

Condolence motion for VIKKI RILEY refused because she opposed Indonesia's occupation of West Papua.

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TERRITORY senators turned their backs on passing a condolence motion for a Territory woman who devoted her life to helping others because she opposed Indonesia's occupation of West Papua. South Australian Senator Nick Xenophon and Victorian Senator John Madigan put the motion before the Senate on Wednesday in honour of Nightcliff resident Vikki Riley, 49. Ms Riley brought joy to hundreds of asylum seekers in detention by helping them create art and exhibit their work. She was killed on Monday as she was cycling to visit detainees.

But the Federal Government opposed the motion as Ms Riley had supported a free West Papua campaign, which conflicted with Australian foreign policy supporting Indonesian rule in the disputed province.

Indonesia has oppressed independence activists, banned the Morning Star flag and turned a blind eye as TNI soldiers have shot and tortured separatists.

The 11 senators who voted to support the statement were all Greens except for Xenophon. Thirty-seven senators, both Liberal and Labor, voted against the motion. Territory Senator Trish Crossin made a statement to the Senate before the vote.

"Vikki Riley is a constituent of mine," she said. "I want to . . . place on record my support for her family and my recognition of her work for refugees . . ."

Then she left the chamber and did not vote, along with the Territory's only other senator, Nigel Scullion. Greens Senator Richard Di Natale said he was appalled. "Have we become China, that we cannot celebrate a great Australian citizen who has worked so hard on so many issues and deserves the respect of this

Parliament?" he said.

A funeral will be held for Ms Riley at St Paul's Catholic Church, Nightcliff, tomorrow at 2.30pm