



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
Regions CAR, I, II, III, NCR, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, and VIII

FROM : THE UNDERSECRETARY
Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment

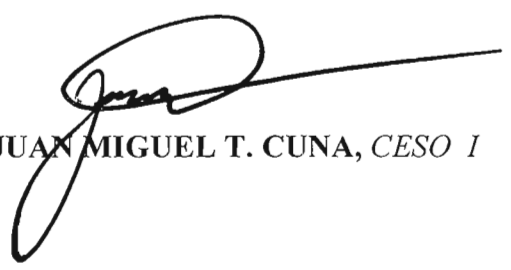
SUBJECT : **GLOBAL WITNESS REPORT ON THE ALLEGED KILLINGS
OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS**

DATE : **SEP 30 2022**

This pertains to the Memorandum dated 30 September 2022 by Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Marilou G. Erni relative to the provision of inputs on the above subject matter.

Relative to this, you are hereby instructed to provide the necessary data/information requested by the Reuters News indicated in the attached email as well as comments on the questions stated therein. Kindly submit the requested information to this Office before 03 October 2022 citing document tracking number DENRCO-OSEC-2022-002862 for record and reference.

For strict compliance.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, *CESO I*



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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Undersecretaries**
Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment
Field Operations - Mindanao

The Assistant Secretary
Enforcement

FROM : **The Undersecretary and Chief of Staff**

SUBJECT : **GLOBAL WITNESS REPORT ON THE ALLEGED
KILLINGS OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDERS**

DATE : **SEP 30 2022**

This pertains to the herein email from Ms. Karen Lema, Bureau Chief, Philippines, Reuters News, informing the Secretary of her Global Witness Report to be published on September 29, 2022. The report is about the killings of land and environmental defenders and accordingly, the Philippines remained to be one of the countries with the highest number of killings in the world and only few perpetrators were brought to justice due to the failure of the government to properly investigate these crimes.

Relative thereto, you are requested to look into the issues/questions raised by Ms. Lema and provide the inputs on the matter to include data on the number of reported environmental killings (forestry, mining-related, et al.) yearly, and actions taken by the previous administrations to address the concern. Please submit your inputs to the undersigned on or before 03 October 2022.


MARILOU G. ERNI

Reuters request for comment on Global Witness Report

1 message

Lema, Karen (Reuters) <karen.lema@thomsonreuters.com>

Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 4:07 PM

To: "osec@denr.gov.ph" <osec@denr.gov.ph>

Cc: "hea@denr.gov.ph" <hea@denr.gov.ph>

Dear Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga,

Greetings!

I hope all is well.

My name is Karen Lema, I am the Bureau Chief of Reuters in the Philippines. We met briefly at the post SONA-economic briefing.

Ma'am, Global Witness is releasing a report on September 29 about the killings of land and environmental defenders. They found that the Philippines remained to be one of the countries with the highest number of killings in the world, and that like in other places, few perpetrators of killings were every brought to justice due to the failures of governments to properly investigate these crimes.

I will share a copy of the report as soon as it's published, but I hope you don't mind, Ma'am, if we make an advance request for comments.

Has the environment ministry looked into these killings? Is something being done about it? What is being done to protect environmental defenders? Has there been any instruction from the office of the president insofar as these killings are concerned? President Marcos has made environmental protection a priority of his administration.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Lema

Karen Lema
Bureau Chief, Philippines

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