

Solidarity towards social movements in Philippines facing criminalization

La Via Campesina expresses its solidarity with Philippine peasants and calls for an end to their recurrent criminalization by the Philippine government.

Our particular solidarity is with 71-year-old Antonio Tolentino, who will have spent 10 years in prison by April 2024 on trumped-up charges. Antonio Tolentino was the leader of the peasant movement demanding the redistribution of land at Hacienda Dolores in Porac, Pampanga province. Two leaders of his organization were murdered in 2015, while 300 peasants have been evicted from these lands since 2014.

Also in 2022, peasant leaders and coconut farmers Glenda Lape and Vincent Gantalao, as well as Ronnie and Marivic Banquilles from the Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon province, were falsely accused of theft and other embezzlement. They were imprisoned for two weeks before being temporarily released on bail.

From 2009 to the present day, the male and female leaders of SAMAHAN NG NAGKAKAISANG MAMAMAYAN NG BARANGAY SUMALO (SANAMABASU), BRGY. SUMALO, HERMOSA, BATAAN, have suffered various forms of harassment and criminalization of their land rights movements, facing over 50 false accusations.

These are just some of the criminalized peasants who suffer injustice under the Philippine legal system. We urge the Philippine government to reject all these trumped-up accusations and uphold peasants' right to land and food sovereignty.

**8th International Conference of La Via Campesina
December 2023, Bogotá, Colombia**

