



## **UNITED LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOR WEST PAPUA (ULMWP)**

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**07<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015**

### **ULMWP acknowledges Pacific leaders for supporting West Papua aspirations at the United Nations (UN).**

The United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) has commended the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga, Hon. Akilisi Pohiva, and the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, for supporting West Papua at the recent 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York.

ULMWP spokesperson, Benny Wenda, expressed his deepest gratitude to the Pacific leaders and their people, saying, “on behalf of the people of West Papua, we the United Liberation Movement for West Papua would like to convey all our deepest and most sincere gratitude to our Pacific leaders for being the sole moral voices on West Papua at the United Nations.”

“We the people of West Papua listened to your historic speeches at the UN, which have brought great hope, emotion and positivity, which has displayed true Pacific solidarity for our people...we always feel a strong and unbreakable connection to our fellow Pacific family, and the bold statements by both prime ministers from the Pacific have confirmed real Pacific solidarity.”

Wenda said the lead taken by Tonga and the Solomon Islands is promising, and is calling on other Pacific leaders to support the call by our Pacific leaders to hold talks with Indonesia for a fact finding mission to West Papua.

“We acknowledge and thank our Pacific leaders and people for assisting us to be recognized at the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG). The tremendous support has taken the issue of West Papua to the agenda of the PIF leaders, and we welcome the call for a fact finding mission and will work closely with our Pacific leaders on this mission.”

The ULMWP recognize the support of PIF leaders and note other significant historical efforts by Pacific Island nations notably Vanuatu, Nauru and Tuvalu to support the right to self determination of West Papua at the United Nations and regionally.

Indonesia in its right to reply to both Tonga and the Solomon Islands at the UNGA strongly rejects the references to human rights issues in West Papua and have labelled them dangerously misleading. While Indonesia denied these human right abuses, violations continued in Papua.

At 7:00pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, two high school students were shot at the market in Timika town. One of the student died the other on was taken to hospital.

Wenda added that contradiction between official denial and reality indeed calls for a fact finding mission as requested by the both Prime Ministers.

“We support the PIF leaders’ decision for an independent fact finding mission as the only way to verify independently the human rights situation on the ground. We urge the UN to support PIFL to set up a human rights fact finding mission.”

Since the Prime Ministers Pohiva and Sogavare respective addresses at the UN, there have been jubilant responses and positivity from West Papuans globally despite the ongoing military assault on West Papuan including the most recent death of two youths.

“We desperately need the help of our Pacific family for the people of West Papua continue to suffer under the illegal Indonesian occupation.”

The human rights situation is deteriorating and it is estimated that over 500,000 West Papuan people have been killed ever since the territory was occupied in 1961.

Ends//

For more information:

**Benny Wenda**

Spokesperson for the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benny Wenda', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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