

# Criminological issues in post- conflict policing:

## A case study of Solomon Islands

Dr Tony Krone



# Disclaimer

- This presentation is not part of my work at the Attorney-General's Department.
- Any views expressed are my own and do not represent the views, policies or opinions of anyone in Government.



- Post-conflict
- Complexity – unknown and potentially hostile environment
- Narrative or ‘stori’ – oversimplification
- Superficial analysis
- Incapacitation
- Case by case break-up of complex series of events
- Political manipulation – attacks on legitimacy



# April 2006

- The Honiara riots
- Blockade and riot outside Parliament
- Looting of shops below Parliament
- Moved to Chinatown
- Destruction in Chinatown
- Burning down Pacific Casino Hotel
- A mass demonstration of political dissent?



# Political dissent?

- Rumours of a 'shady deal'
- Violence at Parliament
- Tear-gas and riot squad response
- Spills down into shopping district
- Moves across town
- In Chinatown - buildings saved
- Looting before burning



# Reaction

- Declaration of emergency powers
- Exodus of Chinese and rise in bank deposits
- Criminal – pursuit of Dausabea and Ne'e, both Members of Parliament
- Non-criminal – Commission of Inquiry



# Results

- Dausabea and Ne'e,
- Protracted series of bail hearings
- Eventual collapse of prosecution case
- Commission of Inquiry – Einfeld
- Terms of reference to avoid prosecution
- AG's challenge – fails
- Terms of reference amended
- Inquiry
- Report not released

Coconut

Medicare

Medicare

300

# 'Ethnic tensions'

- 1999-2003
- Guadalcanal Premier
- GLF
- MEF
- Special Constables
- Townsville Peace Agreement
- Intervention



# 'Ethnic tension' crimes

- Dispossession of Malaitans
- Killings and assaults
- Militia violence
- Kidnapping
- Extortion
- Indiscriminate reprisals
- Kastom payment demands
- Melanesian brothers
- Assassination  
(Minister/Former Police Chief)
- Coup
- Arson of entire villages
- Conflict
- Reprisal
- Terror
- Opportunism
- Militia - gangs
- Intra-communal



# Locations

- Western Province – Spillover from Bougainville conflict
- Guadalcanal – Assassination of MP
- Malaita – Assassination of former Police Commissioner

# Solomon Islands map



# Justice mechanisms

- Formal
- Informal
- Truth and reconciliation



# Criminal justice system

- Disarmament
- Incapacitation
- Imprisonment



# Trial issues

- Bail
- Children
- Mandatory life sentence for murder
- Accessories
- Procedural fairness pre-trial and trial
- Amnesty



# Justice sector assistance

- Reliance on expatriates
- Expensive model
- Infrastructure demands – courts, prisons
- High maintenance costs – Court Support Unit
- ‘Silent One’



# Civil justice system

- Coup legitimised
- Weakness of Attorney-General as protector of public interest
- Review and reversal of corrupt or irregular practices



# Informal system

- Compensation ceremonies
  - On Guadalcanal
  - Between Guadalcanal and Malaita
- Village governance
- Local courts

KWASO - AND - MARIJANA  
- DRINKS / SMOKE  
PLEASE DO NOT - DISTURB OR  
COUSE ANY PROBLEM IN OUR  
COMMUNITIES  
THANK YOU  
FROM V/CHIEF / ELDER / CHIEF  
OF KAKALANO AND FAKOS - COMMU



# Truth and reconciliation

- Truth and Reconciliation Act 2008



# Losses

- Community
- Income producing industries (logging)
- National treasury
- National herd
- National infrastructure
- Schooling
- Health



# Information base

- Disarmament
- No crime data
- Reluctance to dwell on tensions
- Focus on individuals
- Sexual violence?
- Big fish?



# Legacy issues

- Re-arming police
- Early release of prisoners
- Reconciliation – kastom payments
- Gun compensation



Thank you