

HRC45: Annual half-day panel discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples

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This is a joint statement.¹

The Duterte government's attacks against IPHRDs in the Philippines have worsened with the recent passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act.¹

Various military, police, and troll social media accounts are used in [terrorist-tagging](#) and inciting violence against us, including our families and children. Tarpaulins with the faces of rights defenders have appeared, accusing us of being recruiters of armed groups. Posters and flyers have circulated branding indigenous peoples' organizations and service institutions as Communist fronts. Some IPHRDs have been forced to submit and clear themselves from the military's blacklist, only to be presented later as rebel surrenderees. Trumped-up charges have been filed and IPHRDs imprisoned³, even [killed](#).

The government has been spreading disinformation and building cases against us, in reprisal against those who resist development aggression, plunder and human rights violations, and dare to bring our issues to the United Nations.⁵ The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has criticized the UNHCHR's report on the Philippines, and even uses a Lumad datu to vilify me by name in relation to an IP trip to the UN in 1987!⁶

We fear that this systematic campaign to delegitimize and criminalize IPHRDs is preparatory to the full implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Act where many more of us will be imprisoned, tortured, disappeared or killed.

We endorse the High Commissioner's recommendations and join the European Parliament in calling on the UNHRC to conduct an independent impartial investigation on the worsening human rights situation in Philippines.

¹ On behalf of the ***Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders Network - Philippines***

- KATRIBU Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas
- BAI Indigenous Women's Network
- Kusog sa Katawhang Lumad sa Mindanao (KALUMARAN)
- Save Our Schools Network
- Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA)
- Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA)
- PUNGANAY – Cagayan Valley
- Philippine Task Force for Indigenous Peoples (TFIP)
- SANDUGO Kilusan ng mga Moro at Katutubong Mamamayan para sa Sariling Pagpapasya (Movement of Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self-determination)
- Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)

¹¹ On July 3, 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed into law Republic Act No. 11479 or The Anti- Terrorism Act of 2020 ("**Anti-Terrorism Act**"). The Anti-Terrorism Act repealed the Human Security Act of 2007 ("**Human Security Act**"), which was previously the governing law on acts of terrorism in the Philippines. The Anti-Terrorism Act took effect on July 22, 2020, fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Manila Bulletin on July 6, 2020 : <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/06jun/20200703-RA-11479-RRD.pdf>

³³ Gloria Tumalon, staunch Manobo anti-mining advocate was arrested on March 19 on charges of serious illegal detention and kidnapping. Before this, she was included in a tarpaulin with the faces of IP leaders in the CARAGA region. <https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/the-philippines-coronavirus-lockdown-is-becoming-a-crackdown/>
On April 6, 2020 at the height of a community lockdown, around 100 personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) who were escorting oil tankers towards the mining area in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya. violently dispersed the barricade set-up by Tuwali-Ifugao to stop the continued operation of OceanaGold mining whose permit to operate already expired since June 2019. The oil tankers were able to proceed to the mining site, no police force was held responsible for the violent dispersal of the barricade. The incident led to the arrest of Rolando Pulido, chairperson of indigenous organization DESAMA. and was charged with violation of RA 11332 or the guidelines of the Enhanced Community Quarantine and, resistance and disobedience to a person in authority More recently the PNP also filed harassment charges against 15 other barricaders citing Article 151 of the Revised Penal Code on the resistance and disobedience of a person in authority. <https://www.iucn.nl/en/updates/indigenous-community-leaders-protesting-oceanagold-mine-met-with-violence>

⁵⁵ Annex A: SUBMISSION TO THE OHCHR FOR HRC REPORT 41/2 ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES by Katribu - Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas, Kusog sa Katawhang Lumad sa Mindanao (KALUMARAN), Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA), Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA), Save Our Schools Network, Philippine Task Force for Indigenous Peoples (TFIP), SANDUGO Kilusan ng mga Moro at Katutubong Mamamayan para sa Sariling Pagpapasya (Movement of Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self-determination

⁶⁶ UN report excluded IP leaders' testimonies vs. CPP-NPA: NCIP, Philippine News Agency, June 11,2020