



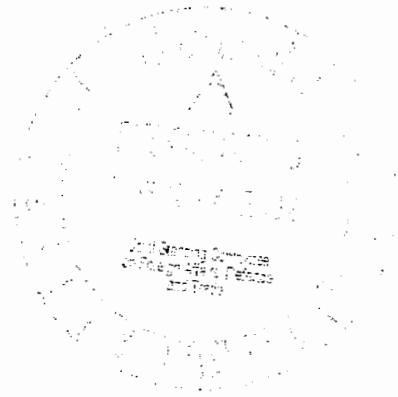
Submission No 42

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

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**Submission to the Joint Standing Cttee on Foreign Affairs ,
Defence and Trade**

from Australian West Papuan Association Adelaide

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22/10/02

Australia West Papuan Association -Adelaide was formed in September 2000 and is an active organization that supports the aspirations of West Papuans in Papua, formerly known as Irian Jaya for control over their own destiny.

Our submission to the Australian Joint Cttee on Foreign Affairs in relation to Building Australia's relationship with Indonesia focusses mainly on the rights of indigenous Papuans , however, it is impossible to deal with Papua in isolation from events occurring throughout the Indonesian Archipelago, particularly internal oppression and state sponsored violence against non Muslim peoples across the entire country.

In 1969 the UN sponsored Act of Free choice was held by the Indonesians where 1022 Papuans were appointed by the Indonesians to vote on the fate of Papua becoming part of the Unitary State of Indonesia. The vote was carried out under extreme fear for the lives of the chosen representatives and their families . Papuans call this the Act of No choice. The history of the circumstances leading to the vote include an act of aggression by the Indonesian Government of the time when in 1962 Indonesian paratroopers were airlifted into Dutch New Guinea in order to pressure the international community into seceding territory that had never been Indonesian to a power that was as foreign to Papuans as were the Dutch before them.

Immediately following the annexation of Papua , there was a complete close down of the “ Province” and the official sanctioning of a war against the indigenous people leading to the loss of lives in the order of between 100,000 to 400,000 Papuans , in an attempt to secure the vast economic resources of the country for the Indonesians to the detriment of the well being of Papuans

The Freeport mine has in the last 10 years alone provided revenue to Indonesia in the order of 9.1 billion \$US . Taking into account other natural resources including gas and oil , the “province” provides massive financial support for all of Indonesia.

Very little of the monies from these resources have been put back into Papua . The current proposal for autonomy has been dusted off the shelves and regurgitated to a sceptical local population that knows that, at the same time it is being offered some control over its own affairs, that there has been a massive increase in military forces to do the exact opposite.

Over the last 40 years of Indonesian rule , autonomy has been dangled like a carrot to Papuans. Their hopes have been smashed , while their culture and land has been taken away from them. Ownership of land in Papua is mostly communal. Those for instance, who live near to the Freeport mine have been moved away from their own land . The mine has not provided them with a betterment of living standards . There has been little opportunity for employment, nor related commerce with the mine. Instead they have been become more marginalized .

There is a large credibility gap with the Autonomy proposals. Transmigration has restarted making a mockery of the notion of any control. Land belonging to Papuans is still being given without consent to others. Jobs in the civil administration are going to Javanese bureaucrats, not indigenous and of the 70-80% revenue from the resource rich province, the systemic corruption ensures that the money is still in outside hands.

The percentage of money from the offer of autonomy should be sufficient to create an enormously wealthy local population, but few believe it or commit to it, because the Indonesian economic situation demands that the monies are necessary for general revenue purposes to run Indonesia. A more complete economic model which details how Indonesia intends to run its other affairs without the autonomy money promise to Papua and Aceh has never been provided.

Great hopes were pinned on the pro democracy forces that led to the demise of the Suharto regime and there were early signs that military rule would be rolled back. There were initial gains but of late, actions by the military to reinforce their role in Indonesian Society have been clearly obvious. It is the military who have the most to lose from successful changes towards democracy and autonomy proposals. Recently reported public gun battles between Police forces and Military forces in Northern Sumatra over drug money have shown that the warlord nature of the military is not only entrenched, but on the ascendancy.

Only 25% of the funding for the military comes from specific purpose payments by the Government. The other 75% comes from providing protection to resource companies e.g. Freeport, quasi legal and illegal logging operations, fauna and flora smuggling, drug running, prostitution and other business enterprises. The military is involved in day to day governance of the country. It is a government within a government, running its own transport companies to schools and hospitals.

Of great concern to AWWA Adelaide is the role being played by the TNI in creating racial and religious tensions and destabilisation of the country. The same military who were involved in the atrocities in East Timor are now conducting the same types of activities both in Papua and elsewhere. Major Gen Mahidi Simbolon who was behind the pro-indonesian guerilla's in East Timor has now been placed in charge of Papua. He has not been successfully charged with offences in East Timor, nor have the military who were responsible for the deaths of 250,000 Timorese been brought to justice. Australia continues to field 1600 troops in Timor and is likely to have to continue to fund them until there is a dramatic change with the position of the military in Indonesia. Laskar Jihad, a militant Islamic group, that has been active in Maluku has been progressively moving to Papua. 30,000 people from Maluku have fled to Papua to escape the violence. AWWA has had reports of 7-10,000 members Laskar Jihad being funded by the military to move to Papua. They are equipped on arrival with weapons and materials.

On the one hand there is talk of autonomy but on the other there is a campaign of murder and blaming the local community. The death of Theys Eluah, leader of the Papuan Presidium has

been found to have been instigated by the TNI .In the last few months many Papuans have disappeared again or died by poison in mysterious circumstances. The recent murder of innocent overseas school teachers cast more doubt on the sincerity of the Indonesian approach to resolving the situation. There is a belief that high levels of the Indonesian Government are working with the TNI to assassinate and terrorise Papuans into submission .

Human Rights organizations internally such as ELS-HAM have been subjected to intense intimidation to ensure that reports on these deaths are not released. Amnesty International is often denied the right to visit. Papua is not an open country for the world to visit

From discussions with Papuans who have safely fled the military oppression we have been told first hand of genocidal activities, e.g. the Biak massacres in 1998 where over 200 people had limbs, breast, genitalia etc chopped off and bodies dumped at sea. Some were washed ashore but others have never been recovered . Around Timika we have been told are mass graves next to killing fields that at the appropriate time the Papuans intend to reveal to the World.

AWPA is deeply concerned about environmental problems in Indonesia and particularly in Papua. The smoke from fires in Indonesia have alarmed the world. Papua is still one of the most pristine places , but the rate of logging and destruction of fauna and flora is affecting the ecological balance . Papuans food production is being jeopardised by this destruction. The impact of mining at Freeport , the worlds largest gold mine , is not well reported. We do not want to see another Ok Tedi situation where local people are poisoned and starved as a result.

AWPA -Adelaide proposes that the Australian Government in its deliberations on determining its foreign policy with Indonesia adopts the following recommendations

Calls on the U.N. to review the Act of Free choice that integrated Papua into Indonesia because a limited number of Papuans were force to vote for it under extreme duress. Such a review would allow Papuans to then exercise a proper vote on the question of Self Determination supervised by the U.N. without the fear of a repeat of East Timor violent repurcussion.

Promote the demilitarization of Indonesian society with the aim that the role the military be focussed on external defense not internal defense and that the control of the country be by Parliament without a quota of seats set aside for the Military.

Internal security should be a police matter

Work towards achieving transparency with military funding . i.e stamp out corruption

Provide assistance so that Civil structures replace military e.g schools hospitals etc

Human Rights are treated without the current contempt . There is unhindered access by independent media and human human rights organizations both internally and externally.

Australian Federal Govt. to renew its call on the Indonesian government to allow a Parliamentary delegation to visit Papua to observe the situation and needs of the West Papuan people first hand .

Support the right of the people of Papua to develop their own distinctive culture and institutions and express its concern about government and commercial activities such as unrestrained logging, mining, transmigration and expropriation of lands that have impacted negatively on local communities

The Australian Government provide , through our foreign aid program, assistance to local communities in Papua to achieve sustainable development. Aid programs be aimed at assisting communities skills to manage their own affairs .

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