

BOUGAINVILLE

Brot
für die Welt



FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-
UNIVERSITÄT
JENA

misereor
GEMEINSAM GLOBAL GERECHT

**Oct 5th 2026
4-8 pm**

VENUE

Brot für die Welt

Caroline-Michaelis-Str. 1
10115 Berlin

**Bougainville:
The Next
Independent State?
Self-Determination,
Extractivism, and
Geopolitics in the
South Pacific**



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With this event, we want to examine the key factors contributing to the **success of Bougainville's peace and independence process**, highlight **Germany's historical responsibility**, foster political dialogue with key actors, and encourage the German government to engage more actively and **responsibly in Bougainville**.

Please rsvp [here](#) by Sept. 30th.



The South Pacific island of **Bougainville** could emerge as a new state within the next few years. In a referendum in 2019, 97.7 percent of voters in the Autonomous Region voted for the separation from Papua New Guinea (PNG). The National Parliament of PNG will decide on the ratification of the referendum result in October, a step that could initiate a transition period culminating in Bougainville's full independence. While many issues remain unresolved and the outcome is far from certain, the **peace process in Bougainville** can already be regarded as a **unique success story**. International actors are now called upon to support the maintenance of peace and accompany Bougainville's quest to become the world's next independent state and 194th member of the United Nations.

The history of Bougainville is **closely tied to Germany's colonial past**: from 1886 to 1914, the island was part of German New Guinea. Bougainville's incorporation into the German colonial empire 140 years ago constituted the root cause of the independence conflict that would erupt decades later. In 1949, it became part of the Australian colony of Papua New Guinea, which gained independence in 1975. Between 1988 and 1997, a violent conflict claimed the lives of around 20,000 people. At the heart of the crisis were disputes over the operation of the Panguna Mine, the world's largest copper and gold mine at the time. The Federal Republic of Germany was among the largest importers of copper ore from Bougainville. Due to the clashes, the mine was abandoned in 1989.

- 4:00 pm **Welcome**
Martin Krieg, Brot für die Welt
- 4:10 pm **Introduction to the Topic**
Prof. Dr. Rafael Biermann,
University of Jena
- 4:25 pm **Keynote 1: The History of the Conflict and the Successful Peace Process in Bougainville**
James Tanis, President's Legate for International Relations, Autonomous Government Bougainville
- 4:50 pm **Keynote 2: A Civil Society Perspective on Peace and Independence**
Barbara Tanne, Bougainville Women's Federation (tbc)
- 5:10 pm **Presentation of PACSIA's Work**
Dr. Serge Loode, Director of the Peace & Conflict Studies Institute Australia (PaCSIA)
- 6:15 pm **Panel Discussion: Bougainville Between Dependencies and Self-Determination**
Dr. Andreas Prothmann, Ellen Demuth MP, Christopher Brucker, Barbara Tanne and James Tanis
- 7:30 pm **Closing Remarks**
Oliver Hasenkamp, United Nations Association Germany & Eckart Garbe, Pacific Network
- 7:45 pm **Reception in the Lobby**

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Pazifik
NETZWERK

With:

James Tanis (President's Legate for International Relations, Autonomous Government Bougainville), **Barbara Tanne** (President of the Bougainville Women's Federation), **Dr. Serge Loode** (Director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia), **Ellen Demuth MP** (Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee), **Prof. Dr. Rafael Biermann** (Chair International Relations, University of Jena), **Dr. Andreas Prothmann** (Former German Ambassador in Fiji and special envoy for the Pacific Islands), **Martin Krieg** (Brot für die Welt), **Christopher Brucker** (Chair of International Relations, University of Jena), **Corinna Broeckmann** (Regional Officer for Oceania, Misereor), **Amelie Overmann** (Brot für die Welt), **Oliver Hasenkamp** (United Nations Association Germany), **Eckart Garbe** (Pacific Network)