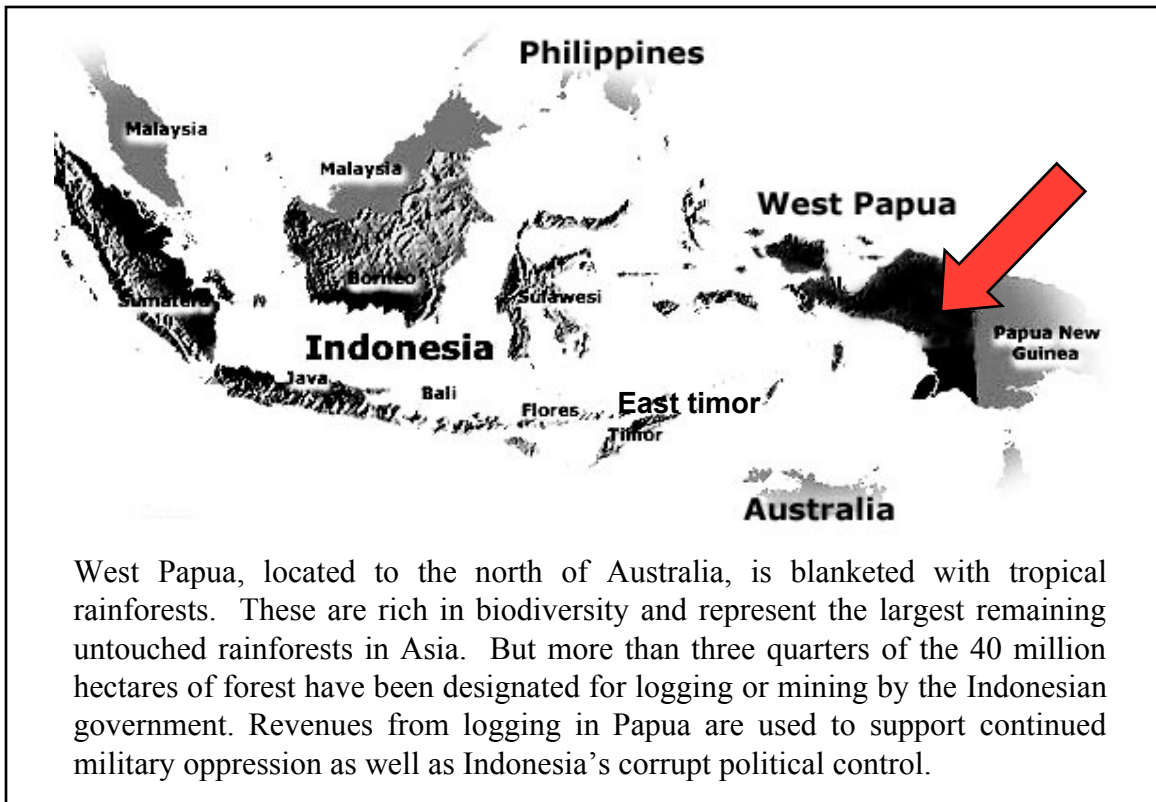


WEST PAPUA

A forgotten land in turmoil

Indonesia maintains control over West Papua, using military might to silence demands for self-determination and denying the indigenous people their human rights. Since its invasion in 1963, an estimated **100,000** Papuans (about 15% of the population) have been killed by Indonesian armed forces and militias.



As a last desperate attempt to save their people, Papuan leaders have declared Papua a "Land of Peace", calling on the military, police and militias to lay down their arms and negotiate a peaceful settlement. Ignoring this, the military is beginning an intense operation similar to that witnessed in East Timor. **YOU CAN HELP** - International pressure is needed to encourage the Indonesian government to respect the calls for peace.

A History of Betrayal

1945 The Dutch East Indies, excluding Papua, becomes the Republic of Indonesia.

1961 Papuans celebrate their “Independence Day” by raising the Morning Star flag.

1963 Indonesian troops take over Papua and declare it a province of Indonesia.

1969 The UN sponsor a popular consultation over Papua’s future. One thousand representatives are forced to vote openly in front of armed soldiers, and told they would be shot unless the vote supported integration with Indonesia.

2001 After 30 years of oppression, an autonomy deal grants Papua increased control of its resources and the freedom to express its cultural identity.

2003 The Indonesian army begins a campaign of terror in the highlands, burning villages and torturing detainees. Indonesia bans all foreign journalists in Papua, sealing Papua off in order to eliminate all voices opposed to Indonesian control.

2005 After the Government of Indonesia fails to implement the autonomy agreement, the People's Assembly of Papua formally returns it to Jakarta demanding a real solution be negotiated.

The Murder of Theys Hiyo Eluay



In 2001, Theys Hiyo Eluay, leader of the Papuan Presidium Council, was murdered by a group of elite military personnel. However, the soldiers received minimal sentences of only two years in jail and were described as “national heroes” by the army’s chief of staff. During the trial, they admitted that Theys was murdered to prevent him from declaring Papuan independence.

The Indonesian government has attempted to legitimise its sovereignty over Papua by relocating Indonesians to Papua through a program supported by the World Bank and CIDA. Migrants are given land that belongs to indigenous Papuans, but no compensation is offered to the original owners. Over 40% of Papua’s 2 million people are now Indonesian migrants. While Papuans recognise the right of migrants to stay, Islamic extremists and the military are raising militias to pit the predominantly Muslim migrants against the predominantly Christian Papuan population.

Human Rights Abuses and Injustice

- The Indonesian armed forces and militia groups regularly use torture, extra-judicial killings and forced detention to block Papuans from protecting their traditional lands and expressing their right to self-determination.
- Human rights defenders and community leaders are routinely harassed and intimidated by the Indonesian security forces.
- Despite ample evidence of atrocities, only once has a military official been charged for human rights violations committed against Papuan people.
- Papuan women are often sexually assaulted by the military and are denied access to health services, resulting in Papua having the highest HIV rates in Indonesia.

Environmental Destruction

Papua is rich in natural resources including natural gas, oil, minerals and rainforests. The Indonesian government relies on the taxes from foreign extraction industries that devastate the environment and return few or no benefits to the Papuan people. The military is directly involved, engaging in illegal logging and acting as security for mining companies. Papua is now home to the highest concentration of illegal logging operations in Asia.

Widespread logging and mining have a serious impact on the livelihood and traditions of the Papuan people who rely on the land for survival. Traditional land is continually being cleared, creating conflict among the indigenous people, foreign companies and Indonesian security forces.

Freeport's Grasberg Gold Mine

Freeport McMoran (of the USA) is operating the world's largest gold and copper mine in the mountainous home of the Amungme indigenous people, who have always opposed the mine.

- Each day the mine earns US\$1 million profit, less than 0.01% of which is shared with the local communities.
- Freeport has paid the Indonesian military US \$5 million per year to maintain security at the mine. These forces are known for human rights atrocities, including torture, killings and disappearances used to terrorize Papuan communities.
- Deep-sea dumping of tailings and spills in local rivers have destroyed traditional fisheries and drinking water sources.
- Freeport holds a mining concession the size of the state of Vermont, which has now mostly been logged and excavated.



Only this pool remains where once lay the mountain believed by the Amungme people to be the sacred head of their mother-ancestor.

Action

If we do not stand in solidarity with the Papuan people, the world risks losing the last remaining untouched rainforest in Asia, home to rich traditional cultures, and over 253 distinct languages. The Papuan people risk losing everything.



Hoisting the Morning Star flag, the symbol of Papuan rights

1. **Visit www.westpapua.ca** - for recent news and information, to sign a petition to the UN, to add your comments, or to make a donation.
2. **Join Canada's West Papua Action Network** - a network of dedicated Canadians and Papuans working in solidarity to voice concern about injustice in West Papua and the associated destruction of its people, unique cultures and rare ecosystems. (contact: action@westpapua.ca)
3. **Write** to Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon and the President of Indonesia to put pressure on the Indonesian government to stop the killings, torture and arrests, and resume dialogue with Papuan leaders for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The Honourable Mr. Lawrence Cannon
125 Sussex Drive (no stamp necessary)
Ottawa, ON, Canada
K1A 0G2

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President of the Republic of Indonesia,
Istana Merdeka
Jakarta , 10110, Indonesia

3. **Donate to WestPAN:** We need your help to continue to support the rights of the Papuan people. (visit www.westpapua.ca for details)

More information on the web

Papua press agency
Indonesia human rights campaign
Oxford Free Papua Campaign
The Peace and Justice Secretariat
Kabar Irian

westpapua.net
tapol.org
freewestpapua.org
hampapua.org
kabar-irian.com