

“SKP and FI complaint to the UN”

Geneva, 25 April 2004. Having advocated the Abepura case along with the Coalition of Civil Society for the Abepura case in the last three years, the Office for Justice and Peace (*Sekretariat Keadilan dan Perdamaian/ SKP*) and *Franciscans International*, a Geneva-based NGO, sent a letter to Leandro Despuy, the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. In their letter, these two institutions appealed to him to (1) urge the Indonesian authorities to ensure that the Abepura case is fair, impartial and in line with international standards; (2) closely monitor this trial in order to comply with the international standards of human rights trials; (3) transmit this communication to the relevant special procedures.

Some of the international NGOs, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, which keep monitoring this case have also taken action. In its public statement 7 May 2004, Amnesty International, a London-based NGO, urged the Government of Indonesia to ensure that the Permanent Human Rights court will be fair, impartial and meet with the international standard of human rights court.

In 2003, the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Question of Torture and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions reported the Abepura case to the 59th Session of the Commission on Human Rights. However, it was not until this year, the Attorney General filed this case to the Permanent Human Rights Court in Makassar as it was stipulated by Law No. 26/2000 on Human Rights Court.