

West Papuan Independence

Preamble

West Papua was a Dutch colony until 1961 when it held a congress declaring independence. Within months of this declaration, West Papua was invaded. Resistance to Indonesian occupation began in 1962 when temporary authority was first given to Jakarta by the United Nations without consultation with the indigenous West Papuans. Indonesia has conducted a vicious war against the West Papuan people and the Free West Papua Movement (*Organisasi Papua Merdeka*, OPM) rebels since then.

Australia, the United Nations, France, the Netherlands, and the United States of America have ignored the plight of the West Papuans and in many cases have actively collaborated with the Indonesians. This was particularly the case during the UN-sponsored "Act of Free Choice" that saw West Papua formally join Indonesia in 1969.

Over the last forty years, West Papuans have been systematically excluded from control over their natural resources. The enormous deposits of gold and copper have been exploited by the occupying Indonesian Government which has resulted in the pollution of large parts of the countryside. The profits of this exploitation went to both the Suharto dictatorship and multinational mining conglomerates.

Since Indonesia annexed West Papua, at least 100,000 (and as many as 300,000) indigenous Papuans have been killed by the Indonesian military, and human rights violations - including torture, extra-judicial killings, rape, arbitrary arrest and detention and denial of free assembly and free speech – continue today. To Australia's shame, the Australian Defence Force has been involved in training Indonesian military units involved in West Papuan genocide, including Kopassus.

Some 20,000 West Papuan refugees are believed to be living in Papua New Guinea, although only 4,000 are acknowledged as being such.

On 18 January, 43 West Papuan refugees landed in Australia after a 250km voyage across the ocean in a dug-out canoe. On 22 March they were given asylum for 30 months, due in no small part to the international pressure placed on the Federal Government.

Platform

UMSU believes the West Papuan people were denied their internationally-recognised right to self-determination by the fraudulent 1969 "Act of Free Choice".

UMSU believe that the West Papuans have a continuing right to self-determination.

UMSU calls on Indonesia to immediately halt all violations of West Papuans' human rights and international law, and for those responsible for violations to be held accountable.

UMSU supports a free and fair, United Nations conducted referendum on self-determination, involving all West Papua's indigenous population.

UMSU condemns the reopening of military and training links with Indonesia, particularly the training of Kopassus, the Indonesian special forces squad involved in genocide against West Papuans.

UMSU supports the granting of permanent asylum to West Papuan refugees.

Action

UMSU directs the President to write to the Federal Immigration Minister to call for the government's support for an immediate independence referendum in West Papua and for the end of all military links to Indonesia.

UMSU further directs the President to write to the Indonesian ambassador (or embassy) to call on Indonesia to halt any and all violations of international law.

UMSU will support campaigns to raise awareness of the plight of the West Papuans, and support the right of West Papuans to self determination.