



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 21 June 2004
Programme No. 910
Length: 3'32"

UN BRINGS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE TO THE NEW CONSTITUTION IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

VIDEO

DISPLACED (22")

OBED GII, IDP ON- CAMERA (8")

PEOPLE AND MARKET (17")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Five years of ethnic conflict in the Solomon Islands forced more than 20,000 men, women and children to flee their homes to escape armed gangs. This group of 200 found refuge in the Titinge district on the outskirts of the capital Honiara. Obed Gii recalls his family's terrifying experience.

GII:

"While people fled out to the bush, the rebels entered our village. They burnt down all our houses, they burnt down all our belongings."

NARRATION

Thanks to a regional peacekeeping force, fighting has ended. A major challenge ahead is to restore confidence in the legal and constitutional system among the country's half million population – spread over more than 900 islands and atolls.

CONSULTATIONS (30")

Now, the people are involved in drafting a new constitution for the country. UNDP, the UN Development Programme, and the country's government, have developed a project aimed at getting the population to participate in the writing of a new law of the land. Expert teams have organized meetings such as this throughout the country. The idea is to change the political system and achieve national unity. Richard Ponzio is UNDP's coordinator in the Solomon Islands.

RICHARD PONZIO ON CAMERA
(14")

PONZIO:

"While UNDP does not promote any particular political arrangement, we are ensuring that it is a fair, participatory, open process where people are having access to the best information available."

TRANSITION/DISPLACED TO
MEETING (8")

NARRATION

A three-member team holds consultations with the displaced people of Titinge community.

MEN MEETING (15")

In separate groups, men and women meet to discuss what they would like the country's new laws to be. Among the men, issues of land ownership, regional autonomy, and cultural values are the top choices.

BETHSEN SPEAKS (10")

For women, other priorities. Bethsen Teteona is concerned about basic necessities such as housing, food, water and health.

NEDLIN SPEAKS (4")

Nedlin Pragnance worries about corruption and lack of justice.

DRUSCILA SPEAKS (7")

While Druscila Linette wants more aid for the civilian victims of the recent conflict.

WOMEN (8")

More than 20 thousand adults have been heard, says Constitutional Reform Project Coordinator, Tom Woods.

TOM WOODS ON CAMERA (16")

WOODS:

"The people are absolutely capable of articulating a system of governance that is suitable to them, that will fulfil their aspirations of a political and social system. It's clear, what's evident is that they don't want a system imposed on them."

PARLIAMENT (18")

The proposals are being studied and discussed by the government and the parliamentary Constitutional Review Committee. After deliberations, the new magna carta will give a greater degree of autonomy to the country's provinces, making the Solomon Islands a federal nation.

KIDS HAVING FUN AT BEACH (19")

The political changes in the country will be far reaching. For the first time in the nation's history, the people will participate fully in the drafting of a new constitution. Hopefully, this will ensure peace and stability for the future of the Solomon Islands' population.

UN LOGO (12")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.