

# KARAPATAN Monitor

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Released by KARAPATAN (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights)

**T**he Filipino people seethe with anger and discontent.

The protest actions that followed the exposé on the PhP10-billion pork barrel scam sent the Aquino government scampering for ways to dissipate the people's anger, but only in ways that Benigno Simeon Aquino III and the bureaucrats in his government can continue to feast on the pork and drown themselves in pork fat.

The people's anger is not only directed at the 10 billion-peso scam but also against the corruption that goes on with impunity under BS Aquino, who ironically won under an anti-corruption slogan "*kung walang kurap, walang mahirap*".

The Aquino government could no longer pretend to be clean before the Filipino people. Neither can it boast of improving the poor people's lives.

The reluctance of Aquino and his allies to do away with the PhP25-billion congressional and the PhP 1.3 – PhP 1.5 trillion presidential pork barrel is obvious. BS Aquino's stake on the pork barrel is not only the stability of his rule but also the preservation of the same rotten system that coddles him and his real bosses – the hacienderos, the bureaucrats and big business, and his US imperialist masters.

The scam bared the gap between those in power and the powerless. As BS Aquino, his cronies, and conduits like Janet Napoles fill up their pockets, bath tubs, and bed mattresses with billions from the nation's coffers and out of people's

labor, the country remains backward; the ordinary wage earner on a daily Php 446.00 wage plus the recent paltry increase of PhP22 a day; the farmers remain landless, the urban poor homeless.

It is appalling that the BS Aquino-led bureaucrats in the government rob the people, in the guise of serving the people; the same people that they terrorize, arrest, detain, torture, and kill.

## **Abuses against communities**

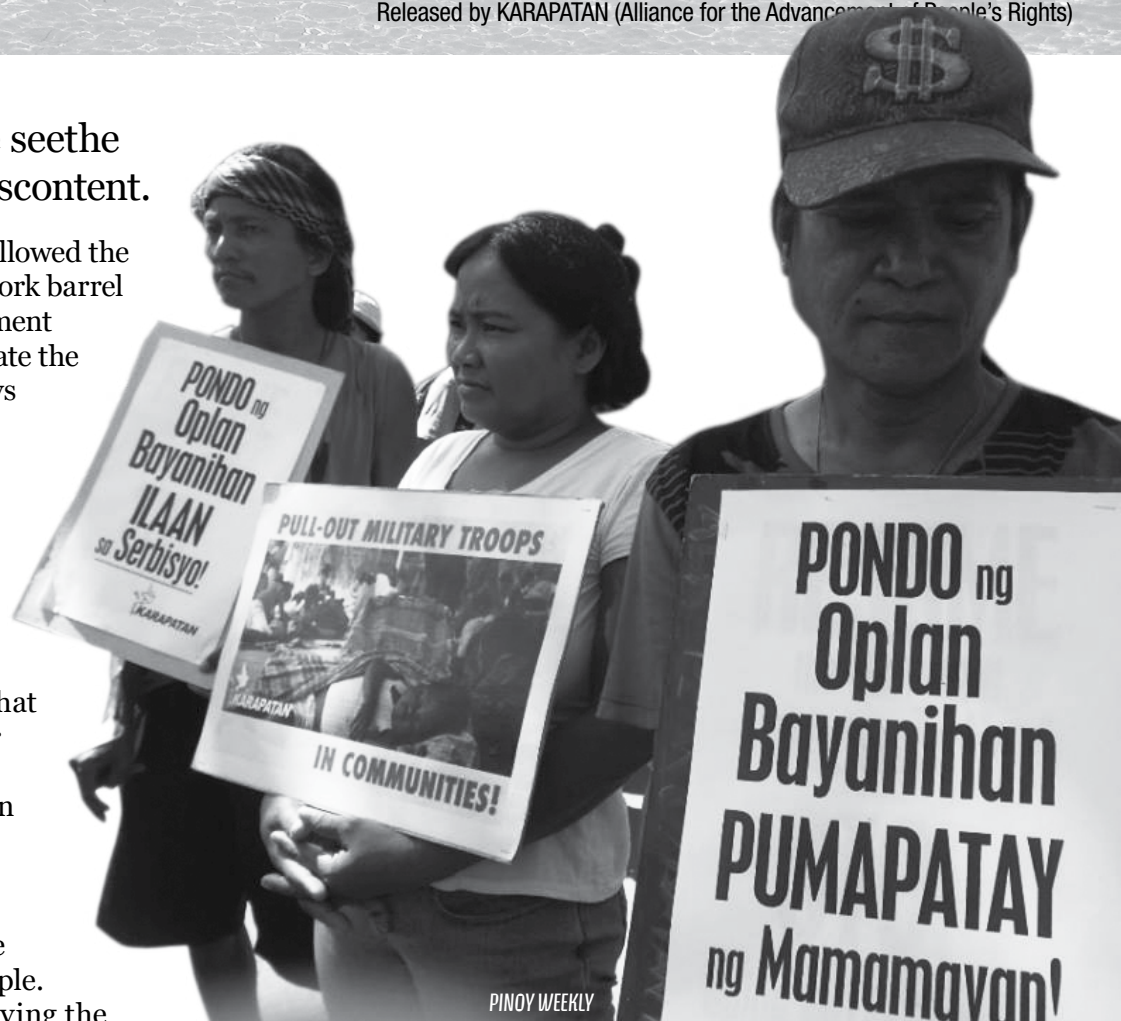
On August 29, members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Abra Reconnaissance Group, Regional Police Security Battalion, and Benguet Police Provincial Security Company

allegedly had an encounter with an undetermined number of New People's Army (NPA) members at **Bandong Hill, Aguid, Sagada province.**

On August 29, two M520 and Huey helicopters of the Philippine Air Force hovered around northern Sagada and upland Bontoc areas the whole day, while the Sagada PNP conducted foot patrol in the outskirts of Sagada.

A truckload of camouflaged and fully armed men also arrived at around 7 p.m. Residents of Aguid reported seeing several men in battle gear near the elementary school and covered court.

The following morning, on August 30, residents reported bombs were dropped on the Demang mountain ranges, affecting the



municipalities of Sagada, Besao, Sadanga, and Bontoc in Mountain Province, and Tubo in Abra.

The areas are communal hunting grounds, forest area, coffee and swidden farm, and watershed areas of the five municipalities.

The tribes of Fidelesan, Dallic and Bontoc were affected by the bombing and strafing. A resident reported the helicopters were flying so low that they saw uniformed men with their high-powered firearms.

On July 2, **some 1,200 individuals, mostly Manobo**, from the villages of Kauswagan, Sabud, San Mariano, Mansanitas, Sto. Niño, and Bugdangan were forced to leave their homes because of combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against members of the NPA who were allegedly in the villages of Sabud and Kauswagan in Loreto town, Agusan del Sur.

Almost 500 individuals evacuated to the elementary school in Brgy. Kauswagan, while some sought refuge in other communities. The military prevented a number of villagers from the interior sitios (sub-villages) to go to the evacuation center. The military’s presence inside and around the evacuation center caused anguish among the evacuees. Some evacuees reported they were interrogated by soldiers.

Prior to the evacuation, the 26th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army (IBPA) occupied the barangay hall, gym, and health center of the community. The soldiers conducted surveys and profiling of households, and took photos of residents who, they said, were on a military list.

Karapatan-Southern Mindanao, Hustisya, Barug Katawhan, United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and Exodus for Justice and Peace (EJP) assisted the evacuees. On July 30, when evacuees from other Loreto villages were about to be transported via the two trucks provided by the EJP, elements of the 26th IBPA blocked them.

On August 1, **325 Lumad** evacuees, accompanied by a support

TABLE 1: Violation of Civil & Political Rights under the Noynoy Aquino Government (July 2010 to August 2013)	
Violation	No. of victims
Extrajudicial Killing	152
Enforced Disappearance	18
Torture	80
Rape	3*
Frustrated Extrajudicial Killing	168
Illegal Arrest without Detention	250
Illegal Arrest and Detention	358
Illegal Search and Seizure	214
Physical Assault and Injury	238
Demolition	12,843
Violation of Domicile	397
Destruction of Property	11,711
Divestment of Property	282
Forced Evacuation	31,779
Threat/Harassment/Intimidation	34,901**
Indiscriminate Firing	7,015
Forced/Fake Surrender	54
Forced Labor/Involuntary Servitude	172
Use of Civilians in Police and/or Military Operations as Guides and/or Shield	297
Use of Schools, Medical, Religious and Other Public Places for Military Purpose	29,423
Restriction or Violent Dispersal of Mass Actions, Public Assemblies and Gatherings	3,231
* All victims are minors	
** Mostly communities in militarized areas	

group, hiked for almost a day from their village in Loreto to the town of Laak, Compostela Valley province. They then took a bus to Tagum City, Davao del Norte and stayed at the UCCP chapel.

On August 2, the evacuees travelled to the Provincial Capitol of Agusan del Sur to inform the provincial government of the military

operation in their community and to seek its assistance. The evacuees reported several incidents of human rights abuses by the military and paramilitary group Bagani, and demanded the immediate pull-out of the 26th IBPA from their communities.

In a dialogue between the evacuees, led by Kahugpong alang sa

Kalambuan (Kasaka) and the provincial government officials, social welfare and development regional coordinator Flor Ubane said their office did not receive any report on the evacuation and human rights violations. Ubane urged the evacuees to return to Loreto and use instead the municipality’s covered court as evacuation center. Ubane said the evacuees can only avail of services from the Municipal Social Work and Development Office when they return to Loreto.

Vice Governor Santiago Cane, Major Loayon and Major Kanashiro of the 401st Infantry Brigade visited the evacuation center on the same day. The evacuees reiterated their demand for the military and paramilitary groups to immediately pullout of Loreto.

On August 4, the local PNP prevented a support group from bringing medicines to the evacuees. The police barricaded all entry points to the capitol. This prompted the evacuees and human rights workers to march in protest of the PNP action.

On August 6, the evacuees decided to transfer to Davao City where they stayed at the Bankerohan gym. After two weeks, they decided to return to their communities. They were assisted by Karapatan-Southern Mindanao and other human rights advocates. But, as of this writing, soldiers from the 26th IBPA are still in the villages.

Six days earlier, on July 22, four male Manobo teenagers were on their way to register for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections at the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) office at Brgy. Poblacion, in Loreto. They were **Roland Sanglid, 19; Rico Basilisco, 18; “John”, 17; and, “Allan,” 16.**

On their way, the teenagers were stopped by members of the paramilitary Bagani Force, led by a certain Jun Hozon of the 26th IBPA. The four teenagers were forced to get off from the motorcycle and to line up.

Maril Dioganon, a Bagani member, accused John, Allan and Rico of being members of the NPA.

TABLE 2: Victims of Extrajudicial Killing & Enforced Disappearance under Noynoy Aquino Gov’t by Region (July 2010 to August 2013)

Region	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Ilocos	3	0
Cordillera Administrative Region	1	0
Cagayan Valley	6	1
Central Luzon	8	1
NCR	10	0
Southern Tagalog	21	4
Bicol	37	3
Western Visayas	9	4
Central Visayas	1	0
Eastern Visayas	7	0
Northern Mindanao	7	0*
Caraga	4	3
Socsksargen	9	0
Western Mindanao	3	1
Southern Mindanao	21	1
ARMM	5	0
Total	152	18
Women	18	0
Organized	73	10

\*Balangas Anlamit, who disappeared on February 3, 2013 was found dead in March. Thus, the change in the number of disappeared in Northern Mindanao.

The youths explained that they were on their way to the voters’ registration at the local COMELEC office. Dioganon is the son of Brgy. Captain Ramon Dioganon who was killed on July 19 allegedly by the NPA.

Hozon tied the hands of John, Allan and Rico behind their backs and forced them into a dump truck. Roland, the motorcycle driver, was also ordered to board the truck. While on travel, several Bagani members beat up John, Allan and Rico. Roland was asked if the three were members of the NPA. Roland said no.

When the truck carrying the teenagers and the Bagani force reached Brgy. Sto. Niño gymnasium, Roland was seen by his aunt and took him in custody. Ruel Dioganon, Rico’s uncle, saw how a Bagani member punched his nephew.

Ruel immediately claimed Rico and brought him home. John and Allan were left aboard the truck with the members of the Bagani Force and a number of soldiers. The two were later taken to Brgy. Kauswagan where they were detained at the village hall. John

and Allan were interrogated and tortured by soldiers and Bagani members.

John was repeatedly beaten up, his upper lip burned with a cigarette and bullets were inserted between his fingers. The barrel of a gun was put in Allan’s mouth while he was forced to admit they were members of the NPA allegedly involved in the killing of barangay captain Dioganon. The boys collapsed from suffocation after the military covered their heads with plastic bags.

The next day, July 23, the two boys were turned over to the police in Loreto town. The Bagani Force and Dioganon family filed attempted murder charges against the two minors. Allan and John are now in the custody of the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth of the Department of Social Work and Development in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

In the afternoon of July 7, some residents who evacuated in the morning went back to **Damabalas village, Datu Piang, Maguindanao** to gather their belongings. When they arrived in the village, bombs were dropped near them.



A howitzer bomb fell near village councilor Omar who was injured when shrapnel hit his chest. Another bomb fell near Nasser Kamid, Alimundo Alon, Donna Alon, Fatima Balilid and her two year-old daughter. Nasser was hit by shrapnel on his back; while Alimundo, Donna, Fatima and her daughter were hit on their legs.

The wounded were brought to a hospital in Cotabato City at around 10 p.m.

Earlier in the morning, the residents left their homes after elements of the 7th IBPA and 2nd Mechanized Brigade of the Phil. Army arrived and began its operation against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). Damabalas village is close to

the village of Ganta, Sharif Saidona Mustapha, Maguindanao where the operation took place.

The residents took refuge in Ganta Elementary School, about a kilometer walk from their houses. The bombing and firefight in the outskirts of Brgy. Ganta lasted until the morning of July 8.

In the municipality of **Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur**, members of the 81st IBPA occupied several communities to conduct activities under Oplan Bayanihan.

On June 28, 2013, soldiers arrived at the villages of Casilagan, Nagtenga and Palali Norte and used barangay halls and a training center as temporary camp. Village officials and residents objected the military's presence, for fear of their safety.

Soldiers used the Casilagan village as staging point for its combat operations in the adjacent villages of Sevilla, Paratong, Caparia-an, Villa Garcia and Dili. There were also reports that soldiers had drinking sprees and brought women from other villages.

A platoon-sized group of soldiers arrived at Brgy. Palali Norte, led by PFC Lloyd Chavez. They occupied the village training center. Chavez met with village officials and presented a list of Oplan Bayanihan activities for their four-month stay in the village. Their forces, he said, are divided into clusters to cover the villages of Buliclic, Sapang and Banbannaba.

On June 14, several residents of Palali Sur who are members of STOP Exploitation – Sta. Lucia Chapter, an affiliate of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP),

were approached by armed men who claimed to be NPA members. They asked the residents whom to approach if they needed food. But, the residents knew they were soldiers.

On May 31, **two females, 13 and 17 years old**, were almost hurt during a combat operation and airstrikes near the villages of **Barangay Duldulao, Barangay Aligang and Barangay Lat-ey, Malibcong, Abra**.

The airstrike was conducted by the 503rd IBPA, allegedly in pursuit of NPA members in the area.

When a bomb was dropped on Brgy. Lat-ey, it exploded approximately 40 meters from the two minors who were near the ricefield of Rommel Teneza. Teneza was tilling his land at that time. The area where the bomb exploded is 170 meters from the micro-hydroelectric power plant, the community's main source of power. Elders immediately rushed to secure the two children, who were nearly hit by shrapnel. The airstrikes caused profound stress on the community.

The mother of the 17-year old girl lamented that her child did not want to go back to school anymore because of fear of soldiers. A military detachment of the 41st IBPA is near her school. The elders were also apprehensive of the military's presence and the military operations.

Elders and children in the community said they were easily alarmed by loud sounds. Some could not eat and sleep well after the incident. Their mobility, especially in going to the pasturelands, grazing fields, and swidden farms (uma) are now limited.

The community held meetings regarding the incident and came up with a statement calling for the strict implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and the resumption of the peace talks. They also decided to file complaints against the 503rd IBPA.

The statement released by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita "Ging" Deles on the

incident backed up the earlier statement of Malibcong mayor Benito Bacuyag insinuating that the two minors were "child soldiers".

The Cordillera Human Rights Alliance-Karapatan deemed this statement irresponsible and insensitive, especially coming from the executive office working on the peace process. The children are not child soldiers. Deles should have called for an immediate investigation and refrained from issuing baseless statements that made the situation more difficult for the terrorized communities.

### Extrajudicial killings

On August 23, **Datu Anting Freay**, 60 years old, was killed by elements of the 39th IBPA and the military composite group Task Force Kitaco at sitio Bulol Kalon, Bong Mal, Kimlawis, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur.

At around 4 a.m., Datu Freay was awakened by the loud bark of his dog. He got up and went outside the house. The soldiers immediately strafed his house upon seeing him. Datu Freay was hit at the right cheek, right part of his neck and right leg. He was killed instantly.

Freay's wife, Kiit, 50, was awakened by the burst of gunfire. She went out of their house and was almost hit by stray bullets when she opened the door.

Later, she saw Datu Freay on the ground, bloodied and lifeless. Kiit shouted at the soldiers, "why did you kill my husband?" One of the members of the Civilian Auxiliary Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) responded, "it is our revenge for the death of our two colleagues".

Kiit went back inside the house to wake up her two children. She embraced them when the military and CAFGU members sprayed bullets again at their house. Kiit and her sons later found their way out of their house.

As they were running away, Kiit met **Victor Freay**, 16, Datu Freay's son. Victor was on his way to his father's house. Kiit warned Victor not to proceed. But, a few minutes later,

another group of soldiers fired at Victor, who was hit right away. Victor sustained 18 gunshot wounds. His abdomen was ripped open and his intestines ruptured.

Victor, his wife Lynlyn Freay, 17, and their two year-old son Makmak lived at Datu Freay's house. The three left the house a few minutes before the incident to tend to their newly harvested corn, some 200 meters away from Datu Freay's house.

Meanwhile, Kiit proceeded to Sitio Atbol, a village next to Bulol Kalon, to seek help from the community. At 6:00 a.m., Kiit with relatives of Datu Anting's family and other

the remains were first brought to the headquarters of the 10th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army (IDPA) before it was brought to the funeral parlor.

On May 26, farmer and fish vendor **Ricky Nate**, 36, was on his way to sell fish in a nearby village Del Rosario, in Camalig, Albay. When Nate reached Purok 3 (sub-village 3), he saw two men who looked like they were repairing a motorcycle on the road side.

Witnesses saw one of the men shoot Nate. Nate was able to run away but the assailant caught him and shot him three more times in the head. The assailant casually walked back to the

**TABLE 3:**  
**Victims of Extrajudicial Killing & Enforced Disappearance under Noynoy Aquino Gov't by Sector (July 2010 to August 2013)**

Sector	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Church	3	0
Entrepreneur	4	0
Environmental	6	0
Fisherfolk	1	0
Government Employee	3	0
Indigenous People	32	1*
Media	3	0
Minor	18	0
Peasant	88	13
Teacher	1	0
Urban poor	14	1
Human Rights worker	1	0
Worker	7	1
Youth and Student	4	1
Moro	4	1
Transport	1	0

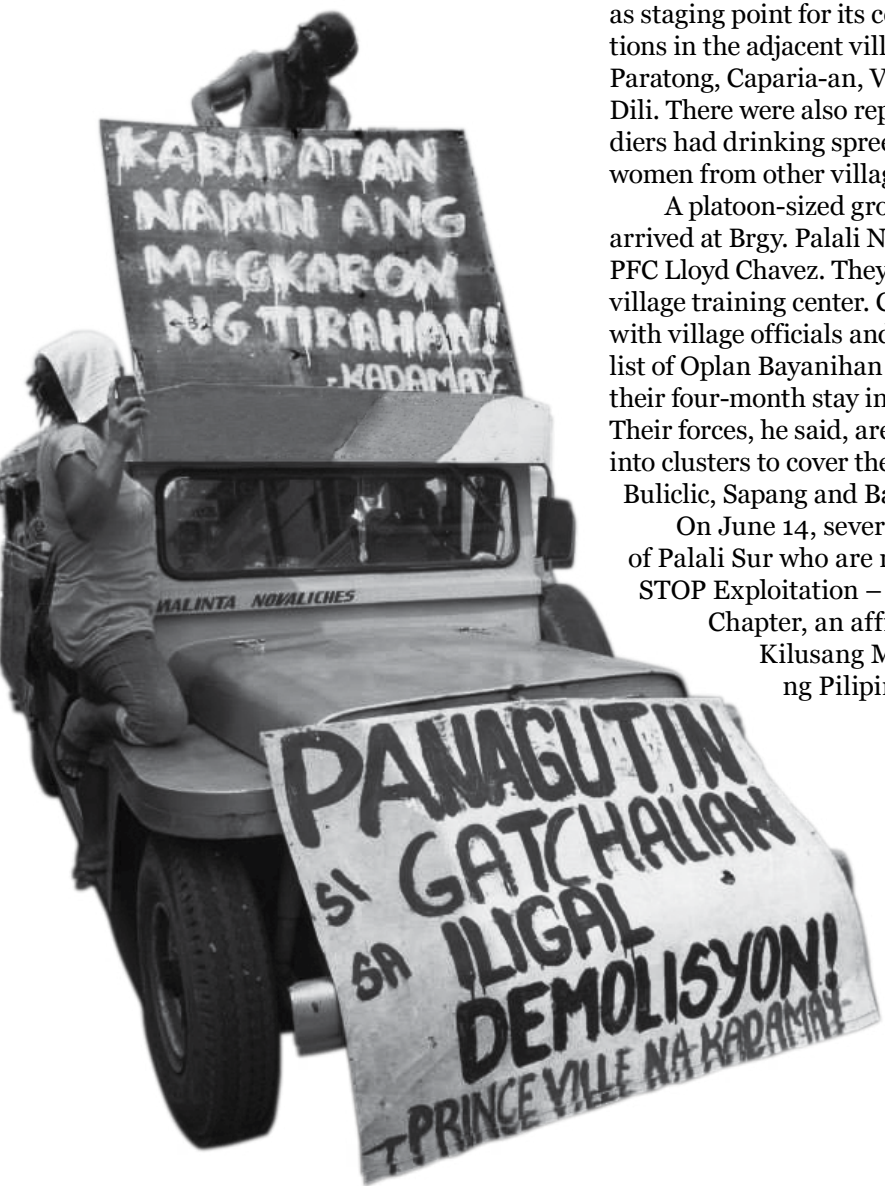
\*Balangas Anlamit, who disappeared on February 3, 2013 was found dead in March. Thus, the change in the number of disappeared among indigenous people.

community members went back to Sitio Bulol Kalon. But, they were shot at by the military, apparently to block them from getting the bodies of Datu Freay and Victor. They went back to Sitio Atbol.

It was only the following day when the families of Datu Anting and Victor were able to retrieve the bodies at a funeral parlor in Tampakan, South Cotabato. It turned out that

parked motorcycle and drove away with his companion. The assailant wore a bonnet while his companion had a helmet on. The incident happened about a kilometer from the village center.

The witnesses said the military based in a detachment in Aloba village, Daraga, Albay were first to arrive at the site. The soldiers were led by a certain Lt. Sazon of the 22nd IBPA.





Soldiers from the Del Rosario village military detachment arrived later.

Nate's wife narrated that on September 20, 2012 the same Lt. Sazon told Nate to "change" or "itu-tumba siya nito (he will kill Nate)." Lt. Sazon linked Nate with the NPA. Nate immediately reported the confrontation to the police. A few days later, a dialogue between Nate and Lt. Sazon was called. Camalig vice mayor Ging Nebres and acting police chief PCI Frande Echaluze attended the said dialogue where Lt. Sazon said he would stop threatening Nate.

*Habal-habal* (motorcycle) driver and Anakpawis Partylist municipal coordinator **Eddie Cañon** was found dead at around 8:00 a.m. on May 25 along the boundary of Sitio San Isidro and Sitio Sta. Monica, Brgy. Nuevo Iloco, Mawab, Compostela Valley. Eddie had nine gunshot wounds in different parts of his body, apparently from 9mm and .45 caliber pistols. His

motorcycle was dumped in a nearby rice field.

Cañon's wife, Ruby, said Eddie left their house at around 7:30 a.m. to ply his usual route. She learned of Eddie's death from two habal-habal drivers at past 8 a.m. Ruby immediately went to the site, which was only about two kilometers from their residence.

Cañon had been threatened and harassed by the military in the past months before his death.

In February, Dante Ramirez, a member of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) of the Alpha Company of 66th IBPA, repeatedly asked Cañon about the presence of other armed groups in the community. Eddie said he was not aware of any armed group.

On March 22, Dante Ramirez went to Cañon's residence at past midnight. Cañon did not open the door and ignored Ramirez who kept calling.

In April, the military called Eddie to their detachment to ask who was responsible for posting Anakpawis Partylist campaign posters. A certain Sgt. Dequilla also told

Cañon not to vote for Anakpawis, "dili ninyo botaran kay gisuportahan kini sa mga rebelde

(do not vote for [Anakpawis] because it is supported by the rebels)." Eddie explained the partylist group is a legal organization, accredited by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Also in April, soldiers went to Cañon's house after he failed to attend the community meeting called by the military. The soldiers instructed Cañon's wife to have Eddie report to the military detachment as soon as he comes home. When Eddie showed up at the detachment in the evening, he was ordered to explain his whereabouts.

In May, the military accused Cañon of participation in an alleged NPA ambush of elements of the 66th IBPA, which the military claimed wounded a certain PFC Rey Santiago.

The site where Eddie Cañon was shot dead is the same place where Alvin Placencia, Anakpawis Municipal Coordinator, was shot dead in 2007.

### Forced eviction, demolition and other related rights violations

On July 25, seven people were injured, including a pregnant woman and an elderly, when 15 members of ELITE Force, a private security agency, and elements from the Task Force COPRISS (Control Prevention and

removal of all Illegal Structures and Squatting) of the Quezon City government demolished around 100 houses at **Phase 8, Brgy. North Fairview, Quezon City**.

Among those hurt were **Sarifa Pail Bosoy**, 35, and eight months pregnant; **Irene Dela Cruz**, 64; **Conchita Jopia**, 58; **Joselyn Mata**, 52; **Wilma Mantila**, 38; **Jesica Yangias**, 43; **Kelsey Yanguas**, 19, who was punched by a certain Noel Orpiada, a leader of the TF COPRISS.

According to the residents, a certain Ramon Cabile, Chief Inspector of Station 5 of the QC Police Department fired an M16 rifle, amid the presence of children, to threaten the residents.

Some 100 houses were already demolished, without a court order. City Administrator Tadeo Palma and Marlowe Jacutin of the Quezon City government only issued a court order. The notice of demolition said the residents have no building permit.

Irene Dela Cruz, one of those hurt during the demolition, said most of the residents in the community have been in the area since the 1960's, saying they developed the place which used to be a grassland. Most of the residents are government employees, families of overseas workers and seamen, small entrepreneurs, call center agents, nurses, former members of the military and police force, and jeepney operators.

A series of demolition by private security guards backed up by police men were conducted against the residents at North Fairview in favor of building townhouses by land developers, that include a businessman named Angelito Dominguez.

The July 25 demolition of houses was preceded by earlier similar operations on April 19 and July 10.

In **Brgy. Bignay, Valenzuela City**, the homes of **216 families** were demolished on 4 July. At 6:00 a.m., more than 200 demolition personnel, 200 Bantay Bayan volunteers, staff of the City Engineer's Office and around 50 firemen arrived in Hulo Dulo, Friendsville, Brgy.

Bignay. Members of the PNP, SWAT and around 200 anti-riot police also arrived.

Community residents negotiated with the city officials and policemen put on hold the demolition. The residents submitted an appeal to Mayor Rex Gatchalian, asking for a decent relocation accessible to schools and their sources of livelihood. However, the local government representatives said the decision to demolish the community is final. The City Government said the community is under the transmission line of the National Grid Corporation and the land is owned by the National Power Corporation.

The residents said they are willing to relocate but the local government has no concrete relocation plan. The local government only provided PhP5,000 financial assistance to the families displaced during the first round of demolition on May 31.

The demolition team began tearing down the houses at 8:00 a.m. They forcibly dispersed the community's barricade and destroyed all the houses and structures using a backhoe.

**Ricardo Gagap**, a worker at Pentagon Steel Corporation and resident of Brgy. Bignay, was arbitrarily arrested. Police filed charges of serious physical injuries and alarm/scandal against Gagap. He was detained for five days at the Valenzuela City Police station and was released on bail on July 8.

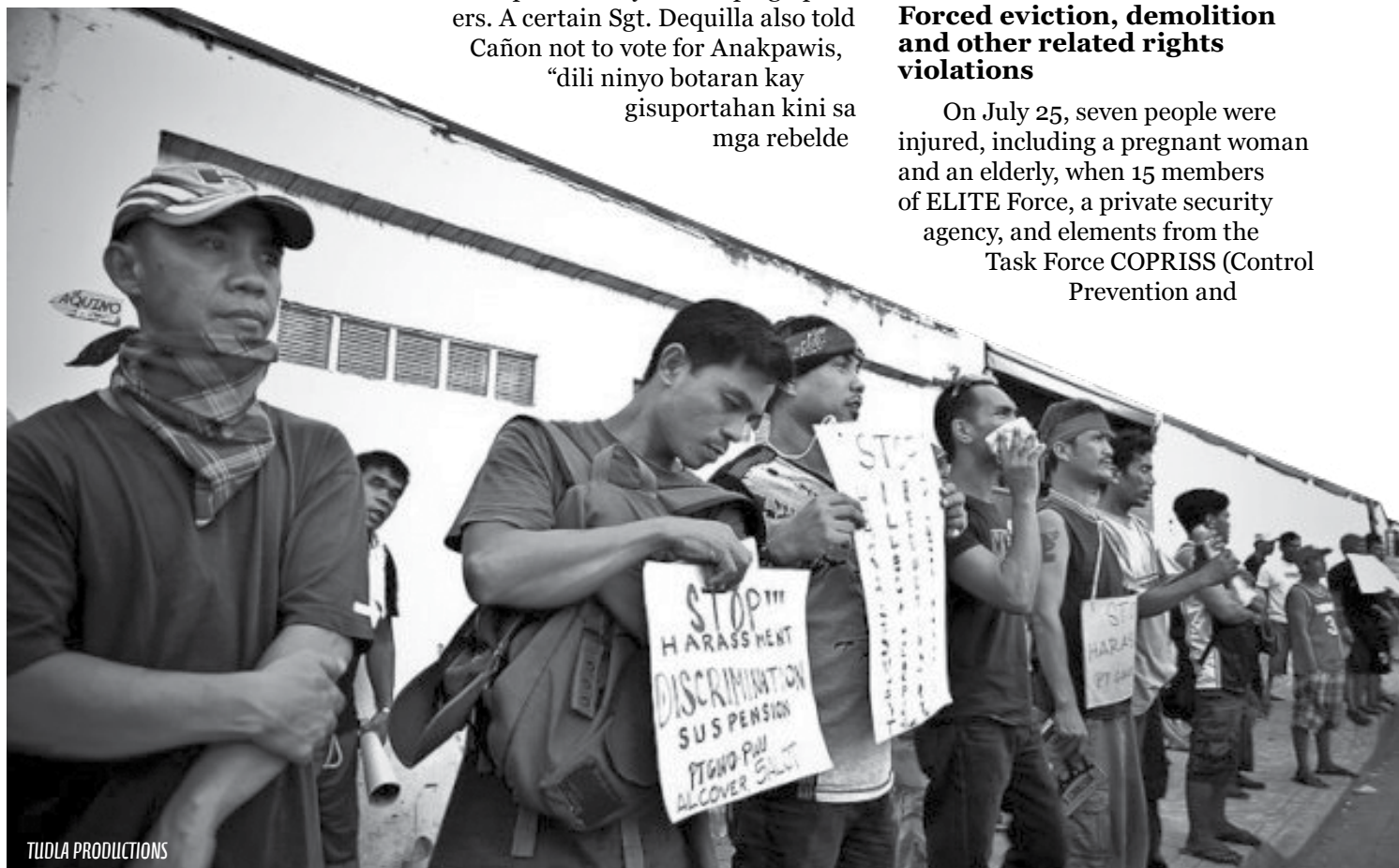
**Residents of Sitio San Roque, North Triangle, Quezon City**, blocked the city's demolition team from tearing down their homes.

On July 1, some **300 residents** and supporters put up a barricade along Agham Road to prevent the entry of a demolition team, backed up by policemen.

At 10:00 a.m., around 100 policemen from the Quezon City Police



Rodolfo del Rosario, 77 year-old martial law victim and SELDA member, was among those injured during the SONA rally. Opposite: Pentagon workers on strike.



District Station 2 arrived at the barricade. Supt. Pedro Sanchez said they were deployed to clear the road. But, the residents refused to dismantle the barricade. They knew the policemen were there to carry out the demolition order.

Representatives from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) initiated a negotiation between the police and residents. Supt. Sanchez did not agree to the residents' request for the police to pull out before the residents dismantle the barricade. Instead, the police men pushed back the human shield with their truncheons.

Some residents were hit by police truncheons, while some tried to defend themselves by throwing rocks. In the end, the police were able to dismantle the barricade and the human shield of the residents.

Around **14 individuals** were hurt during the clash. Pedicab



driver **Mario Mesa**, 50, was hit by a police truncheon while helping other residents. He had a cut on his forehead and bruises on his limbs and was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment.

At noon, the residents regrouped and trooped to the City Hall for a dialogue with Mayor Herbert Bautista and to denounce the violent dispersal of the police. But, they were again dispersed by the police while having a protest program in front of the city hall.

The 30-day notice to the residents to vacate their homes ended on May 30. The local government did not present any relocation plan, including alternative sources of livelihood for those who will be evicted.

The community of San Roque used to be home to 206,000 individuals and 7,000 families for more than three decades. Nearly half of the residents were forced out of the community after the violent demolition in September 2012. The QC local government carried out the demolition to “develop” the area into a commercial district.

Some of the residents agreed to self-demolish their homes and accepted the money offered by the LGU. To date, 4,000 families continue to resist eviction and relocation to Montalban, Rizal. They complained that the relocation site is far from their workplace and sources of livelihood and, also lies on a fault-line. Residents who accepted the Montalban relocation are now going back to Sitio San Roque because of lack of access to sources of livelihood and basic services.

Sitio San Roque is on a 340-hectare land. Of this, 250 hectares are targetted to become Quezon City’s business district, a banner project of the local government and the Ayala Land Corporation.

Region	TOTAL No. of PPs	Women	NDF Consultants & Staff	Under PNoy
Cordillera Administrative Region	6	0	0	4
Ilocos	0	0	0	0
Cagayan Valley	9	4	0	6
Central Luzon	11	1	1	1
Southern Tagalog	26	3	0	6
Bicol	19	1	0	10
NCR	206	12	8	42
Western Visayas	21	2	0	13
Central Visayas	6	0	1	1
Eastern Visayas	24	8	0	17
Northern Mindanao	10	0	2	1
Caraga	12	1	0	9
Socsksargen	25	1	0	10
Western Mindanao	18	0	0	14
Southern Mindanao	29	2	0	10
ARMM	27	0	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Sickly</b>	<b>48</b>			
<b>Elderly</b>	<b>28</b>			
<b>Arrested Minor</b>	<b>8</b>			

**TABLE 4: Political Prisoners  
(As of August 30, 2013)**

### Arrests and detention

Since April 13, 129 workers of the Pentagon Steel Corporation are on strike after the management summarily dismissed workers for holding a sit-down protest on April 12. The management said the April 12 protest violated the company’s rules and regulations.

The workers however asserted the action is an exercise of their right to express grievance. They launched the protest after 10 union members were penalized with preventive suspension without utilizing the grievance procedure in the workplace. On April 15 the workers filed a case of illegal lock-out, and illegal dismissal against the Pentagon management in the National Labor Relations Commission.

On 19 June, around 8:00 a.m., some 50 policemen from the Quezon City Police District arrived at the Pentagon Steel compound. The workers on strike were at the company gates keeping eye on the entry of illegally-hired workers or scabs. The police positioned themselves between the gate and picket line. There were also members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and Bomb Squad.

A few minutes later, around 50 Pentagon scabs arrived aboard three jeeps. The union workers protested the entry of scabs and negotiated with the police. After a failed negotiation, the union workers attempted to block the entry of the jeeps. The police then pushed the picketing workers away from the gates.

The police collared unionists **Joe Fontiveros** and **Melwil Noval** and immediately brought them to the QCPD Station 1. Police men in plain clothes also nabbed **Ricky De Vera**. The three were charged with “grave coercion” for allegedly preventing some employees to enter the factory. The police also charged them with “resistance and disobedience to a lawful order of the police authority”.

The complaint of grave coercion was dismissed for lack of information on the conduct of intimidation. Hontiveros, Noval and De Vera were released on June 20.

On June 20, in another round of police dispersal against the workers on strike, unionist **Alfredo Bautista** was arrested. He was released on the same day when the Pentagon management failed to file charges against him.

### DEATH OF A DETAINEE WHILE 47 OTHERS WITH SERIOUS AILMENTS

TOP: Oscar Belleza had an ischemic stroke and underwent a brain operation. While recuperating, Belleza was handcuffed on his hospital bed. BELOW: Alison Alcantara died of fatal arrhythmia, sepsis and health-care associated pneumonia.



On June 24, **Camilo Cuares**, president of the Alliance of Nationalist and Genuine Labor Organizations-Kilusang Mayo Uno (ANGLO-KMU) and a supporter of the Pentagon workers, was arrested by members of the Quezon City police as the picketing workers tried to block scabs from entering the company premises. Cuares was charged with direct assault. He was released after a three-day detention. The prosecutor ordered further investigation on the charge filed against Cuares.

On May 24, another motorcycle (habal-habal) driver **Joey Atienza**, 33, was arrested by five soldiers of the 69th IBPA in Paquibato District, Davao City. He is the secretary of the Panabo-Paquibato Motor Operators and Drivers Association (PAPAMODA).

While waiting for passengers at the terminal of the PAPAMODA in Paquibato, Atienza received a call from a fellow driver Ronnie Muaña. Muaña said a passenger in Carmen town wanted to hire a *habal-habal* for the whole day.

Atienza and Muaña met with the passenger in a village in Dujali Municipality who asked them to load two sacks on their motorcycle. Neither of the drivers asked about the contents of the sacks. Atienza and Muana loaded one sack each on their motorcycles. They were instructed to bring the two sacks to Purok Mangga, Brgy. Paquibato proper. Atienza and Muaña agreed to meet in Purok Mangga.

On his way to Paquibato, Atienza noticed two unidentified riders tailing him. At noon, Atienza reached Brgy. Mabuhay and was stopped at a checkpoint in front of Mabuhay Elementary

School. The checkpoint was manned by five soldiers from the 69th IBPA who were in full battle gear.

The military unloaded and opened Atienza’s sack. Inside the sack was a cardboard box wrapped with packaging tape. When the box was opened, Atienza saw six milk cans inside. He was immediately arrested by the soldiers.

The military claimed the milk cans were landmines or improvised explosive device (IED). Atienza, in defense, said he merely picked up the package for delivery. He asserted he did not know the person who hired him and he is not a member of the NPA.

The soldiers took Atienza to the headquarters of the 69th IBPA in Brgy. Dalisay, Panabo City, Davao del Norte, where he was placed in one of the “safe houses”. The soldiers took a photo of Atienza as well as the supposed IEDs.

Lt. Col. Inocencio Pasaporte, commanding officer of the 69th IB, interrogated Atienza. He asked about Atienza’s “connection with the NPA”. While he was interrogated, Atienza was blindfolded, his wrists and ankles tied up, while he was repeatedly punched in the head and torso. Later, his head was wrapped in a plastic bag for several minutes until he struggled for breath.

Atienza begged the commanding officer “Maluoy mo sa akoo, daghan ko’g pag-umangkon nga gibuhi...” (Have pity on me. I have nieces and nephews to feed).

At around 5:00 p.m., Atienza’s mother and siblings arrived at the camp but, were not allowed to go in. Later in the evening, the military turned over Atienza to the PNP in Davao City.

On May 25, Atienza’s inquest at the City Prosecutor’s Office was postponed because no fiscal was available. When Atienza was brought back to the precinct, three unidentified men, armed with pistols and in civilian clothes were waiting for him. The men interrogated Atienza from

(continued on page 12...)



## BS AQUINO IS AT IT AGAIN – A PLAY WITH WORDS AND A WEB OF DECEPTION.

He has done it before, he is doing it again.

After his steadfast position that he will not abolish the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), BS Aquino suddenly altered his position to appease the people's outrage over the P10-billion pork barrel scam pulled by Janet Lim Napoles through her bogus NGOs in collusion with unscrupulous legislators.

"It is time to abolish PDAF," he said. But barely scratching the surface of the issue, he just enumerated measures to prevent a repeat of the scandal in the hope that people will believe him.

"I don't know Napoles," he said again. But then photos showed them together, smiling happily for the good time.

Then, after a warrant of arrest was issued against Napoles for illegal detention, the fugitive scammer found her way in the bosom of Malacañang to "surrender". Like a diplomat, she was given special treatment; escorted even by no less than the President to "jail" in a poorly crafted script.

This intricate web of lies is now being entangled by the people's vigilance and protests.

### Anything and everything is PR

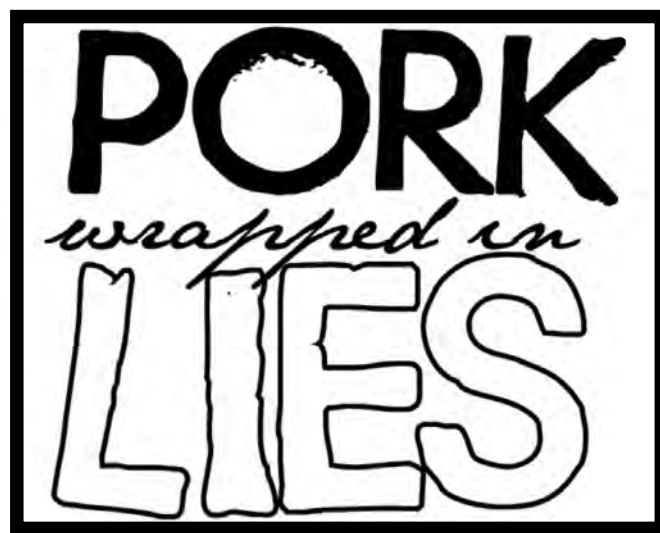
It is not very long ago when Aquino came up with his lofty but empty rhetoric— "tuwid na daan", "kayo and boss ko", "bayanihan", "participatory or bottom-up budgeting".

It is not very long ago when he bragged to the world that under his watch, his military respects human rights. That his version of a counter insurgency operational plan, albeit patterned after the US Counter Insurgency Military Guide, is after peace and development; applies people-centric (as if it has concern over the poor's plight) and whole of nation (to coopt and control) approaches. Yet, on the ground, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, illegal arrest and detention, demolition of urban communities in the cities, and evacuation of people due to intense militarization in the countryside have no let up.

He boasted of the 7% GDP though the people had to wait, he said, for its effect to trickle down to the majority of the populace. He wanted us to believe that the Philippines is now a "rising tiger" in Asia until the tiger bit us and woke us up to the reality of increasing poverty, increasing hunger and joblessness. He placates unrest and tolerates dependency by his 4Ps program, never mind if the nation is kept submerged in indebtedness. Now, BS Aquino III thinks reforms can change the embedded and systemic culture of greed and corruption.

BS Aquino has a penchant for petty things and petty solutions. His first major action when he came to power is to ban the "wang wang", something that hardly affect people's lives more than poverty and more than "chilling" deaths from extrajudicial killing and losses from enforced disappearance do.

Just look how he treats and handles the most appalling scandal uncovered in his time of "tuwid na daan". Just because the scam involved "soft projects" such as fertilizers, seeds, etc., "soft projects" are banned.



"Earmarked projects will go through public bidding", Aquino said. Isn't public bidding a process long been mandated before they invented negotiated contracts to circumvent it? The Philippine Government Electronic System is the only thing new in the President's directive. Yet posting earmarked projects on government websites is the least of ordinary Juan's concern as he is pre-occupied in earning a few pesos from the scraps he has scavenged or sweating it out ferrying passengers till midnight to cope with oil price hikes and increased boundaries.

The President's outcry about "transparency", "right and reasonable process", "safeguards" are worthless and empty at this time when all these have failed.

Meanwhile, all the President's men and PR machineries boggle their minds out to rescue BS Aquino. The audit reports from 2007 to 2009 were released to dissipate the people's anger and divert their attention from the present scandal involving BS Aquino's administration to the sins of his predecessor. Brian Raymund Yamsuan, Consultant to the Executive Secretary Paquito "Jojo" Ochoa and the nearest link of the scandal to the Office of the President, was "fired" to save face and save Ochoa. Yamsuan's name was mentioned during the interview with Napoles by a national daily. He is also alleged to have brokered for Napoles with some legislators.

### What is wrong with pork

The pork barrel system, which was introduced in the country by the US government, is depraved from the very start. It was aimed to co-opt the ruling elite it had covertly put to power through a farce electoral exercise, in order to ensure US political hold and economic interests in the country.

The pork barrel system likewise enables politicians to hold on to, and perpetuate their power, as well as advance their economic interests through political patronage. They appropriate funds for projects and programs of their own liking in their favored districts and localities to win the votes of their constituents. They usurp credits for these projects and programs to make the beneficiaries indebted to them. On the side, they also profit from kickbacks, bribes, and commissions.

Political patronage and corruption are intrinsic features of bureaucratic capitalism, a system where the ruling elite uses the machinery and resources of government, that come from people's hard earned income, to enrich and entrench themselves in power. They make profitable business using their privileged positions in the plunder of the public coffers.

The name of the congressional fund has transcended from pork barrel, which sounds rather odious and revealing to a more appealing albeit deceptive term, to Community-Wide Development Fund (CDF) until development projects proved to be nil. To mask the deficiency

of projects and to placate the people's disgust, they started calling it Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF). But it is the same fixed lump sum fund allocated to every member of Congress to be spent at his discretion.

The Executive pork comes in different names (that is why the President exempts it from being abolished). It is shrouded in the so-called Presidential social fund, Special Purposes fund and the off-budget items. If the Congressional Pork Barrel amounts to P70 million per Congressman and P200 million per Senator, the Presidential pork runs to billions going trillions in the 2014 budget. These are funds he could spend at his discretion, some of which require no audit.

The Presidential pork is allocated to the President's pet projects, beneficiaries and politicians. The President bribes Congress with additional pork to insure the passage of administrative bills. On the other hand, he uses his authority to approve releases, through his Budget Department, to pressure or castigate legislators who would not toe the line, thus undermining the suppose check and balance principle of governance.

### What now, Mr. President

The solution is plain and simple, Mr. President. Abolish the pork barrel, including your very own pork. Whatever name it is called, it is designed for the same dubious purpose. There is no justifiable reason why the social fund (Php7.5 B as calamity and Php1B as contingency fund) and other Special Purposes Fund (SPF) and off-budget items should stay with the president and give him the power to disburse these upon his discretion. Again, his defenders argue that the presidential social fund and all the other funds that the office of the president holds do not come from people's taxes. True, but worse, that a President is spending on his whim funds coming from PAGCOR and PCSO, a source tainted with depravity.

The solution is plain and simple, Mr. President. Scrap the pork and hold responsible all the perpetrators and accomplices to the crime, not only in the time of your predecessor, in an attempt to skirt the issue, but in your own time of "tuwid na daan".

Prosecution should not be confined to scammers like Janet Lim Napoles but, to all those who had connived with them to steal the people's money-- agency heads, congressmen, senators and other public officials, including their very compliant staff. Prosecution should be most severe to those who are greatly and morally responsible, those the electorates entrusted with their votes.

Prosecute the culprits that deprived 16-year old Kristel Tejada,

UP student, a future. She took her own life because education costs had been so prohibitive.

Let not party affiliation be a reason for exemption and deterrent to prosecution. It is hoped that the slow grind of "due process" will not be an excuse to subvert justice. The same way that we hope expeditious justice will also be rendered to the victims of human rights violations.

Rechannel pork barrel funds directly to budgets, with specific purposes, for elementary and secondary public schools, state colleges and universities, government hospitals, including specialized hospitals so that these need not be privatized, and in all other social services that the people need, especially the poor and marginalized sectors of society.

In the final analysis, it is only in eradicating this rotten-to-the-core political system and the concomitant unjust social system, which breeds corruption, greed, exploitation and poverty, that we can truly be freed from the fetters of injustice and inhumanity. This can only be achieved through vigorous, concerted, sustained, and decisive action by the people.

## PRESIDENTIAL PORK BARREL P497.75 BILLION



SOURCE:  
Makabayan Coalition



The State violated Dutch activist Thomas van Beersum's basic civil and political rights such as his freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly.

(from page 9...)

1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. The police said Atienza was still under tactical interrogation by the military.

On May 26, military personnel Toto Lasapin interrogated Atienza again and recorded the interrogation. Lasapin asked Atienza about the IED and his "connection" with the NPA.

Atienza was charged with illegal possession of explosives and violation of COMELEC gun ban at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 10, Davao City. He was released on bail on July 30.

On July 22, **nine protesters** were arrested, while **48 others were injured** when elements from the Philippine National Police- National Capital Region blocked and dispersed rallyists, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, who marched along Commonwealth Ave. from the Batasang Pambansa Complex where BS Aquino was to deliver his 4th State of the Nation Address.

Among the injured were **77 year-old** martial law victim and SELDA member **Rodolfo del Rosario**,

and Dutch activist **Thomas Van Beersum**. Del Rosario was hit on the head by police's truncheon. Those who were arrested, **Ramdass Israel, Renz Pascual, Raymond Brabante, Richard Verongque, Isidro Fullon, Eugene Sampiano, Rommel Madrigal, Kyel Muñoz** and **Felisardo Repaso**, were brought to Quezon City Police Headquarters at Camp Karingal. The nine were charged with violation of Batas Pambansa 880 (a Marcos law on public assembly), direct assault and physical injury, malicious mischief and, resistance and disobedience upon an agent in person in authority. The nine were released the following day after the prosecutor opted to conduct a preliminary investigation.

#### **Peace consultant arrested as 12 others languish in jail**

National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant to the peace negotiations with the GPH **Loida Magpatoc**, 54, was arrested on July 28. Magpatoc is protected under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) being a holder of NDFP Document of

Identification No. ND978254 under the assumed name "Puri Feleo." Magpatoc's arrest brings to 13 the total number of JASIG-protected peace consultants in detention.

Despite her work on the Social and Economic Reform agenda of the peacetalks, Magpatoc was charged with fabricated cases of robbery with double murder and homicide with damage to property. She was held at the Digos City PNP station for six days where she was interrogated by members of the Department of National Defense, 10th IDPA Task Force Tugis and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group CIDG-PNP in Region 11. On August 21, she was transferred to the Taguig City Jail Female Dormitory at Camp Bagong Diwa.

On the day of her arrest, Magpatoc was on a passenger van going to North Cotabato. On board, the driver announced the van was already rented by somebody and ordered the passengers to get off. Other passengers got off but at least 10 men remained. Magpatoc was about to alight but the driver told her it was alright to stay. Magpatoc told the driver she had to go to the comfort room but she was not allowed to get off the van. She became wary of the situation and immediately sent a message to a colleague through her phone.

When the van left the terminal, Magpatoc called the attention of the driver after she noticed that it was going in a different direction. The driver said they had to refuel. However, the van drove directly to the Digos City Police station. Magpatoc was immediately handcuffed.

It was only at the police station that Magpatoc was served an arrest warrant issued by Judge Zenaida Placer of Regional Trial Court Branch 7 in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur. Members of the intelligence unit of the 39th IBPA were part of the arresting team.

Meanwhile, NDFP peace panel member **Fidel V. Agcaoili** sent a protest letter to the GPH negotiating panel on the surveillance and

harassment against him by the two motorcycle-riding men on July 29. Agcaoili was in Manila for consultations and meetings with several groups on the possibility of the resumption of the peace negotiations.

The statement issued by the NDFP Human Rights Monitoring Committee said, "at about 1:30 p.m. on 29 July 2013, a man riding a blue motorcycle had been observed evidently following him and his companions while riding a van officially designated for the NDFP Nominated Section in the Joint Secretariat of the Joint Monitoring Committee. Along the way, the man was joined by another rider on board a red motorcycle. Both continued to follow Agcaoili's vehicle even after they had taken evasive moves in an attempt to convey to the motorcycle-riding men that they had been noticed."

In a letter to the GPH Negotiating Panel, Agcaoili protested the surveillance and harassment against him "as a blatant violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). Only GPH personnel would have the temerity to do what they did."

"As a member of longstanding of the NDFP Negotiating Panel, Agcaoili is protected by the JASIG from surveillance and harassment, among others, and is allowed free movement to conduct consultations and even meet with GPH officials," the statement said.

#### **Death of a detainee while 47 others with serious ailments**

On September 18, **Alison Alcantara**, 55, died of fatal arrhythmia, sepsis and health-care associated pneumonia.

On September 9, Alcantara was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital from the New Bilibid Prison after he went into coma. He was earlier diagnosed with severe sepsis due to pneumonia and diabetes type 2.

The persistent request of Alcantara's family and SELDA to immediately transfer Alcantara to PGH and to eventually release him on humanitarian grounds was rejected by the Bureau of Corrections.

BuCor insisted they can manage Alcantara's illness.

On September 4, Alcantara was rushed to the emergency room of the New Bilibid Prisons hospital when his blood sugar and blood pressure rose. He had been going in and out of the New Bilibid Prisons hospital due to uncontrolled diabetes with complications of hypertension, and an infected wound on the left foot.

Alcantara was among the three political prisoners in Cebu who were released in 2004 when the GRP agreed to release 32 political prisoners as part of confidence-building measures during the 3rd round of peace talks with the NDFP in Oslo, Norway. Alison was detained at the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center in 1996 to face trial for murder, double frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms, all trumped up criminal charges. He was rearrested on November 5, 2010 on the same trumped up cases and was transferred to the New Bilibid Prison early this year.

In July, **Oscar Belleza** had an ischemic stroke and underwent a brain operation at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center to remove the blood clot in his brain.

While recuperating in the hospital, Belleza was handcuffed on his hospital bed. He is now back at the Manila City Jail, although he still suffers from hypertension. The government did not spend a single centavo on Belleza's hospitalization.

Oscar Belleza was arrested on November 26, 2008 in Olongapo City. He was slapped with 15 counts of murder in Inopacan, Leyte in 1985. His case is pending at Branch 32 at the Manila Trial Court.

**Rhea Pareja**, one of the eight women political prisoners at the Taguig City Jail, has pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB). She is currently taking her medicine for a six-month treatment.

**Miguela Peniero**, a detainee at the Taguig City Jail, was recently diagnosed with upper respiratory tract infection. She also has thyroid nodule and suffering from chronic

back pains. Peniero needs to undergo laboratory work-up to determine whether her thyroid nodule is benign or malignant.

There are 47 other political detainees who are ailing but do not receive proper and adequate medical treatment. The Aquino government refuses to release them even on humanitarian grounds.

#### **Detention and deportation of a foreign activist**

On August 6, Bureau of Immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) prevented Dutch activist **Thomas van Beersum** from boarding his flight, and detained him for 30 hours at the airport. Immigration officials insisted in holding Beersum supposedly because of his participation in a protest rally during Pres. Aquino's SONA. To the BI, this was tantamount to participation in a partisan political activity.

Beersum and his counsel from the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), however, contested the said charges saying it was a clear violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). According to the NUPL, the Philippines is bound to both covenants being a signatory and party to both. The State should respect Beersum's basic civil and political rights such as his freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly.

On August 7, after a summary deportation order was issued, Beersum flew back to the Netherlands, although he was placed in a BI "blacklist".

#### **Enforced disappearance**

**Brian Epa**, a coordinator of Katribu partylist – Nueva Vizcaya chapter, and a staunch anti-large-scale mining advocate disappeared on August 21. Epa led campaigns against destructive mining in the province.

In communities where there are barricades against the mining



exploration of the Royalco Mining Exploration, military harassment and intimidation, red tagging, surveillance, and sexual harassment of women are rampant.

On the day of Epa's disappearance, around 9p.m., village councilor Alfonso Shog-oy dropped off Epa at a friend's house in Brgy. Salvacion, Dumlao Boulevard to get his bag. Both Epa and Shog-oy noticed three policemen at a street corner nearby.

On his way back to pick up Epa, Shog-oy saw six policemen inside a patrol car; three of them got off the car, approached Epa and tried to take away his bag. According to Shog-oy, Epa asked the police why they were taking his bag. Later, Shog-oy saw Epa being pushed by the policemen inside the patrol car. They said they are taking him for questioning because he is "suspicious-looking". The police punched Epa in the stomach and hit him with bats when he tried to resist attempts of police men to handcuff him.

The following day, Shog-oy and Atty. Fidel Santos went to the PNP Bayombong station but policemen claimed Epa was already released. However, there was no record or police blotter on Epa's arrest. The person the police claimed they released was a certain Feliz Bacsa Jr. Epa remains missing as of this writing.

### Threat, harassment and intimidation

On September 1, at 8:00 a.m., a man who introduced himself as police officer Padua from the Warrant of Arrest Section of the Las Pinas City Police went to the residence of Roy Velez in Las Pinas City. He was escorted by three other men in civilian clothes.

**Anna Velez**, wife of Roy Velez, kindly met the man and asked him why he is looking for Roy. Anna was surprised because the man talked loudly at her as he displayed in public the warrant of arrest for Roy Velez. It seemed intentional, according to Anna, for the neighbors to hear that Roy Velez has a warrant of arrest and that he was allegedly involved in an ambush in Lagawe, Ifugao.

Anna Velez told the man that Roy Velez was not there. She also emphasized that the warrant of arrest against Roy Velez was recalled by Romeo Habbiling, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court-Branch 14 at Lagawe, Ifugao on July 26.

Yet, the man continued to shout that Roy Velez still has a warrant of arrest. He repeatedly asked Anna "Where is he?! Where is Roy Velez?!"

Anna Velez just asked for the copy of the warrant of arrest but the man left without giving a copy.

Anna's four children, three of them minors, were with her during the incident. Also with her were her parents, both elderly. Anna's children were traumatized. They refused to go out of their house to attend school. Anna's parents had to transfer to another relative's house.

At around 11 a.m. of August 2, 2013, **Rodolfo "Ka Rudy" Sambajon**, secretary general of Makabayan Coalition-Central Luzon and National Chairperson Emeritus of fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, arrived at his home in Orani, Bataan. Ka Rudy noticed a man on a Kawasaki motorcycle passed by. The motorcycle had no plate number, but with a sign "LOST PLATE." According to Ka Rudy, the man had a military haircut and was about 5'7" tall. Ka Rudy's son also reported he noticed the same man coming out of an alley near their house and was looking around.

On August 4, Ka Rudy's wife sent him a text message not to go home. She was alarmed when she noticed unfamiliar men going around their place, especially new peddlers whom she suspected to be government intelligence agents.

The incident happened almost three weeks after Ka Rudy joined a Quick Response Team in July 14, 2013 to look into a reported abduction case of farmers in Bataan by soldiers of the 24th IBPA. Also in July, the National Office of Karapatan received report that Ka Rudy is targeted for assassination by the 72nd Military Intelligence Company, a

unit of Sgt. Antonio Hilario. Antonio Hilario is the brother of M/Sgt. Rizal Hilario, a co-accused of Ret. Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for the enforced disappearance of the two University of the Philippine students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño.

Ka Rudy is active in the campaigns of peasants and fisherfolks in Central Luzon, specifically in the province of Bataan. Prior to this incident, there were already a number of instances when his rights were violated.

In September 11, 2011, an attempt was made on Ka Rudy's life.

In a news report on June 29, the 3rd IDPA commander Maj. Gen. Jose Mabanta told the media that **Cynthia Deduro** was among the "top NPA rebels" seen at a NPA camp in Bury, Tapaz, Capiz during a supposed military raid against the NPA.

Mabanta claimed that on June 18, the 61st IBPA attacked an NPA camp.

Deduro, regional coordinator of the Migrante partylist, belied the accusation. On June 18, Deduro said, she was at a NEDA Review Consultation on Official Development Assistance at the NEDA-VI Building, Iloilo City. The meeting, presided by Director Ro-Ann Bacal of NEDA VI, went from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

After the meeting, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., she accompanied a woman victim of domestic violence to the Molo PNP station and to the Department of Social Welfare and



Brian Epa

Development. Deduro, with a police inspector and DSWD social worker, later escorted the woman to meet with the barangay captain of Brgy. Boulevard, Molo, Iloilo City.

Migrante partylist president Connie Bragas-Regalado called the incident "red-tagging" and warned they will hold the AFP and the Aquino government accountable should anything untoward happen to Deduro.

The **Very Rev. Eleuterio J. Revollido**, rector of the **Aglipay Central Theological Seminary (ACTS)**, and his community of seminarians have been subjects of surveillance and intimidation by suspected military agents.

On June 15, around 7:30 p.m., a seminarian noticed a man in front of the seminary gate. The man, unaware of the approaching seminarian, took out a rifle from a sack. When the man noticed the seminarian, he immediately slung the rifle on his shoulder and sped off on his motorcycle. In haste, the man left the sack in front of the gate.

Almost a week before this incident, on the evening of June 6, some seminarians of the ACTS noticed two suspicious looking men standing in front of the main gate of the seminary. As the seminarians approached the men, a motorcycle arrived, picked up the two men and sped off. People outside the seminary gate reported that four men would regularly rove around the vicinity of the seminary, especially in the afternoons. There were also several reported incidents of attempted break-in at the seminary.

Since 2001, Rev. Revollido has been targeted by state security agents for his active participation in people's issues in Pangasinan. He spoke against the spate of killings, especially after the killing of Iglesia Filipina Independiente

Bishop Alberto Ramento in 2006. He was involved in people's organizations such as Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Promotion for Church People's Response. He also supported the peasant struggle at Hacienda Luisita and the urban poor in Dagupan City.

On May 31, elements of the 74th IBPA fired at members of the **Karapatan-Quezon quick reaction team** who went to Ilayang Doongan village in Catanauan, Quezon. The team was sent to respond to reports of human rights violations after an encounter between the 74th IBPA and the NPA.

When the team arrived at the village chief's house, they met two women who were looking for their husbands who were missing right after the said encounter. The team accompanied the women to their homes, near the site of the supposed encounter. The women found their belongings either destroyed or missing. As the two gathered their families' remaining belongings, a soldier shot at the members of the human rights team. The soldiers were only a few meters from the house.

(Their husbands surfaced a few days later. The two men said they took refuge at another part of the village when the encounter happened.)

In Brgy. Navitas, Catanauan, soldiers at the 74th IBPA camp stopped the vehicle of another Karapatan team that was supposed to go to the site of the encounter.

A soldier saw **Rey Gadia**, a Karapatan student volunteer, resting on the jeepney's passageway. He immediately reported to the other members of his troop that someone was injured. The red paint on Rey's pants was mistaken for blood from wound.

Some 100 soldiers surrounded the team members, with guns pointed

at them. They ordered Gadia to get off the vehicle.

**Leslie Olivar**, a staff member of Karapatan-Quezon, got off the vehicle and told the soldiers they were civilians and unarmed. Olivar moved the muzzle of the gun away from him but, one soldier pointed another gun on his back. The rest of the team members remained inside the jeepney.

After confirming that Gadia was not injured, and the stains on his pants were just paint stains, the military let go of the team.

On May 1, a blue van was spotted slowing down in front of **Vencer Crisostomo's** house in Quezon City. Crisostomo, who is Anakbayan's national chairperson, was inside the house preparing to leave for the Labor Day rally when he saw at least four men inside the van, with camouflage jackets visibly hanging at the back.

Vencer's neighbor immediately reported this to the village security guard, who confirmed that a group of men indeed entered the subdivision. The village guard said the van driver identified himself as MSgt. Federico Sagun Tambacao, Jr., and presented a military card. Tambacao, according to the village guard, claimed they will pick up something in one of the houses inside the village, but could not tell the exact address. Tambacao only gave the general direction, which was a few blocks away from Crisostomo's house.

Doubtful, the security guard followed the van. The men neither went to the destination they gave the guard nor picked up anything from any of the houses. The guard followed the men and asked them to turn back and leave the subdivision.

In Mendiola where the rally was held, Crisostomo still noticed that he was being tailed.

One thing is clear. The people no longer trust the BS Aquino regime.

Neither BS Aquino's sweet talk nor force can contain the people's rage; nor can it break the people's unity forged by the rejection of the pork barrel system and all forms of corruption it represents under the BS Aquino regime.

The people will not allow BS Aquino to suppress people's indignation and protests, much more to preserve the exploitative and oppressive system that breeds corruption. The people will not allow BS Aquino to stand in the way as they march on the road to real and meaningful change in Philippine society. 🐦



The call to abolish the presidential and congressional pork, and the worsening human rights situation under the BS Aquino regime direct the public's eyes to focus on the 2014 budget appropriations of the various line agencies and how these agencies spend the people's money.

Going through the proposed budget, the government clearly appropriates the people's money to terrorize fellow Filipinos and to suppress dissent and protests against the ills in Philippine society; and, to fill up the bureaucrats' pockets—including those in the military institution.

For one, the people's money finds its way to the implementation of US-Aquino regime's counterinsurgency program Oplan Bayanihan. Karapatan's research on the 2014 budget appropriation showed Oplan Bayanihan budget of at least PhP162 billion spread in various government agencies. The Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the main implementers of BS Aquino's counterinsurgency program Oplan Bayanihan, expectedly get the biggest share.

The proposed budget of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), National Security Council (NSC) and, specific projects such as PAMANA are included in the overall budget of Oplan Bayanihan because they serve as conduits in the implementation of Oplan Bayanihan's components, specifically the psy-ops and intelligence aspects.

Many of these items, including intelligence funds and the budget for PAMANA program, are discretionary in nature and are exempted from audit by the Commission on Audit (COA).

The cases of human rights violations under the Aquino government that were documented by Karapatan are enough proof that billions of people's money are spent by the BS Aquino government to commit gross human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, against its own people.



#### ***P466M reward for 'communists' a waste of people's money***

The DND-DILG's Order of Battle (OB) list of 'wanted communists' and the corresponding 'reward system' are graphic illustration of how the government spends people's money to violate people's rights, while bureaucrats dip their fingers in the PhP 466 million bounty.

The Joint Memorandum of the DND-DILG allotted the PhP 466 million for the arrest of 235 individuals accused as "communists" and to reward so-called informers who provide information that would lead to the arrest of the so-called communist leaders.

The scheme is nothing but an "organized racket" as exemplified by the arrest, torture, and detention of security guard Rolly Panesa and farmer Olegario Sebas. Both were wrongly tagged as leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA).

Panesa was arrested on October 5, 2012, tortured and detained for 11 months because he was mistaken for "Benjamin Mendoza", an alleged high ranking regional officer of the CPP. Last August 29, the Court of Appeals (CA) ruled positively on Panesa's petition for writ of habeas corpus, citing it was a case of mistaken identity. The Court ordered the immediate release of Panesa from Camp Bagong Diwa.

Sebas, 65, was arrested on December 25, 2012 by the joint forces of the Philippine Army and the

Philippine National Police in Tubod, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental. Sebas was mistaken for alleged top NPA cadre "Felimon Mendrez", a subject of four arrest warrants for rebellion. Sebas was detained in the BJMP District Jail in Bayawan City for three weeks and was released when the court granted his petition for writ of habeas corpus.

In August, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Emmanuel Bautista proudly handed P5.25M and P5.6M rewards to informants who "identified" Panesa as "Benjamin Mendoza" and Sebas as "Felimon Mendrez," respectively. Now that the Courts have ruled, in both cases, that the military got the wrong men, the big question is where did the P10.8million bounty end up.

#### ***Paramilitary groups***

Despite widespread and persistent clamor to disband paramilitary groups, civilian volunteer organisations and private armies, the DND budget includes PhP 2 billion for the compensation of members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs).

The people's money also goes to the operation of the Special Civilian Armed Auxiliary (SCAA) units, which are organized and trained by the AFP but are already financed by transnational mining corporations. The creation of the SCAA was given a go-signal by BS Aquino on October 20, 2011.

Several extrajudicial killings and human rights violations since 2010 involved paramilitary groups. These groups, attached to particular commands of the AFP, and were involved in the killing of Bukidnon datu Jimmy Liguyon, Italian priest Fr. Fausto Tentorio, and the massacre of anti-mining activist Juvy Capion, and her two children.

During the United Nation's Universal Periodic Review in 2012, the European Parliament and several other States, had called on the Philippine government to immediately disband all paramilitary groups.

The call to scrap Oplan Bayanihan becomes more urgent as mounting cases of human rights violations occur. It becomes more meaningful as the Filipino people clamor to redirect huge amounts of government money to social services—instead of ending up either in the generals' pockets or used to violate people's rights.

The Filipino people deserve better than a government that is repressive and corrupt.

#### **OPLAN BAYANIHAN FUND**

Agencies	2014 (proposed budget)
Department of National Defense (DND)	82,195,121,000
Philippine National Police (DILG)	71,945,660,000
Support for Peace and Order Councils (DILG)	33,830,000
Comprehensive Local Integration Program (DILG)	74,036,000
National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA)	590,956,000
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)	351,547,000
National Security Council (NSC)	88,584,000
PAMANA (Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan allocated in various government line agencies)	7,217,664,000
Intelligence Funds (allocated in various line agencies)	250,026,000 (except PNP-DILG, DND and NICA allocations)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>P162,747,424,000</b>



# First

## International Conference for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines launched

*THE HUGE BALLROOM WAS FILLED WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES SPEAKING IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES. They were from diverse cultures, gender, professions, and religion, representing generations of activists and peace workers. Most had never met before the gathering (or just heard about each other from a colleague or the internet). Yet, everyone seemed to be smiling to everyone inside the big hall. In each corner, people shook hands, gave a hug, a kiss on the cheek. In many ways, it looked like a reunion of friends who had never seen each other for years.*

*The 280 delegates flew in to the Philippines with one thing in common: they all work for peace and human rights in their respective countries. They have one goal in mind: to forge and strengthen the solidarity for human rights in the Philippines.*

### Work for peace, fight for justice

Locally and globally, human rights have been violated and ignored by nearly all states which signed and ratified the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related treaties. The last three decades showed even more alarming developments—the erosion of legal standards for what constitute human rights, and the use of human rights rhetoric as an imperialist tool for reaction and even aggression.

In the Philippines, the successive regimes after martial law were no different from the Marcos dictatorship. Governments pay lip service to democracy, justice, and peace as they trample on people's basic and inalienable rights.

Progressive movements must take to task governments and international bodies to adhere to the articles of the UDHR and related treaties and protocols. As signatories, the governments and international bodies are committed to the principles embodied in these declarations. They should be held accountable for the violations of these rights.

The theme, "Work for peace, fight for justice," set the tone for the three-day conference. The International Conference for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (ICHRPP) focused on the ever-worsening human rights and peace situation in the Philippines.

The conference cited BS Aquino's anti-people policies such as his centerpiece program the Public-Private Partnership that favors big business and foreign investors at the expense of the poor Filipino people; his puppetry to the United States government at the expense of the country's sovereignty and patrimony; and, the Oplan Bayanihan that terrorizes and kills people.

It is in this context that the International Coordinating Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICCHRP), Karapatan, EcuVoice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines, Peace for Life, and the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) organized the first International Conference for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines.

The conference aimed to: 1. Identify and analyze the social, economic and political and/or the geopolitical context of the worsening violations of collective and individual rights in the Philippines; 2. Identify common grounds with progressive forces in various countries and develop, expand and consolidate international solidarity to defend, uphold and advance human rights and people's rights; and, 3. Assess the significance of the combined national and international human rights solidarity campaigns concerning the Philippines since the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, and draw up a plan for an international solidarity campaign for human rights and people's rights in the Philippines.

Held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon City, Metro Manila, the conference delegates came from 26 countries in five global regions: Asia, Latin



America, North America, Europe and Oceania. Included are representatives from people's and multi-sectoral organizations based in the Philippines.

### International Solidarity Mission: First-hand experience of human rights situation in the Philippines

Prior to the conference, an International Solidarity Mission (ISM) was conducted in seven regions where human rights violations are rampant. The 92 ISM delegates from 15 countries expressed their steadfast support for the Filipino people's struggle for human rights and justice.

The Central Luzon (CL) team went to Pres. Aquino's Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac province where farmers and hacienda workers experience continued harassment and military operations; and in Aurora Province where people are threatened with displacement because of the Aurora Pacific Ecozone and Freeport Authority (APECO) project. The CL team also visited the place where Dutch volunteer worker Willem Geertman lived and worked before he was killed.

A team of indigenous people from other countries went to Tinoc, Ifugao province in Cordillera, where they interacted with the Kalanguya tribe who resisted five proposed run-off river dam projects, a geothermal energy project, and the deployment of military troops.

Another team went to Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon Province, where eight battalions of the Philippine Army are deployed, sowing terror in communities. The ISM delegates joined the humanitarian mission that included medical services, psychosocial workshops for the children, and distribution of relief goods among the displaced families.

In Mindanao, the biggest ISM delegation went to Talaingod, Panansalan, and New Bataan. These are communities hit by typhoon Pablo. The residents' efforts to rehabilitate their communities, despite government neglect, are tagged by the military as initiatives of the New People's Army (NPA). The community's

leaders were branded as NPA sympathizers, leading to such cases as the killing of barangay councilor Cristina Jose. US-based group Panaghiusa and Inpeace Mindanao conducted a medical mission for the typhoon victims.

The mineral-rich CARAGA region was also visited by another ISM team. The people's effort to protect and preserve these areas from incursion of mining companies, agro-business corporations and other destructive projects led to many incidents of harassments, displacements, enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings, especially among the indigenous peoples.

In the National Capital Region, a team visited urban poor communities set to be demolished in Quezon City, Valenzuela and Paranaque. They also went to Freedom Island, a bird sanctuary area, which will be affected by the government's reclamation project, and a community of Moro peoples in Culiati, Quezon City. The team later proceeded to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan to visit political prisoners.

US-based delegate Ron Gochez of Union del Barrio who went with the mission in Paquibato said, "we were there for less than five minutes and this is what we saw: the military and military intelligence operatives taking pictures when we arrived, taking pictures of the people, trying to intimidate the people." Gochez further said, "The people do not want any more militarization. They want schools, they want health care, they want roads."

"We stand in solidarity with these soon to be displaced fisherfolk families and political prisoners - a solidarity which means that now the whole world will stand as witness to how the powers and principality within the Philippines act. Without justice there can be no peace," stated Rev. Stuart Lyster of Canada in his report during the ISM plenary reporting.

### A conference of fighters

The conference teemed with energy and powerful voices that articulated the resolve of the oppressed and violated peoples to fight back.

Jeanne Mirer delivered a strong keynote speech saying, "it is time that we use human rights law to challenge policies to ensure that the Filipinos can make the Philippine government actually devote maximum available resources to progressively realize basic economic human rights as articulated in the ICESCR and the UDHR." Mirer is the president of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and a founding member of the US-based National Lawyers Guild.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, chairperson of the International League of Peoples' Struggle, said in his keynote speech through a video message, "We can anticipate the escalation of counterrevolutionary violence and human rights violations." He scored the Aquino government for allowing multinational banks and firms, and the local ruling elites "to exploit the broad masses of the people and violate their economic, social and cultural rights, and for using the "coercive apparatuses of the state to discourage and suppress even lawful petitions and protests, especially those of the militant legal mass movement."

Sison emphasized "the neoliberal economic policy of imperialist globalization is a vicious attack on the sovereignty of the Filipino people and on the full range of their human rights as a people."

Other keynote speakers were Mrs. Editha Burgos, OCDS, mother of disappeared agriculturist Jonas Burgos, and wife of press freedom fighter Joe Burgos; and, Marie Hilao-Enriquez, chairperson of Karapatan.

Among a long list of panel speakers of the conference were: Azadeh Shahshahani, President of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG); Jan Fermon,

Co-Head, Progress Lawyers Network and Bureau member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers; Marta Benavidez of Siglo XXIII, El Salvador; David Wildman of the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church; Prof. Gill Boehringer, former Dean of Macquarie University Law School in Australia; and Anna Morris of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers in the United Kingdom.

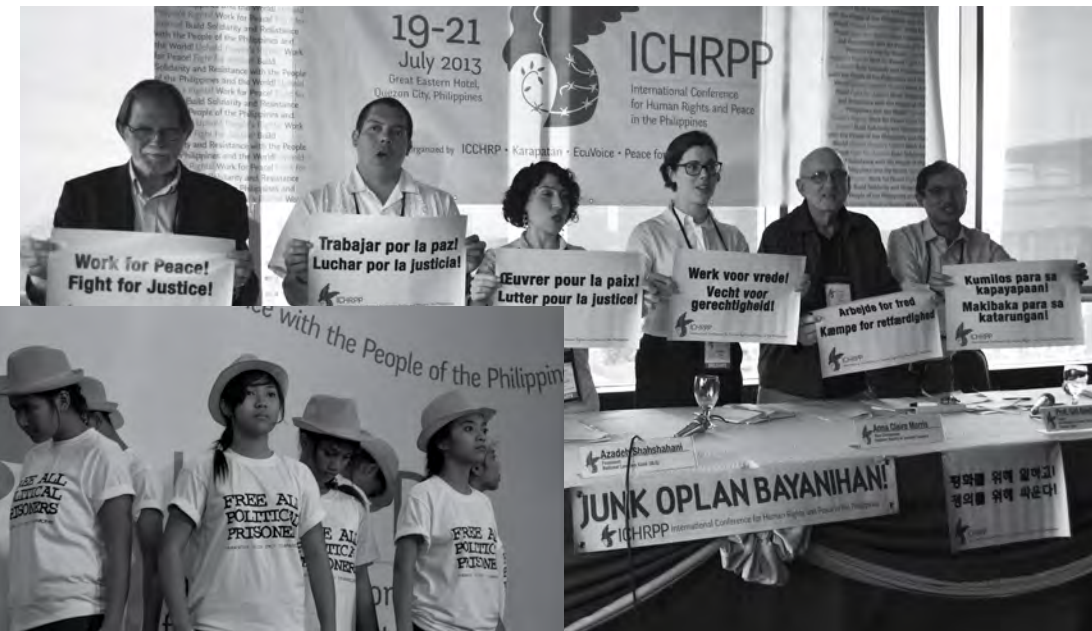
"Where people are driven to believe there is no alternative but to take up arms as part of the struggle for self-determination, it is not for us, as outsiders, to judge whether that belief is correct or to what extent this or that armed action is justified," said Morris, who co-wrote the paper she presented with Richard Harvey.

Ten workshops were also conducted on large-scale mining; global landgrabbing; trade union struggles; on women and children; the role of churchworkers, lawyers and cultural workers in the struggle for people's rights; and on the situation of the urban poor, migrants and indigenous peoples.

### Stories of courage

Each delegate has a story to tell about their experiences on the struggle for peace and human rights in their own countries and regions.

Dutch national Herman Geertman, if asked about his story will probably tell not his own but the story of his brother Willem's involvement in the Philippines



for more than four decades. "We are in the Philippines right now... to continue to seek justice for my murdered

brother," Herman said during the conference.

Herman's brother, Willem, was gunned down on July 3, 2012 in Angeles City, Pampanga by suspected military assassins. Willem, a foreign missionary, was Executive Director of Alay Bayan Inc. He spent most his life in the Philippines helping the peasants in Aurora province to organize themselves, and in opposing destructive mining and other 'development' projects.

"The fact that impunity continues in the Philippines is proof that EU (European Aid) aid has been a waste of European taxpayer's money," Herman said as a response to the statement of EU ambassador Guy Ledoux lauding the Aquino government's human rights record. "It is like rubbing salt to the wound and pain we are suffering with the unresolved killing of his brother," Herman said.

El Salvadoran peace activist Marta Benavides talked about her friend and colleague, Bishop Oscar Romero who was shot dead while he celebrated mass on March 24, 1979. Bishop Romero was a critic of the El Salvadoran military junta, and assisted a number of victims of human rights violations during



the 70's. Benavides likened the killing of Italian priest Fausto Tentorio in the Philippines to the assassination of Monsignor Romero in El Salvador. Fr. Tentorio was an anti-mining advocate and had received death threats from suspected military-backed paramilitary groups before he was killed on October 17, 2011 in Arakan, Cotabato.

"We call it a 'loud secret'. We all know, the whole population knows, what happened, who was behind it... The death squads. We may not know exactly who went to kill him, but who was behind it. We think it's the same here," Benavides said. She is one of the few surviving peace activists who began their work in El Salvador in the 1970's.

The attendance of Samuel Villatoro of Guatemala to the conference brought a familiar feeling to the families of desaparecidos in the Philippines. Villatoro's father, Amancio was one of the 45,000 desaparecidos in Guatemala during the civil war in the 1970-1980's. His remains were among the very few that were found and identified in San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

Samuel met several families of desaparecidos during the conference and shared with each other the stories of how their loved ones disappeared and, their struggle of searching and fighting for justice.

"Meeting Samuel is like meeting a brother from a distant land. Government violence unites victims of rights violations, and it's amazing how an international conference like this brings victims together, to take the struggle for justice and peace globally," said Aya Santos, daughter of Leo Velasco, a peace consultant of the National Democratic Front who is still missing.

### Surveillance

The international human rights and peace activists gathered in one place seemed to have been perceived as a threat by the Aquino administration as it deployed military and police intelligence during the conference.

On the last day of the conference, July 20, as delegates geared up to attend the People's SONA protest action the next day, the security staff of the conference apprehended a police officer and suspected military asset in two separate incidents.

A certain Kenneth Mendez was caught taking photos of delegates, and plate numbers of the cars of conference guests. Mendez initially claimed he is a news reporter but, could not mention what media outfit he was from.

Also, a PO2, Emilio Fetalvo Jr. admitted he received order from a certain Col. Pelibillo of the PNP to conduct surveillance of the conference. Fetalvo was previously seen shadowing staff members of the Karapatan national office.

The foreign delegates of the conference condemned said surveillance. "I am indignant at the covert surveillance of the conference participants. But

we will not be intimidated from joining the Filipino people in the vigorous protests," Peter Murphy, an Australian labor rights activist, said in a statement.

On July 22, the delegates attended the People's SONA held simultaneously with BS Aquino's State of the Nation Address. It was an act of solidarity, the delegates said, with the Filipino people struggling for their rights. They saw first-hand how the Philippine police violently dispersed the Filipino protesters trying to get through the police barricade to reach the House of Representatives.

### Milestone

One of the major achievements of the three-day international conference was the establishment of the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines. More than 50 organizations from different countries joined the coalition, and vowed to "campaign and assist the Filipino people in their search for justice, hoping to bring their plight to the rest of the world, and in so doing, contribute to the realization of genuine and lasting peace in the Philippines."

The establishment of the ICHRP is the result of several years of active campaigning by the international solidarity groups for the Philippines, specifically on the release of political prisoners, an end to political killings and enforced disappearances, the pull-out of military troops from rural communities, and for the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the NDFP.

The solidarity coalition also vowed to bring their lobby and advocacy work to the United Nations, national parliaments, and other relevant international institutions to "make the Macapagal-Arroyo and BS Aquino regimes accountable for their crimes against the Filipino people," and to, "mobilize the international community for human rights in the Philippines."

An 11-person global council composed of prominent human rights and peace advocates, church leaders, jurists, lawyers, academics, journalists, and community leaders were elected in the coalition's founding Congress. Rev. Barry Naylor of the Anglican Church of the United Kingdom was elected Chairperson, while Peter Murphy of the SEARCH Foundation (Australia), General Secretary.

"Together with the Filipino people, our campaign for human rights and democracy in the Philippines is, indeed, a 'portent of doom' for the anti-people, pro-haciendero, pro-foreign big business, and pro-US-Aquino regime," Murphy said. ✊

