



Panalipdan Mindanao:

Defending Land, Life, and Justice

A People's Struggle for Environmental & Human Rights



The Mindanao Struggle

Mindanao is a region rich in natural resources, yet it struggles with widespread poverty. Despite its abundant land and materials, the people of Mindanao face numerous challenges, including land dispossession, militarization, and environmental destruction.

These issues disproportionately affect Indigenous peoples (Lumad), Moro communities, farmers, and fisherfolk, who often bear the brunt of these socio-political and environmental struggles.

Objectives



01

Raise awareness on Mindanao's environmental and human rights situation.

02

Highlight key resistance movements and advocacy efforts.

03

Provide a call to action for solidarity and change.



01

Mindanao's Natural Wealth and Economic Role

Mindanao's Rich Natural Resources



50% of the Philippines' mineral wealth is found in Mindanao.



Largest reserves of **copper, gold, nickel, and iron.**



Major producer of **coconut, banana, rice, and fishery products.**

Mindanao's Ecological Importance

41%

of the country's remaining vegetative cover

32%

of Philippine's remaining forest cover



Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor

Home to thousands of endemic species.



Liguasan Marsh

Largest wetland ecosystem in the Philippines, threatened by oil exploration.



02

Plunder of Land and Resources

Agribusiness Land Grabs



Palm oil and banana plantations

expanding, dispossessing farmers.



Dole Philippines and Del Monte

Thousands of hectares converted for monocrop plantations.



CASE STUDY

Manobo-Pulangiyan Land Struggle (Bukidnon)

1,490 families displaced.

Community-led land reclamation efforts continue despite threats.



03

Human Rights Violations and Militarization

Attacks on Indigenous and Environmental Defenders



Philippines is the deadliest country in Asia for environmental defenders¹

134 out of 298

environmental defenders killed (2012-2023)
were from Mindanao

CASE STUDY

Liang Massacre (2015 & 2021)

1. Global Witness

Lumad school leaders
and activists murdered by
paramilitary forces.





Militarization & Displacement



of AFP's combat forces are stationed in Mindanao.

4.4 million people displaced (2017-2022)

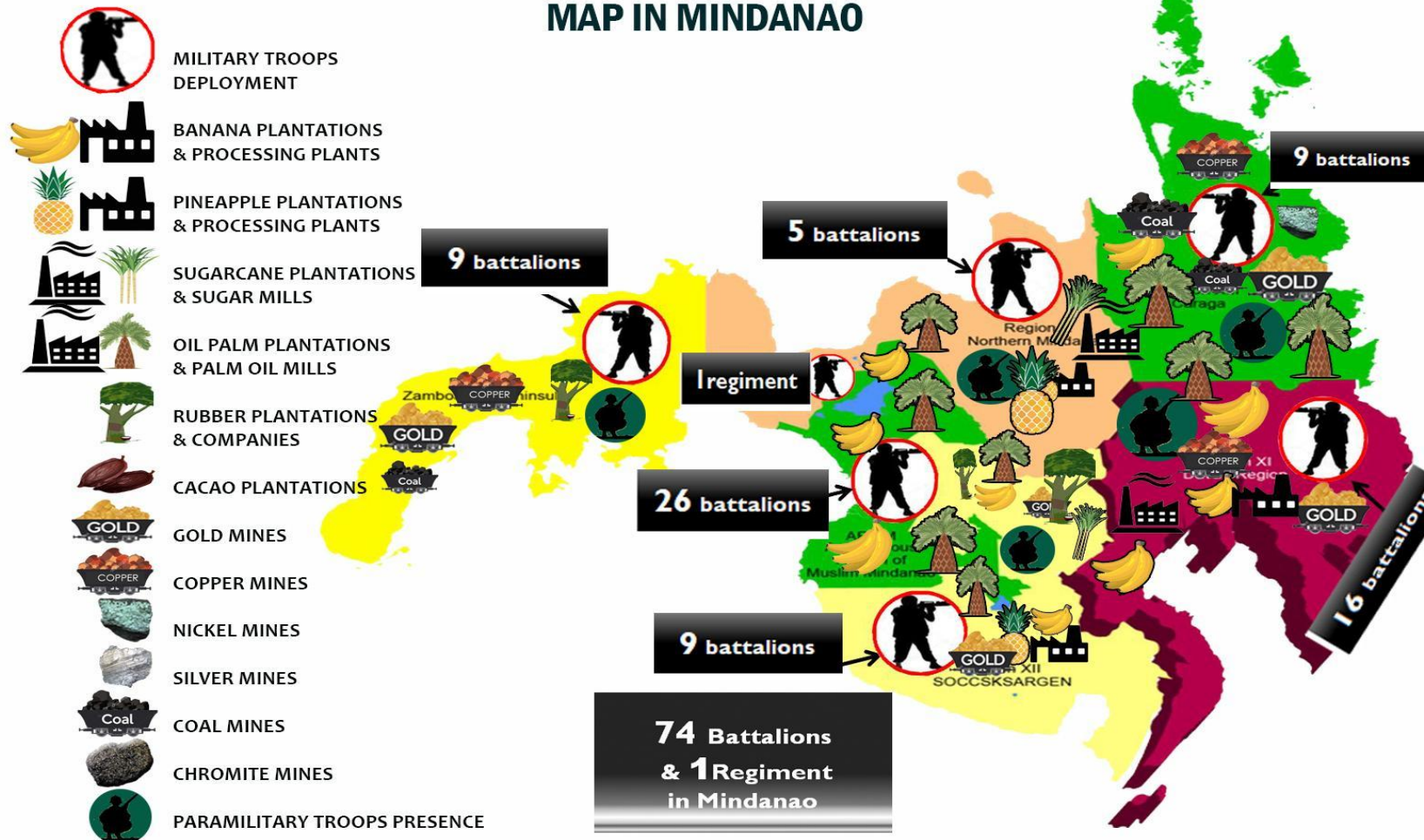
due to conflict and development aggression.



Marawi Siege (2017)

80,360 people still unable to return home.

MILITARY DEPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC PLUNDER MAP IN MINDANAO





04

Education and Cultural Suppression

Closure of Lumad Schools



200+

Lumad schools forcibly closed since 2020.

10,000

students denied education due to state harassment.





Criminalization of Educators and Activists

CASE STUDY

Talaingod 13 Study: Talaingod 13

Indigenous educators and leaders falsely charged and convicted in 2024.



Trumped-up cases and arrests used to silence community leaders.



05

Climate Change and Disaster Risks

Climate Vulnerability in Mindanao



Mindanao is highly susceptible to typhoons, flooding, and drought.



Extreme weather events linked to deforestation and land conversion.



Droughts and heavy rains are the key climate-related hazards affecting Mindanao's agri sector



Environmental Disasters Linked to Mining



Surigao Cyanide Spills
(1987, 1995, 1999)



Diwalwal Landslides
caused by mercury and
cyanide contamination.



Maco Landslide
(2024): 68 killed, linked
to Apex Mining.



06

People's Resistance and Advocacy

Mindanao's Growing Environmental Movement



Indigenous and Moro-led movements defending and reclaiming ancestral domains.



People's organizations and civil society organizations leading campaigns and amplifying the voices of defenders at the frontlines

Panalipdan Mindanao and Kinaiyahan

Youth for Climate Justice

Major Mobilizations and Solidarity Actions



Human Rights Day Rallies

(December 2024) in Davao, CDO, and General Santos.



Palestine Solidarity March

(October 2023) connecting Mindanao's struggles to global justice movements.





07

International Solidarity and Policy Advocacy

Role of International Human Rights Groups



Global Witness, UN Special Rapporteurs, Amnesty International have documented rights violations.



Legal complaints filed against state-backed repression.



Calls for Policy Change



Repeal the Anti-Terror Law and dismantle NTF-ELCAC.



Strengthen Indigenous land rights and environmental protection laws.



Call to Action

How You Can Help



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Amplify the Stories

Share information, spread awareness.



Engage in Advocacy

Join petitions, call for policy change.



Support Frontline Communities

Donate to grassroots organizations.



Resist Corporate Exploitation

Demand ethical supply chains

Call to Action:

How You Can Help

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Mindanao is rich in resources but suffers systemic exploitation.



Environmental destruction, militarization, and land grabbing are urgent issues.



Resistance movements are growing—solidarity is essential.

Together, we can defend Mindanao's people, land, and future.

Contact: mindanao.resourcefacility@gmail.com

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