta ([www.insightid.org](http://www.insightid.org)) working on a range of research, marketing, program development, content strategy, social media, and public relation projects.



**If You Are/Have:**

1. Interested in international issues (preferably majored in International Relations or Communication)
2. Has basic understanding of English
3. Has no anxiety over deadlines and work pressures
4. Willing to intern for 3 months (full time: monday - friday)

Send your CV and portfolio to:

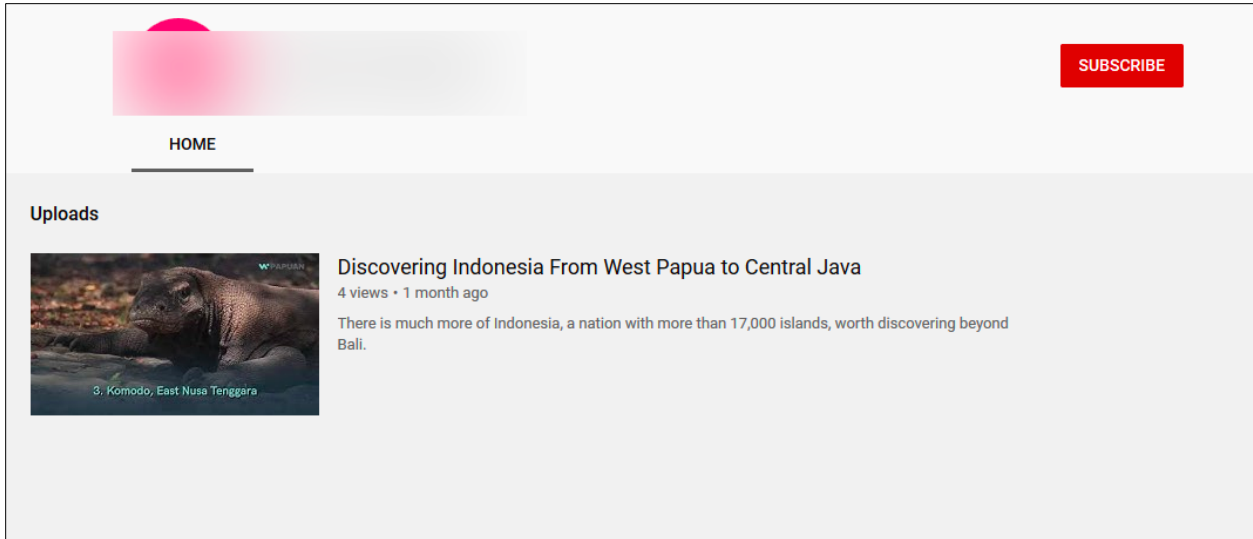
[rizky.afif@insightid.org](mailto:rizky.afif@insightid.org)

Email subject : internship\_Cyber

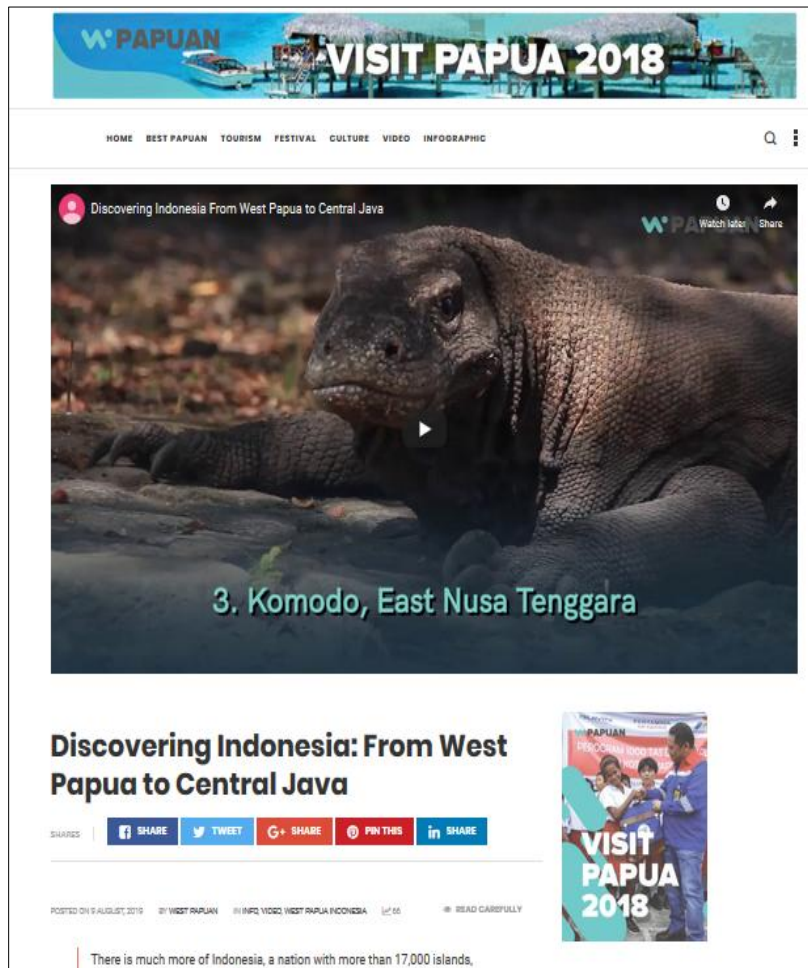
Screenshot of advertisement for internship with InsightID

A number of additional points indicate InsightID’s responsibility for the information campaign.

According to one of the employees’ LinkedIn profile, they were a “Facebook Ads Analys” at InsightID. The employee created a Youtube account in their own name with one video relating to West Papua. This video is embedded in the [westpapuan.org](http://westpapuan.org) site, which we have identified as one of the “fake news” sites.



Screenshot of Youtube account registered in InsightID employee's name



Screenshot of westpapuan.org showing same Youtube video embedded

Westpapuan.org was not registered using the same fake details as the other domains identified, but we can confirm that westpapuan.org is part of the same campaign as the sites registered by Westi Pearly because they all use the same Google Analytics tracking code. The Google Analytics tracking code can be seen below embedded in the source code of westpapuan.org and infowestpapua.com. This means that the same Google Analytics account was being used to track visitors to both sites.

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html><html>
2 lang=en-US xmlns:og=http://opengraphprotocol.org/schema/ xmlns:fb=http://www.facebook.com/2008/fbml><head><script async src="https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtag/js?id=UA-123895448-4"></script>
3 gtag('js',new Date());gtag('config',{'UA-123895448-4'});</script><script>function(f,b,e,v,n,t,s)
4 {if(!f._fbq)return:f._fbq=function(){(n.callMethod?n.callMethod.apply(n,arguments):n.queue.push(arguments))};if(!f._fbq)f._fbq=n;n.push=n;n.loaded=!0;n.version='2.0';n.queue=[];t=b.createElement(e);t.a
5 rch=document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0];t.parentNode.insertBefore(t,n)}(window,document,'https://pixel.wp.com/gtag.gif?base64,R0lGODlhAQABAIAACHSBAEKAAEALAAAAABAAEAAICTAEAOw==')</noscript></noscript><meta
7 height=1 width=1 style=display:none
8 src="https://www.facebook.com/tr?id=2025350324166054&ev=PageView&noscript=1"></noscript></noscript><meta
9 charset=UTF-8><meta
10 name=viewport content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1"><meta
11 http-equiv=X-UA-Compatible content="IE=edge"><link
12 rel=stylesheet id=wp_ogp_optimized_fonts href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Poppins&320&4200&42C30&42C30&42C40&42C40&42C50&42C50&42C60&42C60&42C70&42C70&42C80&42C80&42C90&42C90"
13 rel=pingback href="https://westpapuan.org/xmlrpc.php"><meta
14 name=keywords content="west papua,west papua genocide,west papua flag,west papua genocide 2019,free west papua campaign,west papua merdeka,papua merdeka,papua merdeka tahun 2019,
15 type=text/css media=all href="https://westpapuan.org/wp-content/cache/autoptimiz/css/autoptimiz_12c89331562b99d85cf3b6168c90c9b.css" rel=stylesheet<title>West Papuan | West Papua Indonesia News
16 name=description content="West Papuan | West Papua Indonesia News"><link
17 rel=canonical href="https://westpapuan.org"><link
18 rel=next href="https://westpapuan.org/page/2"><meta
19 property=og:locale content=en_US><meta
```

Screenshot of source code for westpapuan.org showing Google Analytics tracking code

```
...
ock_big_grid_6 .td-tiny-thumb .entry-title,
ock_big_grid_7 .td-tiny-thumb .entry-title(font-weight:500).post header .entry-title(font-family:Montserrat;font-weight:500)td-post-template=5 header .entry-title(font-size:40px;line-height:46px;font-weight:
blockquote p,
st-text-content blockquote
-family:Montserrat;font-size:24px;line-height:28px)td_block_related_posts .entry-title(font-family:Montserrat;font-weight:500)@media (min-width: 768px){.td-main-menu-logo img,.sf-menu).td-men
-height:50px)}.td-main-menu-logo(height:50px).td-footer-container::before(background-image:url("https://infowestpapua.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/10.jpg")).td-footer-container::before(backg
wsmag-voice .td-subcategory-header .td-category a:hover,
wsmag-voice .td_block_5 .block-title span:after(background-color:#ffd3f3)</style><script async src="https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtag/js?id=UA-123895448-3"></script><script>window.
ja',new Date());gtag('config',{'UA-123895448-3'});</script><script>function(f,b,e,v,n,t,s)
fbq)return:f._fbq=function(){(n.callMethod?n.callMethod.apply(n,arguments):n.queue.push(arguments))};if(!f._fbq)f._fbq=n;n.push=n;n.loaded=!0;n.version='2.0';n.queue=[];t=b.createElement(e);t.a
=1 width=1 style=display:none
tps://www.facebook.com/tr?id=912796742252801&ev=PageView&noscript=1"></noscript></head><body
"home page-template= default page page-id=26 global-block-template=1 td-news-mag-voice white-menu td-animation-stack-type=0 td-boxed-layout" itemscope=itemscope itemType="https://schema.org/WebPag
td-scroll-up><i
td-icon-menu-up</i></div><div
td-menu-background</div><div
mobile-nav><div
td-mobile-container><div
td-menu-socials-wrap><div
td-menu-socials>
td-social-icon-wrap>
=blank href="https://www.facebook.com/infowestpapua" title=Facebook>
"td-icon-font td-icon-facebook"></i>
>
```

Screenshot of source code for infowestpapua.com showing same Google Analytics tracking code

Even more significantly, however, InsightID's co-founder used his company email address to register 14 domains on the same day, almost all of which clearly relate directly to West Papua.

🔍 List of domain names registered by [abdul@insightid.org](mailto:abdul@insightid.org)

Domain Name	Creation Date	Registrar
<a href="http://survivalwestpapua.com">survivalwestpapua.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauagenocide.com">westpauagenocide.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://papuabaratnews.com">papuabaratnews.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://asiapacificreports.com">asiapacificreports.com</a>	2018-09-04	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauavideo.com">westpauavideo.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauamerdeka.com">westpauamerdeka.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpualiberationarmy.com">westpualiberationarmy.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauainfrastructure.com">westpauainfrastructure.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauaindependence.com">westpauaindependence.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauafreedom.com">westpauafreedom.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauaflag.com">westpauaflag.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauafact.com">westpauafact.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauaconflict.com">westpauaconflict.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc
<a href="http://westpauacampaign.com">westpauacampaign.com</a>	2018-08-06	webnic.cc

Screenshot of Whois record of domains registered by [abdul@insightid.org](mailto:abdul@insightid.org), the company email address belonging to InsightID's co-founder.

Registering domains which would be obvious possible domains for independence supporters such as [westpauafreedom.com](http://westpauafreedom.com) and [westpauagenocide.com](http://westpauagenocide.com) echoes the oppositional hashtag use and impersonation tactics seen on social media, as mentioned above.

A small but interesting detail is the intersection of InsightID's different campaigns for different clients. One of the puzzling aspects of the information campaign on Twitter was the prevalence of former K-pop spam bots amongst the accounts. K-pop spam bots are very common on Twitter, but in this campaign they played an even more dominant role than usual.

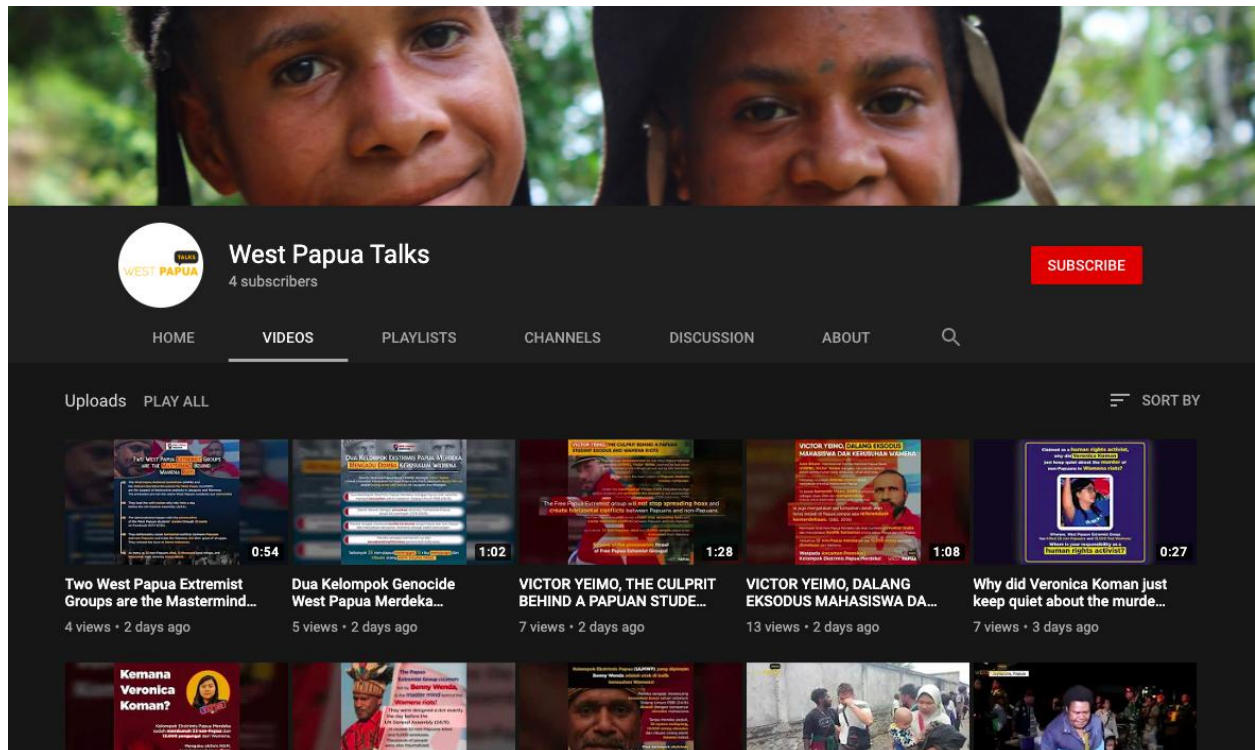
For example, when the InfoWestPapua brand's Twitter account was suspended following the publication of the earlier investigation on [Bellingcat](#), an account which had formerly been used for K-pop spam suddenly switched and began sharing the InfoWestPapua content, effectively taking over as the Twitter account for that brand.

The account's name was changed to @WestPapuaTalks, and it went from tweeting on August 20th of this year about K-pop band NCT to attacking Benny Wenda and posting links to [InfoWestPapua's](#) site on September 12th.

Fri Sep 13 10:19:53 +0000 2019	BBC journalist, Stephen Sackur, confronted the leader of West Papua extremist Benny Wenda about the fact that the West Papua armed extremist group under his lead had killed 19 Indonesian workers building Trans-Papua roads (Dec. 2, 2018). <a href="https://t.co/Js3C7Xg1la">https://t.co/Js3C7Xg1la</a>
Thu Sep 12 13:10:50 +0000 2019	non-Papuans, and the destruction of public facilities. He is the mastermind behind the destructive protest in West Papua. Shame on Benny! #papua @kangdede78
Thu Sep 12 13:10:50 +0000 2019	What kind of peaceful leader and movement that use military power? And now we can see the clear proof. Benny Wenda and his Papua armed extremist group succeeded in transforming the anti-racism solidarity events in August 2019 in West Papua into an attack to the police, #papua
Thu Sep 12 13:10:49 +0000 2019	But Mr. Sackur remind Benny about his statement back on July, which is "politically and militarily we are united. We are ready to take over country". Mr. Sackur also said that it sounds like an invitation to do an armed uprising. SHame on Benny! #papua
Thu Sep 12 13:10:49 +0000 2019	Benny Wenda is the main actor of violence in Papua! During an interview with Stephen Sackur (BBC) three days ago, Benny claimed himself as a peaceful leader and he leads a peaceful movement. #papua <a href="https://t.co/Rir34HWLnR">https://t.co/Rir34HWLnR</a>
Tue Aug 20 10:40:07 +0000 2019	RT @Rvsmtown: Red Velvet 레드벨벳 Mini Album [The ReVe Festival' Day 2] '음파음파 (Umpah Umpah)' - Highlight 🔔 2019.08.20. 6PM (KST) 👉 <a href="https://t.co/...">https://t.co/...</a>
Tue Aug 20 10:40:04 +0000 2019	RT @nabelaws: yuta: "says something" johnny: hahahaha" 😂
Tue Aug 20 10:40:01 +0000 2019	happy papa and son 😊👨👦👉 <a href="https://t.co/DZ8JvOL3vw">https://t.co/DZ8JvOL3vw</a>
Tue Aug 20 09:15:41 +0000 2019	RT @soojincakes: THEIR CHEEKS ARE ACTUALLY MOCHIS <a href="https://t.co/NBb07uVzrM">https://t.co/NBb07uVzrM</a>
Tue Aug 20 09:15:41 +0000 2019	RT @haechanpics: 가공 *** <a href="https://t.co/K1bdRU5P9d">https://t.co/K1bdRU5P9d</a>
Tue Aug 20 09:03:35 +0000 2019	RT @NCT_OFFICIAL_JP: < SMTOWN LIVE > Memories#1  #NCT #NCT127 #NCTDREAM #TAEIL #MARK #JAEMIN <a href="https://t.co/TrE9NpBMHM">https://t.co/TrE9NpBMHM</a>

Screenshot of exported timeline of the now-removed @WestPapuaTalks account

This account has now also been suspended, however the [WestPapuaTalks YouTube channel](#) is still active.



A new Twitter account has also been created with a similar name and the same logo.



Screenshot of @PapuaTalks Twitter account

More [job advertisements from InsightID](#) provide the answer to this puzzle. One of InsightID's other clients is the website Saranghandago, which shares news about K-pop and "Kdrama." It appears that in some cases when their West Papua accounts are suspended, rather than creating or buying new accounts, InsightID just repurposes some of their stable of K-pop spam accounts.



KAMU PECINTA

SARANCHANDAGO

## KPOP? DRAMA KOREA?

**Kamu fans KPOP sejati? Bahkan sampai mengoleksi semua merchandise, album dari grup idola?**

Kami mencari intern admin digital marketing untuk lini bisnis baru di industri hiburan korea. Bermain sambil belajar dan bekerja, tentunya cuma buat kamu yang...

- ✕ Memiliki kemampuan menulis dengan baik
- ✕ Memiliki pengetahuan luas tentang industri hiburan korea
- ✕ Memiliki jiwa entrepreneurship

Waktu kerja 9-5 (Jumat-Selasa)  
Kandidat terpilih akan mendapatkan edukasi digital marketing intensif



We have not found evidence to identify the client who has hired InsightID to run this information campaign.

However, based on the available facts we can conclude the client is a party which is able to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to run a "fake news" information operation with the goal of influencing the international community's political perceptions in favour of the Indonesian government's actions in West Papua.

# Propaganda Campaign Two: Muhamad Rosyid Jazuli

## Operation And Tactics

In the process of researching the campaign connected to InsightID, we also identified a similar, separate but overlapping campaign. This campaign was initially detected whilst monitoring West Papua-related hashtags on Twitter.

This second campaign is smaller and includes three brands: Wawawa Journal, Tell the Truth NZ and Noken Insight. Each of the three has its own website, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube accounts. Wawawa Journal also has a Medium account.

The campaign also targeted international audiences with the goal of influencing perceptions in favour of the Indonesian government in West Papua. It also had a notable focus on attacking and undermining legitimate media (in particular Radio New Zealand).

Like the InsightID campaign, this operation posted content on its sites and promoted it using social media accounts. In addition, there was a level of cross-promotion between the brands, with some branded accounts promoting content from another brand (e.g. Tell the Truth NZ's Facebook account might promote an article on Wawawa Journal's site).

The [Wawawa Journal \(WJ\)](#) Twitter account, through which this campaign was first detected, was created on July 10th. This was a week after [West Papuan independence groups announced they would join forces](#) under the leadership of Benny Wenda in a renewed push for independence.

The WJ's social media accounts target English-language hashtags related to news in West Papua. They link back to "news" stories on WJ's site. Some of these stories are merely slanted to reflect a pro-Indonesian narrative, but others are simply false.



Screenshot of a Wawawa Journal article shared on Twitter, falsely implying that UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet supports the Indonesian government's actions in West Papua.

# Statement of the United Nations (UN) on issues about Papua, Indonesia

The United Nations supports the sovereignty and integrity of Indonesia's territory as it recognizes of the sovereignty of other sovereign states.

The status of Papua as part of Indonesia is based on the principles of *uti possidetis iuris*, NY Agreement 1962, Act of Free Choice 1969, and UN GA resolution 2504 (XXIV) 1969.

The UN is seeing the positive impacts of the development in Papua carried out by the Government of Indonesia in collaboration local governments of the region, especially in the era of President Joko Widodo. However, it certainly needs to be much strengthened and optimized in other aspects such as human resource development through education and health programs.

The UN understands that criminal and separatist groups are constantly making hoaxes and anarchist demonstrations and acts of violence. However, it emphasizes that law enforcement officials should always refrain from repressive actions to avoid unwanted effects and matters that complicate the government.

Regarding several countries that support the independent Papua movement such as Vanuatu, the UN is aware that this is part of the discourse of the global nations and Indonesia is given the right to answer and respond wisely.

Any proposal to carry out a referendum in Papua is not a wise choice at all cause because the urgency for Papua is the development and resolution of other crucial problems such as welfare, poverty, human rights, health, and education.



**António Guterres**  
Secretary General of the United Nations

*These points are the result of the meeting between the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres with the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, Dian Triansyah Djani in New York, 10 September 2019, on the development of the latest situation in Papua, and the status of Indonesian sovereignty from the UN perspective.*




Infographic from Noken Insight purporting to be a UN statement on West Papua.  
This statement has not been made by the UN.

A notable feature of many of these articles are frequent smears against the international media, particularly the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australia's Special Broadcasting Service, and Radio New Zealand.

Development Editorial News Opinion

## Journalistic activism in danger: False news masked by freedom of speech

For the sake of ratings and sensation, international media seemed to compete to spread the news about West Papua without clear evidence.

 by Editorial Wawawa Journal · 5 days ago  415 Views

The content is also aimed against activists who speak out about the West Papua issue, such as Veronica Koman and Benny Wenda. In the WJ article included in a screenshot below ([which is archived here](#)), it uses an unknown source to accuse two people for inciting violence in Wamena.


As for your information, a valid source has confirmed that the disinformation and antagonization allegedly triggered by Socratez Yoman and Veronica Koman resulted in the burning of around 30 shops and 50 houses, and damaging 200 other houses and shops, 30 cars and 50 bikes during the violent riots. Most of the infrastructure targeted were government buildings in Wamena.

A closer examination of the [WJ's Facebook page](#) revealed a further clue: the page had been repurposed one day after the creation of the WJ Twitter account, and had previously been called "Tell the Truth New Zealand."

**Page Transparency for The Wawawa Journal**

Summary **Page History**

**Page History**  
Name changes can help you see if the Page's purpose has changed over time. If Page merges have occurred, that means that the Page has combined its followers with another Page.




- Changed name to **The Wawawa Journal**  
July 11, 2019
- Changed name to **Tell The Wawawa Journal**  
July 5, 2019
- Changed name to **Tell the Truth Journal**  
July 3, 2019
- Page created - **Tell the Truth New Zealand**  
September 1, 2017

This discovery led to the second brand involved in this campaign, Tell the Truth NZ. Tell The Truth NZ, which has a new Facebook page, as well as a [Twitter](#) account, [website](#) and [Medium](#) blog, is aimed specifically at influencing the opinions of New Zealanders on the West Papuan conflict, including tagging the New Zealand Prime Minister and the co-leader of the Greens party in some of its tweets.




Like WJ, the content promoted by this brand promotes a pro-Indonesian narrative, smears pro-independence figures, and attacks international media for reporting news which shows the Indonesian government in a negative light.

Tell the Truth NZ has also used YouTube to display the same content in a video format with text displayed in English. It does this through two accounts. Both accounts have very low numbers of subscribers, however, suggesting the possible impact of these videos is limited.


 **Tell the Truth New Zealand**  
1 subscriber

HOME


Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL



11:00



0:50




0:49

**Truth about West Papua all Kiwis need to know**  
18 views · 1 year ago


**Merobek Indonesia dari Selandia Baru [Tearing Apar...**  
4 views · 1 year ago

**Tearing Apart Indonesia from New Zealand**  
11 views · 1 year ago


 **Tell The Truth**  
4 subscribers

HOME **VIDEOS** PLAYLISTS CHANNELS

Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL



1:58



11:00

**Community leaders Papua testimony about the tragedy...**  
59 views · 9 months ago

**Tell the Truth NZ**  
200 views · 1 year ago

Screenshots of Tell the Truth NZ Youtube accounts



## Identification And Attribution

The domain tellthetruthnz.com is registered by Muhamad Rosyid Jazuli. Jazuli was formerly an international exchange student in New Zealand, where he wrote a paper on “[Democracy in the Age of Information Abundance: The Impact of New Technologies on Our Democratic Political System](#)”. Jazuli’s personal social media accounts frequently share content from both WJ and Tell the Truth NZ, including even before the brands themselves post it. The first link to Wawawa Journal’s site shared on Twitter came from Rosyid’s personal account. This is the earliest evidence of WJ content being shared on Twitter by any account and six days before the @wawawajournal Twitter account was created.



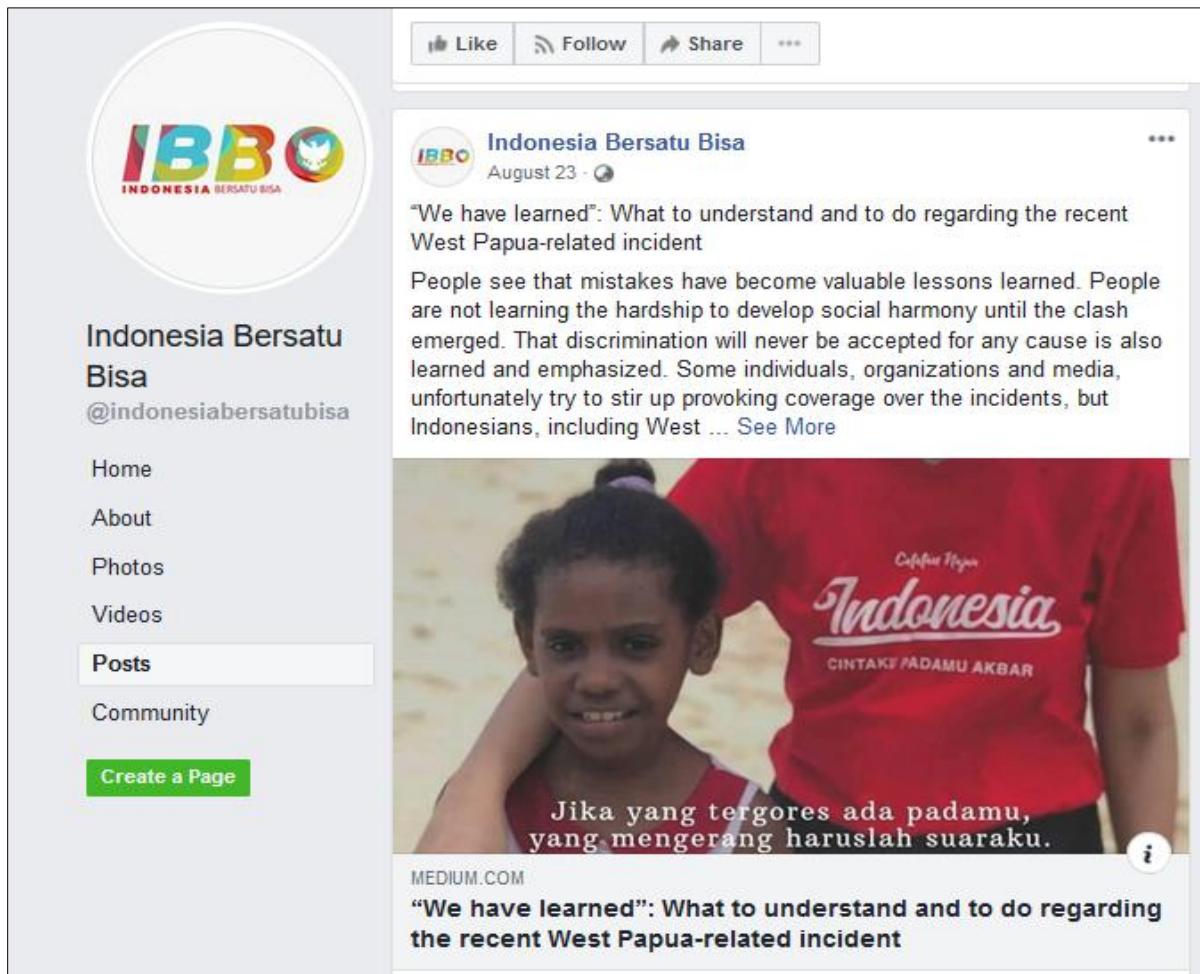
Tweet from Rosyid’s personal account

Since 2014, Rosyid has worked with an organisation called the Jenggala Center, including registering their website, jenggalacenter.com.

The Jenggala Center, where Jazuli's position is currently listed as [CEO of the Jenggala Institute for Strategic Studies](#), was created by Vice President of Indonesia Jusuf Kalla in 2014 to promote his own re-election and support Indonesian President Jokowi's administration more broadly. In the years since, the Center has continued to play an active political role. Ahead of the 2019 Indonesian elections, for example, [the Center mobilised teams in unsafe seats to support Jokowi's re-election](#).

The Jenggala Center's Facebook page routinely shares content from another domain registered by Jazuli, Indonesia Bersatu Bisa, which promotes "positive news" about Indonesian politics. The site does not clearly state any affiliation with the Jenggala Center.

Notably, the Indonesia Bersatu Bisa Facebook page has also shared content relating to West Papua from the WJ Medium account.



Indonesia Bersatu Bisa Facebook post promoting link to WJ Medium article on West Papua

Another brand which appears to be linked to Jazuli is Noken Insight (the “noken” voting system is a [communal voting system used in parts of West Papua](#)). This brand shares some identical content to Tell the Truth NZ.



Screenshot of archived article on tellthetruthnz.com



Screenshot of article on nokeninsight.com

It also has a remarkably similar posting pattern to WJ on Twitter (where it seems to be mostly followed by Turkish-language bots) and has also been shared on Rosyid's personal accounts.



Tweet from Noken Insight Twitter account criticising New Zealand media coverage of West Papua

Like the other brands, it is also fixated on attacking Radio New Zealand in particular and Australian and New Zealand media more broadly.

## Real shame on Kiwis

It is a real shame for Kiwis, especially the Maori, Pasifika and the Greens that their accusations to Indonesians so far has come with zero real actions. As they keep accusing Indonesians of discriminating and slow-genocide-ing their fellow West Papuans, they actually never touch West Papua, whatsoever, and unfortunately have been accessing and consuming one-sided information.

It is also unfortunate to know that some media like Radio New Zealand, is a major part of this action-less accusation. Funded by the government of New Zealand, this media is sort of a major supporter of West Papua separation from Indonesia and has been supplying unreliable and imbalanced information to Kiwis.

Screenshot of article posted on nokeninsight.com

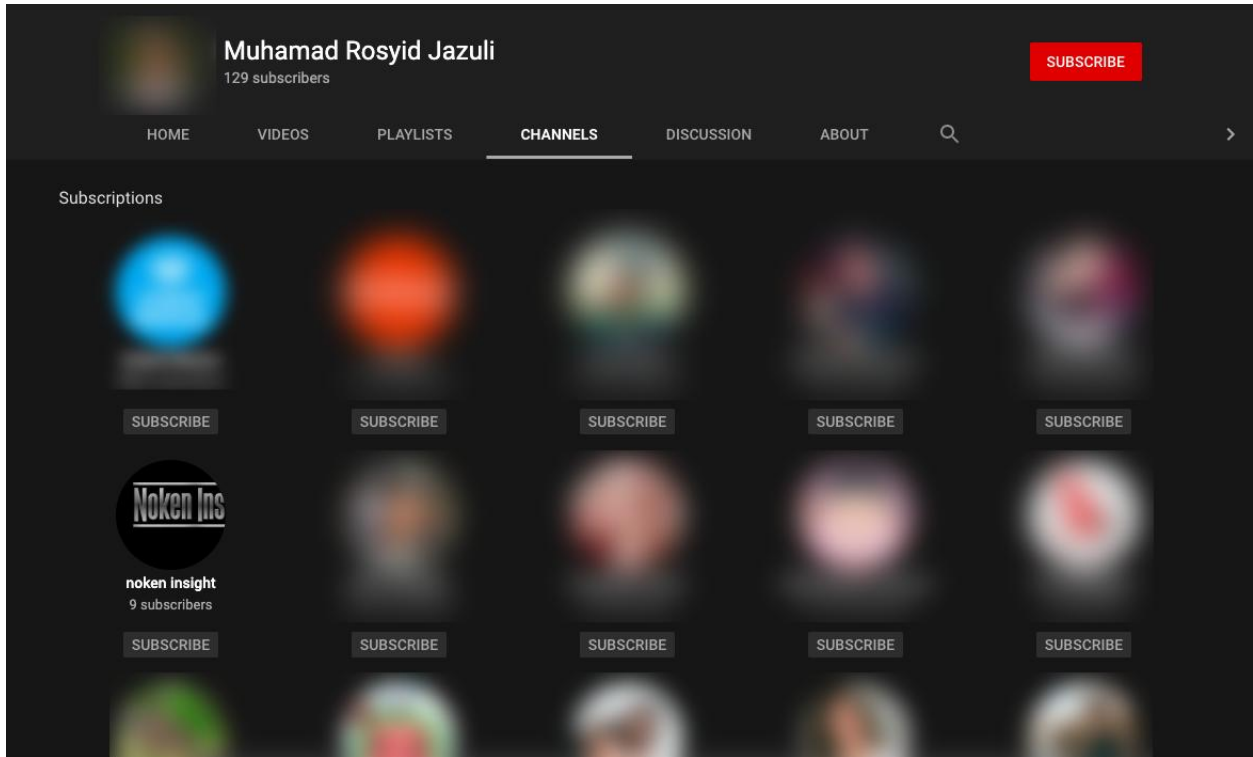
Noken Insight also uses a [YouTube Channel](#) to disperse content in video format. Much of the content targets activist Benny Wenda, and human rights lawyer Veronica Koman, attributing blame for the conflict to them.

The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for 'noken insight', which has 9 subscribers. The channel's navigation menu includes HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT. The video grid displays the following uploads:

- WEST PAPUA SHOULD NOT ASK ABOUT A REFERENDUM** (3:45, 9 views, 1 day ago)
- I'M GOING HOME** (1:05, 2 views, 1 day ago)
- VERONICA KOMAN SPREAD HOAX AGAIN** (2:35, 26 views, 5 days ago)
- PAPUA STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (AMP) FAIL...** (1:43, 6 views, 1 week ago)
- ISSUES OF RACISM THAT MAKE PAPUA AND WEST...** (7:04, 14 views, 1 week ago)
- THE ISSUE OF RACISM CANNOT BE USED AS AN...** (8:03, 15 views, 1 week ago)
- BENNY WENDA CANNOT ANSWERED STEPHEN...** (6:14, 235 views, 1 week ago)
- WEST PAPUAN ARMED CRIMINAL SEPARATIST...** (2:23, 6 views, 2 weeks ago)
- PEACE FOR PAPUA** (1:52, 2 views, 2 weeks ago)
- VERONICA KOMAN TELLS THE TRUTH?** (9:44, 74 views, 2 weeks ago)

Other visible video titles include 'THE WEST PAPUAN REBELS ARE CONSISTENTLY ABUSING THESE KIDS' RIGHT' and 'AND STILL CONTINUE TODAY'.

Jazuli is a subscriber to the channel.



To summarise, we have uncovered multiple information operations targeting international opinions on the issue of West Papuan independence. In response to questions from the BBC, Jazuli admitted responsibility for Wawawa Journal and Tell the Truth NZ. He denied knowledge of Noken Insight, despite evidence that the Wawawa Journal Facebook page, which he has admitted to running, [once used Noken Insight's brand as its cover photo](#).



Screenshot of Wawawa Journal Facebook post from July 5th 2019 using Noken Insight brand as cover photo

Jazuli told the BBC that the sites and profiles were created on his own initiative by himself and friends, using personal money, and were not related to his work with the Jenggala Center. He claimed that the campaigns were not propaganda or "fake news", but rather simply an attempt to counter negative Western media coverage.

Jazuli's claims that the campaigns were not "fake news" seem to be at odds with the fact that they promoted "news" which is demonstrably fake, for example propagating completely [fabricated "UN statements."](#)

## Conclusion

In this investigation we have analysed the digital assets, operations and tactics used by two separate information operations aimed at influencing international perceptions of the situation in West Papua in favour of the Indonesian government.

We have also used open source intelligence and digital forensics to identify the actors responsible for these campaigns. Our attribution of the first campaign to InsightID has been confirmed by Facebook, whilst our attribution of the second campaign to Jazuli has been partially confirmed by the individual himself.

These campaigns are only a small fraction of the operations which are actively disseminating propaganda through the same large social media platforms, relating to West Papua and to a range of other domestic issues within in Indonesia. We hope that the work we have done here goes in some way to assist other researchers and investigators to identify even more disinformation networks.