

A summary of West Papua's successful bid to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) in 2015



Powerpoint—Louise Byrne (FRWP Women's Office, Melbourne)
Photographs—Tommy Latupeirissa, Savannah Thatcher

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Here on mission

Jacob Umbink, executive officer of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, is in Honiara with the message written on the palms of his hands. He is here to lobby the government to support West Papua's request to become a member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. Turn to page 3 for full report. Photo: Charles Kadamana



Cyclone Pam is here

CYCLONE Pam is now in force for Temotu, Malaita, and Makira-Ulawa provinces, according to the Weather office.

At the same time, the office said a tropical cyclone watch advice remain in force for Rennell & Bellona, Central, Isabel, Western, and Choiseul provinces.

"Cyclone Pam is moving south-southeast at 4 knots with further intensification," the Weather office said in its first cyclone warning issued at

1pm yesterday.

It said expected storm force winds of 34 to 47 knots are to spread over the remaining Temotu islands last night.

It added seas will be moderate to rough with moderate to heavy swells and sea coastal flooding.

Pam is forecasted to move southeast and south while intensifying to hurricane-strength over the next couple of days.

Meanwhile, the heavy rain warning remains in force for all of the country.

West Papua's successful bid in 2015 to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)

Introduction: what is the ULMWP?

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Support for West Papua ahead of 2015 MSG

In Honiara, Solomon Islands

5-17

In Timika, West Papua

18-24

In Melbourne, Australia

St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

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Victoria Trades Hall

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ULMWP during MSG, 18-26 June 2015

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The MSG Summit, 24-26 June 2015

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BACKGROUND: What is the ULMWP?

SARALANA DECLARATION ON WEST PAPUA UNITY

We the undersigned; the Federal Republic for West Papua (NRFPP), West Papua National Coalition of Liberation (WPNCL), West Papua National Parliament (WPNP/New Guinea Raad), have conducted the Summit on West Papuan Unification at Saralana, Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 30th November – 6th December 2014.

In the name of the people, the nation and the land of West Papua, we do declare that today the 6th December 2014 at the Chief's Nakamal, at Saralana, Port Vila, Vanuatu, that the undersigned groups have united and established the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), a body representing all resistance organisations both inside and outside West Papua.

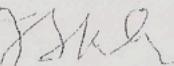
We declare and claim that all West Papuans, both inside and outside West Papua, are united under this new body and that we will continue our struggle for independence.

This meeting has been conducted pursuant to the decision made by the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in June 2014, that West Papuan independence organisations must first unite before an application for membership can be re-submitted to the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG). We are now united and will re-submit an application under this new body, the ULMWP.

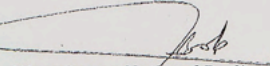
We are determined that the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) becomes the coordinating body to support all international efforts to regain our sovereignty. In order to support this, we have formed a secretariat of five people; Benny Wenda, Jacob Rumbiak, Leone Tanggahma, Octovianus Mote and Rex Rumakiek, and representing the three largest resistance organisations and also all non-affiliated resistance organisations that support our struggle. We will maintain our existing organisations but commit to be united by the coordinating efforts of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua.

This important and historic declaration has been made possible through the faithful efforts of the Vanuatu Government, Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs, the Vanuatu Christian Council, the Pacific Conference of Churches and the commitment of the following liberation organisations:

This Declaration is signed at the Chiefs' Nakamal, Port Vila, on this day Sixth of December, Two Thousand and Fourteen, by:


Federal Republic of West Papua
Ev. Edison Kladius Waromi SH.


West Papua National Coalition for Liberation
Rex Rumakiek


West Papua National Parliament
Buchtar Tabuni

The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), formed in 2014 during a week-long summit in Vanuatu that culminated in the Saralana Declaration. The Summit, a regional initiative by church and women across Melanesia, was sparked by the 2013 World Council of Churches Assembly in South Korea; was supported by West Papua's *Gereja Kristen Injili* Church; sponsored by the Vanuatu Government and Pacific Conference of Churches; and mediated by the Vanuatu Christian Council and Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs.

The ULMWP was elected from and is accountable to the nation's key political identities—the West Papua National Parliament (KNPB), West Papua National Coalition for Liberation, and Federal Republic of West Papua (FRWP). Since its formation West Papua's independence case has been actively prosecuted by a coalition of Pacific states led by Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. In 2019 the Pacific Islands Forum (18 UN member-states) and the Africa Caribbean Pacific Group (79 UN member-states) passed their first motions of support, urging Indonesia to allow the UN Fact Finding Mission it agreed to in 2017. In 2020-2021 the governments of the UK, Netherlands, Spain, and Poland, as well as the European Union passed similar legislation.

Saralana Declaration, Port Vila, 6 December 2014

- i) KNPB delegates: Teri Yaram, Victor Yeimo, Sabi Sambon, Buchtar Tabuni
- ii) Muma Yusefa (FRWP) with Vanuatu Prime Minister Joe Nathan



BACKGROUND: What is the ULMWP?

A cloud shadowed the camp;
And where water had stood, dry land appeared
A way, without impediment, out of the Red Sea;
And out of the violent stream, a green field
Where those protected by thy hand
Passed through as one nation.

SOLOMON, SONG OF SONGS, 19:7



Peace-making Ritual for West Papuans during the Summit in Vanuatu (30 Nov—6 Dec 2014). Maraki Vanuariki Chief Morris Kaloran and Peace-Chief Masato



West Papua delegates with Francois Pihaatae (Secretary-General, Pacific Conference of Churches): Benny Wenda, Jacob Rumbiak, Elizier Awom, Teri Yaram, Rex Rumakiek, Amateus Dowe, Franciscus Uweng, Leonie Tanggahma, Markus Yenu, Sabi Sambon, Jack Wainggai, Paul Wambrauw (missing Octo Mote, Victor Yeimo)

IN HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: The West Papua Office, Bamboo Cafe



Jacob Rumbiak with Lily Chekana
(Secretary, Solomon Islands West
Papua Solidarity Group)

Photo: Tommy Latupeirissa

IN HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: International Women's Day, 8 March 2015



Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP Executive) with members of the *Solomon Islands Solidarity for West Papua*, including Spokesperson Grace Hilly and Lobbyist Matt Gale.



Jacob Rumbiak with Security Commander Chris, and Matt Gale and his mum and nephew.

'Solomon Islands Solidarity for West Papua' is a coalition of the nation's churches, NGOs, and civil society that lobbied the Sogavare Government to recognise the ULMWP application to join the MSG.

West Papua's quest for freedom

By DANIEL NAMOSUAIA

Melanesia is still incomplete without West Papua being a member of the Melanesian Spear Head Group and gained its independence from Indonesia, says visiting executive officer of United Liberation Movement for West Papua Jacob Umblak.

Umblak who is in the country uttered these words yesterday in an exclusive interview with the paper.

He said if Solomon Islands is a true Melanesian country and brother, it will support the cry of its brothers and sisters of West Papua for 'freedom'.

"Please support West Papua in Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) to become full member of MSG because if West Papua is in MSG, Melanesia is fully complete," Umblak said.

He begged Solomon Islands and all Melanesian leaders to support West Papua in their fight to get independence.

Umblak said, by freeing West Papua, it will uphold sovereignty, dignity and identity of Melanesians in full and not half.

"By supporting the independence of West Papua it will stop misunderstanding between Indonesia and Pacific Island countries, between Indonesia and Australia, Asia and all countries around the world.

"Independence of West Papua will of course benefit Indonesia, Melanesian countries and the world and will be a blessing and no one will win or lose," Umblak said.

He said to become noble people in the world, we have to start freeing ourselves in our own area before we free the world.

"Because our mission to the world is to free the world and make it a safe place, peaceful and bring justice and love to all people around the world...and we need to start from our region of Melanesia...that is why West Papua should be independent so that

Melanesia should be totally free and the world should also be free," Umblak added.

Umblak said, his visit to the Solomon's who is a Melanesian brother is to share with the government and people of the country the suffering of West Papuans which they believe is the suffering of all Melanesians.

"I can't go far to Europe, Asia or other countries because they are not Melanesians. But I can only share with my Melanesian brothers in Melanesian territories," Umblak stressed.

The ULMWP executive officer further highlighted that his coming to the Solomon is to share the philosophy of the truth.

"...voice of the people is the voice of god and voice of god is the voice of truth," Umblak said.

He said the grassroots people, the churches, the government and opposition are the four key groups that can unite to make the right agenda to help West Papua get into MSG.

"...as Melanesian leader you have to make the right decision to protect Melanesian people, territory, resources and most of all to uphold Melanesian dignity, sovereignty and identity," Umblak said.

Adding he will continue to explain to governments to accept West Papua in MSG because they have the same right to be part of MSG and secondly have the right to make decisions and not Jakarta to make decisions for them.

"Decision making of Melanesian leaders should show real Melanesians the real leader and uphold their real identity as Melanesians and not to be dictated by Indonesia or those from outside.

"Secondly the Solomon islands government can make their decision to show the international community that Melanesian leaders should protect and uphold their identity, sovereignty and dignity," Umblak stressed.

He begged all Melanesian leaders not to listen to In-

donesia and make their own independent decisions as Melanesian leaders.

Adding, the problem of West Papuans is a Melanesian problem and it will be a real test for all MSG leaders to prove if they are truly Melanesian leaders or some kind of a Indonesian or foreign Puppet.

"If Solomon Islands government and people have the right to gain independence just like any other nation that gains its independence, why can't Solomon Islands government and its people support West Papua to achieve the same for their freedom."

Meanwhile Umblak said, they respect bilateral ties Solomon Islands government have with Indonesia

as that is an United Nations ethics and that is normal of any country.

"But talking about sovereignty, dignity and the rights of West Papuans, Solomon should tell Indonesia let West Papua free because they are Melanesians," Umblak slammed.

He said, all nations have the right to independence and Indonesia should respect their right for independence.

Meanwhile Umblak and his 3 man team will be organising meetings with the grassroots groups, the government, opposition, and other organisations seeking full support to their plight for full membership of MSG and to gain independence from Indonesia.



Local supporters of the Free West Papua campaign with the visiting executive officer of United Liberation Movement for West Papua Jacob Umblak.

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West Papuan political leader tells Indonesia to stop lying to SI

BY GARY HATIGEVA

ONE OF West Papua's political leader, and advocate for independence, Jacob Rumbiak has his out at the Indonesian Ambassador over his claims on the nation's democracy and called on him to stop lying to the people and government of Solomon Islands.

This he highlighted in response to claims the Indonesian Ronald Manik made during his courtesy visit to Solomon Islands Prime Minister after presenting his credentials to the Governor General, Sir Frank Kabui over the weekend.

In his claims, Ambassador Manik says Indonesia has been a free and open country since there was a leadership change in 1998.

"There is now freedom of speech and expression in that people can freely speak their minds and the media can freely report on issues," said.

But Mr. Rumbiak when interviewed over the weekend on this, rubbished the Ambassador's claims and poured out that there is no freedom of such at all.

Mr. Rumbiak said people continue to be tortured and arrested from trying to have their voices and concerns heard, on a daily basis, not only in Jakarta, but so as in West Papua.

He said people have tried to use the formal and proper channels to get approval for rallies and peace protests, but have been denied the rights

to do so, and are continued to experience oppression.

The political leader added that the Ambassador also lied about his claims on nature, in which the media has to report issues freely.

He said, up until now, the local media has been under duress, where all stories about Indonesia, particularly West Papua, continued to be censored.

He added that journalists who managed to leak information out to the world, have been enlisted by the Indonesian Military under direct orders, hunted and tortured or jailed.

Mr. Rumbiak also added that the Ambassador's claims of a free media reporting environment since 1998 is a lie, as foreign reporters are being banned from entering or covering whatever that happened on the ground in Jayapura and elsewhere in West Papua.

The West Papuan political leader, who is currently in the country, as part of the united liberation movement to get the support of the people and government of Solomon Islands towards their application for a full membership with the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG).

Meanwhile, when responding to the denial by Indonesia on claims of human rights violation against the people of West Papua, Mr. Rumbiak questioned why the ambassador is trying to deny the truths over what he described as the ongoing inhuman activities



Jacob Rumbiak

done on his people.

He also questioned why Ambassador Manik highlighted the deaths of only four West Papuans, when hundreds and thousands are killed every year, with a 17 year-old youth being the latest victim of these ongoing genocides under what he claimed to be, "the hands of the Indonesian ill-disciplined military".

Also touching on the issue of human rights violation, Prime Minister Sogavare welcomed news of an investigation currently being carried out by an independent human rights council in Indonesia on these

17 year old Deni Bahabol,

Rumbiak is the Foreign Affairs representative of the Federated Republic of West Papua declared at the conclusion of the Third Papuan People's Congress on 19 October 2011, but is here as a member of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) executive.

The new organisation unites the three main organisations including the 'Federated Republic of West Papua, the Coalition and several smaller ones who have long struggled for independence.

The divisions have tended to be more about personalities than any real policy differences since all the groups have been pushing for 'the same thing: independence from Indonesia.

But the apparent differences had brought about some confusions and gave cover to Fiji and others in the region as an earlier MSG summit to say the movement was not united and therefore undeserving of a seat at the Spearhead Group so far.

However, Rumbiak explained that by coming together to present a united front, the ULMWP is hoping to re-submit a fresh application for membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) when they meet in Honiara later next month.

He added that the united front is also to counter Indonesia's claims that the West Papuan groups are divided.

"Well, not anymore".



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Jacob Rumbiak with members of 'Solomon Island Solidarity', including Island Sun journalist Garry Hatigeve, lobbyist Matt Gale, artist Fred Ong, and Security Commander Chris.



© Tommy Latupeirissa, Honiara, 2015

Jacob Rumbiak, Grace Hilly, Fr Nigel Kelaepa (Church of Melanesia, St Barnabus Anglican Cathedral), Rex Moises, Matt Gale.

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\$6	40	Up to midnight tomorrow
\$15	90	Up to midnight 5 days time
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Price	msg	Expiry
\$3	15	Up to midnight today
\$6	30	Up to midnight tomorrow
\$15	75	Up to midnight 5 days time
\$20	100	Up to midnight 7 days time

Price	data	Expiry
\$10	75	24 hours
\$20	150	24 hours
\$50	300	1 week
\$100	750	1 week
\$300	2GB	2 week
\$600	4GB	1 month
\$1,000	6GB	1 month

FAKE PERMIT EXPOSED

Miner caught trying to deceive Customs

By BRADFORD THEONOMI

INDONESIAN firm Bintang Borneo Limited has been caught attempting to deceive Customs with a fake export and consignment permit.

The move was the latest attempt by the company to export bauxite it illegally extracted on Rennell island, Renbel Province, since last year.

But the fake permit, issued on 27

Turn to page 2



West Papua advocates in Solomon Islands welcome Jacob Rumbiak upon his arrival at the Honiara International Airport yesterday. He is here to seek support to allow West Papua to become a member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG). See report page 4.



Supporters and advocates of ULMWP with Jacob Rumbiak at the Honiara International Airport on Wednesday.

Movement gets Solidarity support

By BRADFORD THEONOMI

THE United Liberation Movement For West Papua (ULMWP) gets the full support of Solomon Islands for West Papua Solidarity group.

Support was granted in full to the visiting ULMWP Executive officer, Jacob Rumbiak who is currently in the country on campaign rally for full MSG membership for West Papua.

Solomon Islands Solidarity For West Papua Secretary, Lilly Chekana said Solomon Islands Solidarity's campaign for West Papua is no mistake.

"We fully support the cause and we need to see our brothers and sisters become part of us Melanesians."

She assured Mr Rumbiak, there is no sitting on the fence on this issue of West Papua, and Solomon

Papua will not reserve any space.

"Reserving that support is for the lame, we stand our grounds as Melanesians, as pacific islanders in the region with our full support.

"Not until West Papua is free of genocide and torture, pacific people are yet to have their freedom to human rights and freedom of expression.

"It is a destiny that we as pacific islanders and Melanesians should have equal share to, leaving no one behind," she stressed.

Jacob Rumbiak welcomes the support and said it is their wish to become a full member of the Melanesian Spearhead group.

"As Melanesians we are entitled to, nothing should stop us unless political influence and money diplomacy hinders that.

"But the ideal campaign

Melanesians and of the pacific we are part of the region."

He said the support from the Solomon Islands Solidarity for West Papua is overwhelming and hopeful that at the political level there is no sitting on the fence on this issue.

"Our innocent people have suffered for over 50 years and we are asking your good support as Melanesian brothers and sisters.

"That simply request for our freedom is our only call and hope, that a country with a name following King Solomon himself, there will be wise and knowledgeable leaders and people to support our campaign for full MSG membership."

Rumbiak is meeting with key civil society groups in the country and is expected to go on air with the national broadcaster for an interview today.



JACOB RUMBIK (ULMWP Executive) with members of Solomon Islands West Papua Solidarity, including Secretary Lily Chekana.



Call to end Papua media black-out

Dozens of demonstrators dressed in black gathered outside the Indonesian Embassy in London last week to lead the global protest against West Papua's 50-year long isolation.

The demonstration was organised by TAPOL and Survival International, supported by Amnesty UK and the Free West Papua Campaign.

The rally was one of 22 protests around the world on Wednesday calling for free and open access to Indonesia's most secretive region.

Since West Papua's annexation in 1963, Indonesia has imposed a media blackout on the contested, resource-rich territory, allowing perpetrators of human rights violations to act with total impunity.

West Papua is one of the world's most isolated conflict spots. For decades, Indonesian security forces have brutally suppressed Papuan pro-independence movements.

The "Global Day of Action for Free and Open Access to Papua" has sparked rallies in West Papua, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands, Scotland, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

Unprecedented protests

Protests in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco also took place after the London rally. This global coordinated effort, the first of its kind, shows that worldwide solidarity for West Papua has reached unprecedented levels.

Esther Cann from TAPOL, a London-based NGO coordinating the rally, said: "This is the first time we've seen anything like this level of support for West Papua."

NGOs, parliamentarians and solidarity groups all around the world are telling Indonesia that human rights abuses in Papua can no longer be ignored.

Papuan voices must be heard. In this age of information, it's astounding that there are blackspot regions like West Papua."

From the Solomon Islands to Scotland to San Francisco, hundreds of demonstrators from 22 cities in 10 different countries united to call for a free and open West Papua.

Demonstrators wore black, representing the ongoing media blackout in West Papua. They gathered to demand that President Joko Widodo fulfill his presidential campaign promise of opening West Papua to international journalists.

humanitarian and human rights organisations.

A three-minute silence was observed to symbolise the silencing of the media in West Papua.

"President Jokowi himself has said that there is nothing to hide in Papua. So why is it still virtually impossible for journalists and NGOs to report on Papua? We know that serious human rights violations are happening in Papua, but we still have no idea of the scale of the killings and torture over the last 50 years," said Cann.

Outing the truth
"This global day of action is our way of telling the Indonesian government that the world is watching."

"Even though they've kept West Papua isolated for 50 years, the world has not forgotten. The truth must and will come out," said human rights activist Peter Tatchell, who took part in the protest.

At the end of the demonstration, a joint letter to President Jokowi signed by 52 Papuan, Indonesian and international groups and parliamentarians was delivered to the Indonesian Embassy in London.

The letter pointed out that "the media blackout denies the Papuan people

the right to have their voices heard and allows human rights violations such as killings, torture and arbitrary arrests, to continue with impunity."

The de-facto ban on foreign journalists, NGOs and humanitarian organisations contributes to the isolation of local journalists, and makes independent investigation and corroboration virtually impossible".

An Avaaz petition calling for media freedom in West Papua, launched by the Free West Papua Campaign and signed by more than 47,000 people was delivered to President Jokowi by Papuan students in Jakarta today.

Reporters without Borders, a co-signatory to the joint letter, criticised Indonesia's decline in media freedom.

Benjamin Ismail, the head of the Asia-Pacific Desk at Reporters without Borders said: "Indonesia's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index has worsened dramatically in the last four years."

"In 2015, it ranked 138 out of 180 countries. This year's position is mainly the result of the media blackout in West Papua orchestrated by the authorities."

Observers barred

Access for UN human rights observers has been closed for eight years. In recent years, international humanitarian agencies and NGOs have been pressured to close their field offices and leave Papua.

International journalists and NGOs seeking to visit and work in Papua are currently required to undergo a stringent visa application process involving the unanimous approval of 18 separate government agencies known as the Clearing House committee.

In October last year, two French journalists were sentenced to 11 weeks in detention under immigration charges because they had tried to report the Papua conflict.

During a UN Human Rights Council event last month, Valentine Bourrat, one of the two journalists detained, stated that "... keeping Papua closed to journalists means that the Indonesian authorities are hiding human rights violations. As journalists we cannot let a murderous silence prevail."

Independent reporting by local and national journalists in Papua is dangerous and sometimes lethal. According to the Papuan branch of Indonesia's AIIH-

ance of Independent Journalists (Aliansi Jurnalis Independen, AJI), in 2014 there were 20 reported cases of violence and intimidation against journalists in Papua.

"Journalists must be able to work without intimidation, threats or restriction. We should be able to report independently and without fear for our security. Why is this not guaranteed to journalists in Papua? As Indonesian citizens, why are our rights not safeguarded?" said Oktovianus Pogau, a journalist with Suara Papua, a Papuan news site.

During his presidential campaign, President Joko Widodo publicly stated that there was nothing to hide in Papua and promised to open the region. Yet six months into his presidency, Papua remains closed off to the international community.

While President Widodo has pledged his commitment to resolve past rights abuses, the execution of eight people for alleged drug trafficking offences less than 24 hours before the London rally put the future direction of Indonesia's human rights into serious question.

Source: Pacific Media Watch



Solomon Islands in Solidarity for West Papua support the application of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua to join Melanesian Spearhead Group.



ULMWP Executive Jacob Rumbiak with Opposition MP Derrick Manu-ari
Photo: Tommy Latupeirissa

IN HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: Young Womens' Parliamentary Group



© Tommy Latupeirissa, Honiara, 2015



Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP Executive) and Matt Gale with the Young Women's Parliamentary Group including Grace Hilly, Kristina Sogavare, and Marisa Pepa.

Jacob Rumbiak and Kristina Sogavare (daughter of Prime Minister Sogavare, and Leader of the Young Women's Parliamentary Group).

Photos-Tommy Latupeirissa

Other active West Papuan solidarity groups in Honiara:

Solomon Islands for Free West Papua
Free West Papua Campaign Solomon Islands
Solomon Islands for West Papua Freedom
Forum Solomon Islands International

IN HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: with the politicians, March 2015



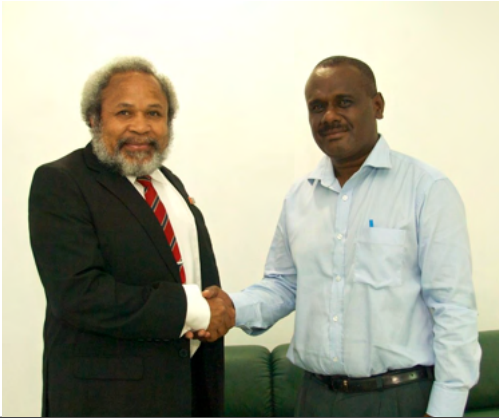
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Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP Executive) and local lobbyist Matt Gale, with Hon. Milner Tozaka (Minister for Foreign Affairs) whose dogged pursuit of justice produced the first recognition by an international organization of the West Papuans' independence struggle. The shift brought the Papuans—as they say—out of the darkness into the light.

right—Jacob Rumbiak with Hon. Jeremiah Manele MP

far right—Tommy Latupeirissa and Jacob Rumbiak, with Millicent Barty (Miss Solomon Islands)

Photos: Tommy Latupeirissa



IN HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG, MAY 2015



Papua Cidy (Ugandan rock star of ‘Evalina’ fame) performing on 8 May 2015 at the Heritage Park Hotel, where the MSG Summit took place six weeks later.



Rex Moises tutoring Jacob Rumbiak in the Melanesian custom of chewing betel nut.

Photo: Tommy Latupeirissa



Secretary-General
Melanesian Spearhead Group
Port Vila, Vanuatu

1 June 2015

Dear Mr Forau

We write to address issues arising from the dismissal by Prime Ministers O'Neill and Bainimarama of our application to become a member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), which has derailed the negotiating process leading up to the Melanesian Spearhead Group Summit in Honiara in June 2015. The application was prepared by the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), and presented to the MSG Secretariat by the Vanuatu Government on 4 February 2015.

The Special MSG Leaders Summit in Port Moresby on 26 June 2014 recommended 'an inclusive, united, representative body' underwrite West Papua's application. In December 2014, during the *Reconciliation and Unity Summit for West Papuan Leaders* in Port Vila, the ULMWP was elected from i) Federal Republic of West Papua—Octo Mote, Jacob Rumbiak; ii) West Papua National Coalition for Liberation—Leonie Tanggahma, Rex Rumakiek; and iii) West Papua National Parliament—Benny Wenda.

The Unity Summit was initiated by the 2013 World Council of Churches Assembly in Busan, South Korea; propelled by the Protestant Church in West Papua (*Gereja Kristen Injili*) and Lutheran Church in PNG; sponsored by the Vanuatu Government; moderated by Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs, Vanuatu Christian Council, and Pacific Conference of Churches.

Rather than embrace the ULMWP application for a seat at the negotiating table, Ministers O'Neill and Bainimarama have pledged their support for Indonesia to have five of its governors, two of which are West Papuan, as an Associate Member of the MSG. Note that the two Papuan governors are not freely elected, but pre-selected as election-candidates by LEMHANAS, a powerful Indonesian institution that is directly answerable to the President and tasked to maintain and protect Indonesia's 'territorial integrity'.

On 14 May 2015, Prime Minister O'Neill misled the Lowy Institute in Sydney with his claims of eleven million Melanesians in Indonesia, and the aggregate number of Melanesians exceeding Australia's population of twenty-three million. The issue for this leader of the largest Melanesian

state should not have been how many Melanesians live in Indonesia, but how many are dead and dying in West Papua.

In 1962, Melanesians constituted 99% of the population in West Papua. By 2010, they were 48.7% (1.7 of 3.6 million) with an annual growth rate of 1.8% (the non-Papuan rate was 10.8%). In 2020 Melanesian West Papuans will be 'a small and rapidly dwindling minority of just 28%' (J Elmslie, University of Sydney *West Papuan demographic transition and the 2010 Census: Slow Motion Genocide or not?*)

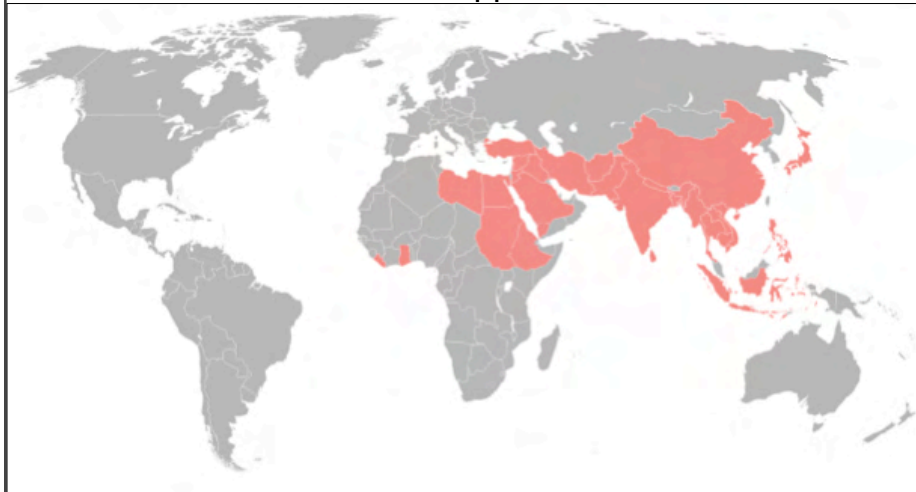
Minister O'Neill said his arrangement with President Widodo would "ensure peace, stability, and development for Melanesians in West Papua". Nine days after their meeting on 11 May 2015, Indonesian police arrested 70 Papuans in Manokwari for supporting the ULMWP application; their tear gas hospitalizing dozens of children. On 28 May, 46 Papuans were arrested in Jayapura. In March, Benny Wenda (ULMWP Spokesperson seriously assaulted in Port Moresby last July) was refused entry into PNG. Markus Haluk, another leader, was also assaulted in Port Moresby, and robbed of the funds collected in West Papua for Cyclone Pam victims in Vanuatu.

The ULMWP believes the MSG should shepherd West Papuans into its sphere because it is an appropriate forum for negotiations with Indonesia. Indeed, by gracing their Melanesian kin with full membership, MSG politicians will demonstrate their leadership, their dignity, and their sovereignty, and enhance the MSG's status as a UN-accredited International Organization.

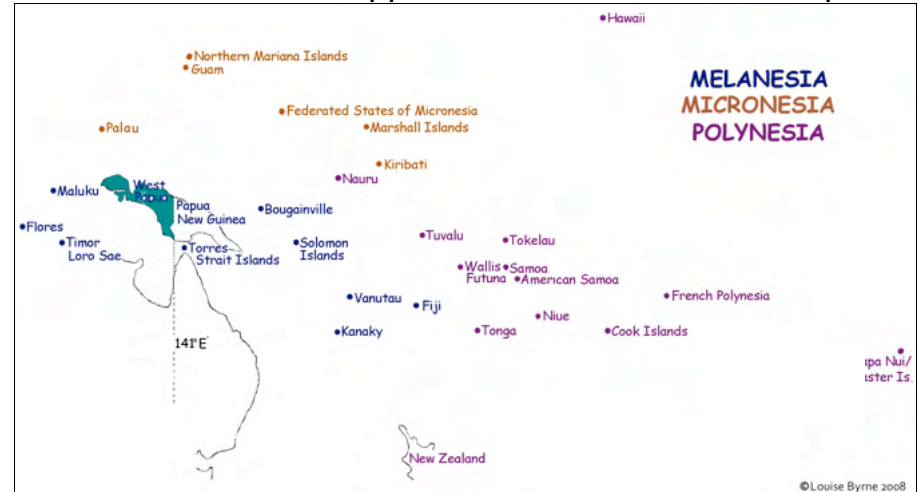
PNG and Fiji are obliged to the MSG Founding Principles 'to defend and promote independence as the inalienable right of the indigenous peoples of Melanesia', and 'to contribute to a peaceful, secure, and stable democratic environment throughout Melanesia'. The ULMWP believes the MSG is as capable of negotiating justice and peace for West Papuans as the Asian African Conference is of carrying Palestine's self-determination claims (confirmed during AAC Commemorative Summit in Bandung in April 2015).

Speaking for the Melanesians of West Papua, the ULMWP now demands answers of the MSG Leaders. When is enough, enough? How long before the leadership stands for justice over genocide? Life over death? Indigenous custody of land over global exploitation of their resources? Should a Melanesian grandchild be allowed to sell his ancestral parent for blood-gold and crimson-copper?

Consistent AAP support for Palestine



Inconsistent MSG support for Melanesian West Papua



1ST ASIA AFRICA CONFERENCE, BANDUNG, APRIL 1955

- Opposes colonial rule in all its manifestations
- Support the rights of the Arab people of Palestine
- Demands application of UN Resolutions on Palestine
- Demands peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem

3RD ASIA AFRICA CONFERENCE, BANDUNG, APRIL 2015

- Support for formation of a sovereign Palestinian state
- Promotion of two-state solution
- Condemnation of Israel's occupation and attacks
- Support for reconstruction of Gaza
- Support for Palestine's application for UN membership

MSG, Goroka, July 1986

- Defends and promotes inalienable right of indigenous Melanesians to independence

MSG, New Caledonia, June 2013

- Fully supports the inalienable right of West Papuans to Self-Determination as provided for by the MSG Constitution

MSG, PNG Prime Minister O'Neill, Port Moresby, PNG, 6 Feb 2015

"Sometimes, we forget our own families, our own brothers, especially those in West Papua. Pictures of brutality appear daily on the social media and we take no notice. As a country, the time has come to speak for our people. We have the moral obligation to speak for those who are not allowed to talk".

PNG Prime Minister O'Neill, Lowy Institute, Aus, 14 May 2015

"This week President Widodo and I had an opportunity to share our views.... In our meeting PNG pledged its support for Indonesia to apply for associate membership of the MSG"

WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: Hundreds arrested during rallies



The KNPB (National Committee for West Papua) rally in Timika on 21 May 2015 was unusually well documented, and the next ten photos are from the KNPB blog <http://suarawiyaimana.blogspot.com.au/2015/05/knpb-prd-wilayah-bomberay-mendukung.html>

On 20 May 2015, 74 arrested in Manokwari, 3 arrested in Biak, and 6 arrested in Sentani. In Biak: Mananwir Sroyer (Biak People's Regional Parliament), Yuianus Mandowen (Biak West Papua National Committee), Dorteus Bonsapiaa (Federal Republic of West Papua). In Sentani: Edo Pahabol (15), Yunani Balyo (25), Maris Tabuni (21), Ade Paragaye (18), Jasa Balyo (26), Edison Yare (23).

WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: Hundreds arrested during rallies

Solomon Islands flag



WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: KNPB Rally, Timika, 21 May 2015



WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: KNPB Rally, Timika, 21 May 2015



Indonesian Military Roadblock



WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: KNPB Rally, Timika, 21 May 2015



Indonesian Military Roadblock



WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: KNPB Rally, Timika, 21 May 2015

West Papuan women and children sit calmly in front of the Indonesian Military Roadblock



WEST PAPUA: KNPB'S COURAGEOUS LOBBYING AHEAD OF THE 2015 MSG: KNPB Rally, Timika, 21 May 2015



MELBOURNE: SUPPORT AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: 'Prayers for West Papua', St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Prayers led by Revd. Heather Patacca (Canon) and Dr Andreas Loewe (Dean), 15 May 2015

Photo: Dean Golja



MELBOURNE: SUPPORT AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: 'Prayers for West Papua', St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Prayers led by Revd. Heather Patacca (Canon) and Dr Andreas Loewe (Dean), 15 May 2015

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MELBOURNE: SUPPORT AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: 'Prayers for West Papua', St Paul's Anglican Cathedral
Prayers led by Revd. Heather Patacca (Canon) and Dr Andreas Loewe (Dean), 15 May 2015
Natalie Adadikam, Womens Office, Federal Republic of West Papua (Docklands) Photo: Dean Golja



Dean Golja, St Paul's, 15 May 2015

MELBOURNE: SUPPORT AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: 'Prayers for West Papua', St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Prayers led by Revd. Heather Patacca (Canon) and Dr Andreas Loewe (Dean), 15 May 2015

Babuan Mirino, Womens Office, Federal Republic of West Papua (Docklands)

Photo: Dean Golja



Dean Golja, 15 June 2015

MELBOURNE: SUPPORT AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: 'Prayers for West Papua', St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Prayer Service, 15 May 2015, led by Revd. Heather Patacca (Canon) and Dr Andreas Loewe (Dean).

West Papua Womens Office, Federal Republic of West Papua (Docklands)

Photo: Dean Golja



SUPPORT IN MELBOURNE AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Federal Republic of West Papua, 15 May 2015



By this Memorandum Australian unions:

- Recognise the Federal Republic of West Papua established in October 2011 by five-thousand academics, politicians, church leaders, and senior tribal leaders.
- Support the application of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua to join the Melanesian Superheat Group (MSG) in 2015, which Vanuatu Prime Minister Natuman presented to the MSG Secretariat on 4 February 2015.
- Promote the right of West Papua to self-determination (consistent with UN Principles) that were over-ridden between 1962 and 1969 by the United Nations and the Indonesian Administration, by President Suharto's New Order (1966—1998) and by Indonesian governments since 1999.



MOU Signatoores

Australia Council of Trade Unions (Ged Kearney),
Victorian Trades Hall Council (Luke Hilari)
Ballarat Region Trades and Labour Council (Brett Edgington)
Bendigo Trades Hall Council ((Karen Kyle)
Geelong Trades Hall Council (Tim Gooden)
Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (Paul Conway)
Australian Education Union, Victoria (Justin Mullaly)
Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation, Victoria (Lisa Fitzpatrick)
Australian Services Union, Victoria (Ingrid Stitt)
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (Shaun Reardon, Doug Stewart)
Communication Workers Union. Telecommunication and Postal Division (Joan Doyle)
Health and Community Services Union (Paul Healy)
Maritime Union of Australia (Kevin Bracken)
National Tertiary Education Union (Colin Long)
National Union of Workers (Gary Maas)
Shearers and Rural Workers Union (Bernie Constable)
Textile, Clothing & Footwear Union of Australia (Michelle O'Neill)

Donated a pig and were represented in the 'westpapua4msg' rally in Honiara four days later

SUPPORT IN MELBOURNE AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council, MOU with Federal Republic of West Papua, 15 May 2015

Photos: Tommy Latupeirissa



top—Trades Hall, Melbourne; Len Cooper (Communication Workers Union); Lesley Robson (Union Organiser) with Ged Kearney (Australian Council of Trade Unions) and Luke Hilakari (Victorian Trades Hall Council); *bottom*—Brett Edgington (Ballarat Trades Hall Council); Joan Doyle (Communication Workers Union); Karen Kyle (Bendigo Trades Hall Council) with Jacob Rumbiak and Ronny Kareni (Federal Republic of West Papua/FRWP); West Papua's Black Orchid String Band.

SUPPORT IN MELBOURNE AHEAD OF MSG IN HONIARA: Australian Council of Trade Unions and Victorian Trades Hall Council, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Federal Republic of West Papua, 15 May 2015

Ged Kearney, President, Australian Council of Trade Unions, 15 May 2015

Jacob Rumbiak, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Immigration & Trade of the Federal Republic of West Papua, Comrades and Colleagues, it is a great honour to be here with you this evening and join with you on this historic occasion.

Fifteen years ago, on 24 October 2000, the ACTU along with many ACTU affiliates and Dr Jacob Rumbiak signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning West Papua. The purpose of that Memorandum was to express solidarity with the aspirations of the West Papua people; and to effect, through national and international avenues, a peaceful resolution of their self-determination process that was aborted by the international community in 1962.

As that MoU notes, a 'Referendum' in 1969 is seen by some to have delivered West Papua to the Indonesian Republic. A posse of people specially selected by Indonesia to vote on behalf of all West Papuans is not democracy. The 1969 referendum was no Act of Free Choice. The 2000 MoU called for an urgent Inquiry by the United Nations into the suffering and deaths in West Papua at the hands of the Indonesian military, and for an internationally supervised United Nations sponsored referendum – a true Act of Free Choice by the West Papuan people.

Regrettably, over the past fifteen years there has been a ceaseless stream of authoritative reports of continuing human rights violations in West Papua, of murders and beatings and intimidation of civilians advocating for independence, at the hands of the Indonesian military. In the face of sustained intimidation, West Papuan activists have continued the struggle – for recognition, for peace, for freedom of expression, for the right to exercise a true Act of Free Choice.

Jacob (Rumbiak), we salute you, and all your colleagues who have sustained the struggle and kept hope alive.

The Federal Republic of West Papua was established as a declarative state in 2011 and late last year a committee, the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) was formed to carry an application for full West Papuan membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group. The ULMWP brings together the Federal Republic of West Papua, the West Papuan Coalition for Liberation, and the West Papuan National Parliament, and with this single united voice their application for membership was presented by the Vanuatu Prime Minister to the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat on 4 February this year. That application for membership of the MSG will be determined next month in Honiara.

Today we are signing a new Memorandum of Understanding. It commits the ACTU and those Australian unions who are signatory to the MoU to recognise the Federal Republic of West Papua; to support the application by the United Liberation Movement for West Papua for full membership of the Melanesian Spearhead Group; and to promote the right of West Papua to self-determination consistent with UN Principles.

Let there be no misunderstanding – we support peaceful resolution of these matters. We support human rights. The murders and mutilations must stop. Oppression and intimidation are no path to a peaceful future. Genuine dialogue must be nurtured and grow. The voice of the West Papuan people must be heard and respected. On behalf of the ACTU, I am proud to be here today and proud to sign this Memorandum of Understanding.



During the Final Plenary of the MSG, Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama complained that West Papua had attracted almost all the attention of the ministers and the media. He said his decision to block West Papua’s application, and grant Indonesia Associate Member status instead, was guided by "a number of overriding principles first and foremost, that Indonesian sovereignty over West Papua cannot be questioned.”
(www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-27/west-papuans-given-melanesia-bloc-access/6577722).

HONIARA: ULMWP LOBBYING DURING THE MSG: Henderson Field Airport, greeting friends and country(wo)men



Photo: Tommy Latupeirissa

Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP Executive), Lord Mayor of Guadacanal, Octo Mote (ULMWP Secretary-General).
Photo: Tommy Latupeirissa

HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF MSG: King Solomon Hotel, Honiara, 18-26 June 2015



© Savannah Thatcher, Honiara, 2015



King Solomon Hotel, owned by the Australian Shane Kennedy. The security guard's job every morning was to raise West Papua's Morning Star flag. All the Melanesian flags flew during the Melanesian Spearhead Group Summit (18-26 June 2015). Photographer Tommy Latupeirissa waited three days for the wind to lift all the MSG flags together.



Tommy Latupeirissa, June 2015



HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF MSG: St Barnabas Anglican Cathedral, 21 June 2015



© Savannah Thatcher
Honiara, 2015

During this Mass, three days before the MSG Summit, Bishop Alfred Karibongi announced a three-day Prayer-and-Fast for West Papua. This was in response to announcements by PNG and Fiji that they were rejecting ULMWP’s application to join the MSG, and by Vanuatu’s (new) Prime Minister Sato Kilman that he would not be attending the summit.

In April Sato Kilman, as Foreign Affairs Minister, flew to Jakarta for the Asia-Africa Conference (!) where he agreed to open Vanuatu’s first embassy in Indonesia. He was immediately demoted from Foreign Affairs, but managed to galvanise a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Natuman—who supported West Papua’s MSG application, and was then himself elected Prime Minister!

ULMWP IN SOLOMON ISLANDS DURING MSG: Grave of Fr Sam Ata M.B.E., Sunday 21 June 2015



Photo: Savannah Thatcher

Fr Ata established the crucial relationship between Jacob Rumbiak and the Solomon Islands while studying at Melbourne University. He died in October 2014, just a few months before his nation hosted the MSG Summit that delivered West Papua Observer Status and an international diplomatic platform from which to project their political independence-project. boxes—Fr Sam Ata (dec.); Sophia Fr Ata’s daughter, one of the organisers of the ‘WP4MSG’ Rally on 19 June 2015.

HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF MSG: Ester, leading the people to fast-and-pray



© Savannah Thatcher
Honiara, 2015

During the three-day Fast-and-Prayer for West Papua, churches throughout the Solomon Islands called on Exodus 3:7-8 where God tells Moses to tell the Pharaoh to release His people from slavery so that they can worship freely. The biblical Ester was a beautiful Jewish orphan who became the wife of a Persian king and managed to prevent a genocide of her people. Her story is the core of the Jewish Festival of Purim.

HONIARA: SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA AHEAD OF MSG: Day 2, Fast-and-Prayers for West Papua, 23 June 2015

Georgiana (front row, Morning Star beret) and her friends, Holy Cross Catholic Church, Honiara.



Photo:
Savannah
Thatcher

ULMWP IN SOLOMON ISLANDS DURING MSG: Day 2, Fast-and-Prayers for West Papua, 23 June 2015

Muma Yusefa, an Amungme woman activist from West Papua.



HONIARA: ULMWP LOBBYING WITH SOLOMON ISLAND ACTIVISTS DURING MSG: 'WP4MSG' Rally, 19 June 2015

West Papua's ULMWP Committee: Benny Wenda, Leonie Tanggahma, Octo Mote, Jacob Rumbiak, Rex Rumakiek



HONIARA: ULMWP LOBBYING WITH SOLOMON ISLAND ACTIVISTS DURING MSG: 'WP4MSG' Rally, 19 June 2015

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HONIARA: ULMWP LOBBYING WITH SOLOMON ISLAND ACTIVISTS DURING MSG: 'WP4MSG' Rally, 19 June 2015



Photo: Tommy Latupeirissa

The rally was led by Fr Nigel Kelaepa (Co-ordinator, *Faith Mission and Youth*, Church of Melanesia). The Church of Melanesia (St Barnabus Anglican Cathedral) was at the forefront of 'Solomon Islands Solidarity for West Papua Freedom' (a coalition of all Solomon Island churches, NGOs, and civil society that lobbied the Sogavare Government to recognise and accept the ULMWP's application for membership of the MSG).

HONIARA DURING THE MSG: Reciprocal Exchange—Yabon's flag at the 'WP4MSG' Rally, 19 June 2015



In Melbourne on 9 November 2002, Vanuatu Chief Morris Kaloran ritually sacrificed a pig called Yabon, and wrapped it inside a Morning Star flag. The ceremony opened a Melanesian seminar YUMI WAINAIM (you-me-together) in the Kulin Nations' Wurrundjeri Gardens on the banks of the Maribyrnong River.

The second part of the ceremony took place in All Saints Anglican Church in St Kilda, where parts of the (now-cooked) pig and the bloodied flag were blessed by an assembly of priests and pastors that included Rev. Janet Turbie-Johnston (an Anglican Aboriginal priest from the Gundjitamara nation), and Catholic Bishop Hilton Deakin. West Papua's Morning Star flag flew from the church mast for the next twelve months.

Analysis of the political-cultural ceremony: ABC RN 'Risking the Sacred' 5 October 2003; at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter/risking-the-sacred/3453960>



In November 2007, the flag was taken to Vanuatu for a similar cultural-political ceremony prior to the signing of a ground-breaking UNITY DAY DECLARATION between the West Papua National Authority, the Maraki Vanuariki Council of Chiefs, and the Port Vila Council of Chiefs.

In June 2015, the Federal Republic of West Papua Womens Office, supported by Australian trade unions (which had just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FRWP), delivered two pigs to the MSG Summit in Honiara. Yabon's flag was carried in the WP4MSG Rally. The flag was then returned to the Federal Republic of West Papua office in Docklands (Victoria).

HONIARA DURING THE MSG: Five Australian unions bought two pigs for ULMWP to gift to the MSG



HONIARA: AMAZING SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA DURING THE MSG: ‘WP4MSG’ Rally, 19 June 2015



© Savannah Thatcher, Honiara, 2015

Matt Gale (from the Solomon Islands who lives and works in Australia); Janette Liddelow (a farmer from Williams in Western Australia) and Louise Byrne (FRWP Women’s Office, Melbourne) with their brother Marcus Byrne (from Brisbane).

box—Peter Arndt (Executive Officer, Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane) who had just visited West Papua.

HONIARA: AMAZING SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA DURING THE MSG: 'WP4MSG' Rally, 19 June 2015



© Savannah Thatcher

Solomon Island Police praised the discipline of the Solomon Island organizers of the two 'WP4MSG' rallies in Honiara, which were the first public demonstrations permitted in the Solomon Islands since the devastating riots in 2006.

HONIARA: AMAZING SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA DURING THE MSG: 'WP4MSG' Seminar, 19 June 2015



The WP4MSG seminar was held in a traditional building overlooking Iron Bottom Bay in Honiara.

'Iron Bottom Bay' derives its name from the 200 ships and 690 aircraft that (still) lie within it, after WWII air-and-naval battles in 1942-43. (The wrecks include the Royal Australian Navy cruiser *HMAS Canberra* that was struck and damaged by the Japanese on 9 August 1942. Two American destroyers, *USS Ellet* and *USS Selfridge*, then scuttled and sank the cruiser in Ironbottom Bay instead of towing it to Tulagi Harbour for repairs. President Roosevelt later named *USS Canberra* in honour of the Australian ship.



HONIARA: AMAZING SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA DURING THE MSG: 'WP4MSG' Seminar, 19 June 2015



Speakers

Dr Jim Elmslie

ULMWPN Delegates: Rex Rumakiek, Jacob Rumbiak, Benny Wenda, Octo Mote, Leonie Tanggahma

Ezekiel Alebura (Prime Minister of Solomon Islands 1986-89; Founding member of the MSG)

Peter Arndt (Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane)

Moderator: Matt Gale



ULMWP: Rex Rumakiek, Benny Wenda, Octo Mote, Leonie Tanggahma, Jacob Rumbiak

Emele Duituturaga (Director, Pacific Islands Association of Non-Government Organizations)

Ezekial Alebura (Prime Minister, Solomon Islands, 1986-89, and founding member of the MSG).

HONIARA: AMAZING SUPPORT FOR WEST PAPUA DURING THE MSG: 'WP4MSG' Seminar, 19 June 2015



Ned Byrne launching Dr Greg Poulgrain's (2015) *The Incubus of Intervention, Conflicting Indonesia Strategies of John F. Kennedy and Allen Dulles*.

Incubus examines, in detail, the extraordinary crimes committed by Allen Dulles (CIA Director) to ensure that the US mining company, Freeport, got exclusive access and rights to the mountains of gold in Timika West Papua.

Among the most monstrous of Dulles' crimes were the murders of Congo Prime Minister Lumumba and UN Sec-General Dag Hammarskjöld in 1961; his manipulation of a dishevelled UN General Assembly to facilitate Indonesia's usurpation of West Papua in 1962; and his covert organisation of the massacre of (at least) a million Indonesian rice-farmers ('communists') in 1965.



Louise Byrne (FRWP Women's Office, Melbourne) with Malaitan elder and the copy he bought of Greg Poulgrain's *Incubus of Intervention*.

ULMWP LOBBYING IN HONIARA DURING MSG



The arrival from West Papua of 150,000 signatures to a petition scarified Indonesia's claim that the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) was not representative.

After the MSG, West Papuans kept signing the petition, and 1.8 million signatures were presented to the United Nations in New York in 2017 and to the UN in Geneva in 2019.



Concert for West Papua on the banks of the Mataniko River on 21 June 2015. The PNG High Commissioner in Honiara ordered concert organisers to take down the PNG flag that was flying alongside the other MSG flags (*Take down our flag: PNG to West Papua music concert, The Island Sun, 22 June 2015*).

MSG OPENING CEREMONY, SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL MUSEUM, HONIARA, 24 JUNE 2014



Johnson Naviti (Office of the Prime Minister—standing in for Prime Minister Kilman)

Ben Micah (PNG Minister for Public Enterprises and State Investment—standing in for Prime Minister O'Neill)

Frank Bainimarama (Prime Minister, Fiji)

Victor Tutugoro (FLNKS, Kanaky, New Caledonia)

Manasseh Sogavare (Prime Minister, Solomon Islands)



MSG OPENING CEREMONY, SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL MUSEUM, HONIARA, 24 JUNE 2014



MSG OPENING CEREMONY, SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL MUSEUM, HONIARA, 24 JUNE 2014

© Savannah Thatcher, Honiara, 2015





MSG OPENING CEREMONY, SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL MUSEUM, HONIARA, 24 JUNE 2015



Frank Prendergast (Commissioner, Police, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force) with West Papua delegates Leonie Tanggahma, Alfonse Adadikam, Amateus Dowe, Jacob Rumbiak, Octo Mote



Dominic Meikeljohn (British High Commissioner to Solomon Islands) with West Papua delegates: Edison Kandi and Henk Rumbewas (with the boxes of 150,000 signatures from West Papua); Muma Yusefa; Rev. Dimara; Octo Mote; Englebert Surabut; Jacob Rumbiak; Markus Haluk

MSG OPENING CEREMONY, SOLOMON ISLANDS NATIONAL MUSEUM, 24 JUNE 2015



Louise Byrne (FRWP Women's Office, Melbourne); Janette Liddelow (Farmer, Williams, Western Australia), Frank Prendergast (Commissioner, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force); Juanita Matanga (Deputy Police Commissioner, Royal Solomon Islands Police Force).



West Papua Delegates: Edison Kandi, Henk Rumbewas, Muma Yusefa, Rev. Dimara, Buchtar Tabuni.



Manasseh Sogavare's inspired and inspiring plea for support of West Papua's application for membership for MSG membership

Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbV4MHeIVcc>

Prime Minister Sogavare's Speech

"At this summit, we have applications for new membership to consider. They are not ordinary applications. They are applications that challenge many of the fundamental values that we, in Melanesia, profess to uphold as members of the United Nations and as countries founded on the principles of Christianity.

Because of that, all eyes will be on Honiara, and the world will be watching us, eagerly, anticipating what the outcome will be when we deliberate on the application for new membership to MSG.

Let us not forget the dreams and wishes of our people to be part of a Melanesian family. The desire of our people for an inclusive MSG. An MSG that stands for what is right in a world where such values are now struggling to survive.

As a matter of fact, the deliberations on this application will test our commitment to a caring, progressive, peaceful, and inclusive MSG.

They will also test our commitment to the basic principles of human rights and rule of law, as embedded in the United Nations Charters, which the MSG, as members of the United Nations, should subscribe to.

It is a test of our genuineness to solve a problem between two next door neighbours in the interest of regional peace and stability.

Ultimately, it is a test to our claim to civilization and good corporate citizens of plant earth".

MSG OPENING DAY, HONIARA, 24 JUNE 2014



West Papuans overwhelmed by PM Sogavare's passionate support: Benny Wenda (ULMWP Spokesperson); Muma Yusefa; Markus Haluk; Englebert Surabat (Dewan Adat Papua/Papua Tribal Council).



Buchtar Tabuni (ULMWP, West Papua National Parliament); Octo Mote and Benny Wenda (ULMWP Sec-General and Spokesperson); *far right*—Abraham Kareni (Federal Republic of West Papua-ULMWP in Wewak).

MSG OPENING CEREMONY, HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS, 24 JUNE 2015



Prime Minister Edison Waromi—Federal Republic of West Papua, congratulates Solomon Islands Prime Minister Sogavare after his courageous and inspiring speech.



Jacob Rumbiak (ULMWP); Englebert Surabat (Dewan Adat Papua/Papua Tribal Council); Markus Haluk (ULMWP); Edison Waromi (Prime Minister, Federal Republic of West Papua); Muma Yusefa; Prime Minister Sogavare (Solomon Islands); Benny Wenda (ULMWP Spokesperson); Octo Mote (ULWMP Sec-General); Buchtar Tabuni (West Papua National Parliament/KNPB); Hank Rumbewas; Rev. Dimara; Amateus Dowe.



xxv) Applications for Membership by United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) and Associate Membership by Indonesia

- a) On the application by ULMWP for Membership, **Leaders approved** that ULMWP be admitted as an Observer member under the regional and international category representing Melanesians living abroad.
- b) On the application by Indonesia for Associate Membership, **Leaders approved** that Associate membership be accorded to Indonesia representing the five (5) Melanesian Provinces in Indonesia.

The 2015 MSG accorded West Papua diplomatic status as ‘Observer’.

Indonesia’s campaign to prevent this included high-level visits to Port Moresby, Suva, and Honiara; an offer of \$us20,000,000 for MSG capacity-building; and a huge delegation in Honiara.

Indonesia also applied for five of its governors (of what it now calls its ‘melanesian’ provinces) to be accorded ‘MSG Associate’ status, even though the republic never has, and continues to refuse to recognize its indigenous populations. The two West Papuan governors refused to come to Honiara.



Manasseh Sogavare had to outwit the dismissal of West Papua's MSG application by PNG Prime Minister O'Neill and Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama.

Rather than embrace the ULMWP application for a seat at the MSG negotiating table, O'Neill and Bainimarama pledged their support for Indonesia to have five of its 'melanesian' governors as MSG Associate Members. These governors are not freely elected but are pre-selected as election-candidates by LEMHANAS, an Indonesian institution directly answerable to the President and tasked to maintain Indonesia's 'territorial integrity'. The two West Papuan governors refused to come to Honiara.

Andrew Johnson took issue with 'untrue statements' by Fiji and Indonesia at the MSG Summit:

".... The Indonesian delegate claimed that the United Nations made a resolution granting Indonesia sovereignty over West Papua, and Fiji's Prime Minister is telling the MSG gathering that "Indonesian sovereignty over West Papua cannot be questioned." But neither of those statements are true....

.... I wrote a draft UNGA resolution that the Vanuatu Parliament wanted to tender five years ago, asking that the International Court of Justice advise whether West Papua is legally part of Indonesia, or is a non-self-governing territory.

.... I believe that West Papua is a UN Trust Territory, due to Indonesia asking and the UN General Assembly putting UN Charter Article 85:Part 1 into effect in UNGA Res. 1752. This compels UN members to promote West Papua towards independence under Article 76 of the UN Charter.

.... Whether I am correct, or the Fijian PM is correct, is a matter that only the International Court of Justice (ICJ) can answer. The MSG has raised the issue of the sovereignty, and I think our governments need to ask the ICJ to determine whether West Papua is a UN trust territory or not".

ULMWP, FINAL PLENARY, MSG SUMMIT, HERITAGE PARK HOTEL, HONIARA, 26 JUNE 2015



Benny Wenda, ULMWP Spokesperson

“West Papua’s application for MSG membership is grounded firmly in the MSG’s own founding principles, including respect for and promotion of Melanesian cultures, traditions and values, the inalienable human rights of the indigenous peoples of Melanesia, and most of all, the spirit of Melanesian solidarity.”



INDONESIAN DELEGATES PROTEST AT MSG FORUM OVER SPEECH BY PAPUAN INDEPENDENCE LEADER

Tabloid Jubi, Jayapura, 27 June 2015 (Victor Mambor) – Indonesian delegation reacted strongly to a speech by the United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP) at a meeting of the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

Sec-General Oktovianus Mote said ULMWP stood before MSG to affirm that the group has fulfilled the requirements demanded by the MSG at a meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia in 2013.

“The people of West Papua are united under ULMWP leadership. And our unity is supported by the Melanesian people. Our leadership has been legitimized by the people who signed the petition supporting ULMWP application for full membership. Many of the applicants have been arrested, imprisoned and tortured” Mote said.

Mandy Setyawati, who led the Indonesian delegation, released a statement denouncing the speech.

“We reject all accusations that are unfounded and false submitted by an organization calling themselves ULMWP. We have absolutely no interest in taking advantage of this forum in things that are not productive and constructive” the Indonesian delegation said in the statement released to reporters in Honiara.

The Indonesian delegation also said that, as a democracy, Indonesia respects the law and quality under the rule of the Indonesian state.

Mandy Setyawati Firman, who led the Indonesian delegation to the MSG in Honiara



REV. JAMES BHAGWAN, METHODIST CHURCH, FIJI

“Will what has happened open the door for MSG members to go in with a peace-keeping force or some sort of support to assist the West Papuans, who are suffering?”

(West Papuans given Melanesia bloc access, but not full membership, [at http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-27/west-papuans-given-melanesia-bloc-access/6577722](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-27/west-papuans-given-melanesia-bloc-access/6577722))