

FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH MOLUCCAS
A HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL

A STATEMENT FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE WORKING GROUP
ON THE INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
GENEVA, JULY 31 - AUGUST 4, 1989

BY
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MADAME CHAIRMAN,

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP THAT WE GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLY YOU INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE MOLUCCAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ON VARIOUS ISLANDS.

MY REQUEST, ADDRESSED IN PARTICULAR TO THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP, TO STUDY AGAIN HOW A CERTAIN MANKIND, WHO POSSESSES AN OWN TRADITION, OWN LANGUAGE, OWN TERRITORY, HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY ANOTHER NATION BY FORCE.

IN 1987 A MEMBER OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION STATED IN THAT FORUM THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF SOUTH MOLUCCANS IN THE METROPOLITAN COUNTRY DREAMT OF AN IMAGINARY STATE. BUT AT THIS VERY MOMENT YOUNG MOLUCCANS (AT THE AGE OF 20-30 YEARS) RAISED AGAIN (4TH TIME) THE RMS (REPUBLIC OF SOUTH MOLUCCAS) FLAG ON THE PROCLAMATION DAY, THE 25TH OF APRIL 1989, ON VARIOUS MOLUCCAN ISLANDS (HARUKU, SAPARUA AND NUSALAUT).

AFTER THIS ACTION THEY TEARED UP THE INDONESIAN FLAG INTO PIECES. AS A COUNTERACTION OF THE INDONESIAN SIDE THEY HAVE BEATEN UP AND ARRESTED TWO TEACHERS WITHOUT ANY PROCESS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS INCIDENT.

THESE YOUNGSTERS DID NOT DEMONSTRATE IN A VIOLENT WAY, BUT PURELY TO SHOW THEIR IDEAL AND THEIR DISAPPROVAL IN CASE FOR INSTANCE OF LOWERING THE CLOVES PRICES BY THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT. FOR INSIDERS CLOVES ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE.

NATURALLY, WE MENTION NO NAMES HERE AS FOR FEAR OF REPRISAL.

THIS NEWS WAS TAKEN FROM THE RADIO IN THE NETHERLANDS (NOS HILVERSUM) ON JUNE 11, 1989.

OF LATE WE ALSO HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT IN 1987 SOME ALIFURU TRIBES (NUAULU AND SEPA) AT CERAM HAVE BEEN CHASED AWAY FROM THEIR ANCIENT HOUSES (THE SO-CALLED BAILEO) BY EMIGRANTS BY ORDER OF MILITARY PERSONS.

THESE EMIGRANTS ALSO CUT DOWN SAGO AND BANANA TREES IN ORDER TO MAKE USE OF THE LAND THEMSELVES.

THE TRIBES FLED INTO THE MOUNTAINS, TWO DAYS' WALK TO THE TOWN WAIPIA.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ITEM TO DISCUSS. AN EXAMPLE OF TAKING POSSESSION AND USE OF THE LANDS OR RESOURCES WHICH THE TRIBES HAVE TRADITIONALLY OCCUPIED OR USED.

ACCORDING TO MY KNOWLEDGE THE LANDS MAY ONLY BE TAKEN AWAY BY A TREATY OR AGREEMENT.

WE HOPE THE WORKING GROUP WILL TAKE SINCERE NOTE OF THE INFORMATION TO HAVE IT CLOSELY STUDIED, HELPING IT OUT FOR A SOLUTION.

THANK YOU MADAME CHAIRMAN.

July 1989

Homeland Mission 1950