



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Baguio City, Philippines
June 30, 2011**

GROUPS CALL FOR AN END TO THE VILIFICATION OF PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS

June 30, 2011, Baguio City - Dinteg Cordillera Indigenous Peoples Legal Center and its partner organizations Hustisya-Northern Luzon, Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA) and the Cordillera Women's Education Action and Research Center (CWEARC) held a press conference today regarding the project "Mainstreaming the Plight and Strengthening the Capacities of Women and Children in the Campaign for Human Rights". This project is supported by the European Union under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

It was during the outpouring of international concern over the issue of human rights in the Philippines five years ago that the European Parliament in 2007 issued a resolution¹ denouncing the attacks on legal opposition groups, and calling on the authorities to put an end to allegations of collusion between peaceful opposition groups and illegal armed groups.

However, the labeling and allegations of collusions between peaceful opposition groups and illegal armed groups continue to this day. According to Dinteg, women and children continue to bear the brunt of State policies on national security that label people's organizations as sectoral fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the New People's Army (NPA). Dinteg urgently calls for an end to this vilification campaign.

The project started in September last year. Since then, different activities were conducted like fora, a legal awareness seminar, a collective psychosocial processing, a roundtable discussion with human rights lawyers, paralegals and advocates and a children's therapeutic arts workshop. This is part of the capacity building for families of human rights violations and human rights advocates to engage in the campaign to stop the vilification. The production of a video documentary on the stories of women and children is ongoing.

MORE

¹ European Parliament Resolution of 26 April 2007 on the Human Rights Situation in the Philippines.



A project implemented
By the **Dinteg Indigenous
Peoples Legal Center**

Address:
55 Ferguson Rd., Baguio
City

Tel: +63 74 304 4239
Fax: + 63 74 443 7159

This project is funded
by the European Union

Delegation of
The European Union
To The Philippines

Tel: +63 2 859-5100
Fax: +63 2 859-5109

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".



PRESS RELEASE

According to the women, children and other family members of victims of human rights violations, their participation in the activities have helped them understand what has happened to their loved ones and to them, the need to pursue justice and to assert the respect for human rights. “We mostly grieving women and children, cope with the loss of our husband parent / sibling / family member. However, this would not limit us from continuing with the call for justice” they said in one of the statements they released early this month.

The human rights situation remains distressing to date though, according to the different human rights organization in Northern Luzon. The continuing militarization of communities and villages remain. The use of barangay centers, community day care centers, and schools for military purposes persist. Militarization of communities has resulted to human rights violations such as a rape case in Abra, the sexual abuse of a minor in Mountain Province, illegal searches and seizures of the private properties of the people, destruction of properties, bombings and forest burnings in Abra and Mountain Province, filing of trumped-up charges against leaders of people’s organizations, and threat/harassments/intimidation.

Since June 30 last year, 4 families lost their loved ones to extrajudicial killings perpetrated by State Security Forces. All of them were the primary breadwinners of their families. Military operations were conducted in their communities labeled by the State as New People’s Army “strongholds”.

In the coming months DINTEG and its partner organizations will implement activities with the aim of urging municipal, provincial and national legislative and decision-making bodies to come up with effective policies to stop vilification of peoples organizations and communities. Fora, roundtable discussions, collective psychosocial processing and children’s workshops will also be conducted as well as a public advocacy campaign.

MORE



A project implemented
By the Dinteg Indigenous
Peoples Legal Center

Address:
55 Ferguson Rd., Baguio
City

Tel: +63 74 304 4239
Fax: + 63 74 443 7159

This project is funded
by the European Union

Delegation of
The European Union
To The Philippines

Tel: +63 2 859-5100
Fax: +63 2 859-5109

The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.



PRESS RELEASE

In the campaign paper to end vilification presented during the press conference, Dinteg and its partner organizations stated that “The integrity of legitimate and peaceful organizations and people’s lives and rights should be protected at all times.”

END

For reference:

Rhoda Dalang
Executive Director
Dinteg Cordillera Indigenous Peoples Legal Center
Mobile: + 63 908-484-1556
email: dinteg.cordillera@gmail.com
rdalang@yahoo.com

Geanette Galvez
Dinteg
Project Coordinator
Mainstreaming the Plight and Strengthening the Capacities of Women and Children in the
Campaign for Human Rights
Mobile: +63 939 181 7297
Email: dinteg.cordillera@gmail.com
chra.karapatan@gmail.com



A project implemented
By the Dinteg Indigenous
Peoples Legal Center

Address:
55 Ferguson Rd., Baguio
City

Tel: +63 74 304 4239
Fax: + 63 74 443 7159

This project is funded
by the European Union

Delegation of
The European Union
To The Philippines

Tel: +63 2 859-5100
Fax: +63 2 859-5109

The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.