



9 October 2019

Liz Stone
General Secretary
National Council of Churches in Australia
Locked Bag Q199
QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING NSW 1230

Dear Liz,

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) is deeply concerned about the ongoing violence occurring in West Papua.

Attached is a statement by Church Leaders in West Papua (Church Leaders of the Ecumenical Forum of Churches in Papua), calling for the military to leave the region (see the attached file).

We commend the National Council of Churches in Australia for raising this issue in its October 2019 newsletter and indicating actions individuals and groups can take.

We call upon the National Council of Churches in Australia to now issue a public statement and media release supporting the recommendations of the West Papuan Church Leaders. We further call upon the National Council of Churches in Australia to call upon the Australia Government to take positive action to protect human rights in West Papua and end the violence.

Australia has added responsibility, not only as a neighbour, but also because we train the Indonesian police and military, who have been perpetrating the violence in West Papua. In addition, the Lombok Treaty has effectively constrained the Government from speaking about the root causes, which is that West Papuans have never had the opportunity to freely or fairly decide if they want to be part of Indonesia, or not. Both those courses of action have led the Government away from what we would argue it means to love our neighbour.

Australia Yearly Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends
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We would also like to inquire what conversation the NCCA is having with the Indonesian Council of Churches about justice and peace in West Papua? If this conversation has not begun, could we start it now?

In peace,



Ann Zubrick
Presiding Clerk
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

included: Statement by Churches in West Papua calling for military to leave region

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