

October 16, 2025

Police Brigadier General Christopher N. Abrahano
Regional Director
Surigao del Sur Provincial Police Commission
Camp Vicente L. Pimentel Sr. Telaje,
Tandag City, Surigao del Sur

Dear Police Brigadier General Christopher N. Abrahano,

I am writing on behalf of Climate Rights International, an international NGO that conducts research and advocacy on the human rights dimensions of the climate crisis. For the past several months, we have been carrying out research for a report that we plan to publish on the human, environmental, and climate impacts associated with nickel mining in the Philippines' Caraga Region.

Based on roughly sixty interviews with community members, our research finds that nickel mining in Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Sur is threatening the rights of local people, harming the local environment, and exacerbating the impacts of the climate crisis. People told Climate Rights International that nickel mining and related pollution is destroying fishing and farming livelihoods, contributing to food insecurity, polluting water and air, and increasing health problems. Perversely, mining for nickel, needed for the renewable energy transition, is making local communities – who bear extremely little responsibility for the climate crisis – more vulnerable to climate impacts, including extreme weather events. The Philippines is the most dangerous country in Asia to be a land and environmental defender, and Climate Rights International also documents how those who oppose mining can face threats, criminalization, and attacks.

We want to ensure that our report accurately reflects the views, policies, and practices of relevant authorities and companies, and we hope that you or your representatives will respond to the following questions, outlined below. Any responses will be reflected in our reporting as appropriate, and we may publish your responses at our discretion and when appropriate, either in full or in part.

Questions:

1. Please provide details of your investigation into the September 22, 2024, killing of Alberto Cuartero, Barangay Captain of Puyat, Carmen.
2. We understand that murder charges were filed against Nelson Tomian Martinez in November 2024. What is the status of the prosecution?
3. Did the investigation uncover any links between the killing to Alberto Cuartero and the testimony he was scheduled to give in a case involving falsified documents relating to a mining application? If so, what were those links?
4. Did the investigation uncover any links between the killing of Alberto Cuartero and the mining industry in the Philippines.

Please provide your responses in writing. Your responses can only be considered for inclusion in our report if we receive them by October 24, 2025. Please reply in English. In addition, please include any other materials, statistics, and/or information you think may be relevant.

My colleagues will be in Manila November 3-6 to release the report and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your representatives. Please let me know if you will be available to meet with Climate Rights International during that time period.

Sincerely,

Brad Adams
Executive Director, Climate Rights International