



We want to be free people!



By TJ Aumua - September 20, 2016

The crowd in Jayapura, West Papua. They marched in full support of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua and Pacific Islands Coalition on West Papua to bring West Papua in to the UN decolonisation committee. Image: Free West Papua Campaign

Thousands of people have rallied across West Papua this week demanding independence and their right to self-determination.

The Free West Papua Campaign (FWPC) stated those that took part in the peaceful demonstrations marched with a clear message: “We want to be free people”.

People of West Papua are calling on the United Nations to support their fundamental right to self-determination and a resolution for an internationally supervised vote for independence.

FWPC reported that some demonstrations around the country were blocked by the Indonesian police and 68 peaceful protestors were arrested in Merauke, West Papua.

A day before the demonstrations 21 women, men and children were arrested for distributing leaflets for the rally.

‘Forgotten struggle’

Last week West Papuan leader Benny Wenda, who lives exiled in London, was interviewed by *TeleSUR* on ‘West Papua’s forgotten struggle for independence’.

In the interview Wenda said people in West Papua sacrifice their lives by protesting and Indonesia continues to get away with “impunity”.

“Indonesia is able to massacre my people. Almost 500,000 men and women have been killed. While I’m speaking, there are arrests and intimidations and imprisonments still going on in West Papua,” Wenda said.

He said the Indonesian government has banned journalists from entering the country for the past 50-years which is part of the reason West Papua’s struggle remains largely unknown. West Papuans are left to turn to social media to get their struggle out to the world.

“I am really confident that people in the Pacific, particularly across the Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia, the governments and the ordinary people are in support, including New Zealand and Australia. Ordinary people are always with us.”

<http://asiapacificreport.nz/2016/09/20/west-papua-rally-we-want-to-be-free-people/>

Restrictions for foreign journalists in Papua questioned

The Jakarta Post September 20 2016 |



For the sake of press freedom – Indonesian Press Council chairman Yoseph Adi Prasetyo (center) speaks to journalists during a press conference after the opening of the 2016 Jakarta World Forum for Media Development at the Nusantara Multimedia University campus in Tangerang, Banten, on Tuesday. Global Forum for Media Development chairman Leon Willems (right) attended the event. (JP/Arya Dipa)

The Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), an international network of media assistance groups, is drawing attention to the Indonesian government's policy to restrict foreign journalists from covering Papua. This concern is related to Indonesia's appointment as the host country for World Press Freedom Day in 2017.

"Papua is actually one of the issues that is on the list of issues that could be addressed, in which all access of foreign reporters should be better. Actually, it's very interesting that local authorities are more nervous about journalism than authorities at the central government," GFMD chairman Leon Willems said after the opening of the 2016 Jakarta World Forum for Media Development at the Nusantara Multimedia University in South Tangerang, Banten, on Tuesday.

He said the presence of journalists in a country or area is important to help the public in carrying out social control. In a democratic system, public control through media is a fundamental prerequisite, he went on.

Speaking on restrictions for the presence of journalists in a country or area, Willems said: "[With such restrictions] you cannot have accountability, you cannot have human rights, press freedom, freedom of expression or citizen rights to express themselves."

Willems further said international cooperation and pressures against restrictions of journalists to ruling governments could become an important part of efforts to realize the freedom of the press.

He referred to the arrest of Khadija Ismayilova, a Free Europe Radio journalist who also worked for Azerbaijan Liberty Radio. She was arrested by her country's government in December 2014 for airing corruption-related news involving Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev's family. Since her release in the middle of 2016, Ismayilova had not been permitted to travel abroad until today. "If people are held in custody for their opinion, because they research stories that the government was corrupt or that the government does not respond to the corruption but acts against the messenger, this is where I think the issues of justice for journalists are extremely important. If you encourage journalists, you also encourage human rights," said Willems.

In the event, Indonesian Press Council chairman Yoseph "Stanley" Adi Prasetyo said the organizing of the 2016 Jakarta World Forum for Media Development, which was attended by at least 300 international guests, was a preparation ahead of the celebration of the 2017 World Press Freedom Day.

"Journalists from several countries have found it's not easy for them to enter Indonesia. If they can now enter countries like Ukraine, Pakistan and Nigeria, which were previously quite restrictive, it shows that Indonesia is currently carrying out open politics," said Stanley. (ebf) . Via propapua

Taking it to the UN Human Rights Council

Oral statement on human rights violations in West Papua at the 33rd regular session of the Human Rights Council.

Geneva, 19th September 2016

Mr. President,

VIVAT International, Franciscans International, the International Coalition for Papua and TAPOL welcome and encourage the commitment and the efforts that have been already made by the government of Indonesia on human rights.

However, we remain deeply concerned about the continuous violations of human rights in West Papua, as one of the most vulnerable regions of Melanesia.

The information coming from West Papua through the human rights defenders, activists and the eyewitness's, especially in the last months, is of our profound concern and it should not pass without any reaction from the Council.

Indigenous Papuans live in constant insecurity; their basic human rights are not respected. We are particularly concerned about repeated violations of the right to freedom of expression and assembly. West Papuans, who exercise their basic human rights in a peaceful way in demonstrations, are mistreated. Only this year, up to 15th August, 3768 indigenous Papuans were arrested. We have also documented reports of cases of torture and ill treatment by the Indonesian security forces during their detention.

The number of the extra judicial killings has also increased. Recently, we received a report on the shooting to death of 19-year-old Mr. Otinus Sondegu, on 27 August 2016, in the Intan Jaya regency, Papua. The shooting was allegedly done by a member of the Indonesian Mobile Brigade. We receive regularly the reports of similar cases, however, none up to now have been investigated in accordance with international law.

Therefore, we recommend that the government of Indonesia:

1. Conduct an impartial investigation into the cases of arbitrary arrest and extrajudicial killings in West Papua.
2. Guarantee the right of freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly for all Papuans.
3. Open access to West Papua for the international community.

Thank you Mr. President

Item 4 General debate – Human Rights situation that requires Council's attention.

Delivered by Andrzej Owca, Vivat International.

Please find and/or download the official Vivat International statement here:

www.propapua.org

UN General Assembly's

Papua Discussion

Should Prompt Indonesia to Reflect

<http://tabloidjubi.com/eng/un-general-assemblys-papua-discussion-prompt-indonesia-reflect/>
20 September 2016

Readers should be aware that the auto translation of this article sometimes distorts the meaning

Jayapura, Jubi – The submission of Papua human rights and political issues to the UN General Assembly's plenary meeting is a historical fact that can not be avoided and should be a self-reflection for the Government of Indonesia, said the Chairman of Evangelist Church Synod in Papua the Rev. Benny Giay on Sunday (18/9/2016) in response the widespread of Papua issues in Pacific and the enforcement of the Pacific countries leaders to take the West Papua issue to the UN General Assembly.

"For me, when the issue of Papua get to the UN General Assembly by the Pacific countries leaders, it justifies the view that it is the time for change," said Giay, who also argued that after 50 years Papua in the hands of Indonesia, it's time to change history.

"I think the voices of struggle of Free Papua is finally get to the UN General Assembly Plenary Meeting is natural. It should be. Because we are in the church believe that every 50 years the history must be reflected, as well as the Indonesian Government to reflect their action and progress of their civilization for 50 years that not taken any goods in Papua," said Giay.

Benny Giay felt optimistic that the expectation of Papuan people who fight for their self-determination is undergoing a revival, especially because it is driven by resurgence in Pacific.

"What is happening in Pacific is the revitalization of human awareness. In my mind, the solidarity for the political right (independence) could be done professionally. But the revival in the Pacific is beyond that," said Giay who further said this revival was referred to a great concern that Papuan nation would be extinct.

"The awareness of the extinction of a human nation and civilization underlined the profound solidarity for humanity in Pacific. We are in the church support it," he said.

Papua Becomes Issue of State

Meanwhile, director of Elsham Papua Ferry Marisan said the progress of advocacy in Papua today until the UN General Assembly depends on the party who conducted the advocacy, which is the State.

"If advocacy for Papua human rights issues in Geneva, Switzerland was conducted by civilians, now Vanuatu and Solomon and

even Tonga did it, the advocacy has risen to New York by the hands of the State," said Marisan.

When Papua issue submitted to the UN General Assembly in New York, it means, said Ferry, it could become a discussion among other countries in addition to the Pacific.

"It's not the first time because in the previous meeting Vanuatu talked about Papua issue. But the different in this year is the representative from Fiji would become one of the leaders of the hearings in the meeting. So we expect it could affect another countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America."

Fiji Ambassador for UN who recently appointed as the President of the General Assembly Plenary Meeting on Tuesday (12/9) open the 71st session of the plenary meeting attended by 193 countries.

"We wait the result, which countries that would give supports, not only to the human rights issue but also on Papua referendum and the agenda to register Papua to Committee 24 of Decolonization," he said.

Separately Victor Yeimo, KNPB General Chairman and ULMWP Working Group, thought it's time for the UN to take the responsibility concerning to Papua political right. "UN must take the responsibility to resolve the political status of West Papua. Because it is the people power in ULMWP, together with the Pacific countries in Pacific Coalition for West Papua, it would endorse this issue to the UN Decolonization Committee to be able facilitating the referendum," he said.

He also added that through that process, Indonesia would also be urged to stop the crime against humanity that continuously occurred in West Papua.

However, Ferry Marisan also reminded that this is the long time process and could be taken years for persuading another countries to support Papua. "Nevertheless, this recent achievement has opened the way to get there," he said.

Both Marisan and Reverend Giay were not worried about the long process. According to Giay, in this globalization era, it is the time to get bigger opportunity because many eyes would witness what is happening. "The revival of the current solidarity is a sign of the human awakening and it is happened in the globalization era that could be recognized by all people through social media. I welcome it with optimistic," said Giay. (*rom)

PIFFLE



By Dan McGarry / Photo Alex Zuccarelli

At least the Kave was good.

The Pacific Islands Forum has come and gone, and people here in Vanuatu could not care less. There are few Pacific conclaves that generate less interest than this meeting.

In principle, nobody particularly disapproves of getting all Pacific leaders together once a year for a bit of a chat and maybe some minor course correction.

In practice, it seems clear that not all leaders are equal in the eyes of the Forum.

This year more than ever, the final communiqué simply side-stepped any views that didn't suit the developed nation members.

The event might more accurately be described as the McCully/Bishop Forum.

The region-wide movement to disown PACER Plus was simply ignored in the final language. If Vanuatu needed any other excuse to walk away from this one-sided deal, their treatment in Pohnpei provided one. Scuttlebutt from the venue has it that France's inclusion in the Forum was anything but a unanimous decision. Prime Minister Charlot Salwai exercised characteristic tact and diplomacy when asked about it, but it doesn't take a crystal ball to imagine how Vanuatu, one of the staunchest supporters of decolonisation in the Pacific, felt about bringing France into the Forum fold.

France was excluded from the Forum specifically because of its refusal to discuss issues of decolonialisation when the organisation was formed in the 1970s.

West Papua is perhaps the only topic that could dampen Vanuatu's joy following its under-20 football team winning their way to a World Cup berth. And once again, the Forum has gone to excruciating lengths to make least possible effort to stop the 'slow motion genocide' under way in PNG's eastern neighbour.

In their wrap-up of the Forum, Tess Newton Cain and Matt Dornan write, "of the 48 regional policy public submissions that were received, 13 concerned West Papua."

With admirable restraint, they continue: "last year's measured statement announcing the establishment of an independent fact-finding mission looks positively assertive when compared to this year's communiqué, which simply states that leaders 'recognised the political sensitivities of the issue of West Papua (Papua) and agreed the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua (Papua) should remain on their agenda' (while also agreeing 'on the importance of an open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia'). The influence of the larger Forum members was likely at play here, including that of Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Fiji."

But the silence was even more deafening—if such a thing were possible—where climate change is concerned.

One would think that a post-Paris meeting of the most at-risk countries in the world might feature some meaningful language concerning the single greatest existential threat the globe faces today.

One would be wrong.

If last year's betrayal of the 1.5 degree global temperature rise limit wasn't enough, this year we saw effectively no effort to slow the now-inevitable rise in global temperatures.

The closest we came to progress was to kick the Strategy for Resilient Development—an attempt to integrate climate change mitigation and disaster risk management—down the road.

An earlier version of the plan was rejected last year because it failed to cut the mustard last year, largely because of tepid Loss and Damage commitments.

This year, Cain and Dornan tell us the plan is back. The "voluntary nature of the framework agreed this year was no doubt helpful in securing leaders' agreement."

No doubt, indeed. Some day, the bigger global fish are going to realize that they aren't so big, and the small fry aren't so small. We are all minnows in an increasingly crowded pond.

And when the sun begins to dry it, there's no use in pretending the water's only evaporating from someone else's part of the pool.

Of course, the PIF wasn't piffle for everyone concerned. Indonesia can take comfort that Australia, Fiji, PNG and New Zealand are still willing to carry their water, even in the face of a rising groundswell of protest over their continued occupation of West Papua.

Australia's mining sector can hold their heads high at their ability to hold back a rising tide.

Fiji's ruling regime danced through the meeting with characteristic aplomb, even as rumours of state-sponsored execution attempts circulate, and Opposition leaders are carted off to the clink.

If nothing else, the Vanuatu delegation got to visit the country with the second-most potent kava in the world. On an island so nice it looks like one of ours. That's not nothing. Sort of.

http://dailypost.vu/opinion/pif-file/article_9b8fca02-2707-55f4-aeb4-325bce5d91b.html

Forum called out for hollow talk on Papua

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/313238/forum-called-out-for-hollow-talk-on-papua>



West Papua has long been a sensitive issue for the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum countries. Photo: Whens Tebay

Pacific Islands Forum leaders have been accused of hollow talk about listening to the people of the region on important issues like West Papua.

Following last week's Forum leaders summit in Pohnpei, regional civil society groups have voiced disappointment at what they see as a lack of any outcome or substance on the issue of West Papua.

Papua had been one of the big regional issues identified by the Forum secretary-general Dame Meg Taylor as being on the leaders' agenda, ahead of the summit.

However in the end, leaders merely concluded that the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua should remain on their agenda.

Furthermore, after the resolution of last year's Forum summit to urge Jakarta to allow a fact-finding mission to West Papua, the matter appears to have dropped off the table.

Dame Meg confirmed in Pohnpei that Indonesian sensitivity over the term "fact-finding" in relation to Papua meant that it would not accept such a mission.

The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Dame Meg Taylor says West Papua is a sensitive issue



. Photo: AFP

But she said concerns about human rights abuses and the self-determination struggle in West Papua ran deeply in the Pacific and demanded focus from the leaders.

Before the summit, Pacific civil society groups voiced satisfaction with what they called the improved engagement they were being accorded by the Pacific Island Forum.

They identified West Papua as among the key issues needing the Forum's attention and development of meaningful policy discussions.

Taking stock of the Pohnpei summit, Joe Collins of the Australia West Papua Association said that while it was encouraging that Papua was mentioned in the communiqué, there was no specific action taken.

"There's no doubt there's a huge groundswell of support from the people, civil society organisations and church groups in support of West Papua," he said.

"And for all the talk about (the Forum) being inclusive and listening to the people, the fact that it's not really on the agenda that much would indicate that the leaders are not really listening to the people."

Geo-politics at play

Pacific leaders' lack of expressed commitment to action the case of West Papua at their meeting in Federated States of Micronesia may be due to geo politics says Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) executive director, Emele Duituturaga.



"Generally, the result of the 47th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting as articulated in their communiqué was a mixed one for civil society," Duituturaga said.

“We are happy that some of the issues we pushed for like the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disability, Climate Change and disaster risk management, and coastal fisheries were endorsed by the leaders and reflected in the communiqué.”

“For West Papua – while the human rights violations were mentioned, the push by CSOs to have West Papua raised at the United Nations is not reflected,” she said.

On West Papua, the 47th PIF Leaders meeting communiqué stated that “... Leaders recognised the political sensitivities of the issue of West Papua (Papua) and agreed the issue of alleged human rights violations in West Papua (Papua) should remain on their agenda. Leaders also agreed on the importance of an open and constructive dialogue with Indonesia on the issue...”

“An achievement is the agreement to keep the issue of human rights violations should remain on the leaders agenda. We know that a couple of members had hoped the issue of West Papua would be removed altogether.”

“We understand from talking individually to leaders and officials that there were robust discussions by the leaders that was quite encouraging. We also know that the draft text reflected their intention to take West Papua to the UN but when the final communiqué was released, it had been watered down,” Duituturaga said.

“It is obvious that geo politics were at play which brings to question whether in fact our leaders can be bold and courageous in the presence of neighbouring powers like Australia and New Zealand.”

She said that the 16 CSO representatives at the TROIKA leader’s breakfast dialogue felt successful and promising discussions were held on the issue.

“All those present expressed sentiments that the issue of West Papua – both in terms of human rights violations and self-determination were important. What those leaders at the breakfast articulated was that there are provisions in the UN that needed to be followed and utilised to bring the issue to the UN.”

“We are concerned that this promising dynamic in the discussion civil society organisation representatives had with leaders at the breakfast was not present at all in the communiqué.”

“Perhaps there is limited value to just talking to a handful and whether that makes an impact to the final discussions that leaders have at the retreat.”

“The Samoan Prime Minister, who is the next PIF Chair had stated at the breakfast meeting that the CSO dialogue needed to take place with all the 16 leaders and not just TROIKA and he will see to that for next year’s PIF programme. This result (Communiqué) seems to confirm that this is really what’s needed to be done in order for leaders to commit to taking the issue to the UN.”

However, Duituturaga said the Pacific Islands Coalition on West Papua (PICWP), which includes Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu and PIANGO, is an avenue which CSOs will tap into to continue to push the West Papua agenda at the UN.

“What is encouraging and positive however, is how PICWP member countries have visibly shown their commitment to take up the issue.”

Duituturaga said PIANGO will now work individually with those countries for UN intervention on human rights violations and to push for self-determination for West Papua at the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and raise these matters with the UN Secretary General

SOURCE: PIANG/PACNEWS

TNI-Police Seizure on RI-PNG Border



ANTARA FOTO
TEMPO.CO, Jakarta -

A joint team of the Indonesian National Defense Forces (TNI) and the Police confiscated dozens of sharp weapons and bottles hard liquors during a sweeping on Saturday evening (10/9) in a number of streets in Jayapura near Indonesia-PNG border.

Commander Task Unit of Indonesia-PNG Border Lieutenant Colonel Kohir on Sunday said that the sweeping was done to create a conducive atmosphere before Eid al-Adha on Monday.

"We've confiscated 24 sharp weapons of various sizes and 18 bottles of hard liquor of various brands," Kohi said.

"The sweeping began at 9 pm local time, in five points, including KM 31, KM 9, KM 6 and some other areas," he added.

ALFIAN RUMAGIT | ANTARA

Papuan Authorities under fire

<http://www.ucanews.com/news/papua-authorities-under-fire-for-not-enforcing-liquor-ban/77088>

Indonesian bishop accuses officials of being culpable for spate of deaths linked to bootleg alcohol



A Shariah policeman canes a man for drinking alcohol, during a public punishment in Banda Aceh, Indonesia in this March 1, 2016 photo. A Catholic bishop in Papua province has accused authorities there, of not enforcing an alcohol ban, which he says has resulted in deaths attributed to adulterated liquor. (Photo by AFP)

Benny Mawel, Jayapura [sept 12](#)

An Indonesian bishop has accused local authorities in Papua of ignoring an alcohol ban they introduced earlier this year, saying their inaction has contributed to a spate of deaths linked to the consumption of bootleg liquor.

Papua governor Lukas Enembe as well law enforcement agencies and officials signed an "integrity pact" on March 30 that included prohibiting the production, distribution and sale of alcohol.

However, instead of making crackdowns, some officials are helping supply people with alcohol, according to Bishop John Philip Saklil of Timika.

He called for authorities to vigorously enforce the ban they put in place. His call follows a string of deaths linked to adulterated homemade liquor.

One of the most serious cases was in late July when seven young men died after drinking bootleg liquor they bought from a kiosk at a market in nearby Dogiyai district.

Inaction from local government and security personnel, as well as general ignorance about bootleg alcohol contributed to the deaths, according to Bishop Saklil, who added that because of such ignorance, the consumption of alcohol particularly bootleg liquor in his diocese, has become widespread.

"People sell bootleg liquor freely and openly, despite not having permits to sell alcohol," he said.

The bishop claimed security personnel must have some role in supplying and selling liquor since people living in areas they can access but others find difficult to reach have a steady supply of alcohol.

"It's impossible they don't know anything about it," he said, suggesting there was a deliberate policy not to enforce the ban imposed earlier in the year.

"The involvement of military and police in supplying and selling liquor and their reluctance to deal with violators of the ban, resulting in them letting perpetrators of crimes go is valid proof."

He referred to the deaths of the seven young men, saying three out of four people suspected of selling of bootleg liquor in the area avoided arrest, while the other was arrested but released a few hours later.

Papua police chief Inspector General Paulus Waterpauw couldn't be reached for comment on the bishop's allegation.

Peneas Lokbere, an activist with rights group Solidarity for the Victims of Human Rights Violations in Papua, said that the Papuan people would face a serious threat if local governments failed to show their willingness to seriously handle the issue.

"There's a growing number of Papuan people falling victim to liquor. This threat must get serious attention from local governments. Ordinary Papuans themselves should be aware of this," he said.

According to Papua police, 86 people have died, 264 have been seriously injured and 839 injured slightly since 2013 in alcohol-related incidents.

'A Historic Choice: West Papua, Human Rights and Pacific Diplomacy at the Pacific Island Forum and Melanesian Spearhead Group'

An extract from the 70 page report just released

Full report available at

WP_PIF_MSG_Report_Online_RLR.pdf

This report analyses political developments and human rights violations in West Papua by the Indonesian state in response to the West Papuan people's aspirations for self-determination. It covers the period between January 2014, when a delegation of Melanesian Spearhead Group Foreign Ministers' visited the territory, and 15 July 2016, the day after Melanesian Spearhead Group Spe-

cial Leaders meet in Honiara and decided to defer a decision on the United Liberation Movement for West Papua's application for full membership. That decision will now be made by MSG leaders in Port Vila, Vanuatu before September.

The purpose of the report is to provide political decision makers in the Pacific – both at the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the Pacific Island Forum as well as civil society leaders in the Pacific, Non-Government Organisations, the Churches and solidarity groups in particular – with accurate, detailed and timely information about political developments and the human rights situation inside the country, a region that few manage to visit, let alone for any extended period. The authors hope that this information will assist them in their deliberations over the ULMWP's application for full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group as well as the request before the Pacific Island Forum for an international human rights fact finding mission. In light of the worsening human rights situation, a rapidly approaching demographic catastrophe and the Indonesian government's failure to protect West Papuans this report underscores the need for international remedies. The most obvious and powerful is to take the issue to the United Nations, including to re-list West Papua on the United Nations Committee for Decolonisation and to formally include the ULMWP in regional and sub-regional fora. As a priority the ULMWP should be granted full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. West Papuans need to have a seat at the table, to be the ones making decisions about their own future. Amongst other things, West Papuans need sub-regional and regional leaders to demand that the territory to be opened up to foreign media and international human rights observers.

What emerges from the findings is a detailed picture of human rights violations, carried out largely, but not exclusively, by the Indonesian police. Abuses are both systemic and systematic, routinely marked by violent and virulent racism. Human rights violations in West Papua, particularly denial of the West Papuans freedom of expression, has dramatically increased since the formation of the ULMWP in Vanuatu on the 6th of December 2014. The ULMWP and their supporters in particular are being targeted

by the Indonesian state. In 2014, prior to the formation of the West Papuan umbrella group, 105 people were arrested for nonviolent political activity. In 2015, 710 people were arrested for unarmed political activity in support of West Papuans right to self-determination. According to data provided by the Papuan Coalition for Human Rights and the Legal Aid Institute in Jakarta, by July 2016, 4,198 West Papuans were arrested, an increase of more than 4000% since the MSG foreign minister mission in 2014. Disturbingly, that data is only for the first half of 2016. All of these arrests

Were for nonviolent actions – handing out leaflets, public oration, displaying banners, and participating in public demonstrations – calling for the ULMWP to be granted full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. Most of those arrested were young people, of high school or university age. Even primary school aged students as young as 11 years old were also arrested by the police for participating in nonviolent action. Many of those detained by the police were arrested using excessive forces and were tortured while in detention. In some cases, such as Yahukimo, Police acts of torture against ULMWP activists occurred in public using household instruments like hammers.

Acts of state violence occur all over West Papua and are carried out by all parts of the security forces: the military, and all levels of police including the mobile police brigade and Special Detachment 88. The human rights violations alleged in the report are serious. They include killing, torture, sexual assault and deprivation of liberty, the purpose of which appears to be a failed attempt to silence West Papuans non-violently expressing a political opinion to be free. In more recent months, as the West Papua campaign gained strength internationally, the Indonesian police facilitated the mobilisation of demonstrations by nationalist militia groups, a pattern of conflict that echoes East Timor. Militias have been mobilised against West Papuans in displays of force across West Papua and in Java. In each case armed state actors – the police and the military – are in the background, ominously backing up militia mobilisations. In Yogyakarta in July 2016, for example, the police publicly beat and humiliated students while hundreds of militiamen armed with iron bars, clubs

and knives intimidated West Papuans who were singing freedom songs in their dormitory.

The Indonesian government appears to be conducting a campaign to destroy the United Liberation Movement in West Papua (ULMWP) despite the fact that group is committed to nonviolently pursuing their right to self-determination and that West Papuans right to freedom of expression is meant to be guaranteed under the Indonesian constitution. Regardless of repeated reassurances from the Indonesian government that they would resolve human rights violations in West Papua the evidence clearly shows that the human rights situation is rapidly worsening under the leadership of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. The Indonesian state has failed to guarantee West Papuans right to safety and life as well as their right to freely and peacefully express a political opinion. Consequently, including the ULMWP in the Pacific Island Forum and granting the ULMWP full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead is needed not just because West Papuans are Pacific people and pursuing a decolonisation agenda, but as a remedy to help bring international pressure bear to peacefully resolve the Pacific's longest running and most violent conflict: the slow motion genocide in West Papua.

The data in the report comes from in country interviews and a meta-analysis of all human rights reports published during the reporting period, both in English and Indonesian. We particularly want to acknowledge Elsham for their assistance in preparing this report. Activist reports have only been used when they can be triangulated with at least two other sources.

Two of the report's three authors travelled clandestinely into conflict areas inside West Papua to conduct interviews with organisers of demonstrations, survivors of human rights violations, human rights lawyers and human rights defenders. In addition, the report is based on long-term participatory action research inside West Papua throughout the reporting period. Despite collecting data from across West Papua, this report is not a comprehensive forensic analysis of the human rights situation, and in many cases perpetrators have neither been successfully identified nor have violations been adequately investigated. Unfortunately the political situation is not conducive to such research being un-

dertaken. This is why independent human rights investigation, monitoring and evaluation is desperately needed.

The report was written by independent researchers Dr Jason MacLeod, an academic working on civil resistance and West Papua, and Rosa Moiwend, a human rights defender and gender and critical development researcher. Additional assistance was provided by Jasmine Pilbrow who drew on detailed research provided by Elsham Papua, AJAR, the International Coalition for West Papua, Tapol, Papuans Behind Bars, Legal Aid Institute in Jakarta, Human Rights Watch, Gereja Kristen Injili – Tanah Papua, the Kingmi Church of Papua, as well as lawyers and activist groups. Publication and dissemination of the report is supported by the Pacific Association of Non-Government Organisations and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Thank you to everyone who assisted.

The report summarises the conflict, mindful that many audiences of the Pacific are still not fully aware of what is driving conflict in West Papua. The political dynamics of the conflict are analysed paying particular attention to the period between January 2014, when the Melanesian Foreign Ministers mission briefly visited the territory and July 2016, when the majority of this report was written. The United Liberation Movement for West Papua, is also introduced, along with their plan for creating a just and sustainable peace in West Papua. In addition, the broader political dynamics of the West Papuan movement for freedom is also analysed. The Appendix of the report summarises human rights violations between January 2014 and July 2014. There is also a discussion of five patterns that have emerged from an analysis of the data. One case in particular, the killing of five school aged children in Enarotali by the Indonesian security forces, is discussed in more detail as exemplar of the Indonesian state's failure to resolve human rights violations. Next the emergence of nationalist militia groups backed up by the Indonesian state is documented, a troubling phenomenon echoing the history of East Timor, portending the willingness of the state to use extreme violence against Papuans. The report concludes by arguing that Pacific Island states are in an ideal position to contribute positively to resolving the conflict. Independent human rights missions by Pacific Island

states, formal inclusion of the ULMWP in regional fora, such as granting full membership of the MSG, as well as addressing the question of West Papua at the United Nations, will help create conditions that constrain Indonesian state violence, compel the Indonesian government to formally address their failure to protect West Papuans, and create space for the Papuan people's deeply held aspirations to be taken seriously.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=2420625&CategoryId=13936>

Pacific Islands Forum to Focus on Climate Change and West Papua

SYDNEY, Australia - Climate change and the situation in Indonesia's West Papua province will dominate the agenda of the 47th leaders' summit of the Pacific Islands Forum, being held in Pohnpei in Micronesia on Friday.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced a \$229 million aid to help the Pacific islands combat climate change and improve disaster resistance capabilities, according to news portal news.com.au.

Australia, the forum's most powerful country, was recently criticized by nonprofit Oxfam for not allocating enough aid towards efforts to fight climate change in the South Pacific (which have been suffering the effects of climate change and extreme weather phenomenon) since 2010.

New Zealand, another country in the forum, has also been criticized for a 20 percent cut in its contribution since 2013, according to Pacific Islands News

Association.

Oxfam's Executive Director in New Zealand, Rachael Le Mesurier, said the country's funding model for the fight against climate change is very business-oriented and does not benefit families, who are bearing the brunt of the phenomenon and who needs more resources to adapt to the rise in sea levels - which contaminates their water sources and snatches their cultivable lands - as well as powerful cyclones hitting the region.

The summit will also discuss issues related to West Papua, a Christian-majority Indonesian region, and home to a separatist conflict.

Radio New Zealand reported the forum plans to renew its call to Indonesia to allow international observers in the region, a proposal Jakarta had turned down last year.

It said the forum is also expected to consider West Papua's request to be accepted as a member, besides encouraging its inclusion into the United Nations Decolonization Committee, or C24.

Meanwhile, Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, whose country was readmitted into the forum following elections, has declined to attend the forum in protest over the presence of Australia and New Zealand.

Other countries at the forum include the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

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AWPA SA Incorporated is a Non Government Organisation that supports West Papuan Human rights and Papuans rights to self determination . Our newsletter is published every 3 months. For those wanting more frequent news please email us to arrange monthly or even daily email updates .

