

Cordillera women commemorated the 2019 International Working Women's Day by holding a successful regional women's summit and the One Billion Rising dance on March 7-8 in Baguio City. Innabuyog is an alliance of indigenous women's organizations in the Cordillera, Philippines. It is affiliated with the Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

Statement of Cordillera Human Rights Alliance for March 8, 2019 (International Working Women's Day)

No More Prisons for Women March as an important month for women is a tribute to historical and ongoing struggles against patriarchy, and the assertion of people's rights, justice and peace. As we commemorate International Women Human Rights Day today, we celebrate the courage of women human rights defenders, who never faltered despite fascist attacks.

We commend the courage and strength of Rachel Mariano, and other women political prisoners and their families in the country unjustly detained due to trumped-up charges by the Duterte administration. They are women of courage who chose to serve the marginalized yet are persecuted by the State. That they remain today in prison is a statement of how the Philippine government fulfills its human rights obligations. How they persevere to serve the people even in prison is a testament of how State repression can never imprison their will.

We honor the peasant women and working women who toil not just for the needs of their families but also for the establishment of a just society, who tend not only to their children but also tend to making the society better for the next generation. As they and their families face economic prisons due to landlessness, unemployment and underemployment, low wages and inhumane working conditions, unjust taxation like the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) and laws like the Rice Tariffication Law, they remain unbound as they work every day to be free from these conditions.

We hold in high regard indigenous and Moro women, who bravely fight for their ancestral domain and territory and their right to self-determination. No bond could chain them to discrimination. We draw inspiration from the workers who fought for decent wages and humane working conditions in New York, the suffragettes who fought for their right to vote, the women revolutionaries from the Katipunan up to the present, and the women activists martyred in the struggle for national democracy.

We pay tribute to the revolutionary heroine Gabriela Silang, a Tinguian and Ilokana, who was born on this month as well (March 19, 1731). Her legacy persists with the women of today who fight for freedom and say no more to any form of prison for women. #