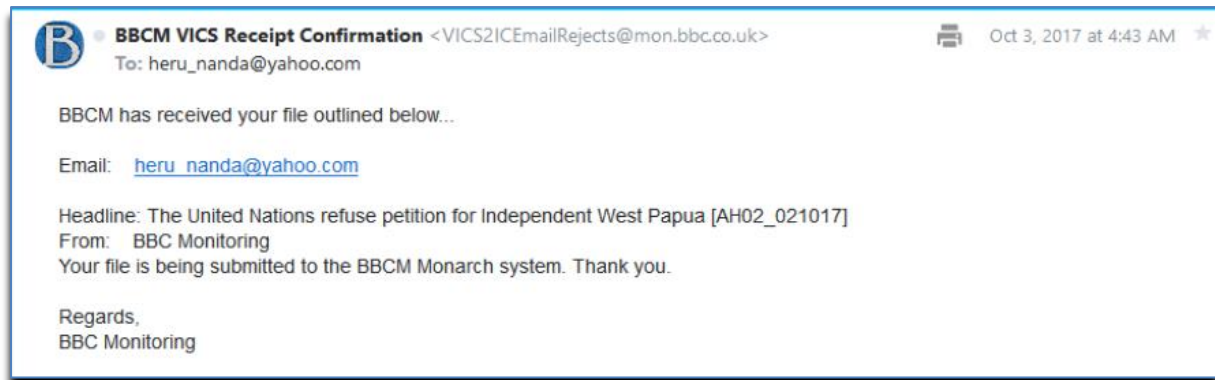


# The United Nations Refuse Petition for Independent West Papua



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The De-colonization Committee of the UN, Rafael Ramirez, has said that it is impossible to accept the petition [against the Indonesian government] for an Independent West Papua. Not only did he say that such a petition was beyond the mandate given to his office, but he also explained that West Papua was a territory which was an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia.

Before refusing the petition, the Committee had held a hearing where Benny Wenda, the International spokesman for the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), presented the petition signed by 1.8 million of West Papuan people demanding an Independent West Papua.

[The present Indonesian “West Papua” (3.7 million people) comprises of four provinces, namely, Special Region of West Papua, Papua, Teluk Cendrawasih, and West Papua.]

The De-colonization Committee of the UN which is also known as C24 is in charge of monitoring the progress of former colonies to become independent states.

Not only does Benny Wenda’s petition demand that the UN appoint a special representative to investigate the possible violation against human rights taking place in Indonesian West Papua, but it also asks for the UN to put the province on the list of the De-colonization Committee agenda and makes sure about its rights for self-determination by holding an Internationally supervised referendum (for the province).

According to Rafael Ramirez, however, his office has to refuse the petition since there are only 17 countries identified by the UN as “Regions without having their own governments.”

Mentioning that his office has been “manipulated” for political [vested] interests, he said that he supported the Indonesian position in the sense that West Papua was an integral part of the country.

In line with Rafael Ramirez’s statement, the spokesperson of the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra Sade Bimantara said about the UN’s backing the 1969 referendum, concluding that Papua and West Papua are Indonesian provinces.

Source: [sindonews.com, suara-islam/read/kabar/internasional/23733/PBB-Tolak-Usulan-Kemerdekaan-Papua-Barat](http://sindonews.com/suara-islam/read/kabar/internasional/23733/PBB-Tolak-Usulan-Kemerdekaan-Papua-Barat), “PBB Tolak Usulan Kemerdekaan Papua Barat (The United Nations refuse petition for an Independent West Papua)”, in Indonesian, 01 Sept 17.

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