

FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS
A HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL

A Statement for the Submission to the
Working Group on the Indigenous Populations

Commission on Human Rights
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by

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Madame Chairman,

Thank you for granting me the possibility to speak up on behalf of the South Moluccan Peoples on their islands. I also would have my Thanks extended to the Members of the Working Group who have taken the trouble to have the Case studied and contemplated.

Of late I noticed a newspaper article which title read: "The Greenhouse effect." It analysed atmospheric changes which are threatening enough to life on earth, its hazards invisible and shrouded, sending down alarming signals to worried scientists.

I suddenly became aware that the Case of the South Moluccas, though clearly perceptible and recognized, hardly set anyone to an alarming stage, due to pursuits of gains which rather had kept it burried for time immemorial.

I named the Case for myself: "The Glasshouse effect."

An effect of being noticeable but grimly forsaken!
The Glass-wall, a barrier, to which no one would worry, possibly to the lacking of that 'specific alarming status'.

But we also are aware that any such 'alarming effect' often becomes unmanageable, as it is mostly preceded by a lengthy continuance of inadvertence and heedlessness, breeding either commotion to rocking the boat or the mute silence of obliteration. The Glasshouse positioned, we compose a study material, though complicated, to pass them on as informatively to the Working Group. "The Indonesian military force stationed on the South Moluccas at any time engenders fear and anxiety among the inhabitants, a contradiction to the Armed Forces doctrine of 'Dual Function' which core aim is to protect its citizens and pioneering them to constructive pursuits. Instead, it has become their marrow and inner nucleus of anguish and trepidation, its arbitrariness of dealing random shocks and calamity at any time of the day when the sudden whim stirs up to terrorize. Even from the church pulpit, as was the case in the villages of Riring and Rumahsoal in the West of Seram isl. in August last year, the military sermonized their threat to the congregation that three stacks of bullets could be sprayed upon them if they resisted to cede their dammar trees to a wealthy Chinese who owned the precinct's plywood mill.

Indeed, the strongest which is the key-capitalism of the South Moluccas, is the minority Chinese, purchasing nearly all the native inherited lands and forestry, the bargaining conduct always intermediated by the army men, combat equipped, to have the lowest price settled. The Chinese then set up enormous enterprises, ranging from big hotels to public houses, employing mostly the outer islands people as Javanese, Sumatrans, Buginese from South Celebes, leaving the islands' natives unemployed and stranded on the bleak peripheries of poverty and social disarray.

On medical care, the state hospital in the South Moluccas is labelled "a place to die and not to gain health". A commentary in the Ambon weekly "NASIONAL" as far back into 1979 alluded that the unhygienic condition of Ambon general hospital and the loss of humanitarian sense among the doctors and the nursing team ruled the patient as nothing more than the candidate-corpse at admission. Current condition portrays the sick to have his medicens bought by himself at hospitalization, his bed, blanket, sheets, food and boiled drinking-water, particularly his antibiotics taken care either by himself or his family. Should surgery be required, then the surgeon-blade, the suture, the anaesthetic, infusion and bloodtransfusion must be privately purchased, otherwise he finds himself put off indefinitely on the waiting list.

The perennial mishap raises the question to the most ordinary sense of human thinking, if the Billion US dollars in financial support for Indonesia by the I G G I (Inter Governmental Group for Indonesia), chaired by the Dutch Government in The Hague (Holland) since 1967 should not have its minimum, I repeat, its minimum shed into this segment of the most essential part of a humanitarian service!

Moluccas is the only Indonesian eastern province of the New Order era devoided of an indigenous Governor. On the 22nd September of last year, the Javanese Governor and Army Officer, Hasan Slamet finished his office term of 11 years and 2 months administrating the Moluccas and replaced by another Javanese Major General, Sebastian Soekoso. Despite a petition by 2000 students of Moluccan origin in Surabaya (East Java capital) and scores of Moluccans in Jakarta, organized through the regime's ruling party GOLKAR as was also efforts in Maluku itself endeavoured to have an indigenous Father Governor: the struggle is of no avail. On September 22, Sebastian Soekoso took oath in the Provincial Assembly of the Moluccas to commence his tenure as the new Governor.

I place the Greenhouse and my Glasshouse next to each other and I figure the Glasshouse the loneliest effect amidst the waves of current substantial world's changes.

The Glass wall massive and impenetrable, the people behind it excluded from consciousness how today's political world keeps shifting and changing, would never know how to manage or act to the benefit of their environment in general and their family in particular! They are a people, though, the South Moluccans, who have gained a place in history by dying in large numbers alongside the Allied Forces to have Piece brought back to mankind at the end of World War II. There is a mistake by spirit to blemish them 'mercenaries' as was pronounced by the country concerned its representative in his 1987 speech before this forum. Those thousands and thousands of deaths, the destruction of almost the entire capital Ambon convinced us of an honourable sacrifice in bringing a halt to a World War so that the Democracy could be restored to the happy pursuit of man.

On the 25th of April of this year, the commemoration day of the Republic South Moluccas, some islands' precincts raised the republic's flag which resulted in an onset of mass arrest. Torture being harshly applied at interrogation, one man beaten up with a truncheon provided with large iron nails which after a few beatings only caused the detainee's intestines almost slid out of his abdominal wall. His condition obscure until today, the mass arrest still valid to go on, the indigenous Police Chief immediately replaced by a Javanese man from Java: exhibits the Glasshouse effect here, its abandonment causing a Death to a People in modern time. We hope the Working Group will take sincere note of the information to have it closely studied, helping it out for a solution!

Thank you Madame Chairman!