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Is an Independent West Papuan State Possible?

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Abstract
The very unpredictability of politics is the greatest hope for those seeking an independent West Papuan state. Here, some of the key issues occupying West Papuan nationalists and observers of the region's politics are addressed, including whether West Papuans are entitled to their own state; whether such a state would be politically and economically viable; and what chance Papuans have of forging their national vision into a constitutional reality.

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Is an Independent West Papuan State Possible?

The issue of West Papua’s independence has been a contentious one, with supporters arguing for self-determination and those against it citing various reasons such as history, geopolitics, and economic ties. This article explores the possibility of an independent West Papua state.

The West Papuan Movement for Independence

The West Papuan Movement for Independence (OeM) is a political organization advocating for the independence of West Papua. The movement has been active since the early 1960s and has gained support from various international organizations and leaders.

The First and Second Independence Movements

The first Independence Movement was formed in 1960, and it was led by the West Papuan National Committee (KNPB). However, the movement was met with strong opposition from Indonesia, which is the country that currently governs West Papua.

The second Independence Movement was formed in 1977 and is led by the West Papuan Liberation Army (TNI-PD). This movement has been recognized by the United Nations as a legitimate armed group, but its activities have been met with violence from Indonesian security forces.

The International Community's Stance

The United Nations has expressed its support for the right to self-determination, but it has not recognized West Papua’s independence. The United States and other Western countries have been cautious about recognizing West Papua’s independence due to geopolitical and economic reasons.

The Future of West Papua

The future of West Papua is uncertain. The Indonesian government has been working to stabilize the region and prevent further protests and violence. However, the West Papuan Movement for Independence continues to call for self-determination and independence.

Conclusion

The possibility of an independent West Papua state remains a contentious issue. While the movement for independence has gained support from various international organizations and leaders, the future of West Papua is uncertain. The Indonesian government continues to work on stabilizing the region and preventing further protests and violence, but the West Papuan Movement for Independence continues to call for self-determination and independence.

Relevant Resources

- West Papua Tribune
- The West Papuan Movement for Independence
- West Papua: The Forgotten Voice

For further information, please visit the West Papua Tribune website or contact the West Papuan Movement for Independence directly.