

# FREE WEST PAPUA CAMPAIGN

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

We're so sorry...

that you haven't heard from us in a while – we have been working behind the scenes to improve our communications! This is the first of our new newsletter layout and we hope that you like it.

This newsletter is going to be a little longer than normal due to the time between your last update, but moving forwards, we will be sending you more regular updates so don't worry, this is a one off in length!



**So, let's start with the good news!**

You already know that Benny Wenda was elected Chairman of the ULMWP and ULMWP head offices were opened in Vanuatu in January this year – we are still thrilled about this development and the opportunities it has opened up for the ULMWP and the Free West Papua Campaign to make significant progress at the diplomatic level, putting West Papua

on to the international agenda.

Benny and the ULMWP have been travelling across the world representing West Papua, building international political support, and thus garnering worldwide support for the West Papuan cause. These relationships are built in the offices of parliamentarians, in the hallways of bureaucratic meeting rooms, in the public of individual nations and communities, and in conference rooms, within which sit some of the most influential people in the world.

A lot of this progress must be kept confidential for security reasons and for fear of Indonesian intervention. We are sure you understand why we therefore cannot share many details of the progress. We can however promise you that West Papua is making significant strides in the international community thanks to the ULMWP, the West Papuan people, and all individuals and groups who actively contribute to West Papua's campaign.

On June 11, 2018, the national trade organisation, FIRST Union, with the over site of West Papua Auckland, New Zealand, officially opened the West Papua Desk. It is intended to be a hub for organising events, and to provide community space for raising awareness of West Papua's fight for independence and human rights violations. We were delighted with the solidarity shown from New Zealand with Benny stating:

*"The journey is sometimes dark and weary, but a ray of hope from our Pacific family can light the way on this long road. June 11, 2018 is now a great day to remember on this path to freedom. We will write it down in history as a day of friendship between neighbours."*

We are also pleased to let you know that the ULMWP now have three offices open in West Papua, with another four planned. We are, as always, concerned of the threat from Indonesia and the possibility of these offices attacked. In the past, offices in Wamena and Fak Fak have been forcibly closed by the Indonesian military, so, we remain alert.

## **THE WONDERFUL WORK OF WEST PAPUAN SUPPORTERS**

We are so moved by the wonderful global actions we see from people who support West Papua around the world. Through sport, music, literature, and so much more, the creativity and heart from the international community continues to give strength to West Papua and reminds them they are not alone.

### **LITERATURE**

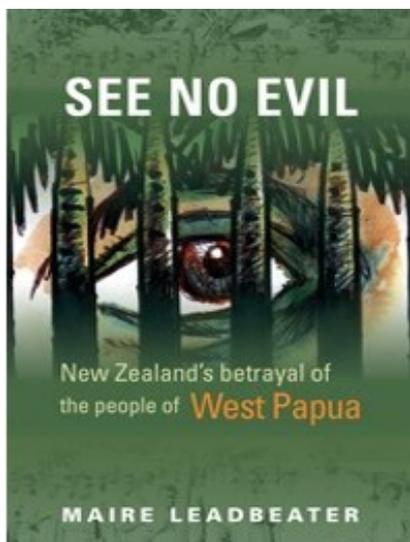
#### **Maire Leadbeater**

'See No Evil: New Zealand's Betrayal of the People of West Papua' details the impact of New Zealand's foreign policy towards West Papua and their hypocritical diplomacy as they

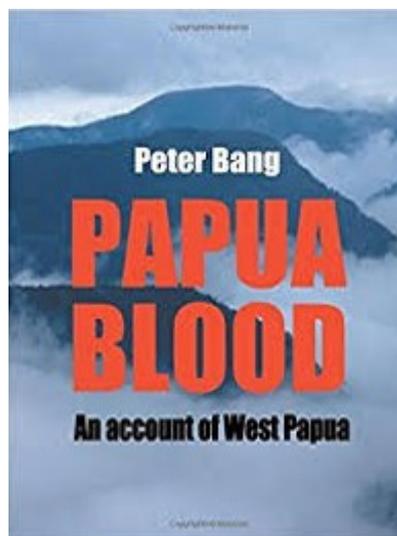
#### **Peter Bang**

'Papua Blood: An Account of West Papua' takes the reader on a journey through West Papua detailing Bang's experiences of thirty years among the West Papuan indigenous people, simultaneously

transitioned from supporting the West Papuan cause in the 1950's to backing Indonesia as they occupied in the 1960's. This book is an extremely powerful call for self-determination from one of the most respected authors on peace and Pacific issues.



entertaining the reader whilst delivering a strong message for independence.



## COMMEMORATIONS

### **August 2nd Anniversary of the Act of NO Choice and the Day of Betrayal**

On this day in 1969, 1026 Papuans (0.2% of the population) were handpicked by the Indonesian military and threatened with death if they did not vote in favour of continued Indonesian control.

Indonesia uses this vote to claim sovereignty over West Papua despite its illegality.

We reject the Act of free Choice 1969 and call for free and fair referendum on independence in West Papua under international law and to international standards.

This year, tens of demonstrations took place all around the world to reject the illegal act of free choice. Many Indonesian students took part in these demonstrations in support of West

### **Commemorating the Biak Massacre**

On July 6th 1998, the Indonesian government tortured, mutilated, and massacred over 150 West Papuan people who raised the West Papuan flag and peacefully protested for their independence.

The Indonesian Military General, Wiranto, who was in charge of the massacre did not try to deny it instead he tried to justify it claiming that the Indonesian military needed to stop people who raised the West Papuan flag. No one has ever been brought to justice for the Biak massacre.

On July 6th 2018, Biak victim supporters all around the world remembered the Biak Massacre. Gathering on bridges in their local areas and placing flowers in the water in remembrance of those who lost their lives.

Papua.



## NEXT ACTION:

August 15th: Anniversary of the New York Agreement

## SPORT & MUSIC

### Vierdaagse

From 17-20th July, supporters in the Netherlands took part in Vierdaagse (Dutch for 'four days') which is the largest annual walking event in the world. Participants walk 30, 40, or 50km each day. Donned with West Papuan flags, t-shirts, and face-paint, they walked in solidarity with West Papua!

### Rockin' For West Papua

On Sunday 4th March in London, Xylaroo, Carpet Face, Useless Cities, and Emma and the Fragments all came together to raise awareness and fundraise. It was a brilliant awareness raising night, and West Papuan's can see that UK musicians too are speaking out for their cause. We are now gearing up for our largest global concert ever. [See here.](#)

### Wan Papua Warriors

In July, the Wan Papua Warriors tirelessly raised funds to travel from Papua New Guinea (PNG) to compete in their first international tournament in London joining the London team 'West's Warriors'.

Arriving in London with the aim of both raising awareness and coming away with the trophy, their mission was a huge success!

The team went undefeated in all matches, propelling them into the final and ultimately winning the tournament! Their trophy is not only a symbol of their athletic abilities, but also a shining example of Pacific solidarity for West Papua.



## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

While we have been continuing to make positive strides in the international arena, the situation in West Papua remains a serious issue. The following are just two examples of the threats the people of West Papua face on a daily basis.

### - Nduga Air Strikes:

At the beginning of July, during an attack by the West Papuan Liberation Army (TPN) on Indonesian police at an airport during regional elections, three people were killed. The TPN claimed responsibility which was met with mass deployment of the Indonesian military to the Alguru area in the Nduga regency. The military subsequently went on to conduct a violent aerial campaign of air strikes over the Alguru area in pursuit of the TPN. Thousands of West Papuan villagers reportedly fled from their homes due to the conflict. The ULMWP condemned the events stating:

*"The Indonesian Government's horrific acts of violence against the Melanesian people of West Papua are causing great harm and trauma."*

### - Extrajudicial Killing:

In July, both Amnesty International (AI) and the International Coalition for Papua (ICP) released reports detailing the alarming rate of extrajudicial killing in West Papua. AI's report entitled ["DON'T BOTHER, JUST LET HIM DIE": KILLING WITH IMPUNITY IN PAPUA](#) reviews 69 cases of suspected unlawful killing by Indonesian security forces between January 2010 and February 2018. AI made some very poignant observations and concluded that there is a direct and causal link between impunity and human rights violations.

ICP's quarterly report ['Human Rights Update West Papua'](#) covering the period April – June 2018, supports AI's report, detailing that in the second quarter of 2018, there was an increase in the number of reported extra-judicial killings. Throughout the reporting period there were five cases reported which were directly related to the excessive use of firearms by the Indonesian police and military.

## UPCOMING ACTIONS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

We have some really exciting events coming up and we would love for you to be involved.

**Click here** to see what we have coming up and how you can get involved!



## DONATE

By donating to our campaign you will be a part of helping us to set West Papua free!

We are so grateful to receive any and all financial contributions either by way of regular monthly giving or a one off donation. **Click the button below to send us fixed amount or sign up to give us as little as £5 a month which can really make a huge difference to our work!**

[Donate](#)

## PAPUA MERDEKA!



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