

www.**Breaking News English**.com

Ready-to-use ESL / EFL Lessons

The Breaking News English.com Resource Book

“1,000 Ideas & Activities For Language Teachers”

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/book.html>

Papuan asylum seekers reach Australia

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0601/060119-papua.html>

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading	7
Discussion	8
Speaking	9
Homework	10
Answers	11

19 January, 2006

THE ARTICLE

Papuan asylum seekers reach Australia

A boat carrying 43 asylum seekers from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, referred to as West Papua by its indigenous peoples, has landed on Australia's remote northern coast. The group of 30 men, six women and seven children fled Indonesia last Friday in a traditional dugout canoe fitted with an outboard motor. Indonesian authorities had alerted Australian immigration officials about the group's plans to attempt to reach Australia but search planes failed to spot the craft. The boat contains some of Irian Jaya's most outspoken independence activists, who clearly want to bring their largely forgotten concerns to the world's attention. Requests for asylum will put the humanitarian spotlight on Australia and test already strained relations with Indonesia.

The boat was flying the outlawed West Papua flag – a punishable offence in Indonesia. Several political banners proclaimed the group's intentions and summarized the plight of their people. One banner read: "Save West Papua's people from genocide, intimidation and Indonesia's military and state terrorism". Another banner was worded: "The West Papuan people need freedom, peace, love and justice in our own homeland." Australia's representative for West Papuan affairs Louise Byrne said the asylum-seekers faced jail and torture at the hands of Indonesia's military because of their political beliefs and actions. The Indonesian embassy said the group's grounds for seeking asylum were "baseless".

WARM-UPS

1. ASYLUM SEEKER: You are an asylum seeker. You are seeking refuge in another country because you dislike your own country and fear for your safety. Talk with the other "asylum seekers" in your class about their reasons for seeking asylum. Talk about your journey to your country of refuge.

2. MY COUNTRY: Talk with your partner(s) about the history of your own country and the struggles it had to become an independent country. Are you happy with the political situation in your country? Are there people in your country who would like to break away and form an independent state?

3. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Boats / asylum seekers / Indonesia / indigenous / remote coasts / independence / strained relations / flags / genocide / love / torture / political beliefs / embassies

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

4. BREAKAWAY STATES: What would happen if the following states or regions broke away and declared full independence? Talk about each with your partner(s). Would you support each newly declared nation?

- a. West Papua from Indonesia.
- b. Palestine from Israel.
- c. Tibet from China.
- d. Texas from the USA.
- e. Taiwan from China.
- f. The Basque region from Spain.
- g. Chechnya from Russia.
- h. Northern Ireland from the UK.
- i. Somaliland from Somalia
- j. Quebec from Canada

5. INDEPENDENCE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "independence". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. MAPMAKER: You are a mapmaker. With your mapmaking partners, discuss the changes you would like to see made to the map of the world. Which borders would you like to create or erase? Which new countries would you like to create? Which people deserve independence? Change partners and share your ideas.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Asylum seekers from Papua New Guinea flew to Australia. | T / F |
| b. The group consisted of 30 men, six women and seven children. | T / F |
| c. Most of the world is aware of West Papua's struggle for independence. | T / F |
| d. Australia and Indonesia have excellent diplomatic relations. | T / F |
| e. The asylum seekers were flying the outlawed West Papua flag. | T / F |
| f. The group accused Indonesia of genocide and intimidation. | T / F |
| g. An Australian official said the group might be tortured in Indonesia. | T / F |
| h. The Indonesian embassy said the group had grounds to claim asylum. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. province | unfounded |
| b. indigenous | public eye |
| c. outspoken | bullying |
| d. spotlight | banned |
| e. strained | forthright |
| f. outlawed | awkward |
| g. plight | state |
| h. intimidation | basis |
| i. grounds | predicament |
| j. baseless | original |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. referred to as West Papua | concerns to the world's attention |
| b. in a traditional dugout | seeking asylum were "baseless" |
| c. search planes failed | relations with Indonesia |
| d. bring their largely forgotten | of their people |
| e. ...and test already strained | West Papua flag |
| f. flying the outlawed | by its indigenous peoples |
| g. ...and summarized the plight | hands of Indonesia's military |
| h. Save West Papua's | to spot the craft |
| i. faced jail and torture at the | people from genocide |
| j. the group's grounds for | canoe fitted with an outboard motor |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Papuan asylum seekers reach Australia

A boat carrying 43 asylum _____ from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, referred to as West Papua by its _____ peoples, has landed on Australia's remote northern coast. The group of 30 men, six women and seven children _____ Indonesia last Friday in a traditional dugout canoe fitted with an _____ motor. Indonesian authorities had alerted Australian immigration officials about the group's plans to attempt to reach Australia but search planes failed to _____ the craft. The boat contains some of Irian Jaya's most outspoken independence activists, who _____ want to bring their largely forgotten concerns to the world's attention. Requests for asylum will put the humanitarian _____ on Australia and test already _____ relations with Indonesia.

The boat was flying the _____ West Papua flag – a punishable offence in Indonesia. Several political banners _____ the group's intentions and summarized the _____ of their people. One banner read: "Save West Papua's people from genocide, _____ and Indonesia's military and state terrorism". Another banner was worded: "The West Papuan people need freedom, peace, love and justice in our own homeland." Australia's representative for West Papuan _____ Louise Byrne said the asylum-seekers _____ jail and torture at the hands of Indonesia's military because of their political beliefs and actions. The Indonesian embassy said the group's _____ for seeking asylum were "_____".

fled
clearly
indigenous
strained
spot
spotlight
seekers
outboard
grounds
proclaimed
faced
affairs
outlawed
baseless
plight
intimidation

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Papuan asylum seekers reach Australia

A boat carrying 43 asylum seekers from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, _____ to as West Papua by its indigenous peoples, has landed on Australia's _____ northern coast. The group of 30 men, six women and seven children fled Indonesia last Friday in a traditional _____ canoe fitted with an outboard motor. Indonesian authorities had alerted Australian immigration officials about the group's plans to attempt to reach Australia but search planes failed to spot the _____. The boat contains some of Irian Jaya's most _____ independence activists, who clearly want to bring their largely forgotten concerns to the world's attention. Requests for asylum will put the humanitarian spotlight on Australia and test already _____ relations with Indonesia.

The boat was flying the _____ West Papua flag – a punishable offence in Indonesia. Several political banners proclaimed the group's intentions and summarized the _____ of their people. One banner read: "Save West Papua's people from genocide, _____ and Indonesia's military and state terrorism". Another banner was _____: "The West Papuan people need freedom, peace, love and justice in our own homeland." Australia's representative for West Papuan affairs Louise Byrne said the asylum-seekers faced jail and torture at _____ Indonesia's military because of their political beliefs and actions. The Indonesian embassy said the group's _____ for seeking asylum were "_____".

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'seek' and 'asylum'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "ASYLUM SEEKERS" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about asylum seekers and people deserving independent homeland.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| • referred | • flying |
| • fled | • plight |
| • fitted | • save |
| • failed | • justice |
| • clearly | • hands |
| • strained | • grounds |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What adjectives describe your feelings about the article?
- c. What do you know about West Papua?
- d. What do you know about the different areas and islands of Indonesia?
- e. Do you think the asylum seekers are brave to sail to Australia?
- f. What do you think the Australian government should do with the asylum seekers?
- g. How do you think Indonesia would react if Australia granted the group asylum?
- h. Do you think there is a chance West Papua will ever gain independence from Indonesia, as West Timor did?
- i. Do you think it makes sense that half of the island of New Guinea is Indonesian and the other half is Papua New Guinea?
- j. Do you think the asylum seekers' grounds are baseless?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What do you think about what you read?
- c. Do you think the Indonesian government is worried about the asylum seekers telling their stories?
- d. Do you think all of the world's indigenous people should be given their own country?
- e. Are there any indigenous peoples in your country fighting for independence?
- f. Why do you think many countries refuse to give independence and rights to people who clearly lived on the land first?
- g. What is your image of Indonesia's government and military?
- h. Would you stand up for your political rights even if it meant you might be tortured?
- i. Do you think there should be a UN body to sort out claims of independence?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

INDEPENDENCE: You have the power to grant independence to groups of people demanding it. It is your job to prioritize who gets independence first. Walk around the class and ask for information about the peoples in the table. In pairs / groups, agree on reasons why these people should or should not be granted full independence. Put them in order of who should get independence first.

PEOPLE	REASONS FOR INDEPENDENCE	REASONS AGAINST INDEPENDENCE	ORDER
West Papuans			
Taiwanese			
Palestinians			
Chechens			
Basques			

Change partners and talk about your reasons and order. Advise each other on the wisdom of your recommendations.

Return to your original partners and discuss what you found out from the other "independence deciders".

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information on this story. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

3. INDEPENDENCE: Write an essay describing a group of people who totally deserve to be given independence. Read your essay to your partner(s) in your next class. Did you all write about similar things?

4. A DAY IN THE LIFE: You are a political refugee. You are escaping a dangerous situation in your country. Write an account of one day in your life. Write about the political situation in the country you have left and your desire for an independent homeland. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did everyone have similar days and thoughts?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. F e. T f. T g. T h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. province | state |
| b. indigenous | original |
| c. outspoken | forthright |
| d. spotlight | public eye |
| e. strained | awkward |
| f. outlawed | banned |
| g. plight | predicament |
| h. intimidation | bullying |
| i. grounds | basis |
| j. baseless | unfounded |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. referred to as West Papua | by its indigenous peoples |
| b. in a traditional dugout | canoe fitted with an outboard motor |
| c. search planes failed | to spot the craft |
| d. bring their largely forgotten | concerns to the world's attention |
| e. ...and test already strained | relations with Indonesia |
| f. flying the outlawed | West Papua flag |
| g. ...and summarized the plight | of their people |
| h. Save West Papua's | people from genocide |
| i. faced jail and torture at the | hands of Indonesia's military |
| j. the group's grounds for | seeking asylum were "baseless" |

GAP FILL:

Papuan asylum seekers reach Australia

A boat carrying 43 asylum **seekers** from the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, referred to as West Papua by its **indigenous** peoples, has landed on Australia's remote northern coast. The group of 30 men, six women and seven children **fled** Indonesia last Friday in a traditional dugout canoe fitted with an **outboard** motor. Indonesian authorities had alerted Australian immigration officials about the group's plans to attempt to reach Australia but search planes failed to **spot** the craft. The boat contains some of Irian Jaya's most outspoken independence activists, who **clearly** want to bring their largely forgotten concerns to the world's attention. Requests for asylum will put the humanitarian **spotlight** on Australia and test already **strained** relations with Indonesia.

The boat was flying the **outlawed** West Papua flag – a punishable offence in Indonesia. Several political banners **proclaimed** the group's intentions and summarized the **plight** of their people. One banner read: "Save West Papua's people from genocide, **intimidation** and Indonesia's military and state terrorism". Another banner was worded: "The West Papuan people need freedom, peace, love and justice in our own homeland." Australia's representative for West Papuan **affairs** Louise Byrne said the asylum-seekers **faced** jail and torture at the hands of Indonesia's military because of their political beliefs and actions. The Indonesian embassy said the group's **grounds** for seeking asylum were "**baseless**".