



ICHRP-Canada
INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - Canada

GENERAL PROGRAM OF ACTION, 2021-2024

INTRODUCTION

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) was founded in 2013 as a global alliance of human rights advocates raising international visibility of the ongoing violation of peoples' rights in the Philippines. Since the launch of the Canada chapter of ICHRP (ICHRP-Canada) in 2019, the coalition continues to expose the human rights atrocities by the Philippine government to people in the Philippines. The launch of national campaigns and political advocacy work with the Canadian government by local chapters and alliances strengthens the movement to oppose human rights violations in the Philippines. The General Program of Action (GPOA) will guide the work of the coalition, stating the objectives, targets, and overall direction of programming.

BACKGROUND

The human rights crisis in the Philippines has intensified under the Duterte regime on the guise of the "war on drugs". The Philippine police, army, and civilian vigilantes have carried out tens of thousands of illegal arrests and extrajudicial killings of poor people as part of state terror. Hundreds of thousand have been displaced due to military occupation, particularly in Mindanao. Moreover, the regime's war on dissent has resulted in the red-tagging, illegal arrests, and killings of human rights and social activists.

The human rights crisis in the Philippines continues to draw international attention. In 2020, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet reported on the grave human rights situation to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), recommending an official human rights investigation. Although the UNHRC did not launch an investigation, international civil society organizations conducted their own independent

inquiry Investigate PH. In addition, the International Criminal Court authorized its investigation into the Duterte regime's war on drugs in 2021.

The Canadian government and Canadian companies are also complicit in the human rights violations in the Philippines. Through funding for counter-terrorism programs in Southeast Asia and joint military training with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the government of Canada indirectly supports the brutal war on dissent of the Philippine government.

The current deterioration of human rights, ongoing violations of international humanitarian law and other crimes committed under the administration in the Philippines, with the complicity of the administration in the US and multilateral agencies, speak to the need for more concrete and coordinated action.

OBJECTIVES

The aims and purposes of the ICHRP-Canada include the following:

1. To unite and promote a common understanding of the human rights situation, context and struggles of the Filipino people to the people of Canada and the international community.
2. To stimulate, facilitate and coordinate national and international campaigns and undertake definite actions of the aforesaid concern and related issues.
3. To cooperate with all possible organizations, institutions and personages across Canada in the attainment of the aims and purposes of the coalition to realize its aims and purposes and perform its functions.
4. To raise moral, financial and other material resources to enable the coalition to realize its aims and purposes and perform its functions.
5. To establish meaningful solidarity relations between indigenous peoples of Turtle Island and the Philippines.

GENERAL PROGRAM OF ACTION

Member Education

1. Establish a systematic educational program to be implemented in each region for members of ICHRP-Canada, including materials on:
 - a. ICHRP orientation.
 - b. International People's Tribunal and Investigate PH.
 - c. Filipino migrants' situation.

- d. Sectoral work (such as labour, faith) and government advocacy work.
2. Organize International Solidarity Missions (ISM) or Exposure trips to the Philippines for new/interested members.
3. Complete assessments of the work of ICHRP-Canada and progress on the GPOA at least twice before the next AGM in 2024.

Campaign Work

1. Generate political, material, and financial support through ongoing political campaigns:
 - a. Defend Negros Island
 - i. Launch fundraiser to support the family members of activists who have been subject to human rights violations.
 - ii. Raise awareness of human rights violations in Negros through production of regular statements, infographics, and other materials.
 - b. Political Prisoners
 - i. Build a network of organizations who are interested in supporting the release of political prisoners and connect them to similar organizations in the Philippines.
 - ii. Continue to raise support for individual prisoners through sponsorship programs.
 - iii. Hold public workshops to encourage individuals and organizations to write letters/postcards to prisoners.
 - c. Canadian Mining
 - i. Expand the network of mining justice organizations locally and connect them to grassroots organizations in the Philippines.
 - ii. Hold Canadian mining companies accountable through parliamentary advocacy.
2. Launch new campaigns based on the changing situation in the Philippines.
3. Respond to urgent political calls from the Philippines with statements, fundraising, and other actions as needed (i.e. Defend Cordillera).
4. Continue ongoing government advocacy work to further isolate the regime and provide support to human rights defenders in the Philippines.
5. Support calls for the resumption of Peace Talks between the NDFP and the GRP.

Development and Coordination

1. Recruit member organizations / individuals across Canada, with particular attention paid on expansion in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
2. Form new Regional Coordinating Bodies where possible.
3. Establish a National Secretariat to support the day-to-day work of the coalition.
4. Develop National Committees, guided by the Standing Committee, to support the needs of the coalition, including committees for:
 - a. Campaign Coordination
 - b. Government Advocacy
 - c. Communications
 - i. Elect a National Communications Lead to coordinate the work between the committee and the National Council
 - ii. Write and disseminate statements in a timely manner
 - d. Finance
 - i. Ensure annual remittance of dues payable in the second quarter of each year (April to June) paid to Secretary General
 - ii. Create a comprehensive national organizational budget