

## **REGIONAL INITIATIVE TEMPLATE**

Please complete each section below.

### **1. Contact Details**

Please provide the following contact details:

<b>Name of individual or group submitting initiative</b>	<i>Pacific Regional Non Governmental Organisations supported by 40 CSOs, churches, traditional leaders across the Pacific</i> Lead: Fiji Womens Crisis Center (FWCC) Supported by: Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) and Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) Endorsed by: Civil Society Organisations around the Pacific
<b>Name and position of primary contact</b>	<b>Shamima Ali</b>
<b>Email address</b>	<i>fwcc.shamima@gmail.com</i>
<b>Alternate email address</b>	Lili Vuiyasawa: lilifwcc@gmail.com
<b>Phone number</b>	331 3300
<b>Fax number</b>	3313650
<b>Mailing address</b>	PO Box 12882, Govt Buildings, Suva

### **2. Name of Initiative**

<i>West Papua: The Unforgotten Moral Responsibility of Regionalism</i>
--

### **3. Background and Rationale**

You may consider: What is the issue being addressed by this initiative? What are the causes of this issue? Are there relevant studies that have been carried out to support the issue? Are there links to national, regional or international goals/policies?

Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.

<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacific Civil Society Organisations, churches and social movements representing over 42 organisations and 13 countries and territories call on Forum Leaders to re-engage the sensitive issue of West Papua at the 46<sup>th</sup> Forum Leaders meeting in Papua New Guinea after many years of silence.</li> <li><b>We believe that the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), particularly under the leadership of Papua New Guinea as Chair, has a responsibility to help resolve this longstanding Pacific conflict. This state of affairs has been a perpetual reality within our Pacific Islands since 1963; we, Pacific people, cannot allow it to continue. Now, more than ever, the PIF leaders need to take bold and immediate action to stand up and protect the human rights of the West Papuan people.</b></li> </ol>
---

### **Regional Leadership**

3. Historically, the Pacific (political, churches, traditional leaders and civil society) has taken leadership over some of the most significant efforts to inspire action to end the gross human rights violations in West Papua. Recalling:
- a) That West Papuan Leaders were present at the founding of key institutions in the Pacific. When the first regional South Pacific Commission conference was held in 1950 West Papuan Leaders Marcus Kaisiepo and Nicolas Jouwe took part alongside fellow Indigenous Pacific Leaders. Eleven years later, in 1961, West Papuan church leader Reverend Kabel and Reverend Maloali of the Evangelical Christian Church, were present at the founding of the Pacific Conference of Churches in 1961 at the Malua Theological Seminary in Samoa. These important regional links were severed in 1963. The Pacific Conference of Churches and Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua are restoring them. The Pacific Islands Forum could do the same.
  - b) PIF Leaders decisions<sup>i</sup> in 2000- 2003 and 2006 on the issue of West Papua: Leaders expressed deep concern about ongoing violence and loss of life in West Papua, calling on all parties to protect and uphold the human rights of the people of West Papua and to support peaceful dialogue and consultation between the different groups involved in the struggle for a free West Papua.
  - c) That West Papuan representatives were given official delegate status at the 2000 PIF summit in Kiribati as members of the official Nauru delegation. The late Honorable Bernard Dowiyogo, president of Nauru then, wrote to the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat, seeking to have West Papua placed on the agenda of the Forum Meeting. His Excellency's letter stated "The People of West Papua look upon the Forum countries of the Pacific to play an important role in re-enlisting West Papua onto the international agenda...if the Forum is to continue to be relevant then it must confront such issues which are important to the lives and democratic rights of the people of our region".<sup>ii</sup>
  - d) The Forum Chair, President Teburoro Tito of Kiribati, in a Post Forum media conference in 2000, speaking on behalf of Pacific delegates, said: "Personally, I have great sympathy for the cause of the West Papuan People, just on the basis of culture alone"<sup>iii</sup>
  - e) We note other significant efforts by Pacific Island nations notably Vanuatu, Nauru and Tuvalu supporting West Papua's right to self-determination at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000.<sup>iv</sup>
  - f) The affirmation by Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Leaders in 2013 of the inalienable right of the West Papuan people to self-determination<sup>v</sup> and the current MSG processes to consider the matter of West Papuan membership in the organisation.
  - g) While Papuans representing Dutch New Guinea attended the first South Pacific Conference<sup>vi</sup> in 1950. Papuan churches were also active in their engagement which led to the founding of the Pacific Conference of Churches. West Papuans studied at the Fiji School of Medicine in Fiji in the 1960s.<sup>vii</sup>

#### 4. Description

*Please provide a brief overview of this initiative. Try to address the following: Does this initiative contribute to a positive change to the region? What makes this initiative of importance to the Pacific region as a whole? Who would implement this initiative? Who are the main beneficiaries? Are regulatory or legislative changes required at the national level to implement this initiative? How would the initiative be funded? Has this initiative been carried out previously? What are the key risks in implementing this initiative? Are there any complementary projects and programmes currently active? What is the proposed timeframe for this initiative? How would the initiative be sustained over the proposed timeframe?*

**Please limit your response to no more than 750 words.**

##### **Gross Human Rights Violations in West Papua**

1. Pacific CSOs and social movements once again draw Forum Leaders' attention to the ongoing gross violation of human rights in West Papua. Such violations have been well documented by recognized human rights monitoring bodies<sup>viii</sup>. Documented violations include the denial of freedom of expression, torture, unlawful killings and state violence directed at men, women and children, unequal access to health and education services, and a rising HIV/ AIDS epidemic among indigenous people. Furthermore, West Papua has remained 'closed' to any international journalists despite the recent announcements to the contrary by the Indonesian government. The following are but a few of the many documented references to instances of gross human rights violations against the West Papuan people:
  - a) Recent videos leaked and distributed on YouTube in 2010 and 2015 capture gruesome footage of separate incidents where West Papuan are being tortured by Indonesian soldiers.<sup>ix</sup> In one case the West Papuan men are being called 'monyet,' 'anjing,' or 'bajingan' (monkey, dog, bastard), kicked in their heads by army boots and punched with helmets, and demanded to confess to being members the Papuan 'separatist' movement. The second video shows West Papuan men being burnt while interrogated about the location of Free Papua Movement (OPM/Organisasi Papua Merdeka) weaponry.
  - b) On 8th December 2014 Indonesian security forces opened fire into a crowd of approximately 800 peaceful demonstrators in Enarotali in the Panai regency of West Papua which included women and children. Four students were killed, another student dying later from injuries, and up to 20 others were reported injured some critical in hospital.<sup>x</sup>
  - c) In a public report to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in 1999, the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women concluded that the Indonesian security forces used rape "as an instrument of torture and intimidation" in West Papua, and "torture of women detained by the Indonesian security forces was widespread". The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights prepared a full report on "Rape and Other Human Rights Abuses by the Indonesian Military in Irian Jaya (West Papua), Indonesia".<sup>xi</sup>
  - d) Human rights violations have also taken nuance and structural forms – transmigration is one such form. The migration of vast numbers of ethnic Asian migrants from other Indonesian regencies into West Papua has effectively put the survival of a nation, its culture and its unique identity at risk. Based on current demographic projects by 2020 Indigenous West Papuan Melanesians will comprise

only 29% of the total population. <sup>xii</sup>

e) In May 2015 alone, 79 Papuans were arrested / detained apparently on grounds of violation of freedom of expression and public assembly requirements. All have been arrested for non-violently exercising their right to freedom of expression, a right that is criminalized in West Papua.<sup>xiii</sup>

2. Aside from these atrocities, there have also been longstanding efforts by the Indonesian authorities to eliminate the compendium of violations that make the West Papua situation an issue warranting urgent and comprehensive resolution. Juan Mendez, the former Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on genocide prevention aptly concludes that due to such high levels of violence and denials of fundamental human rights West Papua, as a nation, is at risk of extinction.

As a first step to re-engaging on the issue of West Papua by Forum Leaders, Pacific Civil Society organizations and social movements accordingly recommends as follows:

- (a) The establishment of a regional Fact Finding Team commissioned to conduct a Human Rights Assessment in West Papua to verify the ongoing gross human rights violations. The regional Fact Finding Team must be independent and should include members from Civil Society Organisations in the Pacific
- (b) Support the call by Vanuatu, expressed by the then Prime Minister, Hon. Moana Carcasses, made at the United Nations General Assembly in September, 2013, for a UN-led investigation into human rights violations in West Papua.

## 5. Alignment to Regional Vision, Values and Objectives

*Briefly describe how your initiative supports the vision, values and objectives set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These can be found in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism document or in the submissions guideline document.*

**Please limit your response to no more than 500 words**

### **Regional Alignment /Relevance**

4. These and other similar testimonies have convinced regional and international authorities that international, even multilateral intervention is necessary. The then Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Honorable Moana Carcasses, called on UN Secretary General to appoint a special envoy to conduct investigation into Human rights violations in West Papua stating that “the world has witnessed the litany of tortures, murders, exploitation, rapes, military raids, arbitrary arrests, and dividing of civil society through intelligence operations. The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights concluded that these acts constitute crimes against humanity under Indonesian Law”<sup>xiv</sup> PNG Prime Minister, Peter O’Neil, who is set to be the Chair of the 46<sup>th</sup> Pacific Forum Leaders earlier this year declared that his country needed to do more on the human rights violations in West Papua. He went further to add that his country Papua New Guinea had a moral obligation to speak for those that are not allowed to talk. “We must be the eyes for those who are blindfolded”.<sup>xv</sup>

## 6. Additional Information

Please provide or attach additional information in support of this initiative.

Please limit your response to no more than 5 pages.

End NOTES:

- i. <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2000%20Communique-Tarawa%2027-30%20Oct.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2001%20Communique-Nauru%2016-18%20Aug.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2002%20Communique-Fiji%2015-17%20Aug.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2003%20Communique.Auckland%20NZ%2014-16.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2006%20Forum%20Communique,%20Denarau,%20Nadi,%20Fiji,%2024-25%20Oct.pdf>
- ii. <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/wpupdatn.htm>
- iii. Interview with the author, Tarawa, September 2000. See Nic Maclellan: "Historical moment for West Papua at Forum", *Pacific News Bulletin*, November 2000.
- iv. Dowigo, B. (2000). President of Nauru. Statement at United Nations Millennium Summit, New York. September 7. and Sope, B. (2000). Prime Minister of Vanuatu. Statement at United Nations Millennium Summit, New York, September 7.
- v. Communique (page 9) of 19<sup>th</sup> Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders' Summit 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (<http://www.msgsec.info/index.php/communique>)
- vi. For photos of the West Papuans at the 1950 SPC meeting, see Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: *The South Pacific Commission – the first fifty years* (DFAT, Canberra, 2000).
- vii. Some West Papuans remained in Fiji after Indonesia's takeover. Interview with Dr. Fred Korwa, Suva, 1998.
- viii. Asian Human Rights Commission, (2013). *The Neglected Genocide*. Asian Human Rights Commission. Hong Kong. Also see Elmslie, Jim and Camellia Webb-Gannon, (2013). [ASlowMotionGenocide:IndonesianRuleinWestPapua](#) and the International Coalitions for Papua [HumanRightsReport2013](#)
- ix. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEisR8rFLOo&feature=related> (Warning: has disturbing content).
- x. Human Rights Watch (2014). *Indonesia: Security Forces Kill Five in Papua*. (10 December 2014). Human Rights Watch. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/12/10/indonesia-security-forces-kill-five-papua> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs-p4lhHbDk> (warning: has disturbing content)
- xi. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights. (1999). *Rape and Other Human Rights Abuses by the Indonesian Military in Irian Jaya (West Papua), Indonesia*. [http://wpik.org/Src/vaw\\_report.html](http://wpik.org/Src/vaw_report.html) [http://wpik.org/Src/vaw\\_report.html](http://wpik.org/Src/vaw_report.html)
- xii. Down to Earth. (2011). *The land of Papua: a continuing struggle for a land and livelihoods*. Down to Earth Special Edition Newsletter No.89-90, November 2011; Elmslie, Jim. 'West Papuan Demographic Transition and the 2010 Indonesian Census: 'Slow Motion Genocide' or Not?' *CPACS Working Paper, University of Sydney*11, no. 1 (September 2010).
- xiii. <http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/2015/05/30-activists-arrested-in-west-papua/> - Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015; 479 Activists arrested by Indonesian security forces between 30 April and 1 June 2015, 'Tabloid Jubi', <http://tabloidjubi.com/2015/06/03/479-aktivis-ditangkap-aparat-di-papua-dari-30-april-1-juni-2015/>, accessed 10 June 2015..
- xiv. Vanuatu urges inclusive development, pledges to continue speaking out against colonialism, 28 September 2013, UN News Centre, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46117&Cr=indonesia&Cr1=#.VUMEESGqpBf>
- xv. Peter O'Neill: Speech by Hon. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill CMG MP, 2015 Leaders' Summit, Port Moresby, 5 February

Signed by:

**Organisations**

ADDRA Solomon Islands

Alotau Environment Ltd, Milne Bay Province- PNG

Civil Society Forum of Tonga

Cook Islands Civil Society Organisation

Coalition of Education Solomon Islands

Development Services Exchange (DSE) – Solomon Islands

Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji/Pacific (DIVA)

Ecumenical Center for Research, Education & Advocacy (ECREA) – Fiji

Fiji Council of Social Services- Fiji

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) - Fiji

Fiji Womens Rights Movement (FWRM)- Fiji

Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI)

Honiara City Youth- Solomon Islands

Literacy Association of Solomon Islands

Kiribati Association of NGOs

National Youth Council of Fiji- Fiji

Niue Island Association of NGOs

Nuclear Peace Age Foundation- New York, United States of America

Ola Fou

Office of Benny Wenda- England

Ole Siosiomaga Society Incorporated (OLSSI)- Samoa

Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)- Fiji

Pacific Network on Globalisation

Pacific Students Association

Pacific Youth Council  
Partners of Melanesia

Pasifika

Samoa Workers Congress

Samoa Umbrella of NGOs

Solomon Islands Development Trust

Solomon Islands National Council of Women

Solomon Islands National University Students Association

Solomon Islands Youth Council

Te Wharepora Hou- New Zealand

Tuvalu Association of NGOs

USP Students Association- Solomon Islands

Vanuatu Association of NGOs

Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta (VKS) – Vanuatu

Vois blo Mere

West Papua Action Network- United States of America

Youngsolwaran Poneke Team- New Zealand

### **Individuals**

Arnie Saiki- California, USA

Dr. Tim Anderson, Political Economy, University of Sydney

Fiu Elisara- Samoa

Frank. L. Hill- California, USA

Sina Brown-Davis- New Zealand

Shiela Goldman- California, USA

Tekura Moeka'a- New Zealand



- 
- <sup>i</sup> <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2000%20Communique-Tarawa%2027-30%20Oct.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2001%20Communique-Nauru%2016-18%20Aug.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2002%20Communique-Fiji%2015-17%20Aug.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2003%20Communique.Auckland%20NZ%2014-16.pdf>  
<http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2006%20Forum%20Communique,%20Denarau,%20Nadi,%20Fiji,%2024-25%20Oct.pdf>
- <sup>ii</sup> <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/wpupdatn.htm>
- <sup>iii</sup> Interview with the author, Tarawa, September 2000. See Nic Maclellan: “Historical moment for West Papua at Forum”, *Pacific News Bulletin*, November 2000.
- <sup>iv</sup> Dowigo, B. (2000). President of Nauru. Statement at United Nations Millennium Summit, New York. September 7. and Sope, B. (2000). Prime Minister of Vanuatu. Statement at United Nations Millennium Summit, New York, September 7.
- <sup>v</sup> Communique (page 9) of 19<sup>th</sup> Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders’ Summit 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013 (<http://www.msgsec.info/index.php/communique>)
- <sup>vi</sup> For photos of the West Papuans at the 1950 SPC meeting, see Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: *The South Pacific Commission – the first fifty years* (DFAT, Canberra, 2000).
- <sup>vii</sup> Some West Papuans remained in Fiji after Indonesia’s takeover. Interview with Dr. Fred Korwa, Suva, 1998. <sup>viii</sup> Asian Human Rights Commission, (2013). *The Neglected Genocide*. Asian Human Rights Commission. Hong Kong. Also see Elmslie, Jim and Camellia Webb-Gannon, (2013). [ASlowMotion Genocide: IndonesianRuleinWestPapua](#) and the International Coalitions for Papua [HumanRights Report2013](#)
- <sup>ix</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEisR8rFLOo&feature=related> (Warning: has disturbing content).
- <sup>x</sup> Human Rights Watch (2014). Indonesia: Security Forces Kill Five in Papua. (10 December 2014). Human Rights Watch. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/12/10/indonesia-security-forces-kill-five-papua> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs-p4lhHbDk> (warning: has disturbing content)
- <sup>xi</sup> Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights. (1999). *Rape and Other Human Rights Abuses by the Indonesian Military in Irian Jaya (West Papua), Indonesia*. [http://wpik.org/Src/vaw\\_report.html](http://wpik.org/Src/vaw_report.html) [http://wpik.org/Src/vaw\\_report.html](http://wpik.org/Src/vaw_report.html)
- <sup>xii</sup> Down to Earth. (2011). The land of Papua: a continuing struggle for a land and livelihoods. Down to Earth Special Edition Newsletter No.89-90, November 2011
- <sup>xiii</sup> <http://pacific.scoop.co.nz/2015/05/30-activists-arrested-in-west-papua/> - Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Vanuatu urges inclusive development, pledges to continue speaking out against colonialism, 28 September 2013, UN News Centre, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46117&Cr=indonesia&Cr1=#.VUMEEsGqpBf>
- <sup>xv</sup> Peter O’Neill: Speech by Hon. Prime Minister Peter O’Neill CMG MP, 2015 Leaders’ Summit, Port Moresby, 5 February 2015.