

The years 2009 and 2010 are critical as Oplan Bantay Laya 2 (OBL 2) approaches its deadline. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) might very well rush to meet OBL 2 objectives, which are repeatedly stressed by Secretary of National Defense Gilbert Teodoro who is more hawkish than some of the generals. OBL 2's thrust remains to be the "dismantling (of) the political structure of the communist terrorist group" through the neutralization (physical elimination) of perceived "enemies of the state", whether combatants, activists of the legal democratic movement, mediapersons, lawyers and church people.

OBL was started in 2002 and had 2006 as its deadline. We witnessed the brutal escalation of extrajudicial killings (EJKs) and enforced disappearances (EDs) in 2005 and 2006. But OBL failed to meet its targets so it was extended in 2007 as OBL 2 by the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA) government and the AFP. OBL 2's ambitious deadline is 2010 to decimate the revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

The incidents of EJKs and EDs decreased in the second half of 2007 and in 2008 due to strong national and international outcry and censure brought about by the Stop the Killings Campaign led by Karapatan. But "The third quarter of 2008 saw renewed abductions and disappearances, arrests and torture. Extrajudicial killings continue with Mindanao suffering the most number of civilian casualties." (*Karapatan 3rd Quarter Monitor 2008*)

What happened to a peasant family in Negros Oriental augurs ill as 2009 begins.

On January 25, at around 9:30 in the evening, **Porferio** and **Beverly Pableo** were with their children inside their house in Brgy. Panubigan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental. Their relatives **Felix Remobatak**, **Jimmy Calago**, **Geovanie Ogang** and **Francisco Bailing**, who are all from San Carlos City, were staying with the family. Some were already asleep when sudden bursts of gunfire started. Hit on the spot were Remobatak, 19 years old and a barangay tanod, Calago, 26, and Ogang, 28.

A 13 year old son of the Pableos related that he heard someone order those inside the



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

Annual Totals: January 21, 2001 to March 31, 2009

Year	Total	Organized	Women
2001	99	35	11
2002	118	44	14
2003	126	33	14
2004	83	41	11
2005	187	101	14
2006	220	110	25
2007	94	35	13
2008	68*	16	12
2009 (as of March 31)	18	5	5
Total	1,013	420	119

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

* An additional four cases of EJK were reported in January 2009 making the total 68 instead of 64 which was reported in the 2008 Annual HR Report.

house to turn on the light and for everyone to surrender. Beverly stood up and lighted a kerosene lamp but was hit on the chest when shooting resumed.

Firing stopped and several armed men in military uniform entered the house and searched the family's belongings.

The armed men left the house leaving behind the dead bodies of Beverly and Felix, three wounded men and four children in shock. They were all unarmed.

Five days later on January 30, Lt. Col. Franco Nemesio, Commander of the 11th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army (IBPA) confirmed that the armed men involved in the Pableo killings were indeed elements of the AFP. He rationalized that it was an army strike mission based on information that there were NPA rebels in the area.

From the time GMA assumed the presidency in 2001 up to the end of March 2009, there are a total of 1,013 victims of EJK. In the first three months of 2009 Karapatan Monitor registered 15 cases of extrajudicial killings involving 18 victims, thus increasing the rate of killings to one victim every five days. Negros Oriental in Central Philippines has the most number at six killed in January and February.

Ronel Raguing and **Julito Quirante**, who are farmers from Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, were abducted on February 2 by suspected elements of the 79th IBPA under the command of Lt. Col. Erwin Neri. Witnesses claimed that they saw the soldiers take the victims in Sitio Kalabasaan, Brgy. Nagbinlod, Sta. Catalina and dragged them into a wooden area. The two



Julito Quirante

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

Annual Totals: January 21, 2001 to March 31, 2009

Year	Total	Organized	Women
2001	8	1	1
2002	10	3	2
2003	11	2	1
2004	23	10	5
2005	32	6	0
2006	78	25	15
2007	30	14	5
2008	9	5	1
2009 (as of March 31)	1	0	0
Total	202	66	30

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Table 3
Victims of EJK and ED under
the Arroyo Government (by region)

January 21, 2001 to March 31, 2009

Region	EJK	ED
CAR	34	2
Cagayan Valley	28	4
Ilocos	7	2
Central Luzon	139	66
Southern Tagalog	168	29
Bicol	171	10
NCR	39	6
Eastern Visayas	99	26
Central Visayas	28	4
Western Visayas	24	6
Northern Mindanao	8	1
Caraga	32	11
Socsksargen	24	4
Western Mindanao	38	10
Southern Mindanao	92	13
ARMM	82	8
Total	1,013	202

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

were not with the soldiers when the latter came out of the woods.

On March 9, the bodies of Raguing and Quirante were found in the nearby Sitio Junob, Brgy. Nagbinlod. Their hands were tied behind their backs. They were identified by members of their families through their clothes and a sack that belonged to Quirante.

Two weeks later, **Francisco Julanero**, 44, and **Francisco Alegado**, both members of the local chapters of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP - Peasant Movement in the Philippines) were killed in separate incidents in the towns of Sta. Catalina and Bayawan City, respectively.

Table 4
Victims of EJK and ED under
the Arroyo Government (by sector & special group)

January 21, 2001 to March 31, 2009

Sector/Special Group	EJK	ED
Peasant	506	127
Moro	69	9
Indigenous People	85	5
Worker	62	15
Children	69	4
Unborn	11	0
Urban Poor	45	7
Church	25	1
Youth and Students	26	9
Fisherfolk	23	3
HR Worker	23	2
Gov't Employee	18	1
Entrepreneur	23	10
Teacher	10	0
Media	6	1
Lawyer	5	0
Other	5	5
Unclassified	2	3
Total	1,013	202
Women	119	30
Organized	420	66

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

On March 31, **Edelina Jerus**, 37, was shot dead in front of her two children by two motorcycle-riding men outside her house in San Juan, Sorsogon, Bicol Region. Edelina was not a member of any organization until her husband, Willy Jerus, was killed on April 16, 2007. Willy was a member of Samasor, a member organization of KMP.

Edelina witnessed her husband's execution and was herself killed almost at the same location. Since her husband's death, she has been an active member of Hustisya (Victims of Arroyo Regime United for Justice).

But the most gruesome and contemptible case in the first quarter of 2009 was the rape and murder of **Rebelyn Pitao**, third child of NPA leader Leoncio Pitao also known as Commander Parago. There is strong indication that she was abducted, tortured and killed by the military in retaliation and as punishment for her father's revolutionary zeal and successes.



Rebelyn Pitao

On March 5, at around 6:30 in the evening, Rebelyn's body was found in a river in Purok 5, Brgy. San Isidro, Carmen, Davao del Norte. Her mouth was covered with packing tape, her pants partially pulled down and her underwear missing.

An autopsy conducted by the Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) showed that Rebelyn's eyes were badly bruised and bleeding which could be due to a blow from a hard object. She sustained five stab wounds and had lacerations around her genital area which could have been caused by the insertion of a hard object.

At the time Rebelyn was found, she had been dead for almost 24 hours which meant that she was brutalized and killed right after her abduction.

Rebelyn was a substitute teacher in St. Peter College in Toril, Davao City. She did not belong to any activist organization. She might have shared

the ideals and dreams of her father but she chose to pursue them by teaching children. Rebelyn was 20 years old, just out of her teens, when she was killed.

Table 5
Victims of EJK and ED
under the Arroyo Government
(by sectoral & multi-sectoral organization)

January 21, 2001 to March 31, 2009

Organizations	EJK	ED
Bayan		
KMP	117	15
KMU	23	3
Anakbayan	14	3
Pamalakaya	8	2
Kadamay	9	0
LFS	5	0
Courage	4	0
PCPR	2	0
CPA	0	1
SCMP	1	0
Kalikasan	1	0
Piston	1	1
Secretariat	4	2
Karapatan		
Selda	4	2
Kasimbayan	2	0
Chapters	20	1
Other Organizations	14	3
Partylist		
Bayan Muna	135	12
Anakpawis	49	7
Gabriela Women's Party	2	0
Kabataan	2	0
Suara Bangsa Moro	2	2
Anak ng Bayan	0	1
NDFP Consultants/Staff	1	11
Total	420	66

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Table 5
Political Prisoners (PPs)

as of March 31, 2009

Region where detained	Total no. of PPs	Women	Minors	Arrested under GMA
CAR	1	0	0	1
Cagayan Valley	1	0	0	1
Central Luzon	11	0	0	11
Southern Tagalog	7	1	0	7
NCR	95	6	4	83
Bicol	16	3	0	16
Western Visayas	9	1	0	9
Central Visayas	4	2	0	4
Eastern Visayas	18	5	0	18
Northern Mindanao	13	2	0	13
Southern Mindanao	26	2	0	26
Socskargen	5	0	0	5
Western Mindanao	16	5	0	16
Caraga	1	0	0	1
Total	223	27	4	211

Based on reports gathered by Karapatan

Karapatan, the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace (EMJP), Hustisya, Selda, Desaparecidos and all other allied organizations of Karapatan call on everyone to continue to be vigilant and to monitor, document and report all types of human rights violations. We will continue the fight to stop extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture and illegal detention. Political prisoners should be released and desaparecidos surfaced.

A vital step in all our efforts is the ouster of GMA whose government is characterized by illegitimacy, graft and corruption, state terror and puppetry to U.S. imperialism.