



26th session of the
Human Rights Council
Item3

Interactive Dialogue

Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and Karapatan welcome the report presented by the Working Group, especially its recommendation to States to ensure the protection and respect of rights of human rights defenders who raise awareness on the impact of business activities.

Such recommendation is extremely important for Phil. indigenous and environmental human rights defenders, as rights violation and massive displacement of the indigenous peoples in the Philippines continue to be perpetrated by the military and paramilitaries to facilitate the entry of mining companies.

In Talaingod, Mindanao, the indigenous Manobos forcibly evacuated because of military operations and bombings. Their refusal to allow foreign businesses to exploit their lands made them subjects of threats and harassments. They have become victims of the Aquino government's counter-insurgency program, Oplan Bayanihan, and they are tagged as members or supporters of the New People's Army.

Mining companies, including Indophil Resources, have applications covering the land where the indigenous Manobos live, for gold, silver, copper, and other minerals. Their plight is akin to the situation of the indigenous communities where SMI Glencore/Xstrata has mining projects. Anti-mining activists, indigenous leaders and children were killed by military and paramilitary groups, and justice remains elusive for them.

We appeal to the UN Human Rights Council to urge the Philippine government to recognize and respect the rights of communities and human rights defenders, who bear the full adverse impact of business, especially big mining, activities in the Philippines. We appeal to the Council to call on the Philippine government to adhere to international human rights standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and its duty to protect human rights.

Thank you for your attention.