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**ORAL INTERVENTION TO BE DELIVERED DURING THE ADOPTION OF  
THE UPR WORKING GROUP REPORT ON THE PHILIPPINES**

**Agenda Item # 6, Consideration of UPR Report**

September 20, 2012, 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

Geneva, Switzerland to be delivered by Marie Hilao-Enriquez, Chairperson of  
KARAPATAN, Partner of CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Thank you, Madame President:

I am ~~Marie Hilao-Enriquez~~, from Karapatan, a human rights NGO in the Philippines and a partner of Civicus, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, which we greatly thank for allowing us to speak on their behalf.

Madame President, I also thank the members of the Council on the just-concluded 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the Philippines UPR in May of this year. I specially take note of Switzerland's recommendation to render compensation to the victims of martial law.

We are still worried that extra-judicial executions, disappearances and other human rights violations persist under a so-called democracy and even under the so-called righteous path taken by our new President "Noynoy" Aquino. Under the two-year administration of the present dispensation, (from July 2010 – June 2012) Karapatan has documented 99 victims of extrajudicial executions. Only a week ago, **Genesis Ambason**, an indigenous peoples leader was reportedly killed in a brutal manner by paramilitary groups under the control of the Philippine military in Agusan del Sur, Mindanao. On Sept. 5, a son of an indigenous leader also in Mindanao was killed and the leader wounded in an ambush.

Mme President, tomorrow, Sept. 21 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of martial law in our land. We hope that the lessons of that dark period will not be lost on all, especially on our President, as his family was also a victim of that dark era. We call on this body to continue monitoring the Philippine human rights situation as killings, enforced disappearance, other violations and impunity, which are all reminiscent of martial law, persist to this day. We urge this Council, to review Aquino's internal security plan, a counter-insurgency program, now called Oplan Bayanihan, which has resulted to these violations. It is disappointing that justice remains elusive to past and present victims of human rights violations; perpetrators like former Major Gen. Jovito Palparan, Jr. and his cohorts are still free inspite of aarest warrants issued.

Through this Council, we also urge our government to consider the plight of the majority poor in our land, especially the indigenous peoples, as this is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, in its economic policies as it ventures into mining, public partnership and other government projects that will supposedly bring economic progress but bring forth more sufferings to our poor and neglected sectors. The conflict in our land will continue if the grievances of our people will remain unaddressed.

Thank you, Madame President.