

The Australian parliament is urged to vote for a motion in the 2019 UN General Assembly to register West Papua on the UN Decolonization List.

The New York Agreement (1962-1969) transferred the administration of West Papua from the Netherlands to Indonesia via the United Nations. Australia voted for the agreement, even though Attorney-General Barwick believed Indonesia's claim of sovereignty should have been lodged with the International Court of Justice. He stressed "the long-term interests of stability and progress will be served by a *bonafide performance* of the Agreement's self-determination provisions" (UNGA 1127th Plenary, 21 Sept 1962). The Agreement's concluding act-of-free-choice in 1969 was not an act of self-determination but an involuntary response by 0.1% of the population to a script written by the Indonesian government.

Special Autonomy 2001—2021 was designed to eliminate West Papuans' independence program by trebling the number of regencies from 14 to 41 each with a pre-scribed level of military personnel and hardware. That there is no hope of internal resolution was evident in December 2018 when the Indonesian Parliament declared war on the West Papua Liberation Army and the Airforce dropped bombs of the banned chemical white phosphorous on a number of highland villages. The government has since banned local churches and NGOs from helping these villages with emergency food, water and medicine.

Since 2014 the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) has coordinated the nation's independence program. It was elected from and is accountable to the nation's key political identities—West Papua National Parliament, West Papua National Coalition for Liberation, Federal Republic of West Papua. Since the formation of the ULMWP, West Papua's case has been actively prosecuted by a coalition of Pacific states led by Vanuatu and supported by an increasing number of the eighty-nine UN member-states of the African Caribbean Pacific Group.

ULMWP Spokesperson Jacob Rumbiak TEL (+61) 0497 867 070
EMAIL spokesperson@ulmwp.org WEB www.ulmwp.org

West Papua Womens Office: 211/838 Collins St, Docklands 3008, Victoria
TEL 0420 250 389; EMAIL frwpwomensoffice@gmail.com

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We call on Australia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations to vote for the motion being raised by Vanuatu in 2019 to register West Papua on the UN Decolonization List.

The motion enables Australia to acknowledge that the chronic conflict between Indonesia and West Papuans is an international legal issue—not an internal domestic problem—that can now only be resolved with responsible third-party mediation.

The motion liberates Indonesia from a quagmire of damaging allegations about its foundations in West Papua and its compulsion to run military operations alongside social-development programs.

The motion enables Australia and Indonesia to comply with both International law, including UN Res. 2625 (XXV), and Indonesian law which recognizes the inalienable right of nations to independence.

The motion enables Australia to recognize West Papua as a geo-political entity separate to Indonesia without recalibrating its political, commercial and security arrangements with Indonesia.

The motion enables Australia to fulfill its Third State Responsibility to question sovereignty where a people within a sovereign state are subject to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation or violations of their human rights.

The motion is critical because:

- The number of indigenous West Papuans has dropped from 99% of the population (in 1962) to 47% (in 2010) with an annual growth rate of 1.8% compared to the Non-Papuan (transmigrant) rate of 10.8%.
- Indonesia's occupation of Melanesian West Papua has been a chronic thorn in relations between Australia and Indonesia; and is scarifying Australia's relations with the Pacific, Caribbean and African States that are pursuing their legal and ethical responsibilities.

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