



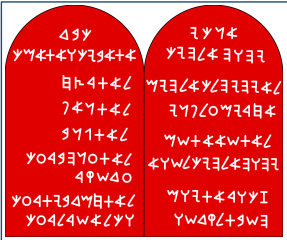
All religions teach us about the noble value of personal relations with our Creator—as individuals, families, tribes, nations—and with our fellow human beings

**THE CASE FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION  
IN WEST PAPUA'S STRUGGLE FOR  
SELF-DETERMINATION**

**Jacob Rumbiak**

SOUTH EAST ASIAN FREEDOM OF  
RELIGION OR BELIEF CONFERENCE  
BANGKOK, 4-6 NOVEMBER 2019





**FREEDOM OF RELIGION** is a fundamental tenet of God's covenant with humankind. It is embodied in Jesus' cross. It manifests in the moral choice offered to Adam and Eve and Lucifer. And in the divine laws revealed to Moses, those foundational principles of ethics and worship from which modern constitutions draw inspiration and design.

### ARTICLE 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, **RELIGION**, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

← United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

### 1<sup>st</sup> AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of **RELIGION**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

← American Constitution (1789/91)

### SECTION 116

The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any **RELIGION**, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.

← Australian Constitution (1901)

### ARTICLE 28E

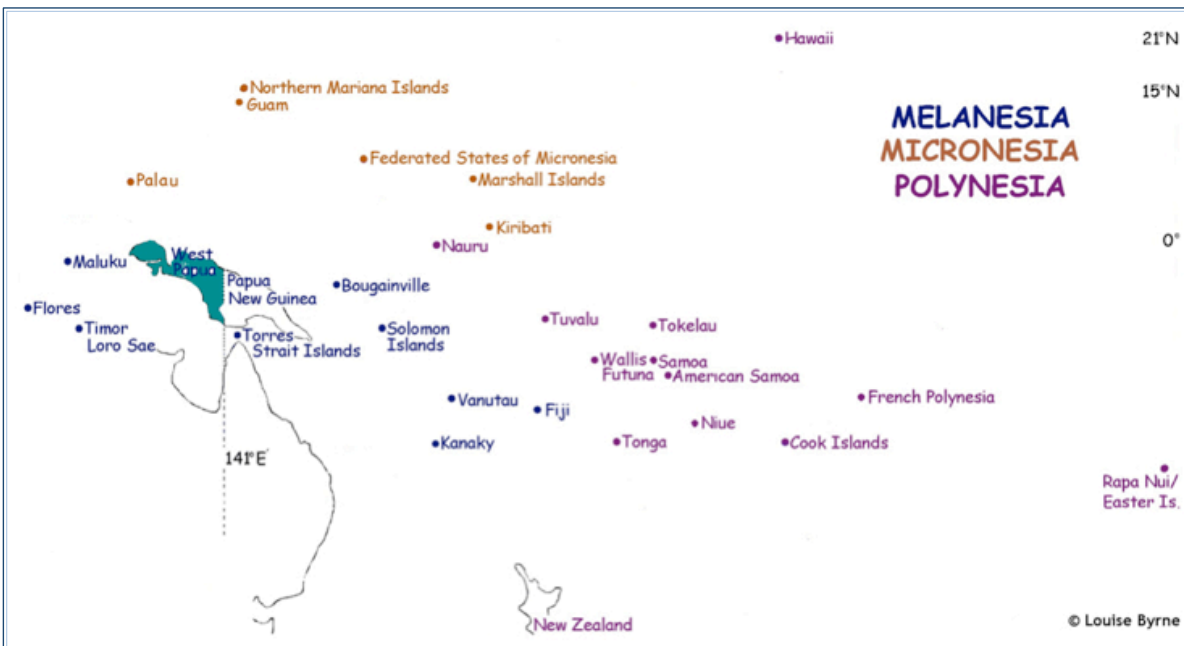
Each person is **free to worship and to practice the RELIGION of his choice**, to choose education and schooling, occupation, nationality, residency in the territory of the country that he shall be able to leave and to which he shall have the right to return. Each person has the right to be free in his convictions and to assert his thoughts and tenets in accordance with his conscience. Each person has the right to freely associate, assemble, and express his opinions.

← Indonesian Constitution (1945)

### DRAFT CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 5.1 (f)

All West Papuans are entitled to **freedom of conscience and worship**

← Democratic Republic of West Papua (2007)



## WHO ARE THE WEST PAPUANS?

West Papuan are indigenous Melanesians—like the peoples of Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea (as well as Bougainville, Maluku, Torres’ Strait in Australia, and the Kanaks of New Caledonia).

The Papuans’ homeland was a Non-Self-Governing Territory between 1950 and 1962, administered by the Kingdom of the Netherlands under the auspice of the United Nations. After Indonesia declared war on the territory on 19 December 1961, the UN switched the administration to Indonesia.

**In 1962 Melanesian West Papuans were 99% of the population. Now we are 30%, with a growth rate of 1.6% (Non-Papuan rate is 10.5%).** In other words, there are one million missing Papuans—assassinated, poisoned, exiled, born dead or not at all. **Indonesian Government statistics show that in 2030 we will be 15% of the population.**

The legal and political arguments for West Papua’s freedom are well known and supported by an increasing number of UN member-states.

This is a presentation of religious arguments, including the Indonesian Government’s ambition, through its military and Islamic militia, to destroy the Melanesian Christian identity. (Note that we are not talking here about the Indigenous Papuan Muslims who have lived along the west and south coasts of the Birdshhead for centuries).





## INDIGENOUS WEST PAPUANS BELIEVE ....

i) The 84 nations of the world, as the United Nations in 1962, **violated divine law as well as modern international law** when they voted to give West Papua to Indonesia. Why? Because West Papuans are Christian who believe

God made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having **determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation** (Acts 17:26)

ii) The current 193 nations of the world **aid and abet Indonesia's violation of the laws of religious freedom** when they fail to condemn Indonesia for sending Islamic militia to West Papua under the direction of the Indonesian Army to annihilate the people.

**How did it come to this?**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those that are oppressed”  
(Luke 4:18)



## WEST PAPUA IS A CHRISTIAN NATION

The Kingdom of the Netherlands didn't establish administrative posts in West New Guinea until 1900, three-hundred years after its violent occupation of Batavia/Jakarta and the Moluccan spice islands.

Meantime, it was European missionaries—Protestant on the north coast since 1855, Catholics in the south since 1894—who were engaging with West Papuans, an indigenous people of three-hundred tribes, each with their own customary practices and religious ethos.

**As we learned to see 'West Papua' from above, through God's eyes, as His gift for us to cherish, we enriched our tribal beliefs and practices with Christian principles, Hebrew stories, ideas about a common humanity, and self-determination as a Christian nation (Jacob Rumbiak).**

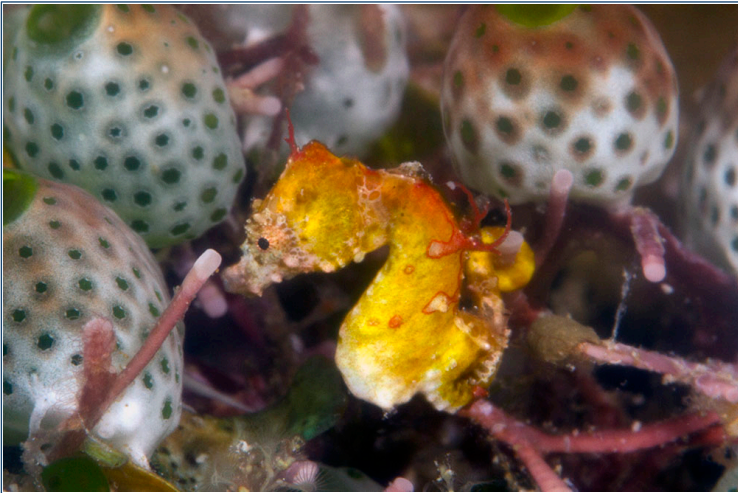
Papuan tribes on the west and south coasts of the Birdshead were Muslims long before the arrival of Christian missionaries, and had adopted the faith in ways that didn't over-ride or their indigenous cultures. For instance, a Christian woman might have a Muslim husband, and both Muslim and Christian children. Melanesian Papuan Muslims in the Birdshead are strong Papuan nationalists.

In 1942, at the start of World War Two in West Papua, most European missionaries were executed or incarcerated by the Japanese (which meant their Moluccan *gurus* were left to negotiate between the West Papuans and the Japanese). After the war, the Netherlands listed West Papua as a Non-Self-Governing Territory (1950, Res. 448) and funded the Protestant and Catholic churches to establish and service health and education across the territory. That included establishing a range of fruitful relations with Melanesian Christian Churches in the Pacific Islands, which were all terminated after the transfer of West Papua to Indonesia in 1962.

Current population of West Papuan (indigenous Melanesians) **2.1 million**  
 Current population of Non-Papuan (Indonesian transmigrants) **3.3 million**



Dutch missionary nuns meeting a highlander.  
 Haji Oea Saraka di Onin, an important Muslim trader in Skroë (Fakfak) 1890-1896



**MELANESIAN  
WEST PAPUA**

**Sacred Seas**  
Raja Ampat

**INDONESIAN  
WEST PAPUA**

Jayapura



**Sacred Land**  
Nemangkawi  
(Mt Carstensz)

Freeport mine



**Sacred Lives**  
Jayapura

Jayapura  
15 July 2016



Obi Kogoya, a student, arrested during a peaceful rally supporting West Papua's application to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group



## **'FREEDOM OF RELIGION' TODAY IN INDONESIAN WEST PAPUA**

The West Papuans faith has been honed and tested by the Indonesian colonial experience. For instance Papuans have never used churches or temples, or even mosques, as spaces for kidnapping, torturing, or killing. **But houses of worship are now used as training centres (for violent jihadi) and torture centres (for indigenous Christian Papuans).**

In October 2019, the Indonesian Parliament passed legislation to formalize relations between the Indonesian Military and ISIS returnees from the jihadi wars in the Middle East. The following day *Paguyuban Nusantara* publicly declared its intention to wage jihad in West Papua and called for military arms from the Indonesian government. (Ironically *Paguyuban Nusantara* means 'non-violent response by the people of the archipelago'). The next day it was parading in Wamena, directed and protected by the Indonesian military. Many of its leaders are street criminals and returnees from the caliphate wars in the Middle East.

In May 2018 Australian intelligence authorities calculated that 1100 Indonesians have returned from the Middle East after fighting with Islamic State. They are the spearhead of nine million Indonesian civilians who have a favourable opinion of Islamic State. Four major political parties (along with the influential Indonesian Muslim Council/MUI) have refused for two years to pass anti-terrorist legislation.

Indonesian scholar Lailstul Fitriwah claims in *The Jakarta Post* (15 May 2018) that "We have normalized religious discrimination with our TV programs, the preachers we listen to, and the arrogance of Muslim vigilante groups. This strain of religious violence is in our political campaigns, our commercial products and our consumerist activities. In a nutshell, we devour violence".

**The agonising death of Yawan Wayeni, Matembu village, Serui, 2 August 2009.** Mobile phone video taken by one of the Indonesian soldiers taunting and ridiculing the man they'd had just shot and bayoneted in front of his wife and children. Yawan repeatedly gasps 'Merdeka' (freedom) and the soldiers laugh, one saying **'Where is your God now?'**



## CHEMICAL WEAPONS DROPPED ON PAPUA

by John Martinkus and Mark Davis.

The Saturday Paper, No. 236, 22 Dec 2018 – 25 Jan 2019

**The Indonesian military has employed airstrikes in West Papua – suspected to include the banned chemical weapon white phosphorus – as a retaliation for murders following a flag-raising protest.**

A villager wounded in the Indonesian attack in the West Papua central highlands. There are burns around the wounds. The flesh appears to have been torn open or burrowed into, the victims' clothing melted or cut away. At least seven are dead. Thousands more have fled into the hills.

These are the first images of a major operation being conducted by the Indonesian military in the central highlands of West Papua.

Other photographs show yellow-tipped bombs, collected by villagers. Some weapons appear to be white phosphorus, banned under international law for use of this kind.

White phosphorus is considered both an incendiary weapon and a chemical weapon. It burns through skin and flesh, down to the bone. It cannot be extinguished. The only way to save a person hit with it is to submerge them in water and attempt to remove the phosphorus. Many die from internal burns. Others from the phosphorous absorbed into their bodies, which can cause multiple organ failure.

A military source confirms the weapons “appear to be incendiary or white phosphorus”. The source says “even the smallest specks burn through clothing, skin, down to the bone and keep on bubbling away. I have seen it up close and personal and it’s a horrible weapon.”

One Indonesian soldier said they were firing a type of gas on the villages. “It is an explosion, but a type of gas.”

The photographs were taken between December 4 and 15. Three of the dead are from a village called Mbua, in the Nduga region. Their names are Mianut Lokbere, Nison Tabuni and Mendus Tabuni. Four others were killed in a village called Yigili. “It was happened on December 15, 2018,” an Mbua man told The Saturday Paper. “At 11.25 local time. They are dead because Indo army bombing them from the chopper. It’s because of airfare.”

One image shows a man swathed in wet bandages, strips of cloth really, in an attempt to alleviate his pain from the burning object still inside him. Another is of a woman beside the grave of someone killed in the bombing and unexploded shells carefully collected by the villagers. Others show the bodies of the dead.

Sources say at least four villages have been attacked, from the air, from artillery and from ground troops. The Indonesian army has sealed off the area. Church and local government officials cannot get in to investigate or help those sheltering in the jungle, some of whom may be wounded.

A colleague looks at one picture and asks: “Is that a face?”

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/2018/12/22/exclusive-chemical-weapons-dropped-papua/15453972007326>



## TOKOH GEREJA DIBUNUH



Pdt. Gemin Nirigi ditembak mati lalu dibakar oleh TNI di Mapunduma, 19 Desember 2018. Gemin Nirigi adalah Tokoh penerima Injil pertama di Nduga tahun 1963. Dia penerjemah Alkitab dan Gembala Gereja Sion Mapunduma.

## KEJAHATAN INDONESIA

**Rev. Gemin Nirigi shot dead by Indonesian soldiers on 19 Dec 2018 in Mapunduma.**

Rev. Nirigi was the first to spread the Gospel in Nduga, and translated the Bible from Indonesian into the local language.

**His daughter Sripona told AFP her elderly father was shot dead in December during a sweep by the military. His burned corpse was found by her sibling two weeks later.**

Military spokesman Colonel Muhammad Aidi rejected allegations the military had fired on civilians. "It's a hoax. If there are claims of civilian victims, they're definitely not ordinary civilians. They are part of the separatists that are attacking the military."

Aidi said the army had investigated the alleged killing of the priest and denied he was shot by soldiers, saying it was still unclear whether he was alive or dead.

## ESCALATING TENSIONS BETWEEN INDONESIAN MILITARY AND PAPUAN SEPARATISTS HAVE FORCED HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS TO FLEE

Hundreds of students have fled fighting in Indonesia's restive Papua province, a local NGO said, amid unconfirmed reports of violent military reprisals after a massacre of civilian workers by separatist rebels.

The death of 16 government-linked employees at a remote jungle work camp in early December, marked a dramatic escalation from decades of mostly sporadic skirmishes between poorly armed and disorganised guerrillas and a powerful Indonesian military.

Subsequent clashes prompted the Nduga district government to evacuate more than 400 students to Wamena, the capital of neighbouring Jayawijaya district, according to Humanitarian Volunteers for Nduga and a local education agency official.

"Some of the students are traumatised" said **Ence Geong**, a coordinator at the NGO, told AFP. "When the military came to the school in uniforms, some of the students ran" in fear.

Scores of other residents are believed to have fled to neighbouring districts or into the jungle amid allegations soldiers carried out arson, harassment and the killing of livestock and civilians. Classes are being held in tents and the children, as well as about eighty teachers, are staying in overcrowded conditions at relatives' houses, Geong said.

The military operations in Nduga have displaced at least one thousand people, according to lawyer and activist **Veronica Koman**. "Jakarta ordered the military operation, but has been doing nothing to assist ... civilians (who are) now internally displaced persons," said Koman, who is in contact with church leaders and activists in Papua. "I've seen credible photos and videos of burnt livestock and houses, including a sick old man burnt inside a house." (AFP, SBS News, 20 February 2019)

**Full report at**

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/violence-in-papua-has-caused-hundreds-of-students-to-flee>



Orphan after chemical bombing  
of Nduga in December 2018

## CONCLUSION

The survival of indigenous-Melanesian West Papuans has been under threat since the United Nations voted (84—0) in 1962 to give our homeland to Indonesia. **We understand** President Kennedy sacrificed us to appease President Sukarno, but **we don't understand** why the sacrifice is continuing, sixty years later, after the loss of a million innocent West Papuans. **It is time to dismantle the altar. It is time to force Indonesia to let go of West Papua.**

President Jokowi says his people love us. But they don't. They hate our food, they hate our culture, they hate our religion, they even hate the way we look. Why else would they pass legislation for the Airforce to drop bombs of white phosphorous on Nduga? Why else would they pass legislation for Islamic jihadi to work under the direction of the the Indonesian Army and annihilate our Christian identity?

The new Minister of Defence, Prabowo Subianto, former commander of the Army's Special Forces (Kopassus), who has an atrocious human rights record, said during his Parliamentary Hearing Meeting (Commission 1) on 11 November 2019 that "... in the concept of the total people's war .... the doctrine of Indonesia ... the strong will do what they can and the weak will suffer what they must." ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JRo\\_Ku8E\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JRo_Ku8E_w))

Vice-President, Ma'rauf Amin, is also Chairman of the Ulama Council of Indonesia (MUI) and therefore the republic's most powerful Muslim cleric. He was, for example, responsible for the incarceration of Mr Ahok, the democratically elected Chinese-Christian governor of Jakarta. **We believe that Vice-President Amin, not President Jokowi, has the religious, and political authority, to organise the recall of the Islamic militia from West Papua.**

We believe we will be delivered our freedom through the workings of the Holy Spirit, and the intercessory powers of people of faith. Please include us in all your prayers and conferences.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### SLIDE 5

Dutch missionary nuns meeting a highlander *Follow the Morning Star* Ben Bohane, Liz Thompson, Jim Elmslie (Prowling Tiger Press, Melbourne 2003:34)

Haji Oea Saraka di Onin, an important Muslim trader in Skroë (Fakfak) 1890-1896

(Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen (<https://collectie.wereldculturen.nl>); Inventarisnummer TM-60038742; <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11840/208239>)

### SLIDE 6

1) Pygmy Seahorse, Raja Ampat, West Papua. Ryan Photographic, <http://www.ryanphotographic.com/syngnathidae.htm>

2) Lake at Mt Carstensz base camp. Robert Cassady, 2010, <http://www.gunungbagging.com/puncak-jaya/>

3) Southern Cross Sojourn, Jayapura, 2012. <http://firecat14.blogspot.com/2012/09/cruising-jayapura-papua-indonesia.html>

4) Southern Cross Sojourn, Jayapura, 2012. <http://firecat14.blogspot.com/2012/09/cruising-jayapura-papua-indonesia.html>

5) *Indonesia pollution charge piles pressure on Freeport* Asia Times, 9 May 2018. <http://www.atimes.com/article/indonesia-pollution-charge-piles-pressure-on-freeport/>

6) Obi Kogoya, a West Papuan student from the highlands, arrested and tortured during a peaceful demonstration in Jayapura on 15 July 2016 in support of West Papua's application to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group. [freewestpapua.eu/2016/07/democratie-indonesie-wendt-zich-tot-geweld-west-papoea/](http://freewestpapua.eu/2016/07/democratie-indonesie-wendt-zich-tot-geweld-west-papoea/)

### SLIDE 7

*Activist's death angers Papuans*, Al Jazeera, 3 August 2010

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxHTpQho5es&feature=youtu.be>

### SLIDE 8

*Exclusive: Chemical weapons dropped on Papua* The Saturday Paper Edition No. 236, 22 December 2018 – 25 January 2019, John Martinkus and Mark Davis.

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/2018/12/22/exclusive-chemical-weapons-dropped-papua/15453972007326>

### SLIDE 9

*Escalating tensions between Indonesian military and separatist rebels in Papua have reportedly forced hundreds of students to flee and caused them great stress* \

AFP, SBS News, 20 February 2019, <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/violence-in-papua-has-caused-hundreds-of-students-to-flee>

### INDONESIAN LANGUAGE VIDEO REPORTS

1) Surakarta and Karanganyar in Java Island Muslims Ready to Dispatch Mujahid Forces to Wamena, Papua (Bahasa Indonesia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQLtRbdZiQk>

2) Islamic Defenders Front opens registration of Muslims throughout Indonesia for volunteers of the Indonesian state to fight against the people of West Papua

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fH2IdZ7Jktw&feature=youtu.be>