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**Van:** Free West Papua Campaign <free-west-papua-campaign@mx-aus.keela.co>

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**Aan:** webmaster@west-papua.nl



Hi ,

Welcome to PAPUA MERDEKA, the monthly newsletter of the Free West Papua Campaign.

### **This month...**

- Rest in Peace Lukas Enembe
- War criminal wins first round of Indonesian elections
- Military operation intensifies as new gold mine is constructed
- Indonesia hypocritically condemns Israel's genocide

### **INSIDE WEST PAPUA: THE HEADLINES**

- Beloved former Governor of Papua Province [Lukas Enembe died on Boxing Day 2023](#), after a [long and bruising legal battle](#) with the Indonesian state. Despite working within Indonesian institutions, Enembe – an indigenous Papuan – was a tireless advocate for West Papuan interests, and in his later years became a [vocal critic](#) of Jakarta's colonial policies.



#### **REST IN PEACE LUKAS ENEMBE**

*Enembe was initially arrested on what he consistently maintained were trumped-up corruption charges in September 2022. Despite severe ill health, he was banned from travelling abroad for vital medical treatment. None of the 17 witnesses called against him could produce hard evidence of bribery.*

*Enembe became only the 5th West Papuan to have his coffin carried to his home by thousands of West Papuans; the other four were all prominent leaders of the independence movement.*

- War criminal General Prabowo Subianto, a veteran of Indonesia's genocidal campaigns in East Timor and West Papua, declared victory in the first round of the Indonesian elections. The electoral process was [boycotted](#) by indigenous Papuans, with some [burning ballots](#).



*War criminal General Prabowo Subianto, declared victory in the first round of the Indonesian elections*

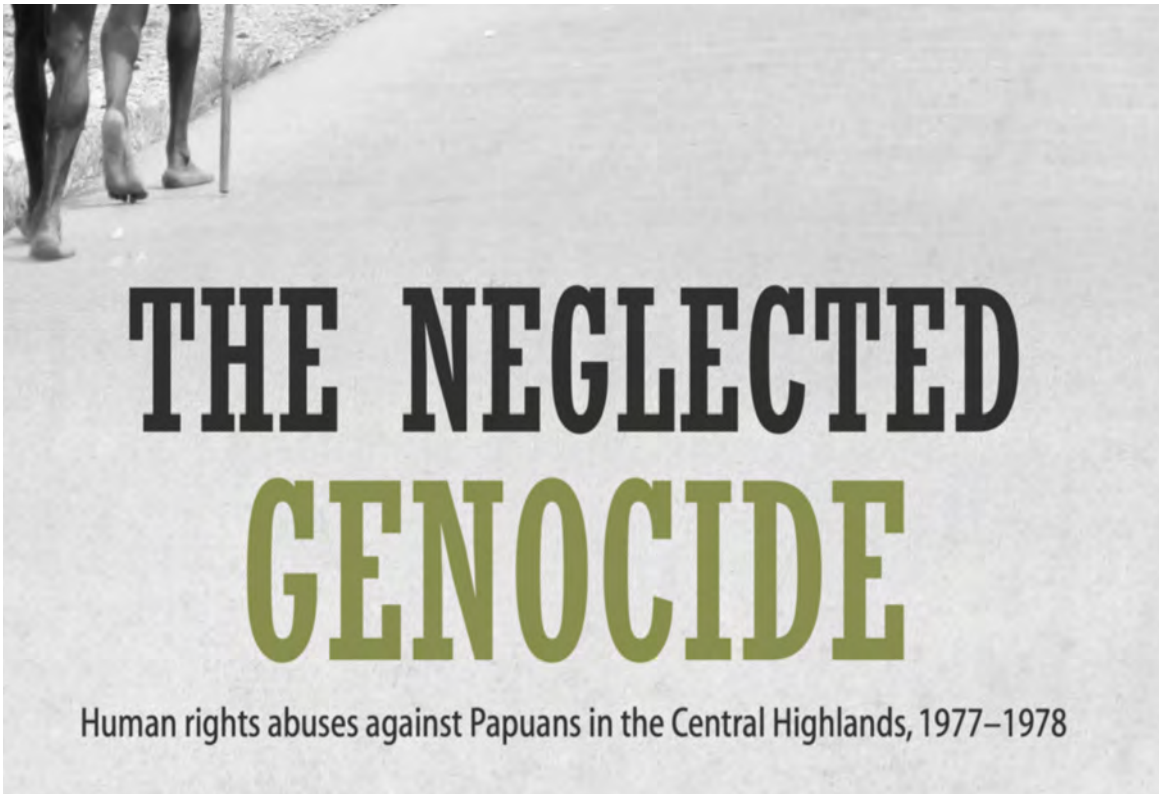
- Nearly 1000 West Papuans [were displaced](#) from the capital region of Jayapura in January after a 35-year-old villager was tortured and murdered by the Indonesian military.
- Another two Papuan civilians [were murdered](#) during a military operation in Intan Jaya. The military occupation in Intan Jaya has become significantly more pronounced in recent years due to the construction of Wabu Block, a new gold mine the size of Jakarta.



*Thousands displaced after villager tortured and murdered by the Indonesian military*

## INDONESIAN HYPOCRISY

- Indonesia has given [full-throated support](#) to South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the ICJ – despite perpetrating their own colonial genocide in West Papua, and refusing to sign the Genocide Convention.



## Indonesian Human Rights Abuses in West Papua: Application of the Law of Genocide to the History of Indonesian Control

A [paper](#) prepared for the Indonesia Human Rights Network, by the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic Yale Law School.

### INTERNATIONAL PROGRESS

- A [landmark meeting in the European Parliament](#) increased the pressure on Indonesia to allow the UN to visit West Papua. Indonesia has refused the UN access to West Papua for over six years, despite **over 100 countries** demanding that they urgently facilitate a UN investigation into the human rights situation there.
- The Melanesian Spearhead Group [appointed two key Melanesian leaders](#) as Special Envoys for West Papua, in a move that was welcomed by the West Papuan liberation movement.



*Over 100 countries demand a UN investigation into the human rights situation in West Papua*

## **MORE GOOD NEWS**

- The London Metal Exchange has been [taken to court](#) over claims it trades in ‘dirty metals’ extracted from the Grasberg Mine in West Papua, the world’s largest gold and second largest copper mine. If successful, the landmark case could force corporations to stop trading in resources stolen from West Papuan land.

## **LISTEN AND WATCH**

- Listen to [The Last Song](#) written by West Papuan cultural revolutionary Arnold Ap before he was assassinated by the Indonesian military in 1984. Ap’s lyrics ring true for West Papuans today: “*what I am longing for, what I am waiting for, nothing but freedom*”.
- Watch [Sa Pu Nama Pengungsi](#), a documentary about a West Papuan mother and child displaced from their land by Indonesian military operations.



*A landmark case could force corporations to stop trading in resources stolen from West Papuan land*

**DONATE HERE**

## HELP OUT

We are up against the resources of the fourth most populous country in the world. Your contributions, no matter how small, really do make a difference, enabling West Papuans to continue their fight against modern-day colonialism. If you wish to [donate](#), you can do so [here](#).



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