



Kulcha Multicultural Arts of WA, The Australian Greens and Project SafeCom present:

On 16 January, forty-three asylum seekers from West Papua arrived in Queensland fleeing persecution by the Indonesian Government. The Howard Government immediately imprisoned most of them in the Christmas Island detention centre.

Find out why this is happening and what we can do...

Free West Papua free the refugees

A public forum featuring:

- ★ Australian Greens Senator Kerry Nettle
- ★ Christmas Island refugee advocate Kaye Bernard
- ★ Project SafeCom's Jack H Smit
- ★ West Papua Association supporter Ned Byrne

31 January 2006

7:00pm to 9:30pm Kulcha
Multicultural Arts of WA,
South Tce (above DOME)
Fremantle



save west papua people soul from genocide
intimidation and terrorism from military
government of Indonesia ALSO we west papuan
Need Freedom Peace Love and justice in our home land



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On 16 January 43 asylum seekers from West Papua arrived near Weipa in Queensland, fleeing their home country.

The International Commission of Jurists and many other groups and organisations around Australia stated that they are genuine asylum seekers, that they came to the country nearest to them in accordance with the UN Refugee Convention, and that they did not come using people smugglers. Therefore they should live on Bridging Visas in the community and treated as our neighbours like the East Timorese.

Instead, the Australian government locked them up in the Christmas Island detention centre and in houses on the island. DIMIA also announced they had started an investigation into involvement of “people smugglers”. On the same day they burnt the traditional boat, a canoe with outriggers – destroying evidence that the asylum seekers could have used to prove their case.

Has anything changed since Tampa?

Has DIMIA learnt its lesson from the Cornelia Rau and Vivian Alvarez scandals?

Does the government treat refugees with the respect they deserve?

Come and find out the issues behind this extraordinary journey of 43 men, women and children. Senator Kerry Nettle, returning directly from Christmas Island, will relate first-hand the conditions under which the asylum seekers are being held.

Other speakers will provide historical and contemporary context to help us understand the situation in West Papua, the parallels with East Timor, and what we can do to help those most in need who have fled to Australia seeking Asylum.

Entry by donation

- What is the problem in West Papua?
- Why is the Indonesian government calling any refugee claims by these men, women and seven children “baseless”?
- What happened in West Papua since the Dutch in 1962 relinquished control to the Sukarno government of their colony?
- What was the “Act of Free Choice” and will West Papua ever become independent like East Timor?
- Why did the Cairns Chamber of Commerce issue a press release urging the government to treat these asylum seekers in a “hard-line” way?

More information -

The Australian Greens [Nicola 0422 990 040]

Project SafeCom [Jack 0417 090 130]

<http://www.safecom.org.au/papuaforum.htm>



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