

Letter writing campaign:

A Fact-Finding Mission to West Papua & Self-determination

Fact-Finding Mission

- Australia supports Special Autonomy for West Papua. However, this is not supported by the West Papuans and has resulted in an increased Indonesian military presence with an escalation of violence, human rights abuses and deaths.
- Australia prides itself on being a champion of peace, justice, and human rights around the world, and has recently criticised the oppressive military government in Myanmar. Why not human rights abuses in West Papua?
- It is imperative that the root cause of the conflict is addressed. An evidence-based report by an independent observer is a crucial first step. Indonesia did agree to a Fact-Finding Mission by the UNHCHR in 2017, but it still has not honoured that invitation.
- The UK, Netherlands, and Spain, as well as the Pacific Island Forum, and 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, have all passed resolutions supporting a visit by the UN to West Papua. Why not Australia?

Self-determination

- The people of West Papua are calling for support for self-determination. In December 2020, the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) passed a comprehensive constitution setting up a Provisional Government. This means that West Papua has the prerequisites for statehood: a territory, a people, and a centralised government that can be negotiated with.
- In Australia's interests to support a peaceful and permanent resolution to the crisis. Australia should vote this September for West Papua to be added to the agenda of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization.

Overall

- Australia can promote regional stability and help protect the human rights of West Papuans through a fact-finding mission and support for self-determination.

Recent media reports:

Total warfare imminent in West Papua, PNG dragged into the conflict, Tidningen Global, Sweden, 6 May 2021. <https://tidningenglobal.se/2021/05/06/total-warfare-imminent-in-west-papua-png-dragged-into-the-conflict/>

'We are living in a war zone': violence flares in West Papua as villagers forced to flee, The Guardian, 11 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/11/we-are-living-in-a-war-zone-violence-flares-in-west-papua-as-villagers-forced-to-flee>