

WEST PAPUA

???

WHY?



Why is this Papuan man being tortured in a barrel of water by Indonesian soldiers in 2024?

Why aren't there any news items about West Papua?

When is it in the paper, on TV or social media?

When the Dutch East Indies broke up in 1949, West Papua, the western half of the Island of New Guinea, was the only region not incorporated into the newly independent Indonesian Republic.

The United Nations handed the administration of West Papua to Indonesia in preparation for independence in 1969. Here the sign says: 'UNO DON'T SELL US LIKE ANIMALS'.



Australia was involved....

Clemens Runawery **Willem Zonggonau**

Two pro-independence West Papuan leaders planned to travel to the United Nations to make the West Papuan voice for independence heard.

At the request of Indonesia, Australian officials stopped them, ASIO officers questioned them and they were held in detention on Manus Island. The United Nations stood back and allowed the sham consultation to proceed without them.

The 'Act of Free Choice'

The consultation consisted of 1025 people who were selected to vote on behalf of the other 800,000 Papuans. At gunpoint, they voted in favour of Indonesian control. This so-called 'Act of Free Choice' was held in centres all over West Papua.

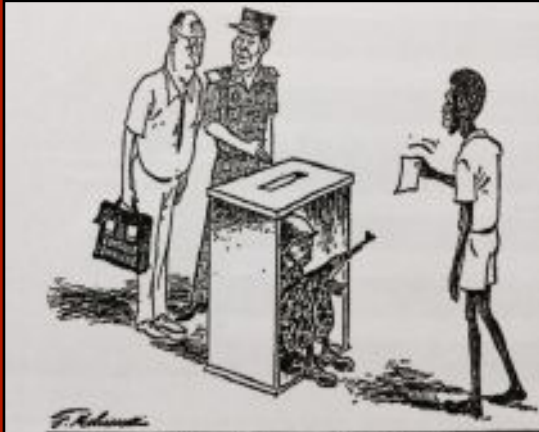
They called it the 'Act of Free Choice' but in fact it was the...

ACT OF NO CHOICE

THE BETRAYAL OF WEST PAPUA



'FREE CHOICE' ???



"Het is wel — open aan alle kanten!"

"YOU SEE - OPEN ON ALL SIDES!"

Strangers in Their Own Land

Since then, the Papuan people have become strangers in their own land.

Fifty percent of its 2.7 million inhabitants are of indigenous Melanesian origin and 50% are Indonesian migrants,

Many of them were drawn to West Papua by the Indonesian government's large-scale transmigration programme after 1963.

This program ensured jobs, homes and prospects for the Indonesians.

Papuans lack proper representation at all levels of government.

Under Indonesia, hundreds of thousands of people have died violently.

Indonesian anti-terror units are funded by the international community, including Australia, but in West Papua they are used to search for political activists, especially those agitating for independence.



Massacre in Wamena, 2003



Indonesia now treats Papuan political acts as terrorism.

Yustinus Murib was killed by Indonesian military on 5th November 2003.

The photo was used as a trophy.



Papuans can be jailed for raising the Morning Star flag. Amnesty International Indonesia urged the police to

release a number of high-school students who were arrested for wearing Morning Star independence flag designs during a parade



in Nabire, Central Papua, in May 2024.

CLICK THE LINKS TO SEE FOUR FILMS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

1. [My Name is Refugee](#)

Many internally displaced children were born in the jungles of West Papua.

2. [Black Pearl 'General of the Field'](#)

The Jayapura-based Persipura Football Club, 'The Black Pearl', captures the imagination of many Papuans and is now a symbol of their dignity.

3. [Papuan Hip-Hop 'When the Microphone Talks'](#)

There are ongoing humanitarian crises in West Papua, with state violence and political unrest. The hiphop community is raising the collective consciousness of the Papuan youth and other music lovers.

4. [The Sound of Grime Valley](#)

The indigenous people of Grime Valley are defending their ancestral land from the onslaught of money vultures especially the palm oil producers.

Thanks to jubi.id



Human rights experts appointed by the UN state that 60,000 West Papuan internal refugees have been created by military operations in the highlands.

Currently, there are at least 10,000 Papuan refugees over the border in Papua New Guinea.



‘Up to 500,000 West Papuans have died as a result of Indonesia’s occupation of the territory since 1962.’

There is no freedom of expression or freedom of information in West Papua.

‘Foreign journalists interested in reporting on Papua must navigate stringent government screening procedures, which can be exceptionally strict.’

‘Visa-related complications can also lead to their potential deportation to their home countries,’

Visit the courageous West Papuans at jubi.id
Go to Networks, then English

The UN has called for urgent and unrestricted humanitarian access to West Papua, where the Indonesian military is accused of targeting children.

For example, in 2023 the body of 17-year-old Wity Unue was in the possession of the Indonesian military – in a box. The high school student had been tortured. His shocked and devastated parents had recently fled a military crackdown in fear for their lives.

See Genocide Watch



The reason for the oppression, deaths and secrecy is that Papua is extremely rich in natural resources. It has an abundance of gold, copper, oil, natural gas and timber.

West Papua is home to the Grasberg Mining complex – the world’s largest gold mine and second largest copper mine. The benefits go to Indonesia.

The main shareholder, US mining company Freeport-McMoRan, contributes billions to Indonesian State Funds but is doing untold destruction to the Papuan environment. BP began producing LPG in 2005 and is poisoning the land and waterways.



Systematic exploitation and persecution have contributed to West Papua now having consistently high poverty and illiteracy rates - alongside all the wealth.

Child malnutrition rates are very high for Papuans and there are major shortages of doctors and medical supplies.



See the Free West Papua Campaign website for valuable links:
<https://www.freewestpapua.org/>

Fearful of upsetting Indonesia or challenging the source of companies’ profits, Australian governments remain silent, and therefore complicit.

This ensures that Australia remains in lockstep with the United States regarding Indonesia. Australian corporations with interests in West Papua also influence Australian policies.



References

Man being tortured - <https://bit.ly/4bqoZ8m> - Human Rights Monitor
 Map - <https://bit.ly/3K6mIDd> - ABC
 UNO don't sell us - <https://bit.ly/3WL7WZU> - Free WP Campaign
 Clemens and Willem - <https://bit.ly/3KrFUvr> - YouTube video
 "Act of Free Choice" - <https://bit.ly/3wwWYwV> - Frontline Films
 Dutch Cartoon - <https://bit.ly/3WOkWhG> - Melbourne Uni
 Transmigration - <https://bit.ly/3WMro8z> - IWGIA
 Coffins - <https://bit.ly/3VekwA1> - ULMWP
 Yustinus Murib - <https://www.freewestpapua.org/> - Free WP
 Flag - <https://bit.ly/4bpWOWY> - Radio New Zealand
 Arrests - <https://bit.ly/3KbZnjC>

Refugees - <https://bit.ly/3QQQEqq> - ICMC
 Journalists - <https://bit.ly/4bjA5vQ> - Free WP Campaign
 Deaths - <https://bit.ly/4bqSeYo> - STARTTS
 Wity Unue - <https://bit.ly/3wGs58U> - The Guardian
 Rainforest - <https://bit.ly/3wChXhB> - Rainforest Rescue
 Mine - <https://bit.ly/3wDZ4e8> - Free WP Campaign
 Eichhorn: Resource extraction - <https://bit.ly/4apZsdV>
 Starving child - <https://bit.ly/4bk1f5y> - BBC
 Map - <https://bit.ly/44JV3S1> - DW – German news outlet

Brochure compiled by susan.connelly@sosj.org.au
www.justly.info

YOU could tell the story of West Papua.

You could talk to a friend or family member.

You could share this brochure.

You could contact your Federal MP.