

Friday 23 February 2007

Good Afternoon Committee Members,

Whilst not directly addressing your Terms of Reference, I feel I must air my thoughts in relation to your proposed ratification of the above "treaty".

Having become aware in recent years of the atrocious way the Indonesian Government and their military, militias and police have treated the indigenous Melanesian West Papuan people, I am appalled that any Australian Government would even consider a "treaty" with the perpetrators of the past 40 years of gross human rights abuses that have occurred, with impunity and obvious official sanction.

Are we to be as morally bankrupt now as Jakarta has been in the past ?

We owe the people of West Papua a minimum of verifiable human rights from now into the future. If that cannot be secured on their behalf, **we should not ratify this "treaty"**.

Yours sincerely,

John W Gratton Wilson