

51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 2: General Debate on the report of the High Commissioner

14 September 2022

Delivered by Yuliana Langowuyo

Thank you Mr President,

Franciscans International and Geneva for Human Rights would like to welcome Mr Volker Türk as the new High Commissioner for Human Rights. We are confident, Mr High Commissioner, that you will continue working closely with civil society organisations and the victims of human rights violations.

I am Yuliana Languwoyo, an indigenous human rights defender from West Papua, Indonesia. In 2018, during the official visit to Indonesia by High Commissioner Mr. Zeid Ra'ad bin Hussein was invited by Mr Joko Widodo, the President of Indonesia to visit West Papua.¹

Despite the on-going negotiation between the OHCHR and the Indonesian authorities, for more than four years, the visit has not taken place yet. In the meantime, the human rights situation in West Papua continue to deteriorate.

The on-going conflict between the Indonesian security forces and the pro-independent armed groups have resulted in the increase of the death toll. Both indigenous Papuans and non-Papuans have been killed by both parties in the conflict. The latest example was reported yesterday by the High Commissioner ad Interim in her oral update at the opening of this 51st session of the Human Rights Council, namely the extrajudicial execution of four indigenous Papuans last August in Timika and the mutilation of their bodies by six members of the elite troops of the Indonesian security forces.

Currently, 60.000 people are estimated to be internally displaced in the Provinces of Papua and Papua Barat, mainly indigenous women and children, due to the on-going armed conflict.² In addition, the rights of the indigenous Papuans to express their opinion and their freedom to peaceful assembly continue to be violated by the State through harassment, arbitrary arrests and detentions in Papua. The access of the international community, including international journalists, to the region has been very much restricted.

Mr President, we ask the High Commissioner to organize his visit to West Papua as a matter of urgency. I thank you.

¹ UN Human Rights Chief ends visit to Indonesia – Full statement (07 February 2018)
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2018/02/un-human-rights-chief-ends-visit-indonesia-full-statement>

² See the joint communication of the UN Special Rapporteurs on Internally Displaced Persons, on Extrajudicial and Summary Execution and on Indigenous Peoples to the Government of Indonesia on 27 December 2021, available at
<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26909>