



Beyond the Screen: A Community Call for West Papua

Pig Feast Film Screening & Community Dialogue at Shoreline City Council Chambers

EVENT RECAP | JULY 25, 2026 | SHORELINE, WASHINGTON



Community members and allies gathered at Shoreline City Council Chambers for the Pig Feast Film Screening & Community Dialogue.

On July 25, 2026, West Papua Campaign USA hosted the Pig Feast Film Screening & Community Dialogue at the Shoreline City Council Chambers, bringing together West Papuan community members, Shoreline residents, people from the greater Seattle area, environmental advocates, human rights advocates, and allies for an evening of film, reflection, and solidarity.

Around 30 to 40 people attended the event. The gathering created space for the public to better understand the realities facing Indigenous communities in West Papua, including land grabbing, militarization, environmental destruction, displacement, resource extraction, and the ongoing struggle for human rights and self-determination.

The event was also attended by Shoreline City Councilmember Annette Ademasu and Chris Roberts, former Mayor of Shoreline. Councilmember Ademasu welcomed the community and reflected on how little she had previously known about West Papua, while expressing hope for human rights, peace, and an end to colonial violence.

Opening the Evening

The program opened with welcoming remarks from Mirius Wenda, Executive Director of West Papua Campaign USA. His remarks set the purpose of the evening: to create a space where people could learn, listen, and reflect on the lived realities of Indigenous West Papuans.

Following the welcome and opening remarks, attendees watched the 1 hour and 35 minute documentary Pig Feast. The film gave the audience a difficult but necessary window into how large-scale development projects in West Papua are tied to land loss, military presence, resource extraction, environmental damage, and the disruption of Indigenous ways of life.



The screening helped attendees better understand the realities of land grabbing, militarization, resource extraction, and Indigenous survival in West Papua.

Why Pig Feast Matters

Pig Feast asks a necessary question: Who benefits when development is imposed on Indigenous land?

In West Papua, projects presented as development often come with a heavy cost for Indigenous communities. Forests are cleared. Rivers and food systems are threatened. Traditional ways of farming and living are disrupted. Communities face pressure, intimidation, and displacement. Meanwhile, the benefits often flow to powerful political and corporate interests outside the communities most affected.

Why Pig Feast Matters

The film helped show that colonialism in West Papua is not only a political issue. It is also an environmental issue, a human rights issue, an Indigenous rights issue, and a question of who has the power to decide the future of land.

For West Papua Campaign USA, screening Pig Feast was part of our ongoing commitment to public education and community dialogue. People cannot stand in meaningful solidarity with West Papua if they do not first understand what is happening and why it matters.

Land and living space

The film connected development to land loss, pressure on communities, and the question of who controls Indigenous territory.

Environment and food

Attendees saw how forests, rivers, gardens, and food systems are affected when extraction is prioritized over community life.

Human dignity

The event placed West Papua in a wider conversation about rights, displacement, militarization, and the survival of Indigenous peoples.

For many in the room, the screening was not simply a film experience. It was an invitation to see West Papua more clearly - not as a distant issue, but as a living struggle involving land, people, food systems, culture, human dignity, and survival.

The evening also helped create a bridge between West Papuan community members, local leaders, environmental advocates, human rights advocates, and neighbors from Shoreline and the greater Seattle area. That kind of connection is central to the work of public education and solidarity.

Panel Reflections: From Film to Action



Panelists reflected on the film and connected it to Indigenous rights, environmental justice, law, and international solidarity.

After the screening, the evening continued with a 40-minute panel discussion moderated by Jeivet Kenelak. The conversation helped move the audience from awareness into deeper reflection and action.

The panel featured Patrick Mebri, Dr. Mere Tari Sovick, and Sierra Sulfa McClain, each bringing a different lens to the issues shown in the film.

Patrick Mebri: Indigenous Resistance and the Systems Blocking Papuan Land Protection

Patrick Mebri, an Indigenous West Papuan community advocate, reflected on the ways West Papuans have responded to the violence and land loss shown in the documentary. He spoke about nonviolent movements, legal advocacy, cultural work, church networks, political organizing, and local and international solidarity efforts.

Panel Reflections: From Film to Action

Patrick also helped the audience understand the systems that make it difficult for Indigenous Papuans to protect their land. These include militarized intimidation, forced displacement, restrictions on free expression, information blockades, and resource extraction projects that move forward while Indigenous communities carry the cost.

Patrick reminded the audience that information from West Papua is often difficult to access. Because of restrictions on journalists, human rights observers, and local communities, sharing accurate information becomes one important form of solidarity.

Dr. Mere Tari Sovick: West Papua as a Pacific and Indigenous Struggle

Dr. Mere Tari Sovick, a Melanesian women's leader, Indigenous rights advocate, researcher, Founder and Executive Director of Melanesian Women Today, and Interim Executive Director of Pacific Peoples' Partnership, connected West Papua to a larger Pacific and Indigenous struggle.

She reminded the audience that West Papua should not be seen as an isolated issue. It is part of a wider story of colonization, Indigenous land defense, climate justice, cultural survival, human dignity, and responsibility to future generations. Her reflection challenged people to move beyond surface-level support and build real relationships with West Papuan communities.

Sierra Sulfa McClain: Development, Justice, and the Cost Paid by Indigenous Communities

Sierra Sulfa McClain, an environmental justice and legal advocate, reflected on the language of "development" in West Papua. She challenged the audience to ask whether what is being called development is actually development when Indigenous communities lose land, forests, rivers, traditional food systems, and cultural spaces.

Sierra connected environmental destruction to human rights, naming concerns around water pollution, deforestation, loss of traditional foods, lack of consultation, and legal systems that often fail to protect Indigenous communities. She reminded the audience that meaningful solidarity includes education, public pressure, support for West Papuan-led organizing, community care, and attention to local opportunities for action.

What the Audience Took Away



Attendees listened, reflected, and asked questions about how people in the U.S. can stand in solidarity with West Papua.

The evening helped attendees understand that West Papua's struggle is connected to many issues at once: land, forests and rivers, military violence and displacement, food systems, cultural survival, and the question of who controls the future of Indigenous communities.

Through the film and panel discussion, attendees were invited to move beyond sympathy and toward responsibility.

From Awareness to Action

Together, the panelists reminded the audience that solidarity must be more than concern. It must become practice: learning, listening, sharing accurate information, supporting West Papuan voices, questioning systems of extraction, and building stronger relationships across Indigenous, environmental, human rights, and Pacific Islander communities.

Practical solidarity can begin with simple but meaningful steps:

- Learn more about West Papua and share accurate information.
- Follow and support West Papuan-led organizations and advocacy efforts.
- Bring West Papua into conversations about Indigenous rights, environmental justice, and human rights.
- Support community spaces where West Papuan stories can be heard.

Closing Call to Action



Mirius Wenda, Executive Director of West Papua Campaign USA, closed the evening with a call to action and words of encouragement.

The event closed with remarks from Mirius Wenda, who reminded attendees that the documentary showed only part of a much larger story. There are many more stories from West Papua that remain unheard, many more families affected, and many more truths that need to be carried into public spaces.

He encouraged people to stay connected with West Papua Campaign USA, share West Papuan stories with their own networks, and avoid becoming gatekeepers of information. For West Papuans in the diaspora, his message was clear: our voices matter, our stories matter, and our responsibility continues.

Thank You

West Papua Campaign USA extends our sincere thanks to everyone who attended the Pig Feast Film Screening & Community Dialogue.

We thank the City of Shoreline for providing venue support, Councilmember Annette Ademasu for welcoming the community, and Chris Roberts for joining us. We also thank our panelists Patrick Mebri, Dr. Mere Tari Sovick, and Sierra Sulfa McClain; our moderator Jeivet Kenelak; and all volunteers, community members, advocates, and allies who helped make the evening possible.

Your presence helped create a meaningful space for education, reflection, and solidarity. The story of West Papua must continue to be shared. The struggle for land, dignity, justice, and freedom continues. Together, we can help make sure West Papua is not forgotten.

The world must know, the world must see, the world must act. Stand with us to stop colonialism in West Papua. Papua Merdeka! Wa Wa Wa Wa.

