

Oplan Bayanihan (OpBay), the counter-insurgency program of President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, heightens the use of civic-military activities in communities as a cloak over intensified combat operations and attacks against the people’s leaders and organizations. It is even more deceptive than, but equally vicious as the previous government’s Oplan Bantay Laya because of adornments of “peace” and “development.”

Peace and Development Teams are for war against the people

Soldiers, who now call themselves Peace and Development Teams (PDTs), harass villagers and gather intelligence information against residents in the guise of conducting interviews and house-to-house census for so-called peace and development projects. The idea is for the PDTs to sow fear among the villagers while trying to publicly appear nice, but failing. They cannot fool the people.

In **Guinobatan, Albay in the Bicol region** Community Peace and Development teams of the Alpha Company of the 2nd Infantry Battalion (IB), led by a Lt. Basibas, were simultaneously deployed in 11 villages. They encamped in civilian facilities such as barangay halls, a chapel, a day-care center and at the Farmer’s Training Center. Soldiers conducted a census from July to August in the name of the Department of Agriculture, supposedly to identify the poorest families for relief rations.

But after the census, the soldiers summoned for tactical interrogation residents they suspected of being supporters of the *pasmado*, a derogatory military term for the New People’s Army (NPA). The residents were “interviewed” one by one inside the detachment and their photograph taken holding a tag with his/her name plus an alias provided by the soldiers. They were made to sign a blank document which supposedly proved that they were cleared of suspicions of being NPA supporters. Those who refused to have their picture taken were required to report to the camp three times a day. Some victims were coerced into reporting everyday for two weeks without any cause.

Also in July, soldiers of the 701st IB, 25th IB and 67th IB did the same thing in some villages in **Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley** in Mindanao. There are reports that civilians who were accused by the military as members or supporters of the NPA, were subjected to tactical interrogation, threats, harassment and intimidation. Interrogations were conducted in barangay halls or in the homes of the villagers.

In Kawayanan, Boston, Davao Oriental, elements of the 67th IB led by 2nd Lt. Ibañez claimed that their interviews were for a Peace and Development Training



TABLE 1: Violation of Civil and Political Rights under the Noynoy Aquino Government (July 2010 to September 2011)

Violations	No. of victims
Extrajudicial Killing	55
Enforced Disappearance	8
Torture	41
Frustrated Extrajudicial Killing	20
Illegal Arrest without Detention	151
Illegal Arrest and Detention	95
Illegal Search and Seizure	91
Physical Assault and Injury	60
Demolition	6,108
Violation of Domicile	216
Destruction of Properties	5,401
Divestment of Property	171
Forced Evacuation	4,224
Threat/Harassment/Intimidation	10,811
Indiscriminate Firing	5,047
Forced/Fake Surrender	32
Forced Labor/Involuntary Servitude	33
Use of Civilians in Police and/or Military Operations as Guides and/or Shield	16
Use of Schools, Medical, Religious and Other Public Places for Military Purpose	10,077
Restriction or Violent Dispersal of Mass Actions, Public Assemblies and Gatherings	803

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

(PDT) in line with a national government project. However, the following cases belie the soldiers' concocted story.

On July 1, soldiers interviewed **Marilyn E. Colas**, 47, a Manobo who is a member of a peasant organization, the Nagkahiusa Koy na Mag-uuma tu Boston (NIGKOMB). She was asked to cooperate with the military and give them information on the whereabouts of the NPA. She was instructed to report to the barangay hall with her husband so they would be cleared of suspicion.

Later that night, 2nd Lt. Ibañez and another soldier fetched Marilyn's husband **Fredo**, 45, also a Manobo and Nigkomb member. They took him to the barangay hall for questioning. A soldier who did not identify himself questioned him for almost an hour about his organization and the presence of the NPA in the area.

Both Marilyn and Fredo felt that their lives and security were threatened by the government troops despite their being ordinary civilians.

In Barangay San Isidro, Lupon, Davao Oriental, suspected soldiers ransacked, on July 4, the house of **Henry E. Piogo**, 44, a village councilor and a member of the peasant association, Calasagan United Farmers Organization (CUFA). Henry was in a meeting from 8am to 4pm when a neighbor informed him that around 20 soldiers of the 701st Infantry Brigade looted his house. Taken from his house were three scythes (lagaraw), a bolo, seven chickens and three water containers. Also taken were Php15,000 in cash and a government-issued identification card for the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, which were intended for the schooling of his three children.

On July 5 at around 6pm in Mt. Diwata, Monkayo, Compostela Valley, eight soldiers of the 25th IB went to the house of **Buenaventura Cabuntagon**, 58, member of Mt. Diwata Farmers Association. A certain Sgt. Sandoval and another soldier went straight to his house and interrogated Cabuntagon. When the latter replied that he was a member of a peasant organization in the community, the soldier promptly accused his group of being connected to the NPA to which they contribute money.

Sgt. Sandoval also asked about Cabuntagon's son Joseph, 22, whom he claimed is an NPA member. When the father insisted that his son is a member of the Bayan Muna party-list in Monkayo, the sergeant retorted that it was precisely why he is an NPA-

because he is a member of a party-list. The soldiers further told the father to surrender his son.

In the same purok, from July 17 to 20, six members of the 25th Infantry Battalion started their civil-military operations with a census and interrogation of suspected supporters and sympathizers of the NPA. Around 80 families or 390 residents of Purok 7 were subjected to the same harassment and intimidation.

In the same village at around 8am on July 20, eight soldiers led by a certain Estiva interrogated **Gemma Pandacan**, 46, Public Information Officer of the United People of Mt. Diwata and her husband, farmer **Romeo**, 43. The soldiers, with no nameplates and brandishing high-powered guns, summoned Romeo to the waiting shed in front of his house. He was asked about his wife and her work. They claim that she collects a kilo of rice and Php10 from each resident because her group is connected with the NPA. The soldiers showed Romeo photos of seven alleged NPA recruits from Gemma's organization. At 9:45am, Romeo was allowed to go home after the soldiers took his photograph. They told him to send Gemma to the waiting shed.

Gemma, even though bothered by her husband's account of the interrogation, went to the waiting shed at 10am. Against the soldiers' accusation, she explained that her organization is legal and recognized by the barangay council. A soldier insisted that it may be legal but NPA is behind it. The soldiers forced Gemma to admit that her group is a front of the underground movement, and that she collected rice for the NPA.

Peasant **Welson Ombawgan**, 39, of the Mandaya tribe and council member of Nigkomb in San Jose village, Boston, Davao Oriental feared for his life when a certain Sgt. Marquez of the 67th IB came to his house with military agent, Nonoy Paguyan, on board a motorcycle. The incident happened on July 15 at around 8pm.

Paguyan asked him to go with them. As Ombawgan approached the soldiers, he saw Paguyan open his motorcycle's utility box where a .45 caliber pistol was. He immediately went back inside his store as some neighbors stood by outside. Sgt Marquez and Paguyan left.

In the morning of July 25, Sgt. Marquez's unit returned to Ombawgan's house supposedly to conduct a census. The soldiers found Welson's wife, **Jenelyn**, 35. She is also of the Mandaya tribe

and a Nigkomb member. Sgt. Marquez insisted to “interview” Jenelyn. He forced her to admit that her husband supported the NPA. Marquez questioned Welson’s involvement in Nigkomb. Jenelyn, denied the sergeant’s accusation during the two-hour interrogation.

Two days later at around 3pm, Sgt. Marquez returned to Ombawgan’s house. Welson was not at home. Marquez told Jenelyn that unless Welson presented himself to the military for clearance, he will be charged with rebellion.

On September 1, as a result of military operations, more than a hundred residents of **Ansili and Zapanta Valley of Bangayan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte** were forced to pack their belongings and walk more than nine kilometers to the villages of Canaway and Bangayan. The 30th IB arrived in the vicinity of the communities from August 30 to September 2 after which residents heard gunshots. Two helicopters were also heard firing in the direction of the mountain areas of Zapanta and Ansili.

Suspected state security forces shot dead **Santos Manrique** on April 12 at his house and in front of his wife and six-year-old grandson. He was a leader of small-scale miners that protested the entry into the area of big mining corporations.

Army units were deployed to Napnapan village when the Napnapan Mineral Resources Inc. (NMRI) and the American company, Russel Mining and Minerals Inc. started their operations. Karapatan documented several cases of human rights violations such as forcible evacuation, threats, harassment and intimidation, violation of domicile and use of civilians as guide in military operations in the sitios of **Anibugan, Ibwan, Oraya, Ayan and Kamarin, all in Napnapan, Pantukan, Compostela Valley**.

On June 30, a Lumad leader and his nephew were killed by a paramilitary group in Calabuan village, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. **Arpe Belayong or Datu Lapugotan**, 40, and **Sulte Sanogan**, both of the Higaonon tribe, were shot dead by members of the Special Civilian Active Auxiliaries (SCAA) and a paramilitary group, Salakawan (local term for “enforcer of all laws”).

The killing of Belayong was linked to landgrabbing in Mount Mansalog and other Higaonon territories by indigenous groups that are organized, supported and armed by the government. The forest areas in Esperanza are rich in minerals and timber. They are being eyed by big business for mining and palm oil plantation.

TABLE 3: Victims of Extrajudicial killing and Enforced disappearance under the Noynoy Aquino Government (per sector) (July 2010 to September 2011)

Region	EJK	ED
Cordillera Administrative Region	0	0
Cagayan Valley	2	0
Ilocos	2	0
Central Luzon	1	0
Southern Tagalog	12	2
Bicol	16	0
NCR	2	0
Eastern Visayas	6	0
Central Visayas	1	0
Western Visayas	3	3
Northern Mindanao	1	0
Caraga	2	2
Socskargen	0	0
Western Mindanao	0	0
Southern Mindanao	7	1
ARMM	0	0
Total	55	8
Organized	34	2
Women	3	0

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Before he was killed, Belayong was threatened with ejection from his farm by members of the Salakawan. He supported the setting up of a school by the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) in response to the request of Linundigan, an organization of Higaonons. The Higaonon initiative was opposed by former Esperanza town mayor Deo Manpatilan, who also heads Salakawan.

Sunshine taken away

Cause-oriented groups called for the withdrawal of soldiers from Napnapan, Pantukan, Compostela Valley after **seven-year-old Sunshine Jabinez** was shot and killed past midnight on September 3, by a drunken soldier from the 71st Infantry Battalion. The child was sleeping at home with her parents when Private First Class Baltazar Ramos fired a K3 light machine gun towards the Jabinez house. He was chasing a villager whom he had earlier threatened to beat up in a local videoke bar. Earlier, a certain Sgt. Dalipong, Ramos’s commanding officer, fell asleep from drunkenness. He was awakened by commotion caused by Ramos outside the bar. Finding Ramos armed and drunk, Dalipong grabbed the former’s gun and removed the magazine before giving it back. He went back to sleep.

Ramos, on the other hand, fired at the Jabinez's house and hit Sunshine on her right buttock with the bullet left in the gun's chamber. The bullet went through her spine and stomach. Sunshine was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Another church worker and indigenous leader eliminated

At 1:30pm on September 5, **Rabenio Sungit**, 44, a church worker and leader of the indigenous group Pagkakaisa ng mga Katutubo (Pagsambatan), was shot dead in the public market in Quezon, Palawan. The killing was done by ski-masked men riding in tandem on a motorcycle. Rabenio was with his wife, Trinidad, and son, Rocky, when the incident happened.

Sungit was an active lay leader of the Tagusao Outreach Congregation of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) in Ladayon Soangan, Quezon. He was an interpreter of the Pelaw'an tribe and a member of the Anakpawis party-list group. In 2005, his elder brother, Avenio "Abe" Sungit, a member of Karapatan-Palawan and a known anti-mining activist and human rights worker was killed in a similar manner.

Rabenio and his family, together with Abe's children, had just come from a UCCP gathering. After his brother's children received support from the UCCP National Office, the family went to the market. While buying food, Trinidad heard two gunshots and saw her husband fall to the ground. Prior to the killing, elements of the Philippine Marines and Rolbing, Rabenio's nephew and chieftain of the Pelaw'an tribe, kept inquiring about

Sungit's whereabouts. Rolbing is believed to be a military informant.

RPA-ABB on a rampage?

At about 4:30pm on September 5, **Federico Esguiran**, 56, and his son, **Nilo**, 33, were shot dead by men believed to be members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army - Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB). They were both farmers from Sitio Alibdon, Canlusong village in E.B. Magallona, Negros Occidental.

Federico was in his front yard with Nilo and other farmers, having a drink after a day of hard work in the farm. Around eight suspected RPA-ABB men arrived. They wore bonnets and camouflage jackets and armed with long firearms. The paramilitary men ordered all 17 people, including their wives, children and grandchildren, to drop to the ground. The armed men searched Federico's house. Shortly, they stepped out and asked Federico where his gun was to which the latter answered, "I have no gun, sir". Without warning, one of the perpetrators shot Federico on the head. He then shot Nilo also on the head and on other parts of his body. Before leaving, the RPA-ABB fired randomly at the crowd hitting **Edan Cuello** on the thigh. The paramilitary unit took with them four cell phones and PHP 600 in cash.

Federico and Nilo were members of Bantay Bukid, a group against illegal logging and is in conflict with the RPA-ABB. The group accosted illegal loggers coddled by the RPA-ABB. Federico also belonged to the political party opposed to the incumbent mayor of E.B. Magallona. During the October 2010 barangay elections, the RPA-ABB warned Federico against getting involved in local politics, most specially running under the opposition party.

The RPA-ABB is a breakaway group from NPA in the 1990s. It entered into a peace agreement with the government in December 2000 and has since been reported as actively involved in the AFP's counterinsurgency campaign. It is suspected of being also involved in recent cases of human rights violations in Negros Occidental, namely, the strafing of **Elmer Cabahog's** house in sitio Kalintaan, Lopez Jaena village, Sagay City; and the burning of **Joel Seva's** house in Gawahon, Victorias City.

The RPA-ABB along with government soldiers also figured in the July 19 abduction and enforced disappearance of three peasants, also in Canlusong village, EB Magallona, Negros



Residents of Pantukan call for justice for the victims of human rights violations and for the pull-out of soldiers in Pantukan. (Photos courtesy of Kabiba Alliance for Children's Concerns, Inc.)

Occidental. The victims are **Michael Celeste**, 24, **Gerald Abale**, 32, and **Jully Devero**, 56. They were abducted from their homes one after the other by around eight to ten RPA-ABB elements and army soldiers. Some were in camouflage uniforms while others in plainclothes.

They came at around 8pm to the house of couple **Jully** and **Lilia Devero** in Sitio Mañaque. First they asked for drinking water but then they barged into the house and searched the rooms. They ordered **Jully** to accompany them to the nearby residence of his son, **Wilben**. When they got there, the men tied **Wilben** and a cousin to a post. **Lilia** was taken to a room. Three armed men guarded the three. The others left, taking **Jully** with them.

TABLE 3: Victims of Extrajudicial killing and Enforced disappearance under the Noynoy Aquino Government (per sector)
(July 2010 to September 2011)

Sector	EJK	ED
Peasant	26	6
Worker	5	1
Indigenous People	9	0
Government Employee	3	0
Teacher	1	0
Youth and student	2	1
Environmentalist	2	0
Entrepreneur	2	0
Urban poor	3	0
Minor	2	0
Total	55	8
Organized	34	2
Women	3	0

TABLE 4: Victims of Extrajudicial killing and Enforced disappearance under the Noynoy Aquino Government (per organization)
(July 2010 to September 2011)

Organization	EJK	ED
Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)	12	0
Bayan	1	0
Bayan Muna	5	0
Anakpawis Partylist	3	0
Katibu Partylist	5	0
ACT Teachers Partylist	1	0
Kabataan Partylist	0	1
Anakbayan	1	0
COURAGE	1	0
United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)	1	0
Others	4	1
Total	34	2
Women	3	0

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Gerald Abale and his wife, **Clemencia**, were about to sleep at past 9pm when they heard a man's voice calling for **Gerald** from outside their hut. **Gerald**, who stepped out, was immediately held at gunpoint by the suspected soldiers and RPA-ABB elements. Some entered and searched the couple's hut where their two children were sleeping. One of the men threatened, "If we find a gun here, beware!" When they did not find a gun, they grabbed **Gerald**, forced him to his knees and tied his hands behind his back. As they dragged **Gerald** outside, **Clemencia** tried to stop them by embracing her husband tightly. The armed men threatened to kill both **Gerald** and **Clemencia** if the latter insisted on accompanying her husband. The men walked with **Gerald** to the main road.

In another sitio of the same village, a group of eight to 10 suspected RPA-ABB and army soldiers surrounded the house of **Danilo Celeste**, 48. **Celeste** was asked where his son, **Michael**, resided. When they were let in, they searched the house without permission. They took the shotgun being used by **Celeste** to guard the farm and farm animals entrusted to him. Then, the armed men proceeded to **Michael's** house 50 meters away.

At around 10 pm, **Michael Celeste** was awakened by his wife, because armed men wanted to see him at his father's house. He followed the armed men, believing that they were going to his father's house, but they instead brought him to the main road. The abductors threatened his family not to follow.

Michael, **Gerald** and **Jully** remain missing to date.

No one is safe from arbitrary arrest and trumped-up charges

Illegal arrests and detention of organizers and activists of the democratic movement, based on fabricated charges, belie Presidential Spokesman **Edwin Lacierda's** ridiculous claim that there are no political prisoners in the Philippines.

A 12-man team of police and military intelligence operatives arrested **Iver Bunda Larit**, 41, in the afternoon of July 7. He is the liaison officer of the United Negros Drivers and Operators Center (UNDOC) in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.

Larit was helping carry a coffin into a neighbor's house when the armed men in plainclothes arrived. They were led by Police Inspector **Levy G. Pangu** and Civilian Military Officer Lt. Col. **Isabelo delos**

Reyes. They presented a warrant of arrest for a certain “Ricky Larit” and asked Iver to come with them to the Police Station in Mansilingan, Bacolod City. When Iver refused, he was forced into a gray vehicle and was taken to the police station. The intelligence operatives attempted to take Iver’s mugshot with the name tag “Ricky Larit.” Iver was also forced to sign a warrant on the charge of robbery-in-band issued by Judge Moises Nifras on August 8, 2006. Iver maintained that he was innocent and denied that he was the same person named in the warrant.

Iver was locked up overnight at the police station. He was transported to San Carlos City, Negros Occidental the following morning and presented to the court. He was charged with robbery-in-band with no bail recommended. The clerk of court tried to get Iver to sign the warrant of arrest for “Ricky,” but he refused. Iver is now detained in the Escalante City jail.

On July 16, five plainclothes policemen accosted **Albert Custodio**, 40, peasant organizer of the Samahang Magbubukid ng Batangas (SAMBAT), while he was plying his tricycle route in San Juan, Batangas. They told Custodio that they were just going to ask him a few questions in the San Juan station. But they proceeded to lock him up on trumped-up charges of arson and illegal possession of firearms. The cases were filed against him in 2003.

Custodio gained prominence as Secretary General of Sambat and Regional Council member from 1998 to 2001 of the Kalipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK), a regional peasant organization in Southern Tagalog. He had been experiencing harassment by state security forces since 2010. Things got worse with the massive deployment of the 740th Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force in the area.

Gloria Floresca, 57, a former organizer of the Solidarity of Ilocos Associations of Women (SILAW), was arrested at noon of July 21. She was preparing lunch at home in Ortiz, Naguilian, La Union. The policemen identified by their nameplates as Sabado, Calica and Cambe and another in plainclothes said they arrested Floresca based on a warrant for the crime of rebellion. No copy of the warrant was presented however.

Though shocked at the charges and arrest, Floresca insisted that she was innocent. She calmly asked if she could just finish cooking and feeding her four year old grandson. She asserted her right to a lawyer before they take her into custody. The police just said that they would give her a lawyer when they reach the camp.

A team from the Ilocos Human Rights Alliance (IHRA) requested a copy of the warrant from the PNP Provincial Office but was refused by four unidentified policemen who said that a rebellion case was filed against Floresca in Tagudin, Ilocos Sur.

The PNP Regional Command tagged Floresca as the “number 3 most wanted criminal” in Region I. It announced that she was captured in her “hiding place” in Ortiz village by the “joint elements of the (La Union) Provincial Intelligence Branch, Naguilian Police, Baguio City Police, and Naval Forces-Northern Luzon.” She is now detained in the Ilocos Sur provincial jail.

TABLE 5: Political prisoners (as of October 31, 2011)

Region where detained	Total no. of PPs	Women	NDFP Consultants	Arrested under PNoy
Cagayan Valley	7	2	1	5
Ilocos Region	5	3	0	5
Cordillera Administrative Region	0	0	0	0
Central Luzon	12	1	1	2
National Capital Region	138	7	6	9
Southern Tagalog	31	4	0	11
Bicol	24	3	0	4
Eastern Visayas	17	5	0	5
Western Visayas	21	3	0	4
Central Visayas	4	0	2	1
Caraga	7	0	0	5
Northern Mindanao	10	0	2	1
Western Mindanao	15	3	0	1
Southern Mindanao	30	4	1	13
SoCSKSarGen	8	0	0	1
ARMM	27	0	0	11
Total	356	35	13	78

On July 23, the members of the 17th IB and the PNP-Regional Mobile Group who were in a joint combat operation in the mountainous areas in Cagayan, came upon **Vicente Agbayani**, 48, his wife **Salamea**, 47, and their six-year-old daughter in their swidden farm in Masi, Rizal. Salamea was four months pregnant. The Agbayanis belong to the Agta tribe, one of the indigenous peoples of Northern Luzon.

The operatives blindfolded Vicente, tied his hands with a rope then tortured him. They hit him repeatedly, especially on the back, using the handle of his bolo and the butt of their rifles. They pounded his feet with firewood. After the beating, they made him sit for hours under the sun. The soldiers and police tried to force Vicente to admit that he was a member of the NPA. They wanted him to confess that there were armed guerillas in the vicinity and that he had a gun. Agbayani denied the allegations. After the torture, 10 operatives took him to the town of Lasam.

Salamea had a miscarriage after she accompanied her husband on the long trek to the main road. The soldiers showed no compassion. Being too weak, she was not able to accompany her husband to Tuguegarao City. Her six-year-old daughter was also traumatized by the incident.

A Karapatan-Cagayan Valley team found Vicente on July 29 in the provincial jail in Cataggaman, Tuguegarao City. He was detained based on five trumped-up charges of multiple murder and two charges of frustrated murder.

Acting like police and military men, local officials arrest, assault and detain civilians. Such is the case of **Ramelito Gemino**, 36, a member of the Anak Maralita Neighborhood Association and Kadamay. He is among the 48 families asserting their right to dwelling in Mandaluyong City.

Gemino was arrested by members of the Bantay Bayan (village guards) on September 9 in Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. Several village guards punched and forcibly took him to the barangay hall where he was handcuffed upon orders of the barangay chairman Rodolfo Posadas. On the way, the village guards decided to stop and beat him up first. Gemino was then taken to the health center for a medical check up and made to sign a document.

He underwent investigation at the barangay hall, in the presence of Edgardo M. Javier, a real estate buyer who threatened him if he the bribe money for him to leave the area. A village guard told Gemino that he

should talk to the barangay chairman who ordered his arrest. Gemino was later brought to a prosecutor for inquest. He was released on September 14 but still faces charges of "resistance and disobedience, and direct assault upon agents of person in authority."

Left homeless in Parañaque

One hundred individuals lost their homes in a violent demolition in **Manggahan Kawayanan, Marcelo Green Village in Parañaque City** on August 5. Around 60 armed men of the Paranaque SWAT-PNP, a 40-man demolition team and various personnel of the local government arrived at 8:30am and announced the demolition. Affected are members of the Kawayanan Neighborhood Association (KANA). The residents learned that the area was being cleared for a housing project of the Gawad Kalinga, of which they were not among the beneficiaries. The demolition order was issued by the Urban Mission Areas Development Office (UMADO) of the Office of Paranaque Mayor Jun Bernabe.

The residents tried to negotiate and seek clarification about the orders. They formed a human barricade in front of their homes. At 10am, the demolition team set a 30-minute deadline for the residents to dismantle their own homes, but in less than 15 minutes, two fire trucks aimed their water cannons, blasted and broke the barricade. More than 30 residents were injured as the police and the demolition team forced their way in. A pregnant woman was forced into labor. Another woman fainted. The police arbitrarily arrested five residents.

At least 11 families were left without any shelter. They have received no support from any government agency.

Harassment on a long bus trip, threats through snail mail

For two whole days from July 29 to 30, **Vince Cinches**, 33, was tailed by suspected state security elements from Cebu City to the next island, Negros Oriental, on his way to Dumaguete City. He belongs to the international environment watchdog 350.org.

Cinches was travelling alone on board a Ceres Liner bus when a suspected intelligence agent sat beside him and started to question him on why he is going to Dumaguete City. Two other agents sat nearby. The agent stuck with him the whole length of the trip, saying that there are "many NPAs and communists in the city already," that they have assigned soldiers

in plainclothes to guard the place where he would be staying. He warned that Cinches may become a victim of enforced disappearance.

In Dumaguete City, another team of suspected military agents kept Cinches under surveillance. They stationed themselves outside his host's house. They tailed him around the city as he conducted consultations for his group's project, Moving Planet.

Diogenes Primalion, a taxi driver and former community organizer of Paghugpong sang Mangunguma sa Panay kag Guimaras (PAMANGGAS), has another story to tell. On August 15 at around 6:30 p.m., he took in a male passenger at the Gaisano mall in La Paz, Iloilo City. The passenger turned out to be a military intelligence agent who began harassing him. He was accused of being a certain Ka Gomez. Another man boarded the taxi. The two took turns threatening Primalion, saying that he risked being disappeared like Nilo Arado and Ma. Luisa Dominado, who were abducted in 2006.

Before the two got off the vehicle, they handed Primalion a letter, and told him to keep in touch through the phone number in the letter. The letter threatened that a warrant of arrest for him will be issued based on charges of rebellion, extortion, arson with robbery and murder. However, he will not be arrested and no harm will come to him if he cooperated with them.

On September 21, **Geobelyn Lopez-Beraye**, an officer of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan - Panay and of the Madias Ecological Movement, received a similar letter sent through post.

The letter, signed by a certain Alvin M. Salvador with the return address Fuentes, Roco, and Associates Law Firm in Poblacion, Roxas City, Capiz, warned her that helping "Komiteng Rehiyon-Panay" puts herself, her husband Remy and their children in danger. It said her movements were being watched. She was warned that a warrant of arrest for her would be issued in a few days based on charges of rebellion, extortion, arson with robbery and murder. Komiteng Rehiyon-Panay is said to be the Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Primalion and Beraye exposed the threatening letters in the local media. They appealed to city officials to take action against such threats and intimidation. Beraye also reported the incident to the La Paz police and sought counsel for legal remedies to protect herself.

Three armed men, suspected to be intelligence operatives, staked out on August 7 in front of the Gabriela office on Dapo street, Pandacan, Manila. A Gabriela leader noticed that the men tailing **Fernando Manzano**, 51, coordinator for Anakpawis and Makabayan People's Coalition-Manila chapter. The men stayed in front of the office the whole day up to the morning of the next day. A vendor plying his wares took their place.

Suspected state security forces were noticed this year to be watching Manzano where he lives in Metro Manila. His two children, who are students in the Unibersidad de Manila, were threatened by school officials with expulsion if they join any student organization or protest action.

A government led by a president who prides himself for having the people as his "boss" actually gives in to giant oil companies and multinational mining corporations, to say the least. The same government of Noynoy Aquino, by its class interest and sheer incompetence, keeps the Filipinos mire in abject poverty, misery and economic crisis. And the same oppressive state, instead of listening to the voice and counsel of the majority, especially the marginalized and under represented, stifles dissent and opposition through its Oplan Bayanihan, a prettified version of Oplan Bantay Laya, which are both patterned after the U.S. COIN Guide.

And that is why *Labanan ang mapanupil, pahirap at papet na rehimeng U.S. - Noynoy Aquino!* is the highlight of the people's call on December 10, International Human Rights Day.

