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MR. EGBERTUS TAHITU - KOBE OSER

SPEECH

During 13th permanent UN Forum on Indigenous issues, Tuesday May 13th, 15-18 hrs.

Madam Chair

members of the Permanent Forum, Distinguished representatives, distinguished speakers, ladies and gentleman.

My name is Egbertus Tahitu

I am a representative of the government in exile of the Republic of the South Moluccas. The Republic of the South Moluccas is a sovereign state under international law that proclaimed its independence on April 25th 1950, just 6 months before Indonesia became the Republic of Indonesia on August 15th 1950. Indonesia does not want to acknowledge the legal status of the Proclamation of Republic of the South Moluccas and therefore since 1950 up till now Indonesia has always oppressed and neglected the social and economic rights of the people of the Moluccas.

Our first recommendation concerns these socio-economic rights of the Moluccan people.

We ask the Permanent Forum to address and inform the UN and the Member States to be aware of the violations by Indonesia of art. 26-28, 32 and 40 of the Declaration in relation to the Islands of Aru and Masela/ Ceram.

On the Moluccan island of Aru in the south-east of the Archipelago the Indonesian company PT Menara Group plans to deforest 500.000 ha of forest to be able to grow sugarcane. This means that a complete eco-system of flora will be destroyed totally. The sugarcane production is to be used for the production of Biofuel/Ethanol. In the production process strong pesticides will be used to accelerate the production. This in turn will lead to a situation that, for years to come, the drinking water and the soil will be heavily contaminated and will be useless for agriculture by the small farmers who inhabit this land for generations. Despite strong demands from the indigenous population not to violate their rights on their ancestral lands the Menara Company stubbornly continues with her plans to destroy the forest. The Aru natives depend on the forest for at least 75% of their daily needs. Knowing that the forest will take care of them as long as they take care of it. The sugar industry does not share this belief. Deforestation will be devastating for the Aru people.

in the production of liquid gas

The Indonesian government intends to cooperate with the Japanese company INPEX and the dutch multinational SHELL to exploit the Masela area in the south-east of the Moluccas in the coming 30 years. The estimated profit will be around 30 billion dollars. The Moluccan ~~government~~^{people} was promised to receive a share of 10% of the profit, but this was later withdrawn until now. Most important is the fact that the rights of the indigenous peoples, who are the rightful owners of the Masela area, are neglected and that they will not receive a fair share of the profit in the form of better healthcare, better education possibilities for their children, better sanitation and better roads. Protests by the indigenous population are ignored.

Our second recommendation concerns the violation of human rights of the Moluccans by Indonesia.

As both Amnesty International (report 'Indonesia: release peaceful protesters jailed for raising a flag', published on March 26th 2009) and Human Rights Watch (report 'Prosecution of Political Aspiration', published on June 22th 2010) have investigated and registered, more than 100 Moluccan men have been taken in prison because of showing the Moluccan flag. In short: The Indonesian has been grossly, intentionally and structurally violating numerous Human rights between 1950 and 2014, which has always been a reaction to the aspirations of our people to exercise our inalienable right of self-determination and is an action to break our resistance against the illegal occupation of our homeland. The illegal occupation of the South Moluccas by Indonesia does not result in extinction of the Republic of the South Moluccas as a state.

Finally on behalf of our people in the Moluccas **we ask all of you, present here today**, for your active support to spread the awareness of this grave injustice and to call on your respective members of parliaments, political parties, governments and your own networks to raise the issue at the UN and the Indonesian government. Thus we can end the violation of Human Rights in the South Moluccas and bring justice to the victims.

Thank you!