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Condemn the killing of Renato Anglao, dismantle the comprador-landlord rule and its armed minions, end imperialist plunder

We demand justice for Renato Anglao and other victims of the continuing militarization of peasant and indigenous people's communities by military and para-military troops.

These atrocities on the exploited and oppressed people are all for the sake of super-profits of foreign investors and local partners.

Lumad leader Renato Anglao, 43, used to live and slave in the sugarcane plantations of Bukidnon, from the Japan Marubeni-funded Bukidnon Sugar Milling Corporation (BUSCO) to the latest American Del Monte contracts over their 12,000-hectare ancestral domain. Their land and water resources were forcibly grabbed by the local comprador-landlord Lorenzo family with their own "death squads" in collusion with state forces.

Security guards of the ranch of Pablo Lorenzo, Jr., headed by Joy Pedutche, a former member of the Philippine Army, fired at Manobo families who were trying to reclaim their ancestral land on March 28, 2012. Again, they were fired upon on April 23, 2014. The shooting never stopped.

On February 3, 2017, Anglao was aboard his motorcycle on his way back home with his wife and child after buying school supplies at the town center in Quezon, Bukidnon when three men on board a motorcycle drive to their side and shot Anglao twice in the head. Anglao died instantly. The three men, wearing bonnets to conceal their identities, sped off right after the incident.

The Manobo-Pulangion community organized in the Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group Association (Tindoga) led by Anglao continue to stake their rightful claim on their ancestral domain in Quezon, Bukidnon despite the threats, harassment and killing. They learned to overcome fear and intimidation. Their land is their life.

The US-designed counter-insurgency program implemented under Oplan Bayanihan of the past Aquino administration and now extended reportedly under Oplan Kapayapaan under the Duterte government is taking its deathly toll on the lumads (indigenous peoples) of Mindanao and other national minority communities.

Since July 1, 2016, there are already 13 indigenous peoples extra-judicially killed and two cases of enforced disappearances according to KATRIBU (Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas or National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples Organizations in the Philippines). These atrocities are committed by elements of the military, paramilitary and private security forces of big businesses aggressively encroaching on ancestral lands.

To cite the more prominent cases: On January 20, Nico Delamante, a Mamanwa leader and provincial coordinator of Katribu Partylist, was killed in Claver, Surigao del Norte by men related to mining operations; On January 5, Lumad Datu Vennie Diamante was killed in Norala, South Cotabato after opposing the application of an oil palm plantation in their ancestral lands; On October 10, 2016, Jimmy Saypan, a Mansaka and Secretary General of the Compostela Farmers Association, was gunned down by military troops supporting the mining operations in Montevista, Compostela Valley; On July 30, Makenet Gayoran, a pregnant Lumad woman died after the NIPAR paramilitary group strafed their community gathered in a wedding in San Fernando, Bukidnon.

We recognize the struggle of the national minorities for self-determination as part of the national democratic struggle of the Filipino people. The military solution of the government on the problems of the people is a complete failure. The people are fighting back with more vigor on all fronts, with all means, fearing neither hardship nor sacrifice.

Just and lasting peace can only be achieved if the comprador-landlord elite rule and its armed minions are completely smashed and eradicated. Ancestral lands would then belong to the people and not to the mining and plantation investors.

We vow before the remains of Renato Anglao and other martyrs that their fight for justice will live on in our hearts, in our pursuit of genuine sovereignty, democracy, social justice and peace.#