



I'm Still Hoping by: Ronald Jeresano

Sulong CARHRIHL

is a citizens' network that promotes peace, human rights and humanitarian law in areas affected by armed conflict. It advocates the meaningful implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) by the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front. Sulong CARHRIHL builds partnerships with other NGOs, peoples and sectoral organizations, local communities, religious and academic institutions, and individuals who share the same advocacy.

PEACE RESOLUTION



Sulong CARHRIHL

Training and Education

The Training and Education activities are primarily conducted by Sulong CARHRIHL in areas or among groups or sectors affected by armed conflict. The program aims to develop deeper understanding of human rights, international humanitarian law and peace building and capacitate members in human rights and peace advocacy.

Sulong CARHRIHL also offers specialized trainings that are appropriate and responsive to the specific concerns of communities, schools, professions and organizations.

Documentation and Monitoring

Sulong CARHRIHL monitors and documents cases of CARHRIHL violations. It maintains a database, which is useful as resource for research, advocacy programs and policy intervention.

Sulong CARHRIHL does not file cases on behalf of the victims but can help facilitate and assist in the process and coordinate with the government - NDF Joint Monitoring Committees and other parties involved. Together with its partners, it forms Local Monitoring Teams (LMTs) to respond to specific needs of individuals/communities resulting from CARHRIHL violations. Its LMTs are formed from among its partners who specialize in providing legal, psychosocial, humanitarian and other services.

Sulong CARHRIHL also offers training on documentation, using its specialized HR and IHL templates for documenting. It has assisted in the development of functional monitoring tools for IP communities, and has been facilitating evaluation and development of appropriate documentation and monitoring practices.

Support for the Peace Process

Sulong CARHRIHL supports the meaningful and peaceful negotiation between the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF. It monitors and analyzes the progress in the peace negotiations and shares these updates to their partners and the public.

Sulong CARHRIHL and its partners continue to engage the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF through dialogues, consultations, written communication, or the mass media in the hope of finding common ground and feasible ways forward to advance the observance of the CARHRIHL and eventually lead to the just and peaceful resolution of the armed conflict.



Our Rights, Our Peace

Networking for Peace and Human Rights

Sulong CARHRIHL builds active partnership with groups and individuals who share its goals. It provides avenues for dialogues, learning and interaction, especially among the different indigenous peoples' groups across the country, the youth, women, educators and media practitioners. It supports concrete actions undertaken by partners that will promote the observance of the CARHRIHL and support their peacebuilding efforts.

Sulong CARHRIHL provides secretariat support for the Luzon-wide Indigenous Peoples' Network (IPNet), a grouping of Dumagat, Aeta, Mangyan, Tingguian and other tribal leaders and federations that are constructively responding to the impact of armed conflict in their communities.

A Sulong Youth Network brings together concerned students and out-of-school youth in urban and rural settings and enables them to undertake various HR, IHL and peace initiatives. Ongoing networking activities aim to generate similar networks among women and educators.

Consultations

Sulong CARHRIHL holds public consultations in armed conflict-affected communities. These consultations are a means to examine the concerns of the community, identify ways to respond to these concerns, explore new partnerships, and expand the peace and human rights constituency nationwide.



Why is the CARHRIHL an important instrument?

The CARHRIHL is the first substantive agreement signed by the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army - National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). It was signed in 1998, and by mutual agreement, it took effect in 2004.

- The CARHRIHL provides protection to individuals and communities directly affected by the conflict, and sets concrete measures to promote HR/IHL.
- As signatories to the CARHRIHL, it holds both the GRP and the CPP-NPA-NDF accountable for their actions.
- It gives human rights victims additional recourse to seek justice for violations committed on and after 7 August 1998.
- Through active advocacy and enforcement, it serves as a mechanism for prevention of HR/IHL violations and conflict.
- It promotes HR/IHL norms among all actors which is important in building a just and peaceful society.
- It enhances the environment for more substantial agreements leading to a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict.

Many provisions of the CARHRIHL are supported by related laws like the International Humanitarian Law Act (Republic Act No. 9851), the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (RA8371), the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), the Anti-Torture Law (RA 9745), the Special Protection of Children Act (Republic Act No. 7610) and the 1987 Philippine Constitution.



Policy Review, Legislative Advocacy and Research

Sulong CARHRIHL issues policy reviews and researches that are crucial to its advocacy. It has issued policy papers and continues to undertake analysis of and research on the extra-judicial killings, the Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Units (CAFGUs), responses of indigenous communities to the armed conflict, the implementation of the CARHRIHL, and various legislative initiatives.

Sulong CARHRIHL is a member of the Civil Society Initiatives for International Humanitarian Law (CSI-IHL) which successfully lobbied for the passage of the International Humanitarian Law Act in 2009. It also supported the passage of the Anti-Torture Act and sat in the Technical Working Group in the House of Representatives (13th Congress) for the Landmines Bill.

Sulong CARHRIHL was the lead civil society organization that organized the consultations on and helped

draft the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, together with the Philippine Commission on Women and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. The NAP operationalized UN Security Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and was launched on March 25, 2010.

Multimedia Resources

Our website hosts a collection of relevant laws, policy papers, and training materials. Video documentaries and audio-based resources are available for free to interested users. We also feature organizational news, statements, and the profiles of members of our network.

Our audio materials on the impact of the armed conflict, the importance of human rights and international humanitarian law, and the experience of communities in promoting peace and human rights have been aired in several national and local radio stations.

Sulong CARHRIHL welcomes volunteers and interns. Interested parties may contact us at:

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