



The Free Papua Movement Australia is a volunteer advocacy organisation to rise awareness and unite Australians who wish to help our West Papuan friends be heard in Australian and world arena.

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# WEST PAPUA

a

natural  
paradise



For over fifty thousand years the people of Papua developed hundreds of cultures



And in West Papua a hundred and fifty years ago they befriended Dutch missionaries and began adapting some western ideas to their Melanesian needs.



And so  
in 1961

West Papua elected a New Guinea Council, but the US and Indonesia had a plan to stop United Nations yearly reports and confuse other governments while Indonesia in 1963 began a rule of terror and mining.



## Where is West Papua?

West Papua is the western half of New Guinea, the world's second-largest island. It lies 250 kilometres north of Australia and is one of the thousands of South Pacific islands collectively known as 'Melanesia'.

Its high mountains support rain forests that are second in size only to the Amazon, and contains species like birds of paradise, cassowary, cuscus, wombats and tree kangaroos. It is home to people whose culture stretches back tens of thousands of years and despite the past fifty years remains vibrant among some 250 surviving unique tribes, languages and cultures.

It is a nation united in spirit and purpose asserted in a manifesto issued by its elected New Guinea Council on 19 October 1961 calling on the people to unit as a nation to be called West Papua under a new flag called the Morning Star; and despite fierce foreign opposition the people have been rising their flag and asking the international community to acknowledge their human right of self-determination.

## Why haven't I heard about this before?

At first because Indonesia since 1963 has declared the territory to be a restricted zone requiring special permissions to enter

And the lawyers, foreign politicians, NGOs, and even tourists who do gain permission to enter are monitored by the police and BIN, the Indonesian intelligence agency. (BIN).

The persistence of silence is largely due to transnational

corporations in business with Indonesia and its military; corporations like the members of the US Indonesia Society usindo.org, and more recently the Australian and other companies like Rio-Tinto that have been encouraged by Indonesia and our Foreign Ministers to invest and take part in the looting of West Papua.

**West Irian Visits Restricted**  
**JAKARTA, Indonesia, Sept. 5 (Reuters)—West Irian (former Netherland New Guinea) has been declared a "quarantine territory" and visitors to the province must have permission from Foreign Minister Subandrio, who is also Minister for West Irian Affairs, the Government said. No reason was given for the measure.**

## What is the situation now?

West Papua is suffering an oppression from which every family has stories of kin being killed, raped, or tortured by Indonesian security forces. Hundreds of thousands have been killed and other have died as a direct result of the Indonesian practices. Much of their land has been taken by the state and multinational companies for mining, logging or palm oil plantations. Peaceful protests remain criminalised: anyone who calls for independence, raises the Papuan flag or publicly questions the legitimacy of Indonesian rule can be imprisoned. Over thirty thousand Indonesian troops are stationed in West Papua and regularly hunt Papuan leaders, activists and civilians.

Since 1950 Indonesia has claimed the territory was a part of Indonesia and was not a non self-governing territory, but the United Nations in General Assembly resolution agreed West New Guinea (West Papua) was a non self-governing territory for which the Netherlands had a legal obligation to make yearly reports.

In 1961 the United Nations Secretary General was killed and replaced by a man who in 1962 forced our and other governments to vote without debate or independent legal advice on an agreement the US and Indonesia had compelled the Netherlands to sign. And since 1962 our governments have remained confuse about the legal obligations that the United Nations has for West Papua.

Since 1969 Indonesia has been claiming that the people of West Papua voted to become part of Indonesia and that the United Nations has endorsed the Indonesian claims to the territory and its resources.

The last official United Nations statement asserts "In 1963 Dutch New Guinea became Irian Barat, which in 1973 changed its name to Irian Jaya and is currently administered by Indonesia."

By 2001 all NGOs were in agreement that in excess of 100,000 people have been killed in West Papua by the Indonesian military and other administrating forces.

Many West Papuan people believe the number is closer to 500,000 killed by Indonesia since 1963.

Indonesia has moved around one million people from its Malay territories to Papua, hoping to prevent any future referendum voting in favour of independence. Since its annexation the people of

## What do the people want?

West Papuans have been denied a fundamental right in the UN International Charter of Human Rights - 'self-determination', the right to choose their own government and national status.

Every representative Papuan organisation has been and is calling for genuine referendum on independence, just as East Timor got sixteen years ago.

The Papuan people want their right to vote.

*"The people of West Papua have been denied their basic human rights including the right to self-determination. Their cry for justice has fallen largely on deaf ears."*

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu

*"The crimes committed against the people of West Papua are some of the most shameful of the past years. The Western powers have much to answer for, and at the very least should use their ample means to bring about the withdrawal of the occupying Indonesian army."*

- Noam Chomsky

## What can we do?

We can rise awareness.

We can help West Papua end the confidence trick by which Indonesia and foreign corporations have been benefiting from the absence of the United Nations yearly reports.

We can as means of exposing the confidence trick, demand our government explain which part of the *Charter of the United Nations* gave Australia and the General Assembly authority to make resolution 1752 approving a General Assembly deployment of UN troops to occupy and administrate West Papua in 1962.

We can assist organisations like the Kilungga Foundation that seeks to assist the West Papuan refugees in PNG that Australia and then PNG have abandoned and threaten with expulsion back to Indonesia if they hold rallies or public demonstrations about the Indonesian treatment that caused them to flee across the border to PNG.