



**MEMORANDUM**

TO : **ALL REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**  
Field Operations Luzon & Visayas and Environment

**THE UNDERSECRETARY**  
Field Operations Mindanao

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR LIST OF CASUALTIES OR INJURED DENR PERSONNEL RELATIVE TO THE CONDUCT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

DATE : **SEP 26 2023**

This pertains to the Memorandum dated 14 September 2023 from the Asst. Secretary Noralene M Uy requesting comments on the news article dated 13 September 2023 by Ms Giselle Ombay of GMA Integrated News, entitled "*Philippines is the deadliest country on Asia for environmental defenders*".


Below is the link to the article for your reference:

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/882030/philippines-is-deadliest-country-in-asia-for-environment-defenders-for-a-decade-now-report/story/>

Kindly submit the subject list together with your comments on the subject article through email at [officeofuseccuna@denr.gov.ph](mailto:officeofuseccuna@denr.gov.ph) and [usec.fom@denr.gov.ph](mailto:usec.fom@denr.gov.ph) for record and reference.

For compliance.

  
ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, *CESO I*

  
JOSELIN MARCUS E. FRAGADA, *CESO III*



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 929-6633 to 35  
929-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669  
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> E-mail: [web@denr.gov.ph](mailto:web@denr.gov.ph)

**VERY URGENT  
MEMORANDUM**

**FOR / TO :**       **The Undersecretary**  
Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment

**The Assistant Secretary**  
International Affairs  
**Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau**  
in concurrent capacity

**The Assistant Secretary**  
Field Operations – Western Mindanao  
**Director, Forest Management Bureau**  
in concurrent capacity

**FROM :**           **The Officer-In-Charge**  
Office of the Undersecretary  
Policy, Planning, and International Affairs

**SUBJECT :**       **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS REGARDING A NEWS ARTICLE  
ON ENVIRONMENT DEFENDERS**

**DATE :**           **SEP 14 2023**


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This has reference to the attached news article dated 13 September 2023 by Ms. Giselle Ombay, GMA Integrated News, on the Philippines being ranked as the “**Deadliest Country in Asia for Environment Defenders**”.

In this regard, may we respectfully request your comments on the above-mentioned news article on or before **5:00 p.m., 15 September 2023**. Below is the link to the article for your reference:

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/882030/philippines-is-deadliest-country-in-asia-for-environment-defenders-for-a-decade-now-report/story/>

For your information and appropriate action.

  
**NORALENE M. UY, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Secretary  
Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted  
and Special Projects

# Philippines is deadliest country in Asia for environment defenders for a decade now — report

By GISELLE OMBAY, GMA Integrated News

Published: 03/01/2023 12:00 PM



This photo taken on February 23, 2017, shows trees in a forest near the tourist town of El Nido in Palawan where the Palawan NGO Network Inc (PNNI) say illegal logging is rampant. Karl Malakunas/ AFP/ File photo

The Philippines has been ranked as the worst place in Asia for land and environmental defenders for 10 consecutive years since 2012, a report of watchdog group Global Witness showed Wednesday.

Based on the 2022 findings, there were 16 defenders in Asia who lost their lives protecting the planet. Eleven of these deaths were in the Philippines, three took place in Indonesia, while two were in India.

Global Witness listed the following names of land and environmental defenders murdered in the Philippines in 2022:

- Richard Mendoza
- Chad Errol Booc
- Gelejurain Ngujo II
- Elgyn Balonga

- Robert Aragon
- Tirso Añar
- Joseph Jimenez
- Ericson Acosta
- Silvestre Fortades Jr
- Rose Marie Galias
- Eugene Lastrella

This brought the nationwide death toll to 281 in the past decade.

The watchdog group said a third of these killings were associated with defenders speaking out against company operations linked to the mining sector.

At least 177 land and environmental defenders around the world were also reportedly killed in 2022, bringing the total number to 1,910 since 2012.

“On average, a defender was killed every other day in 2022, just as was the case in 2021. Although the overall figure is slightly lower last year than in 2021, when we recorded 200 killings, this does not mean that the situation has significantly improved,” Global Witness said.

The group also noted that almost nine in 10 recorded killings in 2022 were in Latin America, with 60 or more than a third of all fatal attacks happening in Colombia.

One in five murders of defenders worldwide also took place in the Amazon Rainforest last year. About 36% of these killings were of indigenous peoples. — **LA, GMA Integrated News**

**Link for the article:**

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/882030/philippines-is-deadliest-country-in-asia-for-environment-defenders-for-a-decade-now-report/story/>