



WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
SUBMISSION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**ORAL INTERVENTION ON THE EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IN THE
PHILIPPINES**

In a Joint Statement with:

Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)

International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)

Canadian Council of Churches

Indian Council of South America

Netherlands Center for Indigenous Peoples

March 27, 2007

Mr. President,

On behalf of the World Council of Churches, the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action, the International Indian Treaty Council, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Indian Council of South America and the Netherlands Center for Indigenous Peoples, I, Marie Hilao-Enriquez of Karapatan, the Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights in the Philippines, would like to thank the Office of Prof. Philip Alston for the visit made to the country in February of this year. Likewise, we also thank the Government of the Philippines for the said visit.

Mr. President, we fully support the initial findings of Prof. Alston. Extrajudicial executions in the Philippines have reached an alarming rate and continue to increase, even after the country visit made by Prof. Phillip Alston.

The killings continue because of the continuing climate of impunity. On 10 March 2007, Siche Gandinao, a member of Bayan Muna party list organization, which is one of the organizations identified and accused by the Philippine government as "enemies of the state," was shot at close range and killed near a paramilitary camp supervised by the 8th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army. She was one of the witnesses in the murder case of Dalmacio "Daki" Gandinao, who was gunned down last February 8, 2007. ~~Her testimony was submitted to Prof. Alston in Davao City.~~

While the Philippine Government has openly stated it has taken measures on the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur, nothing substantial has been done and it in fact, continues to assert that the killings are the handiwork of the rebels and not of the security forces.

The climate of impunity has persisted as the labeling of legal progressive organizations as "enemies of the state" has intensified. The US Senate, through the Sub-Committee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Foreign Relations Committee, has stated that the Philippine Government has not done enough to resolve the extrajudicial executions.

The vilification campaign waged by the Philippine government, has not spared Prof. Phillip Alston as one of their targets as officials continually maligned and deliberately tried to discredit Prof. Alston's initial report.

The statements are inexcusable and clearly done in derogation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and that of the UN Human Rights Council.

Mr. President, the human rights situation in the Philippines is fast deteriorating while the May elections draw near, marked by the the military troop deployments in urban centers and the recent arrest of Rep. Satur Ocampo, of Bayan Muna in what appears to be efforts of the administration to prevent his party's probable win.

Allow me to call on the Council to employ appropriate measures to prevail upon the Philippine government to put a stop to the extrajudicial executions in the country and for the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish a Special Rapporteur for the Philippines. We further support the call to take into account in the Universal Periodic Review Process the alarming human rights record of the Philippine government including its relationships with indigenous peoples.

Thank you, Mr. President.