

**8th Session of United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Geneva, July 20-24, 2015**

Item 8: Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Joint statement: Alifuru Council, Dewan Adat Papua

Delivered by Mr. Ghazali Ohorella, Alifuru Council

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chair,

On the offset, we apologise to the interpreters for this amended statement due to the time constraint.

Mr Vice-Chair,

We are conscious that much work remains to be done for the full implementation of the UN Declaration on the national level and within the United Nations. We appreciate the UN Voluntary Fund and the Expert Mechanism which both serve as important mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples to come together and highlight good practices on the ground and to alarm the UN about the challenges they face.

Mr Vice-Chair,

In South-Maluku and West-Papua, militarization is one of the most common serious issues facing the indigenous peoples, we to continue to urge States to cease current, and refrain from any further, militarization and initiate processes to demilitarize the lands, territories, waters and oceans of Indigenous Peoples, as reflected in preambular paragraph 12 and Article 30 of the UN Declaration.

In Indonesia it is evident that the notion of “protect and serve” is not a universal phenomenon. The conduct of the military and police in West-Papua and South-Maluku has bred a deepening antipathy between Indigenous Peoples and Indonesian authorities. If Indonesia is serious about addressing West-Papua and South-Maluku’s toxic fear, impunity, and violations of human rights, it must start demilitarizing our islands, and commence demilitarization of the police forces which requires both institutional and behavioral change.

In this context we highlight the most recent incident¹ that occurred in West-Papua’s Tolikara district, where allegedly Christians clothed anger in religious terms, burned down stores and other buildings on Idul Fitri and sparked outbursts in other places, with casualties. Both the Peoples from Maluku as West-Papua are wary, and have not forgotten the one-sided war in Ambon against the people of Maluku, which started in 1999 where the Indonesian army and quasi security forces

¹ <http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/news/officials-fear-backlash-papua-mosque-burning/>

played a key role in escalating this incident.

Around the world military power is used not only to violently suppress indigenous movements for self-determination but also to breakdown the territorial integrity of indigenous peoples, as well as to promote and protect the interest of State-sponsored or other private companies or multinational corporations, willfully creating conflicts and preventing conflict resolution.

We therefore, fully support in the context of demilitarization the recommendations of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Caucus, Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara and the Katribu National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples in the Phillipines and the International Indian Treaty Council, as presented under agenda item 9.

Finally, regarding UN Declaration Article 46.1 we remind Indonesia that per GA resolution 2625 1970 the principle of territorial integrity of a State applies ONLY to those States that conduct themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and thus possess a government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction as to race, creed or colour.

Thank you Mr. Chair,