

WAIWHETU PEACE GROUP

June 2014 flier

Theo Fink reports on our last speaker and comments on West Papua

Introducing Chris McKenzie, speaker at our next meeting, 10 June, 7.30 pm

David Shearer our speaker at the 13 May meeting was both informative and enlightening and spoke to a wide range of topics related to his position as spokes person to Foreign Affairs for the Labour Party.

With regard to West Papua he acknowledged the need to have people on the ground. I feel we slipped up in not enquiring as to how this will be achieved. Indonesia in spite of comments alleging greater opening up of the area to journalists, still makes it very difficult, and I have it on very reliable information, that there has only been Indonesian journalists there. I received an answer from NZ First to my question asking about their policy toward the Indonesian occupation and the answer and my subsequent questions are here for you to read.

In response to a request for New Zealand First's policy their executive assistant responded:

New Zealand First supports self-determination for those populations where there is a clear historical separate entity of a nation. Self-government or at least autonomy within a larger government is important.

Theo Fink replied:

We were hoping that self determination would be the conclusion. Our deep concern of course is the road to achieve this, and as you will no doubt be aware, this is the same nation that behaved so shockingly in East Timor. Given the on going reports of excessive force, torture and death of indigenous West Papuans, we would welcome comment on whether NZ First would be content to carry on with training their Armed Forces and Police. As things are with our Government's foreign policy, it is hard not to conclude that trade is the determinant and that the lives of these people are secondary to not rocking the boat with Indonesia. N.Z. played a major roll in freeing East Timor without adverse affect on trade. Given the history of this shocking saga, surely more direct pressure to open up the whole

area and give proper access to the world press is the least we should push for strongly. This is something every West Papuan I have heard has been requesting.

**Chris McKenzie - speaker at our next meeting: Tuesday 10
June 7.30 pm**

Chris is NZ First candidate in the Te Tai Hauauru Electorate.

He has been associated with Peace Groups and has attended annual meetings at Parihaka.

"Political strategist Chris McKenzie has been named as the Maori Party's candidate for the Te Tai Hauauru electorate.

He has been selected this weekend as the person to replace party co-leader Tariana Turia who is stepping down as MP at next year's general election.

Mr McKenzie, 44, is a political strategist with a senior management, small business governance and iwi leadership background.

A father of four, he and his wife Mal have moved to Tawa from his home town of Tokoroa.

Previous roles have included being the lead Treaty settlement negotiator for Ngati Raukawa, a self-employed consultant, education manager at Raukawa Trust Board and teacher at Tokoroa High School.

He is a member of the Te Ohu Kaimoana electoral college, former chairman of the Raukawa Settlement Trust and just recently gained a Masters Degree in Business Administration." - John Maslin, Wanganui Chronicle December 2013.