

SILENCING JOURNALISTS, SUPPRESSING THE TRUTH? A DIALOGUE SERIES ON CITIZENS' RIGHT TO KNOW

Three forums were conducted in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao by the Center for Community Journalism and Development to complement the efforts of the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists in looking more deeply at the successive killings of community journalists.

AREA	DATE	BACKGROUND	RESULTS/OUTCOME	PLANNED ACTION
Bicol Region Venue: Legazpi City	June 6	Held in partnership with the Journalists of Bicol (JOB), Legazpi Social Action Center, Philippine Information Agency-Albay in response to media groups' request to discuss the killings in a peace context in the region. Attended by multi-sectoral group including the military and local government authorities. Total participants: 79 Cost of activity shared between CCJD and the Legazpi SAC.	Formation of an ad hoc Community-Media Action Board to look into media and citizen concerns Identified issues in 6 provinces related to HR Series of dialogues and capacity building on human rights (conducted public journalism workshop for radio Aug. 11-12; HR orientation Aug. 13-14) Training for journalists	OD for Community-Media Action Board Continue series of HR dialogues Work out arrangements with academe for journalists' training Stories on killings and HR
Region 6 Venue: Iloilo City	July 12	Multi-sectoral dialogue with Panay Island journalists in partnership with The Visayas Examiner and the Iloilo Press Club. Attended by representatives from the media, government, business, lawyers' groups, CHR, academe, church and NGOs (Iloilo, Antique, Bacolod)	Core group formed (TVE, Iloilo Press Club, Iloilo-CODE, ILAC, Panay Alliance Karapatan, Katinaran Development Center, Green Forum); met July 31 to push through with HR education, develop HR module.	Organizational meeting for the multi-sectoral core group Finalize modules for HR education drive
Western Mindanao Venue: Lanao del Norte	July 23	Jointly undertaken with the Mindanao Institute of Journalism, Federation of Reporters for Empowerment and Equality, Mindanao News and Information Cooperative, and the provincial government of Lanao del Norte on a cost-share basis. The dialogue focused on the killings and their implications for peace building in Mindanao.	Identified several steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building and values formation for journalists • HR education for media • Strengthen sectoral partnerships/relationships (draw up directory) Launching of "linked" radio program in WesMin for continuing community discussion of the killings	Work out a coordinating system between media and other sectors Finalize radio program mechanics Coordinate with training institutions