

## “Papua Land of Peace” at the UN

**Geneva, 31 March 2005.** Two major church leaders of Papua, Bishop Leo L. Ladjar OFM and Rev. Hermann Saud, hit Geneva with their presentations on “Papua Land of Peace”. During the session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (CHR), both leaders outline their work in dealing with conflict, human rights violations, and in pursuing any efforts to build peace as an important step to build communion based on the vast diversity in Papua. “Politics divides people but on the contrary, Gospel unites people. One thing we dream for is to live as a human being with dignity. In order to implement it, we want to build the atmosphere of peace and justice so as to enable the growth of common good for our people”, emphasised Bishop Leo, bishop of Jayapura.



Rev. Saud depicted the history of the Papuan people who suffer from the inhuman treatment of the government and the army. This history has been embedded in the collective memory of Papuans (*memoria passionis*). Moreover, Rev. Saud, the chair of the largest church in Papua, emphasised, “ The campaign of Papua Land of Peace is not identical with the campaign of independence at all since the main goal of the PLP campaign is that whether Papua is independent or not, peace has to

prevail in Papua. Therefore, the peace campaign is completely different from political independence”.

During the discussion facilitated by Ravi Nair, Director of Asia Human Rights Documentation India, the Indonesian acting Ambassador, Eddi Hariyadi, attended and delivered his speech. Among the audience, representatives of international NGOs, diplomatic missions at the UN and journalists filled up Varembe Conference Centre.

Besides these leaders, a survivor of the community of the survivors of the Abepura case, Mr Peneas Lokbere, presented his testimony of the traumatic experience where he was tortured by the police in the police custody in Jayapura as if he was linked to the case of Abepura, 7 December 2000. Both Jayapura and Jakarta-based NGOs closely monitor this legal proceedings at the permanent human rights court in Makassar. SKP Jayapura, as part of this coalition, continues to monitor and raise this trial during the session of CHR. (\*).

