



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 90th session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has considered, under its early warning and urgent action procedure, allegations of excessive use of force, arrests, killings and torture of persons belonging to the Papuan indigenous people in West Papua, Indonesia, and allegations of discrimination against this people, that have been brought to its attention by a non-governmental organisation.

According to information received, persons belonging to the Papuan indigenous people in West Papua have, for some years, been facing repression by security forces of the State party during Papuan flag-raising ceremonies and demonstrations.

Reportedly, between April 2013 and December 2014, security forces killed 22 persons during demonstrations and a number of persons have also been killed or injured since January 2016. It is alleged that, in May 2014, more than 470 persons belonging to the Papuan indigenous people were arrested in cities of West Papua during demonstrations against extraction and plantation activities. Such arrests have reportedly increased since the beginning of 2016 amounting to 4000 between April and June 2016 and have included human rights activists and journalists.

Such acts have reportedly never been investigated and those responsible have gone unpunished. The submission claims that repression of persons belonging to the Papuan indigenous people is the result of a misinterpretation and lack of a correct implementation of the Special Autonomy Law by local and national authorities of Indonesia. The submission also claims that actions by security forces constitute violations of the rights of freedom of assembly and association.

His Excellency Mr. Triyono Wibowo
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Additionally, it is reported that, for decades, the State party has implemented a policy consisting of favouring the migration of non-indigenous persons from other parts of Indonesia to West Papua, which leads to the decline in representation of the population of Papuans in comparison to the general population in their territory. Further, the submission alleges that Papuan indigenous people in West Papua face the poorest educational standards in the country resulting in very low rates of literacy, as low as 20 per cent in remote villages.

In light of information above, the Committee is concerned that these allegations, if verified, could hinder the full enjoyment of rights under the Convention. The Committee reiterates the concern expressed and recommendations made in paragraph 22 of its concluding observations (CERD/C/IND/CO/3, para. 22) of 15 August 2007.

In accordance with Article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests that the State party submit information on all of the issues and concerns as outlined above by 14 November 2016, as well as on any action already taken to address these concerns. In particular, it requests that the Government of Indonesia provide information on: a) its response to the allegations described above; b) the status of implementation of the Special Autonomy Law in West Papua ; c) measures taken to ensure the effective protection of indigenous people in West Papua from arbitrary arrests and detentions as well as deprivation of life; d) measures taken to ensure that indigenous people from West Papua effectively enjoy their rights to freedom of assembly and association including persons with dissenting opinions; e) measures taken to investigate allegations of excessive use of force by security forces including including killings; f) steps taken to improve access to education of Papuan children in West Papua in particular those living in very remote areas.

The Committee urges that the State party to submit its fourth to sixth combined periodic reports which are overdue since 25 July 2010.

Allow me, Excellency, to express the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Indonesia, with a view to provide it with assistance in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Anastasia Crickley
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination