



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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**STATEMENT BY THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION  
BEFORE  
THE WORKING GROUP ON INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS**

29 JULY 1993

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Madam Chairman,

As in previous year, the Indonesian observer delegation is following with keen interest the important work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Being a nation consisting predominantly of indigenous population, Indonesia has consistently maintained a sympathetic view toward the plight of indigenous peoples everywhere which tend to be marginalized and even in many cases oppressed. Likewise, we are always firm in our support to the activities of the United Nations in favour of the indigenous peoples, including those conducted by this Working Group. Therefore, it always gives us a sense of dismay each time we find irresponsible elements trying to misuse this forum thus running the risk of compromising its credibility.

Indeed, Madam Chairman, we find it regrettable that among the otherwise interesting ideas and enriching viewpoints, the Working Group was to listen to such speakers as the ones claiming to represent the so-called "government in exile of the Republic of South Moluccas", who made a statement totally irrelevant to the work of the Working Group. And since that particular statement contains a series of baseless slanders and unfounded accusations directed toward my country, my delegation is obliged to make some points in order to set the record straight.

First point, what are they? Isn't that procedurally inappropriate or even out of order that individuals who have been allowed to speak at this forum under the category of non-governmental organisation pretend to represent a "government in exile" of a non-existing "republic"?

Point number 2, who are they? For the benefit of those with little knowledge of modern Indonesian history, let me point out that they are none other than members or descendants of a group of mercenaries paid for by the colonial power to fight against the Indonesian struggle for independence in the late 1940's. In the wake of recognition by the Dutch government of the Indonesian independence, those mercenaries by their own free will, or perhaps out of fear of perceived reprisal, decided to follow their colonial

master to go to the Netherlands. How could then, after more than 40 years, a handful of their descendants, most of them have never even set foot in the Moluccas, claim to represent millions Mollucans indigenous people, like myself, who continue to live happily in the islands and proudly belong to the Indonesian nation. It would become even more ironical when those who used to oppress a struggle of independence suddenly claim to champion freedom.

Thirdly, Madam chairman, what were they talking about? We challenge the credibility of that particular statement by requesting the speaker to prove here and now that the Indonesian Government is conducting genocide and extermination as well as enforced sterilization started by the age of ten in the Moluccas. As to the presence of Javanese in the province of Moluccas, in a unitary state like Indonesia it should be considered as normal as the presence of so many Moluccans in Java. Let me recall at this point the Indonesian family-planning programme and population policy has won recognition from the international community through the presentation of the UN Population Award to our President in 1989.

Fourth and lastly, with regard to the question of self-determination, let me just draw the attention of the Working Group to the relevant passage of the Vienna Declaration which says that in accordance with the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principle of self-determination shall not be construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and thus possessed of a Government representing the whole people belonging to the territory without distinction of any kind.

Thank you.