



Pacific Conference of Churches

Serving the Pasifika Household of God

www.pcc.org.fj

Moderator

Rev. Elder Leatulagi Faalevao

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General Secretary

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Friday, 5th July, 2024

To PCC Member Churches,
To PCC Member National Councils of Churches
To Ecumenical Partners

CALL FOR SUNDAY 14 JULY TO BE OBSERVED AS FREEDOM SUNDAY FOR KANAKY AND MA'OHU NUI

Dear sisters, brothers and friends of the Pasifika Household of God,

Warm Pacific Greetings from the PCC Secretariat!!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our sisters and brothers in Kanaky

Next Sunday, the 14th of July is the National Day of France. The date commemorates the storming of the Bastille, a medieval armoury, fortress and political prison, on 14 July 1789. The Bastille then represented royal authority in the centre of Paris and was seen by the revolutionaries as a symbol of the monarchy's abuse of power. Its fall was the flashpoint of the French Revolution.

At a time when our sisters and brothers in Kanaky continue to suffer from the colonial political and socio-economic colonisation by France, which has led to outbreaks of violence, particularly by youth who are deeply frustrated by the French government's duplicitous approach to Kanaky's decolonisation, and poverty, lack of equitable development and repression of the dignity of Kanaks; and at a time when our family in Ma'ohu Nui also continues to struggle for the decolonisation process in their islands, as well as justice for 50 years of nuclear devastation on their fenua and people – this national day is a mockery of the phrase **"Liberty, Equality and Fraternity"** proclaimed during the French Revolution, inscribed in the French 1958 constitution and today an integral part of French national heritage.

At a time when the cry of self-determination echoes from many communities within our Pasifika Household of God, and the commemoration of national days and other events by colonisers are being challenged. We are reminded by our commitments made at the 12th General Assembly that:

- We affirm that Kanaky has always been and must remain Pasifika.
- We stand ready to support Kanaky's pursuit of independence from France through a referendum promised by the French republic.

- We commit to supporting efforts to improve the wellbeing of the Kanak people.
- We will voyage together for the holistic Self-Determination of Kanaky, Maohi, West Papua, Bougainville, the Land now called Australia, Aotearoa and other territories who seek liberation and justice.

With these commitments in mind, we humbly ask that all PCC members mark Sunday 14th July, 2024 as **Kanaky and Ma'ohi Nui Freedom Sunday** (noting West Papua has a special day on 1 December that we already commemorate).

The revised common lectionary texts for Sunday 14th July are significant for reflecting on the struggle for truth, justice and freedom and a God who loves and liberates:

- Psalm 24 (The Earth is the Lord's),
- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 (David dances before the Ark of the Covenant),
- Ephesians 1:3-14 (God predestined the world for love and this love is for all humanity), and
- Mark 6:14-29 (Herod's execution of John the Baptist)

We ask that intercessory prayers please include Kanaky, Ma'ohi Nui and other communities struggling for decolonisation, self-determination and the flourishing of indigenous and vulnerable communities.

Attached to this letter are our most recent PCC documents on Kanaky. We hope to share messages from our communities in Kanaky and Ma'ohi Nui in the days leading up to 14 July.

It is our deep hope that our prayers for Kanaky and Ma'ohi Nui this Sunday will be heard as a cry of the Pasifika Household of God on earth as in heaven.

My sincere appreciation for your kind consideration of this humble request.

I remain your servant for Christ and the Peace of the Pasifika Household of God,



James Shri Bhagwan (Rev.)
General Secretary – Pacific Conference of Churches



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DELIVERY TEXT

Statement on the 'Question of New Caledonia' to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples United Nations Headquarters - 10 June 2024

The chair, members of this august committee, petitioners and observers.

Greetings from the Pasifika Household of God. May the grace and peace of God be upon you all.

In June, 2022, I was here as a Petitioner on behalf of faith and civil society organisations of our Pacific region, home to the French colonised territories of Kanaky New Caledonia and Maohi Nui French Polynesia, to raise our concerns on the failure of the referendum process in Kanaky under the Noumea Accord, through the actions of the French Government to fast track the 3rd referendum, despite local, regional and global pleas.

In the two years since, France has taken further actions that contradict its responsibilities as an administering power, to uphold one of the most fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter - the fundamental right of all peoples to be free, free from colonial rule.

France has turned a deaf ear to untiring and peaceful calls of the indigenous people of Kanaky-New Caledonia and other pro-independence supporters for a new political process, founded on justice, peaceful dialogue and consensus and has demonstrated a continued inability and unwillingness to remain a neutral and trustworthy party under the Noumea Accord.

Today, on behalf of Pacific Churches and Civil Society we reiterate our collective concerns that we have made in a number of statements on the current situation in Kanaky.

Recalling these statements and on behalf of the Église Protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle-Calédonie¹, and the Pacific Regional Non-Governmental Organisation Alliance², the Pacific Conference of Churches calls:

1. For the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the draft constitutional law seeking to unfreeze the local electorate roll. Noting that the Presidents of four other French overseas territories³ have called for the withdrawal of the voting changes;
2. On the French Government to reconsider, as an essential step to de-escalating tensions in the territory, any further deployment of armed forces to Kanaky;
3. On the French Presidency to cease any further attempts to enforce externally designed and controlled pathways to determine the political future of Kanaky, including a possible referendum in France to unfreeze the territory's electorate roll;
4. On other parties to the Noumea Accord to heed the repeated and non-violent requests of the FLNKS and other pro-independence voices, over the last 2-3 years, to allow more conducive conditions for dialogue and negotiation for a better political agreement, and to give the process all the time necessary to do so;
5. For the establishment of an Eminent Persons Group, comprising French, Pacific Islands and international personalities, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum and the C-24, as a matter of urgency to mediate between the parties and ensure the best conditions to enable a just and peaceful dialogue process for the territory's political future; and finally,
6. Beyond the political dialogue process, commitments to be made and kept for culturally appropriate community trauma healing for all communities in Kanaky and for community dialogue processes, particularly between Kanak and Caldoche for peacebuilding as well as nation building.

The very fact that Kanaky New Caledonia is an agenda item in this meeting and that of the 4th Committee is a reminder that their decolonisation is a matter of 'WHEN', not 'if' – and a 'when' that needs to be sooner rather than later.

May God's blessings of justice, love and liberation be with all the people of Kanaky as they seek their own equality, liberty and fraternity.

Oleti Atrqatr (Thank you in the Kanak Drehu dialect).

¹ EPKNC is a member of the Pacific Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches

² The Pacific Conference of Churches is a member of the Pacific Regional NGO Alliance

³ La Réunion, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana

Presented by



Rev. James Shri Bhagwan

General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches

APPENDIX:

1. *Pacific Conference of Churches' Statement on The Current Situation in Kanaky New Caledonia – 16 May, 2024*
2. *Statement by the Alliance of Pacific Solidarity Groups “Pacific groups call on the UN and Pacific Leaders to intervene in Kanaky-New Caledonia” – 20 May, 2024*
3. *Église Protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle-Calédonie Open letter to Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic – 5 June, 2024*
1. *Statement by the Alliance of Pacific Solidarity Groups “Liberation, Not Repression: Macron Must Start Listening to the indigenous people of Kanaky-New Caledonia” - 5 June, 2024*



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United Nations Headquarters - 10 June 2024

The chair and members of this august committee, petitioners and observers.

I greet you on behalf of the Pasifika Household of God. May the grace and peace of God be upon you all.

In June, 2022, I was here as a Petitioner on behalf of faith and civil society organisations of the Pacific, home to the French colonised territories of Kanaky New Caledonia and Maohi Nui French Polynesia, to raise our concerns on the failure of the referendum process in Kanaky under the Noumea Accord, through the actions of the French Government to fast track the 3rd referendum, despite local, regional and global pleas.

Sadly, in the two years since then, France has taken further actions that contradict its responsibilities as the Administering power, entrusted by this august body, to oversee the liberation of Kanaky-New Caledonia. In so doing, France has failed its responsibilities to uphold one of the most fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter - the fundamental right of all peoples to be free from colonial rule; of every human being to be free,

For two years, the call of the indigenous people of Kanaky-New Caledonia and other pro-independence and fair-minded voices for a new political process, founded on justice, peaceful dialogue and consensus, have been loud and clear. They have been patient, untiring and peaceful.

In stark contrast, France has chosen to pursue, forcefully, and through institutional pathways with pretences of democratic process, such measures as the passage of constitutional changes to local electoral rolls that would reverse, rather than advance, the people’s aspirations for sovereignty. This and other behaviour such as the appointment of partisan officials into administrative positions that may be hostile to the self-determination efforts bear witness to the continued inability and unwillingness by France to remain a neutral and trustworthy party under the Noumea Accord.

Today, in the wake of peaceful protests against France's structural violence, the eruption of physical violence, symptomatic of the frustrations of a people whose voices for political, social and economic justice have been ignored consistently, now threatens the hard-earned achievements gained over the course of three decades of relative peace.

I come here again on behalf of Pacific Churches and Civil Society to reiterate our collective concern, concerns that we have made in a number of statements on the current situation in Kanaky.

Recalling these statements by the church and civil society, as found in the appendix to this intervention, on behalf of the Eglise Protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle Calédonie, member of the Pacific Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches and on behalf of the Pacific Non-Governmental Organisation Alliance, the Pacific Conference of Churches calls:

1. For the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the draft constitutional law seeking to unfreeze the local electorate roll. We note here that the presidents of four other French overseas territories – La Réunion, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana have called for the withdrawal of the voting changes;
2. On the French Government to reconsider, as an essential step to de-escalating tensions in the territory, any further deployment of armed forces to Kanaky;
3. On the French Presidency to cease any further attempts to enforce externally designed and controlled pathways to determine the political future of Kanaky, including a possible referendum in France to unfreeze the territory's electorate roll;
4. On other parties to the Noumea Accord to heed the repeated and non-violent requests of the FLNKS and other pro-independence voices, over the last 2-3 years, to allow more conducive conditions for dialogue and negotiation for a better political agreement, and to give the process all the time necessary to do so;
5. For the establishment of an Eminent Persons Group, comprising French, Pacific Islands and international personalities, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum and the C-24, as a matter of urgency to mediate between the parties and ensure the best conditions to enable a just and peaceful dialogue process for the territory's political future; and finally,
6. Beyond the political dialogue process, commitments to be made and kept for culturally appropriate community trauma healing for all communities in Kanaky and for community dialogue processes, particularly between Kanak and Caldoche for peacebuilding as well as nation building.

The very fact that Kanaky New Caledonia is an agenda item in this meeting and that of the 4th Committee is a reminder that their decolonisation is a matter of ‘WHEN’, not ‘if’ – and a ‘when’ that needs to be sooner rather than later.

May God’s blessings of justice, love and liberation be with all the people of Kanaky as they seek their own equality, liberty and fraternity.

Oleti Atrqatr (Thank you in the Kanak Drehu dialect).



Rev. James Shri Bhagwan

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16th May, 2024

PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES' STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN KANAKY NEW CALEDONIA

The Pacific Conference of Churches stands in deep solidarity with our sisters and brothers of Kanaky in this time of political crisis that has led to the eruptions of violence these past few days and nights.

The violence that the country is currently experiencing are once again endangering the dignity of the life of every human being in the territory.

As we pray and call for a cessation of violence, by all sides, we are also cognisant of the reality that what we have witnessed, not only over the past few days, but in the months since the fist of the French Government began to squeeze tighter on the throats of the Kanak people as they continue to cry from the depths of their hearts for their own experience of liberty, equity and fraternity.

It cannot be ignored that eruption of violence is the manifestation of the pain, trauma and frustration of a community who have consistently had their indigenous and political rights undermined, by a French government whose rhetoric of being a "Pacific nation" is exposed by its actions.

The situation in which Kanaky New Caledonia finds itself is an expression of the political failure to take responsibility for the emancipation of the Kanak people and the communities present in the territory and for its common destiny. We note that more than thirty years after the Nouméa Accords, the political position of the French state does not seem to have changed, and its neutrality with regard to the decolonisation process undertaken with the country is no longer honoured.

On 2 April, the Senate voted unhesitatingly to unfreeze the electoral roll, pretending to ignore one of the weapons of those who want to kill the Nouméa Accord and bury the question of full sovereignty once and for all. On Wednesday 15 May, the National Assembly voted in favour of the constitutional bill to unfreeze New Caledonia's electoral body.

This follows numerous requests for a postponement of the 3rd referendum from pro-independence activists, politicians, historians, associations, churches and NGOs to President Macron and his then Minister Mr LECORNU, to allow the Kanak and Caledonian families bereaved by Covid 19 to mourn. The French colonial state decided to maintain the 3rd referendum consultation, which led to a call for the non-participation of the living forces in favour of independence so as not to take part in the plot hatched by French colonialism. This facilitated a victory for the "no" vote of 96.50%, for a turnout of 43.87% without the indigenous Kanak people and the pro-independence political parties, compared with a turnout of 81% in 2018 and 85.69% in 2020.

As a reminder, the French government did not respect the promise made by the Prime Minister at the time, Mr Edouard PHILIPPE, not to initiate the referendum before the 2022 presidential election. The consequences of this "passage en force" on the 3rd referendum on 12 December 2021 are still with us today.

After 20 years of consensual management, the breakdown in dialogue between the French government and the independence fighters and the Kanak people is now a reality. And the close collaboration between the French government and the local right-wing (pro-French) is in the open, between the appointment of Mme BACKES as Secretary of State for Citizenship, who also holds the post of President of the Southern Province, and the appointment of 2 New Caledonian MPs as rapporteurs for the various reforms undertaken by the State on the New Caledonian dossier in the National Assembly, Mr Metzdorf & Dunoyer.

Thus, without fear or regard for the Kanak people, the French colonial state proudly displays its impartiality in dealing with the post-Matignon-Oudinot and Nouméa Accord issues.

The process of humanisation is a challenge for the people of Kanaky New Caledonia, who are rich in different heritages and multiple cultures, challenged by globalisation and its effects and consequences. They need to engage in a great palaver once again. When the 'duologue' is vital and unavoidable, this discussion will give rise to a new vision of the spoken word that can build the future Do Kamô, whose values are already anticipated: Kanak and customary values, Oceanian values, Christian values, republican values.

In 1979, the Evangelical Church in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands adopted the Guarou Declaration at its synod, which proclaimed the Kanak people's claim to independence from the political situation of the time. The Church took a stand against all forms of injustice and exactions committed by a colonial state and its oppressive system, after deep theological reflection on the theme of human liberation from the chains of oppression and dehumanisation created by a destructive colonial system.

In line with this stance, at the 12th General Assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches in November 2023, the Protestant Church of Kanaky New Caledonia

proposed "DoKamo: Christ Transforms Us into Your New Humanity" as its regional theme. An encouragement to our Pasifika and Oikumene family to reflect on the situation of our humanity and its capacity for resilience and transformation in the face of the challenges of modern society in the Pasifika House of God.

The concept of DoKamo, which comes to us from the Ajie-Arô region, invites us to a process of humanisation and transformation. Introducing the idea of a humanity in permanent evolution, the concept of DoKamo underlines the profound multidimensional connection of human beings with their land and the nature that makes it up and defines them, with their ancestors and their intangible heritage, with the members of their community and with others. This extraordinarily rich interconnection should lead us towards a more conscious, higher existence. While the concept of the human being as a permanent work in progress involves a perpetual search for being and becoming, for existence in harmonious relationship with its different forms of relationship, one direction is clearly defined, that of the dignity of life. The transformation of the human being is aimed solely at building or equipping the human being with values, skills, mastery, knowledge, know-how, interpersonal skills and knowledge of the future, so that he or she can fully exercise the first human profession: living. The Kanak existential vision demands, through its education, to live fully in dignity.

This requirement enables them to define their relationship with the cosmos, with nature, with others, with foreigners, with time, with space, with words, with their environment, etc.

The new human being is called upon to seek his "Do Kamoïté" in order to live together in peace and love in the country.

The Pacific Conference of Churches therefore urges:

1. The members of the Église protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle-Calédonie, to sister churches, to sister religions and to all believers in Kanaky, to appeal for prayer, solidarity and compassion in this time of crisis: all human life is precious and sacred, whatever one's political opinions or ethnic origin. We all possess, as we are, the sacred gift of life that God offers us;
2. The political, customary and religious leaders, and all who call Kanaky home, to practice responsibility, calm and peace in this time of crisis;
3. The State and Government of New Caledonia to ban the sale and use of firearms;
4. Our members churches and national councils of churches, and to regional and global partners, for prayer and solidarity to support the voice of the people in the region and internationally. We further call the World Council of Churches, through the Commission of Churches on International Affairs to make this issue a priority of its work through engagement with the French Government and the United Nations Committees on Decolonisation (C24 and 4th Committee) in both its Geneva and New York offices.

5. The French State to honour its impartial role in the decolonisation process by immediately withdrawing the constitutional bill to unfreeze the electorate and to immediately initiate an equitable dialogue process, facilitated by a neutral third party; and
6. The UN to lead an impartial and competent dialogue mission to monitor critically the alarming situation in the country.

In service of the Pasifika Household,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Shri Bhagwan', written in a cursive style.

James Shri Bhagwan (Rev.)



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday 20th May 2024

Pacific groups call on the UN and Pacific Leaders to intervene in Kanaky-New Caledonia

France unfit to administer decolonisation process

The Pacific Regional Non-Governmental Organizations (PRNGOs) Alliance joins the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) and other Kanaky-New Caledonia leaders calling for calm and peace amidst violence and unrest in the Pacific Island territory sparked by the

French Government's insistence on proceeding with proposed constitutional changes expressly rejected by pro-independence groups.

The Alliance also reaffirms its stance in solidarity with the people of Kanaky-New Caledonia in their ongoing peaceful quest for self-determination and condemns the Macron Government for its poorly hidden agenda of prolonging colonial control over the territory.

For the last several months, Kanak leaders had called repeatedly for the withdrawal of the proposed constitutional changes to local electoral rolls that would endanger the indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and threaten ongoing peaceful dialogue about future arrangements for the territory.

The changes, proposed unilaterally by the Macron Government, would remove voting eligibility provisions that have been preserved and protected under the 1998 Noumea Accords as a safeguard for indigenous peoples against demographic changes that could make them a minority in their own land and block the path to freedom.

Despite repeated protests and warnings that Macron's constitutional modification initiative could end a 30-year period of relative peace under the Accords, the proposals, already passed by the French Senate, were again pushed through its National Assembly early last week.

Growing frustration, especially amongst Kanak youth, at what is seen locally as yet another French betrayal of the Kanaky people and other local communities seeking peaceful transition, has since erupted in riots and violence in Noumea and other regions. Sadly, there have been 4 confirmed fatalities – 3 Kanaky youth, one a woman, and a French policeman. Our partners in Noumea confirm that pro-French militias were also involved in the armed clashes.

We are also informed that the deteriorated security situation is likely to be made worse by humanitarian challenges due to the damage to shops and other outlets for daily necessities and medicines.

Our prayers are with the families and communities who mourn the loss of loved ones as well as with all people of Kanaky-New Caledonia during this time of profound national grief.

This week, as the United Nations Decolonisation Committee (C24) regional seminar sits in Caracas, Venezuela, to hear updates on the list of non-self-governing-territories to be decolonised, France imposes a state of emergency in Kanaky-New Caledonia and sends more troops to the Pacific territory to restore order.

Ironically, its current overtures for law and order, and for peace are in stark contrast to (mis)use of institutional processes to inflict violence on the Kanaky people as clearly evidenced by recent behavior in Paris.

Whilst local customary, political, and church leaders have deplored all violence and taken responsibility in addressing growing youth frustrations at the lack of progress on the political

front, loyalist voices and French government representatives have continued to fuel narratives that serve to blame independence supporters for hostilities.

Predictably, Macron has ‘summoned’ all political leaders to Paris for immediate dialogue. As the Kanaky people have stated previously, decisions about Kanaky-New Caledonia cannot be taken in France.

Clearly, the French government, under Macron, is unable and unfit to oversee this decolonisation process. The UN must step in to restore a more just and peaceful transition.

In solidarity with the people of Kanaky-New Caledonia, We, members of the PRNGOs Alliance and solidarity partners, CALL:

1. On all political, customary, community and church leaders in Kanaky-New Caledonia to continue exercising responsibility for restoring calm and peace within their respective jurisdictions in the territory.
2. On all Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, particularly Fiji and Papua New Guinea as our regional representatives on the UNC24, to support the Kanaky-New Caledonia delegation to the regional seminar in Caracas, Venezuela, and the substantive UNC24 Session in New York in June 2024, in its efforts to highlight the failures of the French Government as a neutral administrator of the territory’s decolonisation process.
3. On the French Presidency to withdraw, immediately, its unilaterally-imposed project of removing constitutional provisions that safeguard pro-independence voters, particularly the indigenous people of Kanaky-New Caledonia from demographic changes that could make them a minority in their own land; and
4. On the United Nations and Pacific Leaders to send a neutral mission to oversee and mediate dialogue between all parties to the Noumea Accords and resulting political process.

Endorsed By:

- **Australian Association for Pacific Studies**
- **Aotearoa Human Rights Foundation**
- **Action Station**
- **Alliance for Future Generations**
- **350- Aotearoa**
- **Bismark Ramu Group**
- **Pacific Climate Action Network**
- **DIVA- Diverse Voices and Action for Equality**
- **Elsham Papua**
- **FCOSS - Fiji Council of Social Services**
- **FemLINKpacific**
- **FYSA- Fiji Youth SRHR Alliance**
- **LLCTC-Lauru Land Conference of Tribunal Communities**

- **MILDA- Melanesian Indigenous Land Defense Alliance**
- **Moruroa e Tatou.**
- **Nuclear Truth Project.**
- **PCC- Pacific Conference of Churches**
- **PIANGO- Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organizations**
- **PARC- Pacific Asia Resources Center**
- **Peace Movement Aotearoa**
- **PANG- Pacific Network on Globalisation**
- **Pacific Network**
- **Te Kuaka**
- **VILDD- Vanuatu Indigenous Land Defense Desk**
- **Vanuatu Human Rights Coalition**
- **YWCA- Fiji Young Women's Christian Association**
- **Youngsolwara Pacific**



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Open letter to

Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of
the French Republic

Mr. Chairman,

The President and the Board of the Protestant Church of Kanaky-New Caledonia decide, this Wednesday 05/06/2024, to transmit to you the following Declaration:

God accepts every human being as they are, without any merit on their part. His Spirit manifests itself in us, teaching us to listen to each other. The Church owes respect to the political and customary authorities, and vice versa.

In the current context, which is particularly explosive for our country, the Church's expression of faith and its fidelity to the Gospel challenge it to bear witness to and proclaim Christian hope.

God created us as free human beings, inviting us to live in trust with him. We often betray this trust because we are often confronted with a world marked by evil and misfortune.

But a breach was opened with Jesus, recognised as the Christ announced by the prophets. God's reign is already at work among us. We believe that in Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, God has taken upon himself evil, our sin. Freed by his goodness and compassion, God dwells in our frailty and thus breaks the power of death. He makes all things new!

Through his Son Jesus, we all become his children. He constantly lifts us up: from fear to confidence, from resignation to resistance, from despair to hope.

The Spirit of Pentecost encourages us to bear witness to God's love in word and deed. He calls us, together with other artisans of justice and peace, whether political or traditional, to listen to the distress and to fight the scourges of all kinds: existential concerns, social breakdowns, hatred of others, discrimination, persecution, violence, refusal to accept any limits... God himself is the source of new things and possible gifts.

We testify that the truth that the Church lives by always surpasses it.

It is therefore with respect and humility, Mr President, that we ask you :

- on the one hand, to officially record the end of the constitutional procedure for unfreezing the electorate and no longer to present it to the Versailles Congress;
- and secondly, to pursue the decolonisation project initiated by the "Nouméa Accords", which would lead to Caledonian citizenship.

If anyone can help us roll back the tombstone that is currently preventing any possible resurrection, it is you, Mr President of the Republic.

Don't be afraid to revisit this legislative process that you have set in motion and that is placing the children of God of Kanaky New Caledonia in fear, resistance and despair.

With a simple word from you, these children of God in Kanaky New Caledonia can regain their confidence and hope.

To him who is love beyond anything we can express or imagine, let us express our respect and gratitude. Thank you in advance

Your useless servant the pastor, Var Kaemo, the native of the Dehu country,

**Le président de l'EPKNC,
Pasteur Höcë KAEMO**



EPKNC
Le Président



Eglise Protestante de Kanaky Nouvelle-Calédonie

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Tél : 26-38-98 / E-Mail : epknc@epknc.nc

Lettre ouverte

à

Monsieur Emmanuel Macron,
Président de la République

Monsieur le Président,

Le président et le bureau de l'Église Protestante de Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie décide, ce mercredi 05/06/2024, de vous transmettre la Déclaration suivante :

Dieu accueille chaque être humain tel qu'il est, sans aucun mérite de sa part. Son Esprit se manifestant en nous, nous apprenant à s'écouter mutuellement. L'Église doit respect aux autorités politiques et coutumières et réciproquement.

Dans le contexte actuel particulièrement explosif pour notre pays, l'expression de foi d'une Église et sa fidélité à l'Évangile, lui défient de témoigner et de proclamer l'espérance chrétienne.

Dieu nous a créés en êtres humains libres, nous invitant à vivre en confiance avec lui. Nous trahissons souvent cette confiance car souvent confrontés à un monde marqué par le mal et le malheur.

Mais une brèche s'est ouverte avec Jésus, reconnu comme le Christ annoncé par les prophètes : le règne de Dieu est déjà à l'œuvre parmi nous. Nous croyons qu'en Jésus, le Christ crucifié et ressuscité, Dieu a pris sur lui le mal, notre péché. Libéré grâce à sa bonté et sa compassion, Dieu habite notre fragilité et brise ainsi la puissance de la mort. Il fait toutes choses nouvelles !

Par son Fils Jésus, nous devenons, nous tous, ses enfants. Il nous relève sans cesse : de la peur à la confiance, de la résignation à la résistance, du désespoir à l'espérance.

L'Esprit de Pentecôte nous encourage à témoigner de l'amour de Dieu, en paroles et en actes. Il nous appelle, avec d'autres artisans de justice et de paix, politiques ou coutumiers, à entendre les détresses et à combattre les fléaux de toutes sortes : inquiétudes existentielles, ruptures sociales, haine de l'autre, discriminations, persécutions, violences, refus de toute limite... Dieu étant lui-même la source des inédits et des dons possibles.

Nous attestons que la vérité dont l'Église vit la dépasse toujours.

C'est donc avec respect et humilité , Monsieur Le Président, que nous vous demandons :

- d'une part, d'acter officiellement la fin de la procédure constitutionnelle sur le dégel du corps électoral et de ne plus le présenter au Congrès de Versailles ;
- et d'autre part, de poursuivre le projet de décolonisation initié par les « Accords de Nouméa », qui allait déboucher sur une citoyenneté calédonienne.

Si quelqu'un doit nous aider à rouler la pierre tombale, qui empêche actuellement toutes résurrections possibles, c'est bien vous Monsieur Le Président de la République.

N'ayez pas peur de revenir sur ce processus législatif que vous avez engagé et qui place les enfants de Dieu de la Kanaky Nouvelle-Calédonie dans la peur, la résistance et le désespoir.

D'une simple parole de votre part, ces enfants de Dieu de la Kanaky Nouvelle-Calédonie peuvent retrouver confiance et espérance.

.A celui qui est amour au-delà de tout ce que nous pouvons exprimer et imaginer, disons notre respect et reconnaissance. Merci d'avance

Votre serviteur inutile le pasteur, Var Kaemo, l'indigène du pays Dehu,

Le président de l'EPKNC,
Pasteur Hōcē KAEMO



EPKNC
Le Président



Liberation, Not Repression: Macron Must Start Listening to the indigenous people of Kanaky-New Caledonia

MEDIA STATEMENT
5th June, 2024

The people of Kanaky-New Caledonia have spoken, saying yet again, any and all attempts to determine the future relationship between France and the territory, by force, and without its people, will never be accepted.

The Pacific groups, and solidarity partners therefore strongly support the affirmation of the FLNKS and other pro-independence groups that responding to the current crisis in a political and non-repressive, non-violent manner is the only pathway towards a viable solution. Macron must heed the call for an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to ensure the current crisis is resolved peacefully and impartiality is restored to the decolonisation process for the occupied territory.

A week after violence broke out in Kanaky-New Caledonia in mid-May, President Emmanuel Macron flew 10,000 miles to defuse tensions with pro-independence groups and to restore calm. Following his departure, FLNKS representatives and other pro-independence voices are neither convinced of the effectiveness of his visit nor of the genuineness of his intentions.

While we commend efforts on all sides to restore calm as well as assurances by the French

President to withdraw the controversial electoral bill that prompted the violent turn of events in the territory, we deplore:

- the ongoing deployment of additional police and armed forces into the territory bringing the total number of troops to more than 3000 in just 2 weeks, and with more to come; and
- increasing brutal treatment and repressive force by French Police and other armed units against Kanaky youth.

On good authority, we understand that there is consideration by the Macron Government to put the question of whether or not to unfreeze local electorate rolls, which will dilute the indigenous and pro-independence vote, to a referendum in France.

We are also reliably informed that the July 2024 deadlines, earlier prescribed by Macron for local parties to agree on a political formula to move the territory forward beyond the Noumea Accords timeframes, remains unchanged.

These measures can only perpetuate the cycle of repression that continues to impede the territory's decolonisation process and are to be condemned in the strongest terms!

The pace and pathway for an amicable resolution of Kanaky-New Caledonia's decolonisation challenges cannot, and must not continue to be dictated in Paris.

During the events of May 1988, this same behaviour by the French authorities – the stubborn refusal to listen to the indigenous people, the imposition of colonial will, and the use of armed force – resulted in the Ouvea Massacre, bloodshed that could and should have been avoided.

We recall these painful memories with hope that the loss of life, some 36 years ago, will not be in vain.

Moreover, the recent loss of life and livelihoods, and ultimately, continuing to withhold full sovereignty from the people of Kanaky-New Caledonia, and indeed other French 'dependencies' in the region, cannot now, or ever, be the price to pay for all unfulfilled political, geopolitical and strategic aspirations Macron still holds in our Blue Pacific region.

The Alliance, along with partners and solidarity movements, commends Pacific Governments, political institutions, church, elders and community leaders who have spoken up in support of peaceful resolution to the crisis and ultimately for the liberation of Kanaky-New Caledonia from colonial rule.

In view of the upcoming United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation (C24) substantive session in New York from the 10th - 21st June, we implore our Pacific governments, especially our permanent Missions to the United Nations and the Fiji and Papua New Guinea representatives on the C24, to ensure Kanaky-New Caledonia is not prematurely removed from the UN list of Territories to be decolonised but that the process of decolonisation be appropriately concluded.

In solidarity with the FLNKS and other pro-independence voices in Kanaky-New Caledonia, the Pacific groups and solidarity partners call:

1. For the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the draft constitutional law seeking to unfreeze the local electorate roll;
2. On the French Government to reconsider, as an essential step to de-escalating tensions in the territory, any further deployment of armed forces to Kanaky-New Caledonia;
3. On the French Presidency to cease any further attempts to enforce externally designed and controlled pathways to determine the political future of Kanaky-New Caledonia, including a possible referendum in France on the option of unfreezing the territory's electorate roll;
4. On other parties to the Noumea Accord to heed the repeated and non-violent requests of the FLNKS and other pro-independence voices, over the last 2-3 years, to allow more conducive conditions for dialogue and negotiation for a better political agreement, and to give the process all the time necessary to do so; and
5. For the urgent establishment, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum and the UN, of an Eminent Persons Group comprising French, Pacific Islands and international personalities to mediate between the parties and ensure the best conditions to enable a just and peaceful dialogue process for the territory's political future.

Endorsed By

- **Pacific Elders' Voice**
- **Alliance for Future Generations**
- **PYC- Pacific Youth Council**
- **Citizens' Constitutional Forum**
- **Peace Movement Aotearoa**
- **Pacific Women Mediators Network**
- **PARC- Pacific Asia Resource Center**
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La Libération, Pas la Répression : Macron Doit Commencer à Écouter les Peuples Autochtones de Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie

DÉCLARATION AUX MÉDIAS
5 juin 2024.

Le peuple de Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie s'est exprimé, affirmant une fois de plus que toute tentative de déterminer la relation future entre la France et le territoire, par la force et sans son peuple, ne sera jamais acceptée.

L'Alliance des Organisations Non Gouvernementales Régionales du Pacifique (PRNGOs), les partenaires et les groupes de solidarité soutiennent donc fermement l'affirmation du FLNKS [et des groupes indépendantistes] selon laquelle répondre à la crise actuelle de manière politique, non répressive et non violente est la seule voie vers une solution viable. M. Macron doit répondre à l'appel lancé en faveur de la création d'un groupe de personnalités éminentes (GPE) chargé de veiller à ce que la crise actuelle soit résolue pacifiquement et à ce que l'impartialité soit rétablie dans le processus de décolonisation du territoire occupé.

Une semaine après les violences qui ont éclaté en Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie à la mi-mai, le président Emmanuel Macron a parcouru 10 000 kilomètres pour désamorcer les tensions avec les groupes indépendantistes et rétablir le calme. Après son départ, les représentants du FLNKS et d'autres voix indépendantistes ne sont pas convaincus de l'efficacité de sa visite ni de la sincérité de ses intentions.

Tout en saluant les efforts déployés par toutes les parties pour rétablir le calme ainsi que les assurances données par le président français de retirer le projet de loi électorale

controversé qui a provoqué la tournure violente des événements dans le territoire, nous déplorons :

- le déploiement continu de forces de police et de forces armées supplémentaires dans le territoire, portant le nombre total de troupes à plus de 3 000 en seulement deux semaines, et d'autres encore à venir ; et
- l'augmentation des traitements brutaux et de la force répressive de la part de la police française et d'autres unités armées à l'encontre de la jeunesse de Kanaky.

De source sûre, nous croyons savoir que le gouvernement Macron envisage de soumettre à un référendum en France la question du dégel des listes électorales locales, qui diluera le vote autochtone et indépendantiste.

Nous sommes également informés, de source sûre, que l'échéance de juillet 2024, précédemment prescrite par Macron pour que les parties locales s'accordent sur une formule politique permettant de faire avancer le territoire au-delà des délais prévus par les accords de Nouméa, reste inchangée.

Ces mesures ne peuvent que perpétuer le cycle de répression qui continue d'entraver le processus de décolonisation du territoire et doivent être condamnées avec la plus grande fermeté !

Le rythme et la voie d'une résolution à l'amiable des défis de la décolonisation de la Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie ne peuvent et ne doivent pas continuer à être dictés à Paris.

Lors des événements de mai 1988, ce même comportement des autorités françaises - refus obstiné d'écouter les populations autochtones, imposition de la volonté coloniale et recours à la force armée - a abouti au massacre d'Ouvéa, une effusion de sang qui aurait pu et dû être évitée.

Nous évoquons ces souvenirs douloureux avec l'espoir que les pertes en vies humaines survenues il y a 36 ans ne seront pas vaines.

En outre, la perte récente de vies et de moyens de subsistance, et en fin de compte, le fait de continuer à refuser la pleine souveraineté au peuple de Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie, ainsi qu'à d'autres "dépendances" françaises dans la région, ne peuvent pas maintenant, ou jamais, être le prix à payer pour toutes les aspirations politiques, géopolitiques et stratégiques non satisfaites que Macron a encore dans notre région du Pacifique Bleu.

L'Alliance, avec ses partenaires et les mouvements de solidarité, félicite les gouvernements du Pacifique, les institutions politiques, les églises, les anciens et les dirigeants communautaires qui se sont exprimés en faveur d'une résolution pacifique de la crise et, à terme, de la libération de la Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie de la domination coloniale.

En vue de la prochaine session de fond du Comité spécial des Nations Unies sur la décolonisation (C24) qui se tiendra à New York du 10 au 14 juin, nous implorons nos gouvernements du Pacifique, en particulier nos missions permanentes auprès des Nations Unies et les représentants de Fidji et de Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée au C24, d'assurer la conclusion appropriée du processus de décolonisation de la Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie.

En solidarité avec le FLNKS et les autres voix indépendantistes en Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie, l'Alliance et les partenaires de la solidarité appellent :

1. Le retrait immédiat et inconditionnel du projet de loi constitutionnelle visant à débloquer les listes électorales locales ;
2. Au gouvernement français de reconsidérer, comme une étape essentielle à la désescalade des tensions dans le territoire, tout nouveau déploiement de forces armées en Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie ;
3. A la Présidence française de cesser toute tentative d'imposer des voies conçues et contrôlées de l'extérieur pour déterminer l'avenir politique de Kanaky-Nouvelle-Calédonie, y compris un éventuel référendum en France sur l'option de dégeler les listes électorales du territoire ;
4. Aux autres parties à l'Accord de Nouméa de tenir compte des demandes répétées et non violentes du FLNKS et d'autres voix indépendantistes, au cours des deux ou trois dernières années, de créer des conditions plus propices au dialogue et à la négociation en vue d'un meilleur accord politique, et d'accorder au processus tout le temps nécessaire pour y parvenir ; et
5. Pour la mise en place d'un groupe d'éminentes personnalités françaises, des îles du Pacifique et internationales, en collaboration avec le Forum des îles du Pacifique et l'ONU, afin de servir de médiateur entre les parties et d'assurer les meilleures conditions pour permettre un processus de dialogue juste et pacifique pour l'avenir politique du territoire.

Approuvé par

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