Silencing the media
Silencing environmental defenders
Overview of Philippine case

• Global Witness identified the Philippines as the second deadliest in the world for environmental defenders

• PH remains one of the deadliest countries in the world for journalists

• No censorship board, no content blocking but criminal libel laws exist; cyber libel as tool of repression
Targeted killings

• Lumad, indigenous people from Mindanao, resisting the entry of mining, plantation companies
• Activists opposing large dam projects
• Peasant advocates advocating land reform, collective land cultivation
• Local leaders exposing corruption and logging
• Catholic priests leading the anti-mining campaigns
Context of surge in violence

• Rise of populist leader Rodrigo Duterte who waged three wars since 2016
• Palm oil plantation expansion in Mindanao
• Intensified mining
• Build-build-build projects, infusion of Chinese loan
Disturbing regional trend

- Impunity in the killing of environmental defenders
- Criminalizing citizen media documentation of environment destruction
- Suppressing grassroots resistance
- Development aggression as environment protection
- Use of repressive media laws to silence dissent; ‘fake news’ legislation
Improving how we report environment issues

• Demonizing alternatives, little focus on frameworks that offer different models of development

• Little regional reporting of environment challenges, trends, resistance
STOP THE ATTACKS
DEFEND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS!