



## Karapatang pantao tungo sa kalinaw

The formation of Sulong Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) was initiated by the Citizen's Peace Council and the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) program on Peace, Democratization, and Human Rights.

The primary goals of the network are education and advocacy on CARHRIHL, the prevention of violations, and the support of observance of human rights and humanitarian law within the framework of the CARHRIHL.

Sulong CARHRIHL hopes to:

- address the needs of communities and groups affected by the armed conflict;
- support and sustain the peace process between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF);
- provide additional avenues for constructive dialogue among the main stakeholders of the peace process, namely, the GRP, the NDF, and Philippine civil society.

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The **Philippine Coalition to Protect Children Involved in Armed Conflict (Protect CIAC)** is at the forefront of civil society's efforts to respond to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. In the same year it was formed in 2001, the Philippine Coalition was instrumental in the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (Optional Protocol) by the Philippine government. It is currently working through partner NGOs in more than 20 provinces throughout the country. It is a member of the South East Asian Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (SEASUCS) until 2007, it was known as the Philippine Coalition to Stop the Use of Children as Soldiers (PCSUCS).

Protect CIAC's Steering Committee are: Amnesty International - Pilipinas Section, the Balay Integrated Rehabilitation Center for Total Human Development (BIRTH DEV) Inc., the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights) and the Psychosocial Support and Children's Rights Resource Center (PST CRRC).



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The **Philippine Action Network on Small Arms (PhilANSA)** is a loose network of civil society organizations and advocates. It was convened in June 2001, a month before the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held in July 2001.

PhilANSA is an active member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). IANSA supports the initiatives and efforts of organizations the world over to prevent the spread and misuse of small arms.

PhilANSA's thrust is to contribute in addressing the complex issue of weapons in society, and to coordinate efforts and/or support initiatives that address the issue.

**Specifically, Philansa focuses on the following concerns:**

- the demand and supply side of weapons;
- the misuse and proliferation of arms;
- the impact of weapons in society;
- the impact of weapons in the development programs in communities.

**Intervention Points**

- Advocate enforcement of existing gun control laws
- Media Campaign
- promote Small Arms (SA) & Light Weapons (LW) concerns
- promote media sensitivity, i.e. encourage media to give equal if not more attention to stories that promote a "culture of peace" rather than those that promote a "culture of violence"
- International lobby to address supply-side issues
- Support peace processes (with MILF & NDF); introduce amendments & monitor implementation of GRP-RPA agreement
- Research
- Explore/research alternative methods of conflict resolution
  - Continue community-based research on supply demand-impact of SA&LW
  - Promote Culture of Peace
    - thru community-based programs (e.g., inter-faith dialogues, ban toy gun campaign)
    - integrate SA&LW concerns in peace education programs
    - Facilitate giving voice and face to affected communities and sectors

## THE CHARTER MEMBERS

- 1.) Balay Rehabilitation Center Inc. (BALAY)
- 2.) Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL)
- 3.) Sulong Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL)
- 4.) Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court (PCICC)
- 5.) Philippine Coalition to Protect Children Involved in Armed Conflict (Protect CIAC)
- 6.) Philippine Action Network on Small Arms (PHILANSA)
- 7.) Philippine Society for International Humanitarian Law (PSIHL)

## AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS...

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**Civil Society Initiatives  
for International  
Humanitarian Law**



**Civil Society Initiatives for International Humanitarian Law**

**Initially, a loose network with a flat or vertical structure of organizational members with relations of equality and co-responsibility, including rotating or flexible focal points for activities, meetings and representation.**

**Vision, Mission & Goals**

**VISION:**

- a humane Philippine society where the rule of law is upheld, particularly in situations of armed conflict, through the application of IHL and related legal regimes;
- a vibrant and effective IHL community and consciousness in the Philippines, where the role and contributions of civil society are encouraged

**MISSION:**

- to serve as a focal point for consolidating and reinforcing various civil society initiatives for the advancement of IHL in the Philippines
- to assert the independent, neutral and impartial role of civil society organizations as watchdogs over the state and non-state armed groups, as service providers, and as advocates of alternative policies, all in the field of IHL
- to initiate and pursue activities and campaigns which address IHL concerns on the ground, raise IHL consciousness, and help shape IHL policy

**Strategic GOALS:**

- to build and strengthen CSI-IHL as a dynamic and effective civil society network for IHL advancement in the Philippines, faithful to its founding principles and context
- to propagate IHL awareness, consciousness and understanding within civil society and among other civil society organizations
- to develop civil society capacities, methodologies and technologies for IHL work, both on the ground and at the policy-making level, and in the IHL engagement of both the state and non-state armed groups, as well as relevant international organizations



**THE PHILIPPINE COALITION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (PCICC)**

The PCICC, established in 2000, believes that individual perpetrators of the most atrocious crimes -- genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity -- must be brought to justice. The PCICC has the following objectives:

1. create public awareness on the International Criminal Court; gather support for the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court by the Philippines; and
2. promote the integration of the principles and standards of the International Criminal Court to the Philippine judicial and legal systems.

Initiated by more than ten major human rights organizations and leading figures in international law in the country, the coalition has been in the forefront of campaigning for the promotion and ratification of the Rome Statute in the Philippines.

The PCICC is a member of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court which is a worldwide network of over 2,000 non-governmental organizations that promotes a fair, effective and independent International Criminal Court (ICC).

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**Balay Rehabilitation Center** is a service institution that offers a psychosocial development response to social trauma. It supports communities uprooted by human-made disasters, particularly armed conflict and development aggression. It also provides relief and rehabilitation services to victims of human rights violations. Its services cover mostly internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as those who suffer from political detention, torture and organized political violence (TOPV).

Balay advocates for peace and human rights. It supports social healing, multi-cultural dialogue and solidarity, community empowerment and transformative participation. It stands for humanitarian protection of civilians in times of armed conflict and events of development aggression. It seeks an end to coercive civilian displacement and rejects torture and other forms of organized violence.



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PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES (PCBL) is the country civil society campaign group on the landmines issue since 1995. It is the recognized affiliate of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the Nobel Peace Prize laureate for 1997. PCBL engages the Philippine government, the various rebel groups and the broader civil society to adopt the correct policy, measures, practice, views and action on the landmines issue, guided mainly by IHL, which includes the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, the 1996 Amended Protocol II to the 1980 Weapons Convention, and customary IHL rules. On the government front, PCBL's main current concern is the passage of a "Philippine Comprehensive Law on Landmines" through House Bill No. 1054 and Senate Bill No. 1595 which PCBL drafted.

On the rebel front, PCBL has developed in 2008 a new instrument called "Rebel Group Declaration of Adherence to International Humanitarian Law on Landmines" and this was eventually signed that year by four rebel groups, namely three communist breakaway factions (RPM-M, RPM-P and MLPP) and one major Moro rebel group (MILF). On this basis, PCBL is now in 2009 in the process of helping develop an international mechanism for adherence, assistance and accountability for such instruments deposited with ICBL. As co-founder of the ICBL's Non-State Actor Working Group (NSAWG) in 1997, PCBL was a pioneer of the global work of engaging non-state actors in a landmine ban.

PCBL is the country researcher on the Philippines for the annual global Landmine Monitor Report since 1999 which is a global civil society mechanism developed by ICBL to fill a monitoring gap in the Ottawa Treaty. From 2000 to 2008, PCBL was the Vice-Chair for NGOs of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) IHL National Committee. Aside from PCBL's fellow civil society organizations in CSI-IHL, PCBL also has links with several civil society peace organizations in Mindanao. And aside from ICBL at the international level, PCBL has partnerships with the South-South Network (SSN) for Non-State Armed Group Engagement, Nonviolence International-Southeast Asia, and the Fondation Suisse de Deminage (FSD, Swiss Foundation for Mine Action). In 2007, the GRP and MILF Peace Panels accepted the proposal of PCBL and FSD for joint mine/unexploded ordnance clearance in Mindanao in the context of the peace process.