

Election-related violence and the continuing spate of extra-judicial killing, as Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) fails to meet its target of putting an end to the communist revolutionary movement, characterize the human rights situation in the Second Quarter of 2010.

At around midnight of April 10, **Renil Oliva**, fourth nominee of the Kabataan Partylist, was with **Bryan Laguna** checking on the poster being conducted by the Kabataan volunteers. As they alighted from a passenger jeepney along Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City and started checking on the posters, they were accosted by Supt. Ariel Palcuto, a former member of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) and son of an independent vice-mayorality candidate, Ret. Col. Rico Palcuto. He harangued and accused the young men of tearing down his father's posters. Renil and Bryan denied the allegation and told him that they had just arrived. The youth volunteers who came ahead of them also denied taking down Palcuto's posters. The irate Palcuto went to his father's campaign headquarters, came back with four men then tried to run over Renil and Bryan with his car. Fortunately the two were all able to move out of harm's way. Subsequently Palcuto and his men manhandled Bryan.

On April 16, the mother of **Atty. Kathrina Castillo**, Kabataan Partylist's third nominee, reported receiving a letter with a black ribbon attached to it addressed to her daughter. The letter, having accused Kathrina of being involved with the Communist Party of the Philippines, threatened her safety. All through the election campaign period, she experienced intense surveillance forcing her to move from one house to another, thereby negatively affecting her campaign schedule. Atty. Castillo is also an active human rights lawyer in Eastern Visayas.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) grudgingly admitted that the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo government failed to meet its military target to decimate the forces of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) by June, the end of GMA's rule in Malacanang. That did not stop them from killing an average of one activist per week in May 2010. Three of the victims are from Mindanao and one from Luzon.



Armed men stormed a polling precinct in Tugaya, Lanao del Sur during election day. A gunfight between authorities and armed supporters of a local candidate lasted for about 30 minutes. Photo is a from a video captured by a team of the People's International Observers Mission and Kodao Productions.

Table 1
Victims of Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution under the Arroyo Government

Annual Totals: January 21, 2001 to June 30, 2010

Year	Total	Organized	Women
2001	100	35	11
2002	124	45	14
2003	130	34	14
2004	85	45	11
2005	194	101	14
2006	235	116	25
2007	100	39	14
2008	90	22	18
2009	130	33	32
2010 (June 30)	17	5	0
Total	1,205	475	153

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

On May 14, at around 9:30 in the evening, **Dominador Ambol**, his wife Dolorosa Pidoy-Ambol, their 17-year old daughter Christine and almost two-year old grandchild Rochel Mie were asleep inside their house in Purok 1, Brgy. Noa, Magpet, North Cotabato when five men, believed to be members of the 57th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army (IBPA), paid them a visit. Two of the men armed with .45 caliber pistols sneaked into the house. As the couple woke up, the family was immediately fired upon. Dominador was hit in the chest. Mrs. Ambol was hit in her left side under the armpit, while the daughter in her right arm. The baby was unharmed. Mrs. Ambol crawled out of the house to call for help and saw a pick-up truck waiting a meter away from their fence. She saw three more armed men waiting outside.

Dominador died instantly. Mrs. Ambol and their daughter survived and were treated for almost a month in the Madonna and Child Hospital in Kidapawan City. Prior to his death, Dominador was twice summoned by the Commanding Officer of the 57th IBPA. He was accused during the interrogation of being the "leader of the kangaroo court" and was advised to "return to the fold of law". He was asked to be the president of the Barangay Defense System (BDS) of their village. He declined explaining that he was already a barangay tanod.

On May 19, **Jim Gales** was on board his motorcycle when shot by men riding a van in Brgy. Little Panay, Panabo City, Davao del Norte. He has been a member of Bayan Muna since 2001 and was very active during the recent election campaign for the partylist. Earlier, he related that he once caught a man taking his photograph while he was in an auto shop where he brought the Bayan Muna vehicle for repair in Matina, Davao City.

On May 31, **Edgardo "Dadul" Merculita Mariquit** left his house in Brgy. 10, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte to work on his farm in Sitio Calong-Calongan, Brgy. Malapong also in Buenavista. He was expected to be home later that day after picking up the chickens he left with his friend Tata Tallia. Instead, on the following day his dead body, which bore signs of torture and a gunshot wound, was found by a couple far from his farm in Sitio Calong-Calongan.

Before Edgardo was killed, a known military asset, Pedro Mendoza, was reported searching for him. Mendoza together with four unidentified burly looking men cornered Edgardo's eldest daughter in a fi-

Table 2
Victims of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance
under the Arroyo Government

Annual Totals: January 21, 2001 to June 30, 2010

Year	Total	Organized	Women
2001	8	1	1
2002	10	3	2
2003	11	2	1
2004	23	10	5
2005	32	6	0
2006	78	25	15
2007	30	14	5
2008	9	5	1
2009	4	2	1
2010 (June 30)	1	0	0
Total	206	68	31

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

esta celebration on May 3 and asked for her father's whereabouts and mobile phone number. She managed to evade answering the questions and left in a hurry out of fear. Two weeks later, a sweat-drenched Mendoza together with his son unexpectedly appeared at her house again looking for her father and asking for his cellphone number. Edgardo's daughter did not give him the information. Mendoza asked for the direction to Malague. But peering through a hole in the wall of their house, she saw Mendoza going on the direction of the river instead of the way to Malague. She and her partner then heard footsteps of several men wearing boots from behind their house also running to the same direction. They were laughing.

Mendoza finally caught up with Edgardo on May 30 at the Taboan public market in Buenavista. Edgardo told his wife that he met Mendoza who asked him for his number which he was not able to give because he did not have his mobile phone with him and he had not memorized his number. Edgardo added that there was a man on board a motorcycle whom he could not identify and who observed them from afar. He suspected that the man was with Mendoza.

Five more victims in three incidents were documented by KARAPATAN in June, GMA's last month of oppressive rule.

The first victim was **Edward Panganiban**, a maintenance staff of Takata (Philippines) Corporation and Secretary of the independent union Samahang Lakas ng Manggagawa sa Takata (Salamat-Independent). He was on his motorcycle on June 2 driving along the National Highway near the De Lima Subdivision in Brgy. Caingin, Sta. Rosa, Laguna when two men, also on board a motorcycle, overtook and shot him twelve times. Edward died on the spot.

Since 2007, operatives of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) have been visiting members of Salamat-Independent trying to threaten and intimidate them into quitting their union activities. This continued even after Edward's extra-judicial killing.

Also, during the process of union certification in January of this year, the Takata management forced the workers to attend anti-union seminars facilitated by the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (ANAD), an organization known for its unequivocal support to OBL.

On June 3, two farmers from Brgy. Baang, Mobo, Masbate were found dead after having been missing for two days. **Julito Etang** and **Borromeo Cabilis** were abducted on June 1 by armed men believed to be soldiers. When found, their hands were tied and their mouths covered with packing tape.

A human rights and church worker was shot dead by two men on June 14 at the crossing of Sitio Antolo, Brgy. Su-ay, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental. **Benjamin E. Bayles** was waiting for a ride when two men, on board a black motorcycle with no license plate, shot him at close range.

Benjamin was an active member of the September 21 Movement, a Karapatan member organization. He earned the ire of the military because of his active participation in fact-finding missions which linked army units to political killings, other cases of political repression and militarization in Negros island.

The assailants were later apprehended when a bystander reported the incident to the Himamaylan police which contacted for assistance their counterpart in the adjacent town of Kabankalan. A checkpoint was set up and the Kabankalan police arrested Roger Bajon and Ronnie Caurino. Each had a .45 caliber pistol in their possession when apprehended. Benjamin was shot with a .45 caliber pistol. Bajon and Caurino admitted to be soldiers of the Philippine Army. They are now detained at the Himamaylan City Jail.



Human rights defenders Benjamin Bayles was killed with brazenness.

On June 27, **Fernando Dejino** was on his way home to Bgy. Casalaan in Siaton, Negros Oriental with his wife and mother. At the junction of Baranggays Lamtoc and Casalaan, which is near the jathropa processing plant, a man wearing a cap got off the jeep that the Dejinis were riding in. The man pulled out a pistol and ordered the other passengers to leave. He then sat across from Fernando, aimed the pistol at him and fired pointblank.

Dejino died on the spot with five gunshot wounds on the neck and collarbone. He was an active member of Kasayan Farmers Association (KASAYFA), a group which opposed the operations and planned expansion of the privately-owned jathropa plantation guarded by soldiers of the 79th Infantry Battalion of the 302nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army. The expansion of the plantation will cover land where KASAYFA farmers reside.

Table 3
Violation of Civil and Political Rights
January 1 to June 30, 2010

Violation	No. of Incidents	No. of Victims
Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution	16	17
Frustrated killing	6	11
Enforced or involuntary disappearance	1	1
Torture	13	64
Illegal arrest	22	91
Illegal detention	18	87
Physical assault and injuries	11	124
Threat / harassment / intimidation	34	515
Illegal search and seizure	4	21
Forcible evacuation and displacement	1	252
Violation of domicile	5	258
Destruction of property	2	254
Divestment of property	7	264
Use of civilians in police and/or military operation	3	4
Criminalization of political acts	4	53

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Prior to his death, Dejino was “invited” by soldiers to the military camp, purportedly to “clear” his name from being linked with the New People’s Army.

Silence on the part of President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III on the three killings in Laguna and Masbate, most probably on the same day in June, and another two in Negros within two weeks of his proclamation by the Philippine Congress augurs ill for human rights in the country. It portends of continued implementation of the U.S. influenced and encouraged Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) into his presidency. It raises questions regarding his administration’s commitment to prosecuting Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her military henchmen for their brutal crimes against the people, especially the activists and human rights defenders.



Fernando Dejino (in dark shirt) at a human rights day rally, calling for justice for slain peasant leader Fermin Lorico.

Table 4
Victims of Extrajudicial Killing and Enforced Disappearance
under GMA’s Presidency
(by sectoral and multi-sectoral organizations)
January 21, 2001 to June 30, 2010

Organization	EJK	ED	
Bayan			
KMP	133	15	
KMU	24	3	
Anakbayan	15	3	
Pamalakaya	8	2	
Kadamay	11	0	
LFS	5	0	
Courage	4	0	
PCPR	2	0	
CPA	0	1	
Kamp	11	0	
SCMP	1	0	
Kalikasan	1	0	
Piston	1	1	
Secretariat	8	2	
Karapatan			
Selda	4	2	
Kasimbayan	1	0	
September 21 Movement	1	0	
Chapters	24	1	
NUPL			
	1	0	
Other organizations			
	20	5	
Partylists			
Bayan Muna	143	12	
Anakpawis	50	7	
Gabriela Women’s Party	2	0	
Kabataan	2	0	
Suara Bangsa Moro	2	2	
Anak ng Bayan	0	1	
NDF Consultants/Staff			
	1	11	
Over-all total organized		475	68
Total Women		153	31
Over-all Total		1,205	206

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Region where detained	Total no. of PPs	Women	Minors	Arrested under GMA
Cagayan Valley	8	1	0	7
Cordillera Administrative Region	5	2	0	5
Central Luzon	17	2	0	17
National Capital Region	143	27	6	116
Southern Tagalog	40	6	0	40
Bicol	18	5	0	18
Eastern Visayas	15	5	0	15
Western Visayas	29	2	0	29
Central Visayas	9	0	0	9
Caraga	1	0	0	1
Northern Mindanao	15	4	0	15
Western Mindanao	24	7	0	24
Southern Mindanao	41	2	0	41
SoCSKSarGen	6	0	0	6
Total	371	63	6	343

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Karapatan Monitor is released quarterly by Karapatan (Alliance for the Advancement of People’s Rights).
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