

HOMELAND MISSION 1950 MALUKU ( MOLUCCAS )

WGIP 95/SEA.10N/2

STATEMENT TO THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, GENEVA JULY 24 - JULY 28 1995  
AGENDA ITEM 5:

Madam Chairperson, members of the Working Group , fellow indigenous representatives and friends.

In the first year of the International Decade of the World Indigenous Peoples, we SIWA-RIMA descendants, represented by Homeland Mission 1950, bring greetings from the SIWA-RIMA nation, the original inhabitants of Maluku.

We also would like to congratulate you Madam Chairperson with your reelection as the chairperson of this session.

This is the tenth time that Homeland Mission attend the Working Group session, but the problems we brought up on previous sessions have not been solved. Worse our very existence as a nation is at stake.

The issue of oppression and exploitation of the Siwa-Rima nation and her mineral wealth and other natural resources are sufficiently known within this forum.

Expropriation of our sacred areas, large scale deforestation, overfishing of our seawaters, environmental degradation, organized transmigration and enforced sterilization of our women caused social disruption and poverty amongst the original inhabitants of Maluku.

It was therefore a tremendous surprise to hear from the Indonesian delegation that Maluku has achieved substantial socio-economic progress. The so-called socio-economic progress mean in practice that our adat-laws and customs are systematically overridden by the military regime in Jakarta.

Madam Chairperson, In an atmosphere of totalitarianism mining companies such as Billiton, ( the mineral arms of the Anglo-Dutch oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell ) are exploiting a large gold, silver and barite mine on the island Wetar and oil exploitation on the island Kei Besar by Texas Union. These are some of practices whereby the local indigenous people are not consulted and do not benefitted.

Madam Chairperson, In an era in which economic interests prevail over human dignity, survival of original nations in Indonesia and elsewhere in the world has become more difficult. We the original inhabitants of Maluku may be bend but still we are not broken.

Thank you. MALUKU MERDEKA!