A resolution urging IUSY member organizations to campaign for a Global Magnitsky Act in their own countries

Akbayan Youth

Philippines

Human rights are under attack in different corners of the world by authoritarian governments.

According to the 2019 report of Front Line Defenders, more than 300 human rights defenders were killed all over the world, fighting to end injustices against the environment, indigenous peoples, and victims of gender-based violence.

In the same report, 40% of the documented killings were done to activists involved in land, environment, and indigenous peoples issues. 18% of murdered human rights activists were women.

This harrowing study underscores the fact that young socialists all over the world should involve themselves in the struggles of workers, peasants, and indigenous groups against the exploitation of giant corporations and the authoritarian governments that enable them.

Ending the global killing spree of human rights defenders require the global cooperation of countries to restrict the travel and assets of human rights violators.

Countries that have passed a version of the Magnitsky Act include the United States, Canada, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Latvia and Kosovo. The European Union, Australia and Ukraine are also moving to pass similar versions in the immediate future.
With this, we are urging IUSY member organizations to campaign for their countries to pass their own versions of a Magnitsky Act, a law that would freeze travel and assets of individuals proven to have led or participated in gross human rights violations.

With this, we are urging for countries with enforced Magnitsky laws to go after the deadliest human rights violators in government right now. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and several administration officials and law enforcement chiefs for the killings of more than 30,000 Filipinos in his violent anti-drugs campaign. President Donald Trump for the deaths of immigrants under custody of the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under an era of racist immigration policies. Try Pheap and Kun Kim of Cambodia who are notorious for massive environmental crimes, including illegal logging and mass displacement. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and several military top officials of Burma who have built the infrastructure of violence that led to the atrocities against Rohingya Muslims.

IUSY’s participation in the global campaign for Magnitsky laws to be passed in several countries, as the largest political youth organization, will send a message to corrupt and violent politicians that killing workers, peasants, women, and indigenous groups will cost them their mobility and resources, effectively stripping them of their personal source of power.