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## **DEWAN ADAT PAPUA**

### **PAPUA CUSTOMARY COUNCIL**

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Seventh session

New York, 21 April - 2 May 2008

Theme : Climate Change

Item 5 Human Rights

Dear madam chair ,

West Papua indigenous peoples is a Melanesian group and not Melayu group. The lands of West Papuan indigenous are currently occupied by Indonesia. The government of Indonesia illegally and forcibly took our land. Indonesia continues to destroy our forests, and strip the natural resources from the native West Papuan peoples. The government has implemented systematic programs of transmigration and immigration to control our land.

Indigenous West Papuans have rejected the government's version of "Special Autonomy". After six years, the government has completely failed to properly implement the law and address the issues of concern to Papua's indigenous people. In fact, they have used Special Autonomy Law No. 21/2001 to tighten their grip on West Papua by misusing 'Special Autonomy' funds to increase the migrant population, build up the military, and push a development model that is based on appropriating land from indigenous West Papuans for economic exploitation by the migrant community.

The Special Autonomy Law has not ended human rights abuses against indigenous West Papuans. It has not stopped military operations against us. The Special Autonomy Law has not improved our economy, our education, or our access to health care. The Special Autonomy Law has done nothing to protect our cultures and languages, nor has it given us freedom of speech and the right to hold peaceful demonstrations. Under this law there have been no prosecutions of current or former members of the military who have been implicated in gross violations of people's human rights. International media and NGO's are still banned from West Papua.

Indonesia and Russia planned to launch a global satellite facility on the West Papuan island of Biak. This decision was made without the consent of the people from West Papua. Papuan Customary Council /Dewan Adat Papua organized a peaceful protest that took place on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 but military and special police stopped the protests and threatened the indigenous peoples.

West Papua indigenous peoples welcome the recent adoption of the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which calls for the elimination of human rights violations and for combating discrimination and marginalization against indigenous peoples

**Recommendation:**

1. In the spirit of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of indigenous peoples we request the PFII to recommend to the General Assembly for review the Act of Free Choice in 1969 in West Papua and UN mandated International dialogue with the government of Indonesia and Papuan indigenous peoples
2. We ask the Forum to request that the government of Indonesia to reject the plan by Russia to launch a global satellite facility on the island of Biak.
3. The Permanent Forum should make clear to the government of Indonesia that the "Special Autonomy" process has failed. West Papua should not be divided into separate provinces or districts. International dialogue must be fostered to discuss independence of West Papua.

Thank you madam chair.

New York April 28, 2008

**DEWAN ADAT PAPUA AND LAND IS LIFE**

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