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### **Session on State and environmental violence in West Papua**

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## **A MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF WEST PAPUA**

The reading of all the materials provided to the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT), and most especially the testimonies we have heard over the three days of this session, paint a picture of human and environmental catastrophe, to which no one should be indifferent. All the information you provided us regarding what can indeed be characterised as a devastating attack on West Papuan lives and livelihoods.

We would like to first thank the impressive work and bravery of West Papuan peoples, communities and organizations, who have historically and continuously been documenting this situation and making known to the world the predatory occupation and exploitation of West Papua. We are aware of the extreme risk you have exposed yourselves to in all phases of the preparation and realisation of this session. We are immensely grateful and thankful for the trust you have placed in the Tribunal.

It is with great humility that we read and listened to your testimonies and your painful stories in the face of this immense degradation, devastation and impunity. We are also very aware of the difficulties in trying to communicate in a language that is not your own (bahasa), then translated into yet another language (English) which is also not the native language of most of us. We did our best and we hope we understood correctly the deepness of the different claims of the West Papuan peoples.

Your courage and commitment is truly inspiring.

National and international public opinion must be won over and the PPT has an important role to play here, as an instrument of resistance to oppression and affirmation of rights and justice. The Tribunal is a space for people to speak out and a place to weave and strengthen solidarity. We are convinced that the joint effort put into the realisation of this session will offer a new visibility and, consequently, more opportunities to connect with other organisations and peoples in dialogue with this Tribunal.

We would like to thank you very much for your commitment and dedication. But also for your strength and hope. We came to this session appalled by the level of destruction that West Papua

and West Papuans have endured. Yet, despite all the pain and devastation, we leave strengthened by the dignified and militant way you have been at the forefront of opposition to those who want to destroy your way of living.

This is a work for which everyone, from the West Papuan community to the international community, will be forever grateful to you. It is a work that we all have a duty to support.

We have listened to this denunciation with the sense of urgency it deserves, but also with enormous admiration for all you have done to protect your sacred land and culture.

*The panel of judges of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal's 53<sup>rd</sup> session on State and Environmental Violence in West Papua*

London, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024

*Panel of Judges, in alphabetical order:*

**Teresa Almeida Cravo (Portugal)**

She is an Associate Professor in International Relations at the Faculty of Economics and a Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies, both at the University of Coimbra, in Portugal. She's currently the coordinator of its PhD Programme in International Relations - International Politics and Conflict Resolution. She holds a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of Cambridge. In the last years, Teresa was an Academic Visitor at the African Studies Centre of the University of Oxford, at the University of Westminster, in London, at Monash University in Melbourne, and an Associate of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Her research interests include critical perspectives on peace and violence, security, development, global interventionism and foreign policy, particularly within the context of Portuguese-speaking countries.

**Donna Andrews (South Africa)**

She is scholar-activist and feminist theorist with longstanding history of solidarity work. Her recent work examines the political economy of food in the context of social subjects' relations to nature, planetary solidarities, feminist agency, just transitions and the commons. She is a Senior Researcher at the Ethics Lab, Neuroscience Institute, University of Cape Town. Trained in political economy and political theory, she holds an MA in International Political Economy and Development (ISS, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague) and a PhD in Political Theory - Capitalism and nature in South Africa: racial dispossession, liberation ideology and ecological crisis - from the University of Cape Town.

**Daniel Feierstein (Argentina)**

He is a researcher at CONICET (National Council for Scientific and Technical Research) based at the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (Third of February National University), Argentina, where he founded and runs the Centre for Genocide Studies. He holds a chair in the School of Social Sciences at the Buenos Aires University, where he runs the "Analysis of Genocidal Social Practices" seminar and the Observatory of State Crimes. He is the former President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS, 2013-2015).

**Marina Forti (Italy)**

She is a journalist and writer based in Rome. For three decades she has been with the daily newspaper "*il manifesto*", serving as Foreign Editor and Foreign Correspondent; she reported mainly from Iran, South Asia and Southeast Asia. Her column "TerraTerra" on environmental justice was awarded the prize known as *Premiolino* (1999). She is the author of *La signora di Narmada* (Feltrinelli 2004, Elsa Morante Prize for Communication 2004) and "*Il cuore di tenebra dell'India*" (Bruno Mondadori 2012) on the social conflicts in rural India. Her latest book is *Malaterra. Come hanno avvelenato l'Italia* (Laterza, 2018). She contributes to *Internazionale*, *Altreconomia* and other.

**Larry Lohmann (UK)**

He is an activist and writer who works with the Corner House, a research and solidarity NGO in the UK that supports democratic and community movements for environmental and social justice. Lohmann has contributed to numerous scholarly books and journals on land and forest conflicts, globalization, artificial intelligence, energy politics, labour, Southeast Asian environmental movements, racism, commons, climate change, ecosystem service markets, literary criticism and the discourses of development, population and economics. He is a founding member of the Durban Group for Climate Justice and chair of the advisory board of the World Rainforest Movement.

**Nello Rossi (Italy)**

Nello Rossi is currently the editorial director of the legal journal "Questione Giustizia" under the auspices of Magistratura Democratica. He was Solicitor General at the Supreme Court of Cassation, Italy, from 2015 to 2017. From 2007 until 2015 he was the Chief Public Prosecutor's Deputy in Rome, coordinator of the departments specialised in economic and financial crimes and computer crimes. From 2002 to 2007 he was a Justice at the Court of Cassation, in the criminal division of the Court. Until 2016 he was also the Ministry of Justice delegate to the Financial Action Task Force on money laundering (FATF) set up by the OECD. He is also the author of books, essays and legal articles on issues of constitutional and criminal law. He was a member of the steering committee of the Superior School of the Judiciary from 2017 to 2020. He is vice-president of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal.

**Solomon Yeo (Solomon Islands)**

He is a human rights lawyer born and raised on the island of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. He is dedicating his life to addressing the numerous issues that persist within the Pacific, notably climate injustice, decolonization, and the politics of development. He works with Pacific communities, civil society organizations, and governments, mainly in the areas of climate change, decolonization, conservation, and community development. He has graduated from the University of the South Pacific and University of Hawai'i at Manoa with a BA/LLB and LLM.