

Defend Environmental Defenders!

Environmental defenders are under attack in Asia's deadliest country for environmentalists. In just more than a year under the current administration of President Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines, at least 42 environmental defenders have been killed, 240 have been slapped with harassment lawsuits, and at least 18,263 have been forcibly displaced because of their resistance to destructive projects.

It is no wonder that the natural resource-rich country was declared the deadliest in Asia and third deadliest in the world in the Global Witness 2017 report on killings of environment and land defenders.

Women who found their voice in the defense of the environment like indigenous Ifugao and village official Marilyn Lango, one of the leaders of the community organizations opposing Australian-Canadian mining firm Oceanagold in Nueva Vizcaya province, are being imprisoned by police and military forces on non-bailable charges. Six women human rights defenders working on mining and other environmental issues in the region of the Cordilleras have also been similarly lodged with harassment suits.

Big mining has much to do with the mayhem. Anti-mining activists such as Lito Casalla, a leader of agrarian reform beneficiaries from Batangas province defending their lands against the San Miguel Corporation subsidiary limestone mine project, constitute 55% of the monitored killings. Big mines such as Filminera and their figureheads in government are in fact responsible for 100% of all trumped-up charges we monitored.

Civilians are systematically targeted by bloody military operations under an increasingly aggressive 'Oplan Kapayapaan' counter insurgency program and the dark shadow of Martial Law. Communities opposing big mines, plantations, and other destructive projects, repeatedly accused as supporters of communist rebels, are being attacked by military and paramilitary troops with combat operations and bomb runs.

It is not a crime to defend the environment. It is our conviction that safeguarding the rights of environmental defenders and their communities is imperative to the protection of our environment and conservation of our natural resources.

The Duterte administration must immediately free all remaining 16 illegally detained environmental defenders from prison, and drop all 225 trumped-up charges still lodged against environmental defenders. Urgent and concrete actions must also be taken to stop the killings of environmental defenders and bring to justice its perpetrators.

Let our fellow environmental defenders continue to freely speak out and take action.

Signed:

1. Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE)
2. Environmental Advocates against Repression and Tyranny in Defense of Human Rights (EARTH)
3. Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines (CEC-Phils)
4. Ministry on Ecology – Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila
5. Miriam Public Education and Awareness Campaign for the Environment (Miriam PEACE)
6. Nilad – Metro Manila
7. 350.org East Asia
8. 350.org Pilipinas
9. AGHAM – Advocates of Science and Technology for the People
10. AGHAM Youth
11. Agra Indonesia
12. ALGA Association of Rural Women Kyrgyzstan
13. Alliance of Concerned Teachers – Central Luzon
14. Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) – Central Luzon
15. Amihan
16. Anakbayan UP Los Banos
17. Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links (APWSL) – Korea

18. Asociación ambiental y cultural Petón do Lobo, Galicia (España)
19. Asociación Amigos y Amigas de los Bosques "O Ouriol do Anllóns" Galicia (España)
20. Asociación gallega Cova Crea, Galicia (España)
21. Association for the Promotion of Sustainable Development Hisar (APSDHISAR)
22. ATM
23. Bai Indigenous Women's Network
24. Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Gintang Luzon (BAYAN GL)
25. BAYAN USA
26. BIEN (BPO Industry Employees' Network) Philippines
27. Bukluran para sa Inang Kalikasan Batangas (BUKAL Batangas)
28. Cambodia IP Alliance
29. Cambodian Youth Network
30. Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines – UK (CHRP UK)
31. Campaign for Peace and Democracy – Manipur
32. Caraga Watch
33. Center for Environment – Bosnia and Herzegovina
34. Centre for Research and Advocacy – Manipur
35. Center for Sustainable Community Development (SCODE) Vietnam
36. Center for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas / AIPP – Vietnam
37. Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR)
38. Center for Women's Resources
39. Coalition for Climate Justice Nepal (CCJN)
40. College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) – Southern Tagalog
41. Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan (CIDP)
42. Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA)
43. Computer Professionals' Union (CPU)
44. COURAGE – LEAGUE
45. DECOIN Ecuador
46. Earthworks USA

47. Empower India
48. European Environmental Bureau
49. Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
50. Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR)
51. Filipino-Australians in Qantas & Aviation
52. Global Justice Forum – UK / Ghana
53. Global Witness – UK
54. Go Wild Films
55. Greenwatch Dhaka
56. Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)
57. Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD)
58. Ibon International
59. International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS)
60. ILPS Indonesia
61. ILPS Netherlands
62. Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)
63. Institute for National and Democracy Studies (INDIES) Indonesia
64. IP - Central Luzon
65. JAGO NARI
66. Kadamay - Central Luzon
67. Kalikasan Southern Tagalog
68. KARAPATAN – Alliance for the Advancement of People’s Rights
69. KARAPATAN – CL, Philippines
70. Katribu – Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas
71. Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas
72. Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Philippines
73. Kohtuusliike (Movement for Moderate Lifestyle) – Finland
74. Lao Hamutuk – Timor Leste

75. Loas – Malaysia
76. Mangrove Action Project
77. Metal Worker’s Alliance Philippines
78. MHEP – Thailand
79. Migrante Australia – New South Wales
80. Mines, Minerals & People
81. National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON) – USA
82. Nature, the Earth is entrusted to us! – Netherlands
83. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)
84. Netherlands Philippines Solidarity Association (NPSA)
85. Network of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand
86. NGO Federation of Nepal
87. NPI-NAFLU-KMU
88. One Nature / Sisters of Wilderness
89. Panalipdan Mindanao
90. Participatory Research Action Network (PRAN) Bangladesh
91. Paryavaran Mitra
92. Philippine Network of Food Security Programs (PNFSP)
93. Pinay sa Holland – Gabriela
94. PINAY Quebec, Canada
95. Rainforest Rescue Germany
96. Rede contra a Minaría Destructiva na Galiza (ContraMINAccion)
97. River Coalition in Cambodia / NGOF
98. Roots for Equity
99. Rotary Club of Uptown Manila
100. Salva la Selva
101. SANDUGO Movement of Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self-Determination
102. Santi Sena
103. Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, Philippines Region

104. Smallholder Farmers Association of Kenya
105. Sustainable AgroFood Platform
106. Sustainable Development Foundation
107. Tanggol Bayi (Defend Women) – Philippines
108. The Gaia Foundation UK
109. Unyon ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA)
110. UBINIG
111. UP Green League
112. UP Saribuhay
113. War on Want
114. Workers Alliance in Region III (WAR – III)
115. Working group Mission, Development & Peace of the Diaconie of the St. Joseph Church – HH. Matthias
116. Youth Association for Development

Countries of Signatories

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|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Philippines | 14. Ecuador |
| 2. Bangladesh | 15. Vietnam |
| 3. United Kingdom | 16. Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 4. Australia | 17. Timor Leste |
| 5. Cambodia | 18. Kyrgyzstan |
| 6. India | 19. South Korea |
| 7. Indonesia | 20. Spain |
| 8. Pakistan | 21. USA |
| 9. Thailand | 22. Netherlands |
| 10. Finland | 23. Germany |
| 11. Nepal | 24. Cameroon |
| 12. Kenya | 25. Canada |
| 13. Ghana | |