

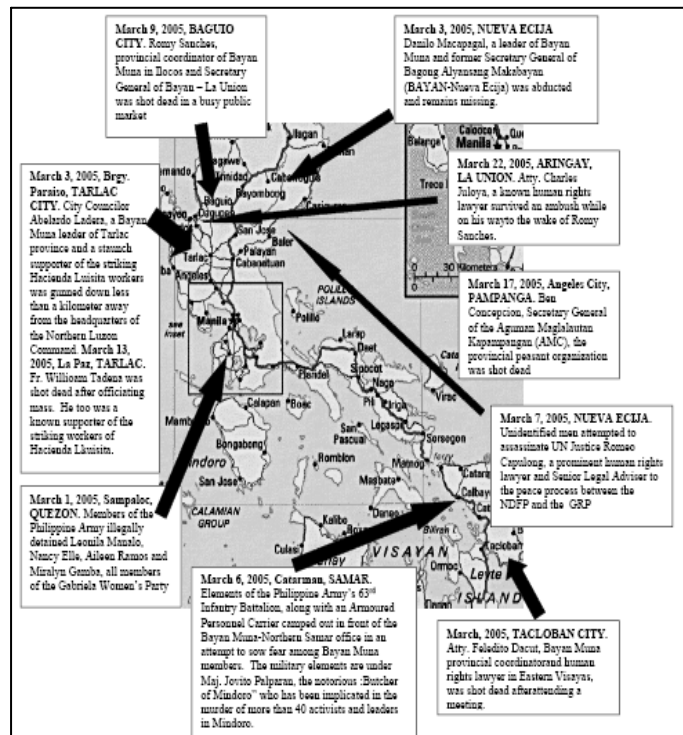
STOP The Killings of Human Rights Defenders NOW!

A wave of repression against legitimate peoples organizations, progressive political parties and other human rights and cause-oriented groups in the Philippines is on the rise. In less than three months, 32 leaders, members and supporters of Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Karapatan and other groups were brutally killed. There are no indications that this reign of terror perpetrated by elements of the Philippine military and police on individuals and groups known to be critical of the Arroyo government will stop soon! The facts speak for itself:

- From 2001 - 2004, under the Arroyo presidency, 3,560 cases of human rights violation have been reported and documented. From those killed, 48 are members of Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela Women's Party - all progressive party-

There are about 32 documented cases of killings from January to March 2005 alone. Others, reported to have been abducted by armed men believed to be military, remain missing.

- Abel Ladera - Bayan Muna Councilor Tarlac (March 3, 2005)
- Fr. William Tadena - Iglesia Fili-pina Independiente (March 13, 2005)
- Victor Concepcion - Sec. General, Peasant Alliance of Central Luzon (March 17, 2005)
- Romeo Sanches - Sec. Gen., Bayan - La Union (March 9, 2005)
- Atty. Feledito Dacut - Regional Director, Bayan Muna - Eastern Visayas (March 14, 2005)
- Ernesto Bang - Information Officer, Peasant Movement of the Philippines (March 10, 2005)
- Edwin Bargamento - Labor leader, National Federation of Sugar Workers (April 15, 2005)



lists who ran and won seats in the Philippine House of Representatives in the May 2004 elections. All are staunch critics of anti-people programs and policies of the Arroyo government.

- From January-December 2004 alone - 595 cases of human rights violation committed by the military, police and paramilitary forces - affecting 10,255 people, or approximately 855 people per month - were documented throughout the country. Who would forget the carnage wrought on 5,000 striking farm workers,

their families and supporters in Hacienda Lusita on November 16, 2004 where 7 people were killed, 114 wounded, 110 illegally detained and 39 believed to have been abducted and are still missing.

- Cases of abduction and forced disappearances are also on the rise.

In 2004 alone, there were about 78 cases of abduction and forced disappearances. On March 3, Danilo Macapagal, Regional Coordinator of Bayan Muna was abducted by four armed men and remains missing until now. Prior to this, on March 1, four women leaders of Gabriela narrowly escaped an attempt by the Philippine Army to abduct all three who are active on the campaign against Joint US-RP Military exercises in Quezon Province. And on August 17, 2004, three members of Bayan-Manila were abducted by heavily-armed men in Sampaloc, Manila on broad daylight and in full view of hundreds of churchgoers and bystanders in the area. The police revealed that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) coordinated the operation, but the latter denied having the three in their custody.

Mindanao

remains a hotbed of dissent, and anyone who speaks out is an immediate target.

- On February 1, 2005, a family from Kapuk Puggul in Manimbang, Sulu was massacred allegedly by elements of the Philippine military resulting in the death of Tal Padiwan, his wife Sidang Padiwan and 13 year-old son, Aldasir. A certain Salip Faisal Salim also died and another, Jamil Julambri, was seriously wounded.

- Even high profile personalities and journalists known to be critics of the Arroyo government are not spared. On March 7, 2005, unidentified armed men attempted to assassinate U.N. Ad Litem Judge and prominent human rights lawyer, Justice Romeo Capulong. Earlier, Justice Capulong was included in a list of people supplied by the Northern Luzon Command of the AFP as communist supporters. And in the first four years of the Arroyo government, 30 journalists were already killed compared to 36 during the presidency of Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada combined.
- The death toll is mounting and obviously, the targets are progressive people's organizations, political parties and other human rights and cause-oriented groups who for years have been at the forefront fighting for the Filipino people's genuine interests. The Arroyo government has chosen the Marcosian style of silencing legitimate expressions of dissent and absolutely no regard or respect for human rights and civil liberties.
- **STOP THE KILLINGS NOW!** Let all peace and freedom-loving Filipinos and Japanese join us in demanding the Arroyo government to respect and uphold human rights and civil liberties in the Philippines, and to bring the perpetrators to JUSTICE! Join us also in demanding the Japanese government to STOP AID to the Arroyo government and to respect the will of the Filipino people for justice, freedom and democracy.

Japan-Philippines Network to Stop the Killings of Filipino Human Rights Defenders Now!

**c/o International Affairs, National Christian Council of Japan (NCCJ)
NCCJ Bldg., 2-3-18 Nishiwaseda, Tokyo, Japan**

April 20, 2005

Mr. Nobutaka Machimura
Foreign Affairs Minister
Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kasumigaseki 2-2-1, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8919, Japan

Hon. Nobutaka Machimura:

We, the undersigned, are Japanese and Filipino individuals and organizations concerned about the spate of killings and other human rights violations committed against members and supporters of progressive political parties and other cause-oriented groups in the Philippines. Local and international media have widely covered these crimes perpetrated by elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Police. But despite this and the numerous petitions and protests from various sectors both in the Philippines and abroad, the Arroyo government has remained silent and has done nothing to stop the killings and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Already there are 47 deaths by assassination and summary execution from November 2004 to March 2005. Many of the victims belong to Bayan Muna and Anakpawis, both progressive political parties that ran and won seats in the Philippine House of Representatives in the May 2004 national elections. Other victims belong to people's organizations and cause-oriented groups that have been critical of the policies of the Arroyo government.

We call on the Arroyo government to respect and uphold human rights in the Philippines, and to **STOP the KILLINGS NOW!**

In view of the above, and Japan's policy of giving development assistance to poor and developing countries like the Philippines, we demand the Japanese government to **STOP AID!** to the Arroyo government, and to join others in pressuring the Philippine government, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Police to indemnify families of the victims and to bring the perpetrators to **JUSTICE!**

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