



Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples in Asia: Cases in West Papua

25 September 2013, 12:00 – 14:00, Room XXII, Palais des Nations

This parallel event aims at critically reviewing the human rights situation of Indigenous Peoples in Asia, with specific focus on West Papua, in Indonesia. With considerably limited access to effective complaint mechanisms to provide remedies, members of indigenous communities in Asia face state violence, stigmatization and suffer from the exploitation of natural resources they hold customary rights to. As marginalized groups indigenous peoples face additional challenges to claim their rights, including institutional discrimination and a context often marked by conflicts.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples in his report mentioned on the “widespread negative impacts of extractive projects that are implemented in or near indigenous peoples’ territories in paces throughout Asia”. Further he also made a reference on the cases of militarization of indigenous peoples’ territories and that the presence of military forces in he indigenous areas is alleged to have resulted in a number of violation of human rights of indigenous peoples.

A serious example in Asia is the situation of indigenous Papuans in Indonesia. There has been continuous violation of human rights of the indigenous Papuans and the fact that the international access to Papua has been made very difficult. UN Special Procedures, independent foreign journalists and other international observers are not given access to this conflict region. The panel will shed light on sources of the conflict and ongoing impunity and will discuss strategies to ensure peace and protection of rights.

Panelist

1. **Mr. Gustaf Kawer, Human rights lawyer**
Victimization based on ethnicity: Remedies for victims of torture among indigenous Papuans
2. **Ms. Answer Styannes, Asian Human Rights Commission**
History of violence and prospects for conflict resolution: Case study of history of mass violence in West Papua
3. **Mr. Leonard Imbiri, YADUPA**
The use of Free Prior and Informed Consent in cases of natural resources extraction affecting indigenous peoples

Discussant:

Mr. Muridan S. Widjojo, Center for Political Studies, Indonesian Institute of Sciences

Moderator

Mr. Adrien-Claude Zoller, Geneva for Human Rights – Global Training (tbc)

Light refreshment will be provided

We are very happy that the WCC will host a reception organized by the international coalition for Papua on Monday. September 23, 18.00 – 19.30 at the Ecumenical Centre, World Council of Churches, where you can have more in depth interaction with the human rights defenders from Papua

Organizers

Franciscans International (FI), International Coalition for Papua (ICP), World Organization against Torture (OMCT) Commission of the