



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

NEW YORK

PRESS RELEASE

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Discussions on Plight of PH Indigenous People Held in New York

New York, 8 July 2019- Leaders and representatives of different tribes of indigenous people (IP) from Mindanao held discussions with the theme *"Breaking the Silence: Telling the Truth. The Narrative of Struggle, Deception and Assertion of the Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines"* detailing their plight in the hands of CPP-NPA-NDF during their visit in New York recently.

The group met with Fil-Am community representatives in Queens on 29 June where they said that the CPP-NPA-NDF is committing human rights violations against members of the indigenous people. They narrated first-hand accounts of their harrowing experience with the armed groups.

The group likewise held a media briefing followed by a Focus Group Discussion facilitated by Consul General Claro S. Cristobal at the Philippine Center on 2 July. The events were attended by members of the media and leaders and members of the Fil-Am community in New York. The IP leaders detailed the abuses and atrocities committed against them personally and as a group by the CPP-NPA-NDF and their cohorts. They asked the community not to support groups that are contributing to these attacks against the *katutubo or lumad*.

On 3 July, the group held a Focus Group Discussion with students, faculty and community members at Fordham University where the tribal leaders rallied them to help disseminate their stories in the US especially among their fellow students and the youth sector.

After each event, the IP group thanked their audience through a cultural performance showing their traditional songs and dances.

The tribal leaders are making their way across the United States to call on the international community and share the true narrative of their plight back home. -END

For more information, visit www.newyorkpcg.org and www.facebook.com/PHConsulateNY



Leaders and representatives of indigenous people from Mindanao were joined by officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate and members of the Fil-Am community during the Focus group discussion held at the Philippine Center on 2 July 2019.



IP leaders during their Press Briefing on 2 July at the Philippine Center.

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