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

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

impunity that continues to pervade the country.

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

The AFP's admission was immediately followed by a massive deployment of troops in Mindanao. There are now at least 55 AFP combat battalions or 44,000 troops in the

non-Muslim regions of Mindanao and in consequence, a battery of cases of human rights violations is committed against civilians perceived as supporters or suspected members of the revolutionary movement led by CPP-NPA-NDF.

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

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

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



BS Aquino regime. Of the five documented cases of massacre in six months, from April-September 2015, four happened in Mindanao.

To augment the 55 combat battalions, the AFP became more aggressive in recruiting civilians into the paramilitary groups, which bore various indigenous names for acceptability in communities. In essence, these paramilitary groups are the AFP's Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU). More importantly, the recruitment is meant to destroy the unity among the people. The dictum of "either you are with us or you're with the terrorists" is applied to justify attacks against those who refuse to take part in the regime's dirty war against the Filipino masses.

Also, the Lumad schools continue to draw the ire of the regime. The attacks range from red tagging, actual military encampment, threat and harassment of the teachers, students and parents, closing down and burning of school houses.

The seemingly local move by the Davao del Norte Schools Division Superintendent Josephine Fadul to close down Lumad schools in May 2015 was actually part of a scheme planned by the Regional Intelligence Committee (RIC). On its April 23, 2015, the RIC planned to close down the Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanugan

Community Learning Center (STTILC) and put in place AFP-run schools, with soldiers as teachers. The RIC is convened by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), an agency directly under the Office of the President. NICA officials report to the President; and its Director General is the President's principal adviser on intelligence.

Despite the uproar on the Lianga massacre, in the country and in the international community, the BS Aquino regime's response has been the usual lies that contradict each other. The regime continues to shun away from the call for an international probe specifically, of the United Nations, saying it is already investigating the massacre. But more than two months after the brutal killing of Campos, Sinzo and Samarca, no one has been arrested and the evacuees remain Tandag City Sports Complex.

Amid the escalation of State terrorist attacks against the poor majority, calls for the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the NDFP never cease, however dim the prospects have become. But, the government, instead of engaging the NDFP at the negotiating table, has arrested most of its counterparts as 20 peace consultants are now in jail.

Mindanao under siege

The forces of the AFP and its paramilitary groups continue to intensify their terrorist operations in Mindanao, especially in Lumad areas.

While the BS Aquino regime and the AFP take every effort to distance itself from the monsters they have created, history has shown us that the proliferation and use of paramilitary groups as surrogates of the military are the same today as they were during martial law, or even earlier.

Today's Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU), Special Civilian Armed Auxilliary (SCAA), Investment Defense Force (IDF), Magahat-Bagani Force, Alamara, Sanmatrida, NIPAR, Dela Mance group are the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF), Ilaga, Rock Christ, Pulahan, Greenan of the martial law era. The names may have changed, but they are all the same—effectively controlled by the AFP and are equally responsible for gross human rights violations, including brutal killings.

Of the total 294 victims of extrajudicial killings documented by Karapatan as of September 30, 2015, the paramilitary groups are involved in 92 cases. In all these documented cases, the paramilitary groups did not operate on their own, but on orders of the main unit of the AFP they belonged to.

The paramilitary groups such as Magahat-Bagani, Alamara, and the De La Mance group are armed and trained by the military—capitalizing on the people's impoverished condition, illiteracy, playing on superstitious beliefs, and the bastardization of indigenous culture and processes. The State used these groups, now and then, to attack communities believed to be members and/or supporters of the New People's Army.

The regime's use of a worn-out tactic of divide-and-rule takes advantage of other people's miserable condition and use them to quell dissent among equally impoverished kababayan.



A picture paints a thousand words. Military encampment at Han-ayan, Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

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

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

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

The combined terror of the AFP and its surrogate paramilitary groups resulted in serious violations of human rights and has claimed many lives, displaced communities, and dislocated sources of livelihood.

Massacre

On September 1, at around 4 a.m., members of the AFP's paramilitary

compound of ALCADEV (Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development). Samarca was Executive Director of ALCADEV. His throat was slit open, with a cut that ran from ear to ear. He was also shot two times in the chest.

The killings happened while a part of the same paramilitary group was in Han-ayan. The group burned down the community's cooperative store and the elementary school operated by the Tribal Filipino Program in Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS).

Prior to the Lianga massacre, three other massacres happened in

group Magahat/Bagani Force/Marcos Bocales group opened fire at Dionel Campos and his cousin Juvello Sinzo (earlier reported as Aurello/Bello Sinzo) and a staff member of ALCADEV Belen Itallo in the presence of the community members in Km.16, Bgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur. Campos and Sinzo died instantly, while Itallo survived. The back of Campos's head was blown off, as some witnesses believed armed men used an M203 rifle to shoot him. Sinzo's arms were also broken due to heavy beating.

In the same morning, Emerito Samarca's remains was found in one of the classrooms in the school

Mindanao in 2015: in Sitio Bugna, Tagaloan, Bukidnon; in Pangantucan, also in Bukidnon province; and, in Paquibato, Davao City.

"Junjun" (not his real name), 15, lived to tell the story of his family who were massacred by soldiers from the 1st Special Forces-Philippine Army in **Sitio Mandum, Brgy. Mendis, Pangantucan, Bukidnon**. He wanted to tell their story but his head, he said, whirled as he recalled what happened on August 18, 2015.

"Junjun" lost his father **Herminio Samia**, 70, who was almost blind. He also lost his brother **Jobert**, 20; his nephew **Norman**, 13; and his two uncles **Emer Somina**, 17, and **Welmer Somina**, 19. They were all in Herminio's house for lunch.

At around 3 p.m., they heard a series of gunfire coming from the forest. Jobert suggested they go to a safer place, but Herminio said they should stay as they were civilians and had nothing to do with the fight. Besides, he can no longer take long walks because of his eyesight. When the gunfire ended after more than an hour, they heard someone shouted, "You, NPA inside the house get out and get down here!"

The men, except for Herminio, were forced to come down and saw the soldiers who ordered them to raise their hands. Herminio, on the other hand, tried to explain how difficult it is for him to go down, but a soldier only cursed, "*Litse, bakit hindi makababa ay meron namang hagdan?* (How can you not come down when there is a stair").

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

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

body near a coffee tree. He was shot in the stomach and his intestines were exposed. Emer Somina's body was found near the house's door. Norman Samia was found a few steps away, with an ear cut off and his jaw broken. Welmer's left hand was cut off from his wrist and had a gunshot on his nose, which disfigured his face. Jobert's body was found near Welmer's.

The soldiers provided the residents with plastic bags to transport the remains. They were ordered to take the bodies to the top of a hill where they will be loaded into a helicopter. At the hilltop, the residents were told to prepare the ground so the helicopter could land. But when it rained, the soldiers again ordered them to instead move the bodies back to the barangay hall at Madum, Mendis. The soldiers went back with them to the community.

"Junjun", after narrating to his uncle what he saw, has not spoken for a time because of trauma. The members of the 1st Special Forces Battalion have not left the community since then. They are now in the process of building an army detachment in the community.

Like "Junjun" **Aida Seisa**, 34, survived the Paquibato massacre but was traumatized by the incident. Aida now detests the sight pancit (noodles) because she was cooking pancit for her daughter's birthday celebration when the massacre happened; she is now easily shaken by any loud sound or even by people shouting.

On June 14, 2015, at midnight, soldiers from the 69th IB-PA strafed Seisa's house at Purok 7, Brgy. Paradise Embac, Paquibato District, Davao City. At the time, there were guests who attended the birthday celebration of Seisa's daughter. The gunfire lasted for about 30 minutes. Seisa, her husband **Henry** and **three daughters** were able to run away from their house. Seisa's daughter "Chingching", the birthday celebrator, was also wounded.

By sunrise, on June 14, around 6



Aida Seisa, one of the survivors of a massacre in Paquibato, Davao del Norte.

a.m., Seisa heard the news that **Datu Ruben Laydan Enlog, Jr., Randy Lavarcon Carnasa, and Oligario Quimbo** were dead. Randy's body was in front of Seisa's house in a crawling position with two land mines of about three kilos each beside him. Randy was covered with blood coming from his left shoulder. Datu Ruben and Oligario were found a few meters away from Randy.

The 69th IB-PA was quick to cover up the massacre by planting the two land mines, one grenade, an M14 rifle, and an M1 garand beside the dead bodies to justify its claim that those killed were members of the NPA.

According to Seisa, they were in the living room when they heard a series of gunfire directed at her house. She immediately dropped to the ground and saw Ronil Enlog and Oligario Quimbo crawled towards the kitchen. She also saw Datu Ruben Enlog fell when he was hit in the back. The people inside the house shouted, "Sir, please stop, we are all civilians! Help!!! But the shooting continued.

"Kinsa ang ginailad sa mga sundalo? Kinsa gud ang magbitbit ug landmine nga tig-3 ka kilo kung gi-straping na mo? Gahimo-himora gyud sila ug estorya. Unsaon pa paggunit ni Papa sa duha ka landmine nga nabungkag na iyang ilok!" (The

soldiers think they can still fool us. Who would have thought of hauling land mines of about three kilos each in the midst of strafing? They just made up the story. How can he carry two land mines when his armpit was blown-up!)," Felipe Carnasa, son of Randy, said upon seeing his father's dead body covered with blood.

Datu Ruben Enlog was an Ata tribal leader and chairperson of Nagkahiusang Lumad sa Paquibato (United Lumad of Paquibato), while Carnasa and Quimbo were farmer-members of the Paquibato District Peasant Alliance (PADIPA), an affiliate of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (National Peasant Movement) in Southern Mindanao region. Seisa is a Lumad leader and the spokesperson of PADIPA. All victims were active in the campaign against the entry of mining exploration in their community.

Seisa was earlier reported missing, but two months after the massacre she resurfaced and attended a hearing conducted by the Davao City Council on the incident. Seisa related what happened on June 14 and how she and her family managed to escape and sought shelter among relatives.

In April, reports reached Karapatan that four Lumad farmers were killed and four others were



wounded in **Sitio Bugna, Brgy. Casinglot, Tagoloan in Misamis Oriental** on March 29, 2015.

Found dead after the operation of the 1st Special Forces Battalion-Philippine Army were **Enemesio Casas Sr.**, 56; **Fiel Casas**, 17; **Bernabe Sarocam**, 40; and **Rosalie Neri Aluto**, 39, who died in the hospital. Those wounded were **Enemesio Casas Jr.**, 19; **Jesse Mio-mio**, 22; **Eulogio Dacumos**, and **Potenciano Mariano**.

On March 30, the 403rd Brigade Commander Jesse Alvarez claimed that those killed were NPA members who had encountered soldiers of the 1st Special Forces Battalion-PA.

Sitio Bugna is part of the 300-hectare ancestral land claimed and presently tilled by the Lumad group led by Datu Gabunan. The CD Corporation used to occupy the place until its 25-year lease expired in 2009. Refusing to leave the community, the CD Corporation hired company guards to drive away the Lumad, subjecting them to continuous threats and harassment.

At around 6 to 7 a.m. on March 29, news spread among the residents that armed men were again in the community. Thinking they were company guards, some of the residents, among them **Marilou Mandar**, went

to check if it was true. Mandar was horrified to see soldiers in camouflage uniforms and in assault position. She hurried back but realized that her neighbors, Dodong, Nilo, Jojo, Rosalie Neri Aluto, Arnel Aluto and Rosalie's children had followed her. She signaled to them to go back, but it was too late. The soldiers opened fire at them.

They ran to different directions, some hid behind trees. But the soldiers chased and shot at the people and houses. Mandar saw Rosalie ran carrying her one-year-old son. Rosalie already had a gunshot wound in her back. The volley of fire lasted for two hours. When the shooting ended, residents heard someone shouted, "Gawas mo sa inyong gitagoan, mga military mi!" (Come out from hiding, we are soldiers!).

In a press conference the survivors of the massacre declared, "We are not NPA but civilians trying to till our land. If we had weapons, we should have killed the company guards who have been harassing us for a long time now."

The DC Company guards on several occasions had burned the houses of the Lumad, stole their farm tools and food. The Lumad has reported these incidents to the Tagoloan Police station several times already, but the police officers only

noted down the cases and no further actions were taken.

Extrajudicial killing

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

While having dinner with his wife Marilou and three children, Luis stood up to tend to their store when a man said he wanted to buy cigarette. A few minutes later Marilou and children heard gunshots. Marilou rushed to the store and found Carbajosa lying on the floor, lifeless, and bathed in his own blood. He sustained 18 gunshot wounds that caused his immediate death.

Marilou said he saw the man who shot Carbajosa ran towards the road and took a red motorcycle driven by another man. The motorcycle had no plate number.

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

chairperson's house. Marilou said she heard her husband answered he did not know the person.

Marilou believed Carbajosa was killed because of his active involvement in the causes of farmers. The family also learned that he was in the Order of Battle of the 71st IB-PA.

Carbajosa was vice chairperson of the Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Mabini (HUMABIN), a municipal-wide organization of farmers and an affiliate of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)-Southern Mindanao.

Jel Ahing, 28, was killed by members of the Alamara paramilitary group because he and his brothers refused to be members of Alamara. In the mind of these fascist-trained attack dogs, they are NPA members or supporters.

On July 19, 2015, at about 12:30 noon, 13 members of the Alamara paramilitary group led by Sammy Diwangan and Emboy Gayao strafed Jel Ahing and his brother **Domiyo Ahing**, 37. Domiyo was with his wife Alden and four children, ages 12, 8, 7 and 3.

Domiyo, who survived the strafing, said they were walking along the river towards Jel's farm in the village of Saluringan in Cabanglasan, Bukidnon when Alamara members led by Sammy Diwangan and Emboy Gayao ambushed them.

The Alamara members fired at them for almost a minute, hitting Jel in his left shoulder and in the neck. While everyone else ran for safety, Domiyo ran to to assist his brother who died right away. The Alamara members casually walked away, leaving behind the dead and the wounded. Domiyo had cuts in the legs, face and hands; while his son was hit with splinters in the legs and face.

Before the killing, Sammy Diwangan and Emboy Gayao of the Alamara group summoned Domiyo and Jel's elder brother Romy to the Alamara assembly, where they tried to recruit Romy into the

TABLE 2: Victims of Extrajudicial Killing & Enforced Disappearance under Noynoy Aquino Gov't By Sector (July 2010 to September 2015)

Sector	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Church	3	0
Entrepreneur	5	0
Environmentalist	7	0
Fisherfolk	5	0
Government Employee	4	0
Indigenous People*	75	2
Minor	27	1
Peasant	215	23
Teacher	2	0
Urban poor	14	1
Human rights worker	6	0
Worker	16	1
Youth and Student	9	1
Moro	9	1
Transport	9	1
Health	1	0

paramilitary group. Romy refused. This irked Diwangan and his men who immediately accused Romy and his brother Jil and Domiyo as supporters of the NPA and threatened to kill them. Diwangan said their group has been closely monitoring the Ahing brothers.

The Alamara paramilitary group in Bukidnon is attached to the 8th IB-PA and are frequently seen in the army detachment in Binangkasán, Canangaan, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon.

Another notorious paramilitary group that operates in Cabanglasan in Bukidnon province is the Dela Mance group, which has figured in a number of human rights violations.

Earlier this year, on March 28, 2015, the Dela Mance group shot **Frenie Ganancia Landasan**.

Frenie was watching television in the house of his mother Nenita Landasan in Purok 3, Brgy. Dalacutan, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon when they noticed the barking of dogs in the neighborhood. At about 8:30 p.m., Frenie told his mother to close the house's door. He said he was going to the cooperative store to rest, for he had to wake up early the next day.

At about 9 p.m., Nenita noticed the barking dogs were already outside their house. She peeked through the

window and saw five armed men roaming around the store where Frenie was sleeping. The store is just a meter away from their residence. She recognized Romulo dela Mance and Mario Misto who were in front of the store. She also saw Inad Santos, Maco Santos, and Lolong Cumaingking, Romulo's brother-in-law and 20 other armed men. Inad Santos and Maco Santos are members of the Magahat-Lumad.

Nenita recalled Romulo shouting at Landasan to open the door. He then kicked, and fired at, the door. Frenie replied, "*ayaw intawon Gaw Bong kay wala koy atraso sa inyo*" (Please don't [kill] me cousin Bong, I have not done you wrong). But, Romulo and his men fired their guns that lasted two-to-three minutes.

Landasan's mother believed that the killing of Frenie Landasan was in retaliation to the death of Dorlito dela Mance who was killed by members of the NPA on March 28, 2015. The local NPA command said Dorlito dela Mance was punished for the crimes of the De la Mance paramilitary group against the people, specifically against the indigenous groups in Bukidnon. The Dela Mance group vowed to execute all those they suspect as members or supporters of the NPA.

LT. GEN. BALADAD

a year after at the Eastern Mindanao Command

Numerous human rights violations—the massacres, gruesome killings, military occupation of civilian homes and facilities, forced recruitment into the mushrooming paramilitary groups—are committed by soldiers under the Eastern Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the non-Muslim regions of Mindanao. The EastMinCom is headed by Lt. General Aurelio Baladad since September 2014.

A loyal implementer of Macapagal-Arroyo's Oplan Bantay Laya, Lt. Gen. Baladad now does the same dirty tactics against the civilian population in Mindanao under BS Aquino's Oplan Bayanihan. Baladad should be held liable for all the crimes committed against the peasants and Lumad that continue to rise since he assumed command of the EastMinCom.

In a month after Baladad's appointment as commander of the 55 combat battalions in areas considered as NPA hotspots—particularly the Caraga region, Davao provinces and the northern Mindanao area—military and paramilitary occupation of communities and Lumad schools intensified, and cases of killing, arson, hamletting, and evacuation of communities increased. There is also a renewed AFP campaign to forcibly recruit the Lumad into the paramilitary groups and in the AFP's community intelligence network. More cases of staged or fake surrenders have been documented.

In Baladad's one year as EastMinCom chief, Karapatan documented 40 victims of extrajudicial killings, 30 frustrated killings, four massacres, and 24 incidents of forced evacuation in various non-Muslim regions in Mindanao.

The following are among the highlighted cases of human rights violations from September 2014 to September 2015, Baladad's first year as head of the EastMinCom.

On October 12, 2014, Rolando Dagansan and son Juda were killed by members of the 66th IB-PA. Dagansan, 43, and Juda, 15 came from their farm in Kabityan, New Bataan, Compostela Valley, when they were attacked by soldiers. In a very rare instance, the AFP admitted to a crime; but asserted it was an accident. The remains of father and son were peppered by bullets and their faces disfigured.

In October 24, 2014, Lumad leader Henry Alameda of Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod (Mapasu) was killed in Sitio Cabalawan, Brgy. San Isidro, Lianga, Surigao del Sur by elements of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion, 36th IB-PA, and 3rd Special Forces Battalion, under the 401st Brigade-Philippine Army, and the paramilitary groups of Calpit Egua and Marcial Belandres. Belandres's men were reportedly among those responsible for the Lianga massacre in September 1, 2015.

On October 27, 2014, six armed men set on fire a corn sheller and a school at Sitio Kabulohan, Brgy. Buhisan, San Agustin, Surigao del Sur. The residents tried to put out the fire, but the armed men indiscriminately fired at them, causing the people to scramble for safety. The incident led to the evacuation of almost 1,800 Lumad individuals who sought refuge at the Diatagon Barangay Gym. Classes in at least 10 community schools and learning centers were suspended, affecting 900 students.

The killing of Banwaon chieftain Necasio "Angis" Precioso, Sr. happened on December 22, 2014 in Brgy. Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. He was shot by members of the 26th IB-PA for his opposition to the military's Community Organizing for Peace and Development (COPD), a component of Oplan Bayanihan. Angis knew that COPD would bring in more soldiers into his community and would endanger the lives of his constituents.

Four months later, some 187 Banwaon families or almost a thousand individuals from the villages of barangays Mahagsay, Binikalan, and San Pedro evacuated to the center of Brgy. Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur due to the combat operations of 26th IB-PA and the Magahat paramilitary group. The soldiers encamped in barangay halls and in Lumad schools, forcing the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines to close down six of its schools. The soldiers forcibly recruited residents to join the Peace and Development Volunteers, essentially a paramilitary group used by the AFP in its counterinsurgency program.

The situation in Brgy. White Culaman, Kitaotao, Bukidnon is characteristically a handiwork of the Palparan type of generals like Baladad. The 8th and 23rd IB-PA have placed Brgy. White Culaman essentially under martial

(“Lt.Gen. Baladad...” from page 7)

law—confined mobility of the people within the community; tagging people as NPA supporters or members and forcing them to surrender or to take part in military activities against the NPA; illegal arrests, and many more, which led to their evacuation.

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

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

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

Like his commander in chief BS Aquino, Baladad, despite the scores of right violations of soldiers under his command, has only the NPA to blame. He commended soldiers of the 69th IB-PA for the death of Lumad datu and peasant leaders in the Paquibato massacre, calling the three NPA, as if it was enough reason to kill civilians. In the Lianga massacre, Baladad simply disowned the Magahat-Bagani paramilitary group, saying it “is not part of our command and control” when public pressure for accountability increased. After the Lianga massacre, Karapatan demanded for Baladad’s resignation; Malacañang did not even flinch.

Before his promotion as chief of EastMinCom, Baladad was head of the 10th Infantry Division-Philippine Army (ID-PA), which covers the Davao provinces. The unit was as felonious as it could be.

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

A loyal implementer of the State’s counterinsurgency program, Baladad is well rewarded by the regimes he served. But the people rightfully despises him, he being the personification of Oplan Bayanihan a.k.a Oplan Bantay Laya version 3.0.

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

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

While the Alamara paramilitary wreaks havoc in the communities in the provinces of Bukidnon and Davao to support the combat operations of the 72nd, 8th, and 60th IB-PA, the Magahat-Bagani-Hasmin Acevedo paramilitary group is mostly found in the areas where the 36th, 29th, and the 75th IB-PA operate.

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

Coming from a store, Ely was shot in the foot. He immediately fell on the ground. Standing on both knees and both hands raised, he pleaded the gunmen, “Please don’t, sir. We are civilians”. Despite his plea, he was shot in the forehead followed by nine more shots all over his body. Crisanto tried to run, but was shot three times. He died instantly. The gunmen then fired at the six houses nearby preventing the residents to immediately respond to the killing.

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

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

days, the evacuees from San Miguel and Lianga would merge at the Tandag City stadium.

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

Attacks against Lumad schools

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

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

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

Tejero and Bocales saw three members of the Magahat paramilitary group who had their long firearms aimed at them. The men ordered the two to proceed to the waiting shed in Purok 16, some 50 meters away from Tejero’s cottage. The **whole community** was ordered to gather there, too.

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

Back in the waiting shed, the Magahat members ordered the people to proceed to the basketball court. There, Magahat members told the residents to surrender their relatives who are NPA members. While inspecting the male residents, one Magahat member approached Tejero and asked if she knew ‘Ray’ and ‘Norma.’

Tejero, a graduate of ALCADDEV, said she knows them—Norma is the Executive Director of TRIFPSS while Ray works in ALCADDEV. Having heard Tejero’s answer, the armed man accused her of being a member of the NPA “because Ray and Norma are NPA members and so are the rest of the teachers of ALCADDEV and TRIFPSS.”

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

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

The killing of ALCADDEV Executive Director Emerito Samarca and the burning of the TRIFPSS school showed how much the regime abhorred the Lumad schools.

In Surigao del Sur alone, the military and paramilitary groups had burned down three Lumad schools in a span of one year: In October 2014 in Kabulohan, Brgy. Buhisan, San Agustin; and, two on September 1, 2015 in Han-ayan and in Panokmoan in Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga.

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

In Sitio Tibucag, Brgy. Dagohoy, in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, elements of the 60th and 68th IB-PA and the Alamara paramilitary group encamped in the Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center (STTICLC), at the Tibucag Elementary School, and near the day care center of the Municipal Social Welfare Development office from January to May 2015. The Tibucag Elementary School has 300 pupils enrolled in the day care program up to Grade 6; while there are 13 high school students at the STTICLC. The number of soldiers and Alamara members who use the schools as their temporary camps range from 17 to 70.



ALCADDEV and TRIFPSS students. Learning continues, in and out of school.

In April, 70 elements of 68th IB-PA and 10 Alamara members led by Sgt. Efren Catagi called for a community “meeting”, as they usually do when they arrive in the community. During the meeting, Catagi discouraged the parents from enrolling their children in STTICLC, as the school is “subversive.”

In May, elements of the 68th IB-PA summoned purok leader **Waway Dagwaan** to the Tibucag Elementary School. The military told Dagwaan to kill the teachers who will be seen going to the STTICLC. “Do not continue the high school education. Because if they (the Lumad) learn, they will resist [the military].”

On May 6, soldiers summoned the leaders of Sitio Tibucag for another “meeting,” and were told to burn down the school because “it is run by communists.” The tribal leaders refused and told the military they wanted the school to remain and to expand because the school provides their children free education.

Similar “meetings” were called by the military in other villages in Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

In White Culaman, Kitaotao, Bukidnon, one of the tasks of the residents forcibly recruited into the AFP’s Baragay Defense System (BDS) is to help in the demolition of the schools operated by the Mindanao Inter-Faith Service Inc. (MISFI).

Threat, harassment, coercion of people in the communities

The red tagging of schools as “NPA schools” stems from the state’s belief that the communities where these schools exist are NPA mass base and the residents are NPA members or supporters. The AFP uses this as basis to justify its abuses and atrocities against the people.

People are coerced to admit they are members or supporters of the NPA, that they were involved in certain ambushes against the military or they are spying on the military for the NPA. The people are forced to surrender, turn in their guns, and sign documents of surrender, and/or become members of the paramilitary groups set up by the military.

On June 11, the 68th IB-PA, Alamara and EastMinCom chief Aurelio Baladad summoned more than 500 indigenous people the Jose Balimba Libayao gym in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. **Bacolcol Maloran** and **20 other datu** from Salugpungan Ta Tanu Irganugon, and **14 barangay health workers** attended, but they were instead presented to the media and the local government unit as rebel-returnees.

In White Culaman, Kitaotao, Bukidnon, some residents were compelled

to “surrender” because of planted evidence.

Lito Gawilan, a Lumad-Manobo, came from his farm when he saw soldiers outside his house. The door of his house was already open and his family’s belongings scattered on the floor. Lito went closer and saw a bag of nails strewn all over the front door. The soldiers said the nails were components of explosives, thus he was immediately given a pen and ordered to sign a “surrender” document. Caught unprepared and out of fear, Gawilan signed the document. He does not even own the nails.

Also, soldiers and members of the paramilitary groups conducted illegal searches in the houses of the residents, confiscated the residents’ belongings and property, or destroyed them.

In May 2015, elements of the 68th IB-PA and Alamara members cut down about 30 cacao trees, 20 banana trees, and two durian trees owned by the residents. Alamara leader Alambi Salangani was heard saying, “*Tanom ni sa NPA. Ato ning pamutlon*” (“These

Padona refused to bring her son, saying he was not a member of the NPA but the military threatened her, “*kung dili nimo igawas imong anak, ikaw among kuhaon!*” (“If you do not bring your son to us, we will take you instead!”). Overtaken by fear, Padona killed herself on May 15.

are planted by the NPA. Let us cut these down”). The Alamara also stole sweet potatoes and bananas from the residents. When reprimanded, the Alamara said “*Amo na ni kay wala mi makaon*” (“We will have these because we have nothing to eat”). The members of the 68th IB and Alamara are encamped in civilian houses in Sitio Bagang, Brgy. Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte since March 2015.

Some of the residents were beaten or tortured to squeeze out information on the whereabouts of the rebels.

On June 20, 21 soldiers from the 68th IB-PA arrived in the community of Tigwahanon tribe in Sitio Botay, Brgy. Namnam, San Fernando, Bukidnon. They illegally searched 16 houses of 18 families looking for rifles allegedly owned by the NPA. The soldiers required all men in the community to assemble at the basketball court. There, two minors and five male residents were tortured by the military.

The soldiers hit **Jimboy Lagtian**, 15, and **Boboy Baliling**, 25, in the

back using M203 rifles; their heads were wrapped with cellophanes. **Jun Saponan**, 13, **Asat Lagtian**, 38, and **Bos-ok Sulinay**, 40, were beaten by the military using a “*de bomba*” (handmade rifle used for hunting birds) owned by tribal leader Datu Aginod Iponan. The men were repeatedly asked about the NPA. Datu Aginod said the military also took one “*de bomba*” and nine bolo from the community. The men were all members of KASILO (Kaugalingong Sistema Igpasusindog tu Lumadnong Ogpaan), a local organization of the Lumad.

One mother in the village of Inayaman in San Fernando, Bukidnon took her own life by taking a liquid rat killer because she can no longer bear the military’s threat to her and her son. Soldiers of the 68th IB-PA coerced **Gimbel Padona** to bring to them her son, whom the military claimed was a member of the NPA. Padona refused to bring her son, saying he was not a member of the NPA but the military threatened her, “*kung dili nimo igawas imong anak, ikaw among kuhaon!*” (“If you do not bring your son to us, we will take you instead!”). Overtaken by fear, Padona killed herself on May 15.

Features of hamletting were also documented in Brgy. White Culaman such as military control over people’s mobility within and outside of their village. Starting August 25, soldiers constantly summoned residents, through Brgy. Capt. Felipe Cabugnason, at the barangay hall where they are encamped. Male residents were ordered to report their daily activities for monitoring. They were also directed to take turns in guarding the barangay hall at night, purportedly against NPA attacks.

Rape of a minor

On May 6, in Sitio Nasilaban, Brgy. Palma Gil in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, 14-year-old “Tess,” a Grade 4 student, was alone in the house when a soldier known as “Galot” pulled her by the hand, undressed her and raped her. “Galot” went out of the house after raping “Tess,” then “Daniel,” another soldier of the 68th IB-PA, went in to rape “Tess.” The soldiers were encamped in the house of “Tess” when the incident happened.

At the time, the parents of “Tess”

were in another village to harvest corn. When they came back on May 13, “Tess” told her parents who reported the incident to the barangay captain. The soldiers tried to settle the case by giving the family of “Tess” Php 55,000, in the presence of the barangay captain, so they will not file charges against the soldiers.

On July 4, “Tess” had just finished her classes and was playing with her classmates near their school when a certain Jay-ar of the 68th IB-PA held her hand, brought her to a grassy portion of the field and raped her. The incident was again reported to the barangay.

“Tess” and her mother would later join the Talaingod evacuees at the UCCP-Haran.

Illegal arrests

On August 25, combined forces of the AFP and Philippine National Police (PNP) rounded up at least 15 civilians in Brgy. White Culaman, mostly leaders of peasants and Matigsalog-Lumad, who participated in a protest action held in early August. Among those arrested was Namabaw peasant organization Chairperson **Ellen Manlimbaas**, 53.

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

The day after the 15 persons were rounded-up, residents started to leave their homes for fear of being arrested on mere suspicion that they are members or supporters of the NPA.

Forced evacuation

On August 29, around 30 families or 180 individuals evacuated from Brgy. White Culaman. Majority of those who left were those on the military list of NPA members/supporters who face arrest. The almost 200 individuals are now in a parish chapel in Arakan, North Cotabato.



Razed to the ground: The MAPASU cooperative store in Han-ayan, Lianga, Surigao del Sur after the September 1 military operation (left) and the TRIFPSS elementary school (right), parts of which were also burned down.



"You stink, the place stinks! Go back to your communities." Congresswoman Nancy Catamco with the AFP, PNP and ALAMARA paramilitary group in a last ditched effort to hide the evacuees from the public's eye.

OPPOSITE AND INSET: At the Tandag City Stadium. Almost 3,000 evacuees from Lianga and San Miguel, Surigao del Sur refuse to go back to their communities until the military pulls out.



They left their communities in the middle of the harvest season.

On September 15, another batch of individuals went to the parish chapel in Arakan to seek shelter after the barangay captain ordered residents to hold a protest march on September 21 against NPA presence in the community. Again, the barangay captain said those who refuse to join will be considered NPA members, and thus will face arrest.

The forced evacuation of residents in communities under attack by state forces is a vicious cycle. The massive deployment of AFP combatants in a community can trigger evacuation, but more so, the military encampment in communities, schools, the killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, and other atrocities. The human rights violations almost always lead to the evacuation of people usually in town and urban centers. They stay in temporary shelters, oftentimes in churches, until the military leave their communities. But as soon as community members start to "normalize" their daily grind back in their communities, the cycle starts again.

Aside from the evacuees from Lianga and San Miguel, Surigao del

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

The incident took place two days before the official visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons Dr. Chaloka Beyani at the UCCP Haran compound. It was the last ditched effort by the BS Aquino regime to save face and cover-up its failed bid to force the indigenous people to return to their militarized communities. The PNP, Phil. Army, DSWD and Rep. Catamco broke through a fence at the evacuation center and forcibly took "Tess," the 14-year-old rape victim from Talaingod, and her mother. A number of evacuees and their supporters from the church and human rights groups were injured

during the scuffle.

On July 14, Catamco brought in representatives of the AFP, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and other government agencies to the UCCP Haran compound supposedly for a dialogue. Catamco only scolded the Lumad and urged them to go back to their communities.

Catamco also said the Lumad were held against their will and said if they were genuine against their will and should be staying with the DSWD if they were indeed genuine evacuees. She justified the continued military presence in hinterland communities, saying it was needed to protect heavy equipment from being burned by rebels.

The evacuees in UCCP-Haran are from several communities in Davao del Norte and in Bukidnon.

On May 18, around 500 Blaans from three villages in Brgy. Upper Suyan, Malapatan Sarangani Province evacuated due to the encampment of the 73rd Infantry Battalion in their communities. Half of the evacuees are children. Some 200 individuals in a nearby village of Sufan, Brgy. Pagasa, Alabel, Sarangani Province also wanted to evacuate but were blocked

by the military. The residents sought safety at the Sitio Sufan Elementary School.

After a few days, some 50 families transferred to General Santos City, at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) compound while some 200 Blaans remained at the Sitio Sufan Elementary school.

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

On March 30, at around 4:00 p.m., eight bombs were dropped on a populated area in a nearby village. The soldiers fired machine guns, four times. Crops, animals, and the community's source of water were destroyed by the bombing, forcing the residents to flee.

Mortar shelling by the military also caused the evacuation of the Higaonon tribe in the hinterlands of Sitio Kamansi and Tapol, Brgy. Banglay, Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental. The 58th IB-PA based in Quezon, Balingasag launched a mortar bombardment on May 1, 2015. Seven mortars were fired, five of them exploded near the Higaonon community. The mortar explosions caused people to panic and immediately left the community, leaving their homes, belongings and farm animals behind. About 347 individuals went to the Central Elementary School in Lagonglong.

The bombardment was part of the pursuit operations launched by the military after an alleged encounter on April 28, 2015 between the 58th IB PA and the NPA that resulted in six casualties on the part of the military.

Trumped-up charges against leaders of people's organizations

On July 11, 2015, **Honey Mae Suazo**, 34, Secretary General of Karapatan Southern Mindanao learned that trumped-up criminal charges instigated by the AFP were filed against her and 15 other

leaders of people's organizations for supporting the evacuees from Talaingod and Kapalng, Davao del Norte, and from Bukidnon.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) filed the complaint on May 12 at the City Prosecutor's Office, with charges of violation of Republic Act (RA) 267 or Kidnapping, Serious Illegal Detention and RA 9208 or the Anti-trafficking in persons Act of 2003 as amended by RA 10364 or the Expanded Anti-trafficking of Persons Act of 2012.

Aside from Suazo, those included in the complaint are: **Rev. Jurie Jaime** (Promotion of Church People's Response-SMR); **Sheena Duazo** (Bayan SMR); **Ryan Lariba** (Bayan Socskargen); **Tony Salubre** (Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-SMR); **Mary Ann Sapar** (Gabriela Women's Party-SMR); **Jaja Necosia** (RCPA Productions-Broadcasting); **Kerlan Fanagel, Sr.**, (Secretary general of the Lumad group Pasaka); **Sr. Stella Matutina** (Panalipdan-Mindanao); **Sr. Restita Miles** (Rural Missionaries of the Philippines); **Isidro Indao**, (Spokesperson of Pasaka); **Kharlo Manano** (National Secretary General of Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns and spokesperson of the Save Our Schools network); **Rius Valle** (Children's Rehabilitation Center-SMR); **Jimboy Marciano** (SAMA-AKO-KMU); **Pedro Arnado** (Chairperson of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-SMR); and, many other John/Jane Does.

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

Attached to the criminal complaint filed against Suazo and leaders of progressive organizations in Davao is a so-called rogue gallery that contains the names and photos of 70 activists, including **Francis Añover**, national coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines; **Rev. Irma Balaba**, ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP); **Jacquiline Ruiz**, executive director of the Children's Rehabilitation Center;

Bayan Muna Rep. **Karlos Zarate**, Gabriela Women's Party Rep. **Emmi de Jesus**, former parliamentarians **Teddy Casino** and **Rafael Mariano** and Karapatan Secretary General **Cristina Palabay**. The "rogue gallery" was created by the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command.

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

The list is an assortment of names which includes the late labor leader **Crispin Beltran** and environmentalist **Francis Morales**, who died in May 2008 and November 2014, respectively. It also included National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace panel members **Jose Maria Sison** and **Juliet de Lima** who have been in the Netherlands since the 80s.

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

Ironically, among those charged were evacuees and a victim of torture.

A certain PO2 Jegz Bryan L. Salutan of the Philippine National Police-Alabel and Pfc. Charlito B. Tunggak of the 73rd IB-PA filed charges against leaders of UCCP, progressive people's organizations and human rights groups for attempted murder, violation of Republic Act 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act and violation of Republic Act 9851 or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and other Crimes Against Humanity.

Those charged were **Ryan Lariba**, Secretary General of Bayan-Socsksargen, who was also included in the case filed in Davao City; Rev. **Allen Bill Veloso**, Chairperson of Karapatan-Socsksargen; **Pastor Sadrach Sabella**, Secretary General of Karapatan Socsksargen; **Pastor Roger Rafalez** of the UCCP-Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR); **Bert Padayao**, Chairperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Socsksargen; **Anelfa Gemilo**, Chairperson of Kaluhhamin (a Lumad organization), **Lorna Mora**, Secretary General of Kaluhhamin and **15 others**, including

two staff members of CLANS (Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services).

The 22 individuals were charged with attempted murder in relation to an encounter between the NPA and 73rd IB-PA in Brgy. Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani. They were also charged with violation of Republic Act 7610 in relation to the evacuation of more than 400 Blaans who fled their homes when the military conducted combat operations in their communities and human rights violations were committed against them.

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

These trumped up criminal cases stemmed from the assistance provided by human rights groups and progressive organizations to victims of human rights violations. The individuals who were criminally charged were those who assisted the evacuees and those who

participated in a fact-finding mission in Sitio Akbual, Brgy. Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani province on April 27-29, 2015. The mission was held to investigate the human rights abuses committed by elements of the 73rd IB-PA against the Blaans tribe.

Almost 150 elements of the 73rd IB-PA conducted military operations on March 27 until April 10, 2015, affecting some 358 families or 1,800 individuals who became victims of

evidence. Part of the resolution reads, "Kidnapping "en masse" in the heart of the city and confinement in a church compound is to say the least, not plausible."

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

against the **69 activists in Cagayan Valley** in an attempt to suppress the people's voice against the rising cases of military abuses in the region.

In July, 29 individuals, mostly from the Aggay and Malaweg tribes, were charged with three counts of kidnapping with homicide on mere suspicion that they are members/supporters of the NPA. Sgt. Arsenio Villar Capili of the 17th IB-PA accused the 29 of kidnapping and murder of two army intelligence agents and a member of CAFGU on February 25, 2015.

Three of the 29 indigenous people were abducted on July 20, 2015 by elements of the 17th IB-PA. **Marlon Baganay**, **Mendo Bisiotan** and **Lando Daryuin** were surfaced three days later, on July 23, at a military camp in Lasam, Cagayan Valley. The 70-year old Daryuin is partially blind. Currently, they are detained at the Cagayan Provincial Jail.

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

Among the 40 individuals were: **Isabelo Adviento**, chairperson of Kagimungan peasant organization and Anakpawis partylist nominee; **Femie Galapon**, chairperson of National Union of Students in the Philippine-Cagayan Valley and convenor of Rise for Education alliance; **Randy Malayao**, convenor of Bayan Cagayan Valley and Makabayan vice president for Luzon; and, **Agnes Mesina**, regional coordinator of the Save the Valley network and the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines.

A number of the accused are unknown to the leaders of people's organizations; while some, like in the case of those in Mindanao, were participants in the two fact-finding missions held in the town of Rizal in Zinundangan Valley. Elements of the 17th IB-PA under the 5th Infantry Division have been conducting military operations in the communities since February 2015.

The same tales of woes are echoed by the people of Cagayan Valley: people accused of being members or supporters of the NPA,



Members of COURAGE in a picket at the Commission on Human Rights office. The CHR, following the lead of Malacanang, has not acted on the rampant cases of military atrocities against the people.



abuses and human rights violations. The team documented military atrocities in the Blaans villages, among them were: torture, aerial bombings, indiscriminate firing, and food blockade. After the fact-finding team left the community, indiscriminate firing continued which prompted some 441 villagers to leave the area on May 18 and sought shelter in nearby villages but eventually decided to go to General Santos City.

On September 18, seven of the 70 activists in the military's "rogue gallery" filed at the Supreme Court a petition for writ of amparo and writ of habeas data as a legal remedy for the threat to their "right to life, liberty or security". Expectedly, the AFP simply responded by saying no such "rogue gallery" exists.

In a resolution dated September 8, the Office of the City Prosecutor in Davao City dismissed the charges against Suazo et al for lack of sufficient

The same thread from south to north

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

Filing of trumped up charges

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

The same tyrannical act the BS Aquino regime used in Mindanao, among leaders of people's organizations in Davao City and General Santos City, is now used

A few days before BS Aquino's last State of the Nation Address (SONA), the International People's Tribunal held in Washington, DC on July 16-18, found the Aquino regime guilty of violations of the Filipino people's Civil and Political Rights, Economic and Socio-Cultural Rights; and Right to Self-Determination. The same guilty verdict was handed down to the US government, which is "equally liable with Defendant Aquino for these gross human rights violations."

Karapatan was among the complainants, which filed cases of violations of civil and political rights. Other complainants were the Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines, Hustisya, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Selda, Desaparecidos, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Migrante, Kadamay, Gabriela, Kalikasan, Bayan Muna. Karapatan chairperson Marie Hilao-Enriquez testified as an expert witness on the overall human rights situation in Philippines.

The prosecution presented 34 cases of rights violations through 32 witnesses, 17 of whom went to Washington, DC; while 10 who remained in Manila were presented through live internet stream.

The tribunal's jurors, headed by prominent US human rights attorney Azadeh Shahshahani, concluded that the "evidence complied with the evidentiary requirements, and that these evidences clearly established the factual basis of the Indictment, and the culpability of respondents Defendant Benigno Simeon Aquino III and Defendant Government of the United States of America."

Copies of the Verdict was delivered at the White House and the US State Department by rights and peace groups in the US; and in Malacañang through a rally led by Bayan and Karapatan.

Below is the conclusion lifted from the 50-page verdict of the IPT.

GUILTY:

Verdict of the International People's Tribunal on the BS Aquino regime

The Filipino people were failed by their own government and they have come before Us.

Over the past two long, painful and enraging days, We have closely and keenly listened, watched, seen, asked, pondered on an uninterrupted procession of witnesses, survivors, families and friends – victims all in each and every way – as well as experts and eminent resource persons whose opinions are uncontested and indisputable because they constitute very credible testimonies, accounts and reports.

As the Prosecution said, they have presented meticulously and thoroughly "a compelling case of complicity, collusion, responsibility, and liability for gross, massive, and systematic human rights violations." They presented one after the other, without fail, 34 cases with 32 witnesses, 17 here in Washington, D.C., 10 in Manila, 4 from the more far-flung parts of the Philippines, and one from abroad.

The People have also submitted 29 more cases for the consideration of the Tribunal. Indeed, the Prosecution has satisfied the burden of proving satisfactorily that the Defendants, in concert with each other, willfully and feloniously committed gross and systematic violations of the Filipino people's basic human rights.

The People have "undoubtedly proven that State security forces were involved in the spate of extrajudicial killings, massacres, and enforced disappearances in the Philippines. The pieces of evidence singly, and independently confirm that these incidents are not isolated but state-sponsored, part of a policy deliberately adopted to silence the critics of the government."

Defendant President Aquino, as Commander-in-Chief as well as Chief Executive of Defendant Philippine government, is liable both directly and indirectly based on his personal acts and omissions as well as under the principle of command responsibility. The violations are nothing but State terror. They simply have failed in their duty to protect the people.

Defendant President Aquino and the Philippine government "disempower the people with faulty and failed economic policy. Opportunities in the Philippines are shrinking, the prices of goods are ballooning, social services are eluding the reach of the ordinary Filipino."

Indeed, the People have proven that the Defendant Philippine government unabashedly surrendered its national patrimony and sovereignty to corporate entities in important industries, particularly and most especially in mining.

Truly, by malevolent design, the Defendants Philippine and US governments, in cahoots with the other Defendants, have conspired to prevent or distort the development of the Philippines as they have prescribed and imposed policies intended to disregard and marginalize agriculture and national industrialization. The People have satisfactorily convinced this Tribunal.

The People have also convinced this Tribunal of the interventionist policies in the Philippines and in Asia by the Defendant US government. Various military operations under Defendant President Aquino have resulted in crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The nexus between the culpability of Defendant President Aquino and the role and participation of Defendant US government for gross and serious violations of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and the right of the Filipino people to national self-determination and liberation is borne by the facts and the evidence fully established during the Tribunal.

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

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

1. GUILTY of gross human rights violations involving the civil and political rights of the Filipino People, for committing extrajudicial killings, disappearances, massacres, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions as well as other vicious, brutal and systematic abuses and attacks on the basic democratic rights of the people;
2. GUILTY of gross and systematic violations of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights of the Filipino people through the imposition of neo-liberal "free market" globalization to exploit the people; transgression of their economic sovereignty and plunder of their national patrimony and economy; and attacks on the people's livelihoods and the destruction of the environment; and
3. GUILTY of gross and systematic violations of the rights of the people to national self-determination and liberation through the imposition of the US war of terror and US military intervention; as well as the perpetration of crimes against humanity and war crimes; misrepresentations of the people's right to national liberation and self-determination as "terrorism" and the baseless "terrorist" listing of individuals, organizations and other entities by the US and other governments.

The Tribunal seriously condemns the continued efforts of the Defendants to abandon the peace process and address the roots of the conflict in the Philippines in order to achieve a just and lasting peace.

We enjoin the Defendants to undertake, and the People to pursue proper remedial measures to prevent the commission or continuance of the illegal and criminal acts, to repair the damages done to the Filipino people and their environment, compensate the victims and their families for their atrocities, and to rehabilitate the communities, especially indigenous communities that have been destroyed by the criminal acts of the Defendants.

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

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

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

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

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

SO ORDERED.

11 September 2015.

ATTY. AZADEH SHAHSHAHANI, MARY BOYD, ATTY. CAMILO PEREZ-BUSTILLO, PAO-YU CHING,
REV. MALCOLM DAMON, REV. MOLEFE TSELE, and REV. MICHAEL YOSHII

(for full text of the verdict: <https://internationalpeopletribunal.org/files.wordpress.com/2015/09/international-peoples-tribunal-ipt-2015-final-verdict.pdf>)

illegal search, interrogation, the use of civilians in military operations, ransacking of houses, encampment in barangay halls, health centers and civilian houses, and forced evacuation. The indigenous groups of Aggay, Malaweg, and Kalinga are among the most affected by the military operations.

Threats, harassment and surveillance

Aside from trumped-up criminal cases, leaders of people's organizations receive direct threats and harassments from State forces—at times concealed, at times brazen.

The threat and harassment come in various forms—from phone messages to actual covert and overt surveillance and house “visits”.

From June 3 to 8, 2015, **Florida “Pong” Sibayan**, chairperson of Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (Alliance of Farmworkers in Hacienda Luisita) received a series of text messages that are veiled threats such as offers of money and protection. The messages, according to Sibayan, were sent by someone who introduced himself as “Major Enriquez” and who, Sibayan noted, knew the details of her activities, even the illness of her mother. “Enriquez” also sowed intrigues among members of the alliance, saying many have already sided with the government.

The threats and harassment of leaders and members of the Confederation of Unity Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) also started out with dubious phone messages. Later, threat letters were delivered in a number of members' houses or offices. In the case of one union officer in the National Food Authority, the letter was personally given to her by a man who sat beside her in the jeepney. At its peak, some of the members' houses were visited by persons who introduced themselves as military agents. COURAGE is an alliance of unions of public sector employees.

Since April 27, government intelligence agents subjected more than 20 members and leaders of COURAGE to harassments, intimidation, and surveillance. At least

five members received letters listing down their supposed involvement with the union and their links to the CPP-NPA.

Those who received letters were: **Roman M. Sanchez**, National Food Authority (NFA) employee and National Food Authority Employees Association (NFAEA) National President; **Evelyn P. Garcia**, NFA employee and national assistant secretary general of NFAEA; **Fely Saño**, NHA employee and CUE-NHA 2nd Vice President; **Rosalinda Nartates**, CUE-NHA National President and COURAGE Secretary General; and, **Manuel Baclagon** SWEAP-DSWD (Social Welfare Employees Association—Department of Social Welfare and Development) National President and former COURAGE Deputy Secretary General.

Prior to this, a series of “visits” by persons who claimed to be members of the AFP's intelligence unit visited the NFA office. On April 21, a certain Sgt. Borres who introduced himself as liaison officer of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) entered the NFA premises looking for **Hilario M. Tan**, retired NFA employee and former vice president of the NFAEA and Ms. Evelyn P. Garcia. A security personnel of the NFA stopped Sgt. Borres and brought him to the Security Service office for questioning because he had a .45 calibre pistol. The security personnel asked Borres for a mission order, but he could not produce, so he left.

The following day, on April 22, a certain Cesar Evangelista visited the NFA, this time looking for **Mr. Ruben Gerard S. Tubao**, former NFAEA-National Capital Region President.

On almost the same dates, employees and union members in the National Housing Authority also received letters. There were also office “visits” by men and women whose identity is doubtful.

The last documented incident involving COURAGE members was the harassment of the Toquero couple on June 28 at their residence in Silang, Cavite. **Raquel Toquero** is a national staff member of COURAGE; while **Mervin** is Officer-in-Charge of the Program Unit on Faith, Witness and Service (FWS) of the National Council

of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP). Two men appeared at the door of the Toquero residence while the family was having breakfast at 8:00 a.m. The men identified themselves as soldiers looking for Raquel, “Alam na namin ang mga pinaggagawa niya. Gusto namin siya maka-usap para matulungan” (We already know what she's been doing. We want to talk to her to help her). The men did not show any identification papers and mission order when Mervin requested for them. Instead, the men peeped through the window and called out to Raquel, who was inside the house, to say they know her activities and offered to help her. They handed her a paper with a name “Delia” and a cellphone number 09261430628.

Previous incidents of harassment and surveillance were also documented involving the staff members of Salinlahi and the Children's Rehabilitation Center on May 14 to 16, 2015; and the 60 leaders and members of the allied organizations of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) on May 15.

Registered social workers **Eilekrenes Manano** and **Madella Santiago** of Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns and Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC), respectively were tailed by intelligence agents aboard a motorcycle from their office to a fastfood restaurant and back to their office.

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

On May 15, 2015, 60 leaders and campaign officers of Bayan's 31 member organizations were gathered at the Teachers' Center Building in Bgy. Vasra, Quezon City when they noticed men on several vehicles on stakeout on the streets around the building—a Toyota Innova with plate number AAM129, two motorcycles and five other vehicles. When some

members of Bayan approached the vehicles with video cameras on hand, the men believed to be intelligence operatives ran off and left the place. The incident was immediately reported to the barangay office.

On July 14, members of COURAGE, Salinlahi and the CRC filed a petition for a writ of amparo and habeas data as a legal remedy to stop harassment and surveillance against them by state intelligence agents. The groups named as



respondents Pres. Benigno Aquino, Defense Chief Voltaire Gazmin, AFP chief of staff Lieutenant General Hernando Iriberry and several intelligence officers of the AFP and PNP from the national to the station level.

Ironically, it was immediately after the filing of the petition that Antonieta Setias-Dizon, one of the petitioners from COURAGE, was tailed by vehicles from the Supreme Court to the office of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Ortigas Ave. Setias-Dizon said it was the same silver Toyota Innova with the license plate AAM 3129 that was tailing her since July 6. The vehicle is registered to a certain Norberto de los Reyes of Room 83, Condo B, in Camp Crame. Two other vehicles and three motorcycles backed-up the silver Toyota.

The incident resulted in a five-day stakeout when Setias-Dizon decided not to leave the IBP office until the vehicles tailing her leave. But for five days, the cars kept guard at the IBP premises.

On August 4, the Supreme Court granted the petition for the writ of amparo and habeas data for the petitioners from Courage, CRC, and Salinlahi.

Prior to this recent spate of harassments, activists and peace

Law Center, Rey Casambre of the Philippine Peace Center, and Rosie Tumbagahon, a staff of the Joint Secretariat of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the GPH and NDFP.

As in the past counterinsurgency programs, the pattern has been to subject activists and civilians to red tagging, harassment and surveillance and, almost always, graver violations of human rights such as extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance follow.

Massacre, extrajudicial killings

Of the five cases of massacres documented in the second and third quarter of 2015, one happened in the Bicol region, specifically in Uson, Masbate. The Bicol region has the most number of victims of extrajudicial

advocates experienced break-ins in houses and offices; and robbery of items such as laptops, USB/flash drives, video cameras and similar data storage devices. In a span of one year from 2012 to 2013, there were 12 such cases documented by Karapatan.

The documented cases of break-ins involve the office of Gabriela Women's Party, Health Alliance for Democracy, Parents Alternative for Early Child Care and Development (ECCD), Inc., Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns, and in the shared office Bayan and Karapatan chapters in the National Capital Region. Also, people involved in the GPH-NDFP peace process had become victims of robberies. They were Atty. Rachel Pastores of the Public Interest



killings and massacre. There are 66 documented victims of extrajudicial killings in the region; and six of the 14 incidents of massacre happened also in the Bicol region.

On August 3, members of the Bravo Company of the 9th IB-PA, the 93rd Division Reconnaissance Company, 96th Military Intelligence Command, Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU) 5 and members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection

Group (PNP-CIDG) Masbate were ambushed by members of the NPA at the National Highway in Brgy. Del Carmen, Uson, Masbate. According to news reports, Sgt. Fernandez Leynes Jr. was killed, while four other soldiers and an embedded reporter Jet Ramos were wounded.

The ambush happened three kilometres away from Bgy. Del Carmen, where a fellow soldier Lt. Romel Arnado resides. As soon as Arnado received a call from fellow soldiers who were ambushed, he immediately sought the help of Brgy. Captain Sulpicio Abelida Mahinay to bring the wounded soldiers to the nearest hospital. Mahinay readily agreed.

Mahinay asked four habal-habal (tricycle) drivers **Adam Fajardo, 34, Joebert Badillo, 23, Gary Vistar, 37, and Rogelio Abelida, Jr., 27,** to help the soldiers. Abelida was Mahinay's nephew. The four went ahead to the place of incident. After ten minutes, the barangay's patrol car arrived. Brgy. Capt. Mahinay immediately helped the wounded soldiers to the patrol car while talking to some of the soldiers.

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

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

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

It was already around 5:30 p.m. when Brgy. Capt. Mahinay arrived at their village hall. He was surprised to see so many people, the family and friends of the habal-habal drivers. He found out that the four were already dead.

The remains of the four were loaded in the military truck and brought to the town plaza. The families followed to retrieve the remains of their loved ones. Brgy. Capt



Victims of the State's surveillance and threats: Aside from members of Courage and children's rights advocacy groups, health workers and students also filed before the Supreme court a petition for a writ of amparo and habeas data.

Mahinay confronted the soldiers, who simply said "They were NPA".

On August 20, 2015, Karapatan-Sorsogon Spokesperson **Teodoro "Ka Tudoy" Escanilla, 63,** was gunned down in Barcelona, Sorsogon.

Escanilla had been a human rights worker since 1998 as part of the Sorsogon People's Organization (SPO), a community-based human rights organization. He joined Karapatan-Sorsogon in 2006 as its spokesperson. He was also radio commentator for 10 years, serving as anchor of a local radio program, "Pamana ng Lahi" (Legacy of our people). He was also coordinator of the Anakpawis partylist.

Escanilla constantly received threats from the military. Karapatan documentation showed he had been under surveillance since 2003, including several encounters between him and the military units assigned in Sorsogon. In 2011, Escanilla was falsely charged with frustrated murder and damage to property in a supposed raid conducted at a police station in the town of Barcelona.

The last documented threat to Escanilla's life was in February 2015. Sgt. Rene Enteria of the 31st IB-PA arrested and tortured a resident in the village where Escanilla lived. Enteria then offered the man Php 50,000 and a .45 caliber gun to kill Escanilla. The person, whose name cannot

be disclosed for security purposes, immediately reported the incident to Karapatan-Sorsogon.

Two gunmen shot Escanilla at around 11:15 p.m. on August 20, using an M16 rifle and a .45 caliber handgun. He was already asleep when his house was stoned prompting him to look through the window. His body bore two gunshot wounds in the stomach, one in the left shoulder and another in his right cheek. The two gunmen got away using three motorcycles and one tricycle with eight other men who were part of the operation.

As of September 30, there are six documented cases of human rights

workers who were killed by State forces under the BS Aquino regime. They are: Fernando Baldomero, Romeo Capalla, William Bugatti, Romualdo Palispis, Fred Tranguia, and Escanilla.

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

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

Endric "Bayoto" Calago, 47, was the vice chairperson of Kaugmaon, a local peasant organization affiliated with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP). Rosalie, 45, was a barefoot reporter for radio programs Kaling Kag Tugda and Pugasan in Negros and Cebu. She was a member of Gabriela. She also supported the Franciscan mountain clinic, a community-managed program run by local health workers. Both were involved in the relief and rehabilitation programs for victims and survivors of a landslide that happened in 2012. They were also members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Political prisoners and the NDFP peace consultants

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

State of Tanduary workers exposes the regime's exploitative and repressive nature

On May 18, the contractual workers in Tanduary Distillers Inc. in Cabuyao, Laguna launched a strike to demand for regularization of work, higher wages, and a safe workplace.

The workers under the Tanggulan, Ugnayan at Daluyang Lakas ng Anakpawis ng Tanduary Distillers Inc. (TUDLA) said 90 percent of the workers in Tanduary are low-paid and more than 60 percent are contractual, who were hired via a service contracting agency and have been with TDI for five to 11 years. The group also hit the management for the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the workplace. The workers pay for their own PPE through salary deduction. These gross violations happen while the TDI in Cabuyao earns net incomes ranging from Php325 million to nearly a billion pesos annually. The factory manufactures refreshments and liquor products.

TUDLA Inc. is a union of contractual workers of Tanduary Distillers. The strike is supported by Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (PAMANTIK-KMU), a regional chapter of Kilusang Mayo Uno.

The strike was prompted by a termination notice served to more than 200 workers for demanding regularization of work.

The management, in many instances, attempted to sabotage the strike and dismantle the picket line.

On the first day of the strike, at least 40 workers were already injured in the series of violent dispersals. Retired Lt. Col. Noel Coballes, former army chief and head of security of the Asia Brewery Complex where the TDI factory is located, personally supervised the dispersal operations of the company guards, police and members of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). Coballes told the striking workers they were "trespassing into the ABI Complex" and that the strike "ruins the product's image of the company". Coballes also warned the workers the company is not responsible should anything untoward happen to the workers.

Coming from a military institution that treats those who fight for their rights as enemies of the state, it comes as no surprise that Coballes uses the same militarist approach against the Tanduary workers.

(Continued on page 25)

when she entered motherhood. She lost her daughter. On September 7, 2015, she was released after the murder charge against her was finally dismissed.

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

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

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

Maria Concepcion “Concha” Araneta-Bocala, 64, was arrested on August 1, 2015 at her residence in Juntado Subdivision, Calumpang, Molo, Iloilo City by joint forces of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU) and the ISAFP. The arrest was made based on warrants for two murder charges, that supposedly happened almost three decades ago, in 1987 and in 1998.

Araneta-Bocala is NDFP peace consultant for Visayas and carries with her JASIG Document of Identification No. ND978245 under the assumed name “Remi Estrella.” The Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of National Defense hitlist has placed a Php 7.8 million reward for the arrest of Araneta-Bocala.

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

Ernesto Lorenzo, 59, was at the IT Center in Gilmore, Quezon City on July 20, 2015 when he was nabbed by joint elements of the CIDG and members of the military intelligence group. He was on the escalator when two men grabbed him. He shouted to catch the public’s attention, but he was immediately whisked out of the building and into a van. He was brought to PNP General Headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City. Ernesto Lorenzo was previously issued an NDFP Document of Identification No. ND 978229 under the assumed name ‘Lean Martinez’.

At about the same time, Lorenzo’s wife **Joyce Latayan**, 39, was also

firearms and explosives but was later dismissed at the Prosecutor’s office in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Latayan also face charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives in Mauban, Quezon filed in 2008.

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

On June 1, **Adelberto Silva**, 68, was arrested with wife **Rosanna Cabusao**, 53, and aide **Isidro De Lima**, 68. Silva, a labor leader, is a JASIG-protected person with Document Identification Number ND978229 under the assumed name “Percival Rojo”. Cabusao is a researcher/consultant of the Crispin B. Beltran Resource Center and a founding member of Gabriela.

The couple was arrested in their home in Bacoor, Cavite by elements of the CIDG. The 50 armed men forced themselves into the house, searched it; and, based on what Cabusao saw, “planted” evidences against them.

The arrest was based on the arrest warrants against Silva for several murder cases in different provinces. Silva is among the accused in the so-called mass grave found in Hilongos, Leyte—the same fabricated charge used against several other NDFP Consultants such as Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon. Silva also faces murder charges which supposedly happened in Cagayan Valley. It was the same case used against Elizabeth Principe, another NDFP consultant, but whose case was dismissed in 2009.

Silva, Cabusao, and De Lima were charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives which was

Region	TOTAL No. of PPs	Women	NDF Consultants & Staff	Arrested Under PNoy
Cordillera Administrative Region	5	0	1	5
Ilocos	0	0	0	0
Cagayan Valley	12	3	0	12
Central Luzon	11	2	1	6
Southern Tagalog	20	1	0	8
Bicol	37	3	1	28
NCR	224	22	13	61
Western Visayas	20	2	1	20
Central Visayas	4	0	0	2
Eastern Visayas	34	8	1	26
Northern Mindanao	38	2	2	32
Caraga	15	0	0	14
Socsksargen	28	1	0	15
Western Mindanao	26	5	0	18
Southern Mindanao	53	2	0	29
ARMM	28	0	0	11
Total	555	51	20	287
Sickly	85			
Elderly	50			
Arrested Minor	8			

TABLE 3: Political Prisoners (as of September 2015)

arrested at their house in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. Latayan was outside the house to meet her seven-year-old daughter who was coming home from school when she noticed two men in civilian clothes inside their compound. Other plain-clothed men, who identified themselves as CIDG, went straight to the second floor of the house. When they came down, they were already carrying bags and a box of weapons, which the police later used as “evidence”.

Lorenzo’s arrest was based on a warrant for destructive arson filed in 2010 in Lucena City. Lorenzo is among the “ST 72” or the 72 activists

and leaders of people’s organizations in Southern Tagalog falsely charged with criminal offenses by Pres. Gloria Arroyo’s IALAG. In 2007, UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings Prof. Philip Alston strongly recommended the abolition of the IALAG and to stop the practice of filing of trumped up charges against activists. Lorenzo is a long-time labor leader and a pastor of the United Methodist Church (UMC).

The search warrant used against Latayan came from the Cabanatuan City Regional Trial Court. On the basis of “planted” evidence, Latayan was charged with illegal possession



TOP-BOTTOM (L-R): Portraits of Emeterio Antaan (by Dew Aleli Ayroso); Adelberto Silva (by Melvin Pollero); Leopoldo Caloza (by Arnie Jarabillo); Eduardo Serrano (by Jesus Santiago); Photos of Concha Araneta-Bocala and Ernesto Lorenzo.

OPPOSITE: Andrea Rosal with political prisoner and NDFP consultant Eduardo Serrano.



filed in Bacoor, Cavite. The evidences against them were planted during the raid by the CIDG, a pattern that has been very visible in many trumped-up cases filed against activists and peace consultants.

The BS Aquino regime's track is definitely not to engage in the peace talks, but to jail consultants and keep them in detention for as long as it can. Additional false charges are filed even as the consultants are already in jail.

Such is the case of the longest detained NDFP consultant **Eduardo Serrano**, 62. Serrano has been in jail for more than 11 years now for trumped up charges meant for a certain Rogelio Villanueva.

In June, the Court of Appeals ordered the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 98 to first resolve the issue of Serrano's identity—whether he and Villanueva are the same persons—before proceeding to hear the primary case on trial. Serrano appears before the court for charges of multiple murder, frustrated murder, robbery, multiple frustrated murder, kidnapping, and multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder, all meant for Rogelio Villanueva.

The hearing on October 13 at the Branch 98 should have been the promulgation on Serrano's identity after the prosecution failed to present its witness. Yet, in haste, the prosecution filed a motion for reconsideration to allow them to present witnesses, and the court allowed it. Two army officers took the witness stand. One of the witnesses neither knows Villanueva nor Serrano. The other witness said he saw Villanueva thrice—first, during an ambush in 2003 from which the case was based; second, when a picture of Villanueva was shown him at the hospital right after the ambush in 2003; and third, during the October 13, 2015 hearing, 12 years later.

Serrano is a JASIG protected person and one of the 20 detained peace consultants of the NDFP. Arrested in May 2004, he was incommunicado for a week before he was brought to Calapan Provincial Jail. In 2006, he was transferred to Camp Crame Custodial Center in

Quezon City. On September 24, he was unexpectedly transferred to the Special Intensive Care Area-1, Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

The GPH has completely reneged on its commitment to release “most, if not all” political prisoners when on September 17, 2015 the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 266 convicted peace consultants **Emeterio Antalan**, 56, and **Leopoldo Caloza**, 55, after six years of trial. The court found the two “guilty beyond reasonable doubt” for the murder of a certain Kathlyn Ramos, supposedly a “deep penetrating agent (DPA) of the AFP. Their arrest is already a violation of the JASIG, their conviction is even more iniquitous.

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

Caloza is a consultant working on the Comprehensive Agreement for Social and Economic Reforms (CASER) while Antalan is consultant on peasant concerns and represents the Central Luzon region.

Judge Toribio Ilaos's decision was based solely on the testimony of Bayani Domingo, who claimed to be a former NPA member before he surrendered to the military in 2002. Domingo admitted he did not see Antalan and Caloza kill Kathlyn Ramos. Domingo claimed that on October 26, 2002 at an NPA camp in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, Ka Ino, whom Domingo averred as Caloza, ordered him to dig a hole in the ground. Domingo also claimed that he was ordered to fetch Antalan, aka

Ka Iro, along with the DPA Ramos and other companions. Domingo later surrendered to the 48th IB and supposedly led the military to the grave of Ramos.

Two other testimonies against Caloza and Antalan came from Leonardo Bernardo and Tarcila Ramos, the mother of Kathlyn. Bernardo said he knew Antalan and Caloza as NPA leaders and Ramos as “tagapagturo sa magsasaka (a teacher to the peasants).” He later learned that Ramos was killed. Bernardo's testimony mentioned nothing about the alleged murder.

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

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

As of September 30, 2015, there are 555 political prisoners in jail facing baseless and made-up criminal charges who should immediately be released. The few that had been released like Andrea Rosal, is a proof that the charge hurled by the regime against activists and innocent civilians is a farce. More so because these cases are backed by so-called witnesses who mocks the courts and whatever trimmings of democracy is left in this country.

(“State of Tanduary..” from page 21)

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

The violent dispersal of the workers' picket line would be repeated in the succeeding days and months as workers stood firm on their demands.

The strike continued as the Tanduary workers filed a petition at the Labor Department calling for their regularization and reinstatement in their workplace.

On June 22, the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) Region IV-A came out with an order directing TDI to regularize the 130 workers supplied by the Global Pro and HD service cooperatives, a service contracting agency. The company ignored the decision, and instead filed an Appeal at the DOLE. It also went on its attempt to dismantle the picket line. Violence again erupted on August 4 and September 22.

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

The attacks against the striking workers of Tanduary shows the clear connivance between the owner, Lucio Tan, and the military and police to violently break a legitimate protest and ignore the rightful demands of the workers. Lucio Tan and his puppets in the military and police violated both the economic, civil and political rights of the workers.

The picket line still stands. Lucio Tan has yet to comply with the Labor Department's orders, just as he tried to ignore the Philippine Airlines workers' strike in 2011 against massive termination. Lucio Tan is listed in The Forbes magazine as the second wealthiest billionaire from the Philippines with a net worth of \$6.1 billion or P270 billion. Aside from Tanduary Distillers Inc., Lucio Tan owns Asia Brewery, Philippine Airlines, Philippine National Bank, and Eton real estate. ☆

B.S. Aquino once dreamed of crushing the people's revolution and rendering the rebels insignificant. Trusting and worshipping his colonial master, he patterned his counterinsurgency operational plan after the US Military Counterinsurgency (COIN) Guide. He put on deceptive trimmings of “peace and development”, “people-centric” and “whole-of-nation” to his military strategy. To further enhance its appeal to the people, he named it after a traditional Filipino practice of mutual cooperation called “Bayanihan” and masqueraded his State security forces with a collar that reads “respects human rights”. But all these are for the show as his military and paramilitary forces relentlessly launch their atrocious offensives victimizing even unarmed civilians; all these, to protect the powers that be and favoured transnational interests that plunder the nation's resources and encroached into ancestral domains.

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

Only a few months is left for the Aquino regime to go but it has not awakened from its dream, its grandeur illusion of that “righteous path” and a victory over a people persevering to be free from the bondage of poverty and an unjust, inhuman system. Hubris and insensitive that he is, Aquino takes pride in bequeathing to his successor a legacy of blunders and most of all a blood-soaked “righteous path”, leaving in its trail 294 victims of extrajudicial killings, 318 victims of frustrated killings, and countless other victims of human rights violations, as well as a lingering nightmare of meandering evacuees.

But the people would have none of it, not anymore. Their hardships and sacrifices have built in them more than resilience. These have galvanized their determination to put up a fight.



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AQUINO POLICY:

Targeting the Lumad under Oplan Bayanihan and the Whole of Nation Initiative

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

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

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

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

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

What the presentation and recent AFP pronouncements reveal is that there is indeed a policy to target the Lumad of Mindanao. It shows the complicity of other government agencies in the current Lumad crisis. The policy has had disastrous effects on Lumad leaders and their communities. That the President refuses to acknowledge that this policy exists means that there will be no meaningful action or resolution that can be expected from this administration.

Oplan Bayanihan calls for the “whole of nation approach” and “people-centric approach” in carrying out its counter-insurgency campaign. The entire state apparatus, including civilian agencies, is being

mobilized in the counter-insurgency drive. The program does not aim to address actual root causes of armed conflict, focusing instead on high-profile programs such as the conditional cash transfer program and medical missions. The WNI compliments the military drive through the use of psy-war and deception.

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

Based on the Powerpoint presentation, the priority areas for the “caravans” are the same areas and sectors identified by the military as the base of the New People’s Army. It uses an example the Eastern Mindanao region and echoes the public statements of the Eastern Mindanao Command that 74% of the members of the NPA in the region are from the ranks of indigenous peoples and that 90% of the NPA guerilla base are in ancestral domains of the IP communities. The thrusts of the counter-insurgency program therefore has to be “IP-centric”.

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

The stated priority areas of the counter-insurgency campaign are the same areas experiencing heavy

militarization and displacement of communities. These include the Lumad from Paquibato and Talaingod who have been forced to seek refuge at the UCCP Haran in Davao City. Also on the priority list are the Lumad areas in Surigao del Sur where militarization has been intense and where the ALCADDEV Lumad school is located.

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

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

One Capt. Joe Patrick Martinez, deputy spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, over local radio station DXBR, challenged Karapatan, ALCADDEV, TRIFPSS and other progressive and militant organizations in Caraga to join in the peace caravan “if you are really for peace”. Martinez emphasized that 70% of the NPA are Lumad because the children were being taught by NPA.

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

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

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

“These municipalities constitute almost the entire

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

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

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

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

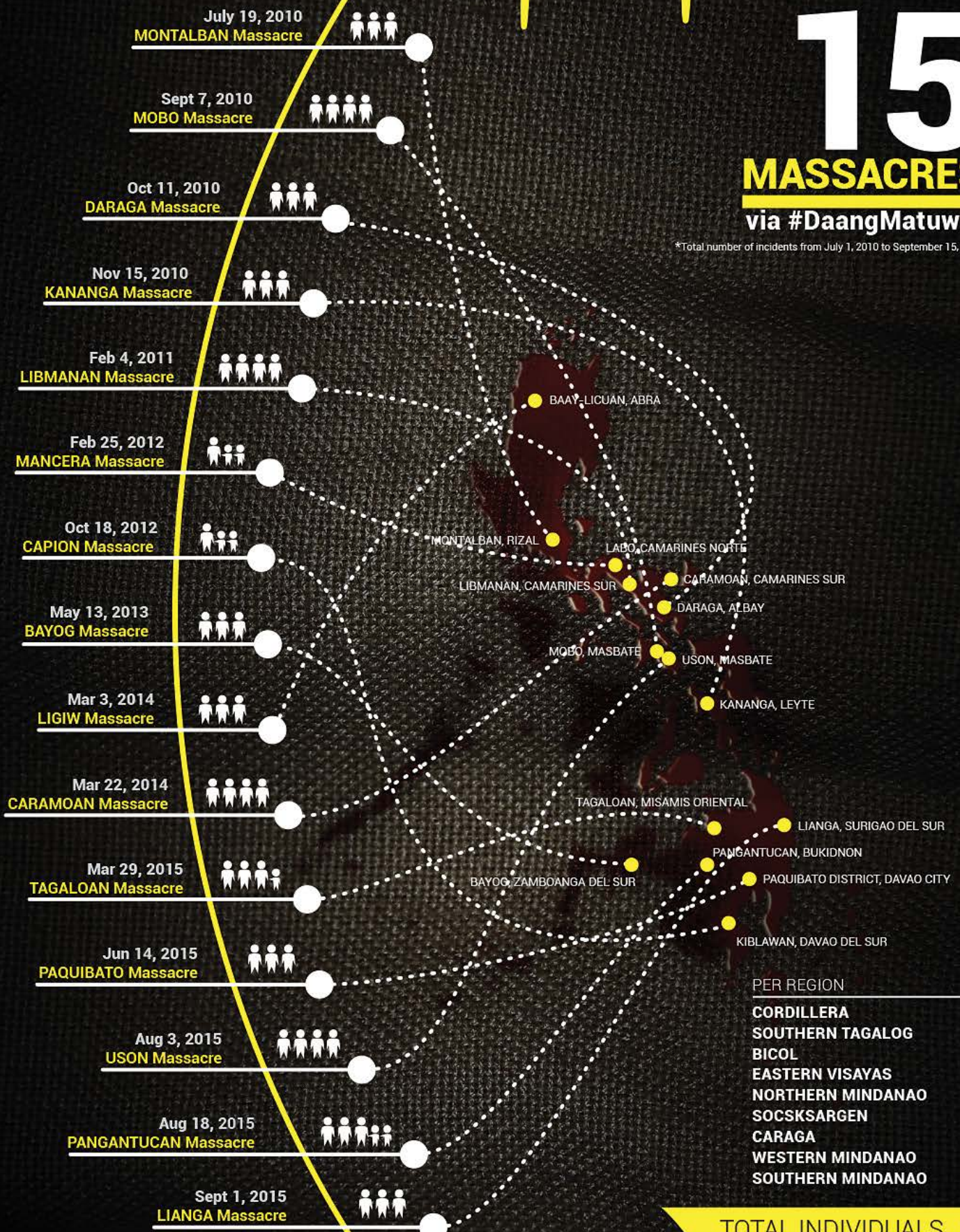
Oplan Bayanihan is supposed to end on December 2016. It has already failed to meet its medium-term goal of rendering the NPA irrelevant so that the AFP could focus on external defense during the second half of the program. Meanwhile, as the rampage of military and paramilitary groups continue, the OPAPP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

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

15 MASSACRES

via #DaangMatuwid

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



PER REGION

CORDILLERA	1
SOUTHERN TAGALOG	1
BICOL	6
EASTERN VISAYAS	1
NORTHERN MINDANAO	2
SOCKSARGEN	1
CARAGA	1
WESTERN MINDANAO	3
SOUTHERN MINDANAO	1

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS **52**
TOTAL MINORS **7**