

ORAL STATEMENT

28th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
General Debate Item 4 -17 March 2015

Delivered by Budi Tjahjono – Franciscans International

Mr President,

We, a coalition of international and national NGOs, would like to draw the attention of the Council to the serious human rights situation in Papua.

Cases of extra-judicial and summary execution by Indonesian security forces in the provinces of Papua and West Papua take place regularly. Indigenous Papuans do not benefit from the same 'right to life' protection from the Government of Indonesia compared with persons living elsewhere in Indonesia. Reports received from Papuan human rights organisations describe the excessive use of force and unprocedural use of firearms by Indonesian security forces towards indigenous Papuans. Each year our organisations record cases of extrajudicial executions – many of which demonstrate excessive or unnecessary use of violence, applied by police forces as a repressive measure during demonstrations and gatherings.

We would like to draw the Council's attention to the recent case in Paniai, Papua Province. On 8th December 2014, the Indonesian security forces shot dead four high school students, Mr. Alpius Youw (17 yo), Mr. Yulian Yeimo, (17 yo), Mr. Simon Degei (18 yo), Mr. Alpius Gobai, (17yo), and injured at least 23 other people. Military and police officers fired into the crowd of around 800 indigenous villagers who had gathered to perform a traditional Papuan *waita* dance. The dance was an expression of grievance of events of the night before, when military officers ill-treated two children and shot another.

The Government of Indonesia needs to consider reducing the number of military forces deployed in Papua and ensure that security forces comply with Indonesia's obligations under international human rights law, and that the National Police applies effective oversight of the provincial police in Papua and ensures that residents of Papua can enjoy a high standard of law enforcement and access to effective remedies.

Indonesia is a member of this Council and a state party to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In the Concluding Observation for the review of Indonesia in 2013, the Human Rights Committee expressed its concern on the use of excessive of force and extra-judicial killings by the police and the military (...) including in Papua. The Committee issued a recommendation that "The State party should take concrete steps to prevent the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers by ensuring that they comply with the 1990 United Nations' Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials".

Therefore, we urge the Government of Indonesia:

- 1. To take urgent action to ensure the safety of the Papuan community in the District of Paniai;**
- 2. To reform the Indonesian Military Court system which currently lets impunity prevails;**
- 3. To undertake, without delay, a sub-poena investigation by the Indonesian Commission on Human Rights (KOMNAS HAM) by the establishment of a Special Investigation Team of Human Rights (Komisi Penyelidikan Pelanggaran Hak Asasi Manusia – KPP HAM);**
- 4. To investigate the case without delay and to ensure witness protection by involving Indonesia's Witness and Victim Protection Agency (*Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi dan Korban – LPSK*);**
- 5. To provide medical treatment and compensation for the victims, counseling for victims' families until they are able to resume their lives properly, and introduce immediate institutional reforms to prevent recurrence.**

Thank you.

Joint statements of

1. Franciscans International,
2. VIVAT International,
3. The International Coalition for Papua,
4. WestPapua Netzwerk,
5. Paniai Indigenous Council,
6. TAPOL,
7. Imparsial,
8. JPIC OFM Indonesia

9. JPIC Diocese of Merauke, Papua

10. JPIC Diocese of Timika, Papua