



**KATRIBU Kalipunan ang Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas**

Room 304 National Council of Churches in the Philippines

879 EDSA, West Triangle, Quezon City 1104

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**Dear Irene Khan,**

As Indigenous Peoples, we assert our freedom of expression and other human rights within the context of our right to self-determination. This right, allowing us to determine our political status freely and pursue our economic, social, and cultural development, is violated through the following:

1. The manipulation of our Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) on planned extractive industries and energy projects within ancestral domains seriously infringes on the freedom of expression of Indigenous Peoples. This deceptive practice undermines the genuine consent of affected Indigenous communities, encroaches upon their right to actively participate in decisions impacting them, distorts our collective will, and significantly weakens our capacity to oppose projects resulting in cultural and economic displacement and environmental degradation. Notable examples include resistance against the Gened Dams in Kabugao, Apayao, the Kaliwa-Kanan Dams in Quezon and Rizal provinces, and the Saltan Dams in Kalinga Province. Reports indicate FPIC violations by the companies involved and the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) through the manipulation of community consultations, the exclusion of opposition to the process, and fraudulent approvals made by deceased and fictitious individuals.

2. The red tagging and terrorist designation by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), police, and military pose a significant barrier to Indigenous Peoples' freedom of expression. This labeling exposes us to legal consequences, surveillance, and stigmatization, severely limiting our ability to openly advocate for our communities. Political vilification hinders our right to express ourselves freely and imposes unjust legal and societal burdens on those working to protect their communities.

3. Political vilification is often accompanied by militarization and bombings of communities, jeopardizing our physical safety, creating fear, and restricting our ability to voice concerns and participate in decision-making processes. It undermines our right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) over destructive projects and activities in our lands. Areas with significant Indigenous Peoples and abundant natural resources like the Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, Mindoro Island, Western Visayas, and all five regions in Mindanao, bear the heavy burden of militarization.

4. The situation has worsened with the 2020 Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), which can categorize assertions of ancestral land rights and self-determination as terrorist activities. This unjust labeling was exemplified by the case of four Ayta farmers from Zambales, and the Anti-Terrorism Council designation of Dr. Natividad de Castro and four Cordillera Peoples

Alliance leaders as terrorists stifles legitimate advocacy efforts and raises concerns about the erosion of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Thus, our recommendations to the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression are as follows:

a. Ensure Genuine Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): Advocate for safeguarding the right to FPIC from manipulation, ensuring Indigenous communities' participation in decisions affecting their lands, and that their consent is obtained transparently and without coercion.

b. Protection Against Red-Tagging and Terrorist Tagging: Condemn and address red-tagging and terrorist tagging targeting Indigenous leaders and communities, urging the government to cease such practices and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples to express themselves freely. Advocate for the repeal of the Anti-Terror Law and revocation of terrorist designations.

c. Call for an end to the militarization and bombings of Indigenous lands and territories, emphasizing the importance of creating an environment where Indigenous Peoples can freely express their opinions without fear of violence or suppression.

**Sincerely,**

**Beverly Longid**  
**National Convenor**  
**Katribu**

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*Beverly L. Longid is an Igorot from the Bontoc-Kankanaey people of the Mountain Province in the Cordillera region in the Philippines. She is the National Convenor and International Officer of KATRIBU Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas, a national alliance of Indigenous Peoples organizations in the Philippines. She is also the Global Coordinator of the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation and an executive council member of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), among others. She is a dedicated and hardworking individual, deeply committed to serving the greater good, especially Indigenous Peoples.*

*The Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas is a national alliance comprising regional and provincial Indigenous Peoples (IP) organizations in the Philippines. Established in 1987, Katribu, formerly KAMP, is dedicated to securing genuine recognition of IP ancestral land rights and self-determination. The alliance actively promotes and defends human rights and IP collective rights through various initiatives, including education programs, capacity building, advocacy campaigns, documentation, research, provision of services to human rights victims, network building, and alliances.*