



22 June 2024

Permanent Peoples' Tribunal
c/o Centre for Climate Crime and Climate Justice
Queen Mary University of London

To the Tribunal,

Session on Environmental Destruction and State Repression in West Papua

Thank you for giving Indigenous West Papuans the opportunity to give evidence and voice out their anguish and anger over decades of environmental destruction and state repression of their ancestral lands.

I am delighted to play a very small part in submitting secondary and tertiary evidence to help the Tribunal determine the Indictment. I make this submission **solely** on behalf of Solon Law. Any views expressed represent my personal views and those of Solon Law **only**, and do **not** in any way represent the views of *any* other person or organisation that I may be associated with.

Solon Law is a consulting firm specialising in policy development, legislative drafting, and training, with a special focus on small States and territories. We have carried out several consultancies in or for Pacific Islands States and Territories over the years, and are familiar with a number of Pacific Islands cultures and values. For the last 3 years, we have provided *pro bono* advisory services on an *ad hoc* basis to the ULMWP Provisional Government.

In 2023, Solon Law, with the assistance of its former intern Gijs Romijn, compiled the attached Factsheet (with references), to assist the ULMWP in its advocacy work. I submit it to the Tribunal as evidence of the matters in the Indictment.

In 2021, Solon Law worked closely with the then ULMWP leaders for several months to develop and draft the [Green State Vision for West Papua](#). The Vision was launched at COP26 in Glasgow at the end of 2021.

The objective of the Vision is: *"To restore, promote and maintain balance and harmony, amongst human and non-human beings, based on reciprocity and respect toward all beings"*. This represents the core, fundamental belief held by Indigenous West Papuans in the importance of balance and harmony, as the *grundnorm* on which all their other norms and values rest.

The Green State Vision rests on three pillars.

The First Pillar requires the restoration of guardianship of land, waters, and non-human beings to customary and tribal authorities. In my opinion, it represents a complete repudiation by Indigenous West Papuans of the forcible taking of their ancestral lands by the Indonesian State, and of the ongoing exploitation and abuse of these lands by major corporations (often part-owned by the Indonesian Government) **without** the *Free, Prior and Informed Consent* of the Indigenous West Papuans.

The Second Pillar involves prioritising environmental and social protection, over economic growth. For example, the Green State would make ecocide a serious environmental crime. This pillar runs through the legal ecosystem of the Green State, to bring it into balance and harmony with Nature.

In my opinion, this Pillar is a clear repudiation of the *status quo*.

West Papua is essentially a huge *crime-site*. It is the site of massive, industrial-scale environmental destruction and degradation committed by corporations, and the Indonesian State not only permits but actively colludes and *participates* in the commission of these crimes (for example through part ownership of corporations).

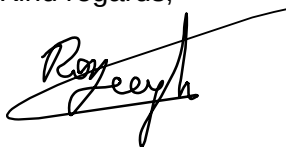
The Third and final Pillar is strong democratic governance. The Green State would give *real* and *practical* effect to human rights standards and adopt the best of Western democratic checks and balances, to promote accountability and prevent abuse and misuse of power.

In my opinion, the Third Pillar is a repudiation of the decades of violent repression (extra-judicial killings, population displacement) and human rights abuses committed against Indigenous West Papuans to enable corporations and the Indonesian State to exploit the valuable minerals, timber, and agricultural land in West Papua.

In conclusion, the Green State Vision is a clear Statement by the leaders of Indigenous West Papuans that repudiates: firstly, the violent State-corporate model imposed by *force* and *deception* on West Papua and Indigenous West Papuans by the Indonesian State; and secondly, the gross human rights breaches and abuses, and massive environmental destruction, that accompanied it for decades.

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Lee', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Roy Lee
Director
[Solon Law Limited](#)