

■ **OXFAM INTERNATIONAL** has its roots in the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, which was set up in 1942 to get food and medical supplies through the Allied blockade of Nazi-occupied Greece. SOURCE: www.oxfam.org.uk

■ **THE ORGANIZATION'S** Make Trade Fair campaign, which attempts to make trade more beneficial to poor countries, has attracted support from celebrities such as Alanis Morissette and Coldplay's Chris Martin. SOURCE: www.oxfam.ca

■ **ONE OF 12** chapters worldwide, Oxfam Canada works with more than 100 partner organizations in Africa and Latin America to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice and inequality. SOURCE: www.oxfam.ca

Aid worker talks Papuan plight

By JEFF HODSON
Metro Vancouver

In July 2001, Yan Christian Warinussy was summoned to a West Papuan police station for writing a complaint about the treatment of six detainees.

A pistol was held to his head and the officer threatened to shoot him and the six men, while stomping on the letter and crushing it into the dirt.

Warinussy, the executive director of an Indonesian legal aid organization, has been awarded the Rights and Democracy's John Humphrey Freedom Award. He was in Vancouver yesterday — the first stop in a Canadian tour — speaking out about human rights abuses on West Papua, the western half of the large island Indonesia shares with Papua New Guinea.

"Papuan are not being treated fairly," said Warinussy, whose organization, the Institution of Research, Analysis and Development For Legal Aid, monitors and investigates human rights abuses in West



Yan Christian Warinussy has been awarded Rights and Democracy's John Humphrey Freedom Award for his legal work on behalf of West Papua's indigenous peoples.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Papua. "They are refugees in their own land."

Warinussy has been involved in human rights work since 1989. The award, which recognizes exceptional achievement in the promotion of human rights and

democracy, consists of a \$25,000 grant and a speaking tour of Canadian cities. It is named for the human rights law professor who prepared the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Warinussy said forestry, mining and gas exploration companies hire local police and military for protection, resulting in clashes with the island's indigenous people, who want compensation for the resources.

First Nation's aid hinges on election announcement

By JARED FERRIE
Metro Vancouver

Prime Minister Paul Martin promised more than \$5 billion over the next five years to improve conditions for aboriginal people, but if the government falls today the money may never be delivered.

Martin made the pledge at

the end of a two-day summit in Kelowna last weekend attended by premiers and aboriginal leaders. The money is supposed to go toward education, housing, economic development, and health and water services.

In a different deal, announced on Wednesday, the government promised \$2

billion in compensation for victims of physical and sexual abuse in residential schools.

B.C.-based Kevin Annett, secretary for the Truth Commission into Genocide in Canada, said yesterday that abuses and deaths took place on a far wider scale than the government and churches

have admitted. He accused the government of trying to buy off the victims, and said perpetrators should be tried by a special tribunal.

The Truth Commission is a grassroots organization dedicated to exposing what its members say is a genocide of aboriginal people's in Canada.

Oxfam exec discusses coverage of crises

By JARED FERRIE
Metro Vancouver

If you didn't hear about the 46 protesters killed by police in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, during the first week of this month, blame the media for doing a poor job of covering humanitarian disasters. That was the message delivered by Oxfam Canada's new executive director to a crowd at Capilano College on Saturday night.

While "photogenic" disasters like last year's tsunami receive a lot of attention, "slow-onset disasters or chronic disasters get very little coverage at all," Robert Fox said yesterday.

Fox said the media should put the spotlight on crises as



Robert Fox

they develop, rather than wait until they turn into full-blown disasters. The situation in Ethiopia could get much worse if the international community does not respond quickly. And it is a crisis Canadians should know about, considering Canada gives it more money than any other country in Africa.

LETTERS

letters policy

Letters to the editor should be around 150 words (shorter and more concise letters are more likely to be printed) and can be mailed, faxed or sent by e-mail (vancouverletters@metronews.ca). Each submission must include the writer's name, address and telephone number (all contact information will be kept confidential). All letters become the property of Metro, and editors reserve the right to edit submissions for length and content.

Allegations mar victory

I am deeply concerned about the CTV interview alleging that independent mayoral candidate James Green's campaign was suspiciously partially funded. If the suspected allegations ring true, this is a dangerous threat to the legitimacy of democracy.

PAUL SCHMIDT
Vancouver

Find incredible deals like:

Don't miss Bentley's 4 page Gift Shopping Guide insert appearing in this Friday's Metro Newspaper!

60% OFF

T.V. Luggage ~~19⁹⁹~~ **7⁹⁹**

29" Upright luggage ~~124⁹⁹~~ **49⁹⁹**

AIR CANADA

Check your mailboxes this week for our Christmas catalogue filled with 24 pages of savings.

www.shopbentley.com Browse the online catalogue & shop online 24/7