

# Violence Against Indigenous Women and Children

Philippine Consultation with the UN Special  
Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
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by

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- indigenous women: more or less 50% of the IP population
- had always been involved in IP struggles in defense of land, life and resources and dignity
- 7 articles-sections in the UNDRIP on indigenous women and children--protection from any act of violence
- the truth is: VAIWC in its various forms continue
- VAIW is basically rooted in indigenous women's access and control of ancestral lands, territories and resources  
--violation of self-determined development pursued by IW
- persistence of the culture of feudal-patriarchy: from colonization to post-colonization--*neoliberalism and business as usual development paradigm*

# violence against indigenous women and children

\*largely state-perpetrated:

\*poverty map coincides with indigenous peoples territories: the unabated extraction of resources by the state and corporations; band-aid solutions (e.g. short term livelihood projects, conditional cash transfer/4 P's which breaks the culture of self-reliance and promotes dependence on external aid/helplessness)

\*development aggression: national medium term Philippines development plan: investments versus IP rights

\*national internal security plan: combination of militarization and civilian actions

\*poor provision of basic social services (health, education): high illiteracy level due to access, high mortality and morbidity level among IW and children---poverty, access of the needed health facilities

\*forced migration: within, outside, overseas

\*violence arising from traditional structures and in the domestic/family sphere

\*\*\*impact on IW: disempowering---

-regression of rights: threats to life and dignity

-regression of livelihood given the displacement in IW's role in food production and natural resource management and regression of IW's participation to self-determined development initiatives or practices of IPs

-regression of opportunities for public and political participation

# in the Cordillera: VAIWC documented and attended from 2010 to 2014 (BS Aquino administration)

- state perpetrated: 43 cases arising from militarization (EJK, threats/harassment/intimidation, sexual violence, etc), development aggression (livelihood, FPIC, indigenous knowledge)
- forced migration: 22 cases
  - illegal collection of fees (6 cases)
  - illegal recruitment (3 cases)
  - illegal termination/dismissal/breach of contract/contract substitution (4 cases)
  - abuse of employer: inhuman work conditions, physical, verbal,sexual)
  - trumped up charges: theft, etc to justify termination
- other forms: violation of specific laws---anti-VAWC (RA 9262)
  - 6 cases: verbal and physical abuse (1 case resulted to a miscarriage), rape, sexual harassment)

# continuing challenges for IW organizations/groups

- nurturing the culture for collective actions and unity
- building and strengthening IW's capacities: leaders, speakers, documentors, mobilizations including advocacy and lobby
- creating spaces for and in support for IW's solidarity and advocacy
- critical engagements to make duty-bearers and mandate-holders carry out their duties and be accountable at various levels: local to international

# continuing agenda: esp. on the emerging post-2015 global development agenda/goals

- break and challenge the neoliberal framework of development that perpetuate monopoly, commodification, continuation and exploitation of ancestral land, territories and resources
- break and challenge structures that perpetuate patriarchy--those that limit IW's equal access and opportunities in society. Ensure the realization and enjoyment of indigenous women's rights in all aspects of public and private life.
- develop and enable services and programs which are more sensitive to IW's needs on economic, comprehensive health (including reproductive health) and education that would increase productive participation and reduce rates of poverty, mortality, morbidity and illiteracy among IW. Recognize indigenous practices of reproductive health.
- bring to justice state and corporate perpetrators of rape and sexual violence against IW and girls. Ensure an environment where IW and children are secured from all forms of violence and support services are available for victim-survivors of violence.
- enable IW's full and equal participation to political processes, peace-building, access to justice and decision-making in making governments, corporations and the private sector transparent, accountable and responsive.