



Cordillera Peoples Alliance

For the Defense of Ancestral Domain and for Self Determination

February 10, 2009

Statement of Solidarity on the UNPO Day of Action

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), an alliance of grassroots organizations in the Cordillera, Philippines, extends its sincere solidarity to all members of the UNPO on the occasion of the UNPO Day of Action. The CPA supports the struggles of oppressed peoples around the world for the respect and recognition of their human rights.

We, the indigenous peoples in the Cordillera continue to suffer national oppression. We have been historically faced with plunder of our ancestral land and resources and neglect of basic social services, committed by the State. The State has constantly violated our collective rights to our ancestral lands as manifested by state-sponsored huge projects on dams, mining, and massive logging accompanied by militarization of communities affected by such projects. We also face violations of our civil and political rights as seen in the State-perpetrated killings of our leaders and the recent enforced disappearance of one of our founding members, James Balao. These are imminent threats to our survival as indigenous peoples who nurture lands and natural resources. The severe exploitation of our natural resources and people has taught us to fight for our rights as humans and as indigenous peoples.

We will not cease to defend our ancestral lands and fight for our self determination. We are aware that other people in different parts of the world share the same situation or probably even worse. The UNPO has served to bring oppressed and struggling peoples together. Thus, in this UNPO Day of Action may we gain further strength and persevere as we learn from our and others' experiences in the struggle for recognition of our rights, and for a truly just and free society.

We take this opportunity to thank the UNPO for supporting the struggles of the Cordillera indigenous peoples and the campaigns of the CPA.

In solidarity,

Beverly Longid
Chairperson

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