



Free West Papua



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A message from Benny Wenda

I am a West Papuan tribal leader, and I grew up in the highlands of West Papua. My village was bombed by the Indonesian military when I was a child and many of my family were killed. Later, I began to campaign for a free West Papua. For the 'crime' of helping to lead a peaceful movement for independence, I was arrested, imprisoned and tortured by Indonesian soldiers. They threatened to kill me, but I escaped to the UK.



Many of my friends and family back in West Papua have been killed, raped or tortured. Life is hard for them. All we are asking for are basic human freedoms – the freedom to speak your mind, to choose your government and to live without fear of persecution.



Please hear my peoples' cry for help. Please support the Free West Papua Campaign.

Benny Wenda

Chairman, Demmak - the Papuan Peoples' Tribal Assembly

www.bennywenda.org

Please send your support and any enquiries to:
Free West Papua Campaign

Email: office@freewestpapua.org
Website: www.freewestpapua.org
 facebook.com/freewestpapua
 twitter.com/freewestpapua

Postal address:
PO Box 656
Oxford
OX3 3AP
United Kingdom

What you can do:

1. Visit our website:

www.freewestpapua.org

It contains facts and figures about West Papua, campaign resources and information about what you can do to help, from writing to your MP to setting up a local support group.

2. Join our email list

Send an email to office@freewestpapua.org, and we'll put you on our email mailing list, which will keep you up to date with our activities, campaigns and events.

3. Write to your MP

Raise the issue of West Papua with your politician, and ask them to join the **International Parliamentarians for West Papua** (www.ipwp.org), a growing group of international politicians who support the inalienable right of the West Papuan people to self-determination.

4. Donate!

We are a non-profit making organisation with no full-time staff. Every penny we receive goes towards campaigning for Papuan freedom and providing financial and medical support for suffering people within West Papua. You can donate via our website or send a cheque, made payable to the 'Free West Papua Campaign', to:

FWPC, PO Box 656, Oxford, OX3 3AP, United Kingdom

4. Join us on Facebook or on Twitter

Join up to our official pages on Facebook and Twitter, and share content with your friends to help spread awareness about the terrible injustices facing the West Papuan people.

 facebook.com/freewestpapua
 twitter.com/freewestpapua



Genocide in paradise



For the last fifty years the people of West Papua have suffered under an Indonesian military occupation which has stolen their resources, their freedom and their dignity. Over 500,000 civilians have been killed. Yet the world is doing nothing to stop it. You can help stop this tragedy.

Join the Free West Papua Campaign:
www.freewestpapua.org

 facebook.com/freewestpapua  twitter.com/freewestpapua



Free West Papua



Where is West Papua?

West Papua is the western half of New Guinea, the world's second-largest island. It lies 250 kilometres north of Australia and is one of the thousands of South Pacific islands collectively known as 'Melanesia'.



What is it like?

West Papua is one of the most remarkable places on Earth. Its rainforest is second in size only to the Amazon, and contains species like the bird of paradise and the tree kangaroo. It is home to sophisticated tribal people whose culture stretches back tens of thousands of years. The West Papuans live in 250 tribes, each with its own language and culture.

What is its history?

West Papua used to be part of the Dutch East Indies. After World War II, the Dutch Empire became the new nation of Indonesia. But the Dutch argued that West Papua had never been part of Indonesia and had an entirely different culture and history. West Papua declared independence on 1st December 1961 - but the Indonesian army invaded three months later. Although the international community intervened, Western governments, led by the USA, chose to appease Indonesia and accept its occupation rather than risk a political crisis that might encourage the spread of communism in South East Asia. In 1969, the UN presided over a referendum on independence that was clearly a sham. The Indonesian occupiers announced that the Papuans were too 'backward' to cope with democracy, and 1026 'representative' Papuans were rounded up and forced at gunpoint to vote to join Indonesia. This was called, ironically, the 'Act of Free Choice'.

"The suffering of West Papuans is seldom reported. East Timor slipped Suharto's leash and is now free, thanks to the resilience of its people and an international network. The people of West Papua deserve nothing less." - John Pilger

What is the situation now?

Since its annexation the people of West Papua have suffered constant misery. Over 500,000 people have died as a direct result of the Indonesian occupation. Much of their land has been taken by the state and given to national and multinational companies for mining, logging or oil extraction. Non-violent dissent has been criminalised: anyone who calls for independence, raises the Papuan flag or publicly questions the legitimacy of Indonesian rule can be imprisoned. Tens of thousands of Indonesian soldiers are stationed in West Papua, and regularly torture, rape and murder Papuan leaders, activists and civilians.



Why haven't I heard about this before?

West Papua is a closed society. All foreign journalists are banned. Human rights groups, lawyers, foreign politicians and even tourists are either banned from entering Papua or restricted to small areas where they are closely monitored by the police. As a result, the world hears little about the horror that goes on there day after day.

"The crimes committed against the people of West Papua are some of the most shameful of the past years. The Western powers have much to answer for, and at the very least should use their ample means to bring about the withdrawal of the occupying Indonesian army." - Noam Chomsky



What do the Papuan people want?

The Papuans have been denied one of the fundamental rights in the UN International Charter of Human Rights - 'self-determination', the right to choose their own government and national status. Every representative Papuan organisation is now calling for a re-run of the 1969 'Act of Free Choice' - this time as a genuine referendum on independence, in which all Papuans get the chance to vote.



What is the Free West Papua Campaign?

Papuans brave enough to call for independence put their lives at risk. Independence leaders are arrested, tortured and murdered. Even demonstrating peacefully can be fatal. The Papuans need outside help and international support if they are to succeed in their struggle for 'Merdeka' - freedom.

The Free West Papua Campaign was set up in 2004 to provide support to Papuans and Papuan organisations involved in democratic and non-violent campaigns for independence. With offices in Oxford, UK and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, we lobby politicians and governments, organise public meetings and events, and raise funds to support our political activities as well as Papuan refugees and leaders in exile.



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t : www.twitter.com/freewestpapua

We share one goal - freedom for West Papua. But to succeed we need your help. Papua Merdeka!

"The people of West Papua have been denied their basic human rights including the right to self-determination. Their cry for justice has fallen largely on deaf ears." - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

