Mindanao takes the center stage of BS Aquino’s Oplan Bayanihan.

The massacre of the Lumad leaders Dionel Campos, Juvello Sinzo and Emerito Samarca on September 1 in Lianga, Surigao del Sur brought to the fore the state of human rights in Mindanao and in the whole country under the BS Aquino regime—the unabated political killings, attacks on communities and on self-initiated schools, forced evacuation, among many other military atrocities. The brazenness by which the crime was committed speaks of the climate of impunity that continues to pervade the country.

Since 2013, the counterinsurgency campaign of the BS Aquino regime has been operating on failed objectives and missed deadline, based on the Armed Forces of the Philippines’ own admission. The BS Aquino regime aimed to “neutralize” and “render irrelevant” the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) but failed to even “make a dent.”

The AFP’s admission was immediately followed by a massive deployment of troops in Mindanao. There are now at least 55 AFP combat battalions or 44,000 troops in the non-Muslim regions of Mindanao and in consequence, a battery of cases of human rights violations is committed against civilians perceived as supporters or suspected members of the revolutionary movement led by CPP-NPA-NDF.

In December 2014, Eastern Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Aurelio Baladad claimed 53 percent of the NPA force are in Mindanao, particularly in Caraga and Davao regions, which has the “most number of NPA guerrilla fronts and armed regulars” and that “90 percent of the guerilla bases in Mindanao are in IP (indigenous people’s) areas.”

The AFP’s pronouncement explains why it is not by accident, but rather by design, that the current targets of Oplan Bayanihan are the Lumad of Mindanao.

The Southern Mindanao region has 46 documented cases of extrajudicial killing while CARAGA has 24 victims of extrajudicial killing and six victims of enforced disappearance under the
Mindanao under siege

The forces of the AFP and its paramilitary groups continue to intensify their terrorist operations in Mindanao, especially in Lumad areas. While the BS Aquino regime and the AFP take every effort to distance itself from the monsters they have created, history has shown that the proliferation and use of paramilitary groups as surrogates of the military are the same today as they were during martial law, or even earlier.

Today’s Civil Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU), Special Civil Armed Auxiliary (SCAA), Investment Defense Force (IDF), Magahat-Bagani Force, Alamara, Samatiratda, NIDAR, Dela Mance group and other paramilitary groups are active in the area. In all these documented cases, the paramilitary groups did not operate on their own, but on orders of the main unit of the AFP they belonged to.

The paramilitary groups such as Magahat-Bagani, Alamara, and the De La Mance group are armed and trained by the military—capitalizing on the people’s impoverished condition, illiteracy, playing on superstitious beliefs, and the bastardization of indigenous cultures and processes. The State uses these groups, now and then, to attack communities believed to be members and/or supporters of the New People’s Army. The regime’s use of a worn-out tactic of divide-and-rule takes advantage of other people’s miserable condition and use them to stall dissent among equally impoverished kabayan.

Also, the refusal of the people to be part of these paramilitary groups are taken by the regime as a sign that they are NPA members or supporters and are therefore marked as targets for liquidation.

The combined terror of the AFP and its paramilitary groups happened in Mindanao in 2015. In sitio Bugna, Taguigano, Bukidnon; in Pangantucan, also in Bukidnon province; and, in Paquibato, Davao City.

"Junjun" (not his real name), 15, lived to tell the story of his family who were massacred by soldiers from the 1st Special Forces-Philippine Army in sitio Magahat, Brgy. Mendis, Pangantucan, Bukidnon. He wanted to tell their story but his head, he said, wished that it could have happened on August 18, 2015.

"Junjun" lost his father Hermilio Samia, 70, who was almost blind. He also lost his brother Jobet, 20; his nephew Norman, 13; and his two under Emerito Samia, 17, and Wellmer Samia, 19. They were all in Hermilio’s house for lunch. Also, they are the members of the paramilitary group Magahat/Bangui Force/Bagani Force/Bagani/Bagani/Bagani, which opened fire at sitio Campas and his cousin Juvello Sinzo (earlier reported as Aurelio/Bello Sinzo) and a staff of the group of ALCADF. Belen Italo in the presence of the community members in Kmis, 16, Brg. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur. Campas and Sinzo died instantly, while Italo survived.

The back of Campas’s head was blown off, as some witnesses believe and a man named men used an M16 rifle to shoot him. Sinzo’s arms were also broken due to heavy beating. In the same morning, 17, Emerito Samia’s remains was found in one of the classrooms in the school in the classroom and in the school, was found in an instant, while the man behind him is unknown. A group of suspected members of the NDFP were killed by the soldiers who ordered them to raise their hands. Hermilio, on the other hand, tried to explain how difficult it is for him to go down, but a soldier only cursed, “Lute, bakit hindi maron namang hagdan? (How can you not come down when there is a stair?).”

Hermilio obliged. Half-blind, Hermilio did not know where to go and started to cry, until he reached a coffee tree. The soldiers shot Hermilio, then he fell down. The "Junjun" would have been the next target, but he was able to run, hiding behind big rocks until he reached the house of Orenio Samia, his uncle.

The next day, 27 residents, including barangay councilor Isabero Solida checked Hermilio’s place where they saw about 22 soldiers who ordered them to line up. The soldiers took pictures of the 27 villagers and listed down their names. They were told to collect the remains, but were also warned not to look at the soldiers. The villagers found Hermilio Samia’s

**TABLE 1: Violations of Civil & Political Rights under the Noynoy Aquino Government (July 2010 to September 2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>No. of victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extrajudicial Killing</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforced Disappearance</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frustrated Extrajudicial Killing</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Arrest without Detention</td>
<td>2,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Arrest and Detention</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Search and Seizure</td>
<td>551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Assault and Injury</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolition</td>
<td>21,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of Domicile</td>
<td>953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destruction of Property</td>
<td>14,677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divestment of Property</td>
<td>1,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced Evacuation</td>
<td>63,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat/Intimidation/Intimination</td>
<td>161,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiscriminate Firing</td>
<td>12,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced/Sexist Surrender</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced Labor/Involuntary Servitude</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Civilians in Police and/or Military Operations as Guards and/or Shield</td>
<td>29,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Schools, Religious and Other Public Places for Military Purpose</td>
<td>182,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restriction or Violent Dispersal of Mass Actions, Public Assemblies and Gatherings</td>
<td>30,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced Labor/Involuntary Servitude</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Civilians in Police and/or Military Operations as Guards and/or Shield</td>
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<td>30,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The numbers may not add up due to rounding.
attended the birthday celebration of Seisa’s house at Purok 7, Brgy. Paradise. The massacre happened; she is now because she was cooking pancit for her birthday celebrator, was also wounded. She was earlier reported missing, not spoken for a while. The men knew where the chairperson of the Mindanao region, Seisa is a Lumad leader and the spokesperson of PADIPA. All victims were active in the campaign against the entry of mining exploration in their community. Seisa was earlier reported missing, but two months after the massacre she resurfaced and attended a hearing conducted by the Davao City Council on the incident. Seisa related what happened on June 14 and how she and her family managed to escape and sought shelter among relatives. In April, reports reached Karapatan that four Lumad farmers were killed and four others were wounded in Sitio Bugna, Brgy. Casinglot, Tagoano in Misamis Oriental on March 29, 2015. Found dead after the operation of the 1st Special Forces Battalion-Philippine Army were Enemesis Casas Sr., 59; Fiel Casas, 17; Bernabe Sarcocam, 40; and Rosalie Neri Alito, 39, who died in the hospital. Those wounded were Enemesis Casas Jr., 19; Jesse Mio-mio, 22; Eulogio Dacumos, and Potenciano Mariano.

On March 30, the 403rd Brigade Commander Jesse Alvarez claimed that those killed were NPA members who had encountered soldiers of the 1st Special Forces Battalion-PA. Sitio Bugna is part of the 300-hectare ancestral land claimed and presently tilled by the Lumad group led by Datu Gahuman. The CD Company guards on the 25-year lease expired in 2009. Refusing to leave the community, the CD Corporation hired company guards to drive away the Lumad, subjecting them to continuous threats and harassment. At around 6 to 7 a.m. on March 29, 2015, news spread among the residents that armed men were again in the community. Thinking they were company guards, some of the residents, among them Marilou Mandar, went to check if it was true. Mandar was horrified to see soldiers in camouflage uniforms and in assault position. She hurried back but realized that her neighbors, Dodong, Nilo, Jojo, Rosalie Neri Alito, Arnel Alito and Rosalie’s children had fallen on the ground. She signaled them to go back, but it was too late. The soldiers opened fire at them. They ran to different directions, some hid behind trees. But the soldiers chased and shot at the people and houses. Mandar saw Rosalie running carrying her one-year-old son. Rosalie already had a gunshot wound in her back. The volley of fire lasted for two hours. When the shooting ended, residents heard someone shouted, “Gawas mo sa inyong gitagoan, mga military mi!” (Come out from hiding, you soldiers!) In a press conference the survivors declared, “We are not NPA but civilians trying to till our land. If we had weapons, we should have killed the company guards who have been harassing us for a long time now.” The DC Company guards on several occasions had burned the houses of the Lumad, stole their farm tools and food. The Lumad has reported these incidents to the Tagoano Police Station several times already, but the police officers only noted down the cases and no further actions were taken.

Extrajudicial killing

Luís Carbajosa, 44, a farmer and caretaker in a banana plantation in Mampising, Brgy. Taganan, Mahini, Compostela Valley was shot dead on April 28, 2015 by two armed men believed to be members of the 71st IB-PA.

While having dinner with his wife Marilou and three children, Luis stood up to tend to their store when a man said he wanted to buy cigarette. A few minutes later Marilou and children heard gunshots. Marilou rushed to the store and found Carbajosa lying on the floor, lifeless, and bathed in his own blood. He sustained 18 gunshot wounds that caused his immediate death. Marilou said he saw the man who shot Carbajosa ran towards the road and took a red motorcycle driven by another man. The motorcycle had no plate number.

Marilou recalled that two weeks before the killing, two men aboard the same red motorcycle without a plate number asked Carbajosa if he knew where the chairperson of the Mampsing Cooperative lives. The men also asked Carbajosa for a sketch of the.
Karapatan Monitor

to the Alamara assembly, where Domiyo and Jel’s elder brother Romy the Alamara group summoned Diwangan and Emboy Gayao of wounded. Domiyo had cuts in the legs, members casually walked away, Gayao ambushed them. Bukidnon when Alamara members the river towards Jel’s farm in the Alden and four children, ages 12, 8, 7 paramilitary group led by Sammy Divangan and Embey Gayao attacked Jel Ahing and his brother Domiyo Ahing, 37. Domiyo was with his wife Alden and four children, ages 12, 8, 7 and 3. Domiyo, who survived the shooting, said they were travelling along the river towards Jel’s farm in the village of Sahuringan in Cabanganan, Bukidnon when Alamara members led by Sammy Divangan and Embey Gayao ambushed them. The Alamara members fired at them for almost a minute, hitting Jel in his left shoulder and in the neck. While everyone else ran for safety, Domiyo ran to assist his brother who died right away. The Alamara members casually walked away, leaving behind the dead and the wounded. Domiyo had cuts in the legs, face and hands; while his son was hit with splinters in the legs and face. Before the killing, Sammy Divangan and Embey Gayao of the Alamara group demanded Domiyo and Jel’s elder brother Romy to the Alamara assembly, where they tried to recruit Romy into the paramilitary group. Romy refused. This irked Diwangan and his men who immediately accused Romy and his brother Jil and Domiyo as supporters of the NPA and threatened to kill them. Diwangan said their group has been closely monitoring the Ahing brothers. The Alamara paramilitary group in Bukidnon is attached to the 8th IB-PA and are frequently seen in the army detachment in Binangkasan, Cabanganan, Cabanganan, Bukidnon. Another notorious paramilitary group that operates in Cabanganan in Bukidnon province is the De la Mance group, which has figured in a number of human rights violations. Earlier this year, on March 28, 2015, the De la Mance group shot Frenie Ganancia Landasan. Frenie was watching television in the house of his mother Nenita Landasan in Purok 3, Brgy. Dalucatan, Cabanganan, Bukidnon when they noticed the barking of dogs in the neighborhood. At about 8:30 p.m., Frenie told his mother to close the house’s door. He said he was going to the cooperative store to rest, for he had to wake up early the next day. At about 9 p.m., Nenita noticed the barking dogs were already outside their house. She peeked through the window and saw five armed men roaming around the store where Frenie was sleeping. The store is just a meter away from their residence. She recognized Romulo dela Mance and Mario Misto who were in front of the store. She also saw Inad Santos, Maco Santos, and Lekong Cumingaquing- Romulo’s brother-in-law and 20 other armed men. Inad Santos and Maco Santos are members of the Magahat-Lumad. Nenita recalled Romulo shouting at Landasan to open the door. He then kicked, and fired at the door. Frenie replied, “ayaw intawon Gaw Bong kay Romulo dela Mance ako sa inyo? (Please don’t [kill] me cousin Bong, I have not done you wrong). But, Romulo and his men fired their guns that lasted two-to-three minutes. Landasan’s mother believed that the killing of Frenie Landasan was in retaliation to the death of Dorlito dela Mance who was killed by members of the NPA on March 28, 2015. The local NPA command said Dorlito dela Mance was punished for the crimes of the De la Mance paramilitary group against the people, specifically against the indigenous groups in Bukidnon. The NPA group immediately accused Romy and his group to execute all those they suspect as members or supporters of the NPA.

TABLE 2: Victims of Extrajudicial Killing & Enforced Disappearance under Noy Aquino Gov’t

By Sector (July 2010 to September 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Extrajudicial Killing</th>
<th>Enforced Disappearance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentalist</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Employee</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous People*</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peasant</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban poor</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights worker</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worker</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and Student</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moro</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Baladad’s first year as head of the EastMinCom was marked by an increase in human rights violations. An incident involving the killing of a woman in Cabupaten, New Bataan, Compostela Valley, resulted in the evacuation of hundreds of residents. In October 2014, Lumad leader Henry Alameda of Malahutayong Pakipisang Alang sa Sumunod (Mapasu) was killed in Sitio Cabalawan, Brgy. San Isidro, Lianga, Surigao del Sur by elements of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion, 36th IB-PA, and 3rd Special Forces Battalion, under the 401st Brigade-Philippine Army, and the paramilitary groups of Calpit Egua and Marcial Belandres. Belandres’s men were reportedly among those responsible for the massacre of 35 Lumad in Barangay San Isidro, Lianga, Surigao del Sur on December 1, 2014. The killing of Banwaon chief Nicasio “Angis” Precioso, Sr. happened on December 22, 2014 in Bgy. Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. He was shot by members of the 26th IB-PA for his opposition to the military’s Community Organizing for Peace and Development (COPD), a component of Oplan Bayanihan. Angis knew that COPD would bring in more soldiers into his community and would endanger the lives of his constituents. Four months later, some 187 Banwaon families or almost a thousand individuals from the villages of barangays Mahagsay, Binikal, and San Pedro evacuated to the center of Brgy. Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur due to the combat operations of 26th IB-PA and the Magahat paramilitary group. The soldiers encamped in barangay halls and Lumad schools, forcing the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines to close down six of its schools. The soldiers forcibly recruited residents to join the Peace and Development Volunteers, essentially a paramilitary group used by the AFP in its counterinsurgency program. The situation in Brgy. White Culaman, Kitaoato, Bukidnon is characteristically a handiwork of the Palparan type of generals like Baladad. The 8th and 23rd IB-PA have placed Brgy. White Culaman essentially under martial
law—confined mobility of the people within the community; tagging people as NPA supporters or members and forcing them to surrender or to take part in military activities against the NPA; illegal arrests, and many more, which led to their evacuation.

Some 800 Ata Manobo from Talaingod and Kapalong, who are now at the United Church of Christ-Haran in Davao City, was due to atrocity cases perpetrated by the military and the Alamac. The military harassed teachers and students of the Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Inc. (MISFI Academy). A 14-year-old girl was also raped by members of the 68th IB-PA.

United Nations Special Rapporteur for Internally Displaced Persons Dr. Chaloka Beyani was in the country for an official visit and was able to visit and talk to the evacuees at the UCCP-Haran. In his exit statement, he said, “I was alarmed that tribal leaders reported that their communities were consistently being manipulated and divided and that they had been harassed and received threats when they expressed their opposition. Indeed, some leaders and members of the indigenous communities have been killed over the past years, reportedly due to their anti-mining activities.”

In its vain attempt to divert the issue, Col. Eduardo Gubat, speaking for the EastMinCom, deliberately twisted Beyani’s statements to conform to the EastMinCom’s vile scheme to further harass the evacuees. Beyani, in response, called the AFP’s move as “gross misrepresentation” of his statement. In all these, Baladad acted like he did not have a hand in the EastMinCom statement, accepting Gubat’s resignation after the fiasco.

Like his commander in chief BS Aquino, Baladad was a key figure in the illegal arrest, torture and detention of the 43 health workers in 2010 known as Morong 43. Baladad was promoted several times under the BS Aquino regime. In July 2013, he became Major General and had a brief stint with the 3rd ID-PA in Western Visayas.

A loyal implementer of the State’s counterinsurgency program, Baladad is well rewarded by the regimes he served. But the people

Frenie Landasan was 43 years old, married with eight children. He was a farmer and chairperson of the PinayTAG Community Tribal Association of Dalacutan. In 2007, Frenie was appointed as the store tender of their cooperative store, a project assisted by Senator Teofisto Guingona III.

The killing was followed by more cases of military abuse that led the community to leave their homes and seek temporary shelter in the city center.

While the Alamara paramilitary wreaks havoc in the communities in the provinces of Bukidnon and Davao to support the combat operations of the 72nd, 8th, and 60th IB-PA, the Magahat-Bara’an-Aasmi Acervo paramilitary group is mostly found in the areas of the 60th, 29th, and the 75th IB-PA operate.

Two days before the Lianga massacre, on August 28, 2015, the Tabugol brothers Crisanto, 39, and Ely, 34, were shot, one after the other, by elements of the 36th IB and some members of a paramilitary group led by a certain Hasmin Acervo at Brgy. Siagao, Surigao del Sur. San Miguel is about two hours away from Lianga.

Coming from a store, Ely was shot in the foot. He immediately fell on the ground. Standing on both knees and both hands, he pleaded for his life. “The Magahat groups has already told me, ‘Please don’t, sir. We are civilians’. Despite his plea, he was shot in the forehead before the men surrendered shots all over his body. Crisanto tried to run, but was shot three times. He died instantly. The gunmen then fired at the six houses nearby preventing the residents to immediately respond to the killing.

Their older brother Ramil later went to the place of incident, but no one dared to help him carry his dead brothers’ bodies inside their house.

All the residents of Brgy. Siagao decided to evacuate because the armed men threatened to kill them all. On the early morning of August 29, 2015, 332 families evacuated and some went to the Tina Elementary School. Most stayed at the municipal gym where residents of Sitio Nalindog, Brgy. Buloson, who earlier evacuated for the same reason, were also there. Starting September 2 and on to the next few days, the evacuees from San Miguel and Lianga would merge at the Tandu City stadium.

The Lianga massacre and the killing of the Tabugol brothers were preceded by a series of harassment and coercion among the residents, especially the teachers and para- teachers of the Lumad schools, who were obviously hunted down by the 36th and 75th IB-PA and the Magahat-Bara’an-Aasmi Acervo paramilitary operatives.

Attacks against Lumad schools

There are more than 180,000 victims of the use of schools, medical facilities, religious places, for military purposes; more than half of these are in Mindanao.

In San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, on August 9, 2015, members of the Magahat paramilitary group in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur tried to force open the TRIFPSS teachers’ cottage at around 4:45 a.m. Regine Tejero, 20, who lives in the Teachers’ cottage with Joel Bocales, 12, came out.

Tejero is a para-teacher while Bocales is a student in one of the community schools operated by the Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS).

The paramilitary told Tejero they can burn down the schools, even the teachers and students, if they catch them having classes. She was told to “just marry and live a trouble-free life.” The Magahat members then escorted Tejero back to her cottage. The whole community was ordered to gather there too.

At the waiting shed, one of the Magahat members asked for Tejero’s cell phone. Tejero refused. But the Magahat member threatened Tejero, “Ano ba maam kakain ka na ng bala? Bago mo na amin ang cellphone mo!” (Would you rather eat bullets, ma’am? Give us your cell phone!). The Magahat members then escorted Tejero back to her cottage to get the cell phone.

Back in the waiting shed, the Magahat members ordered the people to proceed to the basketball court. There, Magahat members told the residents to surrender their relatives who are NPA members. While inspecting the male residents, one Magahat member approached Tejero and asked if she knew ‘Ray’ and ‘Norma’. Tejero, a graduate of ALCADEV, said she knows them—Norma is the Executive Director of TRIPPPS while Ray works in ALCADEV. Having heard Tejero’s answer, the armed man accused her of being a member of the NPA “because Ray and Norma are NPA members and so are the rest of the teachers of ALCADEV and TRIPPPS.”

The paramilitary told Tejero they can burn down the schools, even the teachers and students, if they catch them having classes. She was told to “just marry and live a trouble-free life.” The Magahat members handed Tejero a letter, with a logo of the Bagani group, urging the people to surrender their relatives who are NPA members and to stop supporting the NPA.

The Magahat members left and brought with them two civilians, Lawrence Bocales and Berios Bocales, both from Sitio Nalindog. The two were used as guides by the paramilitary group.

The killing of ALCADEV Executive Director Emerito Sarma and the burning of the TRIPPPS school showed how much the regime abhorred the Lumad schools.

In Surigao del Norte, the military and paramilitary groups had burned down three Lumad schools in a span of one year: In October 2014 in Kabukohan, Brgy. Buhasan, San Agustin; and on, two on September 1, 2015 in Han-ayan and in Panakwam in Brgy. Diatong, Lianga.

Similar attacks on schools are experienced in other communities where Lumad schools exist.

In Sitio Tubico, Brgy. Dabogoy, in Talaingod, Davao Nortef, elements of the 60th and 68th IB-PA and the Alamara paramilitary group encamped in the Salugungan To Tanu Igakmannon Community Learning Center (STTICLC), at the Tubico Elementary School, and near the day care center of the Municipal Social Welfare Development office from January 2015 to May 2015. The Tubico Elementary School has 300 pupils enrolled in the day care program up to Grade 6, while there are 12 high school students at the STTICLC. The number of soldiers and Alamara members who use the schools as temporary camps range from 17 to 70.
In April, 70 elements of 68th IB-PA and 10 Alamara members in Mayay, L智mbo, Baguider called a community “meeting,” as they usually do when they arrive in the area. During the meeting, Catagi discouraged the parents from enrolling their children in STTICLC, as they were “subversives.”

In May, elements of the 68th IB-PA summoned purok leader Wawawgan to Kill the teachers who will be going to the STTICLC. “Do not continue the high school education. Because if they (the Lumad) learn, they will resist [the military].”

On May 6, soldiers summoned the leaders of Sitio Tigwahan for another “meeting,” and told the military they wanted the school to remain and to expand because the school provides their children free education.

Similar “meetings” were called by the military in other villages in Talantao, Davao del Norte. In White Culaman, Kitaota, Bukidnon, one of the tasks of the residents forcibly recruited into the AFP’s Barayg Defense System (BDS) was to help in the demolition of the AFP’s Baragay Defense System (BDS). They refused and told the military they were “meeting,” and were told to burn (the Lumad) learn, they will resist [the military].

In May 11, elements of the 68th IB-PA and Alamara members cut down about 30 cacao trees, 20 banana trees, and two durian trees owned by the residents. Alamara leader Alambi Salangani was heard saying, “Tahom ni sa NPA. Ato ning pamuta” (“These are planted by the NPA. Let us cut these down”). The Alamara also stole sweet potatoes and bananas from the residents. When questioned, the Alamara said “Amo na ni kay wala ni mako” (“We will have these because we have nothing to eat.”)

In June 6, 21 soldiers from the 68th IB-PA arrived in the community of Tigwahanan tribe in Sitio Botay, Brgy. Namnam, San Fernando, Bukidnon. They illegally searched 16 houses of 18 families looking for weapons allegedly owned by the NPA. The soldiers required all men in the community to assemble at the basketball court. There, two minors and four women were tortured by the military.

The Alamara, who participated in a protest action held in early August. Among those arrested was Namawab peasant organization Chairperson Ellen Gimbel Padona, a member of the NPA.

The 15 were first held at the barangay hall and on August 27, they were airlifted by two helicopters and brought to the Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Malaybalay, Bukidnon for charges of rebellion. Two of the 15 were immediately released—one minor and a nursing mother. On September 23, after almost a month of detention, the 13 detained were released upon dismissal of the rebellion charges against them.

The day after the 15 persons were rounded-up, residents started to leave their homes for fear of being arrested. There were suspicion that they are members or supporters of the NPA.
They left their communities in the middle of the harvest season. On September 15, another batch of individuals went to the parish chapel in Arakan to seek shelter after the barangay captain ordered residents to hold a protest march on September 21 against NPA presence in the community. Again, the barangay captain said those who refuse to join will be considered NPA members, and thus will face arrest.

The forced evacuation of residents in communities under attack by state forces is a vicious cycle. The massive deployment of AFP combatants in a community can trigger evacuation, but more so, the military encampment in the communities, schools, the killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, and other atrocities. The human rights violations almost always lead to other atrocities. The human rights committee on national cultural minorities.

The incident took place two days before the official visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons Dr. Chaloka Beyani at the UCCP Haran compound. It was the last ditch effort by the BS Aquino regime to save face and cover-up its failed bid to force the indigenous people to return to their militarized communities. The PNPP, Phil. Army, DSWD and Rep. Catamco attempted to forcibly enter the evacuation center. Catamco is chair of the House of Representatives Committee on national cultural minorities.

The forcible entry was carried out on August 23 to help create the legitimacy of the military after an alleged encounter on March 27. Soldiers forcibly entered the houses of Blaan and threw out their personal belongings. A fact-finding mission documented cases of human rights violations since then—threat, harassment, interrogation, food/economic blockade, torture, hamletting, violation of domicile, illegal search and detention, destruction and divestment of property, indiscriminate firing, forced servitude, military encampment in public facilities and forcible evacuation.

On May 18, around 500 Blaan from three villages in Brgy. Upper Suyan, Malapatan Sarangani Province evacuated due to the encampment of the 73rd Infantry Battalion in their communities. Half of the evacuees are children. Some 200 individuals in a nearby village of Sitio Sufan, Brgy. Pagsasa, Alabel, Sarangani Province also wanted to evacuate but were blocked by the military. The residents sought safety at the Sitio Sufan Elementary School.

A number of evacuees from several communities in Davao del Norte and Bukidnon. But as soon as community members start to return to their communities, the cycle starts again.

Aside from the evacuees from Lianga and San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, what caught the public’s eye are the more than 700 evacuees in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-Haran in Davao City especially when on July 23, more than 500 members of the Philippine National Police, Philippine Army, Ahmara paramilitary group, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Rep. Nancy Catamco attempted to forcibly enter the evacuation center. Catamco is chair of the House of Representatives Committee on national cultural minorities.

After a few days, some 200 Blaan remained at the Sitio Sufan Elementary School.

The massive military operation of the 73rd IB-PA started on March 27. Soldiers forcibly entered the houses of Blaan and threw out their personal belongings. A fact-finding mission documented cases of human rights violations since then—threat, harassment, interrogation, food/economic blockade, torture, hamletting, violation of domicile, illegal search and detention, destruction and divestment of property, indiscriminate firing, forced servitude, military encampment in public facilities and forcible evacuation.

On March 30, at around 4:00 p.m., eight bombs were dropped on a populated area in a nearby village. The soldiers fired machine guns, mortars and immediately left the community, leaving their homes, belongings and farm animals behind. About 347 individuals went to the Central Police Regional Detention Group (CIDG) filed the complaint on May 12 at the City Prosecutor’s Office.

On July 11, 2015, Honey Mae Suazo, 34, Secretary General of Karapatan Southern Mindanao learned that trumped-up criminal charges instigated by the AFP were filed against her and 15 other leaders of people’s organizations for the supporting the evacuees from Talaning and Kapatungan, Davao del Norte, and from Bukidnon.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed the complaint on May 12 at the City Prosecutor’s Office, with charges of violation of Republic Act (RA) 267 and/or Kidnapping, Serious Illegal Detention and RA 9208 or the Anti-trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 as amended by RA 10175 or the Expanded Anti-trafficking in Persons Act of 2012. Aside from Suazo, those included in the complaint are: Rev. Junie Jaime (Promotion of Church People’s Response-SMR); Sheena Duazo (Bayan SMR- RCPA); Ryan Labara (Bayan SAMA-AKO); Tony Salubre (Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-SMR); Mary Ann Sapar (Gabriela Women’s Party-SMR); Jaja Necosia (RCPIA); Kerlan Fanagel, Sr. (Secretary general of the Lumad group Pasaka); Sr. Stella Matatina (Pasalubong-Mindanao); Sr. Restilita Miles (Rural Missionaries of the Philippines); Isidro Indao, (Spokesperson of Pasaka); Charlie Manano (National Secretary General of Salinihi Alliance for Children’s Concerns and spokesperson of the Save Our Schools network); Rius Valle (Children’s Rehabilitation Center-Center); Joseph Artemio (Greater Caraga-KMU); Pedro Arnado (Chairperson of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-SMR); and lawyer, John June Does.

Suazo led numerous fact-finding and search missions, particularly in high risk militarized communities in Talaingod, Davao del Norte and Loreto, Agusan del Sur. She has also openly pointed out the culpability of military troops in human rights abuses in the Southern Mindanao region.

Attached to the criminal complaint filed against Suazo and leaders of progressive organizations in Davao is a so-called rogue group that contains the names and photos of 70 activists, including Francis Añover, national coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines; Rev. Irene Balang and minster of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP); Jacqueline Raptopo, executive director of the Children’s Rehabilitation Center;
Bayan Muna Rep. Karlos Zarate, Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Emmi de Jesus, former parliamentarian Teddy Casino and Rafael Mariano and Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay. The “rogue gallery” was created by the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command.

In addition, Zarate was slapped with serious illegal detention and child abuse for supposedly preventing a Lumad child who was a rape victim from leaving UCCP Haran.

The list is an assortment of names which includes the late labor leader Crispin Beltran and environmentalist Francis Morales, who died in May 2008 and November 2014, respectively. It also included National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panel members Jose Maria Sison and Juliet de Lima who have been in the Netherlands since the 8Os.

Previously, on June 17, 2015, 22 leaders of church groups, people’s organizations, and human rights workers in the South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani and Gen. Santos City (Socsksargen) region, were also charged with almost the same false criminal offenses, in addition to charges of attempted murder.

Ironically, among those charged were evacuees and a victim of torture. In a certain PCO incident in Brgy. Salutan of the Philippine National Police-Alabel and Pfc. Charito B. Tunggak of the 73rd IB-PA filed charges against leaders of UCCP, progressive people’s organizations and human rights groups for attempted murder, violation of Republic Act 7606 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Other Forms of Discrimination Act and violation of Republic Act 9851 or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity.

Those charged were Ryan Lariba, Secretary General of Bayan-Socsksargen, who was also included in the case filed in Davao City; Rev. Allen Bill Veloso, Chairperson of Karapatan-Socsksargen; Pastor Narcis Sabella, Secretary General of Karapatan-Socsksargen; Pastor Roger Rafaleza of the UCCP-Promotion of Church People’s Response (PCPR); Bert Padayao, Chairperson of the Kihsuns Magbuwak ng Pilipinas-Socsksargen; Alberfa Gemilio, Chairperson of Kalabahim (a Lumad organization); Lorna Mara, Secretary General of Kalabahim and 15 others, including two staff members of CLANS (Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services).

The 22 individuals were charged with attempted murder in relation to an encounter between the NPA and 73rd IB-PA in Brgy. Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani. They were also charged with violation of Republic Act 7606 in relation to the evacuation of more than 400 Blaan who fled their homes when the military conducted combat operations in their communities and human rights violations were committed against them.

Almost the same individuals were also charged with the same case at the Malapatan Municipal police station on May 28, 2015 with a certain pastor Mendoza Masalon as complainant. Two other criminal charges were earlier filed against the evacuees and other victims of human rights violations, including Brgy. Upper Suyan resident and torture victim Ruben Wating.

These trumped up criminal cases stemmed from the assistance provided by human rights groups and progressive organizations to victims of human rights violations. The individuals who were criminally charged were those who assisted the evacuees and those who participated in a fact-finding mission in Sitio Akbual, Brgy. Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani.

On April 27-29, 2015, the mission was held to investigate the human rights abuses committed by elements of the 73rd IB-PA against the Blaan tribe.

Almost 150 elements of the 73rd IB-PA conducted military combat operations in April 27 until April 30, 2015, affecting some 338 families or 1,800 individuals who became victims of atrocities in the Blaan villages, among others.

The same tyrannical act against Suazo et al for lack of sufficient evidence. Part of the resolution reads, “Kidnapping “en masse” in the heart of the city and confinement in a church compound is to say the least, not plausible.”

“It would have been hard not to notice this forced confinement. There were no armed guards to restrict their movement,” the resolution continued. The AFP-backed complainants filed a motion for reconsideration.

Three of the 29 indigenous people were abducted on July 20, 2015 by elements of the 71st IB-PA, Marlon Baganay, Mendo Bisiotan and Lando Daryuin were surfaced three days later in a military camp in Lasam, Cagayan Valley. The 70-year-old Daryuin is partially blind. Currently, they are detained at the Cagayan Provincial Jail.

On September 21, Romella Liqupian, regional coordinator of Karapatan-Cagayan Valley learned that 40 more individuals were falsely charged in the same case. Liqupian was among them.

Among the 40 individuals were: Isabelo Advierto, chairperson of Kapunguan peasant organization and Anakpawis partylist nominee; Femie Galapon, chairperson of National Union of Students of the Philippines-Cagayan Valley and convenor of Rise for Education Action Group (IALAG). Years since the ILAG was abolished, the practice is very much alive under Aquino’s Oplan Bayanihan. Aquino is using the same tyrannical act against those who expose the abuses of the State security forces.

The same thread from south to north

The attacks against leaders of people’s organizations and human rights groups intensify not only in Mindanao but all over the country.

Filing of trumped up charges

The filing of trumped-up criminal cases against political activists was used during Arroyo’s Oplan Bantay Laya through the Inter-agency Legal Action Group (IALAG). Years since the ILAG was abolished, the practice is very much alive under Aquino’s Oplan Bayanihan. Aquino is using the same legal offensive against those who expose the abuses of the State security forces.

The same tyrannical act the BS Aquino regime used in Mindanao, among leaders of people’s organizations in Davao City and General Santos City, is now used against the 69 activists in Cagayan Valley in an attempt to suppress the people’s voice against the rising cases of military abuses in the region.

In July, 29 individuals, mostly from the Agusan and Malagwog tribes, were charged with three counts of kidnapping with homicide on mere suspicion that they were members/supporters of the NPA. Sgt. Arsenio Villar Capilt of the 71st IB-PA accused the 29 of kidnapping and murder of two army intelligence agents and a member of CAHGU on February 25, 2015.

Three of the 29 indigenous people were abducted on July 20, 2015 by elements of the 71st IB-PA.
The People have also convinced this Tribunal of the interventionist policies in the Philippines and in Asia by the Defendant US government. Various military operations under Defendant President Aquino have resulted in crimes against humanity and war crimes. The nexus between the culpability of Defendant President Aquino and the role and participation of Defendant US government for gross and serious violations of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and the right of the Filipino people to national self-determination and liberation is borne by the facts and the evidence fully established during the Tribunal.

The proven allegations for each Ground in the Indictment, singly, jointly or collectively, have violated the pertinent provisions referred to in the Violations of Laws above, as mentioned in the allegations and Findings above, and as correspondingly outlined with more specificity in the Memorandum of Authorities of the Prosecution.

In view of all the foregoing, We, the JURY hereby renders judgment finding Defendant Government of the Philippines, Defendant President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III and Defendant Government of the United States of America, represented by President Barack Hussein Obama II, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, World Trade Organization, multinational corporations and foreign banks doing business in the Philippines.

1. GUILTY of gross human rights violations involving the civil and political rights of the Filipino People, for committing extrajudicial killings, disappearances, massacres, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions as well as other vicious, brutal and systematic abuses and attacks on the basic democratic rights of the people.

2. GUILTY of gross and systematic violations of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights of the Filipino people through the imposition of neo-liberal “free market” globalization to exploit the people, transgression of their economic sovereignty and plunder of their national patrimony and economy; and attacks on the people’s livelihoods and the destruction of the environment; and

3. GUILTY of gross and systematic violations of the rights of the people to national self-determination and liberation through the imposition of the US war of terror and US military intervention, as well as the perpetuation of crimes against humanity and war crimes; misrepresentations of the people’s right to national liberation and self determination as “terrorism” and the baseless “terrorist” listing of individuals, organizations and other entities by the US and other governments.

The Tribunal seriously condemns the continued efforts of the Defendants to abandon the peace process and address the roots of the conflict in the Philippines in order to achieve a just and lasting peace. We enjoin the Defendants to undertake, and the People to pursue proper remedial measures to prevent the commission or continuation of the illegal and criminal acts, to repair the damages done to the Filipino people and their environment, compensate the victims and their families for their atrocities, and to rehabilitate the communities, especially indigenous communities that have been destroyed by the criminal acts of the Defendants.

Furthermore, considering the various violations of international law by the Defendants, the Tribunal is of the opinion that said violations be brought before international bodies both to battle the Defendants in all possible arenas and at the same time push these international bodies to prescribe the illegal acts of the Defendants and strike a blow against impunity.

We venture to add that the Tribunal recommends, as part of Our Verdict, that the Filipino people forge stronger international solidarity relations with the peoples whose rights are being trumped by the Defendant US government, and together struggle for liberation from the yoke of US imperialism.

We also encourage the peoples of the world to seek redress, to pursue justice, and to transform this oppressive, exploitative and repressive global state of affairs exemplified by the experience and plight of the Filipino people, to challenge the international “rule of law”, and to construct a global order founded on full respect for the rights of all peoples, everywhere. This Verdict is without prejudice to an extended or supplementary opinion as may be warranted under the premises and/or the release of further annexes which will likewise form an integral part of the same.

Let copies of this Verdict be furnished to all the Defendants.

Let copies of this Verdict be published and sent to all other individuals, organizations and entities concerned, including the Prosecutor’s Office of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Inter-American, European, African, and Asian regional courts or systems, and to lawyers associations, human rights defenders, law schools, and human rights programs of study throughout the world.

So ORDERED.

11 September 2015

ATTY. AZADEH SHAHSHAHANI, MAY RODRIGUEZ, ATTY. CAMILO PEREZ BUSTILLO, PAO YLICHING, REV. MALCOLM DAMON, REV. MOLEFE DISELE, and REV. MICHAEL YOSHII

illegal search, interrogation, the use of civilians in military operations, random checkpoints in barangays,.constants. At least 20 members and leaders of COCAFEG, Salinlahi, and the CRC were included in the list of harassment and surveillance. At least 17 leaders who were falsely charged in the second and third quarter of 2015; and the 60 leaders and members of the allied organizations of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) on May 15. Elekrenes Manano and Madella Santiago of Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns and Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC), respectively, were targeted by intelligence agents aboard a motorcycle from their office to a fastfood restaurant and back to their office.

For three decades, the CRC is involved in the documentation of cases of violations against children perpetrated by the AFP, its paramilitary groups, Salinlahi convenes the Save our Schools Network, which has been vocal in opposing the increasing cases of military attacks on, and encampments near schools; and the municipal councilor general of Salinlahi, was among the 17 leaders who were falsely charged in Baguio City.

On May 15, 2015, 60 leaders and campaign officers of Bayan’s 31 member organizations were gathered at the Teachers’ Center Building in Bgy. Vaqua, Quizon City when they were surrounded by military personnel. According to Dr. Casambre, 12 such cases documented by Karapatan.

The documented cases of break-ins involve the office of Gabriela Women’s Party, Health Alliance for Democracy, Parents Alternative for Early Child Care and Development (CDO), Inc., Salinlahi Alliance for Children’s Concerns, and in the shared office Bayan and Karapatan chapters in the National Capital Region. Also, people involved in the GPH-NDFP peace process had become victims of extrajudicial killings.

The incident resulted in a five-day state of emergency in April 2015; but for five days, the cars kept guard at the BiP premises. On August 4, the Supreme Court granted the petition for the writ of amparo and habeas data for the petitioners from Courage, CRC, and Salinlahi. Prior to this recent spate of harassments, activities and peace advocates experienced break-ins in houses and offices; and robbery of items such as laptops, USB/flash drives, video cameras and similar data storage devices. In a span of one year from 2012 to 2013, there were 12 such cases documented by Karapatan.

The incident reported to the barangay office. On May 14, 2015, 50 leaders and members of the NFAEA National Food Authority Employees (COURAGE) also started receiving direct threats and harassments from State forces—at times concealed, and, almost always, graver violations of human rights such as extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances.

Massacre, extrajudicial killings

Of the five cases of massacres documented in the second and third quarter of 2015, one happened in the Bicol region, specifically in Daraga, Masbate. The Bicol region has the most number of victims of extrajudicial killings and massacre. There are 66 documented cases of extrajudicial killings in the region; and six of the 14 incidents of massacre happened also in the Bicol region.

On August 3, members of the Bravo Company of the 9th IB-PAB, the 93rd Division Reconnaisance Company, 96th Military Intelligence Command, Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) and members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection
Group (PNP-CDG) Masbate were ambushed by members of the NPA at the National Highway in Brgy. Del Carmen, Uson, Masbate. According to news reports, Sgt. Fernandez Lynes Jr. was killed, while four other soldiers and an embedded reporter Jet Ramos were wounded. The ambush happened three kilometres away from Brgy. Del Carmen, where a fellow soldier Lt. Romel Armando resides. As soon as Armando received a call from fellow soldiers who were ambushed, he immediately sought the help of Brgy. Capt. Sulpicio Abaleda Mahinay to bring the wounded soldiers to the nearest hospital. Mahinay readily agreed.

Mahinay asked four habal-habal (bicycle) drivers Adam Fajardo, 34, Joebert Badillo, 29, Gary Vistar, 37, and Rogelio Abelda, Jr., 27, to help the soldiers. Abelda was Mahinay’s nephew. The four went ahead to the place of incident. After ten minutes, the barangay’s patrol car arrived. Brgy. Capt. Mahinay immediately helped the wounded soldiers to the patrol car while talking to some of the soldiers.

After some time, three teachers of Del Carmen National High School headed by Mr. Philip Quiles went to the ambush site to see if it was safe for the students from the school to pass by the highway. Quiles noticed that a checkpoint had already been set-up and a number of soldiers were interrogating, beating, and smoking. He asked one of the soldiers if the students going home may pass through, but the soldier advised him otherwise.

Just before the teachers were about to leave, Rogelio Abelda, Jr. called out to Quiles. Quiles noticed Abelda Jr. and his companions were seated next to each other at the side of the road. Quiles told the soldier that he knew the habal-habal drivers and that he would like to bring them back to the community. The soldiers declined saying only the teachers could go back, but the four should stay behind.

“Please tell mama I am here,” Abelda Jr. told Quiles. The teachers also rode on their motorcyles and went back to school. That was the last time the four were seen alive. Five minutes later, several gunshots were heard.

It was already around 7:30 p.m. when Brgy. Capt. Mahinay arrived at their village hall. He was surprised to see so many people, the family and friends of the habal-habal drivers. He found out that the four were already dead.

The remains of the four were loaded in the military truck and brought to the town plaza. The families followed to retrieve the remains of their loved ones. Brgy. Capt. Escanilla constantly received threats from the military. Karapatan documentation showed he had been under surveillance since 2003, including several encounters between him and the military units assigned in Sorsogon. In 2011, Escanilla was falsely charged with frustrated murder and damage to property in a supposed raid conducted at a police station in the town of Barcelona.

The last documented threat to Escanilla’s life was in February 2015. Sgt. Rene Enteria of the 31st IB PA arrested and tortured a resident in the village where Escanilla lived. Enteria then offered the man Php 50,000 and a .45 caliber gun to kill Escanilla. The person, whose name cannot be disclosed for security purposes, immediately reported the incident to Karapatan-Sorsogon.

Two gunmen shot Escanilla at around 4:15 p.m. on August 20, using an M16 rifle and a .45 caliber handgun. He was already asleep when his house was stoned prompting him to look through the window. His body bore two gunshot wounds in the stomach, one in the left shoulder and another in his right cheek. The two gunmen got away using three motorcycles and one tricycle with eight other men who were part of the operation.

As of September 30, there are six documented cases of human rights workers who were killed by State forces under the Aquino regime. They are Fernando Baldomero, Romeo Capalla, William Bugatti, Romualdo Palipsa, Fred Tranquia, and Escanilla.

A peace worker and a peasant leader were killed by elements of the 11th IB in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental. The two were shot dead, and their house was set on fire, with them inside.

Around 10 p.m. on May 24, a loud sound of bangung (a sea shell used to signal for help) awakened Marcela Madronero. She immediately rose and saw the roof of her brother Endric Calago’s house in flames. Then she heard Rosalie, her brother’s wife, shouted, “Help us, the army is here!” Then Madronero heard continuous gunshots. Afraid that they too might be shot, Madronero and cousin Dante Flores did not go to the Calago house until 5 a.m., when Madronero heard the wailing of Erly Calago, daughter of Endric and Rosalie. When Madronero and Flores rushed to the couple’s house, they saw the house razed to the ground, including the bodies of the couple. Endric’s body was found near the balcony with several gunshot wounds. Rosalie’s body was just outside the kitchen door, totally burned.

Endric “Bayoto” Calago, 47, was the vice chairperson of Kangawan, a local peasant organization affiliated with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP). Rosalie, 45, was a barefoot reporter for radio programs Kaling Kug Tugla and Pugasan in Negros and Cebu. She was a member of Gabriela. She also supported the Franciscan mountain clinic, a community-managed program run by local health workers. Both were members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Political prisoners and the NDPP peace consultants

“Being pregnant in jail, it was the physical hardship that I thought was unbearable. Later, I realized it was the emotional pain that was truly unbearable,” said Andrea Rosal. Rosal was detained for one year and five months, at a very crucial moment

(Continued on page 23)
when she entered motherhood. She lost her daughter. On September 7, 2015, she was released after the murder charge against her was finally dismissed.

Andrea, or Andeng to her friends and family, is the daughter of the late Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Ka Roger Rosal. That was probably the only reason why she was charged with two trumped up criminal cases—kidnapping with murder and murder.

Now, she is determined to bring the fate of her daughter and her unjust detention to justice. “I will work for the campaign to free all political prisoners like me, who were arrested, detained and made to suffer in jail for our political beliefs and affiliation,” said Rosal in a press conference after her release.

There are hundreds more of Andrea Rosal in jail who should be released immediately. However, the BS Aquino regime continues to treat the political prisoners as criminals. The peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines are arrested and jailed based on fabricated criminal charges and the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) continues to be violated.

Maria Concepcion “Concha” Araneta-Bocala, 54, was arrested on August 1, 2015 at her residence in Juntado Subdivision, Caban (Mount LoiLo City by joint forces of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) and the ISAFP. The arrest was made based on warrants for two murder charges, that supposedly happened almost three decades ago, in 1987 and in 1998.

Araneta-Bocala is NDFP peace consultant for Visayas and carries with her JASIG Document of Identification No. ND/97/29 under the assumed name “Remi Estrella.” The Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of National Defense hitlist has placed a P7.8 million reward for the arrest of Araneta-Bocala.

She was charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition based on, again, “planted evidence” such as hand grenade, a .45-caliber pistol, a .22-caliber pistol and several rounds of ammunition. The police claimed they found these “evidence” in her possession when she was arrested. She is now jailed at the BJMP Jail, Brgy. Nalook, Kalibo, Aklan. Araneta-Bocala suffers from numerous ailments such as gastritis, ulcer, recurring lumbar pains due to scoliosis, recurring pain in her left eye which was operated on previously, anemia, vertigo, goiter, and recurring numbness on her legs and feet.

Ernesto Lorenzo, 59, was at the IT Center in Gilmore, Quezon City on July 20, 2015 when he was nabbed by joint elements of the CIDG and members of the military intelligence group. He was on the escalator when two men grabbed him. He shouted to catch the public’s attention, but he was immediately whisked out of the building and into a van. He was brought to PNP General Headquarters at Camp Crame. Lorenzo is a long-time labor leader and a pastor of the United Methodist Church (UMC).

The search warrant used against Lorenzo came from the Cabanatuan Methodist Church (UMC). On the basis of “planted” evidence, Latayan was charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives but was later dismissed at the Prosecutor’s Office in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. Latayan also face charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives in Mabauan, Quezon filed in 2008.

Lorenzo spent more than a month in the holding area of the Anti-Organized Crime Unit of the CIDG inside Camp Crame, where jail authorities claim there is no food provision for detainees. He was only given leftover food from the ration of CIDG police. On August 12, Lorenzo was transferred to the Special Intensive Care Area-1 of the Metropolitan Detention Center at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City while Latayan is still detained at the Major Crime Intensive Unit in Camp Crame.

On June 1, Adelberto Silva, 68, was arrested with wife Rosanna Cabasao, 53, and aide Isidro De Lima, 68. Silva, a labor leader, is a JASIG-protected person with Document Identification Number ND/97/229 under the assumed name “Percival Rojo”. Cabasao is a researcher/consultant of the Crispin Beltran Resource Center and a founding member of Gabriela.

The couple was arrested in their arrest at Camp Crame. Silva, a labor leader, is a JASIG-protected person with Document Identification Number ND/97/229 under the assumed name “Percival Rojo”. Cabasao is a researcher/consultant of the Crispin Beltran Resource Center and a founding member of Gabriela.

The couple was arrested in their arrest at Camp Crame. Silva, a labor leader, is a JASIG-protected person with Document Identification Number ND/97/229 under the assumed name “Percival Rojo”. Cabasao is a researcher/consultant of the Crispin Beltran Resource Center and a founding member of Gabriela.
filed in Bacoor, Cavite. The evidences against them were planted during the raid by the Special Intensive Care Area-1, Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City. The GPH has completely reneged on its commitment to release “most, if not all” political prisoners when on September 17, 2002, the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 266 convicted peace consultants Emeteoro Antalan, 56, and Leopoldo Caloza, 55, after six years of trial. The court found the two “guilty beyond reasonable doubt” for the murder of Kathryn Ramos, supposedly a “deep penetrating agent (DPA) of the AFP.” Their arrest is already a violation of the JASIG, their conviction is even more iniquitous.

Caloza, arrested in 2006, had to face 21 trumped-up criminal charges while Antalan, arrested in 2007, was charged with eight criminal cases. Almost all of the charges against them were dismissed or quashed for lack of merit as early as 2007. The murder case for which they were sentenced to reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment would have been the last of the false charges Antalan had to hurdle in court. It would have been the same for Caloza, except that in August 2015, two criminal charges, long archived, were revived. A warrant of arrest was served to Caloza at Camp Bagong Diwa for murder in 1994 and attempted murder in 2005.

Caloza is a consultant working on the Comprehensive Agreement for Social and Economic Reforms (CAserE) while Antalan is consistent on peasant concerns and represents the Central Luzon region. Judge Toribio Ilao’s decision was based solely on the testimony of Bayani Domingo, who claimed to be a former NPA member before he surrendered to the military in 2002. Domingo admitted he did not see Antalan and Caloza kill Kathryn Ramos. Domingo claimed that on October 26, 2002 at an NPA camp in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, Ka Ino, whom Domingo averred as Caloza, ordered him to dig a hole in the ground. Domingo also claimed that he was ordered to fetch Antalan, aka Ka Iro, along with the DPA Ramos and other companions. Domingo was later wired and supposedly led at the gates of the grave of Ramos. Other testimonies against Caloza and Antalan came from Leonardo Bernardo and Tarcila Ramos. Leonardo Bernardo said he knew Antalan and Caloza as NPA leaders and Ramos as “tagapagtaguro sa magasakap (a teacher to the peasants).” He later learned that Ramos was killed. Bernardo’s testimony mentioned nothing about the alleged murder.

Tarcila Ramos testified about the exhumation of a body that she assumed, but not certain, to be that of her daughter. She submitted in court that she underwent a DNA test to establish if it was indeed her daughter’s remains. Domingo, in his testimony, used the names Caloza and Antalan, and not the alleged aliases of the people who were supposedly involved in the killing of Ramos. Still, the court believed Domingo’s story without any direct evidences to support his claim. Branch 266 even justified this by saying, “circumstantial evidence, if sufficient, can supplant the absence of direct evidence.”

Caloza and Antalan, now detained at the New Bilibid Prisons, Muntinlupa City, are the second and third peace consultants to be convicted since the JASIG was signed by the GPH and the NDFP in 1995. In 2013, peace consultant Eduardo Sarmiento was also sentenced to life for illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

On September 30, 2015, there were 56 political prisoners in jail facing baseless and made-up criminal charges. The GPH has previously promised to release them, but has not done so, even as it is required by the JASIG. The GPH has repeatedly failed to convince the JASIG that its implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Political Prisons, MNLF, and other armed combatants has been genuine.

Using water cannons against the workers, the company guards made another attempt to disperse the striking workers on the second day of the strike. The guards hit the workers with truncheons and threw stones and empty bottles at them. Around 37 workers were injured during the dispersal.

The violent dispersal of the workers’ picket line would be repeated in the succeeding days and months as workers continued to demand their demands. The strike continued as the Tanduay workers filed a petition at the Labor Department calling for their regularization and restate their work. On June 22, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region IV-A came out with an order directing TDI to regularize the 130 workers supplied by the global Pro and HD service cooperatives, a service contracting agency. The company ignored the decision, and instead filed an Appeal at the DOLE. It also went on its attempt to dismantle the picket line. Violence again erupted on August 4 and September 22.

On September 22, the PNP-Cabuyao fired twice during the dispersal of a rally held by the striking workers. Again, water cannons and truncheons were used against the workers. At least 13 workers were injured during the dispersal. At least 11 other persons were injured during the August 4 dispersal.

The workers say that the clear commitment of the Aquino administration for the workers, and the military and police violated both the economic, civil and political rights of the workers.

But the people would have none of it, not anymore. Their hardships and sacrifices have built in them more than resilience. These have galvanized their determination to put up a fight. B.S. Aquino once dreamed of crushing the people’s revolution and rendering the rebels insignificant. But the people, through their colonial master, he patterned his “whole-of-society” plan after the US Military Counterinsurgency (COIN) Guide. He put on deceptive trimmings of “peace and development”, “people-centric” and “whole-of-nation” to his military strategy. To further enhance its appeal to the people, he named it after a traditional Filipino practice of mutual cooperation called “Bayanan” and masqueraded his State security forces with a collar that reads “respects human rights”. But all these are as show as this military and paramilitary forces relentlessly launch their atrocious offenses victimizing even unarmed civilians; all these, to protect the powers that be and favoured transnational interests that plunder the nation’s resources and encroached into ancestral domains.

The first phase of Oplan Bayanhan (OpBay) was a dismal failure. The deadline the Aquino government set to defeat its perceived enemies was not met. The deadline has been extended for the nth time. Aquino’s regime has a few months to go before it makes itself inconsequential, its killing machine is on a rampage, viciously attacking anyone perceived as obstacles along its already blood-soaked “righteous path”.

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AQUINO POLICY: Targeting the Lumad under Oplan Bayanihan and the Whole of Nation Initiative

By Renato Reyes Jr. naturorves.wordpress.com

Last September 8, 2015, when confronted by questions at an Inquirer forum regarding the killings of a Lumad teacher and community leader, President Aquino responded that there was no policy to kill anybody and that what they were doing was serving the people. “Serving the people does not entail killing any of our citizens,” the President added.

As usual, the President’s response was evasive and sought to downplay or deny altogether the problem of Lumad killings and forced displacement.

Can there really be no policy targeting the Lumad communities of Mindanao at a time when the body count is climbing and refugees are growing in number?

Recent pronouncements by the military as well as a Powerpoint presentation from a government agency would show that the President is lying when it comes to the so-called absence of a “policy” against the Lumad.

The presentation called Whole of Nation Initiative, believed to be originated from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), shows a concerted effort by various government agencies carrying out the Aquino government’ counter-insurgency campaign called Oplan Bayanihan, a program patterned after the US Counter Insurgency Guide. The focus regions and timetable cited in the presentation coincides with the regions severely affected by militarization.

What the presentation and recent AFP pronouncements reveal is that there is indeed a policy to target the Lumad of Mindanao. It shows the complicity of other government agencies in the current Lumad crisis. The policy has had disastrous effects on Lumad leaders and their communities.

That the President refuses to acknowledge that this policy exists means that there will be no meaningful action or resolution that can be expected from this administration.

Oplan Bayanihan calls for the “whole of nation approach” and the whole-of-nation approach in carrying out its counter-insurgency campaign. The entire state apparatus, including civilian agencies, is being mobilized in the counter-insurgency drive. The program does not aim to address actual root causes of armed conflict, focusing instead on high-profile programs such as the conditional cash transfer program and medical missions. The WNI compliments the military drive through the use of psy-war and deception.

The WNI clearly spells out the target groups and priority regions for government’s counter-insurgency program. Various government agencies are being tapped to undertake “serbisyo caravans” to compliment “focused military operations” in these target areas. The thrusts are consistent with Oplan Bayanihan’s “whole of nation” and “people centered” approach. Each agency is assigned a particular service to provide (e.g. DSWD for CCT, DoH for medical missions and so on).

Based on the Powerpoint presentation, the priority areas for the “caravans” are the same areas and sectors identified by the military as the base of the New People’s Army. It uses an example the Eastern Mindanao region and echoes the public statements of the Eastern Mindanao Command that 70% of the members of the NPA in the region are from the ranks of indigenous peoples and that 90% of the NPA guerilla base are in ancestral domains of the IP communities. The thrust of the counter-insurgency program therefore has to be “IP-centric”.

Those insisting that the IPs are merely “caught in the crossfire” should re-examine their position because as far as the AFP and other civilian agencies are concerned, the IPs and their communities and schools ARE the real targets.

The stated priority areas of the counter-insurgency campaign are the same areas experiencing heavy militarization and displacement of communities. These include the Lumad from Paquibato and Talaingod who have been forced to seek refuge at the UCCP Haran in Davao City. Also on the priority list are the Lumad areas in Surigao del Sur where militarization has been intense and where the ALCADEV Lumad school is located.

Human rights groups in Caraga have reported to us that on August 25, simultaneous “peace/serbisyo caravans” were launched Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte (consistent with the timetable in the Powerpoint presentation). Based on the accounts, the caravans were initiated by the AFP’s and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and included agencies such as the DOH, DILG, NCIP and DEPED. There were programs and public meetings in Marhiatang and Lianga. The program included presentations to the public of alleged rebel returnees.

The organizers tried to invite local org MAPASU but the group was busy with preparations for the Alternative Learning Center for Alcadev foundation day.

One Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, deputy spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, over local radio station DXBR, challenged Karapatan, ALCADEV, TRIFPS and other progressive and militant organizations in Caraga to join in the peace caravan “if you are really for peace.”

Martinez emphasized that 70% of the NPA are Lumad because the children were being taught by NPA.

The “invitation” may have actually been a veiled threat. Those who did not welcome and participate in the program are perceived to be NPA sympathizers and enemies of the state, “enemies of peace.”

One week after the “peace caravans” were held in Surigao, on September 1, three Lumad were killed. They were Emerito Samarca, 54, Executive Director of Alcadev; Dionel Campos, chair of the Mapasu and his cousin, Bello Sinzo. Alleged perpetrators were paramilitary groups linked with the AFP.

Human rights groups in Caraga report that military combat and clearing operations have been concentrated in the WNI priority areas in Caraga (Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur mostly) starting June this year, confirming the priority areas and timetable in the Powerpoint presentation.

“These municipalities constitute almost the entire Surigao del Sur province and key lumad areas in Agusan del Sur. The transfer of the headquarters of the 402nd Infantry Brigade last June 2015 from regional center Butuan City to Tandag City, Surigao del Sur illustrates the shift of focus of the entire brigade to the province,” according to Karapatan in Caraga.

Similarly in Davao, “a peace caravan” led by DSWD secretary Dinky Soliman was also held in Talaingod from June 19-20, consistent with the timetable in the Powerpoint presentation. Many of the Manobos currently seeking refuge at the UCCP Haran were from this area. The “peace caravan” sought to downplay the reality of internally displaced persons by making it appear that there was no disruption in the delivery of services from key government agencies.

The deaths of Samarca, Campos and Sinzo, the displacement of the Lumad from Talaingod and Paquibato, and the fact that they are all from the so-called priority areas for the government counter-insurgency program Bayanihan and WNI are no coincidence. The deaths and displacements are in fact the direct result of Oplan Bayanihan and WNI, the use of both military power as well as civilian agencies for psy-war operations.

At most, the Whole of Nation Initiative makes civilian agencies complicit in the deaths and displacement of the Lumad of Mindanao. They are being mobilized to support the so-called “focused military operations” undertaken in Lumad communities. At the very least, the presence of civilian agencies in the counter-insurgency operations has not spared the civilian population from abuses by the AFP and their paramilitary minions.

Oplan Bayanihan is supposed to end on December 2016. It has already failed to meet its medium-term goal of rendering the NPA irrelevant so that the AFP could focus on external defense during the second half of the program. Meanwhile, as the rampage of military and paramilitary groups continue, the OPAPP would rather undertake a psy-war roadshow than actually engage the NDFP in serious peace negotiations to address the root causes of the armed conflict.

Aquino, the AFP and the OPAPP deserve our strongest condemnation for the massacres and the growing number of internal refugees in Mindanao.
15 Massacres via #DaangMatuwid

Total number of incidents from July 1, 2010 to September 15, 2015

PER REGION

<table>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<td>Bicol</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Individuals: 52
Total Minors: 7

#EndImpunity #StopTheKillings

For more info visit www.karapatan.org