



July-September 2023:

# Civilians used as trophies for AFP bogus victory on Negros Island

VIOLATION	# OF CASES	# OF VICTIMS
Extrajudicial killing	5	10
Abduction	1	2
Enforced disappearance	1	1
Violation of the rights of hors de combat	2	6
Illegal arrest	5	12
Illegal detention	2	11 <i>(7 were children)</i>
Physical assault and/or injury	7	12
Indiscriminate firing	3	40 <i>(14 were children)</i>
Indiscriminate shelling	2	1,000
Illegal search and seizure	3	10 <i>(6 were children)</i>
Threat, harassment and intimidation	29	1,150 <i>(14 were children)</i>
Destruction of property	1	5 <i>(3 were children)</i>
Forcible evacuation and displacement	3	1,133
Encampment in populated areas	19	950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>4,342</b>

THE FILIPINO PEOPLE CANNOT SEE any ray of light under the Marcos II regime. They further suffer in poverty and hunger while both Marcos Jr and Sara Duterte factions grab billions of funds for their own. The Philippines is continuously buried in debt already reaching Php14.35 trillion which serves as a source of corruption.

In Negros, ceaseless brutality and state terrorism initiated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Visayas Command (AFP-VisCom) Chief Lt. Gen. Benedict Arevalo, 3rd Infantry Division Commander MGen. Marion Sison, 303rd Brigade Commander BGen. Orlando Edralin and 302nd Brigade Commander BGen. Joey Escanillas persists with the ordeal of the people. They fantasize of defeating the revolutionary movement on Negros Island this year. Utilizing billions of funds of the AFP, Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac, including the Barangay Development Program (BDP), they intensify even more state-sponsored violence which primarily targets peasants.

In the third quarter of 2023, Ang Paghimkas recorded 83 cases of human right violations on the island, involving more than 4,300 victims. It already extended to 485 cases of human rights violations in Negros Island under Marcos Jr regime. The state committed such serious war crimes in violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and

Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols.

In their desperation to accomplish their deadline on December 31 this year, the AFP, PNP and NTF-Elcac tirelessly chase after Negrosanons whom they suspect to be NPA members or supporters to parade them as so-called surrenderees and present them as trophies of their bogus victory. Rights of civilians, including hors de combat or those without the capacity to resist, are no longer respected.

State forces brag about their deeds and insist on their lies in asserting the “legitimacy” of their operations despite the fact that they are evidently fascists and executioners. They play blind and deaf and ignore the victims' cry for justice.

From July to September, the Negrosanons fell victim to abductions, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, illegal arrests, bombings, indiscriminate firing and other violations.

### Abduction

Armed men wearing bonnets abducted peasant organizer Deah Lopez, 26 years old, and Peter Agravante, 30 years old, driver of the tricycle Lopez rode on, while travelling along the road of Brgy. Gil Montilla, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental last September 15, past 10:00 in the morning. According to witnesses of the incident, a white van blocked the two and forced them inside the vehicle. The tricycle was also loaded into a pick-up truck. Deah Lopez re-

mains missing while Agravante was found dead in Basay town, Negros Oriental.

Lopez is the 4th desaparecido case in Negros under the Marcos II regime, alongside Lyngrace Marturillas, Denald Mialen and Renel de los Santos.

### Extrajudicial killing

Peter Agravante was already a lifeless body when found last September 16 in the morning at Satori Cliff, Brgy. Nagbo-alao, Basay, almost 14 hours after he was abducted. His hands were tied by rope while duct tape was used to tie his feet. His mouth and eyes were also covered with duct tape and there was a bullet wound on his head. According to residents, it was past midnight on that date, when a white pick-up truck stopped by the highway and threw something over the cliff.

The butcher 47th IB brutally massacred five hors de combat and a civilian in Kabankalan City. Three medical personnel of the NPA, namely Ka Rekey (Bobby Pedro), Ka Goring (Mario Mullen) and Ka Joyce (Janice Flores), together with a couple on medical leave, Ka Bravo (Alejo delos Reyes) and wife Ka Diane (Melissa dela Peña) who was six months pregnant, were travelling along Sitio Lubi, Brgy. Tabugon, on a rented tricycle driven by Robin Gaitan, last September 21, 7:50 in the evening, when elements of 47th IB indiscriminately fired on them.

According to the Armando Sumayang Jr Command (ASJC-

## *July-September 2023:*

**83** *violations of human rights*

**4,342** *victims*

## *Negros Island under Marcos Jr rule:*

**485** *cases of violation of CARHRIHL and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols*

**36,266** *victims*

**53** *of the cases directly involved more than 200 children*

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SPECIAL ISSUE



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NPA), Gaitan was not a NPA member and no encounter happened in the said area. Additionally, they entertained the possibility that those who survived the ambush were finished off.

Romy Catasio and Marvic Ebarle (Ka Bryan) were shot dead by 62nd IB troopers last July 20, past 11:00 in the evening, at Sitio Balungay, Brgy. Montilla, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental. They were waiting for a motorcycle for hire when a gray van suddenly came and shot them to death.

Ka Bryan was on medical leave after his knee was wounded during a counter-offensive of the Leonardo Panaligan Command (LPC-NPA) against the 62nd IB last May 20 at Sitio Cupad, Brgy. Macagahay, Moises Padilla, meanwhile Catasio served as his caregiver.

Members of the 62nd IB terminated farmer Jonasio Blasco as he was found wounded after the said military elements strafed his house last August 5, past 9:00 in the morning at Sitio Cansimba, Brgy. Quintin Remo, of the aforementioned town.

### Illegal arrest

Two senior citizen farmers were illegally arrested by combined troops of the 94th IB and Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB)-6 in separate dates at Sitio Cunalom, Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental.

Lodorico But-ay was arrested on July 28 for allegedly being a commanding officer (CO) of the militia unit. He was also accused of rape. While, Romeo Balsimo was arrested on August 7 on a trumped-up charge that he was a member of the militia unit and was involved in the armed encounter between the Mt. Cansermon Command (MCC-NPA) and 94th IB last April 19, 2020.

But-ay and Balsimo are members of Farmers Association of Brgy. Carabalan (FABCA) and the Indigenous Peoples.

Furthermore, two farmers were illegally arrested in a Joint Enhanced Military and Police Operations mobilizing 200 combined troops of the 62nd IB and 300th Air Intelligence Wing of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) of the AFP; and the Binalbagan Municipal Police Station, 2nd Negros Occidental Police Mobile Force Company (2NOCPMFC), 61st Special Action Force Battalion (6SAB), and Regional Intelligence Unit 6 of the PNP at Sitio Mainit, Brgy. Santol, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental at daybreak of September 10.

Arrested were Judy Blazer, 60 years old, and Junjie Camanso, 30 years old, on an accusation of links to the NPA and other trumped-up charges.

Blazer is almost blind and has difficulty walking.

Blazer was a former member of fanatic group "Greenan" funded by the AFP in the 90s but he did not stay long as he could not stomach the wicked activities of the group and the military. He was targeted and hunted by the military since many of his fellow "Greenan" left the group with him.

Meanwhile, the 15th IB illegally arrested eight farmers (five were senior citizens) in Sitio Tugas, Brgy. Pinggot, Ilog, Negros Occidental on July 29. They were accused of the murder of Silas Granada a.k.a. Nacar, who was a notorious land-grabber and a regular agent of 15th IB punished by the ASJC-NPA last January 28. The arrested farmers were beneficiaries of the land previously controlled by the Granadas.

### Indiscriminate shelling

The 62nd IB fired mortars from their detachment at Brgy. Villegas, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, last August 5, from 5:00 until 6:30 in the morning. They then claimed of engaging Red fighters of the LPC-NPA at Sitio Li-ong, of the neighboring Brgy. Imelda.

In Sibalay City, Negros Occidental, the 15th IB and the 3rd Artillery Division of the Philippine Army launched 14 cannon shells on Sitio Don Jose, Brgy. Manlucahoc last August 16, from 9:30 in the morning to 8:30 in the evening.

The howitzer cannon was situated at Barasbarasan Detachment in Brgy. Camindangan of the same city. According to the AFP, the bombings were authorized by Brgy. Captain Sergio Libre of Brgy. Manlucahoc and Sibalay City Mayor Gina Montilla Lizares.

The AFP gave 800 residents only a day to gather their livestock and evacuate from the area.





### Illegal detention

Farmers Jemson and Gaudel Villar were brought to the center of Sitio Camboguiot, Brgy. Camindangan, Sipalay City and were illegally detained there for several hours by elements of the 15th IB last July 22. If they were not fetched by their wives, they would not have been able to go home.

### Indiscriminate firing

Members of the RMFB-7 indiscriminately fired a grenade launcher at Sitio Amaga, Brgy. Balugo and Sitio Mandi-e Dako, Brgy. Magsaysay, Guihulngan City past 8:00 in the morning last August 3.

Meanwhile, 94th IB soldiers fired a M203 grenade launcher five times, twice in the morning and three times in the afternoon, at Sitio Cantupa-Pisok, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City, on August 17. Most affected were the Mariano family and Martinez family, including 11 minors.

The 94th IB troops ransacked the house of the Martinez family and traumatized four children (aged 2-16) after being driven out of their home. The mother and her children were forced to divulge the whereabouts of the NPA and were threatened of harm if they expose what the military has done. Soldiers did not immediately leave their house after the incident.

The 94th IB also interrogated the Mariano family, including six children and a month-old baby, when the family met the said soldiers while crossing the river on their way to a nearby sitio.

Before this, the 94th IB troops shouted and fired their guns causing the children to cry. The family was detained for a long time despite being drenched under the heavy rain.

### Physical assault

Five farmers were assaulted by 62nd IB troops in Brgy. Budlasan, Canlaon City on July 6.

Edward Sandot was covered with bruises after he was beaten by the said military unit around 5:00 in the morning, in front of his wife and children after denying knowledge about a wounded NPA. Their house was wrecked after the military ransacked and searched their belongings. The incident traumatized his children.

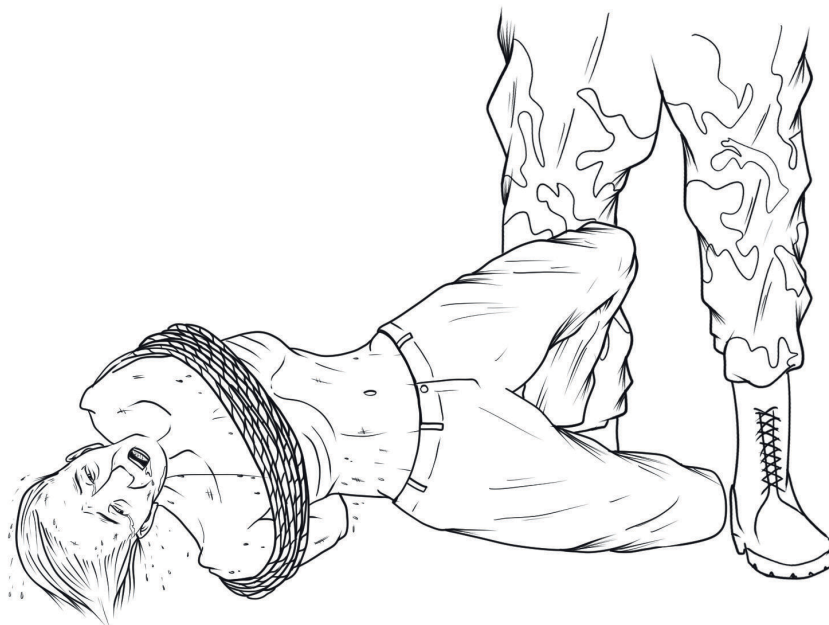
While, Budok Sandot could barely get up after he was battered by a different unit of the 62nd IB inside his house at Sitio Hinumayan in the same barrio, 8:00 in the morning on the same day. Christopher Sandot got involved in the assault incident of the said troop as he went to Budok's house to pay his debt.

The 62nd IB also assailed Joselito Patulada of Sitio Katuguisan and Roberto Francisco of Sitio Uyangan.

On the last week of July, six farmers were likewise victims of assault instigated by the 94th IB in Sitio Cunalom, Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City. They were accused of being members or supporters of the NPA. One of the victims, named Nono Balsimo, sustained multiple bruises. He was suspected of being a militia involved in an encounter between the MCC-NPA and 94th IB last April 19, 2020.

### Threat, harassment and intimidation

From June 23 to July 7, 62nd IB soldiers illegally entered houses and conducted a census in sitios Gomuktok and Cansampo, Brgy. Bagtic, La Libertad, Negros Oriental, claiming that they were tasked by the National Statistics Office (NSO) to do the job. The said military threatened farmers and forced them to admit being NPA supporters.





The same happened to the residents of Sitio Cantupa, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City on July 2. Troops of the 94th IB conducted a census and took pictures per family. The 94th IB has implemented ceaseless military operations since June that sowed terror among the people.

In Sitio Amaga of the same barangay, Betmar Pacheco, a farmer, was interrogated by 94th IB troopers last July 9 and they chased after his pregnant wife who, out of fear, ran towards their neighbor's house.

Mother and son Gamay and Bansong Pacheco and Kokoy Bayles, ordinary peasants, were threatened by 94th IB soldiers at Sitio Cunalom, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City on the last week of July. Pacheco and Bayles were told that they will be killed and burned by the said military while Gamay was accused of giving the NPA the money she collected from donations for a family whose house burned down in the nearby sitio. They were accused of links to the NPA.

The 94th IB conducted "loudspeaker operations" in Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City on September 1 as part of their Community Support Program (CSP). Using loudspeakers, a soldier belonging to the said military unit announced the names of suspected NPA supporters for them to surrender.

In Southeast Negros, two farmers were forced to surrender to state forces and were presented as Red fighters of the Rachelle Mae Palang Command (RMPC-NPA) in separate incidents.

Tonying Sulano was paraded as surrenderee on July 28 by the RMFB-7 in their detachment at Brgy. Nagbagang, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental. The Sulano family from Brgy. Nagbalaye in the same town has been targetted by state forces for a long time, wherein Sulano's brother was killed

by the 11th IB last 2021 and his uncle was forced by the RMFB-7 to surrender in 2022.

Meanwhile, the Negros Oriental Provincial Police Office (NOPPO) claimed last August 9 that Rene Janayan, 37 years old, surrendered to them. He was a mere farmer from Sitio Dauis, Brgy. Calango, Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental.

Last August 3 to 13, the 62nd IB illegally entered houses and threatened residents in sitios Tampa and Anahaw, Brgy. Nagsaha, Guihulngan City, and from September 19 until 23 in Sitio Aguntilang Uno, Brgy. Riverside, Isabelita; Sitio Palasan, Brgy. Guba, Vallehermoso; Sitio Kam-bairan, Brgy. Trinidad and Sitio Binil-iwan, Brgy. Calupaan, both parts of Guihulngan City.

The 15th and 47th IB persisted in harassing and red-tagging farmer, farm worker and fisher-folk associations in barangays Caliling, Man-uling, Guiljungan and Tuyom, in Cauayan town, Negros Occidental since the month of July. Association officers were interrogated and members were being visited in their houses. The said military forces wanted to attend association meetings but the members refused because the soldiers were armed.

Last August 27, members were even more anxious when they were enforced to fill out forms containing personal data and questions regarding the NPA. They felt frightened because the military said that they will not stop until the forms were not signed.

Last September 21, farmer associations were once again red-tagged by a certain Jonel Moreno (a.k.a. Roy), chairman of NTF-ELCAC-backed Sentrong Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Bayan (SAMBAYANAN)-Negros. Moreno accused them of being supporters or the associations having links to the NPA.

Meanwhile, the 94th IB and PNP declared a



tricycle driver, Ariel Jay Latoza, as a surrenderee and presented him as member of the association Buhi nga Aksyon kag Pag-amlig sang Seguridad sang Mangunguma kag Mamumugon (BAKAS).

BAKAS was accused of being a “communist front organization.” According to Latoza, he had no idea that he would be presented as a surrenderee. He was summoned twice by a certain Tupan who was a personnel of the Kabankalan Police Station. BAKAS denied the allegation.

A non-government organization which helped peasants was also subjected to harassment and intimidation. Two persons believed to be state forces were seen surveilling the community workers in the Paghidaet sa Kauswagan Development Group (PDG) office in Kabankalan City on September 6. They were being tailed for several times by the same persons in Cauayan town while conducting activities in the peasant community for livelihood advancement. PDG was red-tagged as well by the SAMBAYANAN Negros last September 21.

### **Illegal search and seizure**

Houses of two sugarcane workers in Escalante City, Negros Occidental were ransacked and some belongings were seized, last July 18, 6:00 in the morning.

An estimated 30 armed men searched the belongings of Edward Gimang at his house in Sitio Bautista, Brgy. Malasibog.

Days before, several armed men approached Gimang at the sugarcane field where he was working to disarm him but they only seized bolo and other farming tools from him. The incident caused his wife to get ill for few days.

Meantime, the house of Rosalie Magbanua in

Sitio Alangahag, Brgy. Tamlang was also ransacked by 12 soldiers of the 79th IB in civilian clothing who introduced themselves as NPA members. They were looking for firearms left by the NPA in her house.

### **Forced evacuation**

On July 7, 318 individuals from sitios Cabalungan, Canagbaan, Jalandon and Florete, in Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City were forced to evacuate after an encounter between the MCC-NPA and 94th IB.

The same occurred last September 16 at Sitio Patio-tio, Brgy. San Jose, in the same city, where 15 residents were forced to evacuate to their barangay hall after an encounter between the ASJC-NPA and 15th IB.

### **Encampment near communities**

Military forces used schools as camps which disturbed and endangered the teachers, students and the surrounding community. In July, the 94th IB troops occupied for almost three weeks the school of Sitio Cantupa, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City. In Canlaon City, 62nd IB soldiers also camped at Tabalugo Elementary School in Sitio Tabalugo, Brgy. Budlasan from July 12 to 16.

The same military unit also occupied schools in Guihulngan City including Agulang Elementary School in Sitio Agulang, Brgy. Villegas last August and Kambairan Elementary School in Sitio Kambairan, Brgy. Trinidad last August 3 to 13 and from September 19 until 23.

Aside from schools, the military also encamped at barangay halls, tribal halls of Indigenous Peoples and houses of residents. **AP**



# Sa Kamot sang Pasismo

*ni Ka Haraya*

Bitbit ang mando  
dugmukon ang hangaway sang pumuluyo  
AFP kag PNP nga berdugo kag pasista  
angay pagatawgon nga terorista!

maduguon nga gyera dala sa kabukiran  
sa komunidad sang pumuluyo tuman nga  
kahalitan  
iligal nga pagpang-ukay kag pagpang-aresto,  
interogasyon, tortyur kag pangastigo,  
dugang pa ang patarasak nga pagpaniro;

Lauman ang lapnagon nga kalapasan  
tawhanon nga kinamatarung ila ginalapakan  
kombatant man ukon mga sibilyan  
wala ginakilala,  
sa operasyon kombat nga dalayon  
ginapatuman;

Tunga sang kagab-ehon  
makatublag sa hamuok nga katulogon  
nagapanglat-as, pagpanughot  
nagapamomba, nagasabwag sang kahadlok;

pagpanganyon sa mga ulumhan  
pagguba sang kinaiyahan  
ilabi na sa dutang palangabuhian;

pukawon sang lupok komunidad sang sibilyan  
pangsaka-on kag ukayon ang ila puluy-an  
sitaon kag dakpon ang ila mga ginadudahan  
ini tanan kahimuan sang pulis kag militar  
nga uhaw sa dugo kag wala sang batasan!

Sugo sang laye  
militarista ang pamaagi  
pundok sang reaksyunaryo nga gubyrno  
kontra-pumuluyo ang ginapatuman nga  
proyekto  
ginakunsabo pati mga ahensya kag  
departamento  
NTF-Elcac dagway nga mapakuno-kuno  
tigpanguna sa modus sang “terorista “ nga tatak  
sa kinamatarung sang aktibista kag sibilyan  
direkta nga nagalapak  
nagabutang sang kabuhi sa tuman nga  
kakugmat  
mangin target sa sarbeylans  
mangin biktima sang lapnagon nga pang-abdak

manipulahon  
pasungkaon  
mangin nawong para kontra-rebolusyon!

uyat ang pusil  
yara sa gatilyo nagapasil  
mersenaryo nga makinarya  
armadong hubon nga utok-pulbura  
wala sang laye nga ginakilala  
bisan pa mga sibilyan  
nga kuntani angay pangapinan  
panahon sang inaway, sila proteksyonan  
apang sa kamot sang mapintas nga militar  
sila ang nangin kulateral  
sa hinimo nga drama kag estorya  
tamnan sang mga ebidensya  
ipagwa nga napatay sa engkwentro  
kabaylo sang ranggo, premyo kag tropeyo

Sa kamot sang pasismo  
nagadanaw ang dugo  
naga-alisngaw ang makadiligwa nga baho  
sang mga armadong hubon sang reaksyunaryo  
bantog nga mga manogpatay-tawo;

Armadong paghimakas handum nga dugmukon  
desperado nga puggan ang tayuyon nga  
pagsulong  
sang pungsodnon-demokratiko nga rebolusyon  
nga naga-usoy sa gerilyang inaway nga  
pangmalawigon;

Sa militarista nga gahum nga ila na-uyatan  
tigulang, kababainhan, kabataan  
kag bisan hors de combat  
indi likaw sa ila pakasilidngi nga pamatbat  
pagpamatay kag masaker amo ang ila sabat  
sa matagsing nga mga nagapanawagan:  
kinamatarung sa duta kag palangabuhian  
sweldo, benepisyo kag ayuda nga kinahangalan  
kundisyon sa trabaho nga makatarungan  
kag nagakaangay nga hustisya  
pangkatilingban!

Sa tingob nga kusog sang masa  
yara ang gahum nga makahulusga  
Sa pihak sang nagasingki nga kapintas  
naga-ibwal ang rebolusyonaryong paghimakas  
sakmiton ang tanan nga higayon

agud pasangkaron ang demokratiko nga pag-ugyon  
kahimtangan sang pumuluyo, amat-amat nga bag-uhon  
hamili nga handum tinguhaan nga lab-uton  
mahilway sa gapos sang pagka-ulipon  
matuod nga demokrasya kag hustisya maangkon  
kadungan sa pagpaslaw sang reaksyunaryong estado  
tungod samtang yara ang matuod nga hukbo  
pangapinan ang interes sang malapad nga pumuluyo!

*Setyembre 24, 2023*

