



## **FREE WEST PAPUA CAMPAIGN**

**www.freewestpapua.org**

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2009 is a vital year for the indigenous people of West Papua. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August it will be exactly 40 years since the Indonesian dictator Suharto announced the result of the so-called "Act of Free Choice", with the outrageous and totally false claim that 100% of West Papuans wanted to be annexed by Indonesia (please see quotation collection enclosed).

West Papuans inside our country and around the world are determined to use the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to cry out to the world with this simple message:

**40 years ago, all UN members, including the UK, recognised our right to self-determination but until now we have never been allowed to exercise our right freely and legally. We did not want to become Indonesian in 1969 and after so many years of Indonesian oppression we certainly do not want to be Indonesian now. We want to be free!**

Ever since our illegal annexation no Indonesian government has been prepared to listen to the democratic will of the West Papuans. Whenever we try to express peacefully our desire for independence by words, or by raising our freedom flag, the Indonesian military responds with brutal force by killing, torturing, and imprisoning peaceful Papuan activists. The current Indonesian government tries to tell the outside world about its so-called "democratic reforms", but we West Papuans have experienced no change. Indonesia still seeks to suppress our peaceful independence movement with terror, violence and intimidation.

That is why West Papua so desperately needs the support of friends from around the world. As an important step forward in international solidarity, Andrew Smith MP and Lord Harries launched the **International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP)** in October last year. We are immensely grateful for the messages of support we have received from parliamentarians from every corner of the world and from all political parties in the UK. More information about **IPWP** can be found on [www.ipwp.org](http://www.ipwp.org). The impact of the launch of **IPWP** inside West Papua has been immense with peaceful demonstrations timed to coincide with the launch in London in which thousands of Papuans bravely came out into the streets in every region of West Papua. Local IPWP committees have been set up to co-ordinate the campaign from within West Papua with the international campaign.

Since the **IPWP** launch, Indonesia has responded in its usual brutal manner. Two West Papuans, Buchtar Tabuni and Sebby Sambom, who were leading peaceful demonstrations have been arrested and tortured. We fear that they will be charged with sedition which could lead to 20 years or life imprisonment. There has also been a further increase in the Indonesian military presence, continued sweeping operations in the highlands and more threats and intimidation all across West Papua.

In this year of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sham "Act of Free Choice", it is vital that as many parliamentary friends of West Papua as possible speak out in support of our basic human right of freedom of expression and also our right to self-determination.

With this in mind, we ask if you could please add your name to the growing list of international parliamentarians who are supporting the **West Papua Declaration** (see below). This will send the very clear message to the government of Indonesia, the UK government, and the whole international community that the question of West Papua's right to self-determination is still very much alive and that one day, sooner or later, we must be allowed to choose our own future in a free and fair independence plebiscite in accordance with international law.

On behalf of all West Papuans, we want to tell you how much your support means to us. If at all possible, please sign and return to us the West Papua Declaration and/or let us know how you can support our campaign in any other way.

With very best wishes,

**Benny Wenda**

West Papuan independence leader in the United Kingdom  
& Chair of the Koteka Tribal Assembly

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**WEST PAPUA DECLARATION – [www.ipwp.org](http://www.ipwp.org)**

**WE the undersigned recognise the inalienable right of the indigenous people of West Papua to self-determination, which was violated in the 1969 "Act of Free Choice",**

**AND call upon our governments through the United Nations to put in place arrangements for the free exercise of that right**

**SO that the indigenous people of West Papua can decide democratically their own future in accordance with international standards of human rights, the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.**

Signed:

Name:

Date: