



# Justice for West Papua

**Aim:** to examine the causes of conflict in West Papua and to identify ways of achieving peace.

**Age:** 12 years and older

**Time:** 40 minutes

**Materials:** Role cards, plenty of space, copies of Aprilanus' story

## Action

### Multinationals in West Papua:

Write to Peter Sutherland, BP Irishman Peter Sutherland is the chairperson of BP, a multinational oil and gas company which has a huge investment in Tangguh, in the north of West Papua. West Papuans fear the Indonesian military will increase its presence in the area of the gas project, and that there will be an increase of human rights abuses there.

**Write to:** Peter Sutherland, Chairperson, BP plc, 1 St. James Square, London, SW1Y 4PD, England.

**Ask him:** What is his opinion of the big gas project in West Papua?

**Tell him:** You are worried there will be a big military build-up in West Papua and that there will be more human rights abuses in West Papua.

**Tell him:** There is no access to journalists in West Papua, no freedom of assembly, and no dialogue with West Papuan leaders about the status of the territory.

**Copy any responses to:** West Papua Action.

### What to do:

Read out the introduction to the group and point out West Papua on the map. Explain that the group is going to examine the causes of conflict in West Papua and will try to identify peaceful solutions for the people of West Papua. Break the participants into four smaller groups and give each group a role card (or if resources allow, give each person a copy of the role card). Allow 10 minutes for the groups to discuss their cards and get into role.

Bring the groups together again and form new groups so that each new group has at least one person from each of the existing groups. Ask the groups to identify a spokesperson and allow 15 minutes to examine the causes of the conflict and to suggest possible peaceful outcomes that would be acceptable to all the characters.

In the large group, ask how people felt. Was it easier to work in the initial group or the mixed group? Why? Ask the spokespeople to highlight the key issues discussed, the causes of the conflict identified and the solutions that their group came up with. What was different and similar about the causes and solutions identified?

Get a volunteer to read Aprilanus' story. Ask the young people whether this story would have had an impact on the decisions they made. If there is time, ask the young people to think about what has happened to Aprilanus since the story. Encourage them to write or draw their ideas. Tell the group that the 19th November is the International Day of Action on West Papua and read out the actions provided.

### Introduction

West Papua (Irian Jaya) is just north of Australia and is five times the size of Ireland. It is a very beautiful country, covered in rainforest, like the Amazon. West Papua was ruled by the Netherlands until 1962. After being under United Nations control for seven months, in 1963 Indonesia took over. West Papua is rich in resources including gold, copper, oil, gas, and rainforest wood.





## Role Cards

### Action

#### Right to Self-determination:

Ask your TD to support the UN Review Campaign

West Papua was ruled by the Netherlands until 1962. After being under United Nations control for seven months, in 1963 Indonesia took over. After an estimated 30,000 people were killed, Indonesia rounded up 1,022 people and asked them, in public, if they wanted to remain part of Indonesia – this was instead of a proper independence referendum and was called the "Act of 'Free' Choice". Papuans call it the "Act of NO Choice". The United Nations had just 16 observers – for a country the size of Spain - in West Papua when the Act took place. Now West Papuans want the UN to investigate its role in the take-over, especially its role in the Act of NO Choice.

**Write to** your local TD now and ask him or her (address: Dáil Éireann, Kildare Street, Dublin 2) to write to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to investigate the UN's role in the Act of 'Free' Choice. TDs who have already written are listed at <http://westpapuaaction.buz.org/unreview>

**Contact** West Papua Action if you need help or advice. You can also ring your TD at the Dáil at 01 6183000.

#### Indonesian Military

I am a member of the Indonesian army from Jakarta, which is the capital of the Republic of Indonesia. I am now in West Papua. West Papua is a part of Indonesia, no matter what the local people say. For every dollar I get paid by the Indonesian government, I make two extra dollars in my businesses here in Papua. Papua is a great place to make money. The only problem is these Papuans. They are not very bright and want to form an independent country. I don't care much for them, and couldn't care less if they all got killed.

#### People of West Papua

The Indonesian military came 40 years ago, and started killing us, with helicopter gunships, machine guns and bombs – our mothers, our fathers, our children. We have been dying and nobody seems to care. They take our land, they cut down our trees. Nobody in the world talks about our problems. We just want the Indonesian military to leave our country. We just want peace and dialogue and a chance to say what we want without getting shot, or tortured or thrown in prison.

#### Government of Ireland

We have a proud record in peace-keeping, especially in places like Africa, Lebanon, and East Timor. We also helped to bring peace to East Timor. The Indonesian military left East Timor, which gained independence in 1999. We raised the question of East Timor everywhere we went. Perhaps we could do the same for West Papua? But we don't know if there is enough support in Ireland for West Papua.

#### Multinationals

West Papua is a great place. It is full of resources such as gold, copper, oil, gas, and rainforest wood. We can get all these resources very cheap in West Papua, and sell it for very good prices outside, such as in Europe and in the US. Some people complain they are not our resources, that we don't employ enough West Papuans, that we are polluting the environment, or that we are cutting down the rainforest, but that's not our business. Our business is making money.





## Action

### Ireland as EU President:

Email Tom Kitt and ask him to make West Papua a priority of Ireland's EU Presidency

Ireland will be the President of the European Union from January to June 2004. Ireland can stand up for West Papua!

**Email:** Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tom Kitt TD at [tom.kitt@iveagh.irlgov.ie](mailto:tom.kitt@iveagh.irlgov.ie)

**Tell him:** You want Ireland to support human rights in West Papua, including their right to decide if they want to be part of Indonesia or not.

**Ask him:** To put West Papua high on the EU Presidency agenda.

**Ask him:** What he is doing about West Papua.

**Copy (cc) your email to:** [wpaction@iol.ie](mailto:wpaction@iol.ie)

## Links

[www.newint.org/issue344](http://www.newint.org/issue344)

[www.amnesty.org.au/airesources/newsletterJuneJuly03](http://www.amnesty.org.au/airesources/newsletterJuneJuly03)

[www.guardian.co.uk/indonesia/0,2763,404763,00](http://www.guardian.co.uk/indonesia/0,2763,404763,00)

### For more information:

Check out the website

<http://westpapuaaction.buz.org> or contact: West Papua Action, 134 Phibsborough Road, Dublin 7. Tel. 01 860 3431. Email: [wpaction@iol.ie](mailto:wpaction@iol.ie)

## Aprilanus (16 years old): My story

My name is Aprilanus Deikme (boy). I am sixteen and I come from Limtagalok in West Papua. The army was always conducting operations. In these operations, they burned our houses, our churches, shot our animals and people. I was one of those shot by the military.

One Sunday we suddenly heard the sound of helicopters. We saw three helicopters flying from the direction of Timika, one small one and two large ones, all three of them black. The little one turned around and around in the air, while the other two let off rounds of gunfire at the homes of people in our hamlet, Limtagalok. We were getting ready to hold services outdoors because we did not yet have a church building. Seeing the helicopters shooting at our homes, we ran for cover into the forest. Then the two helicopters landed, and troops disembarked. We all tried to save ourselves after that morning. Some fled to the forests, others of us fled to Molinop

This incident that endangered our lives made my parents ask me to follow them to Meniponop. They said to me, *"if you stay here, you will be killed by the army. You must go with us."*

I saw the leaves of sweet potato plants all torn up from having been stepped on by people. I thought, it was not people from Molinop who trod all over the plants because since morning, no one had come down from there. It had to be the army. Instantly I said, "My God!". I knew that if the army saw us, they would shoot without warning. I immediately swam across the river Molonogong which flows very fast.

Usually, people cross the river by bridge, no matter what the season. While swimming, I heard a hail of gunfire, and the sound of water being hit by bullets. The sound was like a person throwing water on hot coals: *cilis, cilis, cilis.*

After I reached the other side of the river, I examined my body because my mouth and nose were bleeding. My body was covered with blood. It turned out that my left side was badly wounded. I began praying as I was walking, saying, *"Lord, help me, so that I don't die where there are no people."* I walked along the shore of the Molonogong River. As I was crossing the river, my head ached, so that I almost was swallowed up in the swift current.

After walking a fair distance I met up with my brother, Pitu. He was startled and at first thought I was a soldier. But when he saw I was shot, he embraced me and cried.

As a result of the shooting, I cannot work very hard. I feel great pain after I work, and it is particularly painful when I wake up. If I walk very far, I feel short of breath. Coughing is very painful, and even to yawn causes me pain.

Source: Els-ham / West Papua Action

