August 10, 2011

The Honorable Eni F. H. Faleomavaega
Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and Global Environment
2422 Rayburn Office Building
Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
433, Russell Senate Office Building
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Donald Payne
2209 Rayburn Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shella Jackson Lee
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate:

On October 25-26, 2010, in Jayapura, Papua National Collective Leaders declared unity and pledged to avoid adopting contradicting positions in West Papua. The Collective Leaders have begun to organize the struggle of West Papuans for independence from Indonesia.

We the Collective Leaders of Papua under Papua National Consensus wish to express special appreciation to Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Congressman Donald Payne, Congresswoman Shella Jackson Lee
and Senator Patrick J. Leahy and other members of Congress for their efforts to bring Peace and Justice to Papua and West Papua.

The Indonesian government has failed to protect the rights of the indigenous people of Papua and West Papua or to provide them with basic services in the area of health care, education or employment opportunities. According to a 2004 Yale University study, over 100,000 people of Papua and West Papua have been killed in decades of violence at the hands of Indonesian security forces and Indonesian central government policies. The Indonesian central government has sought to assure control of Papua and West Papua through the build up of security and intelligence forces as well as through its transmigration/immigration programs which have as a principal objective the marginalization of the Papuan people.

The Indonesian government has also maintained unilateral control of the natural resources of Papua and West Papua, exploiting these resources in a way that has both devastated the environment and directed benefits to Indonesian and foreign interests and away from the Papuan people. Indigenous people of Papua and West Papua face marginalization and the prospect cultural and social extinction in Papua. Indonesian policy toward Papua and West Papua have totally failed the Papuan people.

The Papuan National Leadership and people of Papua and West Papua will convene a third Papua National Congress on October 16-19, 2011 in Jayapura. More than 5,000 people will participate. This Papua National Congress is the highest forum engaged in political decision making regarding the future of Papua and West Papua. This third Papua National Congress will draft and ratify a Constitution and create a new national body, The "Papua National Council." This Council will elect leaders for Papua and West Papua and also formally recover and restore the independence of West Papua which was lost to Indonesian annexation on December 1, 1961.

We ask that the United States recognize this decision. The Papua National Leadership also requests that the United States government continue its efforts to protect the rights of the indigenous people of Papua and West Papua. Given the persistant failure of the Indonesian government to provide for the security of Papuans or to assure that their fundamental human rights are protected or to assure accountability before the law of those security forces who commit violence against Papuan civilians, we wish to raise with you the need for some form of International Peace Keeping Force to protect the papuan people.
God bless America and God bless West Papua.

Sincerely

ONE PEOPLE ONE SOUL

FORKORUS YABOISEMBUT, SPD

EDISON WAROMI, SH

DRS/ALBERTH S. KALIELE

PDT EMETUS HERMAN AWOM

ELIEZER AWOM

DRS SEPTINUS PAIKI