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Press Release

Save the Children Strongly Denounces Bombing in Mindanao State University; Calls for Stronger Protection of Children and Communities from Armed Conflict

Save the Children Philippines strongly denounces the recent bombing in Mindanao State University (MSU) that claimed the lives of at least four civilians and injured around 40 others as the country is commemorating the Mindanao Week of Peace.

“We highly denounce this act of violence, especially as it took place in an academic institution which is considered a safe space and a zone of peace for children and communities,” said Save the Children Philippines CEO, Atty. Alberto Muyot.

“The senseless bombing infringes Republic Act 11188: Special Protection on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict where attacking schools and places of worship is grave violation to the right of children and people to be protected from all forms of harm in all settings,” said Muyot.

In light of the situation, Save the Children believes stronger protection of children and communities against such attacks should be warranted as international terrorist group ISIS allegedly claimed responsibility over the deadly explosion.

“We call on the government to raise awareness on the Special Protection on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act and ensure it is fully implemented. We seek the support of the government and all concerned sectors for the safety, justice, and the practical help needed by the affected and displaced children and their families,” Muyot said.

In addition, under the Safe Schools Declaration, nations should respect the civilian nature of schools and must provide protection for learners and teaching/ non-teaching staff, and mitigate the impact of armed conflict.

MSU is a partner academic institution of Save the Children Philippines in upholding peace and development in Marawi City and the entire Lanao del Sur. Save the Children is actively working together with MSU in identifying specific needs and evaluating necessary interventions for affected learners.

“Mindanao has been working hard towards the realization of peace, unity, and harmony among its people, regardless of their status, religion, culture, and background. Save the Children remains committed to the cause of peace and to carry on dialogues and collaborations necessary to build a safer, fairer, and better future for and with children,” concludes Muyot.

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