



The United Church of Canada General Council

GC41 From Province to Province: The Beaconsfield Initiative January 1-12, 2012; Strengthening Partnerships and Studying the Impact of Canadian Mining Interests in the Philippines

True Document Date
August 17, 2012

That the 41st General Council 2012, in order to continue the work of the Beaconsfield Initiative in the Cordillera region in the Philippines, direct the Executive of the General Council and General Secretary, General Council to:

1. call for the following,
 - a. the end of the vilification and human rights violations of people and people's organizations.;

- b. the immediate release of the 347 political prisoners;
- c. the end of illegal arrest and imprisonment of people;
- d. the end of abuse, violence, and sex crimes against women in indigenous communities as practiced by the military; and
- e. the protection of the ancestral lands and resources from destructive large scale mining and all projects affecting indigenous communities; and

2. take the following actions:

- a. develop a properly worded petition, with 25 accompanied signatures (to be developed in consultation with the Beaconsfield Initiative), to be distributed to all of its congregations and ministry sites, which will be hand delivered to every member of Parliament demanding the regulation of Canadian mining companies and their practices abroad. In addition, to invite Kairos and all our national Church partners and NGO's to join in this campaign, to be completed by December 1, 2012;
- b. encourage our membership and lobby the Canadian government to boycott and divest from any companies who use and employ private militias or security forces, trained and equipped by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. And encourage Kairos and other Church partners to do the same; and
- c. increase funding and support for the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Regional Ecumenical Council of the Cordillera, Cordillera Peoples Alliance and the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, who have been long term partners, allowing them to expand their capacity to report on human rights violations, extra judicial killings, enforced disappearances, violence

against women and children, the treatment of indigenous populations, the militarization of communities and monitor Canadian Mining applications and interests.

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