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Call for unity among the separatists



Tahiti, October 11, 2026 - Oscar Temaru had difficulty gathering his activists on Sunday in Tarahoi Square to commemorate the memory of Pouvana'a a Oopa, arrested on October 11, 1958. Under the grey clouds and rain, he still launched his petition, but also a call for the reunification of the separatists.

Day of mobilization this Sunday for the Tavini. At the foot of the Pouvana'a a Oopa stele, about 70 activists gathered to

commemorate the fight of the Metua and participate in the launch of the petition desired by Oscar Temaru asking for the immediate recognition of the independence of French Polynesia.

"Today is an important date, we owe him that, it's a duty of memory," explained Oscar Temaru after three hours of speech interspersed with songs. "We are also officially launching the petition. It is also a means recognized by the United Nations, petitions. That's why we are called petitioners. We will travel the country to ask everyone to sign this petition. And I hope to collect the number of signatures needed. (...) We'll see what the turnout will be, and if we have a majority. We are going to present it at the level of the decolonization committee, the fourth committee and declare our country a sovereign state."

If this unilateral declaration is still relevant for the founder of Tavini, his flock does not all see it in the same way. Few were the representatives at the party assembly as well as the activists, barred by the rain.

So why this petition today, when the various political movements of Fenua are finally agreeing to ask for a C24 mission to be sent to Papeete to listen to everyone's opinions? And why not prefer the upcoming legislative elections to present Tavini candidates and say 'to vote for them is to vote for independence'?

Reply from the interested party. *"A petition is recognised by the UN,"* says Oscar Temaru, who does not want those absent from the electoral polls to be counted as against independence.

This independence today is supported by two or even three different voices. Oscar Temaru, the historical leader of the fight, Moetai Brotherson, who formed the A Fano Ti'a group in the assembly around his vision, but also Tony Géros, who is taking more and more largesse in the leadership of the party. This is a problem for Oscar Temaru, who asked for the "union" of these



voices in Tarahoi Square to put the independence discourse back on track.

Oscar Temaru is due to meet with Tony Geros when the latter returns from New York.

Vannina Crolas, minister and activist Tavini
"We can't move forward divided"

Why is it important to be here today?

"It's a fact of our history, an important fact that we come to remember every year and that we also need to reappropriate and pass on to our children. But beyond that, it is also the transmission and reappropriation of our history. What would have happened if the state had not succeeded? Maybe we would be independent today. In any case, it's important to be there, first as a minister, but also as a Tavini activist, since it's an invitation from our president Oscar Temaru."

The president also wanted to make this day the launch of the petition, which is an approach defended by him, but not by many other people in the party. We still feel that there are two visions of things. Do you have to choose?

"I think that all means are good, and that this petition from President Metua is a way to respond to France's non-compliance with international law, and therefore the opening of the decolonization dialogue that has been awaited since 2013. It will not be transmitted to the UN unless it is only a minority that has signed it. So that changes everything. There is still the principle of democracy in this petition."

This step towards a unilateral declaration of independence, the President of the Country, Moetai Brotherson, has commented on it and for him, it is no. You come from this government, isn't it a bit complicated?

"I am fully a member of the government and fully Tavini. In government, we have people who have no party. I am Tavini and I remain in the government."

It must be difficult to negotiate when the Tavini votes against the government's texts...

"Sometimes I don't understand the Tavini in the assembly. Sometimes I understand, but I'm loyal to the government. For the Tavini, I let the elected representatives of the assembly make their decisions."

Mitema Tapiti, like President Oscar Temaru, is calling for the separatists to meet. Is it possible?

"Yes, absolutely. I fought for there to be no split, for there to be no creation of the group A Fano Ti'a. We can't move forward divided, it's guaranteed failure."

There is a new division that is emerging where we see that Tony Géros makes decisions without referring to the president of the party.

"Yes, it is indeed the case, but it is the call of our president today, that we can come together and reconcile. In fact, that's what I've always been asking for. We have the same objectives."

Written by Bertrand PREVOST on Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 9:07 PM | Read 1909 times



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