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Statement of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance on Agenda Item 8: Discussion on the theme: "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources" Presented by: Jacqueline K. Carino

Indigenous peoples in the Philippines are currently struggling to defend their ancestral lands, territories and natural resources against devastating plunder by large foreign mining, energy and agro-industrial corporations that are encroaching into our ancestral domains. [In addition to the ongoing large-scale mining operations in different parts of the country, there are 447 approved mining applications in the country, 72% of which are located in indigenous peoples' territories, covering 542,245 hectares of ancestral domains.]

Aside from existing mining operations and applications, the Philippine government is aggressively pursuing the construction of large dams and other energy projects in ancestral territories that will displace more than 100,000 indigenous peoples from at least 106 villages. [These include the Agus-Pulangi dams in Bukidnon and North Cotabato; Ilaguen Dam in Isabela, Diduyon Dam, Jalaur Multi Purpose Project and Pan-ay River Basin Integrated Development Project in the Tumandok lands in Iloilo and Capiz; Alimit Hydro Complex of the SN Abotiz in Ifugao, Apayao Dam, Sumag River Diversion Tunnel in Quezon, and China ODA funded Balog-balog dam affecting Ayta lands in Tarlac, and the Violago and Kaliwa dams in the Dumagat territories in Rizal and Quezon.]

In addition, indigenous peoples, especially in Mindanao and Palawan province, are facing the rapid expansion of oil palm and other monocrop plantations into their ancestral lands, which threaten their agricultural lands and other sources of livelihood. [Dole Philippines, one of the world's largest producers and marketers of fresh fruits and vegetables, has added 3,000 hectares of land to its plantation facility in South Cotabato and aims to add 5,000 hectares more. In CARAGA region, Filipinas Palm Plantations Inc. and Agusan Plantations Inc. are targeting an additional 200,000 hectares for the expansion of oil palm plantations.]

Because of a strong indigenous peoples movement in the country, the current Duterte government has resorted to extrajudicial killings and massive militarization of indigenous communities. From July 2016 to February 2018, the KATRIBU national federation of indigenous peoples monitored numerous human rights violations committed against indigenous peoples. [These include: 98 illegal arrests and more than 100 trumped-up criminal cases; 39 indigenous political prisoners; 39 indigenous victims of extra-judicial killings; 12 incidents of bombings by the military affecting 1,168 families and 6,354 individuals; 34 incidents of forced evacuation due to military operations affecting 6,979 families and 24,766 individuals.] **A most recent victim of extra-judicial killing is Ricardo Mayumi, an Ifugao environmental activist who was killed for his vocal opposition against the construction of a hydropower project that would adversely affect his community.**

President Duterte has verbally attacked human rights advocates and made anti-indigenous people pronouncements. He even threatened to bomb indigenous

community schools, which is not far-fetched given the prevailing Martial Law in Mindanao and the climate of impunity in the whole country. The government continues to quell legitimate dissent by filing trumped up charges criminalizing legal opposition. In the Cordillera region, 5 women human rights defenders were recently forced to pay hundreds of thousands of pesos as bail in order to avoid arrest due to false charges of murder and homicide. The most recent vilifying attack is the inclusion of names of indigenous leaders and members in a Department of Justice petition for proscription of the Communist Party of the Philippines and New Peoples Army as terrorist groups, including a list of its alleged officers and members. In the list of 600+ individuals are former and current officers/chairperson of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance including internationally prominent IPHRDs and past members of the UNPFII Vicky Tauli-Corpuz and Joan Carling, and Jose Molintas, former UN EMRIP member, along with other indigenous activists and leaders.

This is the alarming situation in the Philippines today, despite the existence of constitutional provisions recognizing indigenous peoples and a national Indigenous Peoples Rights Act that claims to uphold our rights and interests. In fact, the Duterte regime wants to impose a nationwide martial rule and dictatorship. Critics and opposition are politically persecuted. Even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court critical of Duterte is being attacked towards her ouster. Legitimate political dissent and defense of indigenous peoples rights are criminalized and tagged as acts of terrorism. This is State terrorism.

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance is therefore compelled to appeal to the respected members and observers of the UNPFII and to the international community to stand in solidarity with us and take measures to:

1. Stop the killings and state terrorism against indigenous leaders and activists;
2. Stop the terrorist-tagging of indigenous leaders and activists. Remove the names of indigenous peoples' leaders and human rights defenders from the fake list of terrorists and junk the DOJ petition;
3. Urge the Philippine government to repeal the draconian Human Security Act;
4. Stop the criminalization of indigenous communities' resistance in defense of their ancestral lands, territories, and resources.
5. Drop the trump-up charges against indigenous leaders and activists;
6. Support indigenous peoples communities, organizations and leaders who are victims of human rights violations, vilification and harassment. Provide assistance for their legal defense and security.
7. End tyranny of the Duterte regime in the Philippines and stop militarization in indigenous communities;
8. Immediately address the culture of impunity surrounding the violation of indigenous peoples rights in the Philippines;
9. Urge the Philippine government to pursue peace negotiations in order to address the root causes of the long-term armed conflict affecting indigenous peoples in the Philippines.
10. Urge the Philippine government to comply with its international human rights obligations and pursue its commitments under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).