[YOUR ADDRESS LINE 1]
[ADDRESS LINE 2]
[TOWN/CITY]
[COUNTY]
[POSTCODE]
[DATE]
[YOUR EMAIL]

Dear [CONGRESSIONAL REP OR SENATOR NAME]

My name is [NAME] and you are a representative of mine.

I am writing to you concerning the situation in Indonesian-occupied **West Papua.**

Since Indonesia took over West Papua (bordering Papua New Guinea) from the Netherlands in 1963, there have been persistent and long-running accusations of severe human rights abuses, which **may amount to genocide**.[[1]](#endnote-2) Perhaps hundreds of thousands of Indigenous West Papuans have been killed by the Indonesian police and military.

There is a huge Indigenous struggle for independence and self-determination on the ground. West Papuans were promised the chance to freely determine their destiny in a UN-sponsored referendum in 1969 – but it never took place.

In late 2019, the largest protests in West Papuan history erupted in response to severe racial abuse and violence at the hands of Indonesian security services and nationalist gangs.[[2]](#endnote-3) Sadly, the US government provides training and support for the Indonesian occupation forces.

Herman Wainggai is the representative of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua in the US. Benny Wenda, the liberation movement’s leader, has been based in exile in the UK since 2003-4. He founded the International Parliamentarians for West Papua, comprised of over 150 former and current parliamentarians.[[3]](#endnote-4)

I hope you will take this issue seriously and sign the West Papua Declaration of the International Parliamentarians for West Papua.[[4]](#endnote-5)

The people of West Papua need all forms of support. The United States government helped engineer the Indonesia invasion of West Papua in the 1960s, and holds the key to their freedom today. Anything you can do to raise this issue is deeply appreciated.

Many thanks – I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

1. <https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/Intellectual_Life/West_Papua_final_report.pdf>; <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1270&context=gsp>; <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=651> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/31/an-earthquake-racism-rage-and-rising-calls-for-freedom-in-papua>; <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-19/west-papuans-barricaded-arrested-teargassed-by-indonesian-police/11424990> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.ipwp.org/uk-all-party-parliamentary-group-appg-on-west-papua/>; <https://www.ipwp.org/parliamentarians/> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.ipwp.org/join-ipwp/> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)