



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

Oral Statement

Agenda Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the SR on Indigenous Peoples 27th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Mr. President,

The commitment to Non-Discrimination is one of the great pillars of the United Nations Charter, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Human Rights Treaties. A principal objective of the human rights movement is to eliminate discrimination in all its forms across the globe. There are many treaties and Conventions to attest to this. Yet, the Government of Indonesia, a member of the current Human Rights Council, continues its practice of discrimination against the indigenous Papuan people.

The Papuan people are indigenous groups and the original inhabitants of the current provinces of Papua and West Papua in Indonesia. Till now, they are being treated as second class citizens in their own land. The administration, infrastructure and economic development plans for their region favours the population of trans-migrants and not the indigenous people. The exploitation of natural resources, especially the extractive industries and palm oil plantation, favours foreign business interests and not the historical and indigenous peoples.

The unique character and distinctive culture of these people has never been fully recognised or respected by the Government of Indonesia. Education and health systems that takes account of their rights and needs has never been fully developed. After more than fifty years of this practice of discrimination, it is now the deliberate policy of the Government of Indonesia towards the Papuan people. Changing this policy of discrimination, and granting due recognition and respect for Papuans and their rights could be a first step in redressing this historical injustice. The excessive presence of the security forces in the two provinces of Papua, especially the military, has perpetuated the multi layers of discrimination among the Papuan Indigenous peoples.

While welcoming the election of the new administration in Indonesia, we strongly urge the Government of Indonesia to:

- 1. Reduce the number of military forces deployed in Papua and ensure the compliance by the security forces with Indonesia's obligations under the international human rights laws and standard;**
- 2. Engage in a sincere and open dialogue with the indigenous Papuans in their territory to determine future contractual relations with extractive industries that will respect the guiding principle of 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent'.**
- 3. Modify existing legislation and practises which discriminate and violate the rights of indigenous peoples and give greater prominence to the indigenous Papuans when developing new policies for the region.**

I thank you.