



# UPDATES PHILIPPINES

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Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513AG Utrecht, The Netherlands

T: : +31 30 2310431 | E: updates.philippines@ndfp.org

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## EDITORIAL

### Revolutionary justice against oppression and fascism

In more than 50 years of waging the Philippine Revolution, the forces of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) have been able to establish local revolutionary councils at the village and town levels in various parts of the archipelago.

From the beginning, the Guide for Establishing the People's Democratic Government had already laid out the people's fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, movement, religious beliefs and freedom of the press. Personal security is guaranteed; nobody can be arrested without legal basis; a person's home cannot be violated.

Through the years, the NDFP forces and local governments have developed standards for establishing the legal and judicial system at various levels and degrees. These standards include the Rules of the New People's Army for military discipline, the Revolutionary Guide for Land Reform, On the Relations of Sexes, On Children's Rights, rules on the treatment of Prisoners of War, rules on suspected enemy spies, the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I, and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), among others.

It is common knowledge that the legal and judicial system within the territories of the revolutionary movement is fair, swift and effective. For example, the revolutionary movement has been effectively fighting illegal drugs by differentiating the poor victims of drug abuse from incorrigible purveyors of illegal drugs. The victims are rescued and rehabilitated through political education and meaningful activities. Drug trade operators and their protectors are disarmed, arrested and charged before the People's Courts. Each case undergoes hearings, sentencing and appeal, as the case may be.

This is in sharp contrast to the oppression and repression under the Duterte regime. Poverty-stricken victims of drug abuse are made targets for assassination by police agents and vigilantes. Under the banner of anti-communism and counter-terrorism, communities, human rights defenders, religious officials and political oppositionists are made targets by military and paramilitary agents for vilification, abduction, illegal detention, torture and assassination. On the other hand, big landlords, big comprador capitalists, murderous police & military officials, and the biggest plunderers enjoy the protection and largess of their US and Chinese imperialist masters.

The revolutionary movement and the Filipino people demand the ouster of this murderous, thieving and treasonous regime. Revolutionary justice will soon catch up with the worst of these criminals. **UP**



### Revolutionaries demand release of Peace Consultant Esterlita Suaybaguio

Fidel V. Agcaoili, Chairperson of the Negotiating Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) on 26 August [condemned the arrest and detention](#) of Esterlita Suaybaguio, a consultant of the NDFP in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP).

Agcaoili said Suaybaguio is entitled to security from arrest because she is covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), a document signed by both the NDFP and GRP in 1995.

Combined GRP military and police forces barged into her apartment in Quezon City, near the Philippine capital, in the early morning of 26 August. During the armed raid, explosives were planted in her apartment to justify the arrest and to charge her with a non-bailable offense.

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Agcaoili said the arrest of Suaybaguio is another obstacle to the peace talks which President Duterte wishes to bury. He also noted that since the termination of the talks in November 2017, a number of NDFP consultants have already been arrested, including Vicente Ladlad, Adel Silva and Rey Cassambre.

He demanded the immediate release of Esterlita Suaybaguio “as well as the scores of other detained NDFP consultants and personnel”.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), on 27 August [also demanded the release of Suaybaguio](#).

“The arrest of Ms. Suaybaguio is but the latest attack against democratic forces perpetrated by the military and police under Duterte’s undeclared nationwide martial law,” said the CPP.

“Ms. Suaybaguio’s arrest again puts to focus the grave abuses perpetrated daily by military and police forces against the people especially in Mindanao under open military rule, as well as in Negros, Samar and Bicol where Duterte has deployed large numbers of military troops,” added the CPP. **UP**



Photo: [arkibongbayan.ph](#)

## Duterte’s killing spree in Negros escalates

87 individuals have been victims of extrajudicial killings in Negros Island, in central Philippines, [since President Rodrigo Duterte came to power](#) on 30 June 2016. From June 2016 up to November 2018, 42 were murdered. In the eight months from December 2018 however, 45 were murdered. In July, 21 were killed within ten days, including a one-year-old infant sleeping in a hammock in their home.

The almost 350% surge in the rate of extrajudicial killings began when Duterte imposed Memorandum Order 32 on Negros and Samar islands and the Bicol region in November

2018. The declaration of a “state of lawlessness” has practically installed martial law with the deployment of 11 state-armed groups into Negros Island. An additional 300 military troops have also been deployed.

The murder victims are members of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines, human rights defenders, lawyers, local officials suspected or accused of supporting the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People’s Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). The organizations and victims are routinely labeled as communist fronts or supporters and then targeted for assassination.

Victims’ families, community organizations, and their sympathizers have organized protest actions. All [four Catholic bishops of Negros Island](#) have condemned the killings by the police and military. They have ordered the ringing of church bells in protest.

At a Senate hearing on 27 August, conveners of the [Defend Negros Network lambasted](#) former Philippine National Police Director General turned Senator Ronald de la Rosa for not inviting any kin of the victims nor their organizations to the said hearing. The Network, which have close contacts with the victims’ families, and human rights alliance Karapatan were also not invited to the Senate hearing.

“With neither the families nor organizations of the victims of police brutality present, this probe is worse than a farce!” declared Defend Negros Network. “We condemn this brazen display of deception and injustice.”

It called for united action, nationally and internationally, to hold Duterte accountable for the killings in Negros Island and the rest of the country. **UP**



Photo: [Anakbayan Facebook page](#)

## Militarization of university campuses condemned

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on 21 August condemned the government of President Rodrigo Duterte for ‘militarizing campuses’ and called on students and teachers to resist the fascist measures.

In the [latest issue of Ang Bayan](#), the CPP pointed out, “Rodrigo Duterte and his minions wish to impose tyrannical rule on universities because of their deep resentment against students and teachers openly opposing the fascist regime.”

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Former police general and incumbent Senator Ronald dela Rosa led the charge for the Duterte government, calling for the deployment of armed police and military personnel in universities and colleges. His call was echoed by various officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP). In hundreds of schools, the AFP and PNP are already conducting indoctrination campaigns in the form of “youth leadership fora,” “information drives,” and other forcible assemblies in order to fight what they call “communist infiltration” in schools.

The Senate in the past weeks has been the scene of rabid attacks by Sen. De la Rosa against youth and student activists, teachers and their organizations. In a [public hearing on 7 August](#), he claimed that Alicia Lucena and Lory Caalaman are minors who have been forcibly recruited into youth organizations and are now missing.

The two student activists later held a press conference and stated that they are neither missing nor are they minors. They urged the police and military to stop their anti-youth activities and to stop using their parents to vilify their organizations.

In protest, students and teachers declared a National Day of Walkout and Action on 20 August. Thousands left their campuses all over the country and marched to city centers to condemn the killings and heightening repression under the Duterte administration. They were joined by workers’ and farmers’ groups, Church people and indigenous people’s organizations.

In a related development, six parliamentarians from the progressive Makabayan bloc [filed a congressional resolution](#) on 12 August urging the Duterte administration to endorse the [Safe Schools Declaration](#). The Declaration was adopted in May 2015 in Oslo, Norway, to designate schools as safe zones in times of armed encounters, uphold the continuing relevance of education in times of war, and implement concrete measures to oppose the military-use of schools. [95 countries](#) have already endorsed the Declaration.

The CPP emphasized, “Above all, these acts of suppression will fail to stop the students and teachers from supporting and joining the armed struggle. Because of Duterte’s fascist suppression, even more are being roused to support or become members of the New People’s Army which truly represents the patriotic and democratic interests of the people.” **UP**



## NPA disarms coal power plant guards

A unit of the New People’s Army (NPA) raided a compound of the Minergy Power Corporation in the morning of 19 August, in Balingasag town, Misamis Oriental province in southern Philippines. Seized from the security guards were four AK-47 assault rifles, 200 bullets and several handheld radios.

No shots were fired and the raid lasted about five minutes. The armed guards, from private security firm AY-76 Security Specialists Inc, were left unharmed, and the NPA unit was able to withdraw safely from the area.

The Minergy Power Corporation is a 165-megawatt coal-fired power plant located along the Macajalar Bay. [According](#)

[to Nicolas Marino](#), Spokesperson of the NPA in Misamis Oriental, the raid was conducted to teach the company “a lesson”.

“The plant dumps its toxic chemical wastes in the bay,” Marino explains. “The residents have reported to the NPA that they have acquired several complications such as asthma, dizziness and sore eyes since the plant operations went full blast in 2017.”

The Misamis Oriental provincial board has conducted an investigation into the reported health and environmental hazards caused by the power plant. The results of the investigation, however, have not been made public and no action had been taken.

The newly-elected provincial board [plans to start a fresh investigation](#), in the light of the NPA’s raid and public statement. **UP**

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