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Philippines: Peace consultant and human rights defender Randy Felix Malayao killed

On 30 January 2019, **Randy Felix Malayao**, a human rights defender and peace consultant for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), was shot dead while he was asleep on bus in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

[Randy Felix Malayao](#) was a human rights defender and peace advocate. Since 2008, he had served as a consultant on political and constitutional reforms for the NDFP, a coalition of groups that has long been engaging in peace negotiations with the Philippine government. The human rights defender also participated in the peace talks in Europe in 2016, as a spokesperson during the formal negotiations. Other than his work with the NDFP, Randy Felix Malayao was also on the board of trustees of the human rights organisation, Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA)-Northern Luzon, the current vice president of the Makabayan coalition, and an active campaigner against human rights violations committed by the military in Cagayan Valley.

At around 2am on 30 January 2019, Randy Felix Malayao was shot twice by an unidentified gunman when the Isabela-bound passenger bus he was travelling home on made a stopover in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya. The gunman reportedly boarded the bus while it was parked at the CCQ Restaurant and left the scene in a black Yamaha Mio motorcycle with another rider. Randy Felix Malayao was asleep at the time and was killed instantaneously.

Following the death of the human rights defender, his work and character were targeted by a slew of [unfounded allegations](#) from the Philippine National Police (PNP). They alleged that Randy Felix Malayao was a ranking officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), that he embezzled funds from “the Party” and extorted money from the people, and that he had eloped with another activist who was already married. Randy Felix Malayao’s family [denounced](#) these allegations. Cristina Palabay, Secretary General of Filipino NGO [Karapatan](#), also denounced the PNP’s allegations and reaffirmed that Randy Felix Malayao was not a member of the CPP.

Before his death, as a result of his human rights advocacy, Randy Felix Malayao had been hounded by suspected military personnel; abducted and tortured by political adversaries; spent four years in prison on trumped-up and politically-motivated charges; and was among the 650 individuals branded as terrorists by the Duterte administration in the proscription petition issued by the Department of Justice in February 2018. The eventual removal of his name from this list in January 2019 by the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch was supposed to have accorded Randy Felix Malayao a safer environment to carry out his work, but his murder proves that this was not the case.

Front Line Defenders strongly condemns the killing of Randy Felix Malayao, which it believes was solely motivated by his legitimate and peaceful activities in the defence of human rights and his advocacy for the peace process in the Philippines.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in the Philippines to:

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the killing of human rights defender Randy Felix Malayao, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
2. Take measures to ensure that public officials refrain from making unfounded statements or declarations stigmatising the character and work of human rights defenders;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in the Philippines are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.