

Massacres Continue in the Philippines: The New Bataan Five

A side event in conjunction with the 21st Session of the UNPFII

Join us to hear how the Filipino military continue to falsely accuse Lumad and Lumad advocates of being members of the New People's Army (NPA) in an attempt to justify these killings.

Hear Lumad leaders share their multiple forms of resistance to the military's attempt to silence state criticism and make way for large scale mining and logging corporations who wish to exploit Lumad ancestral lands.



Date: Wednesday 4 May at 9pm

Location: Zoom (link will be sent after you've registered)

Please [register here](#) as registration is required.

Background information

On February 24 2022, the 10th Infantry Division of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) murdered five Lumad advocates. The victims were two Lumad volunteer teachers, Chad Booc and Gelejurain Ngujo II (Jurain), community health worker Elegyn Balonga, and two accompanying drivers who were traveling from New Bataan, Davao de Oro, where they were conducting a community visit as part of their research work.

Throughout their years of service, Chad, Jurain, and Elgyn had been subjected to threats, harassment, intimidation, including death threats, red-tagging and terror-tagging, and surveillance. Unfortunately, these massacres are not an isolated incident and threats and violence against Lumad communities and advocates have escalated since May 2017 when peace talks between the government and the so-called Communist insurgency failed and Martial Law was

declared in Mindanao. As recently as 15 June 2021, three young Lumad-Manobo were massacred by troops of the Philippine Army's 3rd Special Forces Battalion.

Murder is not the only recourse to which the Army have access and Lumad leaders are regularly harassed and threatened, their schools burnt and closed. The abuses of Lumad Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines amount to attempted cultural genocide through extra-judicial killings and forced removal from their ways of life, belief, spirituality, access to food, medicine and culturally and contextually appropriate education. Lumad are not the only Indigenous people affected by this systemic abuse.

Objectives

- Call for justice and an immediate and impartial investigation into the massacre of the New Bataan Five.
- Raise awareness of the situation faced by Lumad communities in the Philippines.
- Advocate for an independent investigation into the Philippines human rights situation, particularly given the continuation of gross human rights violations despite the adoption of the Human Rights Council's **Resolution for technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines in October 2020**.

Organisers: Save Our Schools, and Iglesia Filipina Independiente, with support from United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG)