

PEOPLE UNDER SIEGE: Repression, Crisis, and Resistance



INTENSIFYING FASCIST ATTACKS and severe economic blows directly resulting from US imperialist aggression and intervention pummeled the people in the first quarter of 2026.

On February 28, 2026, the US bombed Iran, prompting the latter to defend itself by launching military strikes on US bases across West Asia and Africa. Since then, the US-instigated conflict has unleashed an economic storm that sent the prices of fuel and other basic commodities on an upward spiral, causing unprecedented suffering to Filipinos.

Days after the first wave of US attacks against Iran, gasoline prices increased by up to 43% while diesel prices went up by about 50%, kerosene by 45% and liquefied petroleum gas by 30%. The inflation rate exceeded maximum government projections, driven by hikes in the prices of food, beverages, transport fares and housing. The inflationary spiral has impacted not only the poor but is expected to push even middle income families closer to the poverty line.

With many small businesses struggling and facing closure from significant declines in consumer spending and overall economic distress, economic growth slowed down to a mere 2.8%, the lowest since the pandemic and a far cry from government projections of 5% to 6%. Agriculture and industry bore the brunt of the economic slowdown,

registering -0.2% and -0.1% growth, respectively. With these drivers of employment in the doldrums, the loss of up to 357,000 jobs in the first quarter of 2026 comes as no surprise.

The Marcos Jr. regime has largely been incompetent in addressing the ensuing crisis. It has refused to rescind regressive taxes on oil and other commodities and services and repeal the Oil Deregulation Law, leaving the people at the mercy of markets rendered even more volatile by the US-led war. The regime's tangential measures like the small and sporadic fuel subsidies for drivers, discounted train fares and limited offerings of cheap rice have provided



little relief to the hard-up masses. At the same time, the regime continues to refuse to legislate a family living wage nationwide to enable workers to cope with the rising costs of goods and service and has not instituted price controls on basic commodities. Worse, it has been suppressing workers and peasants waging organized actions to advance their interests.

Heightened repression has marked Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s response to protests and dissent. His regime's repression is a US imperative, given his imperialist master's desire to eliminate both the armed resistance in the countryside and the latter's perceived supporters in both rural and urban areas. So long as such resistance exists, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) cannot focus on "external defense," a euphemism for serving as an appendage to the US military in the event of an armed confrontation with China over supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region.

To this end, the US has not only provided up to \$2.5 billion in foreign military financing from 2026 to 2030 on top of other security assistance packages. It has provided both training and doctrinal support for the Marcos Jr. regime's counter-insurgency drive, including instructions on how to distort international humanitarian law in order to justify war crimes against civilians and hors de combat. It is US counter-insurgency doctrine that provides the rationale for red- and terror-tagging, nefarious practices that deliberately blur distinctions between civilians and armed combatants and justify the use of state violence even on unarmed dissenters.

A populace already increasingly buffeted by intensifying fascist attacks faces the added burden of a grueling US war-induced economic crisis and the looming possibility of being dragged into a US-instigated war with China.

Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the first quarter of 2026

Extrajudicial killings

The first quarter of 2026 opened and closed with tragic news of the killing of innocent civilians by the military.

In Occidental Mindoro. Reported killed on January 1, 2026 were three Mangyan-Iraya children while a youth researcher and student, identified as **Jerlyn Rose Doydora**, died when the AFP deployed four attack helicopters, dropped at least 12 aerial bombs, and conducted continuous strafing in Sitio Mamara, Barangay Cabacao, Abra de Ilog town. The intense military operations were carried out by elements of the 76th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army (IBPA),

2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army (IDPA), and 5th Scout Ranger Battalion under the operational control of the 203rd Infantry Brigade.

At least 769 individuals or 188 families belonging to the Mangyan-Iraya indigenous people were also forcibly evacuated, according to the Mindoro Provincial Social Welfare Office. Amid the resulting humanitarian crisis, KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog deplored the obstruction of humanitarian assistance and fact-finding teams, including denial of access to evacuation centers and the use of a hastily enacted "Dayo Ordinance" that restricts entry to non-residents of Abra de Ilog.

A 24-year old Filipino-American activist, **Chantal Anicoche**, was also reported missing following the intense military operations in Abra de Ilog. Human rights groups raised concerns and mounted mass actions calling on the AFP to surface Anicoche. She was later surfaced on January 8, 2026 allegedly after being found by military troops during clearing operations in the area.

Anicoche remained under military custody for several weeks after she was reportedly found, with the military releasing photos of her online and claiming that she had voluntarily agreed to receive medical treatment. No charges, however, were filed against her during her detention.

On January 29, 2026, the AFP and the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) announced that Anicoche had departed for the United States. Authorities claimed that she had signed documents allegedly admitting links to organizations accused of ties to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA), and which reportedly became the basis for an Order to Leave issued by the Bureau of Immigration. No statements were issued by Anicoche herself.

In Sorsogon. As the quarter drew to a close on March 24, 2026, soldiers from the 31st IBPA shot to death **James Quiñones**, a 24-year old construction worker on his way to attend his young daughter's moving-up ceremony. The soldiers initially claimed that Quiñones, a resident of Barangay Juan Adre, Donsol town had been hit by a stray bullet in a gunbattle between the military and the NPA. Quiñones' body, however, bore a gunshot wound to the head



RELEASE



Chantal Anicoche



James Quiñones

and several other parts of his body, with the shots coming from where the soldiers were positioned, according to witnesses. He was unarmed and had been waiting near a river crossing for a boat to ride when he was killed. A fact-finding team later dispatched by KARAPATAN-Bicol, KARAPATAN-Sorsogon and Anakpawis-Bicol was harassed by the 31st IBPA, whose troopers continued to occupy the barangay health and daycare centers as well as residential areas, in violation of international humanitarian law.

In South Cotabato. On March 25, 2026, indigenous farmer **Jonathan Kubot** was killed by elements of the 105th IBPA in Sitio Lam-afus, Barangay Lambangan, Tiboli town. Kubot had reportedly just finished clearing his rice field when soldiers chanced upon him. He was falsely accused of being an NPA member, tortured and killed.

In Negros Oriental. On March 17, 2026, farmer **Edgar Tingting**, 51, a resident of Sitio Ngalan, Barangay Sandayao, Guihulngan City died of hemorrhage after being shot while gathering grass for cattle feed in Barangay Trinidad of the same city. Soldiers from the 62nd IBPA claimed that Tingting was a member of the NPA who was killed during an encounter, while also reporting the recovery of a firearm. Local residents, however, averred that no encounter took place.

Meanwhile, awareness about the continuing drug-related killings under the Marcos Jr. regime was inadvertently provided by Rodrigo Duterte's lead counsel Nicholas Kaufman, which prompted an overly quick denial from the Philippine National Police (PNP). Kaufman had mentioned that there were 342 killings under Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in 2022, of which 162 were carried out by state agents, to show that drug-related killings were not confined to the Duterte regime. The figures he cited were from the University of the Philippines Dahas Project, which has been monitoring drug-related killings in the Philippines since the Duterte regime. According to the Dahas Project's statistics as of March 6, 2026, there have been **1,184 drug-related killings** since Marcos Jr. took over the reins of power.

TABLE 1

**Violations of Civil & Political Rights
under the Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Government**

(July 2022 to March 2026)

Violation	Number of victims
Extrajudicial Killing	137
Frustrated Extrajudicial Killing	85
Enforced Disappearance	16
Torture	53
Illegal Arrest without Detention	313
Illegal Arrest and Detention	560
Illegal Search and Seizure	930
Physical Assault and Injury	520
Demolition	21,444
Violation of Domicile	770
Destruction of Property	1,159
Divestment of Property	173
Forced Evacuation	49,375
Threat/Harassment/Intimidation	10,837,122
Indiscriminate Firing	70,028
Bombing	59,284
Forced/Fake Surrender	579
Use of Civilians in Police and/or Military Operations as Guides and/or Shield	521
Use of Schools, Medical, Religious and Other Public Places for Military Purpose	12,895
Restriction or Violent Dispersal of Mass Actions, Public Assemblies and Gatherings	4,562

Meanwhile, the campaign to hold Rodrigo Duterte accountable for the drug war killings under his term made headway when the International Criminal Court (ICC) declared in January 2026 that the former strongman was fit to be tried, contrary to his defense team's claims that he was suffering from cognitive deficits that prevent him from participating meaningfully in his trial.

In February, the ICC Office of the Prosecutor conducted a series of hearings to assess the evidence against Duterte to determine whether there was enough to proceed to trial.

By April, the ICC Appeals Chamber confirmed an earlier decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber I affirming the jurisdiction of the ICC on the case against Duterte. The ICC then confirmed the charges of murder and attempted murder against Duterte, clearing the way for his trial.

None of the tactics employed by Duterte through his counsel Nicholas Kaufman that cited Duterte's health, questioned the competence of the judges and defense counsels, and alleged the ICC's lack of jurisdiction, as well as the puny attempt to portray the ICC case as a political

tactic funded by the corrupt Marcos Jr. allies, passed muster at the ICC. The tactics, which were all designed to delay or scuttle the trial altogether, failed to prevent Duterte from facing the overwhelming evidence against him at the international court.

Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity, specifically for murder and attempted murder related to the “war on drugs” he orchestrated during his time as Davao City mayor and in the earlier years of his presidency. Covering the period from November 11, 2011 to March 16, 2019, the charges stem from evidence that Duterte unleashed a systematic campaign of state-sanctioned violence against thousands of drug suspects that led to extrajudicial killing, torture and the commission of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

Illegal arrests, detention and torture

In Occidental Mindoro. On March 29, 2026, elements of the 68th IBPA arrested cultural worker **Charlize Garzon** in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro after an alleged encounter with the NPA that resulted in the death of a military officer and injuries to two other soldiers. Prosecutors are now unjustly pinning the soldiers' killing and injuries on Garzon, charging her with murder, attempted murder, frustrated murder as well as illegal possession of explosives. The slew of charges is meant to unduly prolong her detention, as murder and illegal possession of explosives are both non-bailable.



Charlize Garzon

Garzon's mother was not immediately allowed to see her. Before her mother gained access to her, Garzon was interrogated without counsel, threatened with death, and physically assaulted. The humanitarian team dispatched by KARAPATAN-Southern Tagalog to check on her condition was likewise harassed and red-tagged. Garzon is currently detained at the San Jose District Jail in Occidental Mindoro.

In Iloilo. Also on March 29, 2026, elderly and long-time Panay activists **Josephine Porquia**, 64, and **Ma. Luisa Guillen**, 62, were arrested in Pavia, Iloilo. Porquia faces trumped-up charges of rebellion and illegal possession of explosives while Guillen has been charged with obstruction of justice.

Porquia, a migrants rights advocate, is the widow of slain Bayan Muna-Iloilo coordinator Jose Reynaldo “Jory” Porquia, who was gunned down in his home in April 2020. Guillen is a member of GABRIELA. Her family has likewise been subjected to sustained fascist attacks, including the near-fatal stabbing of her son, human rights lawyer Atty. Angelo Karlo Guillen in 2021.

In Tarlac City and Quezon City. In the early morning of March 11, 2026, ten individuals were arrested in

simultaneous police and military operations in Tarlac City and Quezon City. Arrested from a house in Barangay Baras-Baras, Tarlac City were National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant **Gabriel Kennedy Bangibang**, **Dr. Ana Marie Rilloroza**, **Theresa Forag**, **Ranee Francella Tuazon**, **Renato Ginez**, **Marc Mendiola** and **Javar Sugao**.



Kennedy Bangibang



Dr. Ana Rilloroza



Marc Mendiola

Bangibang, NDFP consultant on the Cordilleras and National Minorities, joined the peace talks in 2016 between the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. His status as a consultant is supposed to accord him protection from surveillance and arrest under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). He has reportedly been taken to a detention facility in Tabuk City, Kalinga.

Meanwhile, arrested in East Fairview, Quezon City were **Jess Gamay Lang-ay**, **Bobby Calsiyao Yag-ao** and a **third individual** who were all brought to Camp Karingal. Yag-ao remains in custody while Lang-ay and his companion were reportedly released because they had no pending warrants. Their whereabouts remain unknown, however, as neither of them has returned home. Their families and legal teams are concerned that they may have been brought to a secret detention facility, are being subjected to coercive action and that fabricated charges may be filed against them.

According to reports from the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, the victims of the March 11 arrest were verbally abused and physically assaulted, including being beaten in the face and abdomen and being forced to lie face down on the ground.

In Nueva Vizcaya. On January 23, 2026, at least **six anti-mining protesters**, including two elderly women, were arrested in Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya on January 23, 2026. Those arrested formed part of a human barricade along the Keon Barangay Road to block the entry of Woggle Corp., an affiliate of FCF Minerals Corporation. Woggle had obtained a highly questionable exploration license for 3,100-hectares in Dupax del Norte in August 2025, targeting gold and copper deposits. The mining area includes titled land owned by one of the elderly women arrested. Also hauled off to the Dupax del Norte Police Station was **Florentino Daynos**, president of the anti-mining group in Dupax del Norte. The entry of Woggle into Dupax del



Florentino Daynos

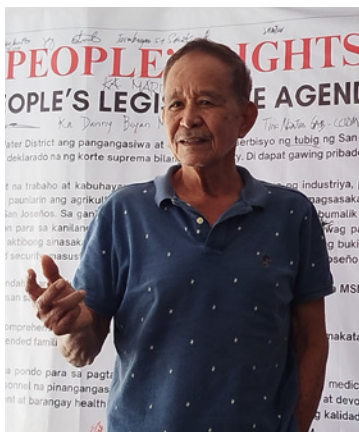
Norte was made possible through the Duterte regime's reinstatement of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 which had been suspended since 2012 over serious environmental and other concerns. Since the suspension was lifted, new mining contracts have been allowed.

In Laguna. On February 7, 2026, guards of the Yulo-owned Laguna Estates Development Corporation (LEDC) forcibly dismantled the peasants' protest camp in Sitio Veinte-Veinte Cuatro, Barangay Casile, Cabuyao town. **Twenty-one farmers** were arrested, including elderly and ailing residents, one with a mental health condition. Some of the officers of the organization **Samahan ng mga Magsasaka ng Casile (SAMACA-PUMALAG)** were also among those arrested.

According to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Laguna, LEDC and Emirates Security Services first blocked all entry and exit points in the barangay before carrying out the dispersal. A Facebook video reportedly shows guards firing guns to intimidate the farmers.

Acting on LEDC's orders, security personnel and the PNP-Cabuyao arrested the residents. They were released on February 9, 2026 after trespassing charges against them were dismissed.

In Bulacan. On February 11, 2026, **Engr. Even Calajate**, a septuagenarian, president of the Alliance for Consumer Protection (ACP) and member of the Water for the People Network (WPN), was arrested by the San Jose Del Monte Poblacion PNP. According to WPN, an obscure group filed malicious charges against Calajate after he described the role of local government officials in facilitating the uncelebrated joint venture of the then Villar-owned PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp. with the local water district (LWD), which has caused years of insufficient, dirty, and expensive water supply in SJDM. He was released the next day after posting bail.



Engr. Even Calajate

TABLE 2

Victims of Extrajudicial Killing & Enforced Disappearance under the Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Government

By Region (July 2022 to March 2026)

Region	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Cordillera Administrative Region	1	
Central Luzon	1	4
Southern Tagalog	10	5
Bicol	38	2
Western Visayas	4	
Negros	53	3
Central Visayas	2	
Eastern Visayas	17	
Northern Mindanao	4	2
Caraga	3	
SoCSKSargen	4	
TOTAL	137	16
<i>Women</i>	23	4
<i>Rights Defender</i>	9	5

TABLE 3

By Sector (July 2022 to March 2026)

Sector	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Fisherfolk		1
Government Employee	2	
Indigenous People	6	1
Peasant	104	7
Teacher	1	
Worker	3	1
Youth and Student	3	3
Moro	2	
Transport	4	2
Health	1	
Minor	8	

TABLE 4

By Affiliation (July 2022 to March 2026)

Affiliation	Extrajudicial Killing	Enforced Disappearance
Anakpawis	3	2
Gabriela Women's Party		1
Katibu		1
KMP	4	
KMU	2	1
NDFP	5	2

Political prisoners and trumped-up charges

As of March 31, 2026, there are 685 political prisoners held in various detention facilities nationwide, with 172 of them arrested under the Marcos Jr. regime.

The campaign to release detained community journalist **Frenchie Mae Cumpio**, development worker **Marielle Domequil** and human rights worker **Alexander “Chakoy” Abinguna** remains an uphill battle.

Arrested in February 2020 in Tacloban City, Abinguna remains detained on separate charges but Cumpio and Domequil were acquitted on January 22, 2026 of bogus charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Trumped-up murder charges against Cumpio had also been dismissed earlier by another court. On the same day, however, they were unjustly convicted on trumped-up charges of financing terrorism.



Marielle Domequil and Frenchie Mae Cumpio

The charges stemmed from allegations that on March 29, 2019 in Catbalogan, Samar, Cumpio and Domequil supposedly delivered cash and support to the NPA, in alleged violation of Republic Act No. 10168, or the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act. The court based its ruling solely on the perjured testimonies of so-called rebel returnees who have time and again been used to fabricate cases against activists.

Cumpio and Domequil were transferred from Tacloban City Jail to the Correctional Institution for Women in Mandaluyong City, while awaiting decision on their appeal to higher courts.

On the other hand, another political prisoner, poet, writer and peasant women's organizer **Amanda Echanis**, was acquitted on January 14, 2026 after more than five years in detention over trumped-up charges of illegal possession



Amanda Echanis

of firearms and explosives. Echanis, an organizer of the Cagayan chapter of the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women, was arrested in the early morning of December 2, 2020 in Barangay Carupian, Baggao, Cagayan, while caring for her month-old son. Her arrest was part of a broader crackdown against peasant leaders and organizers in the region, marked by coordinated military and police raids, planted evidence, and baseless criminal charges aimed at silencing dissent.

Meanwhile, released from decades of incarceration at the New Bilibid Prisons Muntinlupa on January 24, 2026 was long-time political prisoner **Reynaldo Mahinay**.

Political prisoners **Esteban Manuel** and **Rosita Taboy** have been released from detention following years of detention.



Reynaldo Mahinay



Rosita Taboy



Esteban Manuel

Taboy, who was one the country's eldest political prisoner at 80, was arrested on May 26, 2023 in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, where she had long resided with her husband. She suffered the loss of her spouse, Antonio Legaspi, who died of a heart attack inside his jail cell in April 2024.

Manuel, who was arrested on February 16, 2022 in Villareal, Samar, was released in February 2026. Upon his arrest, his family was not able to know his whereabouts until nearly a month later, when he was found at the headquarters of the Philippine Army's 8th Infantry Division in Calbayog City. He and his companion faced fabricated charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives as well as alleged violations of the Commission on Elections gun ban.

Women's and child rights defender **Ma. Salome "Sally" Ujano**, was ordered released from after almost five years of detention at the Correctional Institution



Sally Ujano

TABLE 5

Political Prisoners (as of March 2026)

Region of Detention	Total No. of Political Prisoners	Women	NDFP Consultants	Arrested Under Marcos Jr.
Cordillera	14	3	1	10
Ilocos	7	2	0	3
Cagayan Valley	21	3	0	8
Central Luzon	17	8	0	13
Southern Tagalog	72	20	0	45
National Capital Region	68	12	5	2
Bikol	46	9	0	22
Western Visayas	14	4	0	6
Negros Island Region	92	10	1	32
Central Visayas	15	0	0	2
Eastern Visayas	18	4	0	0
Western Mindanao Region	12	4	0	0
Northern Mindanao Region	103	21	1	2
Southern Mindanao Region	58	8	1	7
Socsksargen	35	6	1	3
Caraga	92	20	0	16
BARMM	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	685	134	10	172
<i>Sick</i>	<i>88</i>			
<i>Elderly</i>	<i>89</i>			
<i>Arrested as Minor</i>	<i>4</i>			

for Women after her conviction on rebellion charges was reversed on appeal. She was arrested on November 14, 2021, for a 2006 arrest warrant related to an alleged ambush of two military personnel in Quezon in 2005 and had been unjustly convicted by a Taguig City court in 2024.

In another development, political prisoner **Frank Fernandez** was transferred from the Negros Occidental District Jail (NODJ) in Bago City to the Guihulngan City District Jail on March 27, 2026 in what is seen as further reprisal against the political prisoners who led the protest against the repressive NODJ warden, Chief Insp. Crisyrel Awe in August 2025.



Frank Fernandez

Meanwhile, trumped-up charges of financing terrorism against long-time development worker **Jazmin Jerusalem** were dismissed on February 27, 2026. Jerusalem, executive director of the **Leyte Center for Development (LCDe)**, had been charged with three counts of allegedly violating RA 10168 or the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act.



Jazmin Jerusalem

A week earlier, on February 20, 2026, the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 28 had also ruled in favor of LCDe in the civil forfeiture case against it, affirming that “asset-freezing and forfeiture measures cannot be based on speculation, manufactured accusations, or politically driven narratives, but must rest on competent evidence and respect for due process.”

The Manila court said that the prosecution failed to credibly link LCDe’s bank accounts and transactions to any unlawful activity under the Anti-Money Laundering Act and the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act. It cited serious gaps in the financial investigation, including the lack of reliable proof, an unreconciled timeline, and the failure to meaningfully examine the legitimate nature of the organization’s work and funding sources.

Violent demolitions

Violent demolitions and other repressive acts targeting urban poor communities occurred in the first quarter of 2026, with incidents involving harassment and arrests of residents resisting the demolitions. In many cases, the demolitions were carried out without proper consultation and relocation for the affected communities.

In Taytay. Various homeowners’ associations under the Taytay Urban Poor Alliance (TUPA) and Kadamay-Rizal protested at the Baltao gate, Ortigas Avenue on January 11,



2026 to condemn the widespread demolitions in Taytay. They called for an immediate halt to the illegal confinement of residents by Baltao Corporation in Sitio Igiban. A total of 129 people joined the action. In collusion with the PNP, the goons hired by Baltao Corporation forcibly closed the passageway of residents in Sitio Igiban, Barangay San Isidro

starting January 7, 2026. Around 60 families were affected by the company's violence. Residents still cannot enter or exit their community to date.

The closure of the passageway severely disrupted the daily lives of residents. Many students were not able to attend school, and workers weren't able to reach their jobs. Some who fell ill did not get medical treatment because of the blockage.

The company first fenced off the passageway on December 4, 2025. It was forced to open the gate after a municipal staff member intervened. However, Taytay mayor Allan De Leon remains inutile and unresponsive to the situation.

Igiban is just one of several communities facing the threat of demolition in Taytay. Sitios Siwang, Sapang Gody, Bato-bato, Batong Dalig, Halaman Uno, Halaman Dos, Pugad Lawin, and PCSO also face demolition. Residents in these communities have no access to water and electricity because of harassment from land grabbers.

In Davao City. Around 500 houses were demolished at Arroyo Compound in Barangay Matina Crossing, Davao City on February 27, 2026. A number of residents confronted the demolition team led by a sheriff, with one of the families saying they had a title to the land. The demolition team still proceeded with tearing down the houses, most of which were made of light materials. The land in question was reclassified from agricultural to commercial in 2006 and later claimed by a wealthy family.



On top of such demolitions, impoverished families have had to suffer other man-made catastrophes.

On January 8, 2026, up to **36 people died and 18 injured** when a privately-run landfill collapsed in Binaliw, Cebu City. Many of the dead and injured were sanitation workers and scavengers who were in the vicinity when a large pile of garbage collapsed. The Binaliw landfill is operated by Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc. which is owned by

Enrique Razon Jr., who, with a net worth of \$16.5 billion, is the richest man in the country, according to the 2026 Forbes Billionaires List.

On February 20, 2026, there were **at least three confirmed deaths and an estimated 50 people missing** when some 420,000 cubic meters of waste collapsed in Rodriguez, Rizal. International Solid Waste Integrated Management Specialist Inc., which owns the landfill, imposed a media blackout, preventing the spread of information that would have further exposed its negligence and the real casualty count.

The worst incident of this kind on record is the trash slide at the government-operated Payatas dumpsite in July 2000, which buried alive **more than 200 persons** and destroyed thousands of homes. Two decades later, a court ruled that the Quezon City government was guilty of gross negligence and liable for the collapse and ordered it to pay P6 million to 56 heirs who filed suit for damages.

Threats, harassment and intimidation

By far the most prevalent human rights violation consists of threats, harassment and intimidation against activists and even ordinary citizens deemed to form part of the mass base of the armed revolution. Members of militant organizations are coerced into denouncing and disaffiliating from their organizations and surrendering as armed rebels and avail of "amnesty."

The NTF-ELCAC has made much of the number of amnesty applicants (more than 16,000 as of the March 14, 2026 deadline, according to the National Amnesty Commission), calling it a "quiet but decisive victory for peace."

What the NTF-ELCAC fails to acknowledge, however, is that none of the seven amnesty proclamations for the CPP-NPA-NDFP since the 1970s has actually resulted in the resolution of the armed conflict and just and lasting peace.

None of these amnesty proclamations involved seriously addressing the deep-seated economic, social and political roots of the armed conflict. None of them involved genuine land reform and dismantling the rigid social hierarchies perpetuating poverty and inequality in the countryside. None of them involved laying the foundations of national industry to ensure quality employment for the steadily rising labor force and wean away the country from being import-dependent and export-oriented. And none of them sought to end the dominance of dynasties and warlords in reactionary politics.

With the roots of the armed conflict left untouched, social injustice festers and gives rise to resistance.

The NTF-ELCAC's amnesty scheme is nothing but window-dressing by a regime that thinks genuine peace can be achieved through a series of proclamations and PR maneuvers, as it continues its rampage of extrajudicial

killings, bombings, enforced disappearances, torture, illegal and arbitrary arrests, red-tagging and other grave violations on human rights and international humanitarian law.

Following are the cases documented by KARAPATAN in the first quarter of 2026.

In Isabela. A tarpaulin branding Migrante national chair **Criselda Fiel** “recruiter ng NPA” was found hanging in a public place in San Isidro, Ilagan City on the morning of March 29, 2026. The tarpaulin was signed by a group calling itself Samahan ng Nagkakaisang OFW Kontra Insurhensya (SNOKI). As a result of the red-tagging tarpaulin, Fiel now fears for her safety and that of her family in Isabela.



Criselda Fiel

On the same morning, **Dominga Aberion**, national vice chairperson of Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA), also reported red-tagging posters hanging in a public place in her hometown of Sta. Maria, Isabela. The posters bore her picture, saying “BABALA SA MGA TAGA ISABELA: MUKHA NG NPA REKRUTER. Siya si Dominga ‘Ingga’ Aberion bagong lider ng DAGAMI.” (Danggayan dagiti Mannalon, a militant association of peasants and farm workers in Cagayan Valley). The posters were signed by “Krusada Kontra-Terrorismo-Isabela.”



In Negros Occidental. On January 25, 2026, **Atty. Rey Gorgonio**, chair of the Negros chapter of the National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers (NUPL), was threatened with death through a text message sent through **Joselito Macapobre**, a staff of Paghidaet sa Kauswagan Development Group, Inc. (PDG). The text read: “Si Gorgonio, huwag lang niya sobrahan ng tapang. Kasi lahat ng katapangan, babagsak yan sa katahimikan. Pag napunta na sa katahimikan, walang saysay kung anumang posisyon o titulo niya ngayon.

Huwag ka na sumabay sa kanya. Baka madamay ka pa.” (Gorgonio shouldn’t be too courageous. He can end up being silenced. And if he is silenced, all of his positions or titles will be for naught. Do not be like him. Or you’ll be affected too.)

The threats, which came in the middle of a public forum on the Writ of Kalikasan and the campaign to stop the operations of an oil palm plantation embroiled in landgrabbing disputes, are especially concerning since Gorgonio’s colleague, former NUPL-Negros secretary general Atty.

Atty. Rey Gorgonio

Benjamin Ramos, was gunned down in November 2018 by suspected military men after being heavily red-tagged and subjected to intense surveillance.

Earlier, on January 18, 2026, Macapobre himself reported an attempt by three men from the 15th IBPA to force him into a black pick-up truck in Barangay Canginay, Candoni town. Prior to the attempted abduction, state forces had gone to Macapobre’s residence and accused him of supporting the NPA. Macapobre had served as a witness for a fellow PDG staff member whose trumped-up case of terrorism has been dismissed. He says he continues to be under surveillance by state forces.



Joselito Macapobre

Meanwhile, on January 17, 2026, PDG staff **Analyn Mirano** reported receiving a text message from an unknown number, demanding that she become a paid informant for the military. The sender, who claimed to be from the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, reportedly threatened Mirano that she and her family would be harmed if she refused.

Sources from the PDG also said that Macapobre and Mirano have been targeted because both of them joined the International Solidarity Mission in October 2025



that looked into the operations of Hacienda Asia, the oil palm plantation whose shutdown they have been seeking through a Writ of Kalikasan. The NTF-ELCAC has repeatedly red-tagged and vilified the International Solidarity Mission that conducted investigations in Rizal, Negros, Mindoro and Leyte, claiming their activities boosted NPA propaganda.

In a related development, farm worker **Danny Yonson**, a member of Katilingban sang Mangunguma kag Mamumugon sa Malasbalas Mindangon kag Labamba (KAMMALIG), was pressured into becoming a state agent with the task of determining the whereabouts of Analyn Mirano and Annabelle Ilustrimo, another staff of PDG. He was likewise told to report on his uncle Boy Yonson, a former organizer of the National Federation of Sugar Workers who had been a victim of red-tagging.

Danny was first approached in December 2025 by a Sgt. Gonzales of the 94th IBPA and a certain “Morgan,” a former barangay tanod of Orong, Kabankalan City, and was handed a cellphone and ₱2,000.00 to become an intelligence asset. On January 6, 2026, however, Sgt. Gonzales threatened Danny Yonson when the latter met with him at the Kabankalan Public Market to return the money and the cellphone. He now fears for himself and his family.

In Metro Manila. In January 2026, at least 72 persons were charged with sedition and inciting to sedition in connection with the Anti-Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012. They are among 97 protesters targeted for further criminal prosecution by the DOJ for having joined the huge Baha sa Luneta anti-corruption rally of September 21, 2026 and posting their anti-corruption sentiments online. Most of them had been arbitrarily arrested, tortured and detained on September 21, 2025 after marching to Mendiola and are facing vandalism, tumults, arson and assault cases, among others, on top of the sedition and inciting to sedition charges.

Among those who have already received subpoenas from the DOJ is Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) president **Renato Reyes Jr.** At least four student leaders have also received summons to appear before the DOJ—**Tiffany Faith Brillante**, president of the Sentral na Konseho ng Mag-aaral of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP);

Joaquin Buenaflor, chairperson of the University Student Council of the University of the Philippines-Diliman; **Jacob Baluyot**, national chairperson of the Alyansa ng Kabataang Mamamahayag-PUP and associate editor of *The Catalyst*, student publication of the PUP; and **Aldrin Kitsune**, officer of Kalayaan Kontra Korapsyon and student leader from De La Salle University College of St. Benilde (DLS-CSB).

In Ilocos Norte. Another youth leader experienced threats for his active involvement in youth and people's issues. **Jay Lord Malabed**, former chair of Kabataan Partylist-Ilocos Norte and current vice president of the Mariano Marcos State University College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, reported that individuals who identified themselves as police officers visited his home in Batac City on March 13.

During the visit, they asked questions about his participation in rallies and his involvement in organizations. Malabed said the encounter felt intimidating, as he and his father were questioned while the officers surrounded them, despite the absence of overt threats. He also noted concerns about possible surveillance following earlier protests and said the officers indicated they might return. The visit, which occurred a day before his birthday, left him feeling anxious about his safety and that of his family.

Many of the targeted protesters had urged thoroughgoing systemic change to stamp out corruption, a call that goes beyond merely demanding the prosecution of corrupt elements from both the Marcos Jr. and Duterte cliques.



Jay Lord Malabed

Rising people's protests

Anti-imperialism emerged as the dominant theme of protests throughout the first quarter of 2026, with the US marking the New Year by attacking Venezuela and abducting Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro and his wife to face dubious drug charges in the US. Denunciations of US imperialist-instigated wars further intensified when the US launched missile attacks against Iran, unleashing a worldwide crisis that sent fuel prices on an upward spiral and the costs of basic goods and services increasingly beyond the reach of even middle income families.



Joaquin Buenaflor, Tiffany Faith Brillante, Jacob Baluyot, and Aldrin Kitsune

Anti-imperialist surge

Protesters cried “Kamatayan para sa imperyalismo!” in a rally on January 5, 2026 near the US Embassy to protest the US imperialist incursions in Venezuela. The protest ended with the burning of the flags of the US and Israel as a sign of the group’s indignation at continuing US government intervention not just in Venezuela but in the Philippines as well.

Protesters rallied again near the US embassy on February 4, 2026, the 128th anniversary of the Filipino-American War. The rallyists took these occasions to denounce US-led wars and genocide, and called for an end to US military presence and intervention in the Philippines as well as to the US-supported Israeli genocidal war against Palestine that has killed more than 27,000 civilians and displaced up to 1.8 million Palestinians.

On March 6 to March 8, 2026, protests organized by several groups such as Bahaghari, Gabriela, Anakbayan, and the Moro-Christian People’s Alliance were held outside the US embassy in Manila denouncing the US-led war against Iran that began on February 28, 2026 and led to a worldwide economic crisis.

KARAPATAN also deplored the planned construction of a munitions factory in the Philippines that will load, assemble and package 30-millimeter cannon rounds for the US military and its allied countries. Through its Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience involving 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the US plans to outsource the manufacture of solid rocket motors (used to power guided missiles) as well as drones and ammunition for use in its wars of aggression. In the Philippines, Subic and Bataan are being eyed as potential sites for the munitions facility.

The construction of a US munitions factory in the Philippines makes the Marcos Jr. regime complicit in the Trump regime’s criminal attacks against states that have shown independence against imperialist impositions. It will also make the country a target of retaliatory or preemptive strikes by the US’ enemies, and irresponsibly drag the Filipino people into a conflict not of their own making.

Worse, the munitions to be manufactured in the Philippines will likely be used also against Filipinos in the Marcos Jr. regime’s brutal counter-insurgency war. The Philippine military has been known to use 30-mm cannon-armed platforms (typically on helicopters, combat planes and armored vehicles) in operations against “insurgent” and “terrorist” targets. These very munitions have already been utilized in artillery attacks targeting upland communities, killing civilians and livestock, damaging the local population’s production areas and disrupting the people’s economic activities.

On March 22, 2026, KARAPATAN and SELDA became partner organizations of the Philippines-Palestine



Friendship Association (PPFA), for Viva Palestina! A Solidarity Fair for Justice and Freedom at GT-Toyota Auditorium, UP Diliman.

Through a workshop titled "Break the Walls: Free All Political Prisoners," former political prisoners shared their testimonies and related them to the plight of hundreds of Palestinian political prisoners, and the need for solidarity. A letter-writing session was also facilitated by Pinay Collection, where the participants wrote letters of hope to be sent to political prisoners.

The whole-day event, featured discussions on the Filipino and Palestinian struggles for self-determination, personal stories from Filipino-Palestinian families and refugees, workshops and side-events, and was capped by a cultural program in the evening.





People's response amidst crisis

A nationwide transport strike from March 19 to 20, 2026 was launched by PISTON to dramatize urgent demands to put an end to the Value Added Tax as well as the excise tax on oil and other commodities, the rollback of oil prices and the abolition of the pork barrel and other burdensome and unproductive government expenses that draw public monies away from urgently needed basic services.

PISTON and other protesters who supported the strike transformed strike centers strategically located in various parts of Metro Manila into education and information centers to expound on how the VAT, which was adopted in 1986 as part of a “structural adjustment program” imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the Philippines in exchange for loans, has raised prices significantly. On top of the VAT, which is charged at each stage of the supply chain, the government also imposes an excise tax at the point of manufacture. The ultimate victims are the consumers who end up shouldering both the excise tax and the VAT that manufacturers and sellers pass on to them whenever they pay for goods and services.

Drivers and members of PISTON and speakers from different sectors denounced the grave economic crisis spawned by US imperialist incursions in the Middle East that has greatly impacted the poor, who are in need of relief. They explained that the demand to junk the VAT, and not just the excise tax on oil, will significantly lighten the economic burdens of the vast majority of low and middle income Filipinos.

They called for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law, imposed by the IMF to deregulate the downstream oil industry and allow oil companies to set the price of oil products. They said that this is long overdue, considering the billions of profits by raked in big oil companies and the deleterious effects on people's livelihood since its enactment.

Some 200 leaders and members of various urban poor organizations joined by church and other civil society groups gathered at NIA Road on March 31, 2026, calling it “Ground Zero” for having been razed by fire just days before. “Ground Zero” at the sprawling urban poor community at NIA Road epitomizes the scourges of demolitions, forced evictions, rising prices and denial of housing affecting the impoverished masses. The rallyists demanded total loan condonation and the provision of humane and decent housing for the victims of one of the biggest fires to hit an urban poor community in recent history. The fire that raged for hours left over 3,000 families homeless.

Denouncing bureaucratic corruption, demanding accountability

On January 5, 2026, Lasallians Against Corruption conducted an anti-corruption protest inside Dela Salle University-Manila. Another protest occurred on January 15, 2026 organized by youth activists, including students of PUP in front of the Department of Justice (DOJ) against corruption and the sedition case filed by the DOJ against PUP campus journalist Jacob Baluyot and several others in relation to the September 21 protest at Mendiola. In the afternoon, PUP students also held a local mobilization inside the school. The day after, students of Ateneo de Manila University held a “Salubong 2026” rally to signal the first day of classes where they condemned corruption and called for the accountability and resignation of both Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte.



In a related development, BAYAN- and Makabayan-affiliated organizations filed an impeachment complaint against Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for corruption. After being snubbed on the first attempt, the complaint signed by representatives of different organizations and filed by the three Makabayan Representatives Antonio Tinio, Sarah Elago and Renee Co was refiled on January 26, 2026. Earlier, on January 22, 2026, protesters mobilized outside the House of Representatives to express their support for the filing of the complaint. In a subsequent rally at the DOJ on January 26, 2026, youth activists challenged the Marcos Jr. regime to jail and prosecute corrupt officials instead of filing sedition and other charges against scores of September 21 protesters.



Despite Congress' rejection of the impeachment complaint against Marcos Jr., the effort served as the opening salvo for 2026 for sustained campaigns against bureaucratic corruption. On February 2, 2026, a new impeachment complaint was filed against Vice Pres. Sara Duterte for unexplained wealth and misuse of her Confidential and Intelligence Funds.

A 'One Katipunan' protest, involving student leaders and councils from schools along Katipunan Avenue --UP Diliman, Ateneo de Manila University, and Miriam College--was conducted on February 20, 2026. Calling for accountability from both Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte, it served as a prelude towards marking the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Uprising on February 25, 1986.



At the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Uprising, various progressive groups and mass organizations led a mobilization dubbed Baha Sa EDSA, held along the intersection of EDSA and Ortigas Avenue, near the EDSA Shrine. Another group led by Akbayan held a separate rally nearby dubbed the Trillion Peso March. Despite initial talks for a joint and unified program, negotiations between organizers of the two protests fell through over disagreements on whether or not to hold both Marcos Jr. and Duterte accountable for massive bureaucratic corruption. Expectedly, only the Akbayan-led

Trillion Peso March was granted a permit by the Quezon City government, and tensions arose as law enforcers confiscated the truck stage to be used in the Baha Sa EDSA mobilization and attempted to block protesters from marching to the EDSA Shrine. The protesters, through sheer determination, were nonetheless able to proceed with their program.



Rising up against fascism

Mass actions were held in front of the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo in January to condemn the bombings in Mindoro and call for the surfacing of Chantal Anicoche, a Fil-Am activist arrested in Mindoro in January 2026. A quick reaction team (QRT) protest was also staged at Camp Capinpin, where Chantal was being held in military custody. The QRT protest was held amid heavy surveillance and the blaring loudspeakers of military agents who mocked the protesters and red-tagged the speakers in the program. A Black Friday protest was likewise held at the Boy Scouts circle area in Quezon City, also demanding the surfacing of Chantal.



The Manindigan campaign network organized a forum at Malate Catholic Church on January 29, bringing together faith-based institutions, civil society organizations, and people's movements to discuss human rights issues and state repression. Highlights of the program included testimonies from victim-survivors and communities affected by militarization and development aggression. Among those present were Amanda Echanis and Rev. Glofie Baluntong, both of whom had recently faced legal cases that were dismissed after years of alleged trumped-up charges. Communities from Mansalay, Mindoro, and Dupax del Norte also shared experiences of military operations and mining-related encroachment in their areas. The forum likewise condemned the conviction of community journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio and lay worker Marielle Domequil on terrorism financing charges.

Protest actions were also organized before, during, and after the promulgation of the cases against Cumpio and Domequil. On January 21, 2026, press freedom advocates and media organizations staged a protest outside the DOJ office in Ermita, Manila, calling for the dismissal of the charges and the acquittal of the two ahead of the January 22 promulgation by the Tacloban Regional Trial Court.



The hearings and court proceedings in Tacloban were closely monitored by media groups, human rights advocates and representatives of diplomatic missions. A sign-on statement continues to gather support for the acquittal of Cumpio and Domequil, as their conviction is under appeal at the Court of Appeals. Another protest was



held at the DOJ on February 7, 2026, marking the sixth year of detention of Cumpio and Domequil, sustaining the call for their release and the junking of the charges against them.

Wide condemnation was also expressed through actions in support of anti-corruption protesters who face sedition and inciting to sedition charges linked to the September 21 “Baha sa Luneta” mobilization. On January 29, KARAPATAN joined a picket outside the DOJ in support of protesters submitting their counter-affidavits against the said trumped-up charges. On February 4, 2026, progressive youth groups and campus journalists from various provinces again gathered outside the DOJ to demand the dismissal of the cases. As part of their symbolic protest, students emptied their bags containing books, notebooks, pens, and learning gadgets to assert that criticizing corruption and engaging in social issues are not crimes.

On January 30, 2026, a screening of the 2025 Cinemalaya Best Picture *Bloom Where You Are Planted* was held at the UP Film Center in commemoration of the seventh death anniversary of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace consultant Randy Malayao, who was shot dead while asleep inside a bus on his way to Isabela. Recently released political prisoner Amanda



Echanis attended and spoke during the post-screening talkback session, as one of the individuals featured in the film alongside Malayao and rights defender Agnes Mesina. Malayao was also remembered for his lifelong commitment to public service, from his years as a student leader at UP Miag-ao in Iloilo, to his work organizing peasants and rural communities in Cagayan Valley, and later as an NDFP peace consultant in peace negotiations with the government.

Rights advocates marked the 28th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), citing consistent violations by successive Philippine regimes. The amnesty cum surrender program (whose deadline was on March 13, 2026) peddled by the Marcos Jr. government also met criticism as merely capitulationist and for its failure to address the roots of the armed conflict. The lapse of the Marcos Jr. regime's amnesty ploy is expected to lead to more red-tagging, harassment and arrests of activists as well as other human rights violations.

Of particular concern is the increasing incursions into schools by the NTF-ELCAC to red-tag youth groups tagged as communist fronts. The NTF-ELCAC's heavy presence in campuses infringes on academic freedom as well as freedom of expression, association, and assembly.

There was also condemnation of a proposed circular from the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) requiring social media registration, calling it “the latest attempt by the State to suppress freedom of speech and expression and violate the people’s right to privacy.” The draft DICT circular calls for users of all social media platforms, including email and messaging applications, to link these to their registered SIMs, ostensibly to curb computer-related offenses. While the DICT has said that social media registration may become voluntary, KARAPATAN said the state may impose severe restrictions on the use of unregistered accounts, making the circular mandatory in essence.



Five years of the Bloody Sunday Massacre

KARAPATAN joined Defend Southern Tagalog in a gathering at UP Diliman to commemorate the fifth year since the Southern Tagalog Bloody Sunday Massacre of March 7, 2021.

Five years on, not a single perpetrator has been held accountable for the killing of labor leader Emmanuel “Manny” Asuncion; fisherfolk and peasant leaders Ariel Evangelista and Ana Mariz “Chai” Lemita-Evangelista; urban poor organizers Mark Lee Bacasno and Melvin Dasigao; indigenous leaders Abner and Edward Esto; and Dumagat leaders Randy and Puroy dela Cruz.

KARAPATAN also decried how relatives of victims continue to face harassment. Last year, the families of Melvin Dasigao, Mark Lee Bacasno, and Dumagat leaders Randy and Puroy dela Cruz reported visits and calls from state agents, including the National Bureau of Investigation, pressuring them to drop legal actions. Also in 2025, the DOJ filed charges against Alaiza Lemita, sister of Ana Mariz Lemita-Evangelista, under the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012. The case has recently been dismissed.



Gintong Alay: Commemoration of the People's Martyrs held at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani

Gintong Alay

A tribute to the martyrs of the Marcos dictatorship killed or disappeared 50 years ago was held on March 29, 2026 at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani. Nineteen martyrs including Maria Lorena Barros, Emman Lacaba, Emmanuel Yap Jr., 19-year-old Lorenzo Lansang and several Philippine Science High school students were honored in a morning of candle and flower offerings, testimonies and cultural performances.

The event was organized by CARMMA, HUSTISYA and KARAPATAN.

Duterte Panagutin

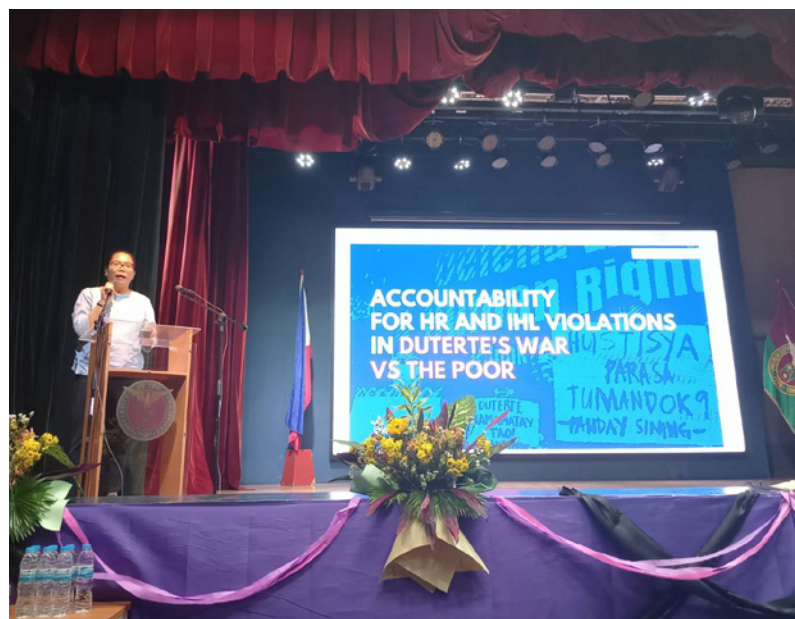
A Holy Mass for Justice and Truth was held on February 22, 2026 at the Malate Church to remember the victims of Duterte's war on drugs, and to express solidarity with the victims' call for justice. The mass officiated by Most Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., Caritas Philippines president and chair of the Episcopal Commission on Social Action, was held on the eve of a series of hearings at the International Criminal Court on the confirmation of charges against Rodrigo Duterte. Before the mass, ecumenical prayers and candle-lighting were also held at Rajah Sulayman Plaza led by leaders of other churches.



Relatives of drug war victims gathered on the four days of the confirmation of charges hearings, on February 23, 24, 26 and 27, to express their vigilance and continuous call for justice. As they cringed at the emptiness of the arguments of Duterte's lead counsel Nicholas Kaufman, who resorted to insulting the defense lawyers and the victims themselves and dismissing the scale of human suffering caused by the war on drugs, they continued to hold close photos of their loved ones as they chanted "Duterte Panagutin!" Similar justice watch gatherings were also held in Cebu City and other parts of Metro Manila.

On March 11, 2026, the first anniversary of Duterte's arrest and detention at the ICC, the Duterte Panagutin Network vowed to stand with the victims until Duterte is convicted and all his co-perpetrators are likewise arrested, tried and convicted. In a protest rally in Quezon City, they posted wanted posters of Duterte's co-perpetrators like Sen. Bato dela Rosa and Sen. Bong Go, who were masterminds and implementors of the former president's bloody drug war campaign.

A forum, titled "The Hague-ing Suspense: Resisting the Silence on the Duterte Trial," was organized in UP Manila as part of the celebration of Political Science Week by the



UP Manila Political Science Program. The forum tackled updates on the ICC case versus Duterte, and prospects in the call for justice. Speakers at the forum included families of victims of the drug war from Rise Up for Life and for Rights, representatives from KARAPATAN and NUPL. Well-attended by students, the event was co-sponsored by UP Sigma Kappa Pi Fraternity-UP Manila and Karapatan Youth Advocates-UP Manila (KAYA).



Marcos Jr., pay your estate taxes, return ill-gotten wealth

The Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law (CARMMA) renewed its demand for the Marcoses to pay their estate tax obligations of P203 billion and return all their ill-gotten wealth amid one of the worst economic crises to hit the country.

CARMMA believed that returning the Marcoses' P203 billion estate tax liability and around US\$10 billion in public funds plundered by this kleptocratic family will go a long way in augmenting government monies for badly needed social services.

They described this as a "despicable pattern of Marcosian greed, especially in the face of the Filipino people's abject suffering."

On the other hand, CARMMA also condemned the latest attempt to glorify the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr. via a mural along Palispis Highway in Tuba, Benguet. Palispis Highway was the site of the infamous Marcos bust, a 30-foot-high concrete monstrosity that was built in 1978 on land grabbed from Ibaloi families residing in the area. This unsightly and distasteful megalith to dictatorship got its comeuppance when the New People's Army blew it up.

CARMMA said the Palispis Highway mural not only disregards the reality of the Filipino people's repudiation

and ouster of the Marcoses but is also an affront to the Cordilleran peoples who valiantly struggled against Marcosian impositions such as the Chico River Dam Project that would have wiped out entire communities in Kalinga and Mountain Province and Cellophil Resources Corporation that destroyed thousands of hectares of forest lands in Abra.

It is also an insult to the memory of real Cordilleran heroes like Macliing Dulag who led the fight against the Chico Dam. CARMMA vowed to join the Cordilleran people in campaigning for the mural's removal, which it called a "ghastly tribute to a dictator whose hands are stained with the blood of so many victims of martial law."

These protests were waged amid mounting repression. The US-Marcos regime instills fear among the people in a futile attempt to stop them from rising for their rights and freedoms and demanding justice and accountability. Fear may be contagious, but so is courage, and the people have shown ample courage and defiance in the face of repression.

THERE IS NO STOPPING the forward march of a people woke to the ravaging effects of imperialist war and plunder and the massive devastation caused by bureaucratic corruption. Emboldened by their growing numbers, they are determined to build step by step, the foundations of a new and better future for our people. ■

Talaingod case exposes impunity suffered by Lumad in the hands of paramilitary, criminalization of solidarity

by Dominic Gutoman | Published by Bulatlat, March 27, 2026

THE TALAINGOD CASE, convicting humanitarian workers who rescued Lumad students and teachers, sends a glaring signal to the human rights community. Both in social media and the courts, what the people missed is an important context: the rescued Lumad students were survivors of violence perpetrated by paramilitary group Alamara.

“Years passed when the solidarity team rescued us but we still could not move forward,” Angelika Moral, one of the rescued Lumad students, said in Filipino in a recent closed-door meeting. “Instead of going after the Alamara and the military, the government filed charges against the likes of Ka Satur (Ocampo) and Ma’am France (Castro).”



Angelika Moral in a closed-door meeting with the media

DOMINIC GUTOMAN/BULATLAT

In a decision on November 27, 2025, the 21st Division of the Court of Appeals sustained the wrongful conviction of former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, former ACT Teachers Party Rep. France Castro, the Lumad school administration, and eight volunteer teachers of the Lumad school Salugpungan. The other two staff of ACT Teachers Party-list that comprised the Talaingod 13 were acquitted for the failure of the State to prove their guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

This conviction has been weaponized by the troll armies to generate disinformation campaigns: branding the humanitarian team that form part of the Talaingod 13 as “kidnappers” and “child abusers.”

Moral’s account paints a different picture. For her, Castro, Ocampo, and the members of the national solidarity mission were their second parents. These people took care of them. But it weighs almost nothing in the court decision exploited by disinformation networks.

The joint abuse of military and paramilitary

“The military orders the Alamara to go after us,” Moral noted. She recalled that these paramilitary elements padlocked them in their classrooms, threatened to kill them, and frequently harassed them in their communities.

The 2019 investigation of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was revisited by the advocates, exposing the militarization committed by the Philippine Army and Alamara within the ancestral lands of the Lumad in certain towns of Talaingod and Kapalung in Davao del Norte.

The human rights investigation exposed that there is clear cooperation between the Philippine Army and the Alamara. The CHR noted, “The expensive firearms of the Alamara establish a reasonable ground to believe they are being supplied by the military.”

Since 2001, Bulatlat has reported the atrocities of Alamara. Back then, the military likened them to the notorious “Alsa Masa,” an anti-communist armed group backed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines known for extrajudicial killings of revolutionaries and civilians they brand as “sympathizers”. But Alamara strategically targeted Lumad communities of Bukidnon, North Cotabato, and Davao del Norte.

In its first years alone, human rights group Karapatan already recorded 87 human rights violations in 2003 victimizing 627 Lumad. The group also recorded at least seven deaths attributed to Alamara in 2018.

The children were not spared from the attacks. Alamara was responsible for the killing of a 15-year-old Lumad student Alibando Tingkas in 2016, and 19-year-old Lumad student Obello Bay-ao in 2017. Both of them studied at Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanuon Community Learning Center, back when it was still operating.

Former Lumad teacher Julieta Gomez said that these paramilitary groups are like “dogs” of the military. She recalled the deadly rampage of paramilitary intruders on September 1, 2015 – commonly known as the Lianga Massacre – that killed Lumad-Manobo leaders Dionel Campos and Datu Juvello Sinzo, and Alcadev Executive Director Emerito Samarca. It also resulted in the mass displacement of 3,000 Lumads.

“These paramilitaries killed our leaders, while the 70th Infantry Battalion watched in our communities,” Gomez said in vernacular. “We call them tribal dealers of our ancestral lands. They are Lumads but they think like a military. Our traditional weapons were spear and kalasag (a rectangular shield), but theirs were armalites.”

Amirah Lidasan, a Moro indigenous leader of Sandugo, said in a closed-door meeting that this case is emblematic of how the Philippine government pits Lumad peoples against each other – by using their fellow indigenous peoples as auxiliary force under the government’s counterinsurgency program.

Alamara and suspected state agents in civilian clothes broke into the compound of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), a sanctuary of almost 700 Lumad people– 62 percent were children, on January 25, 2020. The 2019 CHR report stated that the evacuees were staying in the compound because of grave human rights violations committed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Alamara, ranging from rape, extrajudicial killings, harassment, and forced displacement.

The closure of Lumad schools

“Our right to education and ancestral lands are stripped away from us,” said Moral, emphasizing that more than 10,000 Lumad students were affected by the forced closure of their schools.

Rodrigo Duterte ordered the shutdown of 215 Lumad schools during his administration. The lessons in these schools primarily revolve around the realities of the Lumad indigenous peoples, placing strong importance on their right to self-determination, cultural preservation, and protection of their ancestral lands and environment.

As of this writing, Katribu confirmed that there is no operating Lumad school led by non-government organizations and Indigenous peoples groups themselves.

“When our schools were closed, most of us were subjected to forced marriage, including me. Some of us were left with no choice but to work here in Manila, leaving our homes in Mindanao,” Moral added. “Some of us try to work abroad.”

The Save Our Schools (SOS) Network declared that their Lumad schools were subject to militarization in Talaingod. Government soldiers and Alamara used these schools as temporary military camps, barracks, shelters, outposts, or storage of weapons and belongings, contradicting its nature as “zones of peace” to be protected under the International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

“Lumad schools taught literacy and numeracy alongside agroecology, Indigenous knowledge systems, arts, livelihood skills, and community health. Children learned their history, their relationship to land, and their responsibility to protect ancestral territory,” SOS Network wrote. “This is precisely why they were later treated as threats.”



Julietta Gomez in a closed-door meeting with the media

DOMINIC GUTOMAN/BULATLAT

Despite the long-standing harassment and exclusion, the schools were registered with the Security and Exchange Commission, accredited by local government units, and recognized by the Department of Education under the Indigenous Peoples Education framework.

“For thousands of Lumad children, these schools were not alternatives. They were the only schools they had,” SOS Network added.

In a televised news conference in July 2017, Duterte threatened to bomb the Lumad schools and accused them of teaching students to become rebels.

“I will use the armed forces, the Philippine air force. I’ll really have those bombed because you are operating illegally and you are teaching the children to rebel against the government,” Duterte said.

More than the disruption of their lives, the Lumad people struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Lumad teacher Rose Hayahay testified before the International People’s Tribunal (IPT) in May 2024, recalling that even in the New Year’s Eve celebration, the Lumad children who were staying in Manila would recoil in horror at the sound of exploding firecrackers.

Hayahay said that the attacks intensified since Duterte declared Martial Law in 2017. “When martial law was declared in Mindanao, no less than 75 percent of the regular Armed Forces of the Philippines were deployed there.”

The IPT panel of jurors, composed of legal experts and international human rights personalities, gave Duterte and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. a guilty verdict for war crimes against the Filipino people and IHL violations.

Criminalization of solidarity

The Talaingod case stemmed from a November 2018 solidarity mission to bring food and other essentials to Lumad students of the Salugpongan Ta’Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center Inc. (STTICLC) and the Community Technical College of Southeastern Mindanao (CTCSM) in the hinterlands of Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

The police claimed that the mission was not coordinated with the authorities and that members of the mission were kidnapping students and teachers they fetched in the night.

But the Talaingod 13 and indigenous peoples rights groups denied the accusations, saying the mission was properly coordinated with the local authorities.

Castro, one of the convicted in the Talaingod case, said that she willingly went to the national solidarity mission as a teacher and a lawmaker then.

“I have all the right and the authority then to rescue the children,” said Castro. “These missions are not new to me because I previously joined them even prior to my stint as a Congresswoman.”

Castro has been a key figure targeted by disinformation campaigns and even by incumbent Vice President Sara Duterte. She is instrumental in exposing the alleged misuse of confidential funds under the Office of the Vice President in 2022 amounting to P125 million and P500 million for the Department of Education in 2023 as then-Education secretary.

Due to this case, Castro said that she could no longer go to Mindanao. “I receive numerous threats in social media when the court convicted me, ranging from personal attacks, sexual harassment, rape, and death threats.”

The online harassment also extended to physical harm. While she was campaigning in the 2025 midterm elections, an unidentified man tried to block her to tell her that she is a convict and that she should be in jail.

On January 5 this year, Castro and the rest of Talaingod defenders filed a motion for reconsideration from the decision of the Court of Appeals that affirmed the initial decision of “unjust conviction.” The case remains on appeal.

The rest of the Talaingod defenders were volunteer teachers and indigenous peoples rights defenders. “When teaching must be fought for, it ceases to be an ordinary job. It becomes a vocation,” SOS Network wrote.

Ma. Eugenia Victory Nolasco is an educator and environmental defender. She was the executive director of the Salugpongan Ta’Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center (Salugpongan Schools), an educational institution established in 2007 by the indigenous peoples’ group Salugpongan Ta’Tanu Igkanogon (Unity in Defense of our Ancestral Lands), with the support of a religious organization.

Nerfa Awing, then 22, a non-Lumad volunteer teacher who taught while trying to save for college. Marianne Aga, then 21, a Blaan Lumad and education graduate who returned to save the Indigenous communities and trained teachers. Jenevie Sedigo Paraba, then 25, taught in the village of Nasilaban, travelling long distances and preparing lessons for the Lumad schools.

Ma. Concepcion Ibarra served as school registrar. Maricel O. Andagkit is a Manobo agronomist from North Cotabato who coordinated nineteen Salugpongan schools in Talaingod. Nerhaya Flores Talledo, a licensed professional teacher from Compostela Valley served as the Basic Education Head. Satur Ocampo, former Bayan Muna Representative and a martial law survivor.



Former ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. France Castro, Former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, and Angelika Moral

DOMINIC GUTOMAN/BULATLAT

“The government’s counterinsurgency program is the overarching factor behind the case of Talaingod,” said Ocampo. “I was imprisoned for so long. I do not fear to be detained again. But the basis of the ruling is almost irrelevant and inconsequential.”

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders Mary Lawlor expressed deep concern about the conviction of the teachers and indigenous peoples rights defenders, fearing that their charges are linked to their work on the protection of indigenous children’s right to education.

“We are concerned that the criminalization of their human rights work might set a dangerous precedent and have a chilling effect on the civic space in the Philippines, resulting in the silencing of defenders of indigenous peoples’ rights and deterring individuals from expressing dissent and exercising the right to defend the rights of others,” Lawlor wrote in an official communications with the Philippine government.

The Philippine government responded by red-tagging the schools, saying that those are “training camps for child combatants.” The government also added that the closure of the schools was “done in accordance with procedures and respect of the human rights of the children.”

The official response of the government devoid of any context about the abuses of the paramilitary group Alamara and the militarization of the Lumad schools, and the human rights violations linked to the state and non-state actors.

“When child-protection laws are stripped out of context, intent, and lived reality, they cease to function as instruments of protection. They become weapons,” SOS Network added. “Instead of safeguarding children, they punish those who step in to care for them when formal systems fail.”

It has been and continues to be a long battle for Moral, who survived the violence of paramilitary elements, and the Talaingod 13 who rescued them. They vow that they will continue to exhaust all means until the truth prevails.

“The continuing struggle of the Lumad for their ancestral lands and self determination is a source of strength,” Castro said in Filipino, “I will not hesitate to help them again if the circumstances call for it.” ■

Philippines on human rights watchlist due to crackdown on dissent

by Dominic Gutoman | Published by Bulatlat, March 26, 2026

THE PHILIPPINES FACES GREATER SCRUTINY as global human rights watchdog CIVICUS added the country to the Monitor Watchlist flagging serious concerns about its crackdown on dissent, criminalizing protesters and targeting activists.

“There is a deeply troubling pattern of state actions against protests that is restricting the democratic space and stifling fundamental freedoms,” said Josef Benedict, CIVICUS Monitor Asia researcher on the watchlist released March 25, 2026. “It is creating a chilling effect for many in the Philippines who seek to speak out and organise.”

The Philippines has been rated “Repressed” for five consecutive years, the second worst rating a country can receive, indicating severe restrictions to the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association.

Benedict told *Bulatlat* that it started in December 2020, during the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte, and has not changed ever since.

The recent crackdown on protests and protesters in the Philippines is the reason the country has been added to the human rights watchlist. It serves to send signals to the international community about the countries where civic space has come under increasing attack.

CIVICUS enumerated the reasons for the inclusion of the Philippines in the watchlist.

On September 21, 2025, the major anti-corruption protest in the Philippines resulted with widespread police violence and arbitrary arrest.

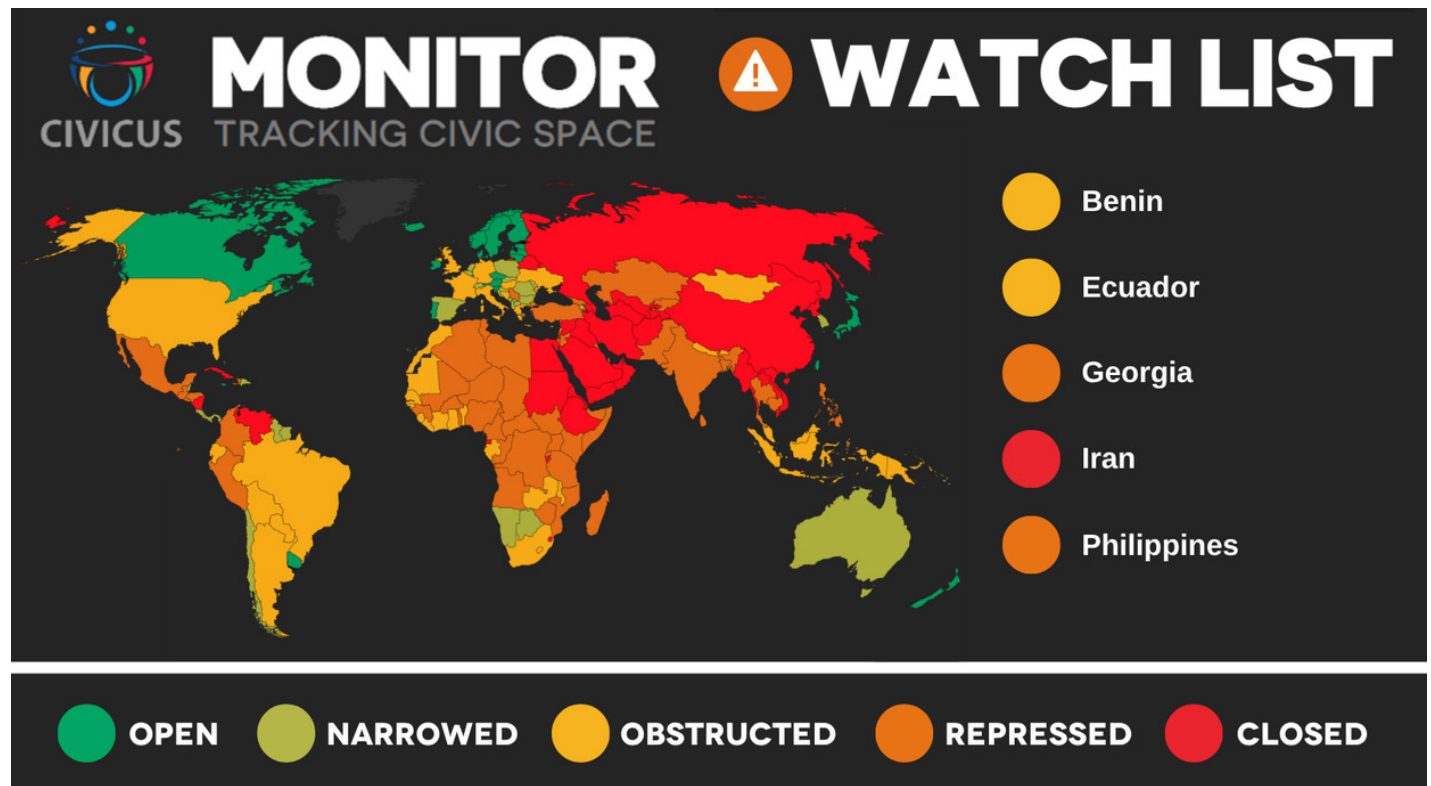
More than 215 people, among them 91 children, were detained and denied access to lawyers and their families.

Numerous protesters reported inhumane treatment that may amount to torture or ill-treatment during the arrest and their detention.

These cases were confirmed by first responder lawyers from the National Union of People’s Lawyers (NUPL), Public Interest Law Center (PILC), Karapatan, and Sentro para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo (Sentra).

A separate report from the Philippine chapter of Amnesty International also corroborated the incidents.

“My whole body had been subjected to beating by three police officers while dragging me from a tent,” victim Luke Malimban told *Bulatlat* in a separate story. “Not a single person arrived in the blue tent without a bloody face and wounds. We were not fighting back, but the police were persistent.”



CIVICUS Monitor Watchlist as of March 2026 includes the Philippines with a Civic Space Rating of "Repressed"

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Malimban also exposed the dire conditions inside the detention facilities. He recalled being forced to sleep in a standing position because of the congestion, on an uncemented and mossy floor in a room without sunlight.

It took three days for him to even get to change his clothes, which had been soaked with sweat and still had traces of water cannons and tear gas.

He was sleep deprived and had no food to eat until a visitor brought some.

“The conditions were inhumane. It is not even suitable for animals,” he added.

But that was not enough for the Philippine government.

After being freed from their unlawful detention, many activists have also been criminalized.

In November 2025, the Department of Justice initiated criminal proceedings against 97 protesters for sedition and inciting to sedition under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

“Telling the truth is not sedition; it is the people’s right,” said Aldrin Kitsune, secretary general of anti-corruption group Kalayaan Kontra Korapsyon (KKK), after filing his counter-affidavit before the DOJ.

Subpoenas related to sedition were also issued for movement leaders such as Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) president Renato Reyes Jr., as well as several student leaders: Jacob Baluyot, national chairperson of Alyansa ng Kabataang Mamamahayag and associate editor of *The Catalyst*; Tiffany Faith Brillante, president of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Sentral na Konseho ng Mag-aaral; Joaquin Buenaflor, chairperson of the University of the Philippines Diliman University Student Council.

The repression did not stop at the anti-corruption protests either.

During the commemoration of the 40th year since the People Power Uprising on February 25, the police arrested human rights defenders Edel Parducho and Three Odeña.

The watchlist also took note of the arrest of seven anti-mining protesters in Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya on January 23, who were continuously defending their community from the mining exploration of British-owned Woggle Corp.

The cases against the seven individuals — resistance and disobedience against persons in authority — were later junked by the prosecutors and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has since suspended the company’s permit for mining exploration.

CIVICUS also flagged the escalated use of fabricated terrorism-financing charges against human rights defenders, land rights advocates, labor organizers, and journalists.

In January 2026, community journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio and church worker Marielle Domequil were convicted of terrorism-financing charges after nearly six years of pre-trial detention.

The court denied their petition for bail the following month, raising further concerns about the misuse of counter-terrorism laws.

The same law was used against activist Carmilo Tabada and Cordillera labor leader Michael Cabangon last December 2025. They were freed in the same month after posting bail but prosecution continues.

“During a period when public accountability is urgently needed, authorities are choosing to use restrictive laws to criminalise activists and journalists rather than address legitimate public concerns,” said Benedict.

The resistance of Filipino people to human rights violations is also included in the global report of the organization released earlier this month. Particularly, it spotlighted the clamor against anomalous flood control projects and the drug war families’ quest for justice on Rodrigo Duterte’s case before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“The international community must not remain silent but call on the Philippines government to adhere to their international human rights obligations to ensure the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and to drop all charges against activists,” Benedict added.

For human rights group Karapatan, the Philippines’ inclusion in the global watchlist confirms their assessment on the dire human rights situation in the country.

“CIVICUS confirms our view that the climate of impunity persists through the infrastructure of impunity,” Karapatan Secretary General Cristina Palabay told *Bulatlat*, referring to the government policies that disallow the full exercise of dissent, freedoms of expression, assembly and association, and the people’s right to information.

She further affirmed that the situation on the ground exposes that laws are used to criminalize human rights defenders, dubbing the penal system as cruel and punitive for imprisoning innocent and democracy fighters.

The Philippines is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, having ratified the convention in October 1986. This makes them accountable to violations of civil and political rights in the international community. CIVICUS and Karapatan have been persistent in sending reports of violations before the United Nations Human Rights Council.

“We call on Filipinos to persist in denouncing the draconian policies of Marcos Jr. and his regime’s fascist attacks against the people,” Palabay said. “We enjoin the international community to stand in solidarity with Filipinos in demanding justice and accountability.” ■

A doctor's unwavering service, from communities to jail

by Kimberlie Quitasol | Published by Northern Dispatch, April 3, 2026

PHYSICIAN ANA MARIE RILLORAZA, known to many in the Cordillera as “Doc Ana,” spent her birthday on March 29 in jail, yet her commitment to healing the community has not wavered.

She continued what she has been doing for decades, providing health care for underserved communities, only now, the people she serves are behind bars.

Doc Ana was among the seven individuals arrested in a joint police and military raid in Tarlac City on March 11. The Philippine Army’s 5th Infantry Division accused them of membership with the Ilocos-Cordillera Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Authorities tagged her as a ranking official, with charges of murder and attempted murder. She now faces at least nine cases, including an allegation of crimes against humanity in Ilocos Sur.

Dr. Edelina Dela Paz, chair of the Health Alliance for Democracy, said that Doc Ana, as she is affectionately called, remained in high spirits when they visited her on her birthday at the Ilocos Sur Provincial Jail in Bantay.

They brought her a stethoscope, a blood pressure apparatus, a pulse oximeter, and supplies for blood sugar testing to help her attend to patients more efficiently.

Dela Paz said that fellow inmates, upon learning she was a doctor, began seeking consultations from her. She noted that despite limited equipment, Doc Ana started diagnosing common health concerns among inmates, including hypertension and diabetes.

She also started holding health education sessions, focusing on prevention. Among those she identified as needing improvement are sanitation, hygiene, and access to water inside the jail.

Before her visitors left, Doc Ana handed them a list of medicines needed in the facility.

Serving communities

Dela Paz said Doc Ana’s commitment to community health was evident when she chose community service over private practice.

Right after completing the accelerated Intermediate program at the University of the Philippines Manila, Doc Ana joined the Community Development Health Foundation and worked among Mangyan communities in Mindoro.

She later continued her work with the Community Health Education Services and Training in the Cordillera Region (CHESTCORE) and taught at the Saint Louis University College of Medicine in Baguio City. Her knowledge and skills also played a vital role in the Save the



Dr. Ana Rilloraza checks on a patient during a medical mission in the disaster-affected community in Benguet after Typhoon Pepeng, a Category III storm that crossed Northern Luzon three times from October 3-9, 2009.

CHESTCORE

Abra River Movement, where she documented the effects of large-scale mining on public health and the environment.

Dela Paz emphasized that many health issues can be prevented if ongoing problems with access to clean water and environmental degradation are addressed. “Health cannot be isolated from social and economic conditions,” she said.

People’s doctor

Rayne Suyam of CHESTCORE said Doc Ana embodies the true spirit of a community doctor, walking side by side with the people.

Her immersion in communities, Suyam said, was not symbolic but lived. She participated in farming activities, learned about local ways of life, and studied the economic realities of the families she stayed with.

In one instance, she recalled the doctor computing a farmer’s income and finding that months of labor fell below the minimum wage, an insight she saw as inseparable from health.

“She passes the knowledge to communities and empowers them to take care of their health,” Suyam said, adding that Doc Ana goes beyond treating illness. “She listens to their concerns and joins them in their struggle, whether for their right to health, human rights, or for the defense of their land and resources.”



Doc Ana conducts a basic health care training in Kalinga, working with communities to strengthen grassroots health care.

CHESTCORE

For Erlinda Palaganas, a nurse and lecturer at UP Manila, Doc Ana sees health as “not as a service provided to people, but as a process developed with them.” This approach, she adds, defines her work.

“She invested time in listening to communities, understanding their lived realities, and recognizing the social conditions that shape health,” Palaganas said.

She described Doc Ana’s work as demonstrating deep empathy, recalling how she cared for a young mother with a malnourished infant, not just by providing treatment but also by listening attentively. She mentioned that the doctor saw such cases as reflections of larger social and economic issues.

“Her work reflects values that many of us in the health professions uphold: compassion, respect for human dignity, and a commitment to making health care accessible to those who need it most,” Palaganas added.

Arrest and concerns

Dr. Reginaldo Pamugas of Health Action for Human Rights said he monitored Doc Ana’s condition following her arrest.

Her account of the event, he recalled, was all too familiar.

Soldiers without nameplates and with covered faces raided the house where she was staying before dawn, with about 100 police and military personnel surrounding it.

Doc Ana immediately identified herself as a doctor attending to patients as the soldiers swarmed in. She noticed one of the men bringing a large bag into a room. Barangay officials entered only after the soldiers left, after they had laid out supposed evidence, including firearms and explosives.

She was brought to the Candon City jail on March 15, before being transferred to the provincial jail.

“While she was not physically harmed, the dawn arrest and transfers, without knowing where she would be taken, caused significant stress as she feared for her life,” Pamugas said.

Growing call for release

On March 30, various health groups launched a campaign to free Doc Ana and another health worker arrested with her, Marc Mendiola. Earlier, CHESTCORE and several health groups have also called for her release.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Eleanor Jara of the Council for Health and Development, their cases reflect the risks faced by health workers who choose to serve underserved communities.

Jara drew parallels to the case of the Morong 43, where trumped-up charges against the detained health workers were dropped, and they were released following sustained campaigns.

“Hearing what happened to them is truly enraging and saddening at the same time, that good people who have been serving in the communities are being maltreated and even jailed,” Jara said. ■



ALTERMIDYA NETWORK