



The Philippine UPR Watch is a delegation of human rights defenders and advocates that engages in the Universal Periodic Review process of the UN Human Rights Council and brings to the attention of the UN and the international community the human rights situation in the Philippines. It is composed of 23 organizations from various sectors of the society - from churches, women, workers, indigenous people, peasants, human rights lawyers, government employees and advocates from the national level - and has communities and organizations in the grassroots. The Philippine UPR Watch have submitted 15 individual stakeholder's report and 3 joint reports for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the UPR and have been actively engaging in the UPR Process since the first cycle in 2008.

#### **Objectives of the Philippine UPR Watch:**

- To help generate awareness about the real human rights situation in the Philippines
- To bring the voices of the victims and/or their families, the churches and human rights defenders to the UN and the international community as an alternative to the report of the government  
To effectively deliver a message that the Philippine government must abide by its commitment to the international human rights instruments

#### **HIGHLIGHTS of the REPORT:**

- Human rights situation on the ground has not improved and has gone worse.
- The Philippine government's incapacity to fulfill HR treaties and obligations and the need to end culture of impunity; and
- Status of the recommendations from the previous UPR process, if the Philippine government was able to fulfill the said recommendations or not.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS from the REPORT:**

1. Put an end to extrajudicial killings including those related to the "war on drugs", enforced disappearances, illegal arrests and detention, torture, harassment and other human rights violations.
2. Stop the implementation of counter-insurgency programs that target human rights defenders and civilians. Stop military operations in communities and immediately pull-out military units. End military's practice of using schools, municipal halls, and public facilities as military camps and detachments. Dismantle and disarm the paramilitary groups.
3. Improve the jail management and penology system in the country. Ensure that the conditions under which people are imprisoned meets international humanitarian standards and that the treatment of prisoners respects fundamental human rights.
4. Conduct a review of the implementation of the Magna Carta on Women, particularly in the workplace and establish a systematic and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism

for compliance particularly in the private sector. Undertake massive information campaigns on the Magna Carta and other pro-women laws among women workers and employees in both the public and private sectors.

5. Protect indigenous peoples' inherent, prior, existing and inalienable right to ancestral lands and their indivisible, inter-related and interdependent right to self-determination as reflected in international declarations and conventions, and review all conflicting domestic laws, including the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.
6. Unconditionally free all political prisoners.
7. Continue its peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and with groups in Mindanao (Southern Philippines) struggling for self-determination. It has been pointed out that the government's counter-insurgency program is the cause of many human rights violations against human rights defenders and principled negotiations to address the roots of the armed conflict can help mitigate these violations.

#### **To the United Nations and Special UN Rapporteurs**

8. Issue invitations to UN special procedures mandate holders, including those with pending requests.
9. Fully implement the recommendations of former Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings, Mr. Philip Alston.
10. Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Ms. Hilal Elver, in her country visit to address the issues related to landlessness and hunger of poor peasants, lack of comprehensive social protection and services, and the dire impacts of climate change.
11. Implement recommendations of former Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Mr. Chaloka Beyani, in his country visit to address the complex causes of the displacement of indigenous people including militarization, natural or man-made disasters and resource development.

#### **MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:**

1. Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)
2. Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR)
3. Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC)
4. Confederation for Unity Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE)
5. Cordillera People's Alliance
6. GABRIELA
7. Center for Women's Rights (CWR) [submitted a report in partnership with Gabriela]
8. IBON Foundation
9. International Coalition of Human Rights in the Philippines
10. Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao (InPEACE Mindanao)
11. KALUMARAN
12. Karapatan (submitted an individual report and a joint report with Civicus World Alliance for Citizen Participation)
13. KATRIBU (Submitted a joint report with Cordillera People's Alliance, KALUMARAN, Stop the Killings of Indigenous People Network or SKIPNet, TUMANDUK)

14. Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)
15. Migrante International
16. Moro-Christian Peoples' Alliance
17. National Council of Churches in the Philippines
18. National Union of Peoples' Lawyers
19. Promotion of Church People's Response
20. Ramento Project for Rights Defenders-Iglesia Filipina Independiente
21. SALINLAHI Alliance for Children's Concerns
22. United Church of Christ in the Philippines
23. KAWAGIB- Alliance for the Advancement of Moro Human Rights (submitted a report in partnership with MCPA)

For copies of the full reports, please visit: [nccphilippines.org](http://nccphilippines.org)