

To

Dear

Urgent response needed to current crisis in West Papua

Since the announcement of the Provisional Government of West Papua in 2020, Indonesia has stepped up its human rights abuses in West Papua. I am therefore writing to ask you: (1) to pressure the Australian government to push for a UN Fact-Finding Mission; and (2) to support West Papua's inclusion on the agenda of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization.

Why does Australia continue supporting Indonesia's 'Special Autonomy' when there has been no reduction in violence in West Papua? In fact, the conflict is getting worse. More than 21,000 extra soldiers have been stationed in the Central Highlands since 2018. Military operations have left thousands displaced, injured and malnourished. In 2019-2020 more than 200 Papuan civilians were killed, with no accountability or reckoning by the Indonesian Forces. In contrast, after Indonesia's head of intelligence in West Papua (Major General Gusti Nugraha) was shot on 25 April 2021, the Speaker of the People's Consultative Assembly (Bambang Soesatyo) called for the government to crush the West Papuan resistance: "Destroy them first. We will discuss human rights matters later." This has all the hallmarks of an undeclared war to our immediate north.

An evidence-based report by an independent observer on this undeclared war in West Papua is imperative. Indonesia agreed to a UN Fact-Finding Mission in 2017 but has refused to allow the visit. In 2019, the 79 nations of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and the 18 nations of the Pacific Island Forum passed resolutions supporting the UN Fact-Finding Mission to West Papua and urged members to address the root cause of the conflict. Since then, the Netherlands, Spain, Poland, and UK parliaments, and European Union have also passed resolutions.

West Papuans raised a Transitional Government on 1 December 2020 after a petition for independence, hand-signed by 1.8M West Papuans, was presented to the United Nations in 2017 and 2019. It governs the people of a richly endowed sovereign state, and is accountable to the people's key political organisations—Federal Republic of West Papua, Coalition for the Liberation of West Papua, and West Papua National Parliament—and to their Tribal Councils and the WP Council of Churches. The parliamentary system has a President, Prime Minister, 12 Cabinet Ministers, as well as governors of the territory's seven states. President Wenda told media at the 2021 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow "We have a constitution, a government and cabinet, and a **green state policy framework to restore balance between the human and non-human in our homeland**".

Because it is in Australia's strategic interests to support a peaceful resolution to a worsening crisis, the government needs to call on Indonesia to grant United Nations access to West Papua without delay, and to support the inclusion of West Papua to the UN Decolonisation agenda.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Name

Address