



# BABUAN MIRINO

West Papua Womens  
Office-Docklands (Vic)





“I was born in 1949 in a house-on-water in Bawei Village on Numfor Island in West Papua. There were still thousands of live bombs everywhere, left by the Japanese, American and Australian military.”

### American missions against [Noemfoor Island](#)

April 20 - July 5, 1944

#### April 20, 1944

(5th AF) B-24s bomb airfields on Noemfoor

#### April 21, 1944

(5th AF) 21 B-24s bomb airstrips on Noemfoor

#### April 22, 1944

(5th AF) 20+ B-24s bomb airstrips on Noemfoor

#### April 23, 1944

(5th AF) B-24s continue to hit airstrips on Noemfoor; they claim 14 air victories

#### April 24, 1944

(5th AF) B-24s again bomb parked aircraft and other targets on Noemfoor

#### April 30, 1944

(5th AF) B-24s hit Noemfoor Island with a light raid

#### May 16, 1944

(5th AF) Aircraft continue to pound a variety of targets including airfields and supply areas on Noemfoor

#### June 1, 1944

(5th AF) B-25s and A-20s attack targets of opportunity on Noemfoor

#### June 19, 1944

(5th AF) A-20s hit airfields at Noemfoor

#### June 21, 1944

(5th AF) B-24s bomb targets on Noemfoor

#### June 22, 1944

(5th AF) B-25s, A-20s, and P-47s hit targets of opportunity on Noemfoor

#### June 26, 1944

(5th AF) Aircraft attack targets at Noemfoor

#### June 27, 1944

(5th AF) Aircraft attack targets on Noemfoor

#### June 28, 1944

(5th AF) Attack airfield and fuel dumps on Noemfoor

#### June 29, 1944

(5th AF) Aircraft attack barges at Noemfoor

#### June 30, 1944

(5th AF) Aircraft hit supply areas, and defensive positions on Noemfoor Island are hit

#### July 1, 1944

(5th AF) B-24s, B-25s, A-20s and fighter-bombers hit airfield, AA guns, bivouacs, supplies, and Japanese defenses on Noemfoor in preparation for Allied landings.

#### July 2, 1944

(US Army) Landing on Noemfoor

(5th AF) P-38s and B-25s support invading ground forces as they push E along the N coast of Noemfoor

#### July 5, 1944

(5th AF) Light strikes are flown in support of troops on Noemfoor

#### Last Updated

February 18, 2014

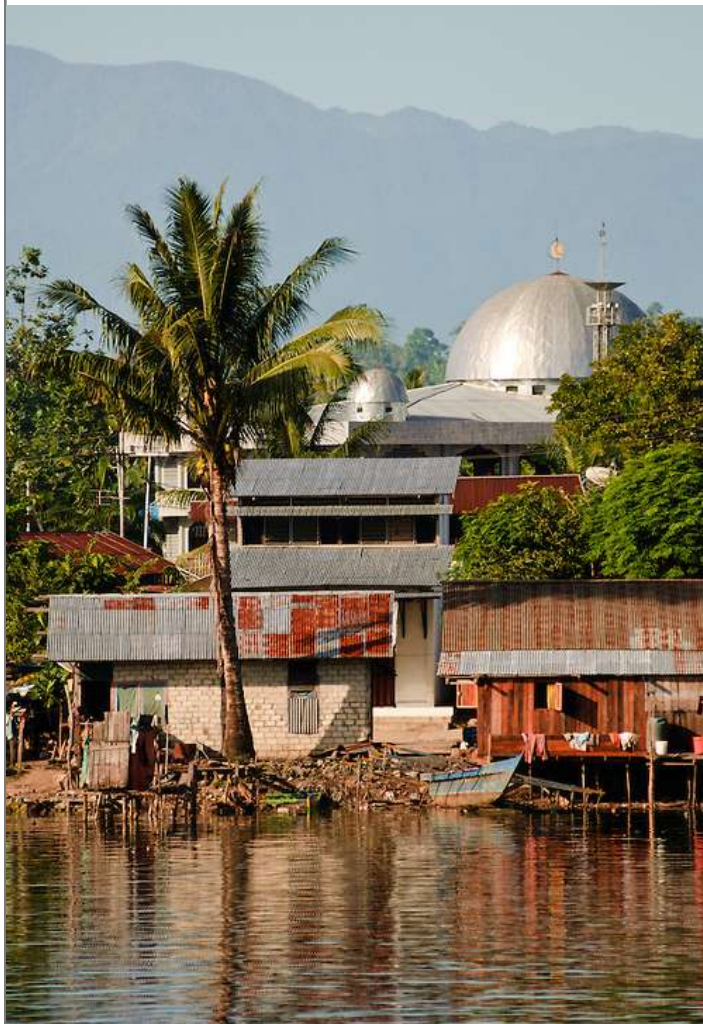


“My mother was a dress-maker. My father was a fisherman and a farmer, but he wanted to work as a forest ranger for the Netherlands Administration, so we moved from the tiny island of Numfor to Biak Island, and then to Sorong on the mainland.”





“I was thirteen in 1962 when the United Nations gave my country to Indonesia. I remember the Pakistani Muslim soldiers. We were scared of them. Since then West Papuans have been assassinated, poisoned, exiled, born dead or not at all. Academics call the occupation ‘slow motion genocide’. Under the Dutch we were 99% of the population; in 2010 we were 47%, with a growth rate of 1.84% (compared to the non-Papuan rate of 10.82%). Our lands are ravaged by miners and loggers. Our waters are polluted. Our unique flora and fauna is stolen and sold in black markets across Java and Sulawesi. Our churches are burned, and there are thousands of well-built mosques and terrorist training camps.”





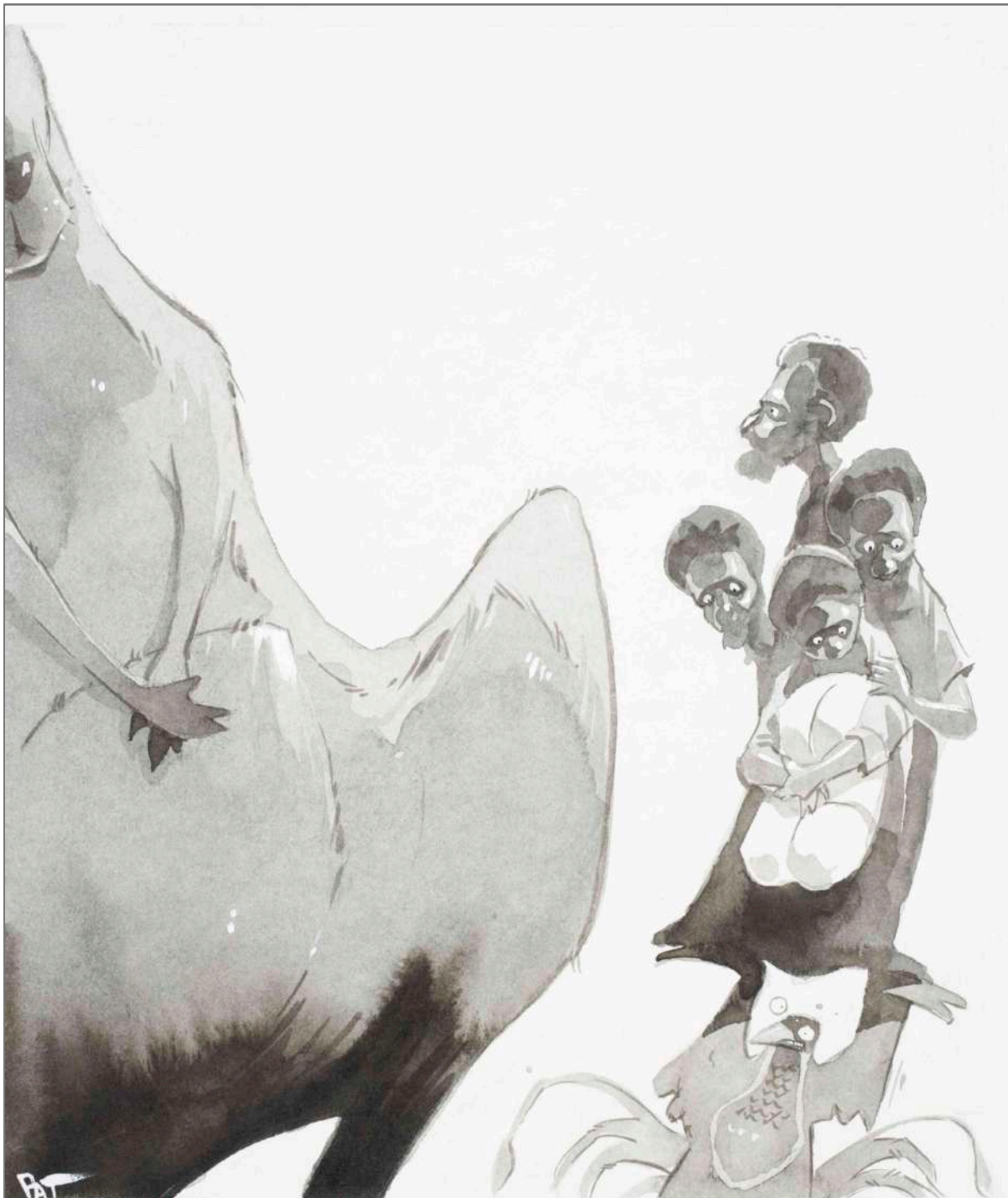
“Most West Papuans don’t like going to the hospitals. The child and mother mortality rate is the highest in Indonesia. My grand-mother passed me the knowledge and skills of a good mid-wife, and when I was called to help no mother or child died.”







“I never dreamed of leaving my homeland, and I didn’t want to come to Australia. But after my husband went to a West Papua Summit in Vanuatu, the Indonesian security forces terrified me, banging on my door in the middle of the night, knocking over my small stall, and so on. So in 2008, an Anglican Church invited me to a meeting in Melbourne and then I applied for asylum. It is painful not being able to see all my grand-children and great-grand-children.”



“It was terrible leaving all my friends in the Women’s Organization, which my sister and I set up after the Biak Massacre in 1998. We had collected and collated all the information, and taken our reports to government departments and human rights organisations, but no one wanted to know, and nothing changed. We couldn’t report to the police, because they would label us ‘separatists’ or ‘terrorists’ and arrest us. So we felt terribly alone, and useless, and traumatized, and we used to gather together, and cry, and pray. Fifteen years later, in Sydney in 2013, there was an inquiry into the Biak Massacre, which I reported to. But it was heard by Australian judges, who have no authority in Indonesia, and nothing has been done since.”



“After I married I moved to Biak Island with my husband. I saw the Biak Massacre in 1998.”

Citizens Tribunal, Sydney University, 6 July 2013: Biak Massacre, 6 July 1998 (<http://www.biak-tribunal.org/>)

Searching for the truth about a massacre in West Papua

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Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
Broadcast: 16/12/2013  
Reporter: **Matt Peacock**

[Print](#)

**Eminent Australian lawyers are demanding Indonesian authorities investigate allegations of a massacre fifteen years ago in West Papua in which more than one hundred civilians were killed, raped or tortured.**





**FRWP WOMENS OFFICE**  
Mondays 10am-5pm  
Suite 211, 838 Collins St  
Docklands, Victoria

The FRWP Women's Office opened in February 2015 with a Day of Prayer for the West Papuan Leaders Declaration of Unity in December 2014, and our application for full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)

The Office amplifies the concerns and ambitions of women in West Papua, and seeks the ideas and participation of Melanesian, Australian, and other Pacific Island women

The Office is attending the MSG Meeting in Honiara (Solomon Islands) in June 2015 and is sponsoring the purchase of a pig for the Kastom and Faith Ceremony

PRAYER DAYS—PRAYER DAYS—2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

INQUIRIES—NATALIE ADADIKAM 0421 519 809 (ENGLISH)

BABUAN MIRINO 0450 554 132 (INDONESIAN);

FRWPWOMENSOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

WWW.DFAIT.FEDERALREPUBLICOFWESTPAPUA.ORG

PAINTING *Blessed are those at the end of the rope* (Peter Woods 2009)

“Since I came to Melbourne in 2009, I dreamed of starting another Women’s group. Finally, in April 2014, with the help of some wonderful Australians who formed the West Papua Rent Collective, we opened the Federal Republic of West Papua in Docklands, and a Womens Office a few months later. So now I am really ‘talking back’ and getting things done. One of the first things I did was translate a huge report in our local newspaper in 1998 about the Biak Massacre, which for some reason wasn’t presented to the Citizens Tribunal in Sydney in 2013.”



“Even our freedom fighters like the Morning Star berets I crochet, and asked me make fifty and courier them to the bush.”



T. LATUPEIRISSA  
23 June 2014

OPENING, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF WEST PAPUA OFFICE IN DOCKLANDS, 23 JUNE 2014, © TOMMY LATUPEIRISSA



## Prayer Vigil for West Papua's application to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group, 15 May 2015



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE, 15 MAY 2015, © DEAN GOLJA

On 15 May 2015, on the eve of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Summit in the Solomon Islands, the Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral and Revd Canon Heather Patacca joined the West Papua Women's Office in a sunset Prayer Vigil for West Papua's application to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

This application was prepared by the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, which had been elected during the 'Reconciliation and Unity Summit for West Papuans Leaders' in Vanuatu in December 2014. It was lodged with the MSG Secretariat by Vanuatu Deputy Prime Minister Ham Lini on 5 February 2015.

A month before the MSG Summit, Papua New Guinea, the largest of the four Melanesian states, announced it was rejecting West Papua's application, and instead would support Indonesia's pursuit of MSG Associate status. Ten days later, Fiji, the second largest state, followed suite.

Most Melanesians believe the rejection betrayed the MSG's Founding Principles to 'defend and promote independence as the inalienable right of the indigenous peoples of Melanesia' and 'contribute to a peaceful, secure, stable, democratic environment throughout Melanesia'. Many



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE, 15 MAY 2015, © DEAN GOLJA

others believed the Indonesian petition should have been ignored, firstly because Indonesia is not a Melanesian state, and secondly because it was tagged to an offer of \$US20,000,000 for MSG capacity-development projects.

The Indonesian-government's petition, for five of its governors to become a MSG Associate, was based on a pretence that the Indonesian Republic recognises its Indigenous peoples. It doesn't, and never has. It annulled its peoples' right to self-determination in 1950. While it adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the public signing in New York in 2007, it has never ratified the declaration. The UN Human Rights Council eventually did force Indonesia to publicly admit that "Indonesia does not recognise concept of indigenous people as defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (Foreign Affairs Minister Marty Natalegawa to UN Human Rights Council, 5 Sept 2012).

In 2023 the MSG Leaders again, and arguably irrevocably, rejected West Papua's application to become a member. Instead the MSG Summit "mandated the MSG Secretariat to explore closer collaborations with the Government of Indonesia in terms of Special Autonomy" and "tasked the Secretariat to develop an annual MSG-Indonesia Parliamentary Dialogue".



Honouring the work and friendship of Dutch, Australians, and West Papuans during WWII at the Netherlands Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 9 September 2019; and launching our English translation of the Dutch-West Papua guerrilla story 'We fought in the jungle' by Sergeant M. Ch. Kokkelink.



NETHERLANDS AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019, © TOMMY LATUPEIRISSA

# Acknowledging Indigenous Sovereignty at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra, 9 September 2019



UNITED LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOR WEST PAPUA (JACOB RUMBIK, RONNY KARENI); FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF WEST PAPUA (ALFONSE ADADIKAM, AMOS WAINGGAI, ANTON RUMBIK); WEST PAPUA WOMENS' OFFICE, AUSTRALIA WEST PAPUA ASSOC-MELB (BABUAN MIRINO); REPUBLIC OF SOUTH MALUKU (TOMMY LATUPEIRISSA) © LINDA DUCKHAM









# Delivering West Papua petition, Parliament House, Canberra, 9 September 2019



**JACOB RUMBIAK** UNITED LIBERATION  
MOVEMENT FOR WEST PAPUA

**BABUAN MIRINO** WEST  
PAPUA WOMENS OFFICE

**LEN COOPER** INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE OF PEOPLES' STRUGGLE

**NADINE RUTTER**  
PETITION ORGANISER

**ALFONS ADADIKAM & AMOS**  
**WAINGGAI** CARRYING PETITION

© TOMMY LATUPEIRISSA RMS



Media Conference: passing the petition to Green Senators Richard di Natale and Janet Rice, and Andrew Wilkie MP. Senator di Natale then tabled the petition in the Australian Senate. Three days later Nadine Rutter presented the petition to Herman Wainggai (ULMWP Representative at the UN) in the UN headquarters in New York.



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© MICHAEL TOY

Monday, 9 September 2019

SENATE

91

## PETITIONS

### West Papua

**Senator DI NATALE** (Victoria—Leader of the Australian Greens) (19:31): by leave—I table a nonconforming petition relating to West Papua. Many thousands of decent Australians have called on the Australian government to support consideration of West Papuan self-determination at the UN. We know what's going on at the moment within West Papua. We have seen people being attacked and brutalised and, indeed, we hear now from human rights monitors that there have been up to 10 deaths. We know that this is part of a slow-rolling genocide in that region. For decades the West Papuan people have endured major human rights abuses. They've been denied their right to self-determination, and of course in the last few weeks things have become absolutely critical. The footage that's emerged from West Papua shows the Indonesian militia racially abusing the people of West Papua. As I said, there have been horrendous attacks. People have been incarcerated, detained or charged with treason simply for flying the Morning Star flag. They've shut down all communications in West Papua, they've attacked student dormitories and we are seeing these tragic deaths.

It is so critical that the Australian government now make a very clear statement in support of the West Papuan community, in particular supporting the resolution that came out of the Pacific Islands Forum ensuring that the UN are given access to West Papua. They deserve a free and fair referendum. The UN should consider the matter urgently. Again, we should stand up for the human rights of our West Papuan neighbours. We saw Australia delay taking action for decades when it came to the human rights abuses going on in East Timor. Let's not repeat the same mistake again. Let's stand up for the right of the West Papuan people to determine their own future. Let's stand up with the many thousands of Australians who have signed this petition.



West Papua Open Day, 5 December 2021: West Papua's Green State

What does it take to live and thrive in West Papua: Babuan's family's friendship with the cuscus



SUPIWAMA: CUSCUS SONG  
(BIAK GOSPEL SONG)

Yamarisen sup iwama  
Kana sup iwa  
Rakrok byediwama  
Berok mandarder  
Ryoki ryok fawfiwso  
Fawfis ayena

Yamarisen yakonro ram iwa  
Ram be mayawyow ramiwa  
Yamniso rambawi  
Bewis beyando  
Ram besu randa iwa

