

FIRST PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

May 13 – May 24
United Nations Headquarters
New York City, NY 10017

Intervention by : **AlifUru** Organisation
Pelpina Sahureka

General Statements
May 21, 2002

Distinguish Mr. Chairman,
Members of the Permanent Forum
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Indigenous Brothers and Sisters

This first meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues here within the United Nations Headquarters in New York City marks a truly historic event for all indigenous peoples throughout the world.

We have come from all over the world to state our case, to express our sufferings, to voice the silenced cry of our peoples, to give face to the faceless indigenous, and to mark our existence as a people and as a nation.

All of us are suffering and struggling for our Rights, to regain our Lands, Dignity, Sovereignty, Liberation and Freedom.

The AlifUru people from the Moluccan Islands greet all of you and express their sincere solidarity with you.

We express our willingness to cooperate closely within the Indigenous peoples community.

We ourselves the AlifUru people in Maluku are victims of gross human rights violations, warcrimes and crimes against humanity. We have been ousted from our ancestral grounds, our lands are taken away from us, we are hunted down, persecuted and slaughtered on our own native lands.

The last three years the Indonesian Government has sent more than 50,000 heavily equipped military to wage a complete war against us. They attack us daily with mortars, bombs, ultra modern weapons. They kill and slaughter us indiscriminatingly without distinction of men, women, children or even babies.

Since the year 2000 in their attacks against the Moluccan people they have been backed by the Jihad warriors.

The Jihad warriors are Muslims fundamentalists recruited, formed and armed by Rustam Kastor, a Lt. General of the Indonesian Army. Since April 2000 these Jihad warriors have declared war upon the Moluccan people of AlifUru descent and have come to our ancestral grounds to annihilate us. These Jihad warriors are being helped by members of the Taliban and Alqueda.

In three years the Indonesian army and the Jihad forces have killed more than 40,000 indigenous AlifUru People in Maluku.

They continue to commit all these war crimes and crimes against humanity with full impunity and no accountability.

The Commander. Jafar Umar Thalib, of the approximately 30,000 Jihad warriors in Maluku, was detained by the Indonesian police after having attacked some villages in Ambon and mercilessly slaughtered and burned to death twelve indigenous people, of which elderly couples, little baby of 8 months old, defenseless women and their little children of the ages 5 and 10.

The murderer Jafar Umar Thalib has been charged however, for insulting the Indonesian President.

While detained by the Indonesian police, the Indonesian Vice-President paid the Jihad Commander a visit and vowed to have him released as soon as possible.

Mr. President,
distinguish Members of the Permanent Forum,
and all Indigenous peoples of the world,

Whereas it is the responsibility of the United Nations to bring perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice, we call upon you to the United Nations to use all its offices to prevent the Commander of the Jihad warriors from being released.

The indigenous AlifUru people call upon you to help us to bring Mr. Jafar Umar Talib to justice and have him prosecuted to the fullest extent of international law for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed and still being committed in Maluku by the Jihad and Mudjahidin warriors.

We rely and hope on your solidarity. Thank you.