

PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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United Nations Headquarters

New York City, NY 10017



Intervention made by:

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Agenda item 6 : Theme – Human Rights

Mr. Chairman,

My name is John Lensru, I am representing the Indigenous people of West Papua. I take this opportunity to expose the case surrounding the logging concessions of the forest as being suffered now by the Indigenous people of West Papua.

The Indonesian Government has made concession with some foreign wood company for their wood industry. The Indonesian Government contracted them with only two conditions:

1. they have to pay taxes to the Indonesian Government
2. to support the indigenous people or the owner of the forest with the development of the village or to give aid in education, health, etc.

However, it is evident that the wood company only pays taxes to the Indonesian Government while any aid to the Indigenous people has never been given in any form whatsoever.

This gives rise to animosity between the Indigenous people and the wood companies.. The Indonesian Government has been informed about this on numerous occasions through letters and demonstrations. But the Indonesian Government continues to cooperate with the wood companies by placing military within their compounds to protect them.

The voice and the will of the Indigenous people are being ignored . The military presence at the wood companies allow them to cut freely our rain forest.

The indigenous people feared the well equipped Indonesian military and so are afraid to take actions against the wood companies.

The Indigenous people get poorer in their own land. One of the reasons why the Indigenous people did not trust the Indonesian Government. For until now there are anti-demonstrations against the Indonesian Government . Moreover, because the Indonesian Government did not expose until now the muderers of their leader Mr. Theys Hiyo Eluay who has struggled for and defended the inalienable rights of the Indigenous people of West Papua.

Another reason more for the Indigenous people to continue their fight for liberation and independence. The Indigenous people do not wish to be occupied by Indonesia.

We are sorry to have to state this in the presence of the Indonesian representation here. But this is the real situation of the Indigenous people of West Papua and he should realize this.

Mr. Chairman,

Although the extremely high expenses that I have paid by myself to come here to New York to participate at this permanent forum is less important to me, because I value more the opportunity given to expose and to appeal to this Forum and through this Forum to the attention and concern of the International World the situation of the Indigenous people of West Papua.

Thank you very much for your attention.