



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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agencies*

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The Rt Hon John Key
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Key

I am writing on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa Section (WILPF) regarding the situation in West Papua prior to the Pacific Island Forum (PIF) meeting in Papua New Guinea in September.

WILPF supports the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their self-determination and we work with and support the women of West Papua in their struggle for human rights.

There has been no improvement in the human rights situation in West Papua since the last PIF in Palau in 2014. The West Papuan people continue to suffer human rights violations from the Indonesian Security Forces. The oppression of civil society groups is ongoing. In May this year the security forces cracked down on rallies called by civil society organisations, and arrested over 400 peaceful demonstrators as West Papuans were commemorating the 52nd anniversary of the administrative transfer of West Papua to Indonesia.

There is growing support throughout the Pacific region for the right of the people of West Papua to self-determination. An indication of this support is the fact that at the recent Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Summit in the Solomon Islands, the West Papuan umbrella organization, the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) was granted observer status.

The Secretary General of the ULMWP, Octovianus Mote has recently visited New Zealand and has called on all those who support West Papua to ask their governments, while at the PIF, to request permission from the Indonesian government to allow a fact finding mission to West Papua to investigate the human rights situation in the territory.

WILPF urges the New Zealand government representatives at the PIF in September to discuss the human rights situation in West Papua, to acknowledge these concerns in the

official communiqué and to support this request from the ULMWP to investigate the human rights situation in West Papua.

Yours sincerely

Celine Kearney
President, WILPF Aotearoa

cc Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs