



MUTINY IS LINKED TO THE CORE PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY: THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

In 1789 Fletcher Christian led a Mutiny against Captain Bligh in what became known as the Mutiny on the Bounty. Now, 227 years later the descendants of that famous Mutiny are embroiled in another revolt against injustice. The main players in this 'modern mutiny' are the Norfolk Island people, the direct descendants of the original mutineers, and Captain Malcolm **BLIGH** Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia.

CHRISTIAN AND BLIGH - A MODERN MUTINY

The Norfolk Island people, the descendants of the Bounty mutineers and their Tahitian wives, are locked in a David v Goliath battle against the Commonwealth Government of Australia to retain their sovereignty, their freedom and their homeland after the Australian Government unlawfully abolished their Parliament and approved plans to annex their homeland.

Norfolk Island is a tiny South Pacific island community located 1500km from Australia's east coast (pop 1700); the people have a unique Anglo-Polynesian heritage; their own language, culture and traditions; and they are outraged at Australia's actions and are taking their fight for their homeland all the way to the United Nations.

On the 22nd of April 2016 Albert Buffett and Ken Christian, the President and Vice-President respectively of the Island's Council of Elders, will travel to the United Nations headquarters in New York to lodge a Petition with the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. The purpose of the Petition is to have Norfolk Island listed with the United Nations as a non-self-governing territory and to have its Parliament and self-government restored to the Norfolk Island people.

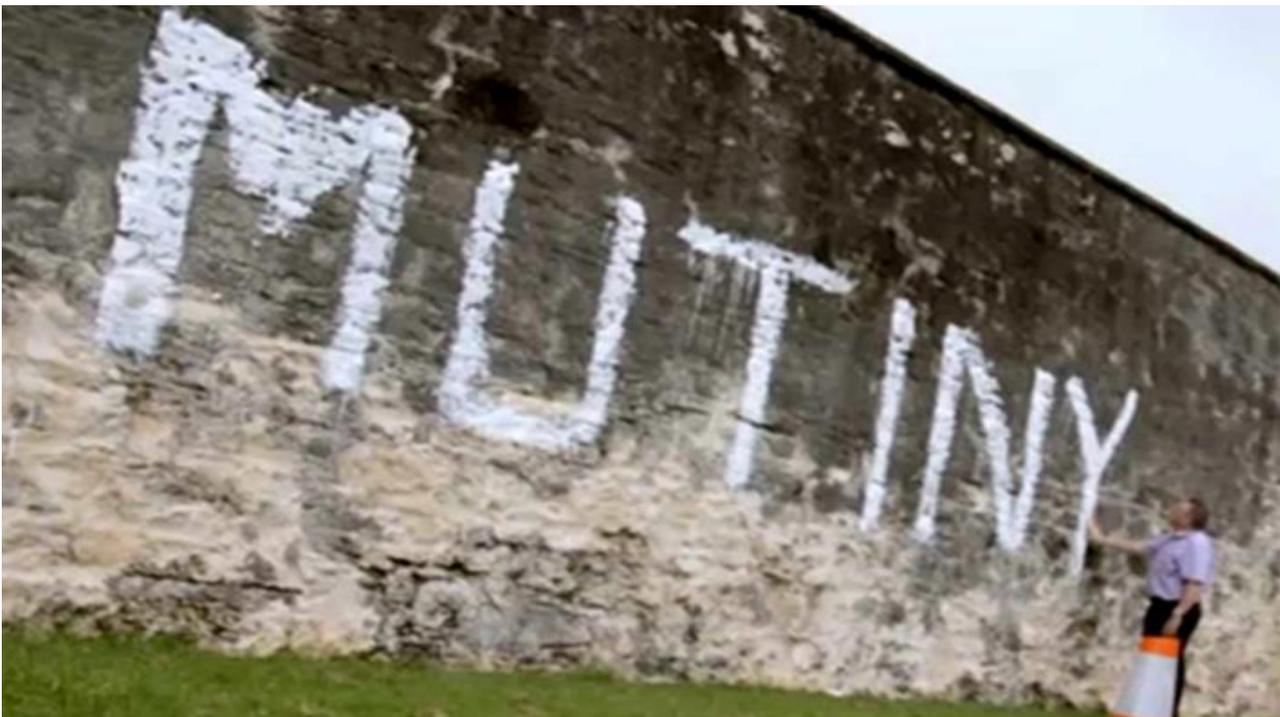
Joining Mr Buffett and Mr Christian in New York will be **Geoffrey Robertson QC**, who has agreed to assist in lodging the Petition. His offer included helping the Norfolk Island people highlight to the world Australia's colonisation of Norfolk Island.

Australia's current actions toward the Norfolk Island people are a return to the darkest days of colonialism. As a snapshot of life on Norfolk Island today:

Mutiny is linked to the core principle of democracy:
the consent of the governed – author Chris Magri President
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- Islanders are losing jobs to Australian Government personnel; Health services are being downgraded; the Parliament Building has been stripped of all its furnishings; and the Australian Government has taken control of the local community radio station, sacked announcers, and has censored from broadcast all political opposition to their takeover;
- Australian Government Ministers and officials have refused to meet with anyone on the Island that does not support their plans to take over the island;
- Norfolk Island has no democratically elected representatives, despite the fact that Australia is reporting that the Islanders are represented by a five-person Advisory Committee. They do not say that one candidate previously selected by them for the Committee was cancelled once the Australian Government became aware of his reservations of Australia's takeover of the Island; nor do they say that the rest were hand-picked and paid by the Australian Government;
- The Norfolk Island Government, prior to being sacked, asked the Norfolk Island people, through a legally constituted referendum, whether they supported their right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. 70% of the votes validly cast were in support of that right. Australia refused to recognise the results of that referendum and one of their first actions after abolishing the Norfolk Island Government was to remove the right of the Norfolk Island people to hold referendums; and
- Any criticisms levelled at Australia for their actions are met with the same mind-numbing rhetoric from Australia – 'we are doing this so that Australians living on Norfolk Island can share in the same entitlements as all other Australians'. They ignore the fact that many Norfolk Island people will lose entitlements they have enjoyed up till now, such as pensions and the right to vote in local elections.

One Islander demonstrated his/her frustration at the situation by painting the word 'MUTINY' on a wall in the World Heritage listed site on Norfolk Island known as KAVHA – the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area. But most suffer the Commonwealth dictates with a sense of utter helplessness.



It is undeniable that today's Norfolk Islanders of Pitcairn descent clearly understood the significance of the word 'Mutiny' and viewed 'the graffiti' as a reflection on their past. Here the Australian Administrator is seen showing an SBS filmmaker the word 'MUTINY' in a documentary where he was triumphantly quoted as saying, in reference to Australia's illegal annexation of Norfolk Island, "It's like a lost tribe coming home".

Let's be crystal clear: the Norfolk Island people are not a lost tribe. Had the Administrator taken the time to learn the most basic history of Norfolk Island before he made this statement he would have known that Norfolk Island became a 'distinct and separate settlement' nearly half a century before the Commonwealth of Australia came into existence.

The question to be asked today is - has the Mutiny saga concluded? Whilst the answer to that question lies largely in the hands of the Norfolk Island people, one person who could change the course of history is Prime Minister, Malcolm **Bligh** Turnbull.

Speaking to the media about the territorial dispute developing between China and the other islands in the South China Sea, Mr. Turnbull said "My engagement with Chinese leaders, which has been quite extensive since I've become Prime Minister, reassures me that China understands our position; they understand our commitment to a peaceful and stable region," he told reporters in Beijing. "And that is why we continue to urge all claimants to settle any territorial disputes ... peacefully and in accordance with international law."

Now comes the test of the man. Will Australia meet its International Law obligations to the Norfolk Island people by supporting the inscription of Norfolk Island onto the United Nations List of non-self-governing territories, and so resolving the territorial dispute over Norfolk Island - or - will the descendants of the Bounty mutineers be forced to consider a modern mutiny?

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For background to this article and for further reading –

1. Norfolk Island People for Democracy – Genesis of and journey to the United Nations
<http://www.norfolkschoice.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/NIPD.pdf>
2. Press releases – Norfolk Island People for Democracy
<http://www.norfolkschoice.com/press-releases/>
3. Dr Chris Nobbs was born on Norfolk Island, and has followed its fortunes and its politics over many decades. He has held positions as a research scientist at the University of Cambridge, a consultant and administrator at the OECD Environment Directorate, as economist to the Government of Victoria's salinity control programme, and as co-director of an Australia-wide social research consultancy. He is currently living on the Island. At this link you will be able to read articles released by Dr Chris Nobbs relative to Norfolk Island.
<http://www.norfolkonlinenews.com/chris-nobbs.html>