



# AN INTRODUCTION TO

OUR NATION  
OUR LEADER  
OUR HISTORY  
OUR CAUSE



Benny Wenda

Dear friends of West Papua,  
For nearly 60 years my people have suffered under a brutal occupation. When I arrived in the UK I cried for my people, as I knew the fight for self-determination was going to be hard.

*I felt scared for my people's future. I knew I had a very long, tough path to walk. I have remained strong because of the belief in me as a world leader and my belief in my people's right to freedom.*

*In 2016, West Papua gained observer status at the Melanesian Spearhead Group. For the first time since 1961, we were recognised as "a country in waiting". We gained official recognition and support from six nation states, and West Papua is now being addressed at the UN. I recently travelled to South Africa, Ghana, Australia, and the Pacific, where I have been embraced by world leaders and civil society and I have received assurances that our struggle is being taken on as their own.*

*On May 3, 2016, one of the most significant moments in West Papuan history took place, when the International Parliamentarians for West Papua hosted a meeting in Westminster and a new Declaration was signed calling for an internationally-supervised vote on the independence of West Papua.*

*In West Papua people are coming out on to the streets in their thousands. They feel the courage and strength in what we have achieved, and in the knowledge that the world can hear their voices. Hope is replacing fear at last.*



*Indonesian opposition will be fierce. West Papua is home to the world's largest gold mine. It is the richest part of Indonesia, yet our people are the poorest. What we are asking for is our people to be given the choice they were promised, that they are entitled to under international law.*

*Almost 50 years has passed and we estimate that around 500,000 West Papuans have been killed. We remain convinced that continuing the fight in the diplomatic*



In West Papua, people get up to 15 years imprisonment for raising The Morning Star flag

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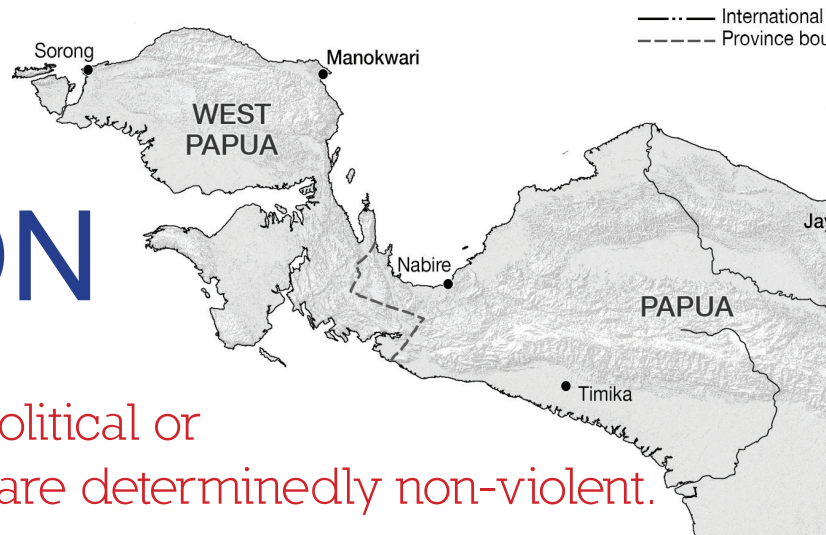
*hallways, will enable us to secure what my people want and deserve: a vote on their political future.*

*To all people around the world that support West Papua, I would like to thank you from my family, and from the people of West Papua for supporting our work at the Free West Papua Campaign.*

*May justice prevail.*



# OUR NATION



We have no religious, party-political or corporate affiliations, and we are determinedly non-violent.

West Papua, together with Papua New Guinea, makes up the second-largest island in the world (New Guinea), located to the north of Australia. It is one of the most culturally and biologically diverse places on earth, with over 1000 indigenous languages. The traditions and cultures of West Papua remain strong, and the West Papuan people are one of the last formally colonized people on earth. West Papuans have lived in harmony with their environment for over 40,000 years. As custodians of the third-largest rainforest on earth, maintaining indigenous control over this land is not just important for the West Papuan people, but for the entire planet.

West Papua was a former Dutch colony, but as the Dutch prepared West Papua for independence, Indonesian invaded. In 1969, a sham vote was held: 1,026 people were forced (some at gunpoint) to vote for integration with Indonesia.

The violence and bloodshed has continued to this day. Before the Indonesian invasion of 1963, the indigenous West Papuans were 98% of the population; today they are only 66%. There has been an estimated 500,000 West Papuan deaths and disappearances at the hands of the Indonesian military, although no one knows as international media and NGOs have been barred from the land for decades. Respected human rights

organisations such as Yale University and the Sydney University Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies have labelled the situation a "genocide".

Benny Wenda is spokesperson for the democratically elected United Liberation Movement for West Papua (see below), and head of DeMMak, a pan-tribal assembly

**Launched in 2004 in Oxford, UK, by exiled West Papuan independence leader Benny Wenda, the campaign aims to uphold the right to self-determination for the indigenous population of West Papua.**

Sadly, most Western democracies have ignored the cries of the West Papuan people, protecting their own economic interests. West Papua contains the largest gold mine in the world, owned by USA mining-giant Freeport, the single biggest tax-payer in Indonesia.

For too long the occupation of West Papua has been a dirty secret, and there are real fears that the people of West Papua are on the brink of extinction. But thanks to the work of social media, film-makers, activists, campaigners and musicians, an awakening is beginning to grow worldwide.

The Free West Papua Campaign is the only dedicated organisation in the UK working with the West Papuan leadership and global networks to bring a resolution to the situation through respect for indigenous self-determination.

in West Papua which works peacefully for independence. Benny is also founding member of International Parliamentarians for West Papua, and International Lawyers for West Papua. He has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Benny was forced to flee his homeland after he was arrested, tortured and threatened with death by Indonesian police. He now lives in the UK in exile representing his people.

## **The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP)**

Formed in December 2014, the ULMWP is a unified body representing the internal West Papuan independence movement. It consists of an external secretariat of five elected members who co-ordinate ULMWP activities. Benny Wenda is the International Spokesperson for the ULMWP, and based at our HQ in Oxford.

boundary  
boundary

PACIFIC  
OCEAN

yapura



Our aim is to:

- ◆ Reduce discrimination;
- ◆ Promote social equity, and human rights;
- ◆ Foster democracy for the people of West Papua through international support with an end goal of an internationally supervised vote of self-determination.



We are working with politicians of all parties, NGOs and campaign groups, both nationally and internationally. We have no religious, party-political or corporate affiliations, and we are determinedly non-violent.



We operate from five main offices internationally :

- ◆ Oxford (HQ), PNG, Perth, Sydney, Cape Town, and Holland;
- ◆ With over 40 solidarity groups worldwide;
- ◆ And number of fundraising/awareness projects including :
  - › Swim for West Papua
  - › Punks For West Papua
  - › Rockin For West Papua
  - › Rize of the Morning Star (a combined arts collective)



**2016/2017  
FWPC PROGRESS**

### **International Parliamentarians for West Papua (IPWP)**

Established by Benny Wenda, and launched in the UK Parliament in October 2008, the IPWP was co-founded by UK Parliamentarians Andrew Smith and Lord Harries. The IPWP now has signatories from over 15 countries, including the UK, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

### **International Lawyers for West Papua (ILWP)**

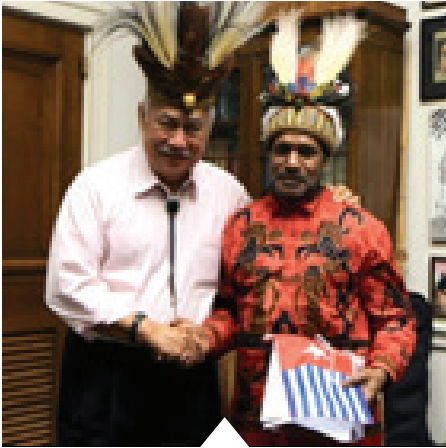
Founded in 2009 by Benny Wenda and human rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson, the ILWP works to build the international legal case for West Papuan self-determination. They have recently signed-up 11 lawyers in Ghana and continue to support the ULMWP and legal representation of the West Papuan case at high-level meetings.

### **Global partner networks**

Over the past year we have been developing our international campaign strategy by creating strong partnerships with individuals and action groups, in the UK and abroad. We work with all sectors covering the issues of human rights; the environment and the mining corporations as well as work with local community groups and individuals.

Many of these associations have had long-standing relationships with the FWPC office. We also support new offices, individuals and action groups looking to develop their initiatives and actions in line with our guidelines, and we are always looking to branch out and speak with groups that will support the struggle.

In the last two years, we have had great successes which have enabled us to take the issue to the world-stage and put the human rights situation and case for self-determination for West Papua firmly, and confidently, on to the international agenda.



ENI FALEOMAVEAGA, FORMER CONGRESSMAN FOR AMERICAN SAMOA



DESMUND TUTU AND BENNY WENDA



THE LAUNCHING OF THE WESTMINSTER DECLARATION, MAY 3, 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED

Launching the Westminster Declaration, calling for an internationally-supervised vote for West Papua in Westminster, UK, attended by heads of state and senior politicians

The formation of the Pacific Coalition for West Papua, which includes the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga

Raising of the issue of West Papua at the UN: seven Heads of State from various Pacific Islands raised the issue at the UNGA in September 2016 and heads of state from the Caribbean and Pacific in September 2017, the most significant show of support since the 1960s

Formal endorsement from the government of Guyana

Swim for West Papua completed, 69km across Lake Geneva, swimming the Global Petition for West Papua to the UN offices

The West Papuan People's Petition, signed by indigenous 1.8 million West Papuans, delivered to the UN offices in New York in 2017

The opening of ULMWP offices in West Papua (some of which have been destroyed)

Release of Steven Itlay, political prisoner, thanks to join campaign with Amnesty International

Successful trips to South Africa, Ghana, Australia, New York and the Pacific where the FWPC and Benny Wenda have met with Heads of State, ex-Presidents, the UN and civil society leaders including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and spoken to local civil and legal groups and human rights organisations, and spoken at university and community spaces

Re-launching the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group, and developing the International Parliamentarians for West Papua. Fifteen new MPs joined in 2016, including Elizabeth May, head of the Green Party in Canada

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A debate in the House of Lords by Lord Harries of Pentregrath

Rockin' for West Papua held their first global concert in October 2016. Eighty bands performed across eight cities around the world, including Biff, Clyro and Akala. Another global peace concert is planned for 2018

The campaign has reached over 358,000 followers on Facebook

On the December 1, 2016, over 40 countries joined us in flag raising for West Papua

We coordinated global actions and demonstrations worldwide

The documentary Rome to Home covering Benny Wenda's life and work was released

3,000 people marched in the Solomon Islands to support ULMWP membership to MSG

# 2017 GLOBAL PETITION AND PAPUAN'S PETITION

The #BacktheSwim global petition was launched at Westminster on the January 24, 2017, and swum 69km across Lake Geneva on August 27-8.

The petition requests the UN to urgently act on human rights abuses and support self-determination. The petition had over 200,000 signers worldwide. The West Papuan People's Petition was run concurrently inside West Papua by grass-roots organisations, and gathered 1.8 million petition signatures, over 70% of the population of West Papua, an unprecedented success. It has well and truly showed the world West Papuan's burning desire for self-determination and independence.



## STRATEGY

OUR STRATEGY IS TO  
FOCUS ON DEVELOPING  
DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT BY :

Lobbying international governments

Focusing campaign policy on the internationally-supervised vote of self-determination and building diplomatic friendship groups

Develop and strengthen our global partnerships;

Develop our global strategy to increase awareness and public support.

## CONTACT US

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