



Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation

**IPMSDL**

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### **Condemn the Duterte Government's Terrorist Rule!**

The International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL) strongly condemns the Department of Justice's (DOJ) harassment of human rights defenders in the Philippines by filing trumped-up charges against alleged terrorists.

The Government of the Philippines, through the DOJ, filed a petition in court naming over 600 leaders and activists as terrorists for allegedly "using acts of terror to sow fear and panic to overthrow the government". Among the accused is IPMSDL Global Coordinator and CPDE (CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness) Co-chair, Beverly Longid. Beverly is an Indigenous Bontok-Kankanaey activist from Cordillera, who has served various national and international organizations and alliances upholding Indigenous Peoples' (IP) right to self-determination and liberation.

Other Indigenous rights activists included in the petition are Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) Chairperson Windel Bolinget; SANDUGO co-chairperson Joanna Cariño; former Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) Secretary-General Joan Carling; former member of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) Jose Molintas, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Vicky Tauli-Corpuz; and at least 10 Lumad leaders from southern and northern Mindanao.

The above charges are not only false and fabricated. They are baseless and malicious with intent to harass and intimidate those listed in the petition and the people's mass movement to submission. It is meant to cripple the people's mass movement in the country and criminalize the legitimate struggles of the people by proscribing them as terrorist acts.

We condemn the Duterte government for filing trumped-up charges against IP and human rights defenders while protecting big businesses and landlords who steal and plunder indigenous peoples' ancestral lands and resources.

Nevertheless, the government is gravely mistaken if it believes that intimidation and harassment will stop the people from fighting back and exercising their democratic rights. While injustice prevails and human rights are violated with impunity, there will be more human rights defenders who will rise up against tyranny.

We demand that the Government of the Philippines drop all trumped-up charges against human rights defenders be accountable for all human rights violations committed – directly through killings, torture, forced evacuations, etc.; and indirectly through the inaction and inutility of mandated government agencies such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. We call on our international friends and allies to stand in solidarity with us and to support the campaign to put an end to criminalization of IP and human rights activists!

**STOP THE CRIMINALIZATION & HARASSMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS!**

**FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!**