

Nationaal Papoea Vereniging '95 West Nieuw Guinea

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Call for a dialogue between the people of Papua and the Indonesian government

On 17 August 2019 thousands of Papuans took to the streets to call out the racist attacks against Papua students on Java. They were called pigs, dogs and monkeys. An attitude that the Indonesian government has promoted for decades. In the months that followed, many spontaneous demonstrations took place in Papua. Thousands of Papuans rebelled against the Indonesian government which controls the daily life of the Papuans with fear and insecurity. They were met with military violence which left at least 20 people dead and many more injured. Hundreds of protesters were arrested and many remain in prison.

The people in Papua continue their protest against oppression and racism. They ask the international community to stand with them in their fight against racism. This fight against racism can only be won if the Papuan people are given freedom and control over their destiny.

The situation in Papua is a ticking time-bomb that needs international attention. Since 1963 the island of Papua has been the scene of violence and in many respects it acts like a prison for the Papuan people. The Indonesian government has a moral and legal obligation to provide freedom to the people of Papua and remedy their lack of representation.

In order to bring this closer to reality we propose a dialogue with and between the people of Papua, the Indonesian government and others. This dialogue should find out the true wishes of the people of Papua and how the various groups and individuals want to achieve freedom within and without. Only through a dialogue can the protests be resolved and can freedom for the Papua's be found. We are ready for this dialogue. We call upon the international community and the Indonesian government to join us.

Simon Petrus Sapioper

President

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