

2012 Karapatan Year-End Report

ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN THE PHILIPPINES



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Karapatan's 2012 Human Rights Report

The almost complete unmasking to the public of a pretentious rule marks the second year of Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino’s presidency.

Despite supposedly improving economic statistics, the majority of the people are still mired in poverty reeling from high prices of basic commodities and services, unemployment, unlivable wages, sham land reform, inadequate housing and so on. Even its much touted campaign against poverty is under question as more cases of corruption by people from the Aquino administration surface. No hope can be pinned on this president whose government fails to lighten and instead adds to the burden that the people, especially from the basic sectors, endure.

Noynoy Aquino’s reckless implementation of privatization, liberalization, deregulation and denationalization, all earmarks of neoliberal globalization, proves his puppetry to U.S. imperialism. Just like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Aquino has been anointed to be the U.S. lackey in Asia especially in its current “pivot to Asia-Pacific.” In exchange for Obama’s pat on the head and American military aid, Malacanang welcomes stronger U.S. military presence in the country and perhaps even the possible return of U.S. bases.

But the strongest evidence of Noynoy Aquino’s failing presidency is its glaringly reprehensible human rights record. Oplan Bayanihan, Noynoy Aquino’s “counterinsurgency” program, proceeded on its second year of implementation with less sugarcoating and with evident terror, in an attempt to silence the people who are made more restive by the unsolved problems of poverty, unemployment, economic dislocation and displacement.

The fascist attacks of the U.S.-Aquino regime against the people are not accidental but by design.

Oplan Bayanihan is now into the U.S.-Aquino regime’s self-imposed target on 2013 for its first phase, i.e., to end its identified armed threats and their so-called supporters or mass base.

Thus, military aggression is directed against members of people’s organizations and those in communities who are vocal against intensifying military presence and plunder of the country’s resources by multinational and local big business corporations.



The year saw increased military operations and heavy deployment of troops in areas believed to be strongholds of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA). Large-scale mining operations are protected and guarded against resistance from the affected communities. These resulted in the forced evacuation and displacement of thousands of indigenous peoples and farmers from their land, and hundreds of cases of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killing, frustrated killing, illegal arrests and detention, torture and military occupation of schools, chapels, *barangay* halls and clinics in the community.

Killings have gone back to being gruesome as in the case of Jenesis Ambason, a tribal leader in Agusan del Sur, who was shot and tortured to death. Ambason's head had shrunk due to heavy beatings. Then there was Ely Oguis, a village council member in Albay, who was shot and beheaded.

Attacks against the people are marked with contemptuous boldness, as in the massacre of the Capion family where witnesses heard the AFP ground commander issue the order to finish off the two children who survived the shooting so there would be no witnesses left.

The Capion massacre typifies the collusion of the civilian bureaucracy, the military and big business interest and, at the same time, an example of how the AFP turns its gun against unarmed civilians when they fail to get their targets.

Oplan Bayanihan's hurried first phase is not accidental but by design.

The Aquino regime remains ever faithful to the interest of U.S. imperialism, which is now geared towards its "pivot to Asia Pacific." It is no coincidence that as the Aquino government plays the warmonger in the Scarborough Shoal conflict with China, there is a slow but steady increase in the number of American troops and their nuclear-armed and -powered ships entering Philippine territory.

It is no coincidence that Oplan Bayanihan, the Philippine version of the U.S. Counterinsurgency Guide, aims to finish its Phase I to be able to shift the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to "external threats" and "defense of the Philippine territory" which actually means giving support to U.S. hegemony in the ASEAN.



Forced evacuation, forced eviction and demolition are a common occurrence under the Aquino government.



Violation of Civil and Political Rights
under the Noynoy Aquino Government

TABLE 1

July 2010 to Dec 2012

VIOLATIONS	No of Victims
Extrajudicial killing	137
Enforced disappearance	14
Torture	72
Rape	3*
Frustrated extrajudicial killing	154
Illegal arrest without detention	229
Illegal arrest and detention	269
Illegal search and seizure	203
Physical assault and injury	205
Forced eviction and demolition	8,336
Violation of domicile	370
Destruction of property	7,717
Divestment of property	282
Forced evacuation	30,260
Threat/harassment/intimidation	27,308**
Indiscriminate firing	6,743
Forced/fake surrender	47
Forced labor/involuntary servitude	162
Use of civilians in police and/or military operations as guides and/or shield	296
Use of schools, medical, religious and other public places for military purpose	23,792
Restriction or violent dispersal of mass actions, public assemblies and gatherings	2,481

**All victims are minors*

***Mostly communities in militarized areas*

Riding on his cultivated image as a reformist president and a graft-buster, Pres. Aquino's two-pronged attack on the Filipino masses is unabated through his economic program, the Public-Private Partnership, and through Oplan Bayanihan.

But no amount of tangled tales and denials can mask the human rights violations and impunity that the regime continues to carry out to push its economic programs and its puppetry to the U.S. by fascist means.

The U.S.-Aquino regime's cornerstone economic program, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP), continues the neoliberal economic policies imposed by the U.S. and other imperialist countries. This opens up, even more, the country's resources to plunder by big foreign companies, resulting in the displacement and further impoverishment of the majority of Filipinos. Foreign agribusiness companies are taking over vast tracks of agricultural land and turning them into plantations for oil palm, bananas, pineapples and other agricultural products that are mainly for export, and not for local consumption.

This year, Aquino signed Executive Order 79, supposedly to correct the flaws of the Mining Act of 1995. In truth, it abets large-scale and destructive mining by foreign corporations, for a measly increase of 3% in the government's share of income from the extractive operations.

Urban poor community residents are treated like dregs of society and removed through forced eviction and violent demolitions, to make way for the "beautiful" malls, condominiums and commercial complexes of mega businessmen and investors.

There is no relief in sight for the working class and the ordinary Filipinos who deal with the continuously rising cost of fuel, electricity, water and prices of basic commodities. Added to these are the rising cost of health services and education, as the government pushes the privatization and corporatization of hospitals and state universities.

The spinmasters of the regime may be quick, but they find it hard to cover-up the stench of corruption in the Aquino bureaucracy, such as: the acquisition of overpriced guns by the Department of Local Government Undersecretary and Aquino's shooting buddy, Rico Puno; the case of the missing Php 3.77 billion funds for the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program being investigated by the Commission on Audit, and the misspending by Phil. Charity Sweepstakes Office of the Php 40 million out of its controversial Php 325M intelligence funds.

THE second year of Oplan Bayanihan is marked with 51 extrajudicial killings, to bring the total death toll to 137 (as of December 30, 2012) since Noynoy Aquino sat in Malacanang. Just as many are the 154 victims of frustrated killings – those who survived slay attempts or were wounded in indiscriminate firing by soldiers. Several attacks were directed at indigenous peoples who took a stand against the entry of large and destructive mining in their ancestral land.

Children suffer during evacuations and demolitions, when they are driven from their homes and prevented from going to school. Worse, 15 children were victims of extrajudicial killings, and at least three of frustrated killings due to indiscriminate firing by soldiers, slay-try on an adult companion, or at a violent demolition. Several children were also arrested during violent demolitions or accosted during military operations. At least four children and youths were tagged as “NPA child rebels,” while one was charged with violation of the Human Security Act or the Anti-Terror Law.

Tribal communities are forcibly evacuated in the countryside, as they sought shelter, either from bombings and aerial strikes, or from combat-gear “peace and development teams” and military-sanctioned paramilitary units that swoop down on their communities.

Asked about the Philippine human rights situation in a media conference in New Zealand, Noynoy Aquino brushed aside reports of escalating cases of human rights violations under his regime as “leftist propaganda.” In many international forums, the government maintained that human rights violations under Aquino are simply “aberrations”.

Through their PR spins, the Aquino government intends to get the unreleased \$13 million of U.S. military assistance to the Philippines, which was blocked since 2008 when Philippine solidarity groups lobbied against its release because of unabated extrajudicial killings.

In reality, the Aquino regime is under increasing pressure because of its inaction to punish perpetrators of human rights violations, from the time of Gloria Arroyo to the present. One glaring proof is that of fugitive ex-Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. who remains at large a year after a

Bulacan court issued a warrant for his arrest. Despite Malacañang’s token action of raising the bounty for Palparan’s arrest to Php 2 million, no interagency task force has succeeded in locating “the Butcher” who has a well-entrenched network in the military and big business.

Aquino recently signed Administrative Order 35, creating a “high-level interagency superbody” that will investigate cases of extrajudicial killings, disappearances and torture. Ironically, among the nine members of the interagency body are the chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, the two institutions that are the primary perpetrators of human rights violations. Signed on Nov. 22, the eve of the third year of the Ampatuan massacre, Aquino’s move is more likely part of its efforts to deodorize its human rights record and secure military assistance from the U.S. government.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch pointed out that Aquino “has not lived up to his promises to bring those responsible for serious abuses to justice,” including the violations committed under his regime.

The Aquino regime was put to task at the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, where at least 22 out of 69 countries called attention to the continuing extrajudicial killings, disappearances and torture in the Philippines. Several countries called for the dismantling of paramilitary groups as well as for the prosecution of Palparan. Some urged the Philippine government to act on the requests of UN

TABLE 2

Monthly breakdown

Victims of extrajudicial killings under Aquino

MONTH	2010	2011	2012
January	N/A	3	3
February	N/A	10	8
March	N/A	5	2
April	N/A	3	2
May	N/A	2	4
June	N/A	2	2
July	7	3	6
August	2	3	7
September	10	7	5
October	5	2	7
November	10	2	4
December	7	1	1
TOTAL	41	43	51

With surprising dispatch, the military announced the relief of soldiers who killed the Capion family in the October 18 Davao del Sur massacre purportedly to face court martial. However, as of this writing, the soldiers are only contained in their barracks benefitted by military courts which are known to let cases drag, only to eventually absolve those accused. Such was the case of the soldiers of the 14th IB who were eventually acquitted of the 1987 Lupao Massacre, and redeployed to different units.

Special Rapporteurs to visit the country, to which the government gave a tentative response, citing lack of funds.

The UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, and on extrajudicial killings, Christof Heyns, noted in a statement the “growing number of threats and killings of rights defenders” in the Philippines.

Karapatan notes the enactment of the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Act of 2012 as a welcome development in the efforts of missing victims’ relatives, other victims and human rights advocates to end impunity. However, one can only hope that it will deter future violations and punish the perpetrators. But Aquino’s two-year human rights track record does not seem to lead towards that direction.

This year, Aquino promoted military officers who had been charged with cases of human rights violations, among them Brig. Gen Eduardo Año who was appointed chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP). He was among those charged in the abduction and disappearance of Jonas Burgos. Also promoted were Brig. Gen. Aurelio Baladad who was appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and before him Lt. Gen. Jorge Segovia who was assigned to head the Eastern Mindanao Command. Baladad and Segovia were among those charged in the illegal arrest and torture of the Morong 43.

On January 16, 2013, Aquino designated Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, referred to as Oplan Bayanihan’s brains, as the new AFP Chief of Staff, an ominous signal for the escalation of human rights violations under the U.S.-Aquino regime.

In line with Oplan Bayanihan’s deadline to end the insurgency in 2016, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of National Defense declared that it had allotted Php 467 million as bounty for the capture of 235 communist leaders. This has prompted arrests of ordinary citizens, whom the military slapped with the names of wanted individuals.

The real danger: state security agents and their auxiliaries

Aquino ridiculously lamented in one of his foreign trips the “danger” facing state agents such as “getting pelted with human waste” while

TABLE 3

Victims of Extrajudicial Killing and Enforced Disappearance under the Noynoy Aquino Government
BY REGION

July 2010 to Dec 2012

REGION	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Ilocos	3	0
Cordillera Administrative Region	1	0
Cagayan Valley	4	0
Central Luzon	8	0
National Capital Region	10	0
Southern Tagalog	21	3
Bicol	34	3
Western Visayas	9	4
Central Visayas	1	0
Eastern Visayas	7	0
Northern Mindanao	6	0
Caraga	4	3
Socsksargen	7	0
Western Mindanao	3	0
Southern Mindanao	14	1
ARMM	5	0
TOTAL	137*	14*
Women	17	0
Organized	67	7

*NOTE: Previously unreported cases of EJK in 2010 to 2012 have been added.

doing their job. It comes in sharp contrast with the real threat to the lives of tens of thousands of indigenous peoples who are forced to evacuate to dodge indiscriminately fired bombs and bullets by soldiers. Documented cases of human rights violations show how the real danger comes from state security forces and their back-up units.

Just in the last quarter of 2012, Karapatan chapters and allied organizations documented a spate of killings of leaders of indigenous peoples’ communities who opposed large-scale mining, dam and biofuel plantations in their ancestral lands. “Peace and Development Teams” (PDTs) torture and assault civilians and impose a reign of terror in the villages.

The perpetrators are identified as military units, paramilitary groups formed by or closely linked to the military, and suspected death squads under the AFP’s command.

Gloria Arroyo’s dreaded death squads—motorcycle-riding armed men, whether masked or barefaced – are still employed by the U.S.-Aquino regime to

eliminate progressive personalities and suspected rebel supporters. Cases of killings by these riding-in-tandem liquidation units largely remain unsolved, because the perpetrators have not been identified. In Bicol, death squads composed of suspected soldiers and CAFGU elements were responsible for the killing of suspected NPA supporters.

In Negros Occidental, members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) continued their terror attacks against suspected NPA supporters in the town of EB Magallona. On February 19, vendor **Rogelio Seva**, 56, was shot dead in Victorias City by three RPA-ABB men, namely Hernani Cunanan, Herman Cunanan and Lauro Delgado.

The three had just come from barangay Gawahon, E.B. Magallona town where they burned down the houses of **Lilia Devero, her son Welben, and her father Amenardo Seva**. Only **Jolivie**, Lilia's 17-year-old daughter, was home, and the RPA-ABB men hogtied her and one even tried to rape her. They took off on board two motorcycles, and headed to Victorias City where they killed Rogelio Seva.

The Deveros are the family of peasant July Devero who was abducted by RPA-ABB men in 2011, along with Gerald Abale and Michael Celeste. They remain missing to this day.

In Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, on February 18, CAFGU member Cerilo Tejares shot dead Binobohan village chief **Norberto Recabo** inside the village chapel. Recabo, 50, was also a member of the local farmers' group Kaugmaon. The chapel was 20 meters from Recabo's house, and 50 meters from the CAFGU detachment under the command of the 12th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army (IBPA).

Blood for gold and copper

Aquino's EO 79 served as marching orders to the Investment Defense Forces – the Phil. Army, CAFGU and the paramilitary groups that are accredited as Special Civilian Armed Auxiliary (SCAA) – to clear the mining areas, and remove hindrances such as a resistant populace. In several instances, the military even tried to cover up the killings, claiming that the civilian victims were NPA rebels killed in an encounter with soldiers.

Nefarious NIPAR

and Calagangan since August. Salusad has renamed his group the New Indigenous Peoples' Army (NIPAR). On August 16, Alde along with soldiers of the 8th IBPA and other Special Caggu Active Auxiliary (SCAA), set up four gold processing plants known locally as "Bolmellan". They also cut indigenous trees as materials in constructing tunnels for their mining operation.

Prior to that, on August 2, Alde's father Benjamin Salusad, a SCAA member, came with some 20 others and ransacked the tents of Matisalog gold panners in sitio Kiranggol, Dao, looking for gold dust and money. The gold panners returned home to sitio Malungon, Calagangan village, but Benjamin Salusad also threatened them there.

Alde Salusad and the NIPAR men have also accosted other residents, taking from them at gunpoint gold dust and money. They displayed their guns around the residents, and even fired shots at children. This has forced 62 families to leave their villages in late August. Some residents went to nearby communities, while others trekked to as far as Quezon, the next town. Those who had no relatives elsewhere went and hid in the forest. On August 29, the evacuees travelled from Quezon, Bukidnon to the provincial capitol in Malaybalay City.

IN THE NORTHERN MINDANAO REGION, in Bukidnon province, the paramilitary group led by Jimmy Liguon's killer Alde Salusad aka "Butchoy", has been terrorizing residents in Dao

On October 18, in barangay Kimlawis, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur, soldiers of the 27th IBPA strafed the home of **Juvy Capion**, 27 years old and two months pregnant, killing her and her two sons **Jordan and John Mark**, 13 and seven years old, and wounding her daughter **Juvicky** while a relative, an 11-year-old girl was unhurt.

Juvy was a member of Kalgad, a local Lumad organization that has taken a strong anti-mining stance, particularly against the large-scale mining of Xstrata's Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) that has targeted the rich gold and copper deposits in South Cotabato. Her husband Daguil had been targeted by the military for leading the Blaan tribe against the entry of the SMI mining project.

After the massacre, the soldiers lined up the bodies of Juvy and her sons outside their house to compel Daguil to surrender. Soldiers allowed the victims' relatives to retrieve the bodies after eight hours of exposure to the elements. The military also cleaned up the crime scene before the police investigators arrived.

The AFP replaced the 27th IBPA with another unit, the 39th, whose record includes the killing of father and son, Rudy Yalon-Dejos, 50, and his son Rudyric, 26. Both were found dead with gunshot and stab wounds inside their house in February 2011.

Two weeks before the Capion massacre, on October 3, suspected state security forces shot and killed **Gilbert Paborada**, leader of the Higaonon tribe and chair of the local Lumad organization, Pangalasag, in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental. Two men on board a motorcycle shot Gilbert, who sustained five gunshot wounds, in the head, abdomen, hand and two in the chest.

Gilbert temporarily relocated to Cagayan de Oro the year before after he and other tribal leaders received persistent threats and were subjected to harassment and surveillance. Pangalasag, meaning "shield," campaigned against the expansion of the oil palm plantation owned by the A. Brown company. Gilbert continued to be harassed before he was killed. In a dialogue on June 4, Opol town mayor, Dexter Yasay, outrightly announced that Gilbert was with the NPA.

There are still 30 evacuees from the villages of Dao and Calgangan who are staying at the "Kampuhan" at the provincial capitol grounds in Malaybalay City.

On October 7, Julia Manlus-ag, 25, and her four children aged nine years old, seven, four and nine months, were on their way to Sitio Dumasilag of Barangay Salawagan, Quezon to visit Julia's mother when they were abducted by Salusad and his men together with five SCAA members.

Julia's husband, Sitoy, 30, went to Sitio Kiranggol to get his wife and the children, but Salusad threatened him and said that he will only release Sitoy's family if he will convince the evacuees camped out at the provincial capitol grounds to go back to their respective communities. At gunpoint, Salusad told Sitoy to obey his order or he would shoot a hole in the latter's chest.

Sitoy sought help from his relatives and two tribal leaders to negotiate with Alde, but Alde refused to budge. As the case gained publicity, Alde fabricated the story that Julia asked for his help because Sitoy wanted to sacrifice their second child to the bulawan ritual of blood offering. Sitoy later received a phone call and was able to talk to Julia who told him that she "was not going back" to him. But the other line sounded like it was on loudspeaker, and he could hear from the background that someone was dictating to her.

As of this writing, Sitoy still stays at the Kampuhan. With Kasilo support, he explores ways to get his family away from the NIPAR men.

In Agusan del Sur on September 13, **Jenesis Ambason** (not 'Genesis' as spelled in earlier reports), 23, a youth leader of the Banwaon tribe, was shot, then tortured to death. He was the Secretary General of Tagdumahan, which is resisting the entry of large-scale mining in their ancestral land, particularly the Malampay, Tambuli and Makilala mining corporations.

Ambason was with four other companions on their way to Binikalan village to mine as well as to buy gold. Jenesis had with him PHP 18,000 cash to buy gold. The group rested some 200 meters away from the detachment of the CAFGU under the 26th IBPA, when they were fired at. Everyone scampered to safety, except Jenesis who was wounded in the first volley of gunfire.

The next day, Jenesis' body was found some 130 meters from the 26th IBPA detachment. Ambason's relative brought the remains home to Almira, Jenesis's 19-year-old wife who was eight-months pregnant with their first child. His body sustained four gunshot wounds, but his face and chest had dark bruises, all his teeth were gone and his head had shrunk due to heavy blows. CAFGU cadre Artemio Sublidan claimed that seven of his men and three soldiers had an encounter with Jenesis and his companions, who they alleged were NPA rebels.

A statement by the Katribu Partylist noted that Jenesis must have gotten the military's ire when on June 25, he led a dialogue with the 26th IB and successfully negotiated the release of six from the Banwaon tribe who were illegally arrested and detained. Since the 80s, the Banwaon tribe of San Luis and the adjacent communities have been fighting against the incursion of foreign and local mining corporations in their ancestral land.

Earlier in the year, on March 5, **Jimmy Liguyon**, 37, leader of the Matigsalog tribe and village chair of Dao, San Fernando, Bukidnon was shot in front of his house by Alde Salusad, a member of a paramilitary group. Salusad, accompanied by other paramilitary, even declared that he killed Jimmy because he refused to sign a certification for Sanmatrida, or the San Fernando Matigsalog, Tigwahanon, Manobo Tribal Datu Association.

The Sanmatrida is facilitating the entry and operation of mining companies in *Lumad* areas. It has laid claim to 53,000 hectares in 12 villages, and is being resisted by tribal leaders including Liguyon.

Salusad and Sanmatrida are closely linked with the 8th IBPA based in Halapitan, San Fernando. In 2011, Liguyon received death threats and was harassed by Salusad's group.

San Christo, a mining company affiliated with Indophil, is reportedly interested in the area. Indophil is one of SMI-Xtrata-Copper's partners in mining activities in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

After Jimmy was killed, Salusad and his paramilitary group kept prowling around the community. Eighty three individuals, mostly Jimmy's relatives and members of local indigenous organization Kasilo, evacuated and sought sanctuary in the Provincial Capitol grounds in San Fernando, Bukidnon.

At the November 9 Mindanao public hearing of the Committee on Human Rights of the House of Representatives, Brig. Gen. Romeo Gapuz of the 4th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army (IDPA) admitted that Benjamin "Nonong" Salusad, surrendered to the AFP in 2011 under the rebel returnee program and is now a member of the CAFGU. Even prior to the killing of tribal leader Jimmy Liguyon, Salusad and his group had been

TABLE 4

Victims of Extrajudicial Killing and Enforced Disappearance under the Noynoy Aquino Government
BY SECTOR

July 2010 to Dec 2012

SECTOR	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Church	3	0
Entrepreneur	4	0
Environmentalist	6	0
Fisherfolk	1	0
Government employee	3	0
Indigenous people	25	1
Media	3	0
Minor	15	0
Peasant	77	11
Teacher	1	0
Urban poor	13	1
Human rights worker	1	0
Workers	7	0
Youth & students	4	1
Moro	4	0
Transport	1	0

linked to two other cases of extrajudicial killing. They are also involved in cases of abduction, coercion, threats, harassment and divestment of properties in Bukidnon. Salusad and several others, including his son Alde, have pending warrants of arrest. While the AFP continues to deny the links between the military and NIPAR (New Indigenous Peoples' Army), Gapuz admitted that they are "coddling" Nonong Salusad.

Still in Bukidnon, local government employee and anti-dam activist **Margarito "Boy" Cabal**, 47, was shot on May 9, at 6:30 pm, near his rented house in Barangay Palma, Kibawe town, by two men riding a red STX motorcycle with no plate number. The perpetrators used .45 caliber pistols. Cabal was shot three times in the chest and once in the back, and was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Cabal was known for his firm resistance against the establishment of Hydro-Electric Mega Dam - Pulangui V project of the First Bukidnon Electric Cooperative (Fibeco) which will eventually affect 22 barangays of Bukidnon and North Cotabato. In Kibawe, 10 barangays will be affected, including Cabal's home in Barangay Tumaras. Cabal campaigned and organized residents of the affected barangays to oppose the construction of the said dam.

Insincere and useless apologies

In Echague, Isabela, soldiers of the 86th IBPA killed peasant couple, **Vic and Rosario Valenzuela** in sitio Calabaggin, San Miguel village in the early morning of November 23. The killing followed the November 17 incident in Mabbayad, Echague where seven soldiers were killed in a clash with NPA rebels. The 86th IBPA soldiers arrived in sitio Calabaggin on November 22 and stayed in two houses. They left at 1:00 am the next day, and a few hours later, at 3:00 am, residents heard simultaneous single gun shots followed by automatic firing.

On November 24, soldiers told villagers to come with them to the hut of the Valenzuela couple where the victims' bodies were already decomposing. As the bodies were brought to the sitio proper, a soldier identified as Robert Bagni apologized to the residents, saying his companions fired at the couple's hut thinking there were rebels inside. Military and police officials in an attempt to cover up the killing, claimed that there was an encounter and that the victims were used as human shields by NPA rebels.

In Laak, Compostela Valley, an army officer identified only as "Lieutenant Gamus,"

commanding officer of the Charlie Company of the 60th IBPA, apologized for the killing of **Totong Mabinsi**, 37, of the Dibabawon tribe, a barangay police and member of the Katribu Party-list in Barangay (Bgy.) Datu Davao.

On July 22, at 6:00 am, Totong left his house to hunt in the forest. Later in the day, his body was found near the Kibuntayon river, a kilometer from the detachment of the 60th IBPA. Soldiers escorted the civilians and a tribal leader who brought Totong's remains to the house of his brother, Manuel, just adjacent to Totong's. Manuel said that Lt. Gamus told him in front of the tribal leader: "*Ako nangayo og pasaylo sa kamatayon sa imong manghod...unsaon kay naalaan siya sa akong tropa nga siya ang guide sa mga NPA*". (*I apologize for the death of your younger brother, he was suspected by my troops as a guide of the NPAs*). Totong sustained 12 gunshot wounds.

"Tax collectors" – endangered species

In Kapalong, Davao del Norte, suspected state agents shot and killed truck driver **Razil Castro**, 32, on September 24. Razil was preparing his truck outside his house when two men on board a black motorcycle shot him with a .45 caliber handgun. He sustained six gunshot wounds and was dead on arrival at the hospital. His sibling said he had been tagged by the military as an NPA supporter and "revolutionary tax" collector. Three days before Castro was killed, neighbours reported to the police that they noticed two men on a motorcycle suspiciously roaming the area. When accosted by the police, the men showed their military ID and said they belonged to the Military Intelligence Group.

On August 27, in Loho village, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur, 13 suspected soldiers took 37-year old **Monico del Castillo** at gunpoint and forced him into an Elf truck. The next day, witnesses saw Monico with soldiers in a military operation. His family came looking for him at the headquarters of the 42nd IBPA in Tigaon, but the military denied they have him. Monico was arrested along with three others after attending a rally in Naga city in 2010. He had been tagged by soldiers as collecting support for NPA rebels.

Also in Bicol, the military stepped up its terror campaign as suspected soldiers killed and decapitated **Ely Oguis**, an Albay village councilor who was tagged by the military as an NPA supporter. The killing thickened the blanket of fear being sown by the soldiers who have encamped in the villages in Bicol, including Cabaloan, Guinobatan where Ely was killed.



On November 11, after his duty at the barangay hall, Ely had a few drinks with fellow residents, Corporal Gilbert Ramos, the 2nd IBPA detachment commander in the village, and another soldier known only as “Patoy”. At 11 pm, residents heard gunfire. Early the next morning, villagers found Ely’s body, his decapitated head more than a meter away and almost buried in the mud. The ears were hacked off and missing. Ely sustained five gunshot wounds in the chest. The decapitated head also bore signs of being hit with a hard object.

Conflicting statements were issued the next day by the AFP to cover up their accountability. Maj. Narzan Obuyes, spokesperson of the 2nd IB, announced that there was an encounter between soldiers and the NPA the night Ely was killed. Then, Col. Ricardo Visaya of the 901st Brigade based in Daraga, Albay, said that Ely was an NPA tax collector and may have been killed by the NPA as punishment for not remitting collections. Spokesperson of the 9th ID Maj. Angelo Guzman said that Ely was killed by the NPA for not paying taxes to the revolutionary group.

Advocates of people’s rights and welfare

In **Central Luzon**, two prominent leaders involved in advocacy work in the province of Aurora were killed by suspected death squads in a span of four days.

On June 30, at around 8 pm, **Romualdo Palispis, or Waldo**, was relaxing in front of his home in Maria Aurora town, Aurora province, playing the guitar, when he was shot in the head. Waldo was the municipal chair of Justice and Peace Action Group (JPAG) Maria Aurora chapter from 2002 until the time of his death.

Waldo led the opposition against a proposed law dividing the municipality of Maria Aurora to create the Dr. Juan C. Angara municipality as the ninth town of Aurora province. The bill was filed by the Angara family at the House of Representatives (HOR) and at the Senate. Aside from having a senator in the family, the Angaras hold the top local government positions in Aurora.

In May this year, Waldo was one of the convenors of the Task Force “*Walang Hatian ang bayan ng Maria Aurora*”, which assailed the bills as part of the projects being pushed by the Angaras in the province. Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo is also pushing for the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Free Port (APECO) project in Casiguran, Aurora. Waldo’s group had started a petition-signing campaign against the Angara bills.

Three days after Waldo’s killing, on July 3, in San Fernando City, Pampanga, a well-known Dutch development worker, **Willem Geertman** was killed inside the office of Alay Bayan-Luzon Inc. (ABI), an NGO which he headed as Executive Director. Geertman was also one of the founders of JPAG in Aurora.

Geertman and two ABI staff had just entered the office compound when two armed men barged in, shouting invectives. This surprised Geertman, who raised his hands and faced the men, one of whom collared him, forced him to kneel, then shot him at the nape. The gunman took Geertman’s shoulder bag which contained money just withdrawn from the bank. Police investigation focused on the “robbery angle”, citing that the victim was tailed from the bank. This angle discounted the perpetrators’ mode and method, the brazenness and swiftness which show that they were professionals who meant to kill and sow fear.

Under Gloria Arroyo’s Oplan Bantay Laya, Geertman experienced threats and harassment from the military. Since the late 70’s, Geertman had been in the country and was instrumental in uniting the farmers and the indigenous peoples in the formation of sectoral and human rights organizations in the area, including JPAG. In one barangay meeting in Aurora, he angrily confronted the soldiers who referred to him as a spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF).

As head of ABI in the past years, Geertman was active in the campaign against corporate mining and logging and the development of Aurora as an economic zone under APECO. Some ABI staff complained of being harassed by soldiers and interrogated at a military detachment about their work.

After Geertman was killed, the police warned the ABI staff not to talk to the media. They were pelted with questions hinting that they belonged to an underground organization. The police likewise tried to sow personal intrigues among staff.

Do more than weep for the children

There are 15 children victims of extrajudicial killings under the Aquino regime, 13 of them killed this year.

Similar to the Capion family massacre was what happened on February 25 in Labo, Camarines Norte, Bicol when soldiers of the 49th IBPA strafed a farmer's home in Malaya village, killing **Benjamin Mancera**, 54, along with his two young sons, **Michael**, 10 and **Richard**, 7. Also killed was NPA fighter **Rafael Llanto** who was resting at the Mancera home. The only survivor was Mancera's 14-year-old daughter, **Ella** (not her true name) who was wounded.

The 49th IBPA claimed that Benjamin belonged to the NPA. The 9th Infantry Division "expressed sadness" about the deaths of the two children, but blamed the NPA for "firing the first shot." But Ella narrated that on Feb. 25, she was in the living room with her father and brother Richard when she saw a soldier approaching their hut. This was followed by a hail of bullets. Michael who was in the bedroom was killed. She said that Llanto, who was in the kitchen, was not able to fire a shot as he was immediately killed. Village officials certified that Benjamin was not a rebel.

The military kept Mancera's daughter under tight watch as she recovered in the hospital. When she was about to be discharged, 2Lt. Alfie Lee tried to take custody of her but her mother, Lourdes, resisted.

On August 7, two motorcycle-riding men suspected to be military elements shot and killed **Merlyn Bermas**, the Malaya village chairperson who assisted the Karapatan fact-finding team that documented the massacre, and helped expose the military's accountability in the killing.

Bermas also facilitated the sanctuary of the remaining Mancera family members.

Merlyn was commuting from the Labo town market and was on board a "hauler," a roofless tricycle which is the mode of transportation for villagers in far-flung communities. Also killed was **four-year-old Gerald Oreza** who sat in the hauler beside farmer **Cenon Maulion**, who was wounded.

In Atingay village, Magdalena, Laguna, soldiers of the 1st IBPA opened fire and killed **Jaycee Perez**, 31 and **Christian Roy Noceto**, 15. **Francis Abanilla**, 18, and a **15-year-old youth** were both wounded. In the midnight of February 15, the group went out with an air gun and their dog to hunt for bats and birds in the forests. Police investigation said that when one of the victims fired the air gun, the soldiers mistook them for rebels and fired at them. Recovered from the scene were 53 spent shells of M14 rifle and two shells from a .45 pistol. In a news report, the army claimed that the four were all NPA rebels, in spite of the fact that they carried only one air gun.

In Tacayan village, Tapaz, Capiz province, a six year-old Tumandok girl was killed in an explosion by a suspected M203 grenade that came from a nearby military detachment. On March 11, **Rodilyn Aguirre** and her **four year-old sister "Baby"** were outside their home when they were hit by an explosion. Just some 200 meters uphill was a detachment of the 61st IBPA. Villagers reported that an army personnel named Willy Faulo has been issued an M203 rifle. The detachment had been in the village for years and had often been the subject of complaints by residents.

Military spokesperson Capt. Reylan Java, of the 3rd IDPA, concocted a story that Rodilyn with two NPA members were killed from an improvised explosive device (IED) that exploded while they were assembling it. Later, the military changed their story and said that the police should investigate how the cartridge happened to be in the house. They cited a police report which said that Rodilyn was last seen holding a bolo and chopping wood. They said she must have played with an M203 grenade which she placed on top of a log and hit with the bolo. Soldiers claimed in their affidavits that the charges against them were "purely harassment from the CPP-NPA-NDF."

L-R: EJK victims Manda, Leonor, Infante, Gulfo, Geertman, Ambason, Vaflor, Valle, Palispis, Paborada, Miraato and Liguyon



In Magpet, North Cotabato, **two 12-year-old boys** were forced by soldiers to guide them in their operations. Some soldiers of the 57th IBPA chanced upon the boys who were walking home after charging a cellphone from the next village. The soldiers asked the two to lead them to the NPA camp, to which the boys replied that they didn't know of any camp. The soldiers forced the boys to come with them at gunpoint, threatening that they will tie them to a rubber tree and shoot them. The two were forced to trek uphill with the soldiers, who later forced their way into an empty house and ransacked it. The boys were allowed to go home at 3:00 pm, exhausted, hungry and traumatized after six hours of trekking with the soldiers.

In San Andres, Quezon, two peasant youth and a minor were illegally arrested by soldiers of the 74th IBPA on March 22 and charged as NPA rebels. **Elmer Desuyo, 20, Reynaldo delos Santos, 18, and Rey Rodrigo, 16** were in Bgy. Pansoy when they were summoned by soldiers, who blindfolded them, took off their shirts with which they tied their hands. The soldiers hit the three in the head and kicked them in the back. A soldier fired his gun near Elmer's ear. They were charged with illegal

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) along Fisheries Drive, Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. The armed clashes triggered evacuations as villagers tried to elude the crossfire. But it seems that there is no safe place, as there are detachments even near residential areas.

On August 7, farmer **Ismael Abdula** of Satan village, Datu Unsay was killed when he was hit in the head with a mortar shell that was suspected to have been fired from the nearby detachment of the 45th IBPA in Meta village. The explosion also damaged houses and killed three farm animals (carabaos or water buffaloes).

On Aug. 8, in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, **six-year-old Gaily Miraato** was shot and killed by a stray bullet suspected to have come from the nearby detachment of the 65th IBPA, near the Agus hydropower plant.

On Aug. 21, in Salbo village, in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, **four-year-old Asmayrah Usman** was killed when she was hit by a stray bullet on the right side of her stomach, piercing her lung. Her father, **Mujahed Budi Usman, 33**, was hit and wounded in the left foot and thigh. The Usman family was

“..they were summoned by soldiers, who blindfolded them, took off their shirts with which they tied their hands. The soldiers hit the three in the head and kicked them in the back. A soldier fired his gun near Elmer's ear. They were charged with illegal possession of firearms.”

possession of firearms. Elmer and Reynaldo remain in detention at the Quezon Provincial Jail while Rey is in custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Region 4 in Tanay, Rizal.

No peace in the Bangsamoro

Weeks before the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed the Framework for the Final Peace Agreement, a farmer and two children were killed in three separate incidents of indiscriminate firing by suspected soldiers.

In the first week of August, military operations intensified in several ARMM areas after three Phil. Army soldiers were killed in an ambush by suspected

among the residents who left Iganagampong village, Datu Unsay and stayed at the Mahad Norul Ittihad Evacuation Center in Salbo village. The 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade is based in the village.

In the three incidents, the victims' families reported that there were no BIFF members in the area, and the nearest armed group was of the Philippine Army.

Residents of the **villages of Iganagampong and Maitumaig in Datu Unsay** reported that they were hesitant to return home after finding their abandoned houses occupied by soldiers. Many houses were riddled with bullets and ransacked, with some of the villagers' property missing. There were also incidents of strafing by soldiers in Iganagampong, Maitumaig and Meta villages.

Evacuees from **Dalingaoen village, Pikit town, North Cotabato province** reported that their homes and farms were damaged by the military's mortar shelling during the first week of August. Soldiers occupied civilian structures such as the barangay health center in Iganagampong village, a school shed of the Maitumaig Elementary School in Datu Unsay, and the mosque in Bagan village, Guindulungan.

Since early August when the Phil. Army first clashed with the BIFF, the Kawagib Moro Human Rights office reported some **30,000 evacuees in six Maguindanao towns**. The latest are the **200 evacuees** from Datu Unsay town.

Evacuations: seeking safety from aerial strikes, harassment by ground troops

The heavy concentration of military troops, aerial strikes and indiscriminate firings by the Phil. Army which were in pursuit operations have triggered forced

gathering wood in the forest to construct a hut for the village festival, when a fire-fight erupted between soldiers of the 25th IB and NPA rebels. All 83 families of sitio Upper New Visayas, evacuated to the barangay halls of New Visayas and Pulang Lupa. As military reinforcement, a fighterplane dropped at least seven bombs on the area.

On May 8, Jessie arrived at the evacuation area at the New Visayas barangay hall with a wound in his thigh. Soldiers immediately arrested him. His mother and 15-year-old sister clung to him and they too were taken by 75th IBPA soldiers on board a 6x6 military truck. On May 11, the Philippine Daily Inquirer came out with a news report quoting 4th ID spokesperson Maj. Eugenio Osias IV and their commanding officer Maj. Gen. Victor Felix that they captured Jessie whom they claimed was a wounded "NPA child warrior." The military released Jessie and his family on May 22.

Barangay New Visayas and the adjacent villages are sites of the mining exploration by the Philsaga Mining Corporation and the Monkayo Consolidated Mining Corporation, which is funded by the Taiwanese Yinyi Phil Investment Holding Group, Inc.

L-R: EJK victims Jordan, Juvy and John Mark Capion, Cabal



evacuations, as residents opted to face the hardship concomitant to leaving their homes rather than meet the wrath of soldiers in combat mode and their indiscriminate bombings and firings.

The military operations and heavy troop deployment were in pursuit of NPA rebels and as part of maintaining their presence as Investment Defense Forces (IDFs) in the mineral-rich areas in Mindanao.

Civilians wounded in bombing attacks were mostly tagged by the military as "NPA rebels."

This was the case in Barangay New Visayas, Trento, Agusan del Sur where a 16-year-old boy was wounded, arrested and tagged by the military as an "NPA child warrior." On May 7, at around 7 am, **16-year-old Jessie** (not his real name) was

Two fighter planes that reinforced 8th IBPA soldiers in pursuit of rebels indiscriminately dropped 14 bombs from 9:00 to 10:30 am on Sitios Kibanggis and Nabunturan, in barangay Sampaguita. Residents from the four sitios of Sampaguita, or **71 families composed of 293 individuals**, evacuated to the barangay hall.

In Kibawe, Bukidnon, on April 1, farmer **Janice Marguate**, 25, of barangay Sampaguita was hit by shrapnel when a bomb was dropped on his farm.

Soldiers stopped Jenice's family as they rushed him to the District Hospital. The soldiers claimed that he was with the NPA, and they were arresting him. After the barangay chairman insisted that Jenice is a bona fide resident and a farmer in Sampaguita village, the soldiers let the Marguate family pass.

In the Southern Tagalog region, continued harassment by soldiers of the 1st Special Forces PA, 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division, 416th PPMG, 59th, 74th, 76th, 85th, 201st Brigade and CAFGU units in the 22 towns in Bondoc Peninsula drove rural folks from their communities. In August, **six peasant families from southern Quezon** left their homes and sought sanctuary in Manila. The victims said it was reminiscent of martial law, when they were accosted while in their coconut farms and interrogated and threatened by soldiers. Among the evacuees were the wife and son of Felix Balaston. Balaston was abducted by 85th IB soldiers on March 27, 2011 in Macalelon, Quezon. He remains missing.

Giving peace a bad name

Oplan Bayanihan tries hard to erase the stain on the military's image, by calling former RSOT units "peace and development teams" or PDTs. But the repressive character of the counterinsurgency program cannot be denied with the continued stream of human rights violations by these so-called PDTs. These groups of soldiers occupy public and civilian facilities, such as barangay halls, and health & daycare centers. They endanger the lives of civilians and intimidate them with their presence, pretending to conduct "community work." They make a show of performing civilian roles such as road construction and barangay clean-up drives as an excuse to encamp in the communities. Their presence disrupts normal community life.

Using the same OBL tactics, harassment in the form of "census" by PDTs was employed by the 73rd IBPA in Sitio Nop, an **85-household Blaang community in barangay Spring, Alabel, Sarangani province**. Soldiers arrived in the community on February 2 and held an assembly. They stayed in civilian houses. Led by Cpl. Peter Maquiling and 1st Lt. Valenzuela, soldiers first made a spotmap of **Sitio Nop**. Then they went from house to house, conducting a census. Among the questions asked was the residents' occupation, number of children, organization they belong to, who is the chair of Gabriela and if they join rallies.

They particularly interrogated **Gabriela leaders Mary Jane Paki, Edith Maladian and Rag Caliwang**. They also took pictures of the women

and asked them for 2x2 identification photos. The soldiers claimed that the leaders were members of organizations which are fronts of the NPA, and they should surrender. In the evening of February 12, the soldiers again called residents of Sitio Nop for a meeting at the barangay hall on "food for work." They took video and still photos of those who attended.

In **Camarines Norte, Bicol**, peace is the last thing on the villagers' minds when soldiers entered the communities, what with the Mancera massacre and killing of two village officials in a span of three months. Soldiers of the 49th IBPA were fielded out in at least **60 villages in the towns of Capalonga, Jose Panganiban, Labo and Paracale**. In its fact-finding mission in Capalonga and Jose Panganiban, Karapatan-Bicol documented cases of occupation of public facilities such as the barangay hall and putting up of detachments adjacent to schools and residences.

Soldiers follow the same pattern of conduct during Oplan Bantay Laya: first holding a barangay assembly; conducting a "census" or "survey" wherein they identify the members of people's organizations; then repeatedly summoning specific residents – particularly members and leaders of organizations – for interrogation at their detachment. There villagers are forced to falsely admit to being NPA members or supporters, made to sign documents of "balik-loob" (rebel returnee), and get their photos taken. While the 49th IBPA soldiers carry out tactical interrogation, they also conduct clean-up operations and help in the beautification in the barangay, to make it appear that they are "helping out" in the community.

In barangay **San Isidro, Lupon, Davao Oriental**, a platoon of 28th IBPA soldiers arrived on April 17 said they were there to construct roads, water systems, establish a cooperative, and form the Barangay Defense System composed of

“In Camarines Norte, Bicol, peace is the last thing on the villagers' minds when soldiers entered the communities, what with the Mancera massacre and killing of two village officials in a span ” of three months....”

civilians in the community. Towards this, they said they were setting up a detachment.

In **Ilocos Sur province**, soldiers of the 81st IBPA and the 3rd IBPA went to several villages in Candon City and in the towns of Narvacan, Sta. Cruz and Sta. Lucia for their “community work.” In most villages, they occupy the barangay hall or the health center, just within the residential and school area.

In these communities, the soldiers had drinking sprees, and even invited teenagers to join them. In **Pila East, Sta. Lucia**, the soldiers were also seen bringing prostituted women to the community. Residents disapproved of the soldiers’ presence, as they recalled a 2011 incident when a soldier accidentally fired at three children, as his gun went off while he was cleaning it.

In **Calatagan, Batangas**, soldiers of the 16th IBPA and 730th Combat Group of the Phil. Air Force destroyed some 400 mangrove trees, 120 of which were 100-year-old trees in the coastal village of Hukay. On February 20, the soldiers, assisted by workers from the Calatagan Mayor’s office, proceeded to clear almost one-and-a-half hectare of mangroves in the government-protected area. This was to clear an area for their detachment.

The military have been occupying the barangay health center and the Sangguniang Kabataan halls in the past two years, and residents have called for their pullout from the community. Sgt. Ryan Gonzales of the 16th IBPA said they were there to “protect development in the area.” Residents led by the Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Barangay Hukay have been staging a campout in protest of the landgrabbing by the Rossana Sy Development Corporation whose claim to the land was based on a cancelled title.

Red-tagging

Indigenous peoples’ leaders were linked to tactical military offensives by NPA rebels and slapped with trumped-up charges. In **Caraga region**, two prominent Manobo leaders, **Jalandoni Campos and Genasque Enriquez**, were the latest victims of this form of harassment. A warrant of arrest had been issued for Campos, chair of the Malahutayong Pakigbisog alang sa Sumunsunod (Mapasu), who was among those charged with rebellion and malicious mischief in connection with the April 28, 2011 NPA raid of the Lianga municipal police station.

Genasque, chair of the Kahugpong sa Lumadnong Organisasyon (Kasalo) and the second nominee of the Katribu Partylist, was charged with

multiple frustrated murder, in connection with the July 21 clash between NPA rebels and soldiers of the 11th Special Action Company, Special Action Force and the 75th IBPA in Km. 8, Sitio Agpan, Bgy. Imelda, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur.

But even without actually filing complaints against their victims, military men use the threat of a “subpoena” to harass peasants in Rizal province, in Southern Tagalog.

In Barangay **San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal**, **organized peasants** who had won a petition with the Department of Agrarian Reform for the distribution of their homelots were harassed by 16th IBPA soldiers and CAFGU who had put up a detachment in sitio Wawa.

Two soldiers who identified themselves as “Sergeant Tabs” and “Jonathan” based in “Fort Bonifacio” visited several leaders of the Paruwagan Upland Farmers Association Inc. (PUFAI) in August. The soldiers individually talked to the leaders and threatened them to “surrender” and “clean your name” before the “subpoena” or “warrant arrives.” The soldiers told the same storyline to each victim: that two NPA rebels who had surrendered had identified him/her. When asked about the subpoena, the soldiers said it was in connection with charges against them for being with the NPA and “holding meetings” in the community, or “joining rallies.” The soldiers said that if the leader will testify against his companions, his name will be removed from their list. They said that they can also avail of the amnesty program of the government, which can help them start a business. The soldiers gave the leaders a cellphone number which they could contact if they changed their mind “before the arrest warrant arrives.”

The residents are resisting the pending sale of more than 600 hectares of land in Mt. Paruwagan, reportedly for an eco-tourism project of the local government. There are detachments of the 59th IBPA and the CAFGU in the barangay. On July 28, 2012, the 16th IBPA also went to the village for a “tree-planting activity” with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Delegates to Karapatan’s Fourth Congress in August received their share of police harassment as they were travelling back to Manila from the venue in Tagaytay city, Cavite. Four Cavite police men flagged down the bus carrying 28 human rights workers from different regional chapters, as well as national office staff. The police could not give any reason for stopping the bus, except that they were just “following orders” from Cavite provincial director Senior Superintendent John C.

Bulalacao, to “investigate and take pictures” of the group because they were from Karapatan.

After 30 minutes of being held by the road for no reason, the Karapatan workers speaking all at once insisted on leaving, and the policemen had to let them go. At a stopover before the bus was blocked, the Karapatan workers noticed four men on board a Quezon City Police District (QCPD) mobile patrol car waiting along the road. The human rights workers suspected that the policemen had heard about the Congress and wanted to put the delegates under surveillance. Karapatan is one of the organizations in the democratic movement being branded by the military as a communist front.

Jose Luis Blanco of Karapatan-Negros is still persistently targeted by suspected military agents. On October 17, a man suspected to be an intelligence agent went to Blanco’s home in Cebu, and talked to his father. The man was accompanied by a neighbor who is associated with the military group, Guardian, and claimed to be Luis’s friend but persistently asked about his work, his high school and his siblings. Later, Luis got a phone call from the suspected military agent who kept texting him greetings, and later, hinted at recruiting him to be a military intelligence asset.

Jude Baggo, the Secretary General of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA) - Karapatan was tagged as “brains of the NPA” in what seemed to be an Order of Battle of the 86th IBPA in Tinoc, Ifugao. CHRA got hold of the list, which bore the heading “Charlie Company 86th Infantry (Highlander) Battalion” and “5th Infantry (Star) Division.” It listed **28 people**, mostly **peasant leaders**, and also several **Ifugao local government employees**, their addresses and remarks such as “gives food to NPA” and “keeps stockade of guns.”

Harassment and assault of villagers

Karapatan-Bicol reported that victims of harassment and intimidation in villages were psychologically tortured as they were locked in the barangay hall during interrogation. They were asked what organization/s they belong to, their involvement in the NPA, the “gun” or “red books” in their possession. Those who refused to confess as NPA members or supporters were repeatedly summoned for another round of interrogation. One victim recounted that he had been summoned 17 times because he refused to make a false confession. One farmer was so traumatized that his wife had to accompany him to the farm to bring their carabao to graze.

As they conduct *sakyada* (military operations) in the coconut farms in Capalonga, Camarines Norte, soldiers also randomly interrogate and assault farmers whom they come upon.

Soldiers threatened to “make fertilizer” out of **Arnold Rigodon and Romeo Lesano**, claiming that they organized rallies and that they were with the NPA. The soldiers then made Arnold hold a gun and took his picture. The next month, in August, the same soldiers summoned Arnold to the detachment and interrogated him again, asking him about his family. The soldiers coerced him to put his thumb mark on a document, then took his picture again.

Soldiers stayed at the home of 60-year-old **Herminia Pamplona** in Jose Panganiban for two weeks in June and July, after which they set up a detachment at the barangay hall. The soldiers led by a certain Macaraig summoned Herminia and questioned her about supposed illegal documents in her house. They made her report to the detachment repeatedly, and eventually coerced her to sign a document as surenderee (*balik loob*) and took her picture.

Carmilo “Eloy” Tabada, a local coordinator of the Farmers’ Development Center, Inc. (Fardec) in Bohol, worried that he might fall victim to military death squads, as he heard his name on the radio being tagged as “an official of the White Party Committee in Bohol.” The January 13 news item quoted Col. John Bonafos in his report to the Provincial Peace and Order Council, which also tagged the provincial peasant group Humabol.

On May 29, **Cesar Graganta**, a native of San Pedro, Laguna was visiting in Villa Hermosa village, Macalelon, Quezon when he and his two companions passed by soldiers of the 85th IBPA based at the barangay hall. The soldiers summoned the three, at the same time fired a shot, which prompted Cesar’s companions to run. The soldiers took Cesar and tied him to a tree for one and-a-half hours. They then interrogated him. Soldiers punched and kicked him, put a bolo against his neck, hit him with a piece of bamboo, put sharp sticks into his ears, tied a rope around his neck and pulled at it, pinched his nose with a plier and poured ants on his body.

After the torture, soldiers blindfolded Cesar. A supposed high-ranking military officer told him that he will be made to sign a document that says he will not file complaints against the soldiers. The military officer threatened that if he didn’t, they will kill his family. He was brought to the barangay hall and Cesar signed the document just to be released. But a soldier reported that Cesar’s

family and Karapatan workers were looking for him. The soldiers then forced Cesar to put on a soldier's uniform, board an army truck and brought him to the 85th IBPA headquarters in Villa Principe, Gumaca, where he was presented to a former NPA rebel. The supposed rebel did not recognize him, and Cesar was brought home to Laguna. He was again forced to sign a document attesting that he was not harmed by the soldiers and that he will not file charges.

On September 15, soldiers of the 81st IBPA accosted two farmers in Kinmarin village, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur. **Saturnino Habon, 47**, and his nephew **Arnold Bandiwan, 21**, were on their way to the river to fish when they came upon 20 soldiers. The soldiers searched their bags, which contained their packed lunch and fishing implement. The soldiers tied up and blindfolded the two and interrogated them separately. The soldiers insisted that they were part of the group of NPA rebels. Arnold was severely beaten up, punched in the stomach each time he denied he was an NPA. The two were released after three hours.

John Khali Lagrimas, 14, was declared DOA after he was hit with bullets during a demolition.



Forced Eviction and Demolitions

Two urban poor leaders who consistently defended their right to housing were killed this year. The residents of urban poor communities and their

leaders continue to be under attack, especially during violent demolition operations of the police.

Ernesto Gulfo, 52, chair of the Alyansa Kontra-Demolisyon Malabon chapter, was shot dead on May 30, inside his home in Catmon, Malabon City. Gulfo was also the chair of the Alyansa ng Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Maralita sa Malabon. He was among those who led the people's barricade to stop the May 21 demolition of 30 houses in Catmon. The city government is pushing for the demolition of the houses of 1,500 families to clear the area for the Community Mortgage Program.

On the eve of the protest against Pres. Aquino's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22, **Marilou "Malou" Valle**, 43, president of the Samahan sa Sitio Damayang Nananambakan-Kadamay, was shot and killed in front of her house in Happyland, Bgy 105, Tondo, Manila. Her two children heard the gunshots and saw *barangay tanods* (village guards) and brothers Benjamin or Ben and Raffy Tejas leaving their house. Malou's 16-year-old son rushed to the nearest police station, PCP Sub-station 10, and reported the shooting, but the policemen did not take any action. The Tejas brothers went back and threatened the victim's family and their neighbours, and again fired shots at Malou's lifeless body.

That same night, the Tejas brothers and several companions forced their way into the house of Malou's brother **Gerry Bacani**, and shot him. Gerry and his 20-year-old son Ninoy were both wounded.

Four months prior to the killing, on March 4, the Tejas brothers and their other relatives had threatened Malou and her teenage daughter at home, because Malou distributed Kadamay leaflets in the community. In turn, Malou filed cases of grave threat and child abuse. The Tejas brothers did not attend the last hearing on July 20, two days before they killed Malou. On July 31,

Malou's family filed murder charges against the Tejas brothers at the Manila City hall.

A youth and a minor were killed in violent demolitions where police used live bullets to



disperse barricades. **Arnel Leonor**, 20, a youth resident of **Silverio Compound**, Parañaque was killed in one such violent demolition on April 23. The residents of Silverio Compound put up a barricade to stop the demolition of their homes and the wet market that was acquired and partially paid for by a past local administration for the Community Mortgage Program. The current administration, however, had reportedly made deals with Henry Sy's SM Development Corporation. Scores were wounded or hurt in the shooting and mauling by the police. Thirty three people, including eight minors, were arrested. Some of them were just passing by, but were also charged with resisting arrest and disobedience to lawful order.

In Tarlac province, on October 2, at around 8 am, some 70 residents of **San Roque village in Tarlac City** put up a barricade to resist the demolition of their homes by the Tarlac City government. Around 100 policemen arrived, armed with M16 rifles,

handguns and shields. They were followed by eight members of the PNP Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT) who were also in full-battle gear and bullet-proof vests, and armed with baby armalites. Around 100 members of the local government's demolition team joined them, along with two fire trucks. They trained their water cannons on the residents.

John Khali Lagrimas, 14, was standing on the roof of a furniture shop that was on the row of houses to be demolished. At around 9:30 am, gun shots rang out and John fell onto the next roof. Other residents brought him down and rushed him to the Ramos General Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The residents pleaded with the police not to fire their guns, but to no avail, and the firing continued for almost an hour. The SWAT kept watch and pointed their guns at residents who tried to resist as the demolition team proceeded to destroy the houses. Meanwhile, a resident who was with John when he was shot identified Eduardo Reyes, one of the leaders of the demolition team, as the one who shot John.

A report from Karapatan-Central Luzon said that the land claim was still being heard in court, but Sheriff Julius Guiang of Regional Trial Court Branch 63 pushed through with the demolition without a court order. PNP Chief Arnel Ramos did not inform the residents that they were the targets of demolition.

After more than a year of defending their homes from being torn down, this year on January 11, up to **400 residents of Corazon de Jesus** in San Juan City, National Capitol Region were overpowered by the city's demolition team, numbering some 100, and backed by 200 policemen. Armed with armalite rifles and handguns, the police used tear gas and fire trucks that hosed down the people's barricade. Twenty-two were hurt, 11 of them were minors aged 14 to 17. Seventeen were arrested, including six minors.

The Corazon de Jesus residents led by the Samahan ng Maralitang Nagkakaisa (Organization of United Urban Poor or Samana)

were accommodated in a temporary shelter of the Task Force for Urban Conscientization (TFUC). But even there, they were stalked by a team of eight soldiers led by Lt. George Gagarin of the CMO battalion. The soldiers looked for **Fr. Charly Ricafort**, chair of the TFUC, and said that they were just going to inform him about the offer of relocation by the National Housing Authority. The soldiers told the evicted Corazon de Jesus residents that they (the CMO battalion) can mediate if they want to talk to San Juan City Mayor Guia Gomez. The residents asked where the soldiers got the information about Fr. Ricafort, but the soldiers could not give a proper answer.

The CMO battalion had been in Corazon de Jesus since 2011 after the first attempt of demolition. True to OpBay's pattern of deception, they conducted "medical mission", "free haircut",

returned and reclaimed their community. On November 29, San Juan police arrested Samana Secretary General **Maritess Bacolod, 45**, at the Corazon de Jesus barangay hall, by virtue of a warrant of arrest on charges of "simple disobedience of an agent or person in authority." Nine other residents were named in the warrant. The warrant was issued on May 27, after they supposedly failed to attend a court hearing for a complaint against them. The charge of illegal assembly had already been dismissed earlier that month.

Maritess, a person with disability, is also the Secretary General of Gabriela-San Juan. She was released on December 5 after posting a Php2,000 (about USD 50) bail bond. The San Juan government has constructed its second structure on the site, but the residents who stayed are sticking to their demand for home lots.

TABLE 5
as of December 31, 2012

Political Prisoners

REGION	TOTAL No. of PPs	WOMEN	NDFP CONSULTANTS	ARRESTED UNDER PNOY
Ilocos	0	0	0	0
Cordillera Administrative Region	3	0	0	3
Cagayan Valley	10	4	0	7
Central Luzon	12	1	1	2
National Capital Region	194	10	7	36
Southern Tagalog	32	3	0	16
Bicol	19	0	0	10
Western Visayas	21	2	0	9
Central Visayas	9	0	2	5
Eastern Visayas	27	9	1	17
Northern Mindanao	10	0	2	1
Caraga	13	1	0	9
Socskargen	16	1	0	7
Western Mindanao	3	0	0	1
Southern Mindanao	32	2	0	8
ARMM	29	0	0	11
TOTAL	430	33	13	148

Arbitrary arrests

As in Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL), the state agents continue to build up their dossier on organizers, leaders and members of progressive groups, and file fabricated charges against them, to harass them and disrupt their organizing work. In several cases, victims were abducted and illegally arrested without any warrant. In the latest cases, the arresting team has a ready warrant, issued by a court based on dubious evidence. None of those arrested were ever properly read their Miranda Rights.

A total of 430 political detainees and prisoners are still incarcerated nationwide as of end December 2012. Arrested under the Aquino administration are 148. Of the total number detained, 33 are women, 12 are elderly, 45 are sickly and one minor. There are 13 NDFP consultants and staff members who should not have been arrested as they are JASIG-protected.

A total of 27 people were arrested in December only, with 16 of them still in detention. The spate of arrests came after the DILG and DND announced its Php 467 million bounty for some 235 communist leaders. The list of the wanted individuals was undisclosed. So far,

"cleanup drive" and film showing of the AFP anti-communist propaganda "Know thy Enemy."

Months after the violent demolition, some 1,000 families still remain in Corazon de Jesus, including those whose homes were demolished but have

two men had been arrested and “given” the name of supposed high-ranking CPP leaders.

Mistaken identity

In its haste to collect the millions of cash reward and meet the OpBay quota on the arrest of top CPP-NPA leaders, the military and police have resorted to a new phenomenon in political repression – the mistaken-identity arrests.

On October 6, the AFP announced the capture of a “Benjamin Mendoza,” supposedly a 61-year-old high-ranking cadre of the CPP, his wife, “Josephine Mendoza” and two others. The AFP flaunted their dossier on Benjamin Mendoza who, they claimed, was a native of La Union, a student activist during martial law years, had military training in Libya, led major tactical offensives in Mindoro, Batangas, Bicol and Quezon, and is now the “secretary of the Southern Tagalog Regional Committee.” The supposed big fish communist leader carried a Php 5.6M on his head, but he was not presented to the media.

The “CPP leader” could not be presented because it turned out that the military arrested **Rolly Panesa, 48**, a security guard of the MegaForce Security Agency and a native of Negros Occidental. Also arrested were Panesa’s live-in partner **Marites Chicho, 48, and her daughter and son-in-law**. Rolly cannot be presented, with his face black and blue from severe beatings as he insistently denied that he was “Benjamin Mendoza”.

State agents pounced upon the four at midnight of October 5 as they were walking home along Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City. They were forced into two separate vehicles and were brought to the Southern Luzon Command in Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna where they were interrogated. The military insisted that Rolly is “Benjamin Mendoza” because he had a mole on his nape, like the alleged CPP leader.

Marites’s interrogator kept referring to her as “Ka Luisa,” and claimed that she is a nursing graduate. Marites, her daughter and son-in-law were later sent home. Marites found her apartment ransacked. Particularly missing were all their birth certificates, Rolly’s certificate from the security agency and other documents that she promised to bring back to the military camp to prove that Rolly is not “Benjamin Mendoza”.

Rolly was brought to the Camp Bagong Diwa detention center, where he was admitted as “Benjamin Mendoza alias Rolly Panesa.” He remains in detention although the charges of frustrated killing and rebellion were actually against “Benjamin Mendoza”. The AFP was quoted in a

news article insisting that “Rolly Panesa” is only an alias of “Benjamin Mendoza”.

A similar case happened on Christmas day when farmer **Oligario Sebas**, 65, was arrested at home in Tubod village, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental by policemen in plainclothes and soldiers of the 79th IBPA who showed him a warrant for a “Felimon Mendrez,” an alleged NPA leader who had a Php 5.25 million bounty on his head. Oligario tried to resist, saying that his name was not listed in the warrant, but he was forcibly taken into custody. The military then announced to the media that they had captured “Felimon Mendrez” who was charged with rebellion and robbery in band. Oligario is currently detained at the Bayawan City jail, Negros Oriental.

For **Jimmylysa Badayos**, memories of the arrest and disappearance of her father Jimmy 22 years ago came rushing back when she and **Calixto Vistal** were themselves abducted on October 5 and brought to Camp Sotero Cabahug in Cebu City, Cebu. Her father was arrested October 3, 1990 by the Metrodiscom headed by now Sen. Panfilo Lacson and brought to the same camp. He was reported to have “escaped” the heavily-guarded camp the next day.

Jimmylysa and Calixto had just got off from work when they were seized by plainclothed elements of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) and the City Intelligence Branch of Cebu City Police Office (CIB-CCPO). That same night, the PNP announced to the media that two “high-ranking officials of the Komiteng Rehiyon-Central Visayas” were captured, referring to her and Calixto.

On October 8, Calixto was brought to the nearby island of Negros Oriental, where a court had ordered his arrest for murder charges. Karapatan-Central Visayas said that the arrest warrant was released on October 5, the same day the two victims were abducted in Cebu. Calixto is being detained at the Negros Oriental provincial jail in Dumaguete City. Jimmylysa was brought to the hospital for severe anemia and was later released for insufficient evidence.

Arbitrary detention

On December 7, five armed police men in plain clothes illegally arrested and dragged pastoral worker **Anecita Rojo** from the St. John the Baptist Parish in Bago City, Negros Occidental. Anecita, the former administrative officer of Negros Rural Assistance Program (NRAP) was first brought to the Bago City police station where she was shown an amended warrant of arrest for murder issued

by a Cadiz City prosecutors' office. It was for the death of a soldier who was killed in an encounter with NPA rebels on March 7, 2010 in Cadiz City. Aside from Rojo, several other leaders of progressive organizations were also listed, namely Romulo Bituon, Josephine Torrecampo, Rogina Quilop, Isidro Castillo, and Zara Alvarez. Anecita is currently detained at the Cadiz City Jail. **Zara Alvarez** of the Negros chapter of both Bayan ang Karapatan was arrested on October 30 and is now detained with Anecita.

Rene Boy Abiva, a 23-year old employee of the Department of Social Work and Development at Cagayan province and coordinator of ACT Teachers Partylist-Cagayan Valley, was arrested December 28 for charges of murder. He was arrested by units led by Col. Julius Balana of the Regional Intelligence Division of the PNP and is currently detained at the Ifugao Provincial Jail in Kiangan, Ifugao. The arresting men said that Rene Boy was charged for his supposed involvement in the April 2012 NPA ambush of at least 12 soldiers under the 86th Infantry Battalion of the Phil. Army in Tinoc, Ifugao.

On December 13, soldiers of the 11th IB nabbed 19 members of the Tribu Bukidnon Indigenous Peoples Organization in San Agustin village, Isabela, Negros Occidental. The soldiers had just encountered NPA rebels in the vicinity of the village, and vented their anger on the farmer residents, claiming that they were accommodating the rebels in their homes. The soldiers forced the 19 victims, three of whom were minors, to carry their backpacks, and the wounded soldiers, after which they hauled them off to the Isabela PNP station. On December 15, the 11 were released while eight were charged with murder and multiple frustrated murder, and are currently detained at the Isabela Police Station in Negros Occidental.

Several women activists were arrested and detained based on trumped-up criminal charges, among them were urban poor leaders **Evelyn Legaspi, 53**, Kadamay-Southern Tagalog council member, and **Pastora Latagan, 33**, Kadamay regional staff, who were arrested without a warrant on February 7 in Bay, Laguna. The two were charged with multiple attempted and frustrated murder and remain in detention in the Laguna provincial jail.

On December 3, **Randy Vegas and Raul Camposano**, organizers of the national office of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) were abducted separately in Metro Manila, and held incommunicado until December 5 when they were located in detention at the Camarines Norte Provincial Jail in Daet, some 220 km south of the National Capital Region. Their abduction was timed on the day of the protest action by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) employees association, among them street-sweepers, traffic enforcers and clerks. The two organizers had been assisting the MMDA employees in their struggle for the release of their benefits, which the MMDA had withheld but is actually provided in their 2010 collective negotiation agreement.



At past 7 am, Randy, 36, had just alit from a bus along GMA 7-EDSA and was headed to the Courage office when two tall men grabbed him by the neck and dragged him into a car. They handcuffed him at the back, took his cellphone from his pocket, covered his head with a towel, and then recited to him his Miranda Rights. The two men seated Randy between them, and once during the trip, they lifted his head cover and briefly showed him the arrest warrant, which he could not properly read. The men brought Randy to the National Capital Region Police Office-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (NCRPO-CIDG) in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, where he was interrogated. His captors accessed his laptop and forced him to give the passwords to his computer, emails, facebook account. They asked him about his activities, his family, Courage leaders, among other things.

At around 9 pm, also on December 3, Raul, 52, had just come from the MMDA employees' protest action and was in Cavite on his way home when six men forced him into a car and brought him to the NCRPO in Taguig City, where Randy was also detained.

Each of the victims was still unaware that the other was arrested when in the early morning of December 4, the police transported them to Daet, Camarines Norte. They eventually saw each other at the CIDG Daet, after which they were brought to the Labo Regional Trial Court that issued a commitment order sending them to the provincial jail.

Raul and Randy were named in a warrant of arrest for murder and frustrated murder, supposedly in connection with an April 29, 2012 attack by NPA rebels on an army detachment in Maot village,

Labo, Camarines Norte, where several soldiers were killed and another wounded. The warrant was issued by Judge Rolando De Lemios Bobis, of Branch 64, Labo Regional Trial Court on October 18, 2012.

Also named in the warrant were 30 other people, including two leaders and long-time NCR organizers Roy Velez and Amelita Gamara. Velez is the chair of Bayan-NCR, Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement or KMU)-NCR, and the Save Freedom Island Movement. He is also the Vice Chair for Luzon and 5th nominee of the Anakpawis partylist. Roy is a National Council member of KMU.

Amelita has been a union organizer since the martial law era, and is currently the Deputy Secretary General of KMU-NCR, a Board member of Defend Job-Philippines, convenor of Sagip Manila Bay, and a member-at-large of Bayan-NCR Regional Council. Her husband is Renante Gamara, NDFP Consultant who was arrested in April on trumped-up charges and who remains in detention.

The Raul, Randy, Roy and Amelia were falsely listed as residents of Camarines Sur.

Against NDFP consultant protected by JASIG

On April 3, NDFP peace consultant Renante Gamara was arbitrarily arrested by military and police intelligence agents, along with Santiago Balleta, in Las Piñas City. The state operatives did not read them their Miranda Rights, but handcuffed, blindfolded and forced them into separate vehicles. They were brought to Camp Crame where Gamara was finally shown a warrant for his arrest on trumped-up charges of kidnapping, issued on March 23, 2012 by a court in Quezon. There was no arrest warrant for Balleta, but he was charged the next day with obstruction of justice. Balleta was released on bail on April 12, while Gamara remains in detention at the Camp Crame Custodial Center.

NDFP peace consultant **Jaime Soledad, 63** had been out of prison for only nine months when he was rearrested on May 2 at home in Bgy. Tinago, Inopacan, Leyte by a joint



police and military team. Soledad was falsely charged with double murder. Previously, Soledad was released on July 25, 2011 as part of the confidence-building measures in the resumption of peace talks between the GPH and the NDFP.

On November 5, **Grayson Naogsan** was taken at gunpoint by five men in plainclothes inside the SM mall in Baguio City. He was shown a document that he and his companion were not able to review properly. Grayson was handcuffed and forced into a vehicle that left Baguio City. He is the son of Simon "Filliw" Naogsan, spokesperson of the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF), an allied organization belonging to the NDFP.

For three days, Grayson was kept *incommunicado* while the Naogsan family, together with human rights workers and lawyers, searched for him in Baguio City, Bontoc, Mountain Province and at the CIDG in Camp Crame in Quezon City. They were treated "like pingpong balls," as Grayson's wife described it. It was only in the evening of November 7 that the PNP Cordillera confirmed that Grayson was indeed arrested by the Intelligence Group of the PNP, and that he was brought to Camp Crame, and later to Bontoc, Mountain Province where a court issued a warrant for his arrest. He is currently detained at the Ifugao provincial jail in Kiangan, Ifugao.

Trumped-up charges and alias warrants

In other cases, the arresting team have their warrants ready. However, some warrants are peppered with aliases, John Does and Jane Does that they can conveniently be the bases for arbitrary arrests because just anybody's name can be added later. In most cases, the victims were not allowed to read the warrants properly, were given the warrant while already in detention or the warrant was presented not to the subject but to a village official.

On April 25, health worker **Helen Igloria, 56**, of the Kusog sa Katawhang Lumad sa Mindanao Health Program (Kalumaran) was arrested at home by the Zamboanga Peninsula Police by virtue of an arrest warrant for murder and direct assault. Helen protested that she was not informed of such charges, but the security forces still took her in.

Upon arrival at the Dipolog Police Station, a police personnel and another person in plainclothes immediately took photos and videos of her. Being hypertensive, Helen's blood pressure shot up to 160/90. At 8:30 am the next day, Igloria was taken to the Dipolog City Health Office supposedly for a medical checkup, but instead, the hospital issued a medical clearance without examining her. Aside from being the administrative officer of Kalumaran,

she is also a founding member of Gabriela in Zamboanga del Norte. She remains in detention at the Tangub jail.

On July 4, at 6:00 pm, police intelligence agents arrested church worker **Agnes Mesina** at a café in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan province, while having a meeting with ACT Teachers' Partylist Rep. Antonio Tinio and several others. A certain Capt. Bulan who was in plainclothes, presented an arrest warrant for frustrated killing. Her name was included in a warrant of arrest for 17 people, including released political detainees Myrna Cruz and NDFP peace consultant Elizabeth Principe who were already acquitted of trumped-up charges filed against them. Agnes spent the night at the Tuguegarao City police station and was brought to Aparri, a town further north, where a court issued the warrant. She was released after posting bail.

In Nueva Ecija, charges of violation of the Human Security Act and illegal possession of firearms and explosives against five political prisoners were dismissed after they have been imprisoned for five months. On March 28, soldiers of the 56th IB faked an encounter when they swooped down on **Efren Delalamon**, a former political prisoner who was released in 2011, Anakpawis organizers **Andres Lapuz and Ambrosio Iletto**, health worker **Carla Bautista** and 17-year-old peasant youth **Jan Michael Iletto**. They were all declared as "CPP leaders." The soldiers also ransacked the houses of Ambrosio and his brother Elpidio Iletto and confiscated personal belongings such as cash, blood pressure monitor and medicines. The five were all released in October after charges against them were dismissed.

Continuing the Legacy of Struggle

From the first U.S.-Aquino regime in 1986 under Mrs. Cory Aquino up to the present under her son, Benigno "Noy" Aquino, the state has lived by the legacy of impunity and terror handed down by the Marcos dictatorship. Human rights violations continue, victims are denied justice and the perpetrators remain unpunished.

As the country marked the 40th year of the declaration of martial law, victims of the Marcos dictatorship, along with other progressive groups and activists denounce the U.S.-Aquino regime as they pledge to continue to raise the torch of the fight for national freedom, justice and genuine democracy.

Remembering martial law

As the nation remembered the horrors of martial law, Karapatan, Selda (Society of Ex-detainees Against Detention and Arrest) and Bayan (New



Patriotic Alliance) recalled the martyrdom and heroism of thousands of activists who carried on the resistance against the Marcos dictatorship, whether in the legal protest movement, the underground or the armed struggle. A series of activities culminated in a rally of almost a thousand to Mendiola on September 21 with the First Quarter Storm (FQS) activists marching in front.

In the same month, Karapatan put up a two-week long exhibit dubbed as *Himagsik at Protesta* (Revolution and Protest), which featured a collection of magazines, books, underground publications, as well as memorabilia and items used by activists and revolutionaries to fight the dictatorship.

“This is to remember martial law, the dictator, the terror. But more importantly, we want to give tribute to the ‘fire-starters’ of the anti-dictatorship movement – those imbued with courage, daring and creativity, those who led the way and offered their lives in the fight against tyranny, oppression, and for national freedom and democracy. We want the youth of today to remember and to keep the fire burning,” said Cristina Palabay, Secretary General of Karapatan.

Palabay stressed that the images in *Himagsik at Protesta* are no different from the images of today. “Other than the equipment that underwent technological advancement, the images of terror are the same. A poster about Fr. Tulio Favali, for example, is displayed alongside the poster about Fr. Fausto “Pops” Tentorio, two Italian priests who are both victims of extrajudicial killing by paramilitary groups, 26 years apart. Fr. Favali was killed in 1985 under Marcos, while Fr. Tentorio in 2011 under Noynoy Aquino.”

The Antonio Zumel Center for Press Freedom chose to commemorate the late Zumel’s 80th birthday anniversary as part of the *MartialLaw@40*

activities. It was attended by his colleagues in journalism in the former Philippines Herald and the National Press Club, of which he was president before he had to go underground when martial law was declared. Younger media people, writers, mass leaders, activists, friends and family celebrated the occasion with Zumel’s widow. The speeches recalling times with “Manong” or “Antumel” were both enlightening and funny.

Highlight of the evening is the announcement about the Center’s lecture series scheduled for 2013 and directed at young journalists and journalism students.

Renewed calls for justice and indemnification

Victims and their families, assisted by Karapatan and victims’ organizations such as Desaparecidos, Hustisya and Selda, sustained the campaign actions and court battles after their filing of civil and criminal suits against perpetrators of human rights violations. Those charged included former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA), the much hated “the butcher” of the AFP, retired General Jovito Palparan, and other generals and military officers.

Not surprisingly under a government that coddles the military, Palparan and the other accused are still at large despite warrants of arrest issued by the court. GMA is still comfortably on hospital arrest and continues to try to be transferred home.

The weight of giving a small part of the much-delayed justice to the martial law victims now falls on the shoulders of Noynoy. He claims to empathize with the families of victims because his father was a political prisoner during martial law and was assassinated by the dictator, but he has failed to lift a finger to hasten the enactment of the law for the indemnification of martial law victims from Marcos’s ill-gotten wealth.



Remembering ML: from Marcos to Noynoy Aquino, impunity continues



Members of Selda lambasted the Aquino regime for failing to certify the Marcos Indemnification bill as urgent when the 15th Congress is about to end. Since 2001, when the bill was first filed, the measure has been bypassed for enactment into law in the past three Congresses.

The passing of a law was required for the enforcement of a US court decision that found Marcos guilty of gross human rights violations, and required the Marcos estate to pay almost USD 2 billion in exemplary damages and USD 776 million in compensatory damages. The decision was on the class action suit filed in 1986 by the almost 10,000 martial law victims.

Led by Selda, Karapatan and Desaparecidos, the victims of martial law and their relatives

continued with the campaign and lobbying to have the Marcos indemnification bill passed. Through constant people pressure and with the help of the representatives of the progressive party list organizations, the House of Representatives finally passed its version of the bill. What is left, despite Malacanang's disinterest, is to push the Senate to pass its version of the bill, harmonize the versions into one bill by the Bicameral Committee and for both Houses to ratify the final bill. Then Noynoy will not have any choice but to sign it into law because a veto will be politically costly to the President who pretends to be for human rights.

From Mindanao and Southern Tagalog to Manila, bringing HR issues to the national center

This year, two waves of delegations from Mindanao which travelled to Manila brought to the attention of the public, media and national government officials in Manila the human rights situation in Southern Philippines, especially the killings of indigenous peoples' leaders who are fighting against large-scale mining operations and the highly repressive Oplan Bayanihan.

Before the December 10 International Day of Human Rights, a delegation of more than 70 peasant and Lumad leaders, evacuees, victims and families of extrajudicial killings arrived in Manila for what was called the *Manilakbayan* or Journey to Manila.

Manilakbayan was able to gather teachers, students and religious communities in the National Capital Region to its various activities. The delegates held protest actions in different offices of foreign mining companies and relevant government agencies. There were also media and solidarity events.

After a dialogue with the *Manilakbayan* delegates, including Sharon Liguyon, the widow of slain Matigsalog leader Jimmy Liguyon, Department of Justice Undersecretary Francisco Baraan ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to arrest Alde "Butsoy" Salusad and his men. As of this writing however, no arrest has been made.

A dialogue was also held with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle who assured the delegates that he will help bring the issues to Pres. Aquino's attention.

The *Manilakbayan* delegates were joined by hundreds of *Lakbayanis* from the Southern Tagalog region who marched from Laguna to Manila, conducting protest programs in several urban centers



on the way. They held militant protest actions in front of the U.S. Embassy and the office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). They gathered and held cultural programs at the Liwasang Bonifacio and later at the Mehan Garden, where the *Lakbayanis* burnt the effigy of a helicopter to emphasize the fact that military presence and materiel are not needed nor welcome in Bondoc Peninsula. The *Lakbayanis* capped their December 10 activity by joining the Mendiola rally.

The police tried but failed to stop more than 2,700 rallyists from reaching the Chino Roces bridge on Mendiola and making speeches and holding a cultural program. The rallyists on one lane, with *Lumad* women and men in their elegant native attire pressing a few inches from the policemen's shields, negotiated with the police. Those in the other lane tried to break through the police phalanx. After several minutes, the police relented and let the marchers pass.

The program was punctuated by testimonies from *Lumad*, Moro and grassroots leaders and victims of human rights violations from Mindanao and Southern Tagalog. The speeches from Karapatan, Bayan Muna and Bayan National provided economic and political context to the testimonies. The rallyists burned the effigy of Noynoy riding on a mining backhoe atop a U.S.-

AFP combat tank. A parody of Palparan being chased and arrested made the marchers laugh. The cultural numbers performed by a composite of singer-activists led by the People's Chorale supplemented the speeches and testimonies and agitated the marchers who also welcomed a solidarity statement and two songs from Monique Wilson, who played Kim in the London production of *Ms Saigon*.

The program's last segment, with speakers from Karapatan, *Manilakbayan* and *ST Lakbayanis*, focused on agitation calls to defend human rights, free all political prisoners, surface the disappeared, end impunity, stop EJKs, stop demolitions and forced evacuation, troops out of our villages, down with imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, etc.

The program ended with the crowd shouting the rally's call: *Labanan at itakwil ang mapanupil, pahirap at papet na gobyernong Aquino! Ipatigil ang Oplan Bayanihan!*

The protest rally's last action was a lightning rally at one of the gates of Malacanang, the presidential palace, by some youth & student activists.

National Conference on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

In April, a national conference gathered some 150 *bakwit* or internally displaced persons (IDP),



human rights advocates and church people to bring attention to the growing number of victims of forced evacuation under the Aquino regime. “*Bakwit*” is a colloquial Filipino term for “evacuees,” pertaining to victims of forced evacuation. Among the *bakwits* were RPA-ABB atrocity victims in Negros island and *Lumads* from Caraga and Bukidnon in Mindanao.

The National Conference on Internally Displaced Persons or Internal Refugees, led by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), Karapatan and the Ecumenical Mission for Peace and Development (EMPD), was held on April 23 to 24 in Quezon City.

They raised the issues of forced evacuation which is violative of human rights, the plight of internal refugees, militarization and the plunder by mining corporations. In a dialogue with heads of national government agencies they also called attention to the negligence and inhumane treatment they get from regional officials of government agencies.

sa *Katawhang Lumad sa Mindanao* (Kalumaran) and the Educators Forum for Development.

The *Lumad* organizations decried that not only have they long “suffered from discrimination and neglect, the plunder of our ancestral land, and the exploitation and ridicule of our culture,” but now their efforts at education are being questioned and attacked.

The *Lumad* schools were established through the support of church organizations and NGOs, in Davao, Davao del Sur, Bukidnon, Sarangani and Surigao del Sur. “There is a common threat to schools, and this is the presence of soldiers in pursuit of supposed “peace and development programs,” according to the conference statement. Soldiers, it said, encroached on their communities, “questioned the existence of our schools, interrogated our



SOS: Save our Schools

In July, an island-wide conference called for the protection of the rights of indigenous children and educators particularly in the alternative schools for the *Lumads* which were being harassed by the military.

The Mindanao Conference in Defense of Schools under Attack was held in Davao City on July 8 to 10 and was attended by 118 teachers, directors for literacy and alternative education, community leaders and students. The conference was spearheaded by the regional *Lumad* alliance, *Kusog*

teachers, branded our schools as ‘rebel schools.’” In some cases, soldiers took over the classes. The conference called for the transfer out of military troops, investigation of the soldiers and military units involved and the support of local governments.

Campaign for justice

The **Movement for Justice for Willem Geertman** was launched in the Philippines by Bayan, Central Luzon organizations and Filipino-Dutch solidarity groups. On November 6, a delegation composed of Geertman’s family and friends as well as Dutch parliamentarians

submitted a petition to the Permanent Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament. The petition called for “an independent investigation of and justice for the murder of Willem Geertman.”

The **Justice for the Capion Family, Justice for All** network led the National Peace and Solidarity Mission to remote sitio Alyong in Kimlawis village, Davao del Sur to investigate the October 18 massacre. The mission confirmed that no encounter happened and that Juvy Capion and her sons, Jordan and John Mark, were killed when soldiers of the 27th IBPA strafed their hut. The mission also revealed that SMI security consultant and ex-military Col. Dan Balandra had visited the Capions for three consecutive days prior to the massacre. A relative of the Capion family testified that Balandra had been trying to convince Juvy’s husband Dagui to surrender.

In Southern Tagalog, the **Save Bondoc Peninsula Movement (SBPM)** launched on June 25 the campaign for the withdrawal of military troops and support for civilians harmed by militarization. The SBPM condemned the concentration of troops as part of suppressing the peasants’ struggle for their right to land and resources. Bondoc Peninsula is Quezon province’s agricultural center. It is also a hacienda belt and has mineral-rich areas being targeted for mining.

On November 12, the **Stop the Killings of Indigenous Peoples** network was launched in response to the relentless attacks against tribal leaders who oppose encroachment on their ancestral lands by mining and agro-fuel companies. The STK-IP network is led by the Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP).

Free All Political Prisoners

The campaign to free NDFP peace consultant Tirso “Ka Bart” Alcantara and the call for his immediate transfer to a civilian detention facility bore initial fruit as he was transferred on November 22 from solitary confinement at the army barracks in Fort Bonifacio to the Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

Alcantara was arrested on January 4, 2011, and had been kept in solitary confinement at the Phil. Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, despite a commitment order to a regular

detention center issued on July 18. The military restricted visits to Alcantara, who had reported ill-treatment, such as being deprived of drinking water and being given food with tiny pieces of garbage and broken glass and fecal matter.

Randy Malayao, another NDFP peace consultant, was released on October 4, after the trumped-up charges against him have all been dropped.

There were 81 political detainees released in 2012. They were not due to clemency from the government but because their cases in court had been resolved. What the campaign to free all PPs achieved in 2012 is for the very slow court processes to be speeded up somewhat.

But it has failed to get the Aquino government to issue a presidential proclamation for a general, unconditional and omnibus amnesty (GUOA) which would free all PPs. The GUOA is not seen as possible at the moment with the GPH’s recalcitrance in the peace negotiations and the Malacanang spokesperson’s stupid statement that “there are no political prisoners in the Philippines.”

Universal Periodic Review

Progressive groups comprising the Philippine UPR Watch participated in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Different sectors submitted the results of their own review of the U.S.-Aquino regime’s human rights record to belie the GPH report which will surely give a pink picture.



NDF consultant Randy Malayao was released after trumped up charges vs him were dropped. There are 13 other consultants currently detained.

After extensive lobbying with foreign embassies and missions, more than 20 government representatives sitting in the UNHRC questioned the GPH on the continued extrajudicial killings and disappearances, existence of paramilitary groups, attacks on journalists, torture.

Fr. Jonash Joyohoy of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and co-head of the UPR Watch said: “They (the different foreign missions) know that the Philippine government has not lived up to its commitments to completely eliminate extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture.”

Human rights lawyer and National Union of People’s Lawyer (NUPL) Secretary General Edre Olalia said: “The GPH report drowned the more essential issues, such as the almost nil conviction rate of perpetrators of rights abuses, the failure of the Aquino government to press charges and arrest suspects, and the continuing effects of the government’s counter-insurgency program on the people.”

The Australian mission echoed the consistent calls of the families of missing UP students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño for the prosecution of fugitive Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. Eleven months after the arrest warrant was issued for

“the Butcher,” it remains to be served, as the government claims “weaknesses” in its intelligence work. Karapatan countered this, saying that the state’s intelligence work is “misdirected,” because it “is largely directed against activists, leaders and members of people’s organizations... They are busy with their surveillance work during rallies, in schools, factories, urban and rural communities and tracking down persons whom they list down in their Order of Battle as ‘enemies of the state.’” These victims are being tracked down, arrested and detained based on fabricated cases, while the real criminals are at large.

Congressional hearings

The Congressional Committee on Human Rights was pressured into holding hearings by the statements and propaganda actions of victims of HRVs and their families and the various resolutions sponsored by representatives of progressive party-list groups upon the request of the victims, sectoral and HR organizations. The committee held three public hearings in 2012, one each for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Victims and their families got a venue to relate their stories and expose the HR violators who were all from the military and its paramilitary units. Hopefully the hearings will not entirely fall on deaf ears.



2013 is a challenging year for the people's movement — to be vigilant and determined in its pursuit of social justice and genuine democracy amid escalating fascist attacks by the U.S.-Aquino regime.

On the other hand, the regime will try to prevent further unmasking and increasing public criticism to prevent its isolation. It will continue to use deception. It will be more politically repressive. It will go to the extent of limiting the flow of information like imposing a cybercrime law.

The Aquino faction is set to consolidate its rule in the mid-term elections in May. The present line up of the majority of the candidates reflects the dominance of the same ruling elite that has exploited and oppressed the poor majority in our country. It is still the same names, the same economic and political interests. Also alarming are the technical problems with the voting machines. While automation will facilitate voting, will it also make cheating progressive candidates and party-list groups out of their votes easy?

2013 is also the end of Phase I of OpBay. Already the uptrend in human rights violations is observable, especially the incidents of extrajudicial killing, illegal arrests and detention, bombings and forced evacuation.

2013 is the year when OpBay's author, Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, becomes the AFP Chief of Staff. It was Bautista, who declared the bare-faced lie that the fugitive "the butcher" General Palparan is the last of his kind within the AFP, despite the continued violations committed by the military against the people and in the interest of the ruling class and the U.S.

THE U.S.-Aquino regime had shown that it will not bring positive changes or even relief to the lives of the people now or in the future. It travels the well-trodden path of past regimes that has favored the dominance of the privileged few and of foreign interest, especially that of U.S. imperialism. It keeps the AFP, with its bloodstained, unbroken record of human rights violations, coddled, unpunished and untouchable.

But we are confident that 2013 will be when the people's movement will show that the U.S.-Aquino regime deserves nothing short of denunciation and isolation by the Filipino people.



The face of Oplan Bayanihan: Pres. Noyoy Aquino and Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, who authored the Filipino version of the U.S. counterinsurgency guide.

In Caraga region, from February to November, widespread and intensified military operations in the hinterlands triggered the flight of peasants and indigenous peoples from the towns of Cabadbaran and Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte and from Alegria town in Surigao del Norte. The evacuees went to Butuan City in Agusan del Norte to appeal for help to stop the bombings and military encroachment on their communities.

The earliest wave of evacuations began in February, when 68 families fled barangay Ferlda, Alegria, Surigao del Norte and sought sanctuary in barangay Ombon, about 18 km away. On Feb. 6, about 80 soldiers arrived and occupied the barangay hall and other public facilities, while some stayed beside civilian houses. The military's presence in the community resulted in numerous cases of rights violations.

On February 19, a soldier in Purok 1 accidentally fired at a nearby house when he fell from his hammock after being roused by gunshots in the forest. The kitchen of Felix Palicpan was riddled with bullets but no one was hurt. Ten families immediately left Purok 1 and went to barangay Ombon, while six families chose to stay. On February 28, at 8pm, the remaining families were ordered by the soldiers to hurriedly gather in a house after hearing gunshots in the nearby mountains. That night, the six families decided to evacuate, but the soldiers came with them and positioned themselves between civilians during the trek. The soldiers said that they accompanied the families to protect them, but it was clear to the residents that they were being used as shields because the soldiers walked in the middle of the group. As they passed through Purok 2 and 3 of Bgy. Ferlda, 52 Mamanwa families joined the evacuees, swelling the number of those who arrived in Brgy. Ombon to 58 families.

In the nearby town of Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, on March 5, two fighter planes dropped four bombs near the communities of Ansili and Zapanta. The residents reported feeling the impact on their chests with every detonation. The planes were followed by a helicopter that strafed the forest areas. Women and children scattered, with one pregnant woman suffering contractions.

Residents saw soldiers rappelling down from a helicopter as it hovered over a nearby hill. They heard chainsaws and trees fall as the soldiers set up camp. Wary of running into the soldiers in combat mode, the residents stayed in their homes, including the motorcycle drivers that ply the route. A helicopter was seen ferrying soldiers to the nearby mountain.

In the gathering dusk on March 6, as many as 45 Mamanwa families from Ansili and Maribuhok started the eight kilometer trek to barangay Bangayan. They used torches to light their way, arriving in Bangayan at 8:00 pm. On March 9, sporadic gunfire and increased military presence and encroachment on sitio Zapanta drove 80 peasant families to also leave their homes and walk to the village center of Bangayan.

On March 5, simultaneous with the Kitcharao bombings were aerial strikes by two helicopters in Barangay Camam-onan, Gigaquit town, Surigao del Norte. Two houses were hit. Residents of Sitios Pagbangayan, Kalatingga, Katikuyan and Bongogon transferred to sitios Banban and Omaw, in the same village. But that same day, soldiers of the 30th IBPA arrived in sitio Banban, which forced the evacuees to transfer again, this time to Dam Sitio Baoy in barangay San Isidro, by the side of the river. On March 21, it was the turn of the evacuees in sitio Omaw to proceed to Dam Sitio Baoy, when soldiers of the 30th IB arrived.

Up to 479 individuals evacuated from the four sitios of Camam-onan village.

On March 23, soldiers opened fire at three Mamanwas who went to get firewood in sitio Omaw in Camam-onan village. Balodoy Enano was hit in the arm, while Bukas Prada and Toto Calingasan were able to run to safety. Balodoy later saw soldiers of the 30th IBPA who told him not to say that they were the ones who shot him. The soldiers gave Balodoy one tablet each of paracetamol and mefenamic acid, and left him on his own. The victim passed out from blood loss and hunger, but was able to walk and reach help the next day.

On March 14, similar military operations and encroachment on the community by units of the 402nd Brigade drove 78 Mamanwa families from sitio Lusong, Bgy. Puting Bato, Cabadbaran City to seek sanctuary in Butuan City, and was accommodated at the covered court in barangay Imadejas.

THE LONG TREK

The Mamanwa evacuees from Surigao del Norte also joined them, which brought the total number of Lumad evacuees to 350.

In Sarangani province, from June 1 to 4, about 332 families or a total of 1,352 individuals evacuated from Barangays Kinabalan, Banate, Laurel of Malungon town after heavy bombings by the military in the area. Soldiers of the 57th, 58th and 73rd IBPA were in pursuit of NPA rebels. The bombings damaged several houses. The soldiers also took 50 chickens.

On November 10, some 150 Mamanwa and Bisaya families again left sitio Zapanta Valley, Bangayan village, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte after some 100 soldiers again entered their community. The soldiers occupied the multipurpose hall, the office of the Zapanta farmers' cooperative Zaporemco, the Alternative Learning System (ALS) school and in the houses of Emok Vivas, Pedro Pabre and Bobot Morado. They conducted a census, and kept on asking about the homes of Datu Lando Anlagan and Datu Carlos Biog.

At around 2 pm, the sitio residents hiked 12 km from Sitio Zapanta Valley to the Bangayan village proper. They saw soldiers taking video footage of them. Some of the Lumad evacuees heard the soldiers say, "Sus, imbes nga mag-feeding na unta mi sa mga Kungking, namakwit na man hinuon!" (Sus, we were ready to feed the Kungking, but they have already evacuated!) "Kungking" is a derogatory term for the Mamanwa. The evacuees arrived at the Bangayan multipurpose hall at around 7pm, where there were already seven uniformed elements of the Special Force led by a certain Sgt. Dagdag and two persons, one of whom was named "Ayan" who identified himself as a representative from the Commission on Human Rights. He interviewed the evacuees.

The next day, on November 11, eight soldiers led by Col. Camba, Capt. Panganduyon and Sgt. Dagdag went to the evacuation center and called for a meeting. They were with the same representatives of the CHR, DSWD and some barangay officials. They said they were there to ensure the security of the residents of Zapanta Valley and that they wanted to help the community towards development. They took pictures of the residents while the meeting was going on.

Because of the tension and exposure to the wet weather, children and adults had fever, cough, colds and diarrhea. The evacuees were able to return home on November 24 after the soldiers left.

Much earlier on March 23, seven fully-armed soldiers led by Major Nilo Kanashiro, spokesperson of the 4th ID and Lt. Patrick Martinez, CMO of the 402nd Brigade went to the evacuation center in Butuan City. Shortly after, 107 evacuees arrived from Palidan, Brgy. Mahaba, Cabadbaran City. Maj. Kanashiro tried to order the newly-arrived evacuees to have their photo taken individually by the soldiers before being allowed inside the covered court. The exhausted evacuees, however, ignored the soldiers.

A Gabriela-Caraga statement said Maj. Kanashiro even scolded the evacuees, saying, "Do not listen to the lies of these pretty faces that has joined you" referring to Kasalo-Caraga and Gabriela-Caraga leaders and other organizations helping the evacuees. "Return home because there are no more troops in the mountains," Kanashiro said, but this was belied by another officer of the 402nd Brigade who announced in a local radio that afternoon that they were continuing the military operations.

Gabriela-Caraga reported that the soldiers then set up a desk and stood guard at the entrance of the evacuation center, and required everyone to sign their logbook before being allowed to enter. Gabriela-Caraga chair Atel Hijos and Genasque Enriquez, Secretary General of Kasalo-Caraga, refused to sign the military logbook, and insisted that the soldiers have no right to deny them entry because the evacuees themselves have asked for their assistance. After a few minutes, the soldiers left. Hijos angrily pointed out that if soldiers can openly harass evacuees even when they have sought safety in the city, what more if they had stayed in the hinterlands.

The evacuees were able to return home in April.

TO SAFETY

FROM AMPATUAN TO ARAKAN, TO TAMPAKAN: Continuing Impunity in Mindanao

A human rights situation and call for justice

*Joint Report of Panalipdan! Mindanao, Kalumaran,
Barug Katungod Mindanao and Karapatan chapters in Mindanao*

President Benigno Simeon Aquino III's electoral campaign in 2010 emphasized his promise to bring justice to the victims of the infamous Ampatuan massacre of November 23rd 2009.

He proclaimed his administration's intention to go after the political warlord clan that benefited from Gloria Macagapal-Arroyo's style of patronage politics and from the U.S.-funded counter-insurgency strategy of using private armies as 'multiplier forces.' Aquino also promised a regime of democracy and respect for human rights, a stark contrast from his predecessor and her bloody and vicious Oplan Bantay Laya, that left more than 1,000 activists and community leaders killed.

After two years, justice seems to be losing its grip on the Ampatuans. A substantial number of suspects continue to be at large. Witnesses and families of victims had received threats and quite a few are disillusioned with the slow pace of the case. Following a newly appointed Chief Justice by President Aquino III, the Supreme Court barred live media coverage.

The Ampatuan massacre has since given way to two more human rights flashpoints under the Aquino government: the killing of Italian missionary priest, Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio in Arakan Valley, North Cotabato on October 17th 2011; and on October 18th 2012, the massacre of the Capion family within the Xstrata-SMI Tampakan mining concession area in the village of Bong Mal, South Cotabato-Davao del Sur boundaries.

With the current administration on its midterm stretch, human rights violations have become worse, more vicious, and more widespread.

Across Mindanao, the determined advocacy of grassroots communities, people's organizations, and progressive sectors of Philippine society to protect land, the environment and human rights have cost the lives of social activists, environment advocates and community leaders.

They tried to protect communities and the environment from plunder of extractive and destructive industries like large-scale mining, agribusiness plantations and complimentary projects like mega-dams.

Oplan Bayanihan's 'peace and development' slogan is used to facilitate the various transgressions on our national patrimony and unhampered plunder of our resources, which are found in the remaining frontiers of Mindanao.

As a continuation of Oplan Bantay Laya, Oplan Bayanihan is an even more vicious internal peace and security plan patterned after the United States' Counterinsurgency program of 2009. It spawned in 2012 more incidents of extrajudicial killing, forced evacuations, threats, arrests and detention, and other human rights violations, - all in the guise of 'peace and development.'



The Mindanao human rights situation is characterized by:

1. An escalation of extrajudicial killings particularly of indigenous people's leaders and environment advocates;
2. Flagrant violation of due process of law as manifested principally in the increasing number of activists charged with false or fabricated criminal offenses and a clear effort by state agents to tag them as rebel sympathizers;
3. Forced evacuation has either become an intended consequence of military operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in indigenous and peasant communities or a methodology adhering to the classical anti-people counterinsurgency doctrine of "catching the fish by draining the pond;"
4. The persistence of Islamophobia against our Moro brothers and sisters as evidenced by the continuing unwarranted detention of innocent Muslims falsely accused as terrorists, in the course of the government's over-eager implementation of the U.S.-led war on terror on Muslim populations;
5. Pervasive and unrelenting attack, disruption and red tagging of rural community literacy schools for Lumad and poor farmers run by non-government organizations and Lumad support groups in areas where government's basic education services cannot reach or are underserved;
6. The state of impunity is not only limited to state agents as the alleged perpetrators but to U.S. military forces as well, in relation to human rights violations committed during Balikatan exercises, including the mysterious death of Gregan Cardeño in Camp Ranao in Marawi City.

Table 1. EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS IN MINDANAO UNDER THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION | JULY 2010-OCTOBER 2012

Date of Incident	Name	Social Sector / Motive	Place of Incident
October 18, 2012	Juvy Malid Capion, 27 y/o (2 months pregnant) John Mark Capion, 7 y/o Jordan Capion, 13 y/o	Blaan indigenous activist/wife and children of anti-XSTRATA mining Lumad leader	Fayahlob, Sitio Datal-Alyong , Brgy Danlag, Tampakan, South Cotabato
October 03, 2012	Gilbert Paborada	Higaonon Indigenous Leader /A Brown oil palm plantation expansion	Opol, Misamis Oriental
September 29, 2012	Ronald Malley, 16 y/o Andy Datuwata, 24 y/o	Teruray student and farmer	Sitio Teruray, Barangay Telafas, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat
September 13, 2012	Jenesis Ambason	Banwaon Indigenous leader / Exploration of Malampay Mining	San Luis, Agusan del Sur
August 01, 2012	Jordan Manda	Subanen Indigenous Child/ Toronto Ventures Inc. mining expansion	Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur
July 22, 2012	Totong Mabinsi	Dibabawon Indigenous farmer/ mistaken as NPA member	Laak, Compostela Valley
May 06, 2012	Fred Trangia	Environmental conservationist / anti-large scale mining activist	Nabunturan, Compostela Valley
May 09, 2012	Margarito Cabal	Anti-mega dam activist	Kibawe, Bukidnon
March 05, 2012	Jimmy Liguyon	Matigsalog Indigenous Leader / Refusal to sign papers to allow large-scale mining	San Fernando, Bukidnon
November 04, 2011	Rodel Aug	Manobo, member of Nagkahiusang Katawhang Talaingod sa Antipas	Antipas, North Cotabato
October 20, 2011	Ramon Batoy	Farmer	Arakan, North Cotabato
October 17, 2011	Fr. Fausto Tentorio	Foreign Missionary, environmental and indigenous peoples advocate	Arakan, North Cotabato
August 04, 2011	Dioquino Scuadro	Tagakaolo Indtous Leader / anti-large scale mining advocate (SMI-Xstrata)	Barangay Ticulon, Malita, Davao del Sur
July 10, 2011	Roque Laputan	Farmer, anti-large scale mining advocate (SMI-Xstrata)	Malalag, Davao del Sur
June 30, 2011	Arpe Datu Lapugotan Belayong Solte San-ogan	Higaonon Indigenous Leaders / resistance to logging and mining companies	Esperanza, Agusan del Sur

May 31, 2011	Richard Paras		Sibagat, Agusan del Sur
April 27, 2011	Nicomedes dela Pena, Sr. Nicomedes dela Pena, Jr. Ruben Gatong Itik Awisan	Matigsalog Indigenous Peoples / gold mining exploration area	San Fernando, Bukidnon
April 12, 2011	Santos "Ricky" Manrique	Small-scale miner leader	Pantukan, Compostela Valley
April 27, 2011	Florita Caya	Anti-large scale mining Indigenous leader	Monkayo, Compostela Valley
April 22, 2011	Edgardo Mambokon	Matigsalog	San Fernando, Bukidnon
March 01, 2011	Zalde Calibay	Tagakaolo indigenous people	Malita, Davao del Sur
February 27, 2011	Rudyric Dejos Rudy Dejos	Blaan Indigenous People / active members of farmers organization	Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
January 01, 2011	Rogelio Lapus	Progressive partylist supporter	Lala, Lanao del Norte
October 11, 2010	Jimmy Arion	Matigsalog-Manobo Indigenous leader	San Fernando, Bukidnon

There is also the steady occurrence of harassments, surveillance, and other forms of threats and intimidation by suspected state security forces on community leaders and activists in Mindanao.

In early November 2012, **Bishop Felixberto Calang** of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) decried the harassment and death threats hurled against IFI priests and against Higaonon leaders opposed to the oil palm plantation owned by the A. Brown Company in Opol, Misamis Oriental. The office of the Mindanao Farmers Resource Center, which also serve as the Sendong relief operations center of Tabang Mindanaw in Cagayan de Oro City, was ransacked, the computer destroyed and the computer hard disk taken by the intruders.

Extrajudicial killings of Lumad, environment advocates and activists

From June 2012 to October 2012, there have been 32 extrajudicial killings of leaders of indigenous peoples, farmers, environment advocates, and other activists in Mindanao. Twenty four (24) of these were Lumad leaders who defended their ancestral land from landgrabbing and encroachments.

The numbers do not yet include the reported 21 people killed in Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur that was considered non-political but should be investigated for possible connection to the mining interest of the controversial Toronto Ventures Inc, a Canadian mining company.

The extrajudicial killings of Italian missionary Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio, indigenous leader Rudy Dejos and son Rudyric of Davao del Sur, anti-mining activist Santos Manrique of Compostela Valley, and Higaonon leader Jimmy Liguyon of Bukidnon remain unsolved cases, with almost zero progress in terms of professional forensic investigation by the police or legal prosecution of perpetrators who are alleged to be military, police or paramilitary agents.

Mindanao human rights victims and advocates, along with the rest in the country, and the international community, lament this state of impunity that continues to this day under the Aquino government.

Mindanawons thought that the killing of Atty. Concepcion Brizuela, officer of the Union of Peoples' Lawyers in Mindanao, in the infamous Ampatuan massacre, would have been the last. Regrettably, the Aquino government lost the chance to end the climate of impunity in the country.

From Gloria Arroyo's Ampatuan, this state of impunity has been carried through Aquino's Arakan killing of Fr. Tentorio, and now at Tampakan where the pregnant Blaan woman Juvy Capion and her two sons were massacred by the 27th IBPA under Lt. Alexis Bravo.

Juvy was the wife of Daguil Capion, a known anti-mining leader who waged the traditional *pangayaw* or tribal war, as an indigenous way of asserting their cultural and economic rights to their ancestral domain. The Capion family stands today as sacrificial lambs in the vicious efforts of Xstrata-Saggitarius Mines, Inc. to fend off opposition to the open-pit mining operations in the quadri-boundaries of South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, and Davao del Sur.

The question begs asking: Are the lives of Juvy and her children, and the land of the Blaan people, inconsequential to the \$5.2 billion dollar Tampakan gold and copper project which seeks to rake in an estimated 11 billion U.S. dollars in profits?

The Tampakan massacre is but the latest incident in the growing list of mining and extractive industry-related killings, landgrabs and harassments.

Jenesis Ambason, an indigenous youth leader of Tagdumahan Lumad organization in Agusan del Sur was found dead on September 14, a day after he and five companions were arbitrarily fired at by members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) while resting near a military detachment. His body bore torture marks and several gunshot wounds. Ambason was elected Secretary General of Tagdumahan last year. He actively campaigned against the entry of big mining corporations in their ancestral land, particularly that of the Malampay, Tambuli, and Makilala mining companies.

Gilbert Paborada, a Higaonon leader, was gunned down on October 4, 2012 in Cagayan de Oro City. He led his community's resistance to the oil palm plantation of the A. Brown Company in Opol, Misamis Oriental. His other colleagues in their organization, Pangalasag, recently observed motorcycle-riding men tailing them.

Timuay Lucenio Manda and his son Jordan were ambushed by unidentified assailants on September 4, 2012 in Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur. Jordan died instantly while Manda was wounded. As tribal chieftain, Manda is a key figure in granting permission to any mining project in his barangay.

Most recently, the chairperson of the Lovers of Nature Foundation, Dr. Isidro Olan, was wounded in an apparent assassination attempt against him. He consistently advocated against logging and mining operations in the Caraga region.

Trumped up criminal charges against activists

There are more than 45 Lumad, farmers and other activists in the Caraga region whose names have been maliciously inserted in existing warrants of arrest by state security agents. In the whole island, there are more than 159 individuals facing fabricated malicious charges in an attempt by the government to prevent them from carrying out their work for human rights. Warrants of arrests, subpoenas were issued and other forms of harassment and intimidation were committed.

The case of Genasque Enriquez illustrates the wanton disregard for due process of law. Genasque is an officer of the indigenous group Kasalo in the Caraga region. A Manobo, Genasque is the second nominee of Katribu Partylist. He has frequented media outlets for interviews, constantly espousing the indigenous people's struggle to assert their right to self-determination.

However, the AFP, in its failure to ward off armed attacks by the New People's Army on mining firms in Caraga, filed retaliatory fabricated charges against leaders of people's organizations and the peasantry.

The case of Genasque Enriquez finds resonance in a similar plight of human rights defenders Benjamin Labastin, a teacher at La Salle University-Ozamiz who was arrested as he was lecturing to his students; Helen Igloria, a community health worker who was nabbed at her home in Dipolog City for malicious charges of frustrated murder; and Anelfa Gemilo, a Blaan woman leader, who was framed and falsely accused of being an NPA courier after she led communities to fight for fair prices for their harvests and for reduction in prices of farm inputs.

Table 2
SUMMARY: INTERNAL DISPLACEMENTS in MINDANAO | JULY 2010-OCTOBER 2012

Date of Incident	Area of Incident	Ethnic Group	No. of affected individuals/ families	Motive for evacuation
August 29, 2012 – to the present	Dao, San Fernando, Bukidnon	Matigsalog	12 families (51 individuals)	Harassment by paramilitary group NIPAR wanting to control gold deposits in area
May 7 – 11, 2012	Pasian, Monkayo, Compostela Valley Province & Trento, Agusan Del Sur	Dibabawon & Bisaya	137 families	Military offensive on civilians after NPA ambush of AFP
March 18, 2012	Brgy. Tibagon, Pantukan, Compostela Valley		304 individuals	Hamletting by 71st IB. Mining interests in this area include the Russell Mines & Minerals – St. Augustine Gold Copper in Brgy. Kingking, Pantukan, and the Napnapan Mineral Resources.
March 14 – August 2012	Dao, San Fernando, Bukidnon	Matigsalog	150 individuals	Harassment by paramilitary group NIPAR wanting to control gold deposits in area
March 6 – May 2012	Sitio. Zapanta, Brgy. Bangayan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte	Mamanwa	125 families = 429 individuals	Military operations in area of Taganito Mining Corporation
March 21 – May 2012	Camam-onan, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte	Mamanwa	113 families with 483 individuals	Military aerial raids in areas of Minimax Gold Exploration and SR Mining Inc., Lopez-owned First General Hydro Electric Corp.
February 28 – May 2012	Ferlda, Alegria, Surigao del Norte	Mamanwa & Bisaya	76 families = 276 individuals	Military aerial raids in areas of Minimax Gold Exploration and SR Mining Inc., Lopez-owned First General Hydro Electric Corp.
January 8, 2012	Imbagtas, Sitio Poon, Nakabuklad, San Fernando, Bukidnon		23 families or 112 individuals	Operations of the 8th IB.
November 6 -17, 2011	Sitio. Zapanta, Brgy. Bangayan, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte	Mamanwa & Bisaya	135 families or 451 individuals	Aerial raids in pursuit operations of the NPA in area of Taganito Mining Corporation
October 29-November 5, 2011	Lianga and San Agustin, Surigao del Sur	Manobo	804 individuals	Military operation in communities near coal mining application sites (Benguet Mining Corp)
September 1-10, 2011	Asili and Zapanta, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte	Mamanwa & Bisaya	106 families	

Date of Incident	Area of Incident	Ethnic Group	No. of affected individuals/families	Motive for evacuation
June 26, 2011	Magkahunao and Upper Janipaan in Brgy. Buhisan, San Agustin, Surigao del Sur to Brgy Buhisan and San Agustin Municipal Gym	Manobo	77 families	Military operation in communities near coal mining application sites (Benguet Mining Corp)
	Mahaba, Marihatag Municipal Gym, Surigao del Sur	Manobo	141 families = 553 individuals	Military operation in communities near coal mining application sites (Benguet Mining Corp)
May 25-June 2011	Zapanta Valley, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte	Mamanwa + Settlers	381 individuals	Aerial raids during combat operations against the NPA
April 8, 2011	Maragatas, Lupon, Davao Oriental		33 individuals	
March 31, 2011	Brgy. San Isidro, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur	Manobo	110 families with about 600 men, women and children	
August 26-2010	Brgy. Mahaba, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur	Manobo	1098 individuals	Military operation in communities near coal mining application sites (Benguet Mining Corp)

The Noynoy Aquino government has total disregard for the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The malicious charges filed against human rights defenders is a clear attempt to silence their advocacies thru judicial intimidation, planting of evidence for frame-ups, or eventually arresting and detaining them based on false and fabricated cases.

The military's retaliation against the armed rebels has extended to the families and relatives of identified leaders of the CPP-NPA-NDF. The inclusion of the name of Vincent Isagani Madlos in a warrant of arrest for arson demonstrates how low the government's anti-insurgency campaign has regressed. Vincent is the son of known National Democratic Front leader Jorge Madlos. He works as a call center agent in Cebu.

Wives of NPA combatants in Paquibato District, Davao City have also stepped forward to decry military harassments in an attempt to force their husbands into surrendering to the government. These acts show the government's disregard for International Humanitarian Law, which the Aquino government made clear with the brutal killing of Rebelyn Pitao, daughter of known NPA commander Leoncio Pitao.

Forced evacuation of peasants and indigenous peoples' communities during military operations

More than a thousand families, with almost six thousand individuals have been forcibly evacuated in the course of intense military operations carried out by the Philippine Army, most notably in the Caraga region, in Northern Mindanao, and the Southern Mindanao regions.

Forced evacuation brought untold suffering to farmers and indigenous peoples, especially to women and children who bear the brunt of displacement from their dwellings and farms.

Evacuations disrupted the lives of the Matigsalogs, Mamanwa, Dibabawon, Maguindanawon, and Manobos in various parts of Mindanao.

Table 3

CASE ILLUSTRATION ON ATTACK ON COMMUNITY LEARNING SCHOOLS (The case of ALCADDEV)

Victims	Cases of Political Vilification and other Human Rights Violations	Perpetrators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (ALCADEV), its students and staff • Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod (MAPASU), its member communities and officers • Tribal Filipino Program in Surigao del Sur (TRIFPSS) and its staff • Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Sur (KAMASS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2008-July 2009: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European visitors of ALCADDEV were blocked from entering Han-ayan and were subjected to questioning by the military. They were told that ALCADDEV is a communist front and they should not be helping the school. - October 2008: On the way back from the school site, Anton Borius, Volunteer of Infants du Mekong (EDM) ALCADDEV funding partner, and ALCADDEV director were held at the checkpoint and instructed by the military to have an audience with the Brigade commander. Mr. Borius was questioned why EDM helped ALCADDEV and that ALCADDEV is the “school of the RED” - February 2009: Joachim Sohie of Belgium, an intern hosted by ALCADDEV was held at the checkpoint - July 18, 2009: A group, composed of 7 Belgian ALCADDEV visitors, was again held by the 58th IB checkpoint. Said visitors are supposed to attend ALCADDEV foundation day. They were instructed to go to the Brigade which is almost a kilometer from the checkpoint. Military officials told them that ALCADDEV is a school of the communists. • Military demanded ALCADDEV to submit its registry of students and staff, otherwise they cannot bring food supplies for the 126 learners of ALCADDEV • Categorical statement by military that they are going to “pin down” ALCADDEV, TRIFPSS, MAPASU, and KAMASS as communist fronts • Surveillance and monitoring of staff and learners from the military post across ALCADDEV clinic. Soldiers were seen taking pictures and using binoculars directed at the school 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Col. Danilo Fabian, Commanding Officer of the 401st Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army 2. Col. Sinugba, Executive Officer of the 401st Infantry Brigade 3. Lt. Col. Benjamin Pedralvez, Commanding Officer of the 58th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army 4. 1Lt. Jesson Marmol, Commanding Officer of the Bravo Company of the 58th IBPA 5. Lt. Sison and Lt. Fuertez of the 58th IBPA
	<p>August 26, 2009: Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., AFP Public Affairs Office Chief, conducted a Press Briefing at Camp Aguinaldo</p>	
	<p>April 2011: The military organized a 3 day community assembly in Han-ayan led by the 29th IB. This was participated in by Lumad members of the paramilitary group TFG-BF. LARRY TANIOLA a paramilitary personnel vilified ALCADDEV in his speech by saying: - that ALCADDEV is not an accredited school and that they will replace it with a formal school - ALCADDEV learners will join NPA after graduation</p> <p>They also disseminated this vilification to local radio and newspapers.</p>	<p>Personnel of the 29th IB</p> <p>Task Force Gantangan-Bagani Force paramilitary group</p>

Victims	Cases of Political Vilification and other Human Rights Violations	Perpetrators
	March 15, 2012: ALCADDEV visitors who are going to attend the graduation ceremonies were held for almost one hour and a half and were made to sign in their military logbook, were taken pictures at the checkpoint. The military also prepared a powerpoint briefing. Visitors strongly opposed the conduct of said briefing.	Personnel of the 29th IB and police headed by Col. Fugnit and 1st Lt. Ryan Layug
	March 20, 2012: Military statement in a media interview with Col. Robinson quoted as saying, "The students of the school (ALCADEV) were not just ordinary students because they become combatants after graduation."	Col. Henry Robinson Jr.

Residents of the many communities, notably those of the Manobos of Surigao del Sur, were repeatedly displaced under various governments. The two years of the Aquino presidency saw an escalation of forced evacuation as Oplan Bayanihan is carried out, entry of large-scale mining operations encouraged and its so-called "development" projects implemented.

In Balabag, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur, small scale miners were evicted by the composite forces of the provincial government, the DENR/MGB, and the AFP and police to pave the way for the expansion of TVI Resources, a Canadian mining firm which mined extensively the gold deposits in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

Aside from forced evacuation, military encampments among the civilian populations are prevalent. Military detachments are set up in the heart of communities thus endangering the civilians. Soldiers live in the houses of farmers and in Lumad and Moro communities.

Human rights violations against the Moro people

The plight of Moro civilians falsely accused of being "Muslim terrorists" is characteristic of the human rights situation in the Moro areas. Since 2002, there have been 73 Moro civilians languishing in various jails in Manila, away from the care and visitations of their relatives in Basilan. The 73 civilians were rounded up in various illegal raids and arrests, at the onset of the U.S.-led war of terror. Several of them have died in jail, while others have seen their health deteriorate, without seeing any resolution to their court cases.

The Basilan 73, as they are popularly known, suffer from this unwarranted and prolonged detention despite the fact that the charges against them were fabricated.

The recent military operations of the AFP against the members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao and adjacent provinces resulted in the displacement of an estimated 30,000 individuals in the 3rd quarter of 2012, and the death of a Moro child due to indiscriminate firing. The Kawagib human rights group also documented the use of a mosque for AFP encampment, a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law which prohibits the desecration of places of worship.

The military has falsely accused the ALCADDEV of being an NPA school despite recognition by the Department of Education that ALCADDEV is part of its Alternative Learning Systems (ALS) program. ALCADDEV had received awards and citations from both the public and private sectors here and abroad.

Teachers in schools run by the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in Northern Mindanao (RMP-NMR) were harassed by elements of the 8th IBPA in St. Peter, Malaybalay City when they visited the military for a courtesy call on July 24, 2011 to announce the reopening of its literacy-numeracy school. The local government unit subsequently decided not to allow the reopening of the school, disappointing at least 37 Lumad children who initially enrolled.

With regards to another RMP-NMR school in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, the town mayor Nida Manpatilan told the community leaders and literacy teachers that the RMP schools were teaching songs and ideas of the Communist Party, and that the community should allow mining instead if it wants development.

Another teacher of an RMP-Southern Mindanao school in Pantukan, Compostela Valley Province was harassed and intimidated by the 71st IBPA during a meeting on the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) scheme earlier this year.

Many other incidents of harassment, intimidation, and encampment of schools were reported by different communities in Mindanao. The wide geographical spread of these incidents involving different units of the Philippine Army shows that these community-based literacy schools are clearly targets of the military.

Human rights violations linked to U.S. military forces

The case of Gregan Cardeno, who mysteriously died inside a U.S. facility in the AFP's Camp Ranao in Marawi City, remains an unsolved case. Cardeno's family and human rights groups assert that his death was not a case of suicide and that it should be investigated further due to suspicious circumstances implicating the U.S. military force in the area.

Akbam Juhurin was killed and his son Akjul was wounded when their fishing boat was rammed by a US military vessel during a joint U.S.-PH military exercise in the waters off Basilan. Unless thorough investigation is carried out and indemnification considered, this incident will be another glaring example of how human rights violations are committed by U.S. troops protected by immunity from lawsuit under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

Conclusion

Aquino's anti-people and anti-national economic policies and programs such as liberalization, privatization, deregulation and large-scale mining, coupled with the fascist attacks on the Filipino people, through Oplan Bayanihan, have resulted in massive economic dislocation and displacement of the majority of the people in Mindanao.

The government's feverish campaign for public-private partnership in all fields of industry can only lead to graver economic crisis and utmost impoverishment of the majority of the people. To suppress dissent and stem resistance because of the government's inability to improve the situation, the U.S.-Aquino regime will inevitably resort to harsher suppression of political rights and civil liberties.

The oft-repeated rhetoric of the U.S.-Aquino regime that its new counterinsurgency program, Oplan Bayanihan, is a departure from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Oplan Bantay Laya is consistent with its propensity for deception.

However vigorously the Aquino government banners its 'peace and development' slogans, nothing is more obvious than what happens on the ground--continuing rights violations committed with impunity. Behind the innocuous facade of 'peace and development,' is the silencing of protests against what Noynoy Aquino's government stands for--the interest of the landlords, big business and bureaucrats serving their foreign masters, most especially the U.S.

IMPRINTS OF VIOLENCE: Shattered Lives and Disrupted Childhood

By: Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC)

The situation of children speaks that of their families' and of the society's condition. Approximately 43.34% or more than 40 million of the total 94 million population of the country is under the age of 18. Majority of them are from the families of peasants, workers and low-income families in the urban areas. Thus, majority of the Filipino children live in poverty.

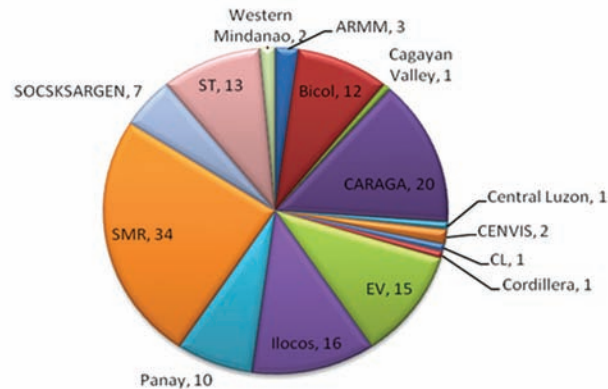
The Philippine government systematically violates the rights of the Filipino children as it continues to adhere to the policies of trade and investment liberalization, deregulation of economies, and privatization of government services.

With massive unemployment and underemployment due to lack of industries that generate jobs and, labor-export policies and national laws that enslave the Filipino work force, many children are forced to work at an early age to help augment their parents' low wages or unemployment. More often children are left vulnerable to exploitation or pushed to engage in anti-social activities to survive.

The Aquino government's banner program, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP), which supposedly aims to give relief to the toiling masses, is in fact another burden for the Filipino family. Under the PPP, 26 public hospitals are listed for corporatization. This would mean inaccessibility to health services for the majority of our children, as these hospitals will be run for profit, and not to provide service.

Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), on the other hand, intends to buttress the government's image to cover up its failure to address the fundamental issues of landlessness, unemployment, high prices of basic commodities and grossly inadequate social services.

Moreover, children's lives are shattered, marked or taken because of the direct attacks of the Armed Forces and its affiliates, under the government's counter-insurgency program, Operation Plan Bayanihan (Operation Plan Cooperation) or OpBay. OpBay is patterned after the U.S. Counter Insurgency (COIN) Program. While OpBay aims to end insurgency, military operations are also directed towards the protection of so-called development projects (i.e. infrastructure and mining) of foreign big businesses especially in areas considered as rebel stronghold.



GRAPH 1. Geographical Distribution of documented HRVs against children July 2010-October 2012

BLEAK FUTURE: CHILDREN'S STORIES UNDER THE AQUINO GOVERNMENT

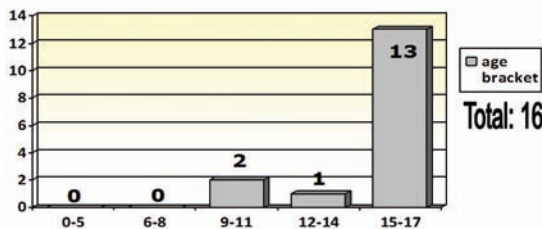
Amid the various difficult situations, children and their families are struggling to fight for their rights and welfare. However, these are met by government's fascist attacks and repression, thus human rights violations continue.

Masking its vicious combat operations with so-called "people-centered" and "humanitarian" approach, the Aquino administration treads on a path of blood and terror, and not a righteous (*matuwid*) one. In Aquino's 27 months (July 2010-October 2012) in office, Children's Rehabilitation Center has documented numerous cases of violations of children's rights.

KILLING

In the first 18 months of the Aquino administration, there were two documented cases of killing of children. However, in 2012, an increasing number of children killed. From January to October, CRC documented 10 incidents of killings involving 12 children. Four children were victims of massacre in two separate incidents, four were arbitrarily killed, two were killed during the assassination of their adult companion, one was killed during a violent demolition, and one child died after being run over by a motorcycle driven by a soldier.

Of the 14 who were killed, seven were indigenous children from Mindanao and Visayas, in areas where the AFP conducts military operations against the New People's Army (NPA) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF); and in areas where there is strong resistance to mining operations. Five of the 14 children were from Luzon. Eight of the children killed were four to eight years old, while six were nine to 15.



GRAPH 2. Age distribution of children victims branded as child soldiers July 2010-October 2012

Labo and Tampakan massacre

This year, there were two incidents of massacre where children were killed as in the case of **Richard Mancera, 7**, and **Michael Mancera, 10**, at the family's house at Bgy. Malaya, Labo, Camarines Norte on February 25, 2012. The two children were killed together with their father Benjamin Mancera, 54, and "Ka Pedro", a member of the New People's Army who came to Mancera's home to rest.

Another two children were killed in what is now known as the Tampakan massacre. On October 18, around 6:00 am, **John Mark Capion, 7**, and **Jordan**

Capion, 13, and their pregnant mother Juvy were killed when the 27th IBPA fired at their house in Tampakan, South Cotabato. The incident also wounded the five-year old daughter of the Capions.

BRANDING CHILDREN VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS CHILD SOLDIERS

The AFP continues to harp on the increase in the number of "child soldiers" of the NPA. However, based on CRC's documentation, 16 children victims of rights violations since 2010 were wrongly accused as NPA child soldiers. Most of the victims were from peasant communities, where intense military operations are conducted. Most of the time, these children were working in their family's farm lots when they were chanced upon by the military and were arrested, detained and presented as child soldiers. All of the victims experienced physical and psychological torture from the hands of the military. Three victims face charges such as violation of the Anti-Terrorism Law or Human Security Act, illegal possession of firearms and explosives, and frustrated killing. Two victims are still detained.

Children victims of numerous human rights violations are further victimized when the military tags or brands them as NPA child soldiers to cover up military atrocities. The older ones become targets of military abuse as "enemies of the state." All are left anxious and uncertain as they worry that they will again be arrested and treated like criminals.

RAPE

In communities where there is military deployment and an established detachment, the military deceive women. While deployed in communities, supposedly to conduct peace and development activities, soldiers court these women and even minors. Soldiers tell them interesting stories of travels and adventures, show off their urban lifestyle, to impress the “barrio lasses”. The military befriend and woo the women, sending text messages and promising them a good life. In this situation, it is likely that some women would believe the soldiers and later fall victim to sexual abuse.

CRC and other rights groups received anecdotal reports on teenage girls who were left behind by their military boyfriends, some of whom turn out to be already married, after getting them pregnant. Even worse, there are girls who end up being date raped by their military boyfriends.

The case of “Cindy” (not her true name), a 16 year-old girl from Rizal Province, is a concrete example of how children are courted and then exploited. On October 17, 2011, Cindy was invited by soldiers to a party inside the military barracks, with her cousin and a friend. While there, they were given food and drinks. Cindy felt sleepy after eating. Days later, Cindy manifested “abnormal behavior” prompting her family to bring her to a mental facility. A family member also saw Cindy’s underwear stained with blood. It was learned, through a medico-legal examination and from the mental hospital where she was taken, that Cindy had been raped, most likely in the 16th IBPA camp.

Another case is from Mankayan, Benguet. Two high school girls, “Katrina” and “Isabel” (not their true names) both 16 years old were wooed by Capt. Danilo Lalin from the 50th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army. Katrina was courted through text messages and later met Lalin in person. The latter became the girl’s boyfriend who promised her marriage. Being young, she believed Lalin’s promises and disobeyed her parents who opposed their relationship.

Between February 17-19, 2012, Isabel disappeared. She arrived home only on February 20. When she got home, Isabel was too distraught. A few days after, her sister confronted Isabel as to where she went after the sister discovered contraceptive pills and tickets of Domestic Tourist addressed in Military Shrine Service in Camp Aguinaldo. Isabel confided that Lalin brought her to a military camp in Ifugao and raped her. She recalled that she was also brought to Taguig for medical check-up. Her sister observed that Isabel was distressed and dazed. Isabel’s family filed a case at the Mankayan Police headquarters and brought her to a hospital for medico-legal assessment. It was revealed that she sustained a complete hymeneal laceration. She was also diagnosed as mentally depressed.

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS

Documented cases of attacks on schools by military troops were worse in 2012. With the deployment of military troops in communities under OpBay, the right to education of children is in peril.

The right to education is a fundamental right of every child as proclaimed by international and local laws and statutes. Despite these proclamations, the military blatantly violates these laws and continues to use school buildings, daycare centers and barangay halls as command posts, barracks, detachments, and supply depots. In some cases, they build their detachment inside the school premises or a few meters from the school like what happened in Sadanga, Mountain Province and Paquibato District in Davao City, endangering the lives of the children and causing anxiety in the parents and teachers as well.

In Las Navas in Northern Samar, in Ormoc City and in the Ilocos Region, military occupation of day care centers were also documented. Children complained that the soldiers who occupied their schools used the walls as urinal. They also used part of the wooden wall of the school building as firewood. The military presence in schools disrupted classes, as most of the children were afraid to attend classes upon seeing firearms hanging inside their classrooms.

Needless to say, the early exposure of children to constant terror has devastating effects on their intellectual and psychological development, a direct attack on their future.

Schools initiated and established by people’s organizations or communities were also frequently attacked by state forces. They harass school personnel and students. They brand the schools as communist fronts, or that the schools were built by the NPA. The fact remains that these schools were established because the government failed to provide for the education of the children especially in remote areas.

“ A positive development in advancing child rights is that even the liberation or underground movement in the Philippines has taken the initiative of consolidating and sharing its policies and guidelines on the matter. The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) recently launched its program of action for children, the “Declaration and Program of Action for the Rights, Protection and Welfare of Children”. The NDFP declares:

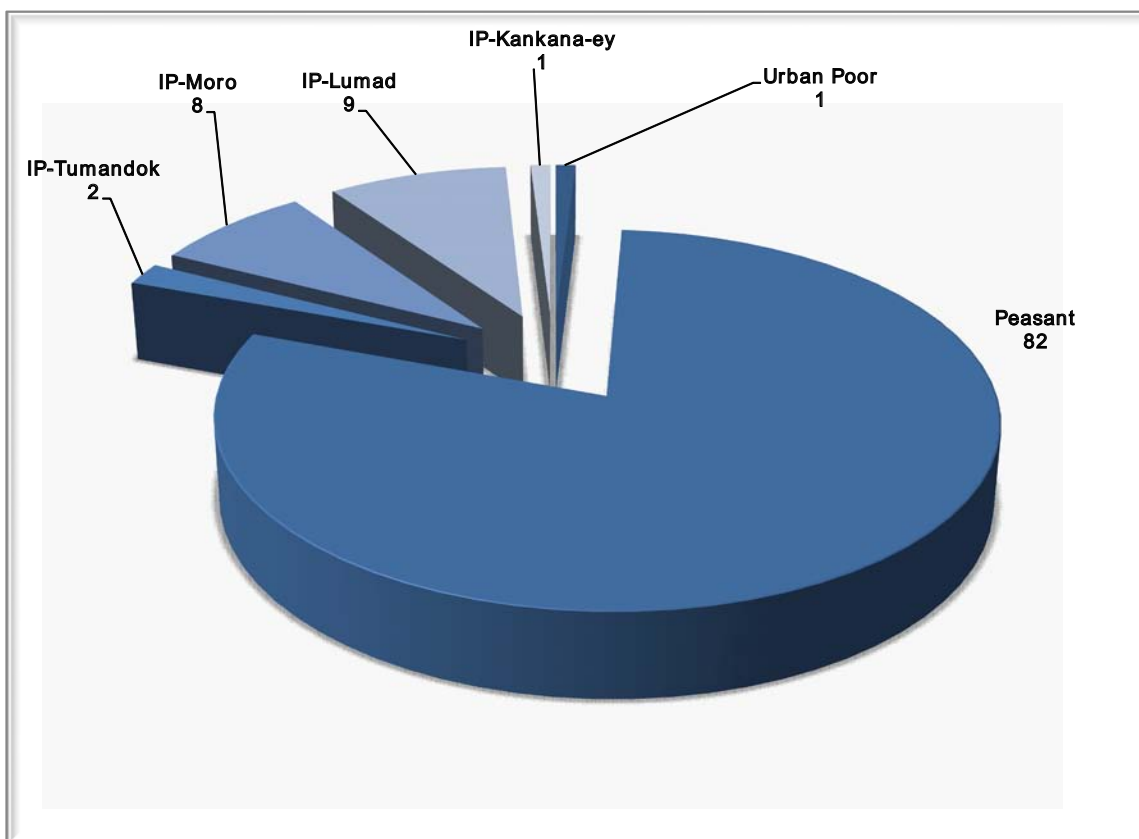
1. To reaffirm, protect and promote the rights of children and to continue to carry out its program of action for the protection and welfare of the Filipino children.
2. To adhere to international law relevant to the rights and protection of children in general or in situation of armed conflict.
3. To adhere to the decision of the Political Bureau of the CPP’s Central Committee in 1988 stipulating that the New People’s Army may recruit only persons who are 18 years old and older as armed fighters for its combat units; while persons at the age of 15 years shall be a trainee or apprentice and are assigned to self defense and other non-combat units and tasks.
4. That the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict for its bias against national liberation movements and the Paris Principles which is a non-binding instrument that broadened definition of “child soldiers”. The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict results in the misrepresentation of children as child soldiers and provides the military forces of the reactionary state the license to mislabel children as child soldiers and violate their human rights.
5. To ensure the prohibition of the recruitment and use of children below 18 for combat purposes, the creation of special office for the protection of children and to include in the Comprehensive Agreement for Socio-Economic Reforms a provision that will uphold children’s rights, right to education and prohibits the exploitation of child labor.
6. To cooperate with foreign and/or international organizations and institutions while urging the United Nations Secretary General Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict to carefully study the false and baseless accusations of recruitment and use of child soldier and its call for delisting of NPA as recruiter and user of child soldiers.

Reference: NDFP Declaration and Program of Action for the Rights, Protection and Welfare of Children, published by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, June 2012.

FORCED EVACUATION

CRC documented some 4,562 children who were victims of forced evacuation under the Noynoy Aquino administration. Families and even whole communities of indigenous peoples are forced to leave their homes and livelihood to protect their lives and ensure their safety as they experience threats and harassment from the military.

Forced evacuation due to military ground and air operations has been regularly happening in communities in Andap Valley in Surigao, the Agusan provinces and Bukidnon. These same communities are targets of large-scale mining operations or there is already mining exploration. Children in these indigenous peoples’ communities experience discrimination and are rarely reached by the government’s social services. Yet, they are constantly victimized when the military conducts combat operations.



GRAPH 3: Sectoral distribution of documented hrv's against children
July 2010-October 2012

CONCLUSION AND ANALYSIS

OpBay continues to wreak havoc on children, families and communities. Rights violations continue, with impunity, as perpetrators have not been punished. Uncounted lives have perished and are jeopardized in these vicious and bloody military operations. Children are not spared, innocent lives have been taken away. The 14 children killed is 12% of the 114 victims of extrajudicial killings (Karapatan documentation as of 30 September 2012). With this number, it is incorrect to say that children are simply collateral damage. Majority of the children victims are from peasant communities. Under OpBay, deployment of massive military troops in communities result in numerous human rights violations especially of children. Thus, CRC is steadfast in calling for the pull out of military troops from the communities

**Note: The data herein are incomplete as they reflect only cases reported, submitted to and documented by CRC. There are cases which remain unreported and undocumented as of this writing.*

PEOPLE'S INITIATIVES

As the government continues its systematic attack on children's rights, people's organizations and non-government organizations are determined to uphold and defend the rights of children and help provide services.

In areas where the government rarely provides social services, the people have initiated programs and services for the most marginalized children. The unified action of Lumad communities in Mindanao, with help from non-government organizations, resulted into literacy-numeracy programs and alternative learning systems for the Lumad children.

The Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) provides services to children and their families who are victims of human rights violations. CRC, for the past 25 years, has been in the forefront in helping child victims of state violence to overcome their experience. CRC provides community-based intervention programs and counseling for children who suffer physical health problems, emotional disorders and social maladjustments due to traumatic experiences such as arrest, torture, disappearance, evacuation, extra-judicial killings and other forms of human rights violations committed against them or their family members.

Through projects and partnerships, CRC has been active in capacitating grassroots organizations to mitigate adverse effects of militarization and human rights violations in their community. It has provided psycho-social first aid and documentation trainings, aside from going directly to the communities and providing much needed services first-hand.

In cooperation with Salinlahi Alliance for Children's Concerns, children's issues and cases of grave rights violations are conveyed to the public through campaigns and advocacy work. Children are capacitated through educational discussions and trainings to defend their rights and become human rights advocates.

Reference: Karapatan factsheets and supporting documents from July 2010 to October 2012.



From 2008 to the present, the government has been implementing the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program also called the 4Ps, and now 5Ps, or the Philhealth Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. It remains as a failed attempt to tide over the “poorest of the poor” and help them improve their lives.

Now why would the Noynoy Aquino government, who vowed to be the exact opposite of the corrupt and abusive Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administration, want to continue a program that is just as controversial, scandal-ridden and to be implemented by the same head of the same agency under GMA, DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman?

Because Noynoy Aquino wants to benefit from CCT as much as GMA did. The CCT is an ineffective but showy step meant to tide over the U.S.-Aquino regime through the end of its term amidst the worsening crisis and discontent. It is another deception that both Gloria and Noynoy resort to and thus give the people false hope for change. CCT gives a show of responding to the needy, while not touching the system that inflicts misery on the people. It is a clear example of “band-aid” cure to a chronic disease that is poverty.

The CCT Con

Funded by loans from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the billions of pesos distributed to 3 million families – 4 million for election year 2013 – will be debts that the poorest of the poor and the rest of the mostly impoverished Filipinos will be paying, three presidents after Noynoy Aquino.

As not a few issues emanate from the flawed concept of the CCT, there is evidence that the program is also being used by Oplan Bayanihan and as milking cow for the bureaucracy.

CCT fills whose pocket?

The only difference between the 4Ps then and now is that government officials have become better at keeping the corruption under wraps.

Still, irregularities in the CCT were raised by a report of the Commission on Audit in July 2012, citing some unliquidated Php 6.6 billion and overpayment of Php 9.7 million to 4,198 unqualified beneficiaries. Add to this the estimated 206,000 household recipients, out of the 3 million, who were not “extremely poor.” The report also cited double entries of 3,146 recipients in 250 payrolls. Because of anomalies such as these, up to Php 138 million unclaimed funds have accumulated in the Land Bank of the Philippines, and are at risk “of possible losses or misuse,” a news article quoted the report.¹

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda and Sec. Dinky Soliman argued that the report was “outdated” and pertained to the past regime’s implementation of the 4Ps. The anomalies have already been addressed, they insisted. Liquidations were done and the unqualified recipients had been delisted. Soliman even boasted that they have installed a Grievance Redress System or GRS to which anyone can raise complaints about the program. Other than that, the officials did not give any explanation why these things happened.

COIN component

The coercive and deceptive character of Oplan Bayanihan also comes into play in the CCT program.

In Southern Tagalog, soldiers “assist” recipients and accompany them to the town center to get their money. On June 26, they timed it to the arrival of the Mercy Mission of the Save Bondoc Peninsula Movement, and diverted potential participants away from said activity. Among the intended participants to the mission were victims of militarization in the communities.

The Pamalakaya reported cases of CCT recipients in the Western Visayas region who were advised by the military or local officials to shun progressive partylist and activist groups.²

In some parts of Manila, recipients were reportedly discouraged by the DSWD from attending rallies and being critical of government. Some recipients berated another who is a member of Bayan Muna, and hinted at her being ungrateful to the government. “Why are you still joining rallies when you already have 4Ps?” a recipient said. Clearly it is another divide-and-rule method by the state.

Even without essential, qualitative changes in their lives, an uninformed and politically naive grantee would feel indebted and even submissive to the government, oblivious that it is implementing programs that favour foreign investors, big business and landlords, and actually keeping the majority of the population deep in poverty. In Eastern Visayas, local government officials reportedly delayed the release of the 4Ps until after the 2010 elections, and then presented the accumulated amount as a favour from them. A repeat of this is in the offing come the 2013 elections, with the number of recipients expanded to 4 million.

Since the program caters only to a portion of the population, it creates an atmosphere of “each person for himself” and

destroys the

collective spirit in the community. Such is the case when a grantee who would have wanted to endorse a neighbour who is qualified as much as herself, but would just keep quiet for fear of losing her slot in the program. In the face of irregularities, a recipient would also choose not to raise any complaint.

On the other extreme, 4Ps recipients who are members of progressive organizations were accused by soldiers of handing over the money they get to the NPA, enough reason for being victims of violent attacks. A case was reported in Lupon, Davao Oriental where soldiers of the 701st Infantry Brigade forcibly entered the house of a 4Ps recipient and ransacked it, taking cash, farm tool, chicken and his 4Ps ATM card, from which his three children get educational support. The victim had been tagged by the military as an NPA supporter.³ Similar cases were reported in Ifugao.

A vendor and Tanggol Bayi member in Sampaloc scoffed at the CCT and refused to be a recipient. She reasoned that she would rather make better use of her time – that is, selling wares and earning a living no matter how measly – instead of attending the useless DSWD seminars and lectures, just to get ‘barya (coins)’ from the government. This reaction exemplifies the myriad other problems plaguing the CCT, such as hinterland recipients having to spend more in transportation costs just to claim their grant or to get the required medical check-up in the town center.

If the U.S.-Aquino regime actually intends to improve the lives of Filipinos, the billions it spends for the 4Ps would have helped develop local industries that support agriculture, created jobs, improved health and education services, built mass housing. But the Noynoy Aquino government chooses the easy and showy, even if ineffective way, to distribute crumbs to selected poor while filling the pockets of the selected bureaucrats, pleasing the World Bank and sinking future generation of Filipinos in debt.

¹ *Tribune*

² *Pamalakaya*

³ *2011 Karapatan Human Rights Report*

ACRONYMS

4PS	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program	Karapatan	Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights
ABI	Alay Bayan-Luzon Inc	KMP	Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Peasant Movement of the Philippines)
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines	KMU	Kilusang Mayo Uno (May 1st Movement)
ARMM	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao	LGU	Local Government Unit
APECO	Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Free Port	MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
Bayan	Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (New Patriotic Alliance)	NADESCOM	National Development Support Command
Bgy.	Barangay (community or village)	NCCP	National Council of Churches in the Philippines
BIFF	Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters	NCR	National Capital Region
BM	Bayan Muna (People First) party-list	NDFP	National Democratic Front of the Philippines
CA	Court of Appeals	NGO	Non-government organization
CAFGU	Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit	NPA	New People's Army
CARHRIHL	Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law	NUJP	National Union of Journalists of the Philippines
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer	NUPL	National Union of Peoples' Lawyers
CIDG	Criminal Investigation and Detection Group	OB	Order of Battle
CMO	Civil Military Operations	OBL	Oplan Bantay Laya ("Freedom Watch")
COIN	Counter-Insurgency	OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
COPD	Community Organizing for Peace and Development	OPBAY	Oplan Bayanihan
CPP	Communist Party of the Philippines	PA	Philippine Army
CRC	Children's Rehabilitation Center	Pamana	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (Peaceful and Resilient Communities)
Desaparecidos	Families of Desaparecidos for Justice	PDT	Peace and Development Team
DOJ	Department of Justice	Peace	Poverty Alleviation, Education and Community Development
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development	PIME	Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions
ED	Enforced Disappearance	PNP	Philippine National Police
EJK	Extrajudicial Killing	PP	Political Prisoner
EO	Executive Order	PPP	Public-Private Partnership
FFM	Fact Finding Mission	RMP	Rural Missionaries of the Philippines
GMA	Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo	RPA-ABB	Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade
GPH	Government of the Republic of the Philippines	RSOT	Re-engineered Special Operations Team
HOR	House of Representatives	RTC	Regional Trial Court
HR	Human Rights	SC	Supreme Court
HRD	Human Rights Defenders	SCAA	Special Civilian Armed Auxiliary
HRV	Human Rights Violation	Selda	Society of Ex-Detainees Against Detention and Arrest
Hustisya	Victims United for Justice	SMR	Southern Mindanao Region
IB	Infantry Battalion	STK	Stop the Killings
IBPA	Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army	SWAT	Special Weapons and Tactics Group
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	TF	Task Force
ID	Infantry Division	U.S.	United States
IDF	Investment Defense Forces	UCCP	United Church of Christ in the Philippines
IDPA	Infantry Division, Philippine Army	UN	United Nations
IHL	International Humanitarian Law	UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
ILPS	International League of Peoples' Struggle	UNSR	United Nations Special Rapporteur
IPSP	Internal Peace and Security Plan	UP	University of the Philippines
ISAFP	Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
JASIG	Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees	WGEID	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance
JPAG	Justice and Peace Action Group		



KARAPATAN
Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights