



Trusteeship Council

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PETITION FROM MS. LYNDA MEDWELL CONCERNING THE TRUST
TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of
the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Birchwood Hall Community
Birchwood Hall
StorrIDGE
Malvern, Worcs. WR13 5EZ
England

30 September 1987

The President and members
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Sirs,

I am writing on behalf of Birchwood Hall Community, England, and as a member of Women Working for a Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific (United Kingdom) to express support for the people of Belau (Palau) in their struggle to achieve independence and protect their democratic Constitution.

Are you aware of the repeated referendums that have been forced on the people of Belau since 1979 in an attempt to overturn the Belauan Constitution and particularly its anti-nuclear stance? We are especially concerned by the violence and intimidation that have been and still are part of this process. For example, we deplore the intimidation and threats made against the women elders and their families in 1987 that led them eventually to withdraw their lawsuit against the Government's attempt to impose still more (and arguably illegal) referendums. This is just one among many breaches of law and democratic rights that we know have taken place in Belau.

We are immensely sad and appalled at the murder of Chief Bedor on 7 September 1987. We recognize this as the second political assassination in Belau within two years (the first being that of President Remeliik) and we see it as no accident that both victims were opposed to the Compact of Free Association and in favour of the existing Belauan Constitution.

We wish to protest vehemently against these breaches of human rights in Belau and against United States support for President Salii and his Government in the denial of these rights.

We would like the United Nations in general, and your committee in particular, to investigate the situation in Belau and bring pressure on the United States Government to uphold and promote the Trusteeship Agreement 1/ and accept responsibility for protecting the human and democratic rights of the people of Belau.

I enclose additional information on the Belau situation 2/ and hope that you will use your influence to bring justice to a small land where it is only too easy for injustice to go unnoticed.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Lynda MEDWELL

Notes

1/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
(United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).

2/ The information has been placed in the files of the Secretariat and is available to the members of the Council for consultation.
