



United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP)

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Senator Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament of Australia, Canberra

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Dear Minister

I am writing to request a much more engaged response from Australia to the Indonesian Parliament's recent passage of legislation that formally integrated a religious militia, *Paguyuban Nusantara*, in the Indonesian Defence Force.

Paguyuban Nusantara, led by criminal-returnees from the caliphate wars in the Middle East, has declared its intention to wage holy jihad in West Papua (SBS TVNews <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1HYaiRtkQ>). Its declaration contradicts the government claim that it is a 'non-violent response by the people of the archipelago' to the situation in West Papua, which it repeated yesterday during the militia's impressive launch-display in Wamena.

For eyes and ears willing to see and hear, *Paguyuban Nusantara*'s military-backed presence portends a level of bloodshed that will not serve Indonesian, West Papuan, or Australian security interests. Furthermore it contravenes President Jokowi's response to the extraordinary advice of his two provincial parliaments in West Papua to enter into dialogue with the United Liberation Movement for West Papua under the auspice of an international third party.

Minister, you can help address what this *impasse in Indonesia* foreshadows, and implore you to do so.

We believe you can help dissuade Indonesia from its aggressive nationalist performance and Syria-like development in West Papua by establishing a quiet dialogue with incoming Vice-President Ma'ruf Amin (20 October) that is distinct communiqués with your counter-part and President Jokowi, who we believe cannot retreat from their own parliament's alarming directive.

Mr Amin is an experienced national politician, an Islamic scholar, and as Chairman of the Ulema Council of Indonesia he is the republic's most powerful Muslim cleric. While his election as Vice-President is a troubling illustration of the Islamisation of politics and consequent weakening of a secular democracy, Mr Amin has the moral, and now political authority to argue for the recall of this Islamic militia from West Papua.

Minister, recently the ULMWP watched, from inside the UN General Assembly (for the first time), as our people faced the Indonesian Army and Police to demonstrate their support. Then we heard member-state representatives gossip about the demise of Indonesian colonial authority in West Papua as various Prime Ministers highlighted the Pacific Islands Forum communiqué—which Australia signed—that asked for UN access to West Papua, and for investigation of *the root cause of the problem*.

Minister, we hope that Australia will dissuade the republic from fuelling religious intolerance and will encourage Indonesian politicians to mount legal and political arguments rather than guns and militia-violence as we negotiate this inevitable shift in the geo-political arrangements of our region.

Yours sincerely,

Jacob Rumbiak, ULMWP Spokesperson