I TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI **Wai 3060**
IN THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL **Wai 2890**

KEI RARO I TE MANA O	te ture o te Tiriti o Waitangi 1975
IN THE MATTER	of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975
ME	
AND	
I TE TAKE O	te pakirehua Wai 3060 mō ngā kerēme e pā ana ki te Rau o te Tika
IN THE MATTER	of the Justice System Kaupapa Inquiry (Wai 3060)
ME	
AND	
I TE TAKE O	ko Tasilofa Huirama
IN THE MATTER	of a claim by Tasilofa Huirama on behalf of the late Ziporah Grace Huirama, her whānau, as members of Ngāti Ueoneone and Ngāti Tautahi of Ngapuhi

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BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF SAMUEL HUIRAMA

Dated: 8 May 2025

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WELLINGTON

MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL

INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Samuel Huirama Osborne. I am the son of Tasilofa Huirama, the named claimant for the Wai 2890 claim.

2. I confirm that I am Niuean and Māori. My pepeha is:

I te taha o toku mama

Ko Ngatokimatawhaorua me Tainui ngā waka

Ko Nukutawhiti te tangata

Ko Puhanga Tohora me Taupiri ngā maunga

Ko Nukutawhiti me Apakura ngā tangata

Ko Hokianga te moana

Ko Punakitere me Waikato ngā awa

Ko Ngapuhi me Waikato-Tainui ngā iwi

Ko Ngāti Ueoneone raua ko Ngāti Tautahi ngā hapū

Ko Ōkorihi me Purekireki ngā marae

Ko Pakinga me Taupiri ngā urupa

3. I was born in Wanganui, and I am the youngest child in our whānau. My date of birth is 14 March 1997. I am 28 years old this year. I currently live in Waingaro in the Waikato region.

4. I grew up in Wanganui. I am close to all my siblings, and I've witnessed the impact that my sister, Ziporah (who we also called Esther), death has had on all my whānau.

5. In my brief of evidence, I will focus on my experience with the police.

INTERACTIONS WITH THE POLICE

Remanded for three months for alleged arson

6. The first time I had experience dealing with the police was when I was only about 12 or 13. I didn't realise back then what had happened, but I remember the police just came to our house and smashed up everything. I was not sure what they were looking for, but they came to our house because the nearby petrol station was robbed.

7. It was scary, my sister's children were in the house, and they all were very frightened.

8. Later, the police found the people who robbed the petrol station with guns. It had nothing to do with us. Mum complained to the Ombudsman, and I remembered one of the higher officers from Palmerston North came to apologise to us.

9. Mum had a lot to deal with at the time, mainly with my sister Ziporah. We didn't make any further complaints. Mum did not want to be targeted.

10. After about 5 years, when I was 17, I had my first interaction with the police where I was arrested for the first time.

11. Our house in Wanganui was close to a reserve park. Our backyard was connected to the park.

12. I used to play there every day as a kid and as a teenager. One day there was a fire in the park. The police came, and they saw me there, so they arrested me for arson.

13. There were four police officers that came to our house. They wouldn't allow me to say anything; they used handcuffs and arrested me.

14. I didn't return home until three months later. I was remanded in Mangaroa prison for 3 months until they found the right people responsible for the arson.

15. I later learned that the real offenders were boys who started burning some newspaper at the park, and they were about 12-14 years old. I was 17 and I have never been a small person, there's no way I would have any similarity

to the 12-14-year-old boys the police were looking for. But because I was in the park, they just arrested me.

16. I spent 3 months on remand just to get probation.

17. My mum came to visit me, I told her I'd go nuts after she left. I was 17, I missed my family and my home. Mum was very worried about me.

18. I was released after three months. Afterwards, I felt my mental health started deteriorating. I felt I could get irritated easily, even over small issues.

19. I completely lost my trust to any police officers. I felt scared when I saw them.

20. I was completing a carpentry course when they arrested me. I could have finished my course and found a job, instead I was remanded for something I didn't do.

Other police interactions

21. After I returned home, for about seven years, from when I was 17 to 24, the police targeted me.

22. They would question me if they saw me on the street.

23. For example, I was walking along the street going home, the police would arrest me and accused me of car vandalism. They said while I was walking, I scratched cars parked on the street, but I didn't.

24. Over the years, I was arrested for small things like this, they would follow me, come to my house and arrest me.

25. I was sentenced to community service, and other types of non-custodial sentences.

26. When I was on bail, the police would check on me, normally once or twice every night between 11pm to 3am, even though I never breached my bail conditions.

27. When they checked on me, I just needed to open the window to show them I was home. They didn't come into the house. But it was tiring, as I could not

have a whole night sleep. It was quite interruptive to my other family members as well.

Excessive force used by the police

28. When I was about 24 or 25, I was working for Meatworks. My job was to push mighty big packs through the freezer. Mum dropped me to work every morning around 5am. I was doing well for that job. People at work appreciated my hard work.

29. One day, I came home from work, we were all in the house, my mum said there were police officers that had snuck into our front yard.

30. All together nine police officers surrounded our house and arrested me. Four of them slammed me to the ground on my face. One stood on my knees, and another stood on my head. It was very sore because my ankle was stood on and against the ground.

31. I was not resisting, and I repeatedly pleaded with the police not to hurt me. My dad was trying to protect me, he said don't hurt my son. They did not listen.

32. They also searched our house, looking for my phone. But I had lost my phone at the park, the police didn't believe me.

33. My charges were burglary and trespassing other's property.

34. Before my trial started, I was assessed by two psychiatrists. I also had a speech therapist as I am a visual learner, and I don't talk to people I do not trust.

35. I told the speech therapist that the house the police accused me of being at was the wrong property. The police dropped a few charges after I pointed out the mistakes in them.

36. The police also changed their evidence. They accused me of following a young girl to her property, then they changed the girl to a middle-aged woman, who was my neighbour. Later it changed from the middle-aged woman to an old lady.

37. The police tried to make me plead guilty to this charge. I told my mum I will not plead guilty for this, I did not follow this old lady, people would laugh at me for following around an old lady. It doesn't make any sense. I didn't even know who this old lady was.

38. Because the police told mum the victim lived on our street, I had to move out of Whanganui within 48 hours to my sister's address in Hamilton to avoid me going to jail. As a result, I lost my job that I had just started 2 months prior.

39. I was put on home detention for the burglary charge and trespassing.

Looking forward to the future

40. Now we have moved out of Whanganui, and I have completed my sentence. I am doing ok.

41. I lost my opportunity to join the army because the probation officer wouldn't allow me to register when I lived in Whanganui.

42. I have recently started to work out again, which I always like doing. I am also a good driver, now I am actively looking for a job.

CONCLUSION

43. The police used excessive force against me, not only was it unnecessary, but also humiliating.

44. Through my experiences interacting with the police, I never felt respected, treated fairly, or supported, let alone approached in a way that recognised me as a Māori.

45. As a result of the police arresting me and becoming involved in the justice system, I lost my job, missed further career opportunities, and my mental health deteriorated.

46. Having left Whanganui along with my whānau and with the police no longer targeting me, I have begun to feel as though I am gradually getting back on track.

DATED at **WAINGARO** this **08** **day** of **May** **2025**

Samuel Huirama