



MSG Secretariat
Secretariat du GFLM
Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

Press Release

Office of the MSG Chair

Koohne, Kanaky-New Caledonia, 16 September 2014.

On September 11, in Port Vila where he lived for several years, was buried John Otto Ondawame, one of the leaders in exile of the OPM liberation movement of West Papua, weakened for several months by a long illness.

It was on his initiative as chief negotiator of the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation (WPNCL) to bring the WPNCL bid for membership to the MSG at the Leaders 19th Summit in June 2013 in Noumea, and won the MSG solidarity to the people of West Papua.

Born in 1953 in the Mimika Region of West Papua, he enlisted early in the resistance movement after the invasion of his country by Indonesia in 1969 and obtained political asylum in Sweden in 1979 where he began his life-long work lobbying to free West Papua. He obtained a Graduate Diploma from the University of Uppsala and migrated to Australia he obtained more college degrees, including a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Australian National University in 2000.

It was on that date that joined the "West Papua project" of which he became the coordinator, which aims to promote peaceful dialogue between the people of West Papua and Indonesia and promote conflict resolution as a viable alternative to the current conflict.

In 2003, he moved to Port Vila where he continued his representation of the movement for a free West Papua and work to reunite all factions, both within West Papua and those scattered around the world factions.

The Vanuatu government of Prime Minister John Natuman will host in the coming weeks in Port Vila a meeting of different factions of the West Papua nationalist movement for unification and to prepare negotiations and dialogue with the Indonesian government, in line with the decision of the MSG Leaders Special Summit of June 2013 in Port Moresby.

The MSG Presidency bows to the memory of Comrade Otto Ondawame and offers its condolences to his wife and his son Jakob.

The MSG Chair, Mr Victor Tutugoro

