

WHO KILLED JORDAN IK?



JORDAN IK, Yumi Wantaim Seminar 2001
Melbourne (Photo-Tommy Latupeirissa)



JORDAN IK with Jacob Rumbiak's pig Yabon, his
bird-of-paradise headdress, and Collins St dentist
Dr Jon Kozeniauskas (Melbourne 2001).

JORDAN IK is of the Maybrat tribe from the small village of Yabon in the Birdshhead region of West Papua. He was poisoned in Sorong on 14 April 2009, and died in agony a few hours later.

A seriously religious guy, Jordan had a luminous sense of humour, and moved with the purposeful grace of a man at ease with himself. He talked and walked the political, and spent years in prison for promoting peace and justice; ten years in Kalisosok in Surabaya and two terms in Abepura in West Papua.

He was a childhood friend of Jacob Rumbiak, another former political prisoner who has lived in Melbourne since 1999; and of Herman Wainggai, leader of the 43 asylum seekers to Australia in 2006, who also served two terms with Jordan. (Jacob named a pig given to him by Australian activists 'Yabon' after the village where he and Jordan were born).

Jordan was introduced to many Australians as part of an eight-member delegation sent to Melbourne for the Yumi Wantaim Seminar in 2001. The seminar opened relations with the Wurundjeri people and the Kulin Federation of Aboriginal Australia, as well as key personnel from the Melanesian nations of Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, Maluku, Bougainville, and the Solomons. It was foundational to the agreement signed in 2007 by the West Papua National Authority with the Maraki Vanuariki Council of Chiefs and Port Vila Council of Chiefs for Vanuatu to assume responsibility for relisting West Papua on the United Nations Decolonization List.



**YUMI WANTAIM SEMINAR
Melbourne 2001.**

l-r: Jordan Ik, Simon Mosso,
Martinus Kambu, and Jacob
Rumbiak from West Papua
National Authority.

Exchange Ceremony with
the Wurundjeri people
(represented by Joy Murphy)
and Kulin Federation
of Aboriginal Australia
(represented by Larry Walsh).



Flag-raising Ceremony: Morris
Kaloran raising the Vanuatu
flag, while the Victorian
Trades Hall Choir sings the
Melanesian national anthems.

The organizers of the seminar
were Barbara Carl from
Papua New Guinea, Aggie
Podarua from the Solomons,
Anna Lennon and Louise
Byrne from the Australia West
Papua Association-Melb.



JORDAN IK in Kalisosok Prison (Surabaya) tending the fish he had to breed in his cell in order to survive.

Neither the Indonesia government in Jakarta nor the police in West Papua have investigated Jordan Ik's death. Similarly, there was no inquiry into the death of two other Yumi Wantaim delegates after they returned home in 2001. Dolly Ik, Jordan's sister, was the first woman to be (publicly) associated with the West Papua National Authority in the diaspora. Martinus Kambu was a chief of the large Maybrat tribe in the Birdshad; also a veterinary scientist, and former political prisoner, convicted of subversion for pursuing a dialogue-generated (non-violent) political settlement between West Papua and the Indonesian Republic.

Herman Wainggai, a two-term political prisoner, left West Papua in 2005, leading 42 other asylum seekers on a traditional canoe to Australia (enroute, in Sorong, he caught up with Jordan Ik who organized more fuel and food supplies). Herman's cousin Jack Wainggai remained in Papua; and after attending the West Papua National Authority meeting in Vanuatu in 2007, was convicted of subversion. Along with ten other leading student activists, he is now incarcerated in Manokwari prison.



MARTINUS KAMBU with John So (Lord Mayor of Melbourne) and Ben Leeman from Borderlands (Melbourne 2001).

Indonesian President Yudhoyono (2004-2009), a four-star Javanese general, has been skillful in masquerading as 'enlightened' and 'democratic' in pursuit of 'terrorists' and 'people smugglers'; while actually, in West Papua, escalating Suharto's long-term policy of killing-off each generation of the indigenous leadership. He is charmingly welcoming of foreign aid for tsunami, AIDS, earthquake, counter-terrorism, good governance; while in now-partitioned Papua quietly encourages his military commanders to murderous pursuit of West Papuan students diplomats and politicians.

Australia—its peoples and its governments—is seriously implicated in the demise of the foundational people of Papua. (Ethnographer Jim Elmslie from the Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies at Sydney University claims there are 564,126 'missing' Papuans). And in not acting on border-intelligence reports from Papua New Guinea, especially about the mushrooming of fundamentalism since 1999 (funded by Saudi Arabia), it is undermining its national security and territorial integrity.



VANUATU, NOV 2007: Jack Wainggai, reporting on the West Papua National Authority meeting in Port Vila.



WEST PAPUA, MARCH 2008: Jack Wainggai and ten leading student activists in Manokwari prison a few months after Jack's return from Vanuatu.

The likelihood of finding Jordan's killer is slim, especially if, as widely suspected, he was poisoned by Indonesian intelligence. But we, in Australia and the international community, can partly redeem the role we've played in the life he lost by forcing Indonesia to accept the West Papuan's 'right to life'. They have that right, as individuals, and as a nation.

Jordan, and all the other Papuan heroes and heroines, your life in prison is the golden gate to the freedom of West Papua. Goodbye and rest in peace. We will meet in Jesus' home town.

*Jacob Rumbiak and Herman Wainggai
West Papua National Authority
Melbourne, Australia
10 May 2009*

