



To: Philippine President Rodrigo R. Duterte
Via: Consulate General of the Philippines, New York

Feminists Condemn Philippines President Duterte's Accusation of Activists and Indigenous People Leaders as Terrorists

March 16, 2018

The Women's Major Group for Sustainable Development¹, a network of feminist and women's rights organizations and activists, and our allies denounce the recent announcement of activists as terrorists by the Philippines Department of Justice, under the current President Rodrigo Duterte. These activists are human rights and environmental defenders, indigenous peoples, and colleagues that we have worked alongside with in pushing for a comprehensive 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and other global UN landmark decisions.

We are horrified to see feminist and indigenous activists that have worked tirelessly for a world where No One is Left Behind. These include our colleagues Joan Carling, former Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) Secretary-General and current Organizing Partner for the Indigenous People's Major Group; Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Beverly Longid, global coordinator of the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL) and co-chair of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE); Elisa Tita Lubi, former interim Regional Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) and founding Vice Chairperson of Gabriela Women's Party; Windel Bolinget, Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) Chairperson; Jose Molintas, former member of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and other activists that total to 1000 human rights and environmental defenders being targeted in trumped-up charges.

¹ The Women's Major Group (WMG) for Sustainable Development (SD) is the focal point for UN-DESA, ECOSOC and the General Assembly for all UN Sustainable Development policies. See more at womenmajorgroup.org & sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/women

The charges made against these defenders go against the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals. Our colleagues in the Philippines, similar to what our colleagues are doing in every region of the world, are ensuring food security through sustainable and accessible practices (Goal 1, 2, 12 & 15); establishing clinics, schools, and jobs (Goal 3, 4, 8, 9 & 11); empowering women and other disenfranchised groups to politically participate (Goal 5); protecting the ecosystems and the commons especially in the face of climate change (Goal 6, 7, 13 & 14); all while organizing collectively in their communities to address structural inequalities as rights-based holders (Goal 10, 16 & 17).

How can the 2030 Agenda plan for action for people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership when our colleagues are being harassed and criminalized? How are indigenous people listed as a vulnerable group that needs to be empowered to achieve the 2030 Agenda, yet when they speak up, their safety is put at risk? How is it that the role of local communities and indigenous peoples are recognized in achieving the targets and goals set in Paris and the 2030 Agenda, when they are being arrested or murdered? How are we fighting for universal peace when leaders call civil society terrorists, from Philippine President Duterte to UN Environment Programme Executive Director Erik Solheim, who at the 3rd UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) equated civil society to terrorist.

We therefore call on the Philippine government to:

1. Remove the names of indigenous peoples' leaders and human rights defenders from the list of alleged terrorists;
2. Ensure the physical safety of indigenous peoples' leaders and human rights defenders;
3. Have the Philippine president make a public apology for the emotional and physical harm he has caused for activists, and;
3. Abide by State obligations to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including access to justice, freedom of expression and of association.

We call on the UN Secretary-General, UN agencies, and UN Member States to ensure protection of these activists and our colleagues that participate in the very corridors of the UN we engage in, especially in a time where last year served as the deadliest year for human rights and environmental defenders.

The Women's Major Group stands firm in our solidarity to ensure the protection of these activists!

Organizational sign-ons:

1. Abibiman Foundation, Ghana
2. Action for Women and Child Advancement (AWCA), India
3. Adéquations, France
4. Adivasi Women's Network, India
5. Advocates for Youth, USA
6. Afrihealth Optonet Association, Nigeria
7. Alianza por la Solidaridad, Spain
8. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Thailand
9. Asian Indigenous Women's Network, Philippines
10. Australian Centre for Leadership for Women (ACLW)
11. Australian Women's Health Network
12. AWID - Association for Women's Rights in Development
13. Barnabas Charity Outreach, Nigeria
14. CADIRE CAMEROON ASSOCIATION
15. Cameroon Ecology (Cam-Eco)
16. Center for Orang Asli Concerns, Malaysia
17. Centre for 21st century Issues, Nigeria
18. Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous reas - CSDM, Vietnam
19. Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas - CADPI, Nicaragua
20. Chinese Progressive Association, USA
21. Chouf, Tunisia
22. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
23. Coordinadora de la Mujer, Bolivia
24. Cordillera Women's Education Action Research Center, Philippines
25. Dianova International, USA
26. Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji
27. Disability Alliance PSU, USA
28. Docip, Switzerland
29. DRR Dynamics Ltd, UK
30. Echoes of Women in Africa, Nigeria
31. Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia, México
32. Equality Bahamas
33. Equality Rights Alliance, Australia
34. Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland
35. Feminist League, Kazakhstan
36. Feminist Task Force
37. Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)

38. Free the Marginalized Women Advocates (FREMWA), Ghana
39. Friends of the Earth U.S.
40. Fundación Arcoiris, Mexico
41. Fundacion para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer -FEIM-, Argentina
42. GABRIELA NY, USA
43. Garama 3C Ltd, UK
44. GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice e.V., Germany
45. Gender-Center, Moldova
46. GESTOS- Brazil
47. Global Voices, Australia
48. Human rights in Sweden
49. IBON International, Philippines
50. Immigrant Women's Speakout Association of New South Wales Australia
51. Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research and Information - Docip, Brazil
52. Indigenous Peoples' Rights program, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, Greece
53. Indigenous Women's Knowledge, USA
54. INOCHI / Women for Safe Energy, USA
55. International Council for the Indigenous Peoples of Chittagong Hill Tracts (ICP-CHT), Australia
56. International-Curricula Educators Association, UK
57. International Indian Treaty Council, USA
58. International Women's Health Coalition, USA
59. International Youth Alliance, Bulgaria
60. IPMSDL, Philippines
61. Italian Climate Network
62. IWGIA, Denmark
63. JAGO NARI (Fighting For Women Empowerment), Bangladesh
64. JASS -Just Associates
65. Jharkhand Human Rights Movement, India
66. Joy Love Serve, USA
67. Kabataan Alliance, USA
68. Krisoker Sor (Farmers' Voice), Bangladesh
69. MADRE, USA
70. Mahila Sahayatra Microfinance Bittiya Sanstha Ltd, Nepal
71. MenEngage Alliance, Global Secretariat
72. Nana Abuelsoud, Egypt
73. National Coalition Against Racial Discrimination, Nepal
74. National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan
75. Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT), Ghana

76. Network For Youth Development, Malawi
77. New York Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines
78. NFFCK – National Federation of Female Communities of Kyrgyzstan
79. NGO Carbone Guinée, Guinea
80. NJCU Undoing Racism Committee, USA
81. NSW Council of Social Service, Australia
82. NZ Tertiary Education Union, New Zealand
83. Organización Latinoamericana Holandesa, Perú
84. Pari o Dispare, Italy
85. Papora Indigenous Development Association, Taiwan
86. Papora Indigenous Youth Council, Taiwan
87. Papuan customary council, Indonesia
88. Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific, Malaysia
89. Portland Rising Tide, USA
90. Radio Marsyangdi, Nepal
91. Rainbow Pride Foundation, Fiji
92. Reaccion Climatica, Bolivia
93. REFACOF, Cameroon
94. Regional Centre for international development cooperation (RCIDC), Uganda
95. ReSista Camp, Nigeria
96. Resource Center for Women and Girls, Kenya
97. Resurj
98. Right Here Right Now Indonesia
99. Rural women's association "Alga", Kyrgyzstan
100. Rutgers, Netherlands
101. Savisthri National Women's Movement, India
102. Schaghticoke First Nations, USA
103. Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Center, Kenya
104. SFBLSP-BURUNDI
105. Society for International Development (SID), Italy
106. Solidarité des Femmes Burundaises pour le Bien être Social et le Progrès, Burundi
107. SONIA for a Just New World, Italy
108. Soroptimist International, USA
109. Southwest Native Cultures, USA
110. SRI Public Sector Reform, Australia
111. Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN), Uganda
112. Taiwan Ping-pu Indigenous Groups Youth Alliance
113. Te Atatu Branch, Te Ropu Wahine Maori toko i te Ora Maori Women's Welfare League,
Aotearoa/ New Zealand
114. Tebtebba, Philippines

115. Temple of Understanding, USA
116. Tendo's world (Arts in health), Uganda
117. Terre des jeunes, Burundi
118. The Development Institute, Ghana
119. The Global Interfaith Network For People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions, South Africa
120. UMC California-Pacific Philippines Taskforce, USA
121. U'Muhoza Foundation for Social Change, USA
122. Undoing Racism Committee, USA
123. Union of Australian Women, Australia
124. University of Waterloo, Canada
125. Vietnam Indigenous Knowledge network – VTIK
126. WAYREFOUNDATION, Nigeria
127. WECF International, Netherlands
128. WESNET, Australia
129. WiLDAF Afrique de l'Ouest, Togo
130. WIPGG Nigeria
131. Women Coalition for Agenda 2030, Cameroon
132. Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia
133. Women Engage for a Common Future, France
134. Women Environmental Programme (WEP), Nigeria
135. Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition
136. WOMEN Inc, Netherlands
137. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, USA
138. Women's Environment and Development Organization, USA
139. World Animal Net, USA
140. Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
141. YWCA, Australia

Individual sign-ons:

1. Aparna Balakrishnan, India
2. Bridget Herrera, USA
3. Camiel Hamans, Netherlands
4. Caroline George, UK
5. daryl leyesa, Philippines
6. Edith Schnitzer, Austria
7. Fernanda Rodrigues, Brazil
8. Flavia Mara', Germany
9. Jamie Macadam, Australia
10. Janelle Weissman, Australia

11. Jordan Stevenson, USA
12. Kathy June Fiel, Philippines
13. Krishna Bahadur Bhattachan, Nepal
14. Laxman Belbase, Nepal
15. Maria Medarda Castro, Guatemala
16. Mary Louise Elizabeth Pabello, USA & Philippines
17. Mary Rose Kaczorowski, USA
18. Martha Juárez Pérez, México
19. M Ganguly, India, South Africa
20. Nevine Ebeid, Egypt
21. Noelle Garcin
22. Noelle Garcin, South Africa
23. Prem Kumari ghale, Nepal
24. Reineira Arguello, UK
25. Dr. Rosemary Ann Blanchard, USA
26. Shalisha Cook, USA
27. Shaza Saker, Italy
28. Valerie Bichelmeier, Switzerland
29. Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis, Australia