

Tama Na! Sobra Na!

Stop the Killings! Stop Largescale Mining!

Mindanao Peoples' Statement
in Defense of Land, Environment, and Human Rights

We bring to the attention of President Benigno Aquino III and the whole nation the havoc being brought about by largescale mining and other extractive industries in Mindanao.

34 Mindanawons, including 26 Lumads, have been killed since June 2010 for their defense of the land, environment, and people's livelihood.

This include pregnant **Blaan Juvy Capion** in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur who opposed the Tampakan Gold and Copper project of Xstrata Sagittarius Mines; **Matigsalog leader Jimmy Liguyon** of Bukidnon who resisted Santo Cristo Mines application; environment defender and **Italian missionary Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio** in Arakan, North Cotabato; **Banwaon youth leader Jenesis Ambason** and **Datu Arpe Lapugotan** of Agusan del Sur who both opposed Mampalaya Mining explorations; **Tagakaolo Dioquino Scuadro** and **farmer Roque Laputan** who opposed Xstrata SMI expansion in Davao del Sur; **Higaonon leader Gilbert Paborada** of Misamis Oriental who resisted A. Brown plantation; **Margarito Cabal** who opposed Pulangui Mega-Dam; **small scale mining leader Manrique Santos** of Pantukan, Compostela Valley who resisted Russell Mines; **conservationist Fred Trangia** who resisted large-scale mining in Compostela Valley. There was also the assassination attempt on anti-logging and anti-mining advocate **Dr. Isidro Olan** of Surigao del Sur

More than 159 environment and human rights defenders have been slapped with legal harassment cases, vilification, and intimidation from the military.

Katribu Partylist officer and **Manobo leader Genasque Enriquez** is among 45 farmer and Lumad leader in Surigao del Sur facing fabricated charges of murder under "John Doe" warrants; **Blaan woman leader Anelfa Gemilo** was falsely accused as an NPA courier in Davao del Sur; **Benedictine missionary Sr. Stella Matutina**, is constantly being vilified by the 28th IB as "an NPA disguised as a nun" for her anti-logging and anti-mining advocacies in Davao Oriental; and **American missionary Fr. Peter Geremia** constantly face threats to his life from the paramilitary groups that are suspected to be the killers of Fr. Pops. **Moro civilians** from Basilan (known as the **Basilan 73**) have lingered in jail for ten years for trumped-up charges in the name of the military's war-on-terror. Some have already died without seeing a resolution of their cases.

An estimated 1,106 families with 6,066 individuals have been forcibly evacuated in the course of intense military operations carried out by the Philippine Army most notably in the Caraga, Northern Mindanao, and Southern Mindanao regions. There were also 30,000 Moro civilians who were displaced due to militarization.

This include **Mamanwa, Manobo, Dibabawon, Blaan,** and **Matigsalog** communities who were displaced by military operations that are carried out side-by-side with the entry of large-scale mining and other "development aggression" projects.

Literacy schools in Diatagon, Surigao del Sur; Malungon, Sarangani; Compostela Valley; Davao del Norte; and Bukidnon are constantly threatened and some are closed due to the presence of the military and paramilitary in the community.

All these are happening as the Aquino government's Executive Order 79 seeks to fast-track mining liberalization and the plunder of our resources. Now, through a DILG memorandum order, local government units that carry out an open-pit mining ban will face sanctions.

Aquino has unleashed Oplan Bayanihan to facilitate the unhampered plunder of what remains of our national patrimony which now rests in the remaining frontiers of Mindanao.

Replacing the dreaded Oplan Bantay Laya, Oplan Bayanihan is yet a more vicious internal peace and security plan with identical framework to the United States' Counterinsurgency program of 2009, and which has spawned more extrajudicial killings, enforced evacuations, threats, and other human rights violations--- all in the guise of 'peace and development.'

Aquino's governance is full of rhetoric on mining and human rights. He promises to create a "superbody" composed of the same agencies and personalities accused of perpetrating human rights violations. He claims to be uncompromising on the Philex mine tailings leak yet promotes the continued operations of foreign mining companies which build more gigantic and equally perilous mine tailings dams.

We make the following appeal:

1. For the Aquino government to be accountable for all extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations and decisively prosecute erring and criminal state security forces embroiled in cases of human rights violations. He should start with the arrest and prosecution of General Jovito Palparan.
2. Effect the rescinding of the Internal Peace and Security Plan Oplan Bayanihan for providing the policy and operational framework that has allowed the continuation of the regime of extrajudicial killings, enforced evacuations and other attacks.
3. For the Department of Justice to uphold the rights to due process of individuals by curbing the practice of filing trumped up charges against human rights defenders and activists.
4. For the Department of Education to ensure that the rights and survival of alternative community learning schools are respected and protected from militarization, vilification, and other forms of intimidation and attacks.
5. Investigate the practices, business ethics, human rights and environmental records of mining companies and other extractive industries and make them account for human rights violations against indigenous and peasant communities; and
6. Speed up the passage of the People's Mining Bill to advance a rational, nationalist, pro-people, and ecologically-balanced minerals development plan.

"Tama na! Sobra na!" were the chants in the street that followed the brutal assassination of Senator Benigno Aquino Jr under the Marcos Dictatorship. Today, it is ironic that we Mindanawons are shouting the same cry for justice before a martyr's son.

