

The gloomy Papua at the UN CHR

Geneva, 29 March 2005. As a representative of the Office of Justice and Peace of Jayapura, (SKP) Friar Budi Hernawan OFM portrayed the gloomy human rights situation in Papua to the prestigious 61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights 14 March – 22 April 2005. During the session where the Indonesian Ambassador, Makarim Wibisono, is the chair, Friar Budi strongly urged the commission to seriously address the protracted human rights violations in Papua. In his statement to the commission, he raised six key points with the commission.

The statement is supported by three accredited NGOs with ECOSOC, including Franciscans International, Pax Romana and Catholic Institute for International Relations, first of all urges the Government of Indonesia to apply human rights approach to implement the Special Autonomy Law. Secondly, it urges GOI to protect and respect the rights of indigenous people in Papua. Thirdly, it appeals to the commission to grant all necessary support to GOI in dealing with problems in Papua in a peaceful manner. Fourthly, the statement requests the strong support from the commission to GOI to combat corruption and the cycle of impunity. Fifthly, it urges the SBY government to ratify the major international human rights instruments. Lastly, the statement urges GOI to fully cooperate with the UN Special Procedures, particularly in inviting the Special Rapporteurs who have asked for invitations.

This appeal is based on the on-going practice of extra-judicial killings as this was reported happened in Mariedi, District of the Bintuni Bay, and in Mulia, District of Puncak Jaya. The problem of impunity remains a major obstacle for upholding and protecting of human rights since the legal proceedings of the Abepura case only prosecute two suspects whereas the Inquiry Commission listed 25 suspects.

In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, the situation is not too promising. Papua remains ranked the second poorest province in Indonesia according to the UNDP standard in HDI whereas her regional income reaches the third highest. The question is where the money goes? “UNDP signifies that most of the income is not invested to public services”, stated 2004 UNDP report.

In the last four years, SKP in conjunction with FI has organised a joint advocacy and lobby work at the UN level and this year, she held a panel discussion on “Papua as a Land of Peace”. This panel presented Bishop Leo L. Ladjar OFM (Bishop of Jayapura), Rev. Herman Saud (Chairman of the Synod of the Christian Evangelical Church) and H. Zubeir Hussein (Chair of Indonesian Muslim Ulama) who failed to attend due to a personal reason. SKP also supported the work of the Jakarta-based NGOs in campaigning the case of Munir.

Beside SKP and FI, World Council of Churches and the German Churches also paid a lot of attention to Papua. German Churches in particular presented their research on economic, social and cultural rights in Papua (*).