

Agenda item 3: Special Theme on Indigenous Women.



PACIFIC CAUCUS COLLECTIVE STATEMENT

Joining Organizations:

1. Bangsa Adat Alifuru
2. Dewan Adat Papua
3. Na Koa Ikaika o Ka Lahui Hawai'i
4. Ka Lahui Hawai'i
5. 'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition
6. Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club
7. The Koani Foundation
8. Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies
9. Rapa Nui Parliament
10. Te Rumango o Ngai Tahu
11. Ngati Tuwharetoa
12. Pacific Concerns Resource Center
13. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)
14. Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)
15. National Council of Legal Services, Australia
16. National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation
17. Churches Together Indigenous People Partnership
18. World Council of Churches (Australia)
19. Bureau of Consultation for West Papua indigenous community development

Mr. Chair,
Distinguish Forum members,
Brothers and sisters,

We, the sisters of the Pacific group stand in solidarity with our Australian sisters here in protest of the paper presented by the Australian Government representative at yesterday's session of the forum under the theme "indigenous women".

The views presented were not representative of the indigenous women in Australia and patronize their culture and the dignity of the elders.

Aboriginal women do not want to assimilate.

In the Pacific, there are many women's issues. However, today I must draw attention to the exigent circumstances in Maluku. Genocide and *ethnic cleansing* is occurring there now. Our islands are militarily annexed by Indonesia, despite our Declaration of Independence on April 25, 1950.

I have received the appeal from the indigenous Alifuru women in Maluku, notably in the islands of Buru, Ceram, Kasuy, Teor, Ambon, Haruku, Saparua and Kei to bring to the world's attention, the atrocities being committed by the Indonesian military and Jihad forces in Maluku since 1999. These atrocities are perpetrated, in particular, against the women and children who are the most vulnerable of all people. Furthermore, the women

and children are targets because they do not want us to be able to continue to exist and further increase our population.

Since 1999 the Indonesian military and Indonesian Jihad forces systematically killed, burned and stabbed the Moluccan people to death. Regardless of age, religion or gender. Even horrifying cases where pregnant women are involved. As was the case with pregnant Mrs. D. who came into the hands of the Jihad fighters. Her womb was sliced open and they murdered both the mother and the fetus.

The Jihad fighters also go into the villages and force the Muslim men to kill the Christians.

If they do not follow these directions, their families will be killed. When the Jihad forces return from the attacks the Muslim men have to provide their wives and daughters to please and comfort them. This resulted in many unwanted pregnancies, shame and humiliation.

In 2000 hundreds of our indigenous women were forced to female genital mutilation by the Jihad fighters. Also here, girls as young as 8 years old to elder women of 80 and pregnant women were no exception. One razor blade was used to circumcise a group of approx. 25 women without regard to the added risk to their lives caused by these unhygienic practices. Until now there are still women who suffer from infection and some have died of it.

These indigenous women have been deported from their ancestral grounds to other islands where they now live in isolated areas without any medical care.

Among them are also some who grieve for their children, boys in the age of 1, 5 until 14 years, who have been abducted by the Jihad forces..

Still others are concerned with the traumatic experience of the children that have witnessed how their fathers or uncles have been beheaded.

Since April 25, this year, the Indonesian military and the Jihad fighters have waged again war against the indigenous Moluccan people. To shut off any international interference and/or monitoring the Indonesian military at first attacked and looted the UNDP office causing the closure of the office and the departure of the personnel from Maluku. Since this date the inhabitants of Ambon have been under constant fire of bombs, grenade and mortars.

On April 26, 2004, the Indonesian forces attacked the disembarking passengers of the Doloronda at Ambon's bay..Among the 19 passengers that were kicked, beaten and stabbed were an 11-month old baby, a four year old boy and a pregnant woman. Who got 6 stabs in her stomach.

Exactly two years before, on April 26 in 2002, the Jihad forces have killed 8 month old baby girl Agnes Souhoka with two bayonet stabs while in the arms of her mother who was trying to protect her. Agnes' mother was not only stabbed but also shot to death.

These are only some of the facts and circumstances that I know of, however, there are surely many more atrocities. This situation amounts to genocide of the Moluccan people. Clearly, the purpose of these murders of pregnant women and children is to wipe out the indigenous Alifuru people of Maluku.

I urge the Permanent Forum to:

- act immediately to request the Security Council to bring peacekeepers into Maluku
- call for the immediate and total withdrawal from Maluku of all Indonesian troops, militia, Jihad forces, military and non-military,
- request the Commission on Human Rights to send an international team to investigate, apprehend and indict all the perpetrators of the atrocities, violations of human rights, crimes and war crimes and crimes against humanity against the indigenous Alifuru People of Maluku.
- to request the observer member states, such as Australia and the United States, to exercise their influence over the Indonesian government to cease the occupation and genocide of the Moluccan people.

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