



Jacob Rumbiak's address, FRWP Office, Docklands, 6 December 2020

Good afternoon everybody, and welcome to this Memorial for Papuan Martyrs, to our planting of the Hammarskjold-Papuan tree, and of course to our interviews with President Wenda and Prime Minister Waromi of our new Transitional Government.

I especially welcome Dr Toscano, and the West Papua Rent Collective that is keeping us in our inspiring five-star-energy office up there. During the five years we've occupied that small beautiful space, we've learned a lot about energy and sustainability, and you can be sure your effort will produce sweet fruit in our independent state.

I also welcome Bishop Hilton Deakin. Bishop has been Patron of the Australia West Papua Association in Melbourne since 2000. He has a reputation for recognizing people's right to freedom and self-determination, and once spent three days locked up in Malaysia with a hundred activists trying to get to a conference on East Timor. At the time was Chair of Caritas, and was able to help people in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, people from all round the world, including East Timor.

I also welcome our friends, Clovis Mwamba and his family, and Nick Tshibala from the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Mr John Sandy, the former UN Representative for Liberia. Their nations are part of the African Caribbean Pacific group of seventy-nine UN member-states that signed a great motion on West Papua on 10 December in 2019, and in the last General Assembly, the Indonesian Representative responded to questions with as much aggression as the Indonesian military in West Papua itself.

I thank Father Peter Woods and other church leaders for coming today, and our Trade Union supporters, Green Party members, activists, and of course our friends who've travelled down from Ballarat to be with us.

We begin today by honouring the outstanding work of Natalie Adadikam, and thank God for finally releasing her from her suffering. Natalie and Alfonse have worked with me since I arrived in Australia. I will never forget their tiny sons, Shaka and

Zadrach, in their little white gloves, raising the Morning Star flag as West Papua signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Council of Trade Union Movement twenty years ago.

I thank Rev. Robert Stringer and the West Papua Womens' Office for organising this Memorial for Martyrs. Those names and these photos are only of recent martyrs; not the mothers and children dying of bullet wounds and starvation in the forest trying to flee from Indonesian commandoes.

Normally in West Papua there are nine-thousand territorial troops. Now there are forty-five thousand military in West Papua. Many are highly-trained war troops, sent in to frighten the people from signing the No-more-Autonomy-petition, and to stop the formation of our Transitional Government. This morning I had contact with inside, and Indonesia has sent in three-star generals. That means war is on-going. It's very serious.

Yesterday, President Benny told The Guardian newspaper "This Provisional Government means Indonesia's presence in West Papua illegal. We reject the Special Autonomy Law and will not comply with any imposition by Jakarta. We have our own constitution now, our own laws, and our own government. It is time for Indonesia to leave our home."

West Papua cannot succeed without support from our family, the world family. Three actors can bring about our objective. First Papuan leaders and political leaders must stay united. Second, we need support from Indonesia, and today we have strong support the Indonesian people, especially the student movement in Indonesia. And the third is our international supporters, and that is you. If these three actors work closely and harmoniously, I believe that independence will come.

Once again, thank you very much, and God bless you all.