



ERH Lodik 167

4th United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Item 5: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Individual Statement: Bangsa Adat AlifUru

Geneva, July 14th 2011

Presented by: Lodik Siahaya

Tablea Mr. Chair, respected Members, Delegates, Indigenous Brothers and Sisters,

In remembering that Indigenous Peoples have the right to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law. We would like to express our concerns on several issues.

We do understand the complexity of the debates, but we strongly believe that we have to widen our fight against the hypocritical attitude of, in our case the Indonesian government. Signing an agreement such as the UNDRIP is one thing, but implementing the Declaration is another.

Human Rights should not be considered solely in the context of violations, they represent collective aspirations and ideals in general and should be regarded as common standards of achievement for all Peoples and Nations.

Deforestation for palm oil plantations on our islands with the approval of the Indonesian Government, causes flooding in the area and have also an affect on the biological diversity of the wildlife, and not to forget the impact of livelihood on our islands.

We, the AlifURU people have a Governing Council of Traditional Elders, which convened on July 9th 2010 in a special meeting to reaffirm the importance of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as a context for our own traditional laws and values. But recently, our struggle for more democracy has been disrupted.

Last June, the Indonesian government convened a so called Maluku customary council, comprising of non-traditional leaders selected by the government, with the aim to change the UN Declaration according to their own views. This council has appointed the president of Indonesia as the chairman and highest authority on traditional affairs.

The Indonesian Government was one of the Nation States who adopted the Declaration, but it revealed how empty and hypocritical much of the 'Human Rights' clamor is in Indonesia. It also teaches us that what they call Human Rights, is in reality self centered individualistic values.

We strongly believe that the Indonesian Government uses the Human Rights issue to protect its wicked political maneuvers to undermine the unyielding struggle of the Indigenous AlifURU people for self-determination.

For this reason we are concerned that the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples is not being fully implemented by States, Indonesia in particular, that have voted in favor as well as States that have recently lent their support.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Mechanism, representatives of States, NGO's, and UN agencies, we would like to remind the importance of the before implementation of the document containing the collective Human Rights standards for Indigenous Peoples, by closing with one of the most adamant phrases of the Declaration:

"Bearing in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any Peoples their right to self determination, exercised in conformity with international law"

Matebulu,

Thank you Mr. Chair,