

### **Opinion on the Status of the RMS**

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It is my opinion that the Republic of the South Moluccas (RMS) has a right to exist under international law. This opinion will be discussed in the following sections:

1. Under various legal instruments, namely the Linggadjati Agreement, the Renville Agreement and the Round Table Conference Agreements, the people of the South Moluccas were granted a right of self-determination.
2. The people of the South Moluccas exercised these rights through the proclamation of independence in 1950, and continued to fight for independence after the death of their leader Mr. Soumokil in 1966.
3. While the Government of Indonesia used force illegally to take control over the region of the South Moluccas in 1950 and remains the *de facto* power, the people of the South Moluccas formed their own government in exile in the Netherlands, with the authority of the RMS formally transferring to this government. Mr. J.G. Wattilete has been President of the Government in Exile since April 17<sup>th</sup> 2011. The South Moluccas became a member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation in 1996 and is represented there by the RMS.
4. The illegal annexation by the Government of Indonesia of the territory of the South Moluccas did not extinguish the right to the people of the South Moluccas of their right to self-determination nor did it extinguish the existence of the RMS, which had also been accepted through case law.
5. The existence of the RMS does not depend on its recognition by other States, under the international legal doctrine of recognition.

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