

## WEST PAPUA 101

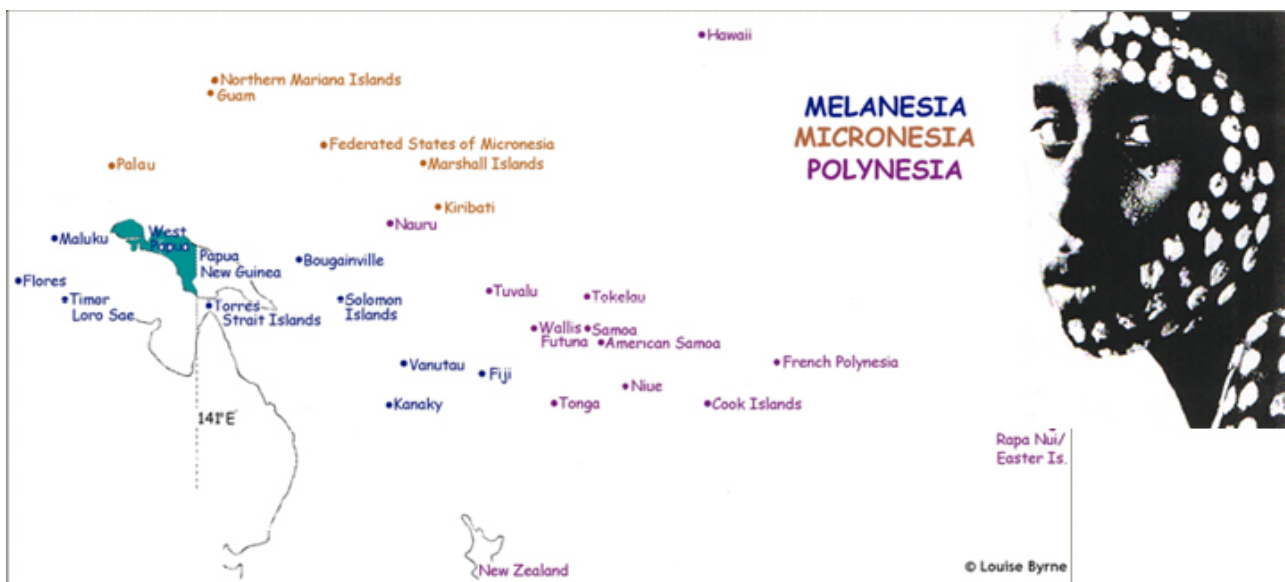
Injustice anywhere is a  
threat to justice everywhere



wanna know  
about west papua?

papua and the  
last ice-age cycle





West Papuans are 'Melanesian', so-named by French explorer J.S.C Dumont d'Urville (after the Ancient Greek for black—*mélas* and islands—*nēsoi* to distinguish the peoples of the Western Pacific from those that he named Polynesians (many islands) and Micronesians (tiny islands). Typical for the time, d'Urville based his classifications on cultural and racial characteristics.

D'Urville was an expert navigator and covered more of Oceania than Cook, Bougainville or any of his predecessors. During his expedition around Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Fiji, and New Guinea (1826-1829) he stayed at Dorey Bay (Manokwari) on the north coast of West Papua for eleven days. The artist on board, Louis Auguste de Sainson, later recalled sketching Maori chief Tehi Noui and his companion Koki-Hore: "What I was doing caused a lot of laughter; every minute they tried to escape me." (biography for links to his sketches in Manokwari).

1



Sahul continent before the Polar Ice melt 6-10,000 years ago, and at present sea-level (Alan Thorne and Robert Raymond *Man on the rim, The people of the Pacific*, Angus & Robertson Publishers, 1989:52).

In times gone by New Guinea was often described as a pre-historic bird flying over Australia; its 'head' almost touching the equator and it's 'tail' streaming out to the other Melanesian nations (Bougainville, Fiji, Solomons, Vanuatu, Kanaky-New Caledonia).

Before the last Polar-ice melt 6,000-10,000 years ago, the Arafura Sea didn't exist, the Gulf of Carpentaria was a fresh-water lake, and people walked about a huge land called 'Meganesia' for ceremonies and festivals.

Indigenous Australians use songlines to map their nations. For instance, the Caterpillar Songline weaves through Noongar and Yamatji country (south and north of Perth); Eucla (south coast); Uluru (center of Australia); Mount Isa (Queensland); Pine Gap (Northern Territory); Daintree rainforest (Queensland); Weipa (Gulf of Carpentaria); then New Guinea and Maluku, before arcing back to the Kimberley in Western Australia.

2





West Papuan women soaking banana-palm fibre in a salt well to produce salt; and a young girl with her pet pig (Robert Mitton *The Lost World of Irian Jaya*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne 1984:79, 55).

(above) A young fisherman on Biak Island; and (right) Anus Islanders on their pretty traditional canoes (Kal Muller *Indonesian New Guinea, West Papua/Irian Jaya*, Periplus Editions, Hong Kong 2001:68, 76).

WEST PAPUANS are the descendents of two distinct peoples. About 50,000 years ago, the first inhabitants of the Sahul continent arrived on bamboo rafts. In the highlands (of New Guinea) they formed one of the earliest centres of agriculture in the world: by 8,000 BC they were planting gardens, and by 5,000BC they were reclaiming wetlands for cultivation.

4,000 years ago Austronesian speakers arrived on double-outrigger canoes and settled the coastal plains and islands (including Torres Strait). They are renowned for their journeys across the Pacific Ocean (long before Cook), after modifying their double-outrigger canoes to more manoeuvrable single outriggers.



3



"A country which contains more strange and new and beautiful natural objects than any other part of the globe" (Alfred Wallace in *The Malay Archipelago* (1869) after living and collecting in Manokwari in West Papua for 3 months).

West Papua's fauna and flora inhabit a wide range of environments and ecosystems, including tropical rainforest, coral reef, mangrove swamp, lowland savanna, cloud and moss forests, and mountain peaks clad in ice and snow.

There are no large carnivores in West Papua so ground-living birds evolved like the Victoria Crowned Pigeon (*mambruk*), which will fly if chased but prefers to amble around in the understorey. In 1961 it was chosen by the New Guinea RAAD (nascent parliament) as West Papua's national symbol.

Dingisio tree-kangaroos with powerful forearms evolved around 5 million years ago as forests spread during a greenhouse phase. According to Jacob Rumbiak, they will stare down hunters, and remove hunters' arrows from their thick woolly coats. West Papua's Moni people revere the tree kangaroo (*bakaga*) as the spirit of their ancestors.

Victoria Crowned Pigeon (Kal Muller, *Indonesian New Guinea, West Papua/Irian Jaya*, Periplus Editions, Hong Kong 2001:14).

Tree-kangaroo (Tim Flannery, *Throwim way leg*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 1998).

4





Wilson's bird of paradise, William T Cooper, Australia Museum; *Ulysses butterfly*, Papua Insects Foundation.

West Papua is renowned for its birds, butterflies, orchids. Areas of global ecological importance are destroyed by transmigration projects, palm oil plantations, as well as mineral, logging, oil and gas exploitation. Laws to protect them are rarely implemented.



*Elegeima village* Liz Thompson, 'West Papua, follow the Morning Star', Prowling Tiger Press, Melbourne, 2003:48.

*Transmigration settlement in Irian Jaya* National Geographic, March 2001:93.

Red Fruit (*Kuansu, Buah mera*) an edible, medicinal plant with roots in early Papuan agriculture.



## World War II, West Papua



The Dutch East Indies surrendered to Japan on 8 March 1942, and by December the Japanese Navy had taken all of West Papua's main coastal towns.

West Papuans didn't view Japanese as liberators, as distinct from Indonesians of the Dutch East Indies who believed that Japan would free them of colonialism and enslavement to an export industry that by 1938 produced 15% of the Netherlands' national income (CLM Penders 2002:34).

In 1942 the Dutch colonial administration only covered 5% of West Papua (Greg Poulgrain 2015: 67) and the people were more familiar with European missionaries (Protestant since 1855, Catholic since 1894) who were also introducing western health and education.



HMAS Arunta, 22 April 1944, Bombing West Papua's north coast at Tanahmerah

[www.awm.gov.au/collection/C356471](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C356471)

16 October 1944. Australian Aircraftman Roy Cardwell from Tasmania with the flag of a Japanese officer he killed on Noemfoor Island

[www.awm.gov.au/collection/C361704](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C361704)





Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion. "I would rather fight with them than against them" (1943 Australian Army Intelligence).



By 1943 the Allies had built a military base in Merauke in Marind tribe territory on the south-east coast; plus five radar stations on the outskirts of the tribe's territory, and a sixth further west in Asmat tribal territory.

Merauke serviced 7000 American, Dutch and Australians; including, from 1943, sixty-to-eighty men of the Torres Strait Light Infantry (who were paid much less than their white colleagues until they went on strike); and Officer Gough Whitlam (Australian Prime Minister 1972-75) who, as Pilot Officer RAAF 13th Squadron, took part in the Allies assault on Hollandia in 1944. (Frank Robertson, father of Geoffrey Robertson QC, was also in the 1944 blitz, as Flying Officer in the 75th Kittyhawk Squadron in Biak).

In April 1944, the Allies commenced a devastating blitz of West Papua's north coast that yielded enormous casualty and destruction. The Battle for Lone Tree Hill, a coral formation just 53m x 1.1km<sup>2</sup> was 'the bloodiest ten days in the entire New Guinea campaign .. as severe as any fought in the Pacific' (Thomas E Price), with 400 Americans killed and 1500 wounded; 3,870 Japanese killed and 11,000 dead from starvation and sickness. The fight for Biak Island took 474

*left: Oaktree Party (intelligence-commandos) traversed the highlands for 14 months in 1943-44. Led by Officer JV de Bruijen, they raided Japanese posts, cut bridges, created diversions, negotiated boundaries with tribal chiefs, trained pigeons, kept the people informed. It reported to Merauke base, and ultimately, to Intelligence headquarters in Punt Road, South Yarra. (biography for more).*

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Japanese captured by West Papuans during WWII (Jim Elmslie 'West Papua-follow the Morning Star', Prowling Tiger Press, Melbourne 2003:22).

deaths and 2,428 wounded; and 7,400 Japanese deaths (after the Americans poured their deadly new cocktail of TNT and aviation fuel into caves where they were hiding).

In Hollandia "sides of mountains were carved away, bridges and culverts were thrown across rivers and creeks, gravel and stone were poured into sago swamps to make highways as tall as Mississippi levees. Tremendous docks were constructed and 135 miles of pipeline were led over the hills to feed gasoline to the airfields. Where once I had seen a few native villages and an expanse of primeval forest, a city of 140,000 men took occupancy" (Lt-Gen Robert Eichelberger).

When David Scott, former director of Community Aid Abroad, sat down with Jacob Rumbiak in 1999, he asked him where he was from. "Numfoor Island in West Papua" replied Indonesia's former political prisoner. "My God" said David, "I bombed your home during World War II".

David was a gunner on HMAS Arunta in General MacArthur's Pacific force, which in 1944 bombed Bougainville, New Ireland, Manus Islands; then the 'back' of the 'bird' at Wewak, Aitape and Hollandia, followed by its 'head' at Manokwari and Sorong, then Biak and Numfoor Islands. He claims the operations in Dutch New Guinea were more or less routine. "At dawn, we'd shell a shoreline, then the RAAF would give the hinterland a dose, then the Americans would land an

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April 1944, Landing at Hollandia village in Dutch New Guinea). US National Archives and Records Administration [www2db.com/image.php?image\\_id=20763](http://www2db.com/image.php?image_id=20763)



Noemfoor Island, October 1944, 'Allied Memorial Service at the war cemetery where Americans and RAAF members who fell at Noemfoor Island are buried'. [www.awm.gov.au/collection/C234379](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C234379)

an occupation force". He went ashore at Hollandia but by then by then the Emperor's supply line had been severed, and the Japanese soldiers had fled to the mountains, leaving nothing in their limestone caves but a scattering of used condoms. David always claimed MacArthur's campaign on the north coast of Dutch New Guinea was politically motivated and superfluous to the goal of neutralizing Japan.

There are no Allied war records of West Papuans killed during WWII—although the wreckage that continues to pollute the coast suggests the numbers were considerable.

Russell Costello (father of Peter—Australian government Federal Treasurer 1996-2007; and Tim—Baptist minister and CEO of World Vision Australia) was rescued and rehabilitated by Biak and Noemfoor Islanders after his plane was shot down in Geelvink (now Cenderawasih) Bay during WWII. Before he died in 2016 Mr Costello honoured his war debt, funding the education of a young West Papuan, Meki Nawipa, whose [Indonesian] scholarship to an Australian college was cut after a fellow student posted a Morning Star flag on Meki's facebook page.

9

## West Papua, UN Non-Self-Governing Territory (NSGT) 1950-1962



Highlander greets Dutch nuns; Precision tractor driving at a school in Kota Nica in 1955 (Jim Elmslie, 'West Papua, Follow the Morning Star', Prowling Tiger Press, Melbourne, 2003:34, 28, see bibliography).

West Papua was a UN Non-Self-Governing Territory (NSGT) between 1950 and 1962. The Dutch government was the Administering Authority, but most development projects continued, as usual, to be managed by Protestant church (and also Catholic) personnel.

Papuan protestants were therefore surprised, and felt betrayed when the Dutch Reformed Church de-linked its Melanesian protégé in 1956 and set up an autonomous Papuan synod in Hollandia (Gereja Kristen Injili). The mother church's sudden reversal of its long-standing position on Papuan identity, to one where it was 'not possible for West Papua to be independent of Indonesia' (Nonie Sharp 1994: 71) was concurrent with Indonesia's third attempt in the United Nations to have 'its' sovereignty over West Papua recognised.

Decades later, the GKI, the oldest and most influential of West Papuan organisations, had little recovered from its sleight-of-hand origins. "Our elites, the professors and church leaders, are like a boat sinking in the midst of West Papuans who are boiling, who are shouting. We must get ourselves emancipated from being spiritual Indonesians" Rev. Benny Giay, 2001, KINGMI—Kemah Injil Church/ Gospel Tabernacle Church. (See biography)

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Self-determination development in the NSGT was scrutinised by the UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in the annual Article 73(e) Reports sent by the Dutch Administering Authority (see biography).

Indonesia nevertheless attempted to have 'its' sovereignty over West Papua recognised by the United Nations in 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957. Each attempt failed. After the 1957 attempt Indonesia began buying weapons from the US and the USSR, and by 1961 it was the most powerful military power in Asia outside China.

In November 1961, the UN General Assembly—rendered chaotic by CIA subterfuge and assassination of UNSG Hammarskjöld—failed to pass a motion on West Papua's decolonisation. President Kennedy then forced the Netherlands to transfer the administration to Indonesia, even though the republic was on the verge of political and economic collapse. The UN endorsed the New York Agreement on 26 September 1962 without even attempting to consult the West Papuans.



*left:* Mass immunisation program for malaria, tuberculosis and yaws in association with World Health Organisation and the UN Childrens Fund—UNICEF (see bibliography).

*left:* Some of the banknotes in the Non-Self-Governing Territory between 1950 and 1962 (see bibliography).

*right:* The washing machine comes to New Guinea. Photo in a 1962 Dutch newspaper article about an oil company in Sorong—40% Dutch Shell, 40% Stanvac, 20% Pacific Investments—with a concession of 2 million acres that supported 200 men and their families (bibliography).



## What's happened to West Papuans under Indonesia?



Australian journalist Ashley Gilbertson was in the highlands in 2000 a few days after the massacre in Wamena when 30 highlanders were shot by the Indonesian army and police, another 22 were arrested and tortured, and another 50 disappeared. Thousands abandoned their homes and moved to the forest, but the worker-slaves were back at their job.

"Sunset in Wamena marks the end of work for most locals, and from the distant airport a C-130 Hercules airlifts today's final load of transmigrants from the tense valley to safety. It passes through a haze of thick black smoke at the end of the airstrip where a crew of Papuans is lengthening the runway.

The Papuans produce military-strength bitumen. They work in heat over 60 degrees Celsius. Pouring molten tar onto mountains of crushed rock creates viscous fumes; shoveling it makes more. The bitumen is mixed on oversized steel plates elevated a foot above ground. Underneath, fire rages, keeping the mixture from setting. The workers wear gumboots filled with water. As the water nears boiling point, the men skip off the plate and empty their boots, refilling them with cool water from a nearby puddle. Then they return to work". Ashley Gilbertson, Eureka Street, Jesuit Publications, Jan 2001:10-13, at <https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/uploads/File/pdf/EurekaStreetClassic/Vol11No1.pdf>

## 22 years later, in february 2023

"I am heartbroken to hear that nine West Papuans have been murdered by Indonesian security forces after unrest in Wamena, my hometown. Apart from the nine dead, seventeen others have been shot. This is only the latest in a long line of Indonesian massacres in West Papua: Bloody Paniai in 2014, Bloody Abepura in 2000, Bloody Wamena in 2003. When will the world say 'enough'?" Benny Wenda, President, West Papua Provisional Government, at <https://www.ulmwp.org/interim-president-a-new-massacre-in-west-papua>





The Aikwa River, a lifeless deposit of mine waste dumped by the Freeport mine at a rate of 194,000 tons a day (National Geographic, March 2001:91).

**2002: Freeport's revenue, \$1.91 Billion**

2002: Tax+royalties to Jakarta, \$260 million

2003: Budget for West Papua, \$97 million

**2025: Freeport's revenue: \$25.82 Billion**

2004: Freeport's revenue: \$25.45 Billion

2003: Freeport's revenue: \$22.85 Billion

[https://www.annualreports.com/HostedData/AnnualReportArchive/f/NYSE\\_FCX\\_2003.pdf](https://www.annualreports.com/HostedData/AnnualReportArchive/f/NYSE_FCX_2003.pdf)

<https://companiesmarketcap.com/freeport-mcmoran/revenue/>

"Gentlemen, I am angry with God. Why has He created such beautiful mountains, valleys and rivers, rich with minerals, and placed us—the indigenous peoples—here in this place that attracts so many people from around the world to come and exploit our resources and kill us". (Amungme chief Tuarek Narkime to Freeport-Indonesia in December 1994, link in biography).

Ecocide is 'the destruction of ecosystems on a massive scale'. Sophie Chao's 2019 essay *The Plastic Cassowary* is a well researched account of ecocide in West Papua.

"The plastic cassowary began as an egg that Marind women found in the smouldering remains of a forest that had been burned to make way for palm-oil plantations. The women incubated the egg until a tiny, scraggly chick squirmed out of the pale blue-green shell. They called him Ruben".

See what happens to Ruben

[https://www.academia.edu/61808382/The\\_Plastic\\_Cassowary](https://www.academia.edu/61808382/The_Plastic_Cassowary)

13



Christian church, Mansinem Island (solar-powered by Greenpeace); the Grand Mosque in Raja Ampat; Al Aqsa Grand Mosque in Sentani; Raya Al-Akbar Mosque in Sorong.

After the United Nations transferred the administration of West Papua to Indonesia on 1 May 1963, the territory was immediately closed and declared an operational military zone (it still is).

Churches were centralised in the Department of Religion. Long standing relations with Pacific churches and universities were cut. Priests, pastors, and nuns, as civil servants of the state, were gagged from reporting human rights violations, the appalling conditions in the prisons, and the inadequacies of the justice system.

Huge extravagantly constructed mosques now dominate West Papua's religious and physical landscape. (In 1969 there was one mosque in Jayapura; in 2021 there were 127 mosques).



14





LOMBOK TREATY, 6 December 2006

In 2006, after 43 West Papuans were granted asylum in Australia, Indonesia withdrew its ambassador from Canberra for the first time. Relations between the two states were only restored after the Howard Government signed the Lombok Treaty that outlawed activism for West Papua in Australia as well as Indonesia.

#### Lombok Treaty, Clause 2:3

"The Parties, consistent with their respective domestic laws and international obligations, shall not in any manner support or participate in activities by any person or entity which constitutes a threat to the national stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the other Party, including by those who seek to use its territory for encouraging or committing such activities, including separatism, in the territory of the other Party."

In 1962, West Papuans were 99% of the population.

In 2010, West Papuans were 30% of the population, with a growth rate of 1.6%, while the non-Papuan (transmigrant rate) was 10.5%.

By 2030, West Papuans are calculated to be 'a dwindling minority' of 15%.

(Jim Elmslie, *West Papuan Demographic Transition and the 2010 Indonesian Census: "Slow Motion Genocide" or not?* The University of Sydney, 2010, <https://www.justly.info/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Elmslie-DemographicsTransition.pdf>)

In 2010 there were 2.69 million Indigenous Papuans  
[https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orang\\_Asli\\_Papua](https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orang_Asli_Papua)

In 2025 there are 709,004 Indigenous Papuans  
(Dr Ria Maria Come, West Papua Population and Civil Registration Office, 27 March 2025) <https://papatengah.antaranews.com/berita/62305/papua-barat-tempati-posisi-kedua-progres-pendataan-oap-terbanyak>

"We need a legally enforced solution to the question of justice, to the crime against humanity that happens before our eyes in West Papua" (John Rumbiak, 9 Sept 2001 ELS-HAM: Institute for Human Rights in Jayapura).

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## Seeking independence via justice, peace and love

### AUSTRALIA & INDONESIA: CLOSE ALLIES SQUATTING OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL LAW viz-a-viz WEST PAPUA

West Papua and International Law:  
ICJ lawyer Melinda Jenki addressing European Parliament in 2010, at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqKr4bSPP7I>

1. West Papua is an Indonesian colony, and West Papuans are under illegal alien rule.
2. Colonialism is illegal under international law. West Papua has a legal right to be free and a legal right to independence. This is not just a moral right, or a political right, it is a legal right.
3. The legal right to self-determination is guaranteed by the UN Charter, under Customary international law, and in the New York Agreement that Indonesia signed with the Netherlands in 1962.
4. Indonesia annexed West Papua in 1969 after the act-of-free-choice. There has never been a referendum in West Papua. (Also bibliography).

West Papuans have always resisted the Indonesian occupation, beginning with the 1960s think tank at Mei Teacher's College and the freedom-fighters in the Arfak Mountains. In 1988 Dr Thomas Wainggai launched 'West Melanesia', a non-violent movement framed by the principles of justice, peace, and love, which encouraged Papuan activists to lobby their Christian Melanesian kin in the Pacific, and enabled women, academics and students to join the struggle.



Thomas Wainggai and his Japanese wife Teruko (*Against Oblivion, and about not being there* by Sylvia Lawson in 'How Simone de Beauvoir died in Australia', UNSW Press 2002). Dr Wainggai worked in the Dutch and Indonesian administration in West Papua before being sent (exiled) to study in Japan and America (both close allies of Indonesia). Everyone at the launch of West Melanesia on 14 December 1988 was incarcerated. Thomas was poisoned in prison in 1996.

16





Launching Federal Republic of West Papua at the 3rd Papuan Congress on Zaccheus Field in October 2011

16 October 2011  
Opening the Congress, A day of prayer



19 October 2011  
Shootings, arrests, and torture at the conclusion of the Congress

Video Report from eye witness Rev. Peter Woods  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bMGm8NPOIU>

17



West Papua has fulfilled the four criteria of state formation (Montevideo Convention)

Article 1:

- \* Permanent population ✓
- \* Defined territory ✓
- \* Government ✓
- \* Capacity to establish relations with other countries ✓

## Government



Congress, ULMWP Provisional Government of West Papua, Jayapura, 20 November 2023 (see biography).

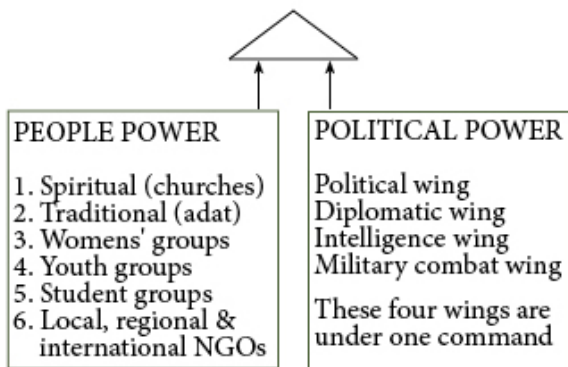


Plenary, Legislative Council, West Papua Provisional Government, Jayapura, 28 June-4 July 2025. Besides elections for Executive, Senate, Congress, Cabinet, Regional Councils and Governors, the Legislative adopted the ULMWP Provisional Government's Constitution and Green Policy Framework.

18



"West Papua is ready to run its own state" (Jacob Rumbiak, Minister for Foreign Affairs, West Papua Provisional Government, 31 August 2025)



"The source of the West Papua Provisional Government's legitimacy and influence is its long-standing structured relations with peoples' organisations across the territory; and the placement of political, diplomatic, intelligence and military power under one command".



*left:* West Papuan students meet Jacob Rumbiak on the West Papua-PNG border in November 2002. *right:* PNG Prime Minister Somare recognizing United West Papua National Council for Independence (Wewak, Feb 2002). In Feb 2004, the organization changed its name to West Papua National Council; and on 16 August 2004 to West Papua National Authority.



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## Establishing relations with other countries



30th Anniversary, Tent Embassy, Canberra, February 2002, reuniting peoples separated by water for 6000 years and politics for 200 years. Kevin Buzzacott (Arabunna nation) with Jacob Rumbiak and Rex Rumakiek from West Papua.



Memorandums of Understanding: *top:* with Australian Council of Trade Unions (Sunday Herald Sun, 19 Oct 2000); *bottom:* with 22 religious organisations (Jacob Rumbiak and Yabon, Parliament House, Victoria, The Age, 14 Aug 2001).



20





Sanap Wantaim for West Papua, 9-10 November 2002,  
Pipemakers Park, on the banks of the Maribrynong River.  
Led by Morris Kaloran (Vanuatu); organised by Barbara Carl, Jennifer  
Mondia, Anastasia Sai (PNG), Louise Byrne (AWPA-Melbourne).  
Photos: Tommy Latupeirissa. (See also Bibliography)

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## Sanap Wantaim for West Papua, 9-10 November 2002 All Saints Church, Chapel St, St Kilda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11OjQ6fH3vY&t=4s>



22





Video Reel: Clandestine Ceremony Conducted on Coast of Papua



Evading the Indonesian navy, two tiny boats met near the Australia-Indonesia border to ceremonially reconnect the indigenous peoples of Australia and West Papua. The ceremony was the pinnacle of a 5000km journey beginning in Lake Eyre, in which sacred water and ashes were carried and presented to West Papuan leaders.

US Congressional Hearings on West Papua, 22 September 2010, West Papua delegation: Salmon Yumame, Forkorus Yaboisebut, Edison Waromi and Herman Wainggai, with US Congressman Eni Faleomavaega.

*top left:* Cover Story, Port Philip Leader, 4 April 2005. Referenced in Congressional Research Service Report, Bruce Vaughn, 3 April 2006, *Indonesia: Domestic politics, Strategic Dynamics, and American Interests* (bibliography for link).

*left:* Freedom Flotilla from Lake Eyre across Torres Strait to West Papua, August-2013. 'Cultural ceremony marks pinnacle of Freedom Flotilla's epic West Papua mission', ABC News, 13 September 2013 (bibliography for link).

23

## West Papua Summit, Vanuatu, 16 November—13 December 2007



Jacob Rumbiak (West Papua National Authority) first foreigner made Chief of the Maraki Vanuariki Council of Chiefs; With Dominggus Arrongear from West Papua (photos—Tommy Latupeirissa).



Praying over the Unity Day Port Vila Declaration (29 Nov 2007) by Maraki Vanuariki Council of Chiefs, Port Vila Council of Chiefs, and West Papua National Authority, which held the Vanuatu Government and the Parliamentary Opposition accountable for:

1. Sponsoring West Papua onto the UN Decolonisation List;
2. Facilitating a UN monitored self-determination referendum;
3. Facilitating the establishment of a peace-keeping force in West Papua leading up to and beyond the referendum;
4. Listing West Papua as a full member of Melanesian Spearhead Group, and an observer at the Pacific Islands Forum and Africa Caribbean Group;
5. Hosting a peace conference between the Indonesian Government and the West Papua National Authority.

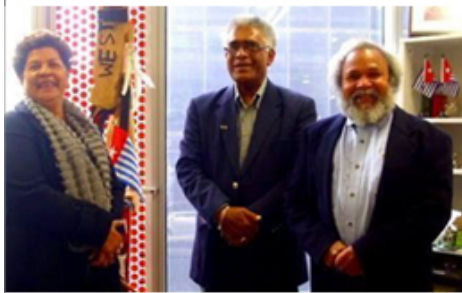
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President Benny Wenda speaking at the European Union Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, 26 March 2025.

right: Jacob Rumbiak in Kampala in 2018 with the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament.



Fiji President H. E. Ratu Nainqama and Jacob Rumbiak at the West Papua Provisional Government office in Docklands (AUS).



UN General Assembly New York, September 2025. President Benny Wenda and Prime Minister Rev. Edison Waromi (WP Provisional Government).



Parliamentary Chair Buchtar Tabuni and Prime Minister Waromi sign the Green State vision in West Papua before its launch at the 2021 UN Climate Conference in Glasgow.



Benny Wenda with Bishop Desmond Tutu, Capetown, South Africa, November 2015.

right: Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu in August 2019. Benny Wenda and Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP Provisional Government) with President of Marshall Islands Hilda Heine and Foreign Minister John Silk.



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