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Passionist International
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AGENDA ITEM #4:

Implementation of the Six Mandated Areas of the Permanent Forum in Relation to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Madam Chair, the Passionist International, the Diocese of Marbel, and the Passionist Center for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Inc., would like to thank the Forum for continuously making these follow-ups in the identified mandated areas relating to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and based on the experiences of our organization, allow us to make the following observations on some of these mandated areas in relation to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

While the Philippine Commission on Human Rights may want to congratulate itself for its achievements as laid out in the document under this agenda item, the Passionist Center-Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Inc (PC-JPIC) would like to express its utmost scorn and contempt for the continuing inaction of the Commission in the following cases :

- a) Capion Massacre - On October 17, 2012 the family of the well- known anti-mining B'laan leader Daguil Capion was massacred by the elements of 27th Infantry Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. Noel Alexis Bravo and 1Lt. Dante Jimenez. Such military operation with its apparent tactical blunder have wasted the lives of Juvy Capion, Daguil's pregnant wife, together his two sons Jordan and John. The said B'laan leader who has fought for their rights to protect their land and environment from the threat of SMI Xstrata's Tampakan Copper- Gold project has become hopeless after years of longing for justice.
- b) The killing of Datu Victor Danyan and seven others in Sitio Bonlangon, Barangay. Ned, Lake Sebu. These men stood firm on their stance against the expansion of the Consunji-owned coffee plantation and the coal exploration, which has already encroached into their ancestral domain. Being determined to protect their lands from any forms of development aggression, they have ended being murdered by the militaries of 27th Infantry Battalion and 33rd Infantry Battalion, on December 3, 2017.

While mindful of the efforts undertaken by these national human rights institutions, the Forum should not hesitate to call a spade, a spade and point to necessary improvements in pending cases and institutional shortcomings.

Only by being unhesitating and forthright and forceful with these failures of these institutions can a proper reckoning and rectification of efforts may happen and hopefully enhance ultimately the realization of these mandated areas of Forum.

Thank you, Madam Chair!

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