

3 rd Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues  
Ny 10 -21 may 2004-05-17



Item 4: Human Rights

Intervention by : Evilita Lusiana Jantewo  
Dewan Adat Papua and  
Biro Konsultasi Pengembangan Masyarakat Adat Papua

On behalf Of West Papua

Mr. Chairman,  
Forum members,

In West Papua the position of the indigenous woman is held backwards in comparison to the women of Balinese, Javanese, Sumatran and Celebes origin who came and settled in our country as migrants/

Moreover, the women of West Papua is discriminated against

Life and security for every West Papua is not guaranteed since Indonesian came and occupied in our land. The indigenous people that live at or close to the border area with Papua New Guinea is forced to flee into Papua New Guinea because of the Indonesian military operations against our people. We take refuge in Papua New Guinea sometimes for years to come because afraid of Indonesian terror against us.

For those of our people who live close to the Indonesian settlements

Of the migrants their daily life is filled with fear because of the intimidation practices of the Indonesian intelligence and Indonesian Jihad forces against our people. This would prevent our people to leave their houses, and the children to go to school until the situation gets a little bit normal again.

The indigenous people when demanding back their rights the Indonesian army would interfere and we were labeled 'separatists'.

At all these places we know the situation but we do not know of the indigenous peoples who are in the interior of the country. We know only that the Indonesian armed forces regularly attempt to look for them. They live in such a secluded areas that we do not know their situation and how many that were killed.

Our life as activists to approach, contact and educate the people have become threatening. In the execution of our fieldwork we are always tailed by the Indonesian intelligence.

The so called autonomous program imposed by the Indonesian Government in 1998 is a sort of contract for development between the Indonesian Government and the indigenous people of West Papua.

But until now this so called contract for development was not effective yet. Or the Indonesian have started to re-divide our lands.

This triggered many unrests because there was no prior consultation or consent with the people concerned

Protests in various places were suppressed by the Indonesian Army. Deadly victims were in Manukwari and Waimena.

Looting, kidnappings and systematic killings, were committed against the indigenous people. Young indigenous West Papuans were taken from their villages and brought into the cities. Here the Governor and the Indonesian Military Commander set up big gatherings where the West Papuan national flags together with weaponry were displayed. The Indonesian use this as propaganda to

show that the West Papuan come into the village because they agree with the Indonesian autonomous program. Also Indonesia would state that many West Papuans in the broader areas have come back to their lands. But this is also not true but all set up as propaganda by the Indonesians to manipulate foreign opinion.

The indigenous people see this so-called division of West Papua in smaller division as to benefit only the Indonesians. Settlements for the coming of thousands more new transmigrants have been created and also for the reinforcements of the Indonesian army.

According to figures released in 2000 by the PDP, Presidium of the Papuan Council the original inhabitants of West Papua has a total of 900,000 against 12 million non-Papuan or Indonesian settlers. This means that the indigenous people of West Papua have been marginalized and have become minority on their own ancestral territories.

This is the case with other places where Indonesia sent their transmigrants, like in Aceh and Maluku.

According to Indonesian autonomous program for development 30% will be reserved for the women. But the elections of April 5 showed that the women get less than 6 percent and this goes entirely to the non-Papuan women.

Finally I attach hereby the resolution of the Congress of the Dewan Adat Papua, the indigenous council of West Papua of February 2004.

I would recommend:

1. We request through this Forum to UNIFEM and ILO to help, protect and support the position of the West Papuan women in their daily life.
2. We therefore would like to extend the UNIFEM to visit West Papua for the institutional capacity building for indigenous women as community leaders and the networking.
3. We request the attention and concern of the international world to the human rights situation in West Papua.
4. Finally we urge this Forum to take action into the critical situation in Maluku as was brought forward by the Delegate of Maluku. We fully support all the Pacific Caucus statements made collectively or individually in this Third Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Thank you