Submission on Indonesia to the Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for the 41st Session from the West Papua Project, Wollongong University, New South Wales, Australia

Dear Commissioner,

Please find attached a Preliminary Report on munitions used in attacks in Kiwirok (West Papua) on 10 October 2021 by Conflict Armament Research. This report looks at 81 mm M72 high-explosive mortar rounds recovered following these attacks and notes their origin and modifications made. Use of such weapons suggest a significant escalation in the armed conflict between the Indonesian military and the West Papuan Freedom fighters and civilian populations.

Conclusions of this report include:

- The modifications made to the munitions – improvised tail booms and fuses – suggest that they were modified to enable them to be dropped onto target.
- The declared end user of the munitions is the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency.

We believe that Report presents further evidence to support Papuan claims that a humanitarian crisis is occurring in West Papua – the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua – which requires the urgent attention of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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Please note the views expressed in this submission are solely those of the undersigned and do not necessarily represent the view of the University of Wollongong.
1. Context

*Gereja Injili di Indonesia* (GIDI) church representatives claim four attacks by the ‘Indonesian army’ on villages in Kiwirok, Pegunungan Bintang Regency, Papua, Indonesia (hereinafter Kiwirok) on 10 October 2021, including at:

1) Locations in and around the village of Kiwi, including the GIDI church facility (GPS: -4.698000, 140.731000), the Bandar Udara Kiwi airstrip (GPS: -4.697156, 140.722032), and the Diip conurbation adjacent to the airstrip (GPS: -4.695314, 140.721293), reported by GIDI representatives, through an intermediary, to CAR on 27 October 2021. The Free Papua Movement also claims that the GIDI church facility was attacked that same day (reported on 26 October 2021 to CAR’s intermediary);

2) The village of Pelebib/Pelebip (GPS: -4.712872, 140.747021), reported by GIDI representatives, through an intermediary, to CAR on 27 October 2021;

3) The village of Lolim (GPS: -4.686991, 140.790011), reported by GIDI representatives, through an intermediary, to CAR on 27 October 2021; and

4) The village of Delpem (GPS: -4.727691, 140.792194), reported by GIDI representatives, through an intermediary, to CAR on 27 October 2021.

All reports received by CAR refer to munitions having been dropped from rotary wing aircraft, including one report that alleges that the aircraft was an un-crewed aerial vehicle (UAV).
2. Imagery provided

On 26 and 27 October 2021, CAR received 15 photographs of exploded and unexploded munitions, taken using multiple mobile devices and forwarded by an intermediary. Eyewitnesses claim that the images were taken following the attacks listed above.

Example: WhatsApp Image 2021-10-26 at 07.41.43.jpg

Example: WhatsApp Image 10_10_2020 (2).jpg

3. Description of the munitions
The munitions pictured are consistent with 81 mm M72 high-explosive mortar rounds, manufactured by Krušik, Serbia, in 2020. The bodies of the M72 mortar rounds appear to be entirely un-modified (retaining their original factory markings and paint finishes). Two factory manufactured components, however, have been replaced with: 1) an improvised tail boom, consisting of a fin assembly and connecting tube and 2) an improvised impact fuse.

The improvised tail boom is constructed from a cast aluminium fin assembly screwed to a machined aluminium connecting tube section, which passes through the fin assembly. The tube section does not terminate with the typical recess required to accommodate a mortar ignition cartridge and has no flash holes forward of the fin assembly. The modified item could not, therefore, be fired conventionally from a mortar barrel. It would have to be dropped or lobbed onto target to function. The absence of gas wash on the tubes and fins demonstrate that the munitions were not ejected pyrotechnically during the reported attacks.
The improvised impact fuse is constructed of aluminium, with a broad-diameter hammer/striker. The improvised fuse’s hammer/striker has a far larger surface area than the strikers typically supplied with M72 mortar rounds, which suggests that it was constructed to initiate on impact with softer than normal targets.

4. Conclusions on improvisations

The replacement of the munition’s existing tail boom would have served no purpose if the round was dropped by hand from a rotary wing aircraft (the factory fitted tail assembly would have served the same purpose). CAR concludes that the modifications to the munition’s tail boom were made to allow its use in a mechanical delivery system affixed to the aircraft.

5. Provenance

On 31 December 2021, the Government of Serbia responded to a request for information issued by CAR on 26 November 2021. This response confirms that: 1) Krušik manufactured the M72 HE mortar rounds bearing the lot/batch number ‘KV Lot 01/20’, the subject of CAR’s request for information; 2) Krušik sold and delivered the rounds to Zenitprom D.O.O. (Belgrade, Serbia); 3) on 23 February 2021, Smicon Trading DMCC (Dubai, UAE) exported the rounds, as part of a consignment of 2,480 mortar rounds, 3,000 Krušik-manufactured electronic initiators, and three timing devices, to PT Pindad (Bandung, Indonesia), for the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency, the declared end user; 4) Universal Safety and Services Pte Ltd. brokered the deal; 5) the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency provided the Serbian authorities with an end-user certificate (number R-540/X/2020) of 6 October 2020, confirming that the items were to be used exclusively in Indonesian State Intelligence Agency operations, and would not be transferred or sold to other parties without prior permission from the Serbian authorities; 6) Serbian authorities did not receive a request to transfer the materiel from the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency; and 7) the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency provided the Serbian authorities with a delivery verification certificate.

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1 Without dismantling the fuse, it is not possible to conclude whether the protrusion at the nose of the fuse is a striker (which would directly strike the detonator) or a hammer (which would strike a firing pin).
6. Conclusions

- The munitions were not fired from a mortar tube and displayed no indications of having been expelled pyrotechnically (no gas wash);

- The modifications made to the munitions’ tail booms would have prevented them from having been fired conventionally from a mortar barrel;

- The modifications made to the munitions (improvised tail booms and fuses) suggest that they were modified to enable them to be dropped onto target;

- The declared end user of the munitions is the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency; and

- Why the munitions were first consigned to PT Pindad—Indonesia’s main state-owned weapon and ammunition manufacturer—remains unclear. Research and development requirements would be plausible explanations had the Indonesian State Intelligence Agency not been the declared end-user. PT Pindad has the technical capacity to have modified the munitions.

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