

Press Release

URGENT APPEAL FOR LUMAD COMMUNITIES!

Our friends and family who are the Indigenous Peoples in Mindanao, Philippines, have long been experiencing attacks that put them into severe and critical crisis, and in recent months and weeks the situation has worsened and needs even more immediate attention.

Militarization of these Indigenous regions has led to an increase in massacres of innocent Indigenous persons and advocates, false criminalizations (including but not limited to false accusations of participation in the NPA, New Peoples' Army) in the form of illegal military and paramilitary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings and detainment of innocent persons, and civilians experiencing heavy military operations that are causing documented massive human rights violations and displacement. This is all happening for the disguised purpose of land-grabbing for State, businesses and other national and international interests and at the heavy cost of lives and a cultural genocide happening right before our eyes, and with no end to the torture in immediate sight.

These are not acceptable living (or dying) standards for any peoples or persons in this world today, and the situation needs immediate attention, halting and remedy. These are criminal acts. All States in the world contributing to or turning a blind eye/benefiting from the torture and murder of Indigenous Peoples rather than condemning it and taking action against it, near or far, are part and parcel to the industrial complex of genocide of Indigenous Peoples and neglecting their human rights duties and responsibilities both specifically and in general.

IOSDE urges all people(s) with concern for the existence and well being of their fellow humans world-wide to share this information regarding the urgent situation of the Indigenous Lumads of Mindanao, Philippines, and to speak out in whatever ways you can. For more information on ways to directly help, such as with refugee support needs, and region-specific contacts, email info@iosde.org.

In Solidarity

IOSDE Founder & Director,
India Reed Bowers

17 September 2015

IOSDE: an equal future starts with an equal now