

PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

May 13 – May 24

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,

New York City, New York 10017.

INTERVENTION MADE BY: Pelpina SAHUREKA, email: PSAHUREKA@hotmail.com



Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Indigenous AlifUru people of Maluku (=the Moluccas) I wish to congratulate you with your presidency to this First Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The AlifUru Indigenous people takes pride to participate in this historic event.

Article 42 of the Resolution on the Right of Indigenous Peoples states; I quote:

“The right recognized herein constitutes the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well being of the indigenous peoples of the world”

It is in the light of this quotation derived directly from the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that I would like to draw your immediate attention to the peril situation of the Indigenous AlifUru people in the Moluccas, where their fundamental rights as the simple right to live is at stake.

The Indigenous AlifUru people are in the process of being exterminated as a People and as a Nation.

Their every day life constitutes a constant threat of death, terror, humiliation, agony, atrocities and enslavement.

Since April 11th 2002 by the decree under the act of the Indonesian Civil Emergency in Maluku all foreigners, international press, NGO's and even relief organizations as the ACF were forbidden to enter the Moluccas.

Maluku is totally isolated and placed out of reach of international attention and concern.

Any form of manifestation of their national aspiration, the RMS, whether hoisting the four colored flag or possessing RMS documentation were punishable by death.

Since April 2002, some 15 indigenous Moluccans were arrested and detained by the Indonesian police. Now under the custody of the Indonesian military they are being beaten and tortured with electricity.

We fear their well being since until now no one is allowed to see or visit them.

At the moment Maluku is a land of total devastation where the economy is destroyed for 85%, the educational system has totally collapsed and the cultural identity of the indigenous AlifUru people being wiped out.

It has to be evident now that all the slanderous accusations of Indonesia that the war situation in Maluku is only a mere inter-religious clash is not founded on reality, but used as a pretext to cover the war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Indonesian army and their Jihad troops.

Moreover the presence of 53 battalions of the Indonesian Army in the Moluccas especially in the main islands of Ceram and Ambon can only prove this point that this is a real war situation imposed on the Moluccan people by the Indonesians.

In joint attack with the 26.000 Jihad warriors the Indonesian troops have been attacking on a daily basis the indigenous AlifUru people with mortars, bombs and all other heavy military war equipment.

Our people have been ousted from their ancestral grounds. These grounds are now being used by the Indonesian Army as training grounds for the Indonesian soldiers and the Jihad warriors. To avoid the indigenous peoples of returning to their villages, the Indonesian Army has put everywhere land mines.

Mr. Chairman,

On April 28th 2002, the Indonesian special commando unit, the Kopassus, with the Jihad forces have killed a beautiful baby girl of eight months, Agnes Souhoka, with two bayonets stabs. Her mother was killed also with bayonets stabs and a rain of bullets.

It is in their memory that I would like to appeal to you and through you to all the indigenous people in the world to help the Indigenous AlifUru people in the Moluccas.

We hope that you can find ways to help us within the UN machinery to at least stop the warcrimes and crimes against humanity now perpetrated by Indonesia in Maluku.

I thank you for your attention.