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# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES



Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines Inc. (CEC)

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE)

# Situation in the Philippines

## Issue I: Climate Change

### Implementation of previous recommendation

- *Algeria: Pursue steps made with the aim of addressing the effects of climate change on the population.*

### New developments

- Typhoon Ulysses alone **affected 3.67 million Filipinos** and caused P10 billion in damages with 73 dead, 24 injured, and 19 missing in November 2020
- **130 of the 142** critical watersheds in the country are already degraded

# Recommendations

## Issue I: Climate Change

We recommended that the Philippine government to:

- Impose an emergency moratorium on climate risk projects such as coal power plants that will destroy vital ecosystems and displace vulnerable communities due to climate change.
- Hold mining, quarrying, and logging companies in protected watersheds and the government units that allowed them to operate accountable. Ban large-scale mining and logging in flood- and landslide-prone and watershed areas.

# Situation in the Philippines

## Issue 2: Environmental Human Rights Defenders

### Implementation of previous recommendations

- 8 countries: *Creating, guaranteeing and promoting an adequately safe and enabling environment for the work of human rights defenders.* (Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- 11 countries: *Ending extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests and detention, torture, harassment and other human rights violations and taking all necessary measures to prevent them.* (Spain, Poland, Slovakia, Netherlands, Lithuania, Canada, Germany, Costa Rica, Ghana, Norway, Bulgaria)
- 5 countries: *Ending impunity* (Croatia, Argentina, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Austria)
- Slovakia: *Stopping counter-insurgency programmes that target human rights defenders and civilians.*

# Situation in the Philippines

## Issue 2: Environmental Human Rights Defenders

### New developments

- **19,498** EHRDs subjected to a human rights violations
- **186** environmental and land defenders killed from July 1, 2016 to December 30, 2020
- The Philippines was declared as the world's **deadliest country** for land and environmental defenders in the 2019 annual report of international watchdog Global Witness

# Situation in the Philippines

## Issue 2: Environmental Human Rights Defenders

### New developments

- **Five-fold increase** in attacks on EHRDs
- Issuance of the Executive Order No. 70 creating the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (**NTF ELCAC**) and the **Anti-Terrorism Act** of 2020

# Recommendations

## Issue 2: Environmental Human Rights Defenders

We recommended that the Philippine government to:

- Abandon the “whole of nation” approach in counterinsurgency programs, abolish the NTF-ELCAC, and terminate policies that militarize many parts of the country.
- Repeal the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020.
- Pass the Human Rights Defenders’ Bill and the Environment Defense Bill to ensure the rights and strengthen the protection and security of human rights, environment, and land defenders in the country.

# Recommendations

## Issue 2: Environmental Human Rights Defenders

We recommended that the Philippine government to:

- Stop red-tagging and harassment on environmental and land defenders.
- End extrajudicial killings and measures that allow state security forces to violate human rights with impunity.
- For the Department of Justice (DOJ) to resolve all pending cases of killings of environmental defenders and dismiss trumped-up charges against them.



# Thank you!

From:

- Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines Inc. (CEC)
- Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE)