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# Indonesia ban

## Don't buy their products - churches

CHURCH leaders have called for a Pacific-wide ban on Indonesian products in order to show support for the West Papuan cause.

A meeting of leaders in November heard a request by Fiji's Methodist Church to implement a ban.

"This was a resolution by the Methodist Church

Conference earlier this year," General Secretary, Reverend Dr Semisi Turagavou said.

Pacific churches called on their members to stop buying Indonesian-made products which have flooded the regional market.

Soap, coffee, noodles, tea and chocolates made in Indonesia are popular in the Pacific.

[www.pcc.org.fj](http://www.pcc.org.fj)

# What does a product ban look like?



WE'RE asking you to take a few minutes more while shopping. It takes a few seconds to read the labelling on products in store. But just as you can be shocked by the contents of a product, the place of manufacture may be just as surprising.

Nike products made in Indonesia, Adidas shoes made in Vietnam. Please take a moment to look at the label, see where your soap, noodles, shoes or chocolates were made. If the label says Indonesia, please choose something else and vote for West Papua's freedom with your wallet.



MADE IN INDONESIA



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# Stop the abuse

## Call for end to six decades of violence



**Prote3ctive shield ... Indonesian security forces in West Papua**

THE call for a Pacific-wide ban on Indonesian products comes after six years of human rights abuse on Papuan people. From a slow genocide through displacement of indigenous Papuans to torture and extra-judicial killings, the abuse continues unabated.

Since 1961, over 500,000 Papuans have died at the hands of Indonesia's military and police.

That is close to the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust. But multi-billion commercial deals in the mining and timber industry have been enough to shut the eyes, ears and mouths of the international community.

The Pacific Conference of Churches has four members in West Papua. Indeed the PCC was founded with the help of the Gereja Kristen Injili di

Tannah Papua (Christian Evangelical Church in the Land of Papua).

Since 2014, Papuan churches have built relationships with the Pacific ecumenical family.

That has led to several meetings on the human rights situation and the possibility of resource sharing.

At its annual conference, Fiji's Methodist Church heard a motion to support the Papuan call for greater self-determination.

The church has called on the ecumenical family to support a ban on Indonesian products until a neutral international observer team is allowed to visit West Papua.

Earlier, Indonesia agreed to allow a United Nations monitoring team to visit but this never eventuated.



**Talking trash ... youth with a Nativity scene made from discarded materials**

# Christmas with junk

RUBBISH picked up along the foreshore of Fiji's capital, Suva, has been transformed into a Nativity scene.

Young people built images of Joseph and Mary from bottle tops, while styrofoam was transformed into a cow.

Discarded pieces of plastic piping became the frame of the stable while Baby Jesus was formed

out of pieces of plastic and wrapped in cloth thrown away by home owners.

The Nativity scene was mounted in the Suva Central Business District on a busy thoroughfare used by commuters and people travelling to the main Government Buildings.

"We want to encourage people to give each other the gift of a healthy ocean this Christmas," said

organiser, Bedi Racule.

"Hopefully, young people will see this as an inspiration to transform junk into art and advocacy material."

Young people gathered at the Pacific Conference of Churches front yard to launch the scene and prayer for better stewardship of waterways, the ocean and creation as a whole.

## Care for fishermen and crew

FISHERMEN and crew on regional fishing vessels must be treated with justice.

That's the message regional churches delivered at the 19th Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in Vietnam.

Research has shown that fishermen and crew operating out of Pacific ports often receive low wages and live in harsh conditions for months at sea. "We also need to think about their families - wives and children who spend months without their husbands and fathers," PCC Development Manager. Netani Rika said.

"This places enormous strain on marriage and the home, especially when families have high expectations and the monetary return is so low. "The disappointment and frustration often leads to violence."

The PCC partnered with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to attend the WCPFC and provide communications support, highlighting the poor conditions faced by crew members.

The WCPFC has resolved to address conditions at sea as an ongoing activity into 2023 and beyond.



**WWF®**





The origin .... PCC General Secretary, Reverend James Bhagwan at Lifou, Kanaky

## Kanaky to host 2023 assembly

THE Pacific Conference of Churches will gather in Kanaky for its 2023 general Assembly. General Secretary, Reverend James Bhagwan, met elders of the Eglise Protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle Calédonie to discuss details of the event.

Bhagwan travelled to Lifou, site of the first PCC General Assembly in 1966 to hear from the local congregation about their preparations.

The PCC is involved with the local Kanaky church in the area of youth empowerment and self-determination.

# No to seabed mining

ADVOCATES against deep Sea Mining have gathered after three years of meeting on-line.

The 30 representatives met at Pacific Harbour, Fiji to discuss lessons learned and a strategy to stop DSM. Countries represented were Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Niue, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Kiribati, West Papua, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Maohi Nui and Fiji.

Facilitated by the Pacific Network on Globalisation, the event was supported by PIANGO, Pacific 2030, WWF, Pacific Pacific Conference of Churches and



Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN). The organisations have formed an alliance known as the Pacific Blue Line.

This comprises regional and national CSOs, environmental organisations, scientists and academics advocating for a global ban on deep sea mining. During their three-day meeting the participants raised the Morning Star flag, symbol of self-determination rights for West Papua.

PIANGO Executive Director Emeline Ilohahia said Pacific CSOs would continue to push the human rights issue for West Papua at the policy decision making level with the leaders. "While we remember the people of West Papua, particularly the women and girls, who are suffering because of their fight to live independently, we have a role to expand our areas of campaign by bringing more people to the forum," Ilohahia said

"We should shift our focus from emotional campaign to targeting at least 10 people, youths especially to join the movement as part of our awareness." Participants took two minutes of silence to remember West Papua.