

## JACOB'S SPEECH, OPEN DAY, 11 December 2022

"First of all I want to express my respect and appreciation to all the members of the Rent Collective, and the supporters of our struggle who are here today, and on zoom in other parts of Australia and around the world. I congratulate our Womens Office who organised this valuable event, and Alfonse Adadikam who stepped up when they needed help. And I also want to congratulate Tony and Jan for their beautiful song *Walking on Water*, the complete song for life.

To my friends Paul Stewart and David Tenenbaum. David, your publication is important, because this book tells us that when we feel helpless we should not despair, because there is always someone who will help. Christians call him Jesus. Muslims call him Allah. Jews call him Elohim. Paul experienced Jesus' help when he thought he was going to die. This book is also a medium for public education, because it teaches us the importance of every individual, and every family, and every nation, as they exist in the environment that God created for them. In God's eyes, every individual, family, and nation is noble and valuable, which is why we should love God and love each other. There must never be a law against this.

Paul, there is a verse in the bible where God says "Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you, and before you left the womb I sanctified you and appointed you to be a prophet". Paul, you really are part of God's great plan. I know this because he sent His servants, those little Catholic nuns who work in Timor and West Papua, so that you would stay alive and help the people who need you. Those people are God's gold, God's diamonds, God's precious pearls. Whatever you do for them, you do for God. Thank you my friend, and congratulations on your inspiring book.

[SLIDE] Finally, I want to congratulate all those who have worked on our campaign, because at last Australia and America have spoken, in the United Nations, against Indonesia's behaviour in West Papua. Nine other member-states also specified West Papua, including the Netherlands, addressing our freedom of assembly, speech, and media; extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, and torture. France recommended that Indonesia ratify the Rome Statue which established the International Criminal Court. Armenia, a former Soviet Blok nation, recommended that Indonesia ratify the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide. And Slovenia named Indonesia's security forces as warranting investigation and accountability for its violations.

However, you'll notice that only Vanuatu and the Marshall Islands—on the back of motions by the Pacific Islands Forum and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States—recommends that Indonesia respects the West Papuans' right to self-determination. That is code for the UN to complete its Fact-Finding Mission, so that Vanuatu can present a motion in the General Assembly for West Papua to be placed on the Decolonisation Agenda.

So in 2023, the West Papua Provisional Government will continue to create bi-lateral relations with UN member-states. And I hope that you are able to force the Australian Parliament to legislate its support for our insertion on the UN Decolonisation List. Thank you everybody."