

**ONE KILLING, IS KILLING TOO MANY.**

**FOR NOBODY SHOULD BE KILLED.**

**-Katribu 1<sup>st</sup> nominee Beverly Longid**

The International Human Rights Day celebration on December 10 is an important event in the lives of the Filipino people. It is of but great importance that the indigenous peoples and the rest of the marginalized commemorate the day when our need to live a dignified existence as a human race was legitimized in international law. Since the start of the Aquino regime last June 2010, extra-judicial killings of indigenous peoples, activists, and community members have reached 30. Seven of which are from the Lumad areas of Northern Mindanao. These number does not yet include harassments, disappearances and other cases of human rights violations.

Katribu Cordillera Spokesperson Samuel Anongos states, **“The December 10 celebration is not only an important day for activists but also for the rest of the Filipinos as the cases of human rights violations in the country worsen.”** Katribu Indigenous People’s Partylist believes that the case of human rights violations do not only include extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances and political vilification under the framework of Oplan Bayanihan. In the case of indigenous peoples, it also includes violations in the right to ancestral domain, right to access social services and the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

Military encampments in IP communities continue and result to various forms of human rights violations such as rape, mass evacuations, red-tagging and even killings. Militarization also prevents IPs to live as dignified individuals through the prevention of community development, such as the case of the Lumad areas in Mindanao wherein their Alternative Learning Schools, which are recognized and accredited by the DepEd, are destroyed because of the claims of the military that these schools are created by the NPAs. In Mankayan, communities are forced to use torches during night time instead of flash lights because the military claim that flash lights are used by the NPA. The FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent) is being manipulated by those in power, defeating its purpose to conduct proper consultation processes with IPs on proposed corporate projects. The violation of the FPIC furthermore violates the right of the IPs to their ancestral domains as corporate projects destroy and pollute the land, air and rivers of the community.

Only recently, last December 7, another anti-mining activist mother from Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya was shot dead due to the opposition of the organization *Didipio Earthsavers’ Multipurpose Association (DESAMA)* on the ongoing implementation of gold-copper projects in Nueva Vizcaya by the large-scale mining company---Oceana Gold Corporation.

It just holds that the principles of UNDRIP is still not being upheld by the current administration despite the fact that the GRP was among those who signed the Declaration. It

is clear that the government remains as signatory on the UNDRIP, and nothing more given the fact that it promotes the projects of foreign companies instead of its people.

**“Aquino should consider the rights of the IPs because they are also Filipinos,”** says Anongos. **“It is still a challenge for the Aquino Administration to implement the UNDRIP and the IPRA in the national and local laws. The IPs are still hoping that this administration will listen to the grievances of its constituents for PNoy has never lend an ear for the voices of the minorities. The Aquino Administration has not addressed the IP Agenda on mining, human rights violations and militarization. It is also a must that the Commission on Human Rights investigate on the accounts of human rights violations in the IP communities.”**

In the same light, Katribu also believes that the FPIC should be properly implemented in the LGUs and reflected in the national government. Katribu challenges the ranks of the military to learn the indigenous life system and not to be ignorant of the ways that indigenous communities engage in their livelihood. Carrying a gun for hunting doesn’t necessarily mean that one is a member of the NPA.

**December 10 marks the International Human Rights Day as a reminder that human rights are a birth-right. Indigenous Peoples have human rights.** Katribu Indigenous People’s Partylist is in unity with the national and international communities in the celebration of the International Human Rights Day, especially voicing out the rights of the IPs as the most affected peoples’ of human rights violations.

**Karapatan ng mamamayan, Ipaglaban!**

**Kaigorotan, Lumaban!**



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