



AETFA

May 2016

No. 33

Members and Supporters are invited to:

AETFA AGM/Public Meeting

Sunday, 15 May 2pm/3pm

FILEF Centre, 15 Lowe St Adelaide (rear entrance)

- **2pm AGM:** Committee Report, Treasurer's Report, Election of Office Bearers and Committee

- **Short break**

- **3pm PUBLIC MEETING:**

1. Tribute to Bill Fisher (Terry Hewton)
2. Guest speaker: **David Willis**, Flinders

University, on **"Three Choices for Timor: Contending with small state geopolitics**

3. General discussion

Refreshments provided.

Further information: Ph Secretary: 8344 3511

- *Benny has been nominated twice for the esteemed Nobel Peace Prize, awarded annually by the Norwegian Nobel Committee for those who have "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses".*

Entry gold coin donation For further info Contact:

Dave Arkins 8345-4480 dave-arkins@bigpond.com.au

Rosemary McKay 0433 101568 scotiaforever@hotmail.com

The forum is presented by Australia West Papua Association (SA) Inc. ; United Nations Association of Australia SA Division Inc.; Australian Institute of International Affairs, SA Branch; Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Adelaide; Australia East Timor Friendship Association, SA Inc.; The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom SA Branch; Sister Janet Mead and The Romero Community

Come to the Public Forum:

"BREAKING THE SILENCE"

Hear West Papua Leader, Benny Wenda



6.00 pm for 6.30 pm Thursday 19 May 2016

Lecture Theatre Napier 102, (First Floor Napier Building) University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus

(download map at www.adelaide.edu.au/campuses)

- *Benny Wenda is a West Papuan independence leader and an international lobbyist for the independence of West Papua. He has acted as special representative of the Papuan people in the British Parliament, United Nations and European Parliament. In 2014 he was appointed as the spokesman for the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP),*

STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE

Minister of State and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and

Official Spokesperson for the Government of Timor-Leste

Dili, May 2nd, 2016

Compulsory Conciliation moves to the next step but could be avoided by a commitment to negotiations on maritime boundaries

Today the Government of Australia has notified Timor-Leste of the appointment of its two conciliators for the Compulsory Conciliation proceedings initiated by Timor-Leste on the 11th of April 2016.

Arising from Australia's on-going refusal to negotiate a permanent maritime boundary, Timor-Leste commenced the proceedings, conducted under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to facilitate the conclusion of an agreement with Australia on permanent maritime boundaries.

Australia has permanent boundaries with all of its neighbours except Timor-Leste, despite agreeing to

EDITOR: Bob Hanney (bobhanney48@gmail.com). Assisted by AETFA committee members and supporters.

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negotiate boundaries in treaties over a decade ago and as required to do under international law. Prime Minister, Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo has explained that “establishing permanent maritime boundaries is a matter of national priority for Timor-Leste, as the final step in realising our sovereignty as an independent State.”

The conciliation process is to be conducted by a panel of five independent conciliators who constitute a Conciliation Commission. Timor-Leste’s two appointed conciliators were named [in its notice](#). The panel of four is now required to agree a fifth member as chair within 30 days.

The function of the Commission is set out in UNCLOS Annex V is to “hear the parties, examine their claims and objections, and make proposals to the parties with a view to reaching an amicable settlement.” The Commission seeks to encourage the parties to sit together and try to resolve their differences, effectively by third party assisted negotiation. If this is not successful within 12 months, the Commission will issue its recommendation in the form of a report.

Chief Negotiator for Maritime Boundaries, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão said in Sydney last Friday "We've always wanted to negotiate, as countries are obliged to do under international law. An important point to note is that Australia could agree at any time now to negotiate maritime boundaries or allow the international court to make a determination as to where the boundary should be and we would welcome such a development."

Spokesperson for the Sixth Constitutional Government, Minister of State Agio Pereira added “Timor-Leste is ready to fully engage with the Commission as it seeks to assist both our countries to reach an amicable settlement. However this is a process that should not have been necessary between friends.”

PROTESTS HELD IN DILI, AUSTRALIA, BRITAIN AND ELSEWHERE



A large and angry demonstration was held outside the Australian Embassy in Dili on 23 February, against the Australian government’s refusal negotiate a permanent international border with East Timor.

The protest – organised by the coalition Movement Against the Occupation of the Timor Sea (MKOTT) – included dozens of organised contingents of students, young people, civil society groups as well as veterans of the national

liberation struggle. “Timor Leste, Viva! Australia, Abaixo!” (“Long Live East Timor! Down with Australia!”) – was one popular chant. (*Sam King, Red Flag*)

In Adelaide on March 21st a Rally for Timor Sea Justice was held on Parliament House steps as part of a week of international protests.

Report from AWWA SA Secretary Dave Arkins - 8 May (recently returned from Vanuatu)

There has been quite a lot of activity around West Papua in the last week.

There was a conference in Port Vila, Vanuatu, attended by support groups from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia (Kanaky), Fiji and Australia to lobby the Melanesian leaders of the Melanesian Spearhead group and encourage them to continue their support and take West Papua case to the Decolonisation committee of the U.N.

AWWA SA was part of the Australian support group that attended . We attended the rally held in Port Vila that was attended by around 500 people.

In support of the conference there were massive rallies in West Papua with over 1800 people being arrested and some being tortured.

Also in London, in the U.K Parliament, a meeting of the International Parliamentarians for West Papua was held with Labor Leader Jeremy Corbyn addressing the meeting of leaders from various countries.

The meeting was organised by Benny Wenda who will very soon begin his Australian tour.

WESTMINSTER MEETING MAKES NEW DECLARATION FOR THE FUTURE OF WEST PAPUA May 3, 2016

<https://www.freewestpapua.org/2016/05/03/westminster-meeting-makes-new-declaration-for-the-future-of-west-papua/>

An historic step on the road to freedom for West Papua was taken in London today. At a meeting of the International Parliamentarians for West Papua in the Houses of Parliament, a new declaration was made calling for an internationally supervised vote on the independence of West Papua.



The meeting was attended and supported by Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva the Prime Minister of Tonga, Bruno Leingkone, Minister for Foreign Affairs in Vanuatu, Rex Horoi, MSG Special Envoy on West Papua, Solomon Islands, Ralph Regenvanu, Minister of Lands & Natural Resources in Vanuatu, Gary Juffa, Governor of Oro District, Papua New Guinea, Lord Harries of Pentregarth, UK House of Lords, The Rt. Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of Her Majesty's Official UK Opposition and Benny Wenda, International Spokesperson of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua and several other British MPs.

The Prime Minister of Tonga offered his country's full support for the ongoing struggle of the people of West Papua. He explained how it is the responsibility of the UN to ensure human rights are upheld in West Papua and how he will continue to push for this.

Jeremy Corbyn spoke of his personal interest in West Papua and his role as a UN observer in East Timor. He talked of the need for justice and human rights to be delivered to the people of West Papua and stated that the world could either continue having this conflict or could choose to live in a world of peace and justice which would come from the recognition of human rights for everybody – a cornerstone of foreign policy. He reiterated his support for the struggle for freedom of West Papua and how he would like this to be written in the policy of the British Labour Party.

A statement by the Prime Minister of Guyana, Moses Nagamootoo was read by Melinda Janki, an international human rights lawyer. He offered his country's ongoing support of the right to self determination for the people of West Papua.

Ralph Regenvanu told of Vanuatu's long term support for West Papua. He spoke of how the first Prime Minister of Vanuatu had stated that 'Vanuatu would not be truly

independent while any other Melanesian country is not'. He spoke of the commitment by Melanesian countries to bring West Papua into the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and that Vanuatu is working for West Papua to gain full membership of the MSG at its upcoming meeting.

Rex Horoi special envoy from the Solomon Islands highlighted the key areas of the Solomon Islands support for West Papua which involved: urgency of stopping Human rights abuse in West Papua, recognising the political identity of the ULMWP and the strategic engagement of the Solomon Islands Government with neighbours in the Pacific and around the world. He also redefined the importance of the Pacific by renaming the 'small island states' as the 'big ocean states'.

Gary Juffa also mentioned his personal connection with the people of West Papua. He told of how his father had captained the first boat of refugees from West Papua and how he promised them that he would do everything he could to fight with them for their freedom. He explained that regrettably PNG still recognised Indonesian sovereignty but a large movement in PNG is emerging in support of West Papuan freedom and that he will continue to be one of the main political voices of this movement.

Lord Harries remembered meeting Benny Wenda when he first came to the UK in 2003, how the issue was almost unknown at this time and what a long way it had come today with representatives from the 'big ocean nations' championing the cause. He continued to read out a statement of support by Reverend Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu; "Dear people and friends of West Papua. Please accept, from the southern tip of Africa, the love and blessings of a retired fellow-traveler for justice. Human rights and justice are universal values. It has been very heartening to witness the growth of the movement to secure justice for the people of West Papua. Your call for an internationally supervised vote to determine the will of the people of West Papua has my support. God bless you."

Finally Benny Wenda, described his feelings around being here now after a long journey, declaring that the Indonesian occupation is illegal and must be ended now. He finished by reading out the declaration that was signed by all international parliamentarians present.

The Secretary General of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, Octovianus Mote rounded it off thanking everyone including the various generations of freedom fighters for Papua represented here.

The declaration reads as follows:

Westminster Declaration for an Internationally Supervised Vote in West Papua

We the undersigned Members of Parliament, being members of the International Parliamentarians For West Papua:

I.) Declare that continued human rights violations in West Papua are unacceptable. II.) Warn that without international action the West Papuan people risk extinction. III.) Reiterate the right of the people of West Papua to genuine self-determination. IV.) Declare the 1969 'Act of Free Choice' to be a gross violation of this principle. V.) Call for an internationally supervised vote on self-determination in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolutions 1514 and 1541 (XV). Palace of Westminster, the 3rd of May, 2016

FINDING A DIGNIFIED RESOLUTION FOR WEST PAPUA

May 6, 2016

theconversation.com

On Monday, Indonesian police arrested [nearly 1,500 protesters](#) in Jayapura, Papua. They were rallying in support of a coalition of groups representing West Papuans' aspirations for independence.

The police stopped the protesters, who were heading to the local parliament, forced them to board military trucks, and took them to the Mobile Brigade compound.

The protesters were demonstrating their support for the [United Liberation Movement of West Papua's](#) (ULMWP) bid to gain full membership in the grouping of Melanesian countries, the [Melanesian Spearhead Group](#) (MSG).

The ULMWP holds observer status in the group, which consists of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Last year, Indonesia was granted associate membership.

To prevent further violent mistreatment of protesters, together with several Papuan councillors and church leaders, that day I went to the Mobile Brigade's compound to negotiate with the security forces to release the detainees peacefully.

Monday's arrests were the largest in the West Papua independence movement's [history](#).

Why did thousands of people in Papua take to the streets to support ULMWP?

Public discontent in West Papua is a result of a complicated past. It is a product of historical manipulation and repression of the right to self-determination of West Papuans.

Over the past five decades, the Papuan people have not moved from their position in relation to Indonesia. They have struggled to make progress in their predicament as the oppressed people. They are marginalised, suffering from various forms of violence, and being pushed from their own land.

Solving the problem of West Papua in a dignified manner should involve not only Indonesian authorities but also Papuans and the international community. In that sense, ULMWP and the popular support for ULMWP within West Papua is part of the solution and should not be repressed.

The silenced truth

Ever since West Papua was [transferred into the hands of Indonesia](#) in the early 1960s from being a remote outpost of the Dutch, it has become the land of "mourning and grief".

Gross human rights violations have been taking place in West Papua since Indonesia, backed by the United Nations, annexed the western half of the island of New Guinea in 1963. In 1969, Indonesia gained complete rule of West Papua via a [sham referendum](#).

West Papuans have looked to their Melanesian brothers and sisters to assist them in seeking resolution of past abuses by the Indonesian government and to build a new Papua. But they are still confronted with many challenges.

In September, countries in the [Pacific Island Forum](#), a grouping of 14 countries that includes Australia and New Zealand, agreed to send a fact-finding mission to investigate human rights violations in West Papua. The Indonesian government refused to accept such a team.

Indonesia's co-ordinating minister for politics, law and human rights, Luhut Pandjaitan, instead held two focus group discussions at a luxury hotel in Jayapura for the so-called "settlement of human rights issues".

But West Papua is a nation that grew up with and is shaped by experiences of living under Indonesia's military operations. These cannot be solved simply with focus group discussions.

Sadar Operation (1962, 1965-67), Wisnumurti Operation (1963), Wibawa Operation (1969), Pamungkas Operation (1970-1971), military operations in Jayawijaya (1977-80), Sapu Bersih Operation (1979-82), and Tumpas Operation (1983-84) are only a few of a series of violent acts of oppression that have confronted ordinary Papuans.

Today, Indonesia's militaristic approach in West Papua remains intact.

This approach has resulted in a series of acts of intimidation and terror committed by security forces.

They are involved in land expropriation and natural resources extraction under the banner of development and investment, in the name of Papuan welfare.

Diplomatic pressure from Indonesia

Following the increasing concern and solidarity from the Pacific region and support from the MSG for a resolution of West Papua's problem, the Indonesian government is aggressively lobbying countries and political leaders in the Pacific.

Upon his return from a visit to PNG and Fiji last month, Pandjaitan boasted that Indonesia had the support of the two countries and could handle the MSG. At the same time, he argued that foreigners should not interfere in matters of human rights in West Papua.

Meanwhile, environmental destruction and rampant militarism walk hand in hand in West Papua. Papuans are continuously stigmatised as backward, ignorant and poor. This has become a pretext for what Indonesian authorities call "the acceleration and expansion of development".

Pressed against waves of Indonesian migration, Papuans are not given any chance at all to develop themselves. They are a minority in their own land, not only in terms of number but also in terms of power. Every protest and negotiation effort by indigenous people is met with brutal responses and security operations.

Dignified resolution

In talking about West Papua, the Indonesian government often uses language that obscures past abuses. Papua's relationship with the outside world is heavily controlled. The Indonesian government [makes it difficult](#) for international journalists to cover Papua and bans international researchers from studying the region.

Indonesia's solutions for West Papua are based on shallow reflections and fear of the West Papuan people.

A genuine resolution for the West Papuan problem will only come from Indonesia's willingness to listen to and stop oppression of West Papuans.

Indonesia should welcome the support from international communities, such as the MSG and the United Nations, as mediators in finding a resolution on West Papua.

Loyal foot soldier of many

causes *The Advertiser* 23 April 2016

WILLIAM ALFORD FISHER

Scholar and activist

Born: June 24, 1946; Adelaide

Died: February 22, 2016; Adelaide

A DELIGHTFULLY eccentric, kind, generous and thoughtful person, "Bill" Fisher did his bit to make the world a better place.

He grew up in a loving family with father Andy, a sub-editor at *The Advertiser*, mother Joyce and now-deceased brother Andrew. His grandfather, Andrew Fisher, was a Labor prime minister and founder of the Commonwealth Bank.

Bill was educated at Plympton Primary School, Scotch College and the University of Adelaide. At university in the 1960s, he excelled in philosophy — and it was the philosophy of ideas, of the big picture, that remained with him for the rest of his life. Bill and his then wife Helena, together with several friends from university days, headed for London and elsewhere in Europe.



William Alford Fisher Picture: Supplied

They were in time for the tail-end of "The swinging '60s", Barry McKenzie, the Provisional IRA London bombings, *Oz* Magazine and Arthur Scargill and the coal miners' strike. Bill returned home full of these influences and turned to further academic studies in education and librarianship. Later, he would study law.

He became a teacher but responded most to the alternative cultures of the era and was soon living the counter-cultural life in St Peters. After the dismissal of the Whitlam government in 1975, Bill stuck to his activist ideals and became involved in the East Timor independence movement, showing his stripes by marching on Anzac Day wearing a "Hands off East Timor" T-shirt. When the resolution of the East Timor question loomed in 1999, Bill was able to work with the United Nations during the independence referendum.

Inspired by his father's journalism, he was an enthusiastic writer of submissions to parliamentary inquiries and letters to the editor in support of many and various causes. He delivered speeches at Adelaide's Speakers' Corner, wrote and performed bush ballads full of social messages, and loved to be involved in the folk festivals and bush dances. He was active in Friends of the Earth and also as long serving secretary of the Norton Motorcycle Club of SA. He never became an activist's leader but, instead, played the role of loyal foot soldier in the fights for many worthy causes.

In the end, he decided that by taking his law degree he could best help ordinary people in need of legal help.

His sudden death from a heart attack brought those plans to an end. He had no children.

Flinders to lead Timor-Leste Human Development Report

INDAILY News 4 May 2016

An agreement between the Government of Timor-Leste, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Flinders University will see Flinders researchers take a crucial role in developing a policy blueprint for Timor-Leste's social and economic future.



A team of demographers from the School of the Environment, led by Dr Udoy Saikia (who will also be lead author), will oversee the data collection and perform the analysis for the Timor-Leste National Human Development Report, which will focus on the nation's youth and their well-being.

With funding of around \$400,000, the report will involve the survey of a representative sample of Timor-Leste's youth population across the country's regions, and will be conducted down to village level by local researchers, who will be trained in survey techniques.

Mr Agio Pereira, President of the Council of Ministers of Timor-Leste, said he was delighted with the collaboration and excited by the start of the process that will produce the Timor-Leste National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2016-17.

"The NHDR will stimulate debates around the challenges of realising the youth dividend in Timor-Leste through identifying socially inclusive, innovative ways to diversify the workplace," Mr Pereira said.

"Youth wellbeing and demographic dividend that this report is going to address will be vital in the country's continued progress towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which Timor-Leste is a signatory."

With some 70 per cent of the population under 30 years old, Dr Saikia said the Timor-Leste shows the typical demographic "bulge" of large numbers of young people in the populations of developing countries following independence.

In the face of poverty and unemployment, the bulge can lead to social unrest and conflict.

On the other hand, Dr Saikia said, there is also an opportunity to translate the population bulge into a

demographic dividend, as demonstrated by countries such as South Korea.

"If governments are clever and sensitive enough to invest in this cohort from the beginning, then that cohort can be extremely productive – instead of being a curse, it can be a blessing for the whole country," he said.

The report aims to provide a policy framework to drive diversification of the economy, enlisting local knowledge and skills through area-based development, backed by appropriate education and skills training.

"Investing in youth is vital – even if it is not profit-making in an immediate sense, the benefits in the long term will be enormous," Dr Saikia said.

As well as identifying the appropriate sectors for development and job creation, the report will look to find pathways for Timor-Leste to close the so-called "ingenuity gap", which is created by the capacity of developed nations to embrace technological change far more quickly than developing countries.

"They need to be not only productive within the nation, but also internationally competitive," Dr Saikia said.

Dr Saikia will be supported by Associate Professor Gour Dasvarma and Dr James Chalmers, with Dr Merve Hosgelen based in the Timor-Leste capital Dili as Project Manager.

The report will be launched in Dili this week. The team expects to present and disseminate the report findings in 18 months' time.

Editor: Three members of the AETFA committee attended a Flinders University Conference last month entitled Timor-Leste: development issues and international relations.
