

REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN MINDANAO

This is a partial list of violent suppression of people's protests over land disputes, labor rights, and environmental pollution.

The perpetrators of violence were not apprehended and no amends were made.

The same harsh measures to quell protests occur in many provinces of our country from Luzon to the Visayas, including in the National Capital Region.

An undetermined number of workers were killed and several were wounded by the security forces of Lapanday Food Corporation (owned by the Lorenzo-Lobregat family) in Tagum City, Davao del Norte on December 12, 2006. The protesters were members of the MARDAUM Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Inc.

Jimmy Liguyon a Matigsalog leader was killed in Bukidnon in 2012. He was protesting encroachment of plantation estate into IP homeland. The killer was already identified as Butsoy Salusod, often seen in the company of soldires and policemen, and the head of the newly-organized paramilitary civilian armed group called the "New IP Army for Reform".

Three members of the Higaonon people, opposed to the encroachment of the Ramcar cattle ranch into their farms in Lupiangan, Sumilao, Bukidnon, were killed by the Ramcar Security guards in July 2012.

Gilbert Pamorada, a Higaonon, was killed on October 3, 2012 by government troops. He was protesting the expansion of DOLE palm oil plantation in Polomolok that led to loss of tribal lands. Pamorada also led protests against unfair labor practices of the corporation.

Dagul Capton, a Bilaan opposed to mining operations in Bong Mal Tampakan, was able to escape when his house was strafed with bullets, however his pregnant wife and two children were killed, on October 18, 2012.

Five Manobos were killed in Pangutukan, Bukidnon in August 2015.

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Emerito Samarca, 54, married with 4 children, one of the organizers of the Alternative Learning Center for Agriculture and Livelihood Development, a school for Lumad children. He was tortured and killed on September 1, 2015 in Han Ayan, Brgy Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur. The community had been protesting the mining operations in their area. Also killed were **Dionelle Campos** and **Bello Shinzo** who were also community organizers.

Datu Dionel Magahat was killed in Lianga, Surigao del Sur on September 1, 2015.

Residents from drought-stricken North Cotabato – Indigenous People, and small farmers, organized a protest rally in March 2016 on the inability of government to extend relief goods such as food, seeds, & medicine. The police dispersed the rallyists by shooting into the crowd. At least two people were killed and an unknown number were wounded.

Datu Herminio Samia age 70, together with children and relatives. They were shot one by one in sitio Mando, Brgy Mendis, Pangutukan in Bukidnon by AFP soldiers in 2016. They were accused of being members of the NPA.

Jimmy Saypan, Secretary General of the Compostela Farmers' Association was killed by unknown gunmen in Montevista on October 10, 2016.

The **Sumilao Farmers**, the Higaonon in Sumilao, Bukidnon. They struggled for decades to retrieve their ancestral domain. Their ordeal follows the general pattern of land grabbing in our country— wealthy and powerful sectors obtain land titles since Indigenous People and poor settler farmers do not have land titles. The process of land titling requires money and involves prolonged and complicated legal and bureaucratic processes. Their 144 hectares of land was claimed by two wealthy Cebuanos, Salvador Carlos and Norberto Quisumbing. The latter leased his portion to the Del Monte Corporation, while Salvador Carlos relinquished his title and returned the land to the Sumilao tribe. After the Sumilao farmers demanded the return of their lands from Quisumbing, he leased it to San Miguel, obtaining support from government authorities including the Supreme Court which decided in favor of San Miguel. The Sumilao farmers pressed their claim by undergoing hunger strikes. In 2007 they organized a protest march from Bukidnon to Manila, covering a 1,700 kilometer stretch. They were supported by thousands of people along the way and galvanized others' resolve to fight rampant land grabbing in the country. Eventually the central authorities yielded and they were able to get back their lands. The Sumilao farmers demonstrated too their rational and more egalitarian allocation, use and management of the land for production of their food and other necessities.

They escaped being poorly-paid and badly-treated plantation workers, which is the fate of thousands of landless Filipinos in Mindanao. To get back their land the Sumilao farmers underwent displacement, beatings from plantation guards, and loss of lives including one of their leaders. In 2016, **Rene Panasi**, 51 years old from Barangay San Vicente, Bukidnon was killed. Wounded were **Eliezar Penas** and **Samson Dollete**.

A pregnant woman was shot dead and fifty others were wounded in Tibugawan, barangay Kawayan, San Fernando, Bukidnon during a wedding celebration on July 30, 2016.

Veronico Delamente, a Mamanwa chief was killed on January 20, 2017. He was opposing mining operations of Mindanao Mining Development Corporation in Claver, Surigao del Norte.

Renato Anglao, a Pulangihon Manobo, was killed on February 3, 2017 for opposing the encroachment on their farms by the Tindoga Plantation Corporation in Bukidnon.

Matanem Lorenzo Pocuan was killed on February 20, 2017, he was suspected of agitating in behalf of Lumad land rights in Bukidnon.

Ande Latuan, an Umayanon Lumad and a member of the *Federasyon sa mga Asosyasyonng Mag-uuma ng Lumad sa Agusan ug Davao*, was arrested in Cabangsalan, Bukidnon on June 27, 2017. His whereabouts are unknown.

Laborers who went on strike against unfair labor practices by the management of the South Korean agri-business firm Shin-Sun Tropical Fruit Corporation were arrested and beaten up by armed guards in July, 2017.

Eight Tboli were killed and two Dulangan Manobo were wounded on December 3, 2017. They were opposing the building of a dam in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

Farmers protesting loss of their lands were violently dispersed by police in Kidapawan, Cotabato. In April 2017; two protesters were killed.

Farmers in Laak, Compostela Valley were violently dispersed for protesting loss of their farms to mining companies.

Pedro Arnado and three companions, members of the labor organization *Anak Pawis*, were arrested in Barangay Lasang, Bunawan District, Davao in 2017.

Farmers protested loss of their lands to Tagum Agricultural Development Corporation in Carmen town, Tagum, Davao del Norte in 2016-2017.

Several residents of Tabuan Lasa, Basilan were killed including small children for still unknown reasons by unidentified groups.

Davao civilians criticize the surreptitious manner of the disposition of 5,212.46 hectares of Davao Penal Colony to the Tagum Agricultural Development Corporation, a private company, when disposition of such public lands are supposedly under the authority of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) intended to benefit landless peasants.

Villerme Agorde, was killed. He was a leader of the Mai-Illuminado Farmers Association. The farmers were losing their lands to the Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology in barangay Doroluman, Arakan, North Cotabato.

Lumad Diyamanuwa School pupils, teachers and parents were threatened with eviction by the Integrated Forestry Company established by DMCI (David Mendoza Consunji, Inc.), who was able to obtain 102,954 hectares of forest concession covering Daguma mountain range in Sultan Kudarat, home to Lumad communities. Consunji also acquired tracts of land in Davao where he raised cattle.

Members of Tagdumahan, an organization opposed to massive logging and large-scale mining in Surigao del Sur, were killed: **Jerry Lanuza** from barangay Balit was shot three times; **Jimmy Barrosa** from barangay Kasilkayan; **Joselito Pasaporte**, a Mansaka youth organizer, was shot in Mabini, Compostela Valley. All were accused of being members of the NPA.

Aeshad Ayao, a journalist and regional officer of the Bangsa Moro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao for Human rights in Cotabato City was shot on May 1, 2019. The still unidentified assailants riding a motorcycle shot Ayao several times while riding a tricycle. The driver of the motorcycle was also killed. Ayao's remains were brought back to his hometown in Katui, Sultan Kudarat.

Fedelina Margarita “Gingging” Avellanosa was nabbed by agents of the CIDG¹ (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) at Laguindingin airport on June 9, 2019 on her way to Davao City. Avellanosa, 61 was a social worker, journalist, and community organizer of IP's and poor villagers and was working together with the nuns of Assumption Missionaries. As of this writing, no news of her whereabouts is known.

¹ [Investigation arm of the Philippine National Police]

Villagers of Sitio Camansi, Lagonggong, fled to escape the crossfire when AFP contingents entered their village in pursuit of NPA rebels. The villagers put up temporary shelters in the plaza of Cagayan de Oro City. While some of the refugees have sought shelter elsewhere, 133 people, mostly women and children remain and refuse to return to Camansi because AFP contingents remain camped in their village. As of this writing, the city government demolished their temporary shelters and ordered the refugees to leave the plaza.

The Mindanao Inter Faith Institution on Lumad Studies, Healing the People Hurt by Conflicts of the Rural Missionaries with the support of the European Union, Human Rights Watch, Karapatan, and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center together report that under the nine years of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's term in office at least 89 IPs were killed. During the term of Benigno Simeon Aquino III, at least 102 IPs were killed. The reports include those who were wounded, jailed, imprisoned or disappeared. During President Rodrigo Duterte's administration so far ten IPs have been killed. Apart from using paramilitary civilian armed groups like the "New IP Army for Reform" the government military forces also mobilize Christian groups against IPs. These include "Jesus Christ, a Name Above All Names" in areas belonging to the Bagobo.

Almost all kinds of protests however peaceful are viewed by the military and government officials as machinations of insurgents and rebels. Suppression, harassment, even killing of protesters have been justified as part of counter-insurgency operations by the military. There is no guarantee that killings, arrests, torment of Lumad, laborers and ordinary civilians will stop under the presidency of Rodrigo Roa Duterte who seems to tolerate abuses of the military, police and security guards of big businessmen and corporations.

The displacement of villagers, IPs, and poor farmers continues in Mindanao. This is a phenomenon occurring in many parts of the globe where there are social-economic conflicts. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees estimates that over 78 million people are displaced globally.

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