

CIVIL WAR: BOUGAINVILLE

The on-going
story



General Ishmael Toreama

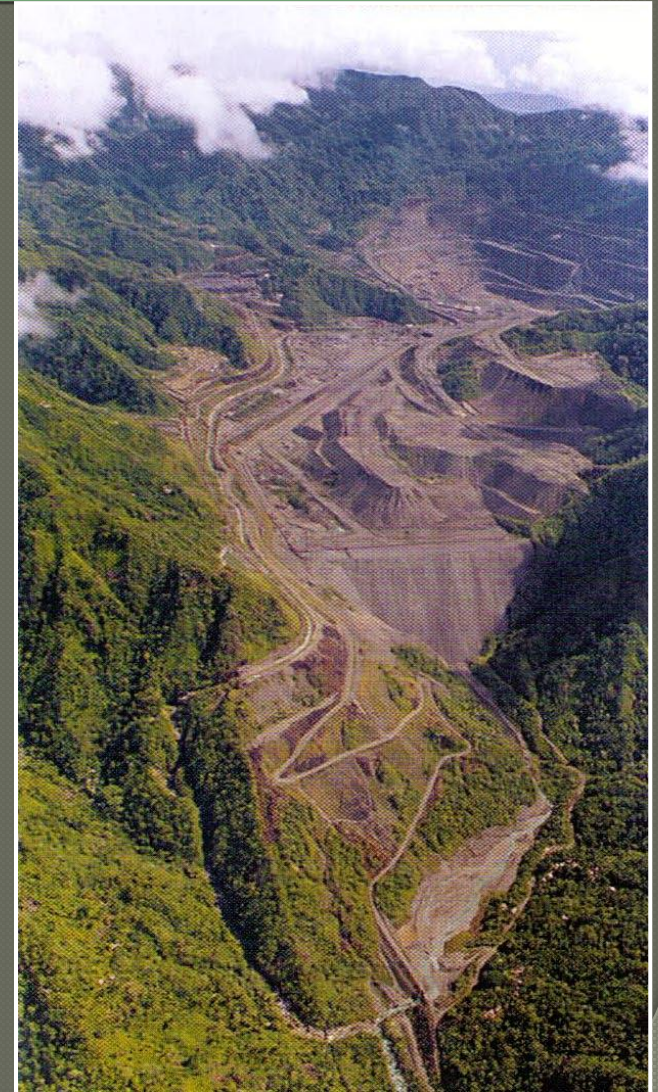


SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. 10 Years of Civil War. 1988-1997.
2. 14 Failed Peace-making Attempts.
3. NZ Initiative: The Truce Monitoring Group. 1997.
4. The Peace Agreement.
5. Ambition versus economic reality.
6. The Pending Referendum
November 2019.

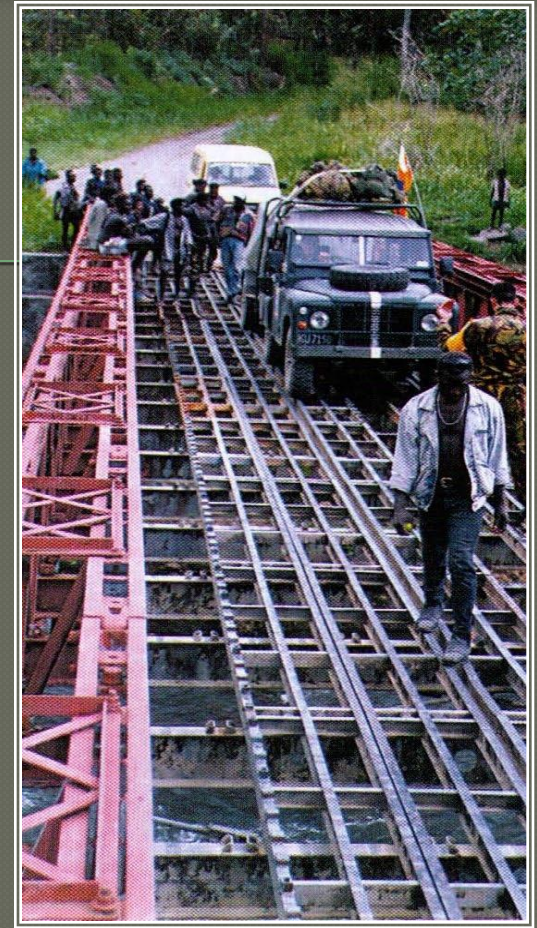
1. 10 Years of Civil War. 1988-1997.

- ◉ Cause: The Panguna Copper Mine.
- ◉ Triangular Civil War.
- ◉ Blockaded Island –
no medical drugs.
- ◉ Destruction of all
Infrastructure.
- ◉ Population: 234,280.
Killed: 15,000 – 20,000



No Infrastructure

- Whole Towns destroyed.
- Hospital and Post/telephone exchange destroyed.
- Petrol stations destroyed.
- Bridges' decking removed.
- Markets/ shops not functioning.
- Schools/ churches not functioning.
- No imported medicinal drugs.
- People afraid to congregate.



- Australian initiated.
- Sometimes NZ assisted.
- Conventional – based on UN philosophy



3. NZ Initiative: The Truce Monitoring Group.



McKinnon:

*"I was conscious
we could fail any
hour of the day."*



Hayes:

*"Embarrass with
integrity."*



Mortlock:

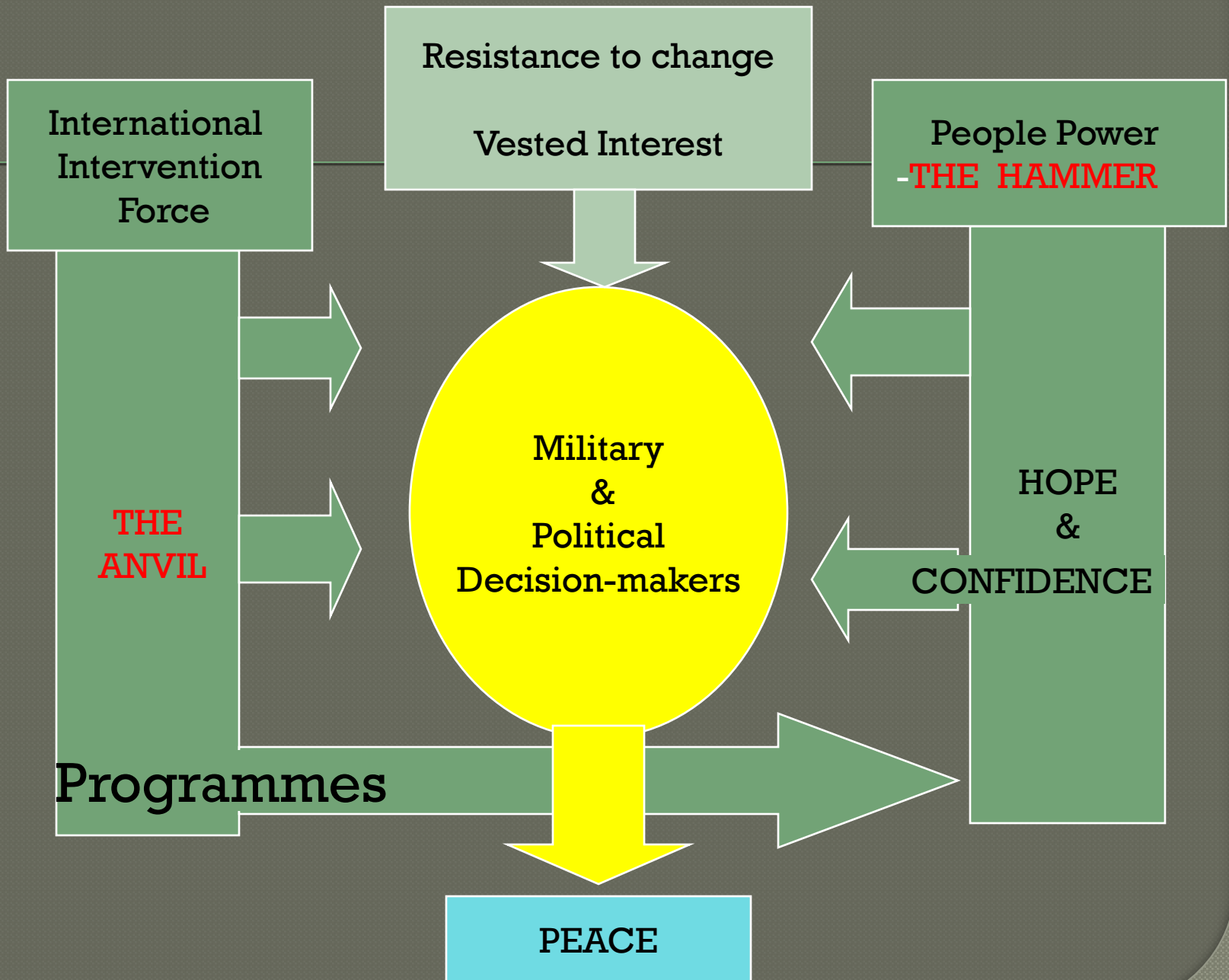
*"The main weapons
in our arsenal will
be hakas and
guitars".*

What did the Troops think?

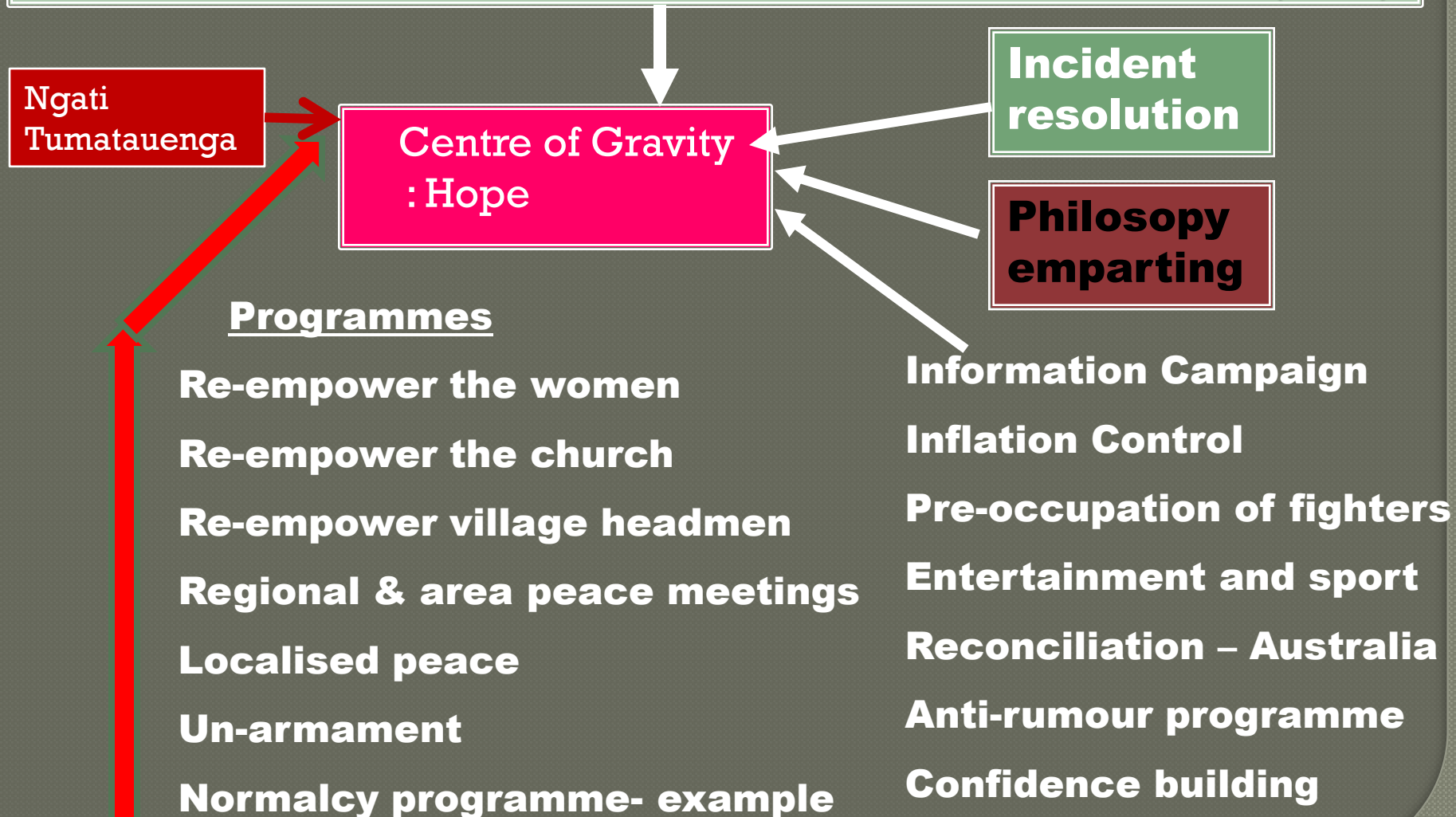
- *“When you looked at the country brief, you knew that you were not going into a benign environment. It actually was hostile.*
- *So it was a little bit scary thinking, ‘Okay, we’re going to a country which has been at war for so long, it still isn’t stable, and we’re going in unarmed.’”*



Major Fiona Cassidy
TMG Public Relations
Officer



Strategy: To create and sustain an environment to ensure a successful peace process by promoting people power and using it to squeeze the decision-makers between the people and the overseas witnesses (TMG).



4. The Peace Agreement.

- High' Autonomy (Bougainville's political status)
- 'Fiscal self-reliance' for Bougainville.
- Public service, courts, police and prisons.
- Weapons Disposal/Decommissioning .
- Amnesty, pardon and reconciliation.
- (Deferred) referendum on Bougainville's future political status

5. Ambition versus economic reality.

- Small country – not an economic unit.
- Misplaced in post-colonial re-organisation.
- Ambitious for independence.
- Independence could set a precedent for other unhappy provinces of PNG.
- Minerals (currently un-mined) tempting to PNG Government.
- China and Indonesia are watching.

6. REFERENDUM Due 23 November 2019

- The date will be subject to the implementation of the **weapons disposal** plan and the autonomous Bougainville government's achieving an appropriate standard of '**good governance**' (taking account of internationally accepted standards of democracy, transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights) as agreed with the national government. The outcome of the referendum will be **subject to ratification by the final decision-making authority: the National Parliament.**



Former PM of
PNG Peter
O'Neill



James Marape
– new PM



President of
Autonomous
Region of
Bougainville
John Momis

Current Problems

- ◉ Corruption.
- ◉ Inadequate income for an independent state (Has achieved only 6% of needs.)
- ◉ Lack of unity.
- ◉ Referendum proposes losers only to all sides.
- ◉ Justice? [versus Reconciliation]
- ◉ Disarmament ??????

What will happen?

- Options:
- The referendum will or will not be held.
- The people will vote for independence or greater autonomy.
- Will the PNG Government ratify an independence vote?
- If not, will the Bougainvilleans accept non-ratification? What could they do?
- Is there a prospect of war again?

Bougainville referendum could spark regional crisis

- “If the people of Bougainville vote for independence and are unable to reach agreement with the government of Papua New Guinea, the Bougainville issue may precipitate another regional crisis,” warned analyst Ben Bohane, author of a study by the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank.

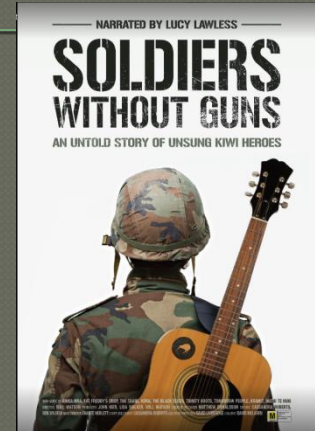
- By ALAN BOYD, SYDNEY
- 13 OCTOBER 2019

ASIATIMES

Will Watsons'

Documentary Release 5 April 2019

- Called “Soldiers Without Guns”
- Feature length.
- Formidable research.
- Tells (much of) the whole story.
- 2019 Cannes Film Festival. AFI Official Selection – Peace Initiative.
- Queen Palm International Film Festival (Palm Springs, California).
2019 Best Feature – Documentary -Gold award
2019 Best Director - Documentary Feature – Gold Award
- Published a short version: “Hakas and Guitars”. –
Cannes award-winner



● “Politicians start wars. It is a soldier’s job to stop wars.

- Dame Margaret Shields”





PROSPERITY BELONGS TO THE FREE.

*And freedom is the sure domain of those alone who
have the courage to fight for it.*

Pericles

NZ is such a wonderful, lucky country

PANGUNA MINE



Hospital



Subsistence Life



Arawa







