



Mindanao Under Martial Law, A Year of State Terror

A Report on the First Year of Imposition of Martial Law in Mindanao

May 23, 2018

The year 2017 unfolded Duterte's true nature, a greedy and cruel war-mongering president who uses his power to perpetrate a killing rampage against the Filipino people through his war on drugs and his own brand of war-on-terror through the imposition and extension of martial law in Mindanao and his continuing implementation of government's counterinsurgency program, presently Oplan Kapayapaan, which primarily targets Southern Philippines.

Since the declaration of martial law on May 23, 2017, Karapatan documented at least **49 victims of extrajudicial killings in Mindanao, with an average of one victim killed every week**. Most of the victims are indigenous peoples and members of local peasant organizations targeted for their local campaigns for genuine agrarian reform and against militarization.

Karapatan also documented **22 cases of torture, 116 victims of frustrated extrajudicial killings, 89 victims of illegal arrest and detention, and 336,124 victims of indiscriminate gunfire and aerial bombings**. At least **404, 654 individuals have been displaced**, largely because of these bombings. Many more reported cases reveal a much graver magnitude of the effects of martial law. The dangers of ensuring security in traveling across the area prevent news gatherers and documentors from looking into field conditions so as to fully report on the human rights situation.

Two days after the declaration of martial law, on May 25, 2017, from 5:30am to 10pm, around 240 elements of the 39th and 72nd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA) conducted a series of aerial bombings and fired at Moro communities in sitios Pedtobawan, Campo, Apulan, and Centro Salat in Brgy. Salat, and in Sitio Libpas in Brgy. Tual, President Roxas, North Cotabato.

Aerial strikes were also reported in the barangays of Tangkulan, Anggaan, and Damulog in Bukidnon. These areas are at least 100 kilometers away from Marawi City. Howitzer cannons were mounted at Brgy. Kisupaan, Pres. Roxas, North Cotabato. The incident displaced **more than 252 families or more than 1,000 individuals**.

According to the residents, military choppers were spotted hovering in their communities around 10am. Thereafter, around six (6) bombs were dropped. The military also strafed the villagers' houses from its MG20 helicopter and subsequently launched six (6) 105 howitzer cannons towards the community. Around 3 pm, four (4) other bombs were dropped, another incident of strafing from the MG20 helicopter occurred and another six (6) 105 cannons were fired at the communities. At around 7pm, aerial strikes started all over again.

The bombings, as confirmed by Abdillah Makalang, village chief of Brgy. Salata, resulted to the death of **Abdullah Mamansag**, 34, a Maguindanaoan farmer and resident of the said village.

Mamansag was hit by a shrapnel in his spine and his right leg was cut off after being hit by a cannon.

Two more Maguindanaoan residents of Brgy. Salata, **Norhamin Taligapin**, 25 and **Dodong** (not his real name), 14, were brought to the Amas Provincial Hospital after they were also hit by shrapnels in the stomach and chest.

In Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, composite elements of the 27th IBPA and the marines massacred a group of T'boli and Dulangan Manobo in Sitio Datal Bong Langon, Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on December 3, 2017. This group of indigenous peoples was occupying the area land-grabbed by the Consunjis, and used by their corporation as a coffee plantation. The land is part of the ancestral domain of the Dulangan Manobo and T'boli. The Consunjis have long been operating in the ancestral domains of different indigenous communities in the region. Those killed were **Datu Victor Danyan, Victor Danyan Jr., Artemio Danyan, Pato Celardo, Samuel Angkoy, To Diamante, Bobot Lagase, and Mateng Bantal**. Also reported wounded were **Luben Laod and Teteng Laod**. The victims were all members of the T'boli Manobo Sdaf Claimants Organization (TAMASCO). The incident also resulted to the forcible evacuation of 70 families.

In Talaingod, Davao del Norte, a 19-year-old student of the Salugpongan 'Ta Tanu Igkanogon Community Center was shot by two armed members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and Alamara. **Obello Bay-ao** was on his way home from his family's farm in the afternoon of September 5, 2017 when the paramilitary elements fired at and chased after him. He was rushed to the hospital by villagers, but he was eventually declared dead in the evening of the same day.

In Boston, Davao Oriental, **Arnel Otacan**, 33, a member of the local peasant organization Nigkasinabot Koy Mag-umma Tu Boston (NIGKUMB), was shot by suspected elements of the 67th IBPA on October 28, 2017. Otacan failed to come home on the night of the 28th, and his body was finally found the following day at a crossing in Brgy. Cabasagan, Boston. The victim sustained 7 gunshot wounds and his knees and arms were broken. Otacan, according to his wife, was interrogated by military intelligence agents twice – on July 15 and July 31, 2017 - before he was killed. Moreover, Otacan's wife heard reports that the military was out to kill their entire family. This prompted her and their 6 children to temporarily seek sanctuary.

In Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, **Vivencio Sahay**, 53, chairperson of the Unyon sa Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Norte (UMAN-KMP), was gunned down by suspected military agents on November 23, 2017. Sahay, accompanied by his pregnant daughter Jovy, was on his way back home from tending to their carabao at around 6 a.m. While walking, they were blocked by a bonnet-wearing armed man. The perpetrator asked Sahay to put his hands to his head, and then shot him four times. Jovy tried approaching her father, which prompted the assailant to aim the gun at her. Jovy then tried to run as fast as she could back to their house and scrambled for help. The armed man tried to chase her but refrained from shooting; he eventually left after seeing Jovy enter the house. According to Sahay's family, he was targeted because of his active involvement in UMAN-KMP, an organization continuously red-tagged by the military as a "legal front" of the NPA.

On November 29, 2017, eight agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) on board a truck were flagged down at the Filipinas Palm Plantation Inc. (FPPI) checkpoint manned by 15 security guards; the guards were part of the Investment Defense Forces (IDFs) tasked to secure the company. FPPI is known to employ and maintain IDFs who are trained by the military and they use the same harassment and intimidation tactics applied by their fascist trainers.

The truck was carrying palm oil meant to be sold. This served as a source of livelihood for the ARBs while the lands were in the process of being distributed. Since the guards refused to let them pass, **Rolando Moreno**, 64, alighted from the truck and tried to negotiate with the guards. The other ARBs reported that while Moreno was trying to negotiate, one of the guards pointed his gun at the victim. The guard fired at Moreno's hand and left knee. After the victim fell to the ground, he was again shot in his body and head. The perpetrator then took a gun, placed it in Moreno's hand, and the other guards took pictures. Afterwards, all the guards left. Moreno was rushed to a hospital but was declared dead after a few hours.

Moreno was one of the farmers to be awarded with a land title by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), after the ARBs won their case in asserting the individual land distribution on September 2017. Moreno was a member of the NDC-Guthrie Plantations Inc – Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries – Multipurpose Cooperative (NGPI-ARB-MPC).

On December 17, 2017, the remains of **Jennirose Porras**, a member of Compostela Farmers Association (CFA), were found at a funeral parlor in Nabunturan, Compostela Valley. The victim was last seen on December 14, when she had informed her son that she would be out to meet someone. On December 15, Jenni's son reported her missing, after she failed to return home.

Jeffrey and Michael, sons of Jennirose, inquired at the funeral parlor about how and who brought the body there. According to the funeral parlor staff, they received a call from the Nabunturan police at around 11 p.m. of December 14 to claim Jennirose's body from the Nabunturan Doctor's hospital. The sons decided to go to the Nabunturan police station to ask about the circumstances of their mother's passing. The brothers learned that on the night of December 14, while Jennirose was waiting for a vehicle at the highway, an armed man on board a black motorcycle arrived and approached the victim. The assailant reportedly aimed his gun at the victim, which prompted Jennirose to try and grab the gun. There was a short scuffle before the armed man was able to secure his gun and shot the victim; Jennirose sustained 8 gunshot wounds.

Jeffrey recounted an instance on January 28, 2016 where elements of the 66th IBPA arrived at their house and was coercing Jennirose to surrender, accusing her as a member of the NPA. Several other members of the CFA have been subjected to harassment, surveillance, and outright killings.

On December 21, 2017, **Edwin Magallanes**, a member of the Abanterong Nakigbisog (ABANTE NA), was gunned down by suspected military agents under the 28th IBPA at his workplace in Panikian Banay-Banay, Davao Oriental. ABANTE NA is an organization of small-scale miners. Though Magallanes was employed as a maintenance staff at the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) at the time of his killing, he remained an active member of ABANTE NA. He was a staunch anti-large scale mining activist who also opposed the militarization of peasant and Lumad communities.

Aaron Notarte, 23 years old, a member of peasant organization NAMASUR, was a chainsaw operator from Brgy. Manat, Agusan del Sur. On the afternoon of January 14, 2018, he was stopped while en route to their coffee farm by soldiers, who then forced Notarte, at gunpoint, to admit to being an NPA rebel. Failing to get the answer that they wanted, the soldiers hit Notarte at the back with a rifle butt. The soldiers proceeded to cut two fingers from Notarte's hand. Notarte was then made to run before being shot to death. He sustained two gunshot wounds on his left and right shoulders and another three across his stomach.

At 3 p.m. the next day, a certain Federico called Notarte's employer, asking him to visit the Dollete Funeral Homes in Trento to claim the body of Notarte. Notarte's siblings arrived at the funeral

home by 5 p.m., where they found Notarte's remains. His face was almost unrecognizable and his dismembered hand was covered with packaging tape. Staff of the funeral home told Notarte's relatives that soldiers brought Notarte's body the night before. A few days after, Notarte was reported as among the NPA rebels killed by soldiers during an armed encounter on January 13, 2018.

In a fact finding mission covering various evacuation centers in Iligan and Lanao del Sur launched by Kalinaw Mindanao, violations against the Maranao people killed in the course of military aerial bombings have come into light.

Among the accounts documented by fact finding missions was that of **Idris Rascal, 55, and son Jalal, 25**. On May 23, 2017, Idris and Jalal were on their way to evacuate their family when the two decided to rush back to their house in an attempt to salvage more belongings. Jalal's sister, during the interview, said she saw with her own eyes how the bomb hit the house while the two were still inside. Her nephew, **Saypudin, 13**, followed suit but the army personnel took him. Until today, Saypudin has yet to be found, and the bodies of Idris and Jalal have yet to be recovered.

On May 23, 2017, **Abol Amatonding**, left their house in Basak, Malutlut, Marawi to go to his relatives in Binidyang, Marawi. Abol's mother, Racma Amatonding, decided to evacuate the next day, on May 24. Racma, unaware of the whereabouts of her son, assumed he had also evacuated with their relatives. It was on May 25 when reports surfaced that a picture of Abol's body was circulating in social media; the body was found in Basak, Malutlut, in the area where the family lived. Abol wore a black shirt and brown pants. Wearing black automatically aroused suspicion from the military, as their initial reports stated that members of the Maute group were wearing the same color. The body of Abol was recovered by their relatives in Binidyang, but the family was not able to bury their son because they could not afford the trip. Abol's family is in an evacuation center in Baloi, Lanao del Norte.

On May 24, 2017, the body of **Ramos Malik, 35**, was found at the Banggolo bridge in Marawi. His family – father Mangod Malik, 63; siblings Jabbar Malik, 30, Aida Malik, 25, Esnairah Malik, 20, and Montiya Malik, 10 – evacuated on May 26, 2017 from their residence in Brgy. Cameri, Marinaut, Marawi. According to Mangod, Ramos's father, he and his family were separated during the chaos of the evacuation. Mangod and his two children went to Saguiran evacuation center in Lanao del Sur while his wife was in Bubong, Amayra. Mangod assumed that Ramos was with his other siblings. It was only days later when they learned from their neighbors that Ramos was arrested by the military, as evidenced by a footage from a local media outlet. The victim was wearing black at that time. They later received confirmation that Ramos was already dead, his body found on a bridge. The family received word from other families still inside Marawi that Ramos' body was brought to Baloi. Ramos Malik was mentally disabled, but was helping his family financially by collecting scraps off the streets and selling them.

On May 26, 2017, the family of Tarhata Sultan Batalo, 42, evacuated from Marawi's provincial capitol. Her son, **Sohaib Batalo, 20**, was a criminology student and was always seen accompanying his father, Mohammad Ali Duro Sultan, a member of the Provincial Security Forces (PSF) in Marawi. Sohaib had 7 other siblings - Najebfa, 22, Sohailili, 18, Najeb, 16, Naj Leah, 15, Amal Haya, 14, Lanih Boy and Princess Raifa, both 12. They left Sohaib, with their neighbors, in a bridge in Brgy. Mapandi because there was no longer any space in the vehicle they were using. They were assured that he would not be suspected as a member of the Maute group because he was known as the son of a PSF member. According to witnesses, Sohaib arrived in the capitol to look for his father at around May 26, but left when he found out that Mohammad Sultan was not there. The neighbors who took Sohaib were also forced to evacuate,

and convinced him to squeeze himself in the car. The 20-year-old refused, and asked the family to go ahead. He was reportedly accosted by the police in a bridge in Mapandi, which later turned him over to the Special Action Forces (SAF). A picture of Sohaib in the custody of the police surfaced in social media, a post that reached his family. On May 31, 2017, the dead body of Sohaib was found, with his hands still tied.

On the same day of May 31, 2017, in Brgy. Papandayan Caniogan, Marawi, **Sakraman Decampong**, 18, and **Takul Decampong**, 15, went to a masjid (mosque) just beside their house for sambayang (prayer). Their grandfather, Macud Maambang, 74, also went for sambayang but prayed at a different masjid. After the sambayang, people were on their way out of the masjid when four bombs were dropped in the vicinity, damaging the mosque. The imam who led the day's worship, **Alim Baser**, died inside the mosque. According to the testimony of residents in Brgy. Papandayan Caniogan, it took four days before Baser's body was finally recovered from the ruins of the mosque.

Meanwhile, **Sakraman** and **Takul Decampong** were also hit by shrapnel. Neighbors helped the two brothers and brought them back to their house. It was there that Macud Maambang, who also just came home from *sambayang*, saw what happened to his grandsons. Their grandfather and other concerned neighbors used a carabao to help transport the two young men to Saguiaran where they would be able to get medical attention. A female relative accompanied the two wounded brothers, since their 74-year-old grandfather could no longer be able to help transport them.

When they arrived in Saguiaran, police from the checkpoint said they were taking custody of Sakraman and Takul. The police said they would instead take the two brothers to the municipality of Pantar and have them treated there. The female relative was given no choice, so the police took the Decampong brothers. After arriving in Pantar, instead of going to a hospital, the police surrendered the two brothers to the soldiers stationed there. The soldiers also said that they would take the two under their custody because they were accused as "ISIS". The evacuees at Pantar who knew the children and their grandfather confirmed that the soldiers took Sakraman and Takul. As of this writing, Sakraman and Takul's whereabouts have yet to be determined.

Despite its claims that there were no rights violations in the course of implementation of martial law, AFP data revealed that at least 87 civilians were killed in the course of their operations in Marawi, 40 of them due to sickness. Residents, on the other hand, stated that close to 1,000 civilians had been reported missing or had been brought to funeral parlors after being killed through indiscriminate firing.

Torture and illegal arrests: hallmark features of Duterte's martial law in Mindanao

The unending harassment, torture, mass arrests and illegal detention of members of local peasant and indigenous organizations escalated in Mindanao, and the military resumed their fantastical storytelling to file trumped-up cases against members and leaders of progressive organizations in attempts to cripple their work and intimidate other members.

Among the cases documented by Karapatan includes the torture of two small-scale miners whom soldiers tried to burn alive, among other atrocities.

On November 28, 2017, **Janry Mensis** and "**Jerry**", 16, small-scale miners and members of the Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Maco (KAMAO) were illegally arrested and tortured by

elements of the 71st IBPA in Brgy. Visayan Village, Tagum City. Janry narrated that they were eating on the evening of November 28 when they were approached by a certain 'Medina' and 'Cantoba'. The perpetrators accused the two of being thieves and brought the victims to the police station in Tagum City where they underwent interrogation. They were eventually released after the police ruled out that they were not thieves, but Medina and Cantoba took them again into custody.

The soldiers then brought the victims to the 71st IBPA camp in Mawab, Compostela Valley where they were heavily beaten by soldiers identified as 'Ferol' and 'Cuevas', after which they were tied and detained in a military ambulance inside the camp for 9 days; soldiers provided them food only for 6 days.

On December 6, 2017, at around midnight, Janry and Jerry were forced to wear military uniforms. They were boarded inside a 6x6 military truck and were brought to Brgy. Masara, Compostela Valley. When they arrived at the hinterland of Masara, they were hogtied and their mouths covered with packaging tape. According to the victims, around 20 military elements were present during the incident. The soldiers then proceeded to dig out a pit. The victims were brought near the pit and were strangled using a rope. Janry and Jerry acted as if they were already unconscious, and the perpetrators dragged them into the pit. The military threw pieces of wood and poured a container of crude oil into the pit which they set on fire.

Janry and Jerry were able to run and escape the fire after the military left them. Janry suffered third degree burns.

On the midnight of August 31, 2017, **Wowie Buton** heard shouting from outside his house in Purok 3, Brgy. Katipunan, Kidapawan, North Cotabato. He looked out and saw 10 soldiers, later identified as belonging to the 39th IBPA. The soldiers demanded for Wowie and his companion, **Jorge Cuyo**, to come out, threatening the two that they would throw a grenade inside the house if Buton and Cuyo refused. Outside, they were ordered to drop to the ground, and were hogtied with masking tape and shoelaces. They were also blindfolded. The victims remained in that state for three to four hours.

Troops proceeded to interrogate the two and searched Buton's house without presenting any warrant. While the victims were lying on the ground, one of the soldiers forcibly opened Buton's mouth and poured an alcoholic drink down his throat, while stepping on his shoulder. It was only around 3 a.m. when the two men were ordered to stand and hauled off to a military vehicle. They were transported to the Kidapawan police station at around four in the morning where they were untied and their blindfolds removed. Buton and Cuyo were then charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

In the Saguiaran evacuation center, **Arafat Lala**, 38, evacuated from Marawi City with his family on May 24, 2017. According to an affidavit issued by his wife, Noraidah, he was arrested on July 23, 2017 by elements of the Crime Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) based on the mere suspicion that Arafat was a terrorist. Noraidah, however, denied such allegations, claiming her husband was not an ISIS member and was even chosen one of the leaders in the evacuation center to help systematize the distribution of relief goods. Local DSWD officials and fellow evacuees in Saguiaran attested to his identity and work in the evacuation center. In fact, hours before he was arrested, Arafat and several volunteers just came back from bringing in boxes of relief assistance from Iligan City. He was in the custody of the CIDG in Cagayan de Oro before being transferred to Taguig City Jail.

Also in the Saguiaran evacuation center, elements of the military arrived on the evening of June 1, 2017, and accused a father and his two sons of being ISIS members. **Junar Abas**, 36, and his sons **Jabbar**, 20, and **Jeber**, 18, were handcuffed and brought to a precinct for interrogation. During the questioning, soldiers dropped hot candle wax on their hands while they were being forced to admit being ISIS members. The three were detained for a week and were interrogated and tortured everyday. All throughout the week, they were not untied. Junar had scars on his left wrist due to the tight handcuffs. They were eventually released after being "cleared." The military gave them canned goods as "compensation".

On March 2, 2018, at around 4 a.m., soldiers of the 8th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army forcibly entered the house of **Rosella Goaynon Cahanggan**, 41, at Purok 5, Brgy. Dalwangan, Malaybalay, Bukidnon and arrested without warrant her 16-year old daughter "**Mina**," her son **Jason Cahanggan**, 22, and his wife **Giselle**, 19, who was four months pregnant. The three were handcuffed, blindfolded and dragged out of the house. Soldiers threatened to massacre them if they won't admit that they are NPA members and if they won't surrender. The Cahanggans insisted that they are mere members of the Lumad group Pigyayungaan, and that they are not NPA members.

At 5 a.m., the three were brought to a camp of the Special Civilian Active Auxiliary (SCAA) under the command of the 8th IBPA in Brgy. Dahilayan, where their torture and interrogation commenced. Jason and Giselle were put in one cell, while Mina was placed in another, all of them tightly guarded by male soldiers who even accompanied Giselle and Mina to the toilet when they used it. According to Mina, her blindfold was removed at 4 p.m., when one of the soldiers punched her at her head. A gun was also pointed at her by one of the soldiers, who also threatened to put the barrel of the gun inside her mouth if she won't admit that she was a member of the NPA. On March 5, 7 p.m., three soldiers turned over Mina to the barangay captain.

On April 4 and 5, the soldiers took Mina and Rosila from their house and told them that they will be brought to and interviewed by the Commission on Human Rights. Instead, they were brought to the SCAA camp for interrogation. They coerced Rosila to sign a document stating that Mina is a NPA surrenderee. Up to this time, Jason and Giselle are still in the custody of the military.

Like mad dogs, soldiers upped their spree of illegal arrests, by preying on peasants, all of them members of progressive organizations affiliated with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas in Mindanao. An average of six individuals are illegally arrested and put in jail every month, since martial law was imposed in Mindanao.

On May 29, 2017, peasant couple **Kidjol Marcelo Antay Sr.** and **Noeme Antay** were illegally arrested by combined elements of the 60th IBPA and the Bagani paramilitary group in Brgy. Andap, Laak, Compostela Valley. Another couple, **Otik Catalino** and **Maricho Catalino**, were accosted in Brgy. Malinao, Laak, Compostela Valley by the same perpetrators. Both couples were active members of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Laak (NAMULAK), a local peasant organization in Laak, Compostela Valley. The couples were detained at the 60th IBPA camp in Dona Andrea Asuncion, Davao del Norte.

On July 12, 2017, couple **Ryan** and **Gretchen Espera**, both active members of Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Bukidnon – Valencia Chapter (KASAMA-BUKIDNON) were illegally arrested by elements of the 1st Special Forces and PNP Public Safety Company in Brgy. Lilingayon, Valencia City, Bukidnon. Soldiers in civilian clothing reportedly arrived at the couple's house and asked to be served coffee. After a few minutes, a platoon-sized formation in uniform arrived and arrested the couple, while other soldiers barged in to search their home. The military claimed they recovered high-powered rifles and 2 sacks of sugar. These, according to the arresting unit, were

resources of the NPA. The Esperas said they owned the sacks of sugar, but denied ever seeing or owning the rifles. The couple was charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition, despite the relatives' and their organization's vehement denial and protest to the accusations made against the Esperas.

On July 19, 2017, **Amelia** and **Alfredo Omandam** were arrested by at least 30 combined elements of the Bukidnon Provincial Public Safety Command (BPPSC) of the PNP-Special Action Forces (SAF) and the 36th IBPA in Brgy. Proper New Eden, Pangantucan, Bukidnon. At around 7 p.m., the said combat troops kicked the door numerous times and forcibly entered the couple's house while they were watching television. After entering their house, Amelia recounted that the police and soldiers proceeded to ransack their house, while Cpl. Joey Cola of the 36th IBPA approached her husband. The military officer took Alfredo by his collar and twisted his ear. Alfredo was then hit at his back with a firearm. The couple were forcibly pushed to sit while the soldiers busied to place weapons and a book on top of a table.

Afterwards, they started taking pictures. The soldiers then said that Alfredo was in a 'list', along with others, who were allegedly identified as NPA members involved in an alleged encounter. The couple were then boarded on a 6x6 military truck and were surrendered to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Malaybalay City. On July 21, 2017, Amelia was eventually released while Alfredo was charged with trumped-up cases of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The couple are members of Onyon sa Yanong Obrerong Nagkahiusa (OGYON).

On February 12, 2018, elements of the 73rd IBPA illegally arrested eight individuals, all from the Kaolo tribe, in Sitio Tangis, Brgy. Datal Anggas, Alabel, Saranggani. Civilians **Nonoy Sanama, Morelo Sanama, Simeon Salda, Jun Moda, Claude Palbe, Garzon Palbe, Renel Ompao, and Sabelo Colano** were physically assaulted and then detained at the 73rd IBPA military camp. They were eventually surrendered to the police on February 15 with trumped-up charges of frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms. They were later transferred to the BJMP in Baluntay, Alabel, Saranggani. The group were members of Lumad Kasbakas de Saranggani (LUMAKAS), a local indigenous organization in the area.

On June 2, 2017, over 100 fully-armed combined elements of the 66th IBPA and PNP Compostela Valley, along with guards of the Shin Sun Tropical Fruits Inc. in Compostela Valley, arrested 12 workers who were on strike. The guards of the said company sprayed the striking workers with formalin and violently dispersed the group. The picket was composed of workers of the Shin Sun Workers Union, along with support organizations Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farm (NAMASUFA), an affiliate of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). The soldiers forcefully crossed the picket line and demanded that the workers end their strike, adding that "This is martial law; we will not honor the labor code."

Those arrested were: **Vicente Barrios, Eric Noble, Pio Salazar, Elisar Lague, Angelito Atamosa, Crispo Atamosa, Gerry Atamosa, Ernesto Calinawan, Carmin Atamosa, Francisco Milallos, Ritiza Milallos**, and a minor, **Lanie Rose Millalos, 15**. All of them were reportedly hogtied and interrogated by the police. Days later, the workers were released, with the exception of Barrios and Noble.

Workers led by Shin Sun Workers Union staged a strike on April 2017 over the illegal dismissal of 53 workers, and to demand the regularization of 287 agency-hired workers through manpower agency ECQ Human Resources Corp. Those dismissed had been working for the company for 2-17 years as planters, harvesters, fruit carriers, and delivery service workers. Shin Sun Tropical Fruits Inc. is owned by Korean Mi Kyong Won who exports bananas overseas.

In Brgy. Mangayon, Compostela, Compostela Valley, five farmers, all members of the Compostela Farmers Association (CFA), were illegally arrested on July 2, 2017. Farmers **Alicia Tindasan, Jhona Rose Baugto, Rolan Segovia, Estanislao Talledo, and Alexir Mata** were supposed to attend the scheduled barangay-wide assembly of CFA in Purok 4B, Barangay Mangayon Compostela when they were held by 15 soldiers under the 66th IBPA, and were brought to the Compostela Municipal Police Station.

They were interrogated, with the military accusing them of being involved in a recent NPA offensive in Brgy. Ngan, Compostela. The five farmers presented the soldiers with their identification cards, but the latter still refused to release them. While undergoing interrogation, their belongings were taken from them and were later told that improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were found in their bags. The CFA members were then falsely charged with illegal possession of explosives and are currently detained at the Compostela Valley Provincial Rehabilitation Center.

On July 22, 2017, 11 Tigwahanons who were working under the DENR Reforestation Project were illegally arrested by composite elements of the 68th and the 8th IBPA in Brgy. Cawayan, San Fernando, Bukidnon. Those arrested were: **Valdez Mandagit, Marlito Datahan, Bung-ao Lagundong, Baw-i Lapac, Junty Sedom, Junrey Landag, Johnrey Inumo, Angelito Gayuran, Nancy Manhura, Inggoy Mangga, and Ronnel Panganlagan**, all members of the Kaugalingong Sestimang Igpapasindug tu' Lumadnong Ugpaan (KASILO).

According to the victims, soldiers arrived in Sitio New Tibugawan at around 8 a.m. and approached the farmers. Soldiers alleged that there were NPA members seen in the community, after which the perpetrators started accusing the farmers as NPA members and sympathizers. The 11 farmers were then taken to the sitio hall of New Tibugawan guarded by the soldiers, while their officer-in-charge talked to the sitio leader and announced that they would be conducting search operations because "martial law" had already been put in effect. The troops took away cellular phones from houses that they ransacked.

The 11 were later brought to the police station for investigation. By night time, 10 of the farmers were allowed to go home, with the exception of **Junty Sedom**. A case of illegal possession of explosives was lodged against Sedom the next day. He was brought to the Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Malaybalay, Bukidnon where he still remains detained.

In Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur, **Julito Otacan**, a field worker of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP), along with five other Banwaon community members, were arrested by elements of the 26th IBPA on October 27, 2017. Otacan, along with **Alejandro Barluado, Jonas Acosta, Noli Tahudan, Marlon Talatayod, and Joel Trasona**, were taken to the police station in Rubako, San Luis, Agusan del Sur after soldiers allegedly found grenades, firearms, and other equipment in the residents' houses. The five arrested along with Otacan are all members of the Banwaon Peoples' Organization, Tagdumahan, a group consistently targeted by the military because of their struggles and campaigns against logging and mining concessions infringing on the Banwaon's ancestral domain.

In Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat, on July 11, 2017 at around 3 a.m., **Pastor Kama Sanong** of the Dulangan Manobo Evangelical Church was arrested by elements of the MLBT-2 and Kalamansig police. The perpetrators arrived at the Sanong residence and forced their way inside the house. Sanong's wife and child were present during the entire ordeal, and witnessed the armed men aim their gun at the pastor. They forcibly searched the house and when the first search yielded nothing, a second 'search' was conducted, this time without the presence of Sanong's wife.

Among those ‘found’ were a .38 caliber gun, an air gun, and a rifle grenade. Sanong is currently detained at the Kalamansig police station where trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives are to be filed against him.

Pastor Kama Sanong is an active member of Kesasabanay sa Dulangan Manobo (KEDUMA), a local Lumad organization at the forefront of the defense for their ancestral land. KEDUMA has also led campaigns against the operations of David M. Consunji Incorporated (DMCI), a logging and mining company.

On February 7, 2018, **Jolita Tolino**, 24, an adult literacy community teacher of CLANS Lumad Community School in Sitio Tinagdanan, Brgy. Hinalaan, Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat, was “invited” by two marines in civilian clothes and two village councilors “Pilok” and “Kanoy”. She was brought to the village hall, the Marine camp, and then to the Kalamansig Police station where she was interrogated on the CLANS school curriculum. She was transferred to Isulan Jail the next day without being told what the charges were against her. Only later was she informed of murder charges filed against her by individuals unknown and unnamed.

Names of human rights defenders in Mindanao were also included in a petition filed by the Department of Justice at the Manila Regional Trial Court proscribing the Communist Party of the Philippines and NPA as terrorist organizations.

According to Barug Katungod Mindanao, at least 404 human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, peasants, and environmental activists have been charged with trumped up criminal offenses.

Forced evacuations, aerial bombings and community occupation of combat troops intensify in Mindanao under martial law

More than previous post-Marcos presidencies, the Duterte regime has displaced the highest number of people in Duterte’s nearly two years in office. Nearly half a million, or 404,654 persons, have been forced to flee their communities due to military combat operations, and long-term militarization and occupation of rural communities by combat troops.

The Duterte regime has targeted not only individuals, but entire communities, using bombs to threaten and intimidate hundreds of residents. This total disregard for people’s lives is a glaring reality and a direct result of this government’s anti-people policies. Aerial bombings and forced evacuations have left communities in ruins, with residents displaced and forced to suffer miserable conditions in evacuation centers.

In **Marawi City, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte** alone, there are at least **385,117 individuals** who forcibly evacuated due to seemingly incessant bombings by the AFP, leaving thousands of residents homeless and penniless, as their properties and cash were destroyed or looted.

On June 2, 2017, **some 1, 248 families from Shariff Aguak and Datu Saudi Ampatuan** were forced to evacuate when the 57th IBPA and the 2nd Mechanized Reconnaissance Battalion conducted aerial bombardment in their communities.

In July 2, 2017, six bombs were dropped in **Purok 4, Sitio Tagbawi, Barangay Rizal, Monkayo, Compostela Valley**. The aerial strikes occurred in response to an encounter between the 25th IBPA and the NPA on July 1. The military also conducted illegal searches in the said community, ransacking houses and mindlessly accusing the residents as NPA members and supporters. The

combined aerial and ground military operations resulted to numerous violations, including the burning of nine houses perpetrated by government troops.

Due to the incessant bombings of communities, even the presence of hovering helicopters have become a cause of panic for residents, prompting them to evacuate.

On May 29, 2017, several days after the military started bombing Marawi City, composite elements of the 73rd and 39th IBPA conducted intensive military operations in areas in **Matanao, Davao del Sur** in response to an encounter which occurred on May 27 and 28. Government troops, in the course of their operations, also encamped in the houses of **June Lasib, Ruffy Labuayan, Rogelio Tok, Eduardo Diangga and Roque Sagandi**. Soldiers also interrogated the residents.

These forms of threats and harassment caused the evacuation of communities in Purok 7, Purok 5 and Purok 6. A total of **187 families, comprised of at least 1,000 individuals**, left their homes for three days and temporarily stayed at a gym in Brgy. Colonsabac. They eventually returned to their homes on June 6, 2017, after ascertaining that their community would not be bombed.

In nine Lumad communities in **Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga and Brgy. Buhisan, San Agustin in Surigao del Sur**, an estimate of **1,173 individuals forcibly evacuated** due to military combat operations of the 75th IBPA on November 26, 2017. The residents had decided to evacuate after they saw a drone flying over their communities on November 25. Around 406 Lumad students and 59 teachers of nine Lumad schools were also adversely affected by the operations. Residents who evacuated include: **12 families from Sitio Km. 14; 13 families from Sitio New Kabulohan; 30 families from Sitio Old Kabulohan; 8 families from Sitio Yadawan; 15 families from Sitio Mike; 47 families from Sitio Km. 16; 37 families from Sitio Han-ayan; 47 families from Sitio Km. 9; and 35 families from Sitio Emerald.**

Forced or Fake Surrenders

As of end March 2018, Karapatan has documented 661 victims of forced or fake surrenders, majority of them in Mindanao. This specific violation not only targets individuals, but also entire organizations and communities. It is meant to create an illusion that the government's counterinsurgency program is succeeding and the martial law declaration is an appropriate means to such end. The military has busied themselves with another list – this time of alleged NPA members who have returned to the “fold of the law.”

At least **500 residents of Lupiagan and Licoan, Sumilao, Bukidnon** were gathered by soldiers of the 1st Special Forces Battalion in their camp in Brgy. Mampayad, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon on January 28, 2018. The soldiers announced that a half kilo of rice and 500 pesos will be distributed to each of the residents. Upon arrival at the detachment, the residents were fed, asked to sign an attendance sheet, and had their pictures taken. Days later, the residents heard from the local radio that their names were included in the military's report of NPA surrenderees.

Also on March 5, 2018, **15 members of the Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group Association (TINDOGA)** were called, along with other members of the community, to the house of Datu Santiano Abdahan Jr. The meeting was attended by six soldiers of the 8th IBPA and 22 unnamed members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU). The residents were invited “to surrender”, lest they get a criminal case lodged against them. Those who would “surrender” would

be trained as new paramilitary members and would be enrolled in a livelihood project. The military also interviewed residents, forcing them to give names of other people to add to their “wanted names.” Soldiers said that joining rallies was enough reason to be suspected of being an NPA member.

At least **428 cases of forced or fake surrenders** were reported in the **Southern Mindanao region**, in the recent fact finding mission led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) in April 2018. These cases usually involve groups of residents being gathered together and simultaneously forced to surrender; using local government officials to spread misinformation on “wanted persons” or inclusion of names of activists in communities in a so-called Order of Battle list; singling out family members of known leaders in peasant communities for interrogation; using previous footage of rallies to refer to persons in communities being “watched” by the soldiers; or requiring residents to go to military camps to “clear” their names.

The mission was able to document **10 victims of forced surrender in Brgy. Katipunan, Kidapawan City; 18 victims in Brgy. Manggayon, Compostela Valley;** and at least **400 victims in Puting Bato, Brgy. Ngan, Compostela Valley**. This wholesale targeting of entire communities show grave abuses to the peoples’ right to freedom of association and assembly.

Deceptive, coercive and insidious schemes are also being done by the military to weave false narratives of so-called rebel surrenderees, who are in fact civilians. Soldiers threatened to withhold social services such as the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) if residents refuse to sign documents indicating they are surrenderees. They spew death threats, shoot-to-kill orders, and threats of arrests, coercing residents to sign documents that are either blank or has content written in English that are not explained to the victims.

According to Elpidio Corgio, a kagawad of **Purok 27, Sitio Puting Bato, Brgy. Ngan, Compostela, Compostela Valley**, the residents were gathered in the barangay nursery on February 14, 2018. They were asked to write down their names and their signatures or thumbmarks in an attendance sheet; **400 residents** signed their names. After a few days, they heard their names reported in a radio program as among those members of the NPA who have surrendered to the government. Corgio attested that out of the 4,000 residents of Brgy. Ngan, **at least 2,000 were already listed by the 66th IBPA as “NPA surrenderees”**. Those who refuse to surrender were forced to seek sanctuary and evacuate from their communities for their security.

On February 28, 2018, residents and **members of the Compostela Farmers Association in Brgy. Manggayon, Compostela, Compostela Valley** were forced “to surrender” by elements of the 66th IBPA after threats of being arrested. The soldiers announced that the CFA members’ enrollment in the Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (4Ps) would be cancelled if they did not sign a document. The names of the 18 were later announced on the radio as surrenderees.

Residents who “surrender” are continuously being monitored by the AFP. The 25th IBPA continues to keep tabs on those who surrendered by conducting visits to their homes or approach said “surrenderees” to join rallies organized by the military. If the military finds out that a certain resident is still active in community struggles even after being classified as a “surrenderee”, he/she will be subjected to another round of harassment and intimidation.

In Caraga, soldiers go to homes of peasant leaders, members of organizations and their relatives to intimidate them into “surrendering.” According to the peasants, the soldiers offer them firearms which they should bring when they surrender and promise them PhP5,000.00 as livelihood assistance.

Those who refused to be coerced were subjected to trumped up criminal charges. Many face charges for illegal possession of firearms and explosives, with the soldiers working in cahoots with State prosecutors to justify the baseless searches, arrests and detention of peasants and to plant evidence against them. Once arrested, prosecutors provide lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office for the detained farmers. These lawyers in turn will ask money ranging from PhP150,000 to PhP400,000 from the peasant or his family, in exchange for his/her release. The said sum is said to be divided among the judge, prosecutor, PAO lawyer and the military or police.

In all these cases, the military knew that the farmers they have harassed, intimidated and subjected to trumped-up cases, or even murdered, are not members of the NPA.

All these indicate that communities where legitimate struggle for land and rights are priorities in the AFP's "surrender spree". It is meant to discredit and hopefully weaken too organizations and communities for the benefit of landlords and corporate interests, systematically targeting civilians and forcing them into a specific script written by the military.

Furthermore, to prop up the pretense, paramilitary elements, some of whom have warrants for criminal acts and human rights violations, are also paraded as surrenderees. Karapatan received reliable information that among those included in the so-called surrenderees are members of the paramilitary Magahat-Bagani force who should have already been arrested and surrendered to the court for human rights violations perpetrated in Lumad communities in the Caraga region, including those involved in the infamous Lianga massacre. Among those who already have warrants issued since May 23, 2016, were Datu Calpito Egua, Oscar Egua, Jojo Acebedo, Benjie Martinez, Zaldy Banusan, Joakin/Joaquin Salinas, Roldan Acebedo, Pluto Acebedo, Ramil Pedroso, Rico Acebedo, Arnold Brital, Romeo Banusan, Egoy Perez, Totok Acebedo, Urso Banusan, Ramsy Salinas, Along Salinas, and Rommy Acebedo.

Instead of being imprisoned, these criminals are coddled by the military and the Duterte regime. To facilitate their rewards, they are listed as surrenderees each of who stand to receive cash, livelihood support, a house, and other assistance. Clearly, this is a big money-making scheme to channel funds to them and their handlers, and deceive the people. This is a cheap trick to make the government look triumphant in its counterinsurgency campaign, misleading the public and deliberately withholding justice to victims, their families, and their respective communities. Duterte is doling out money to murderers for their anti-people services to the regime and acting skills as surrenderees, only so they can go back to perpetrating more rights violations. This is the real face of the Duterte regime: no actual solutions on the ground, no justice; only pathetic and desperate charades.

Instilling military authority and presence as the new normal in Mindanao 2017

Military and police checkpoints were set up in Mindanao, in the first week of the declaration of martial law. In Eastern Mindanao alone, the military has put up 17,494 checkpoints and imposed curfews in 129 cities and municipalities with a total of 9,742 security and visibility patrols monitoring public places and infrastructures. Outside Marawi and Mindanao, other regions felt the repercussions of a deluded military institution that went on a rights violations rampage in keeping with the government's counterinsurgency program Oplan Kapayapaan.

On May 25, 2017, at least **thirty (30) Lumad, Moro, and Christian women** who participated in an Ecumenical Women's Forum, "Leadership Development and Capacity Building for Gender and Ecological Justice", were accosted and held for one hour and 30 minutes by the 6th Marine

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Landing Battalion in a checkpoint in **Brgy. Domulon, Sultan Kudarat**. Their leaders were interrogated, asked to produce identification cards, and questioned on their permit to travel. They were also asked if they were with some women leaders who were named. The leaders were forbidden to take down notes during said interrogation. A soldier took pictures of the rest of the women and they were told to write down their names on a sheet of paper. Sexist remarks were also thrown at the women.

In Davao City, also on May 25, 2017, some **260 persons, mostly Moro youth**, from **Barangays 76-A and 23 in Davao City** were rounded up by the Davao City Police Office, for failure to show proof of identification. They were brought to the DCPO to undergo “verification process.”

On June 28, 2017, around 7pm, progressive leaders from KARAPATAN and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) were held by elements of the Philippine military’s Task Force Davao in **Lasang, Bunawan District, Davao City**. **Lito Lao, Pedro Arnado, and Jerry Alborne of KMP-SMR**; and **Honey Mae Suazo, secretary-general of Karapatan-SMR**, were accosted while on their way home from a meeting with farmers of Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (MARBAI). The four were detained for around five hours, because the military thought that they were “suspicious-looking”. They were eventually released a few minutes before midnight.

On the evening of February 5, 2018, soldiers forcibly entered the house of 19-year old **Cesar Tumbasay**, a resident of **Sitio Palisan, Brgy. Filmalil, Talaingod**. They illegally searched for a weapon and found none. His father was persistently questioned by the military for the whereabouts of NPAs and was told to disclose information for PhP35,000. On the same day, his father went to Sitio Natulinam to buy 1 *ganta* of rice and was apprehended by elements of the military, who threw the rice he was holding and gave him one biscuit in exchange. The next day at 6am, the military held a meeting to discuss to the community the plan to establish a detachment. Out of fear, he along with his father and other community members evacuated.

Karapatan has recorded at least **9,738 victims of threats, harassment and intimidation** by State security forces, which includes members of fact finding and solidarity missions who conducted independent investigations on the report of rights violations, during the one year of the implementation of martial law, causing fear among community residents and further stoking impunity in Mindanao.