

ation(MMC). Three disastrous incidents occurred where approximately five million cubic meters of waste materials containing high levels of mercury damaging local people's agricultural lands and temporarily poisoned the adjacent Placer Bay.

### **The Matrix of the Philippine Mining Industry - Today**

The mining industry is one of the biggest industries in the world to date. In every part of the world where there are minerals, mining companies such as Canada, United States, Australia, Asia, Japan and Norway and many parts of Europe compete to exploit the resources which they can gain profit from. Consequently, this has led to the horrendous destruction of the Earth's biosphere. Life support system such as water forests and wildlife are destroyed everyday to serve the mining companies profit motive.

In addition, local people's livelihood system are eradicated in the process. Farmers, fisher folks, and indigenous/ tribal people's end up being harassed, bribed with money and other tactical incentives, displaced and inevitably, some people, get killed if they militantly oppose a mining operation in their region.

Mining is a vital industry of the techno-industrial society. Through centuries, people from different corners of the globe mined for different kind of minerals which they can use in daily lives. However, the advent of neo-liberalism or capitalism has made the industry more powerful and tyrannical. In just a few hundred years, the mining industry has put tragedy to various corners of the globe. They have destroyed the planet's biosphere including wildlife, farmers, fishermen, indigenous people and had made the last remaining forests, rivers and oceans of the world, which have existed for millions of years, disappear.

More than 100 upland tribal groups excluding fisher folks and farmers in the Philippines were radically affected by destructive logging and mining operations from 1960-1980. Despite the resistance and support from outside groups, tribal people, farmers and fisher folks are most likely to leave their land, culture and resources; and forced to adapt a new way of life( industrialized) and get displaced in the slums of cities.

At the present, there are more than 20 Major Large Scale mining operations, 10 Medium Scale Nickel Mines, more than

50 pending mining applications and more than 2000 Non-metallic small scale mining operations all throughout the Archipelago with unique historical backgrounds, mineral resources, ecological habitat and economic conditions.

In a nutshell, mining company bullies, mostly coming from Canada, Australia, Japan, Asia and Europe are doing the following to people and nature:

- ✍ Manipulate Philippine Government laws ( through pro-development politicians) to pursue mining operations. Bribing local and national politicians including the police and military forces to support their campaigns.

- ✍ Disrespect local people's parameters on their land and resources.

- ✍ Displace indigenous/tribal communities, force them to leave their land and resources.

- ✍ Bribing local people with money and resources and promise them a better life condition by offering "jobs".

- ✍ Threaten a watershed stability of a given mining target area.

- ✍ Destroy farmlands and sea resources.

- ✍ Destroy forest ecosystems of a given area.

### **Our Solution: Eco-Defense Project: Community Solidarity, Cyberactivism, and Media Advocacy**

The project aims to reach out and support mining affected communities all over the Philippines through documentation, cyberactivism and Media Advocacy.

Undangon Ang Mina (Translated in Filipino-Visayan as "Stop Mining") Network is a small group of people in a number of places in the Philippines working on Anti-Corporate operations. The group aims to reach out to a number of communities of resistance all over the Philippine archipelago- build solidarity ties, and support them in their battle against corporate domination by setting up the following:

- An independent fact finding group to document the damages brought by corporations in different areas in the Philippines.

- An active grassroots networking group (local and international) to stimulate local and international mobilization.

- An independent media group that will document human rights abuses and environmental damage brought mostly by Canadian, Australian, American (US), Asian and European Mining Companies operating in the Philippines.

The destruction of rain forests, jeopardy on watershed security, disregardment of people's rights to self-determination,

autonomy and self-sufficiency, corrupt political system( Philippine context), displacement of indigenous communities, fisher folks and farming societies, and the coercion to fit in with the corporate culture definitely needs have its end. People all over the archipelago are organizing themselves and working with outside groups to resist corporate tyranny and bring justice. However, throughout the years, the approach of working together with communities has been dominated by Leftist groups and is most hierarchical in many terms. It has been the same traditional pattern, NGO's and missionary aid enter a community, bring in new ideas, give support (depending on what "specialty" the NGO might have) and try to let people follow the leftist brand of socio-political and economic solution.

Furthermore, the Philippine political spectrum is predominantly composed of two blocks ( Akbayan and BAYAN MUNA- both are communists) with hundred of umbrella organizations and people's movement. All throughout the country, these groups had been working on anti-mining issues apart from the many, and have been the partner of most communities against mining. The dilemma however is, people are left with little or no decision making power as these groups are most likely to mediate and in many occasions dictate what needs to be done.

In response to the bureaucratic, hierarchical approach to solidarity resistance of anti-mining communities in the Philippines, ecological havoc and cultural demolition, the network aims to take action by:

- Connect to communities of resistance (local and international)

- ✍ Inform local groups where head offices of companies are located f.e Philex Gold Corporation- Vancouver, Canada and set up an international pressure and boycott campaign.

- ✍ Document their issue (text, audio and video documentary) - Human rights abuses and environmental devastation and inform the local and global community.

- ✍ Bring in an anti-authoritarian approach to integration and relationship and working with communities- support the locals with what they think and feel, is the best solution for the mining situation in their area.

- ✍ Learning and exchanges from different community situations and struggles.

### **Further Information:**

<http://undangonangmina.alphabetthreat.co.uk>

<http://kinaiyahanunahon.alphabetthreat.co.uk>