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Indian Council of South America Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
UPR Philippines
Ambassador Ronald Barnes

CISA and Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition thank the Government of the Philippines for the final report before the Human Rights Council.

We thank the Philippines for their willingness to cooperate and we commend you for the constructive work with civil society in addressing your human rights challenges, especially the extra-judicial killings. We thank you for accepting the acknowledgement and responsibility you are undertaking to address this plight that activists and journalists are facing.

We recommend that you involve more directly civil society at high levels of Government, including with an oversight Committee of civil society in seeking ways and means to search for the missing victims and to get the root of why these killings are taking place. If the Philippines can allow for a more inter-active involvement with the government officials, military and civil society I am sure you can facilitate more quickly the effort to find missing or disappeared persons.

We recommend that the Philippines implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur and Special Procedures on this issue.

Lastly, we thank the Indigenous Peoples and civil society and the victims of the Philippines who came to Geneva for your model efforts on addressing this difficult issue.

Thank you Mr. Chair