



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



GENEVA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
Global Training

GENEVE POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Formation Internationale



**World Council
of Churches**

**42nd session of the Human Rights Council
ITEM 3 & 5: Clustered ID dialogue with
the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people**

Delivered by Andrzej Owca

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Mr. President and Madame Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people.

VIVAT International and the coalition of 7 NGOs thank the Special Rapporteur for the report and valuable observations and proposals to guarantee enjoyment of all human rights by indigenous people.

At the same time, we would like to express deep concern about many acts of violence towards indigenous Papuans in Indonesia, especially in the provinces Papua and Papua Barat, and about the increase in reported incidents of racism and racial discrimination against Papuan students in several cities in Java; especially Malang, Semarang and Surabaya.

Further, we are gravely concerned by reports incident, which took place on August 28, 2019 in Waghete city of Deiyai Regency, where several thousand indigenous Papuans peacefully protested against the racism endured by Papuan students in Java.

However, a large number of security force personnel gathered at the Regent's office and allegedly, without any reason, opened fire on the Papuans protestors. As a result, five Papuans were killed and 50 injured.

This incident triggered further demonstrations and unrest, and an escalating reaction by the authorities – including blocking electronic communications across West Papua, resulting in further impacts on the rights and freedom of indigenous Papuans.

Therefore, we urge the government of Indonesia to:

1. Ensure legal accountability of every person responsible for acts of violence against indigenous Papuans.
2. Ensure that perpetrators of extra-judicial killings are brought to justice, and to take stronger and more effective measures to prevent any such killings in the future.

3. Respect and protect the right of peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and expression, and unimpeded access to means of communication, including social media and other internet-based communications.
4. Address instances of racism and racial discrimination against indigenous Papuans anywhere in Indonesia and ensure that they enjoy equal rights with other Indonesian citizens both in law and in fact.

Thank you.