

A look into Duterte's dirty war in 2020

2020 Annual Human Rights Report
(January-December 3, 2020)

Ang Bayan

December 4, 2020

This summary is based on *Ang Bayan's* (AB) compilation of reports on various human rights violations perpetrated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP) and other armed agents of the reactionary US-Duterte regime from January 1 to December 3 this year. This report aims to expose the extent of brutality and violence the Filipino people suffer under Rodrigo Duterte's dirty war of suppression this 2020.

Based on AB's records, there have been at least 46,581 victims of human rights violations this year (138 victims per day on average). The figure excludes the hundreds of thousands of civilians who were arrested and detained or punished for purportedly "violating" lockdown protocols imposed during the pandemic, as well as those killed in the name of the continuing "war against drugs."

The Duterte regime's dirty war of counterinsurgency intensified further this year using the Covid-19 lockdown as smokescreen to carry out more vicious attacks against civilians. In the countryside, people have been subjected to killings, massacres, aerial bombardment, and the oppressive presence of armed soldiers in their communities.

On average, there were at least two cases of political killings every week. Approximately two individuals were arrested each day while 10 others were threatened and harassed. Particularly, the number of arrest victims this year is more than twice higher than the figure recorded in 2019.

These abuses are a direct result of Duterte's intense counterinsurgency campaign led by the AFP and his National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). Aiming to defeat the NPA, the AFP has launched "focused military operations" where communities are besieged and occupied, and the movement of civilian population restricted. Highly militarized areas recorded the highest number of cases of human rights violations during the said period.

AB would like to note that numerous human rights violations are yet to be recorded as many cases in the countryside remain unreported due to intense military operations.

Human rights violations (January-December 3, 2020)

Political Killing	87
Frustrated Killing	36
Arrest and detention	761
Threat, harassment, intimidation	3,537
Evacuation	17,193
Destruction of property	165
Illegal search and seizure	124
Abduction	1
Torture	24
Physical assault and injury	46
Demolition	3,168
Food and economic blockade	15,947
Coercion	195
Violation of the rights of hors de combat	11
Curfew restrictions	1,431
Forcible evacuation/displacement	20,898
Restriction of mass action	150

Killing, frustrated killing, torture

At least 87 civilians fell victim to political killings across the country this year. Majority of those killed (48) were farmers. The Bicol region recorded the highest number of victims (24), followed by Eastern Visayas (12) and Northeast Mindanao (9). The first two regions are both covered by the Memorandum Order 32 issued by Duterte in 2018 which directly deployed additional battalions to the said areas. Among provinces, killings were highest in Masbate (11). The Bicol region is covered by the operations of the Southern Luzon Command headed by notorious red-tagger Lt. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr.



There were six massacres during the same period. The latest incident reported was perpetrated by the 36th IB in Barangay Pangi, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur last October 3 wherein three farmers were killed. As in all other killing incidents, state forces falsely presented the victims to have "fought back" and killed in an "encounter."

State forces also liquidated four peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) this year in violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees. The victims include couple Eugenia Magpantay and Agaton Topacio who were killed while asleep by police operatives last November 25 in Angono, Rizal. Both have recently retired from active duty in the revolutionary movement due to infirmities of old age.

Additionally, *AB* also recorded 36 civilian victims of frustrated killing and 24 victims of torture.

Massacres

Date	Name of Victims .	No.	Place	Sector/Group	Perpetrator/s
2020-02-13	Julius Marquez; Ennabel Balunos; Ma. Finela Mejia	3	Namatican, Santa Lucia, Ilocos Sur	NPA (hors de combat)	81st IB
2020-03-13	Julius Soriano Giron, Dr. Ma Lourdes Denero Tangco, and Arvie Alarcon Reyes	3	MRR-Queen of Peace, Baguio City	2 CPP, 1 aide	CIDG, PNP-Baguio, AFP
2020-05-08	Jeric Vuno, Jerry Palanca, Robert Villafuerte, Raymundo Tañada and Jaime Tañada	5	Dolos, Bulan, Sorsogon	Peasant	31st IB, 9th Special Action Battalion
2020-06-17	Rogen Orcales Languido; Danny Boy Tibay Pepito, Sr.; Jessie Boy Amador Pepito (minor)	3	Mahayhay, Placer, Masbate	2 Peasants; 1 child	PNP-Masbate, 2nd PMFC
2020-09-28	Jerry Regala; Judy Barruga; Joey Asne	3	Alas, Mandaon, Masbate	1 Peasant 2 Government Employees	2nd IB
2020-10-03	Maco Cagaran Maitom; Freddie Miyarez Zamora; Paulino Perez Maitom Jr.	3	Pangi, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur	Peasant	36th IB

Arrest and detention

At least 761 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention were recorded by *AB* this year. The month of May saw the highest number of cases with at least 219 victims.

Majority of those arrested (218) are from the peasant sector. The highest number of victims (172) were recorded in North Central Mindanao. At least 125 individual were arrested in Bukidnon alone.

AB also recorded at least 60 incidents of mass arrests during the same period. Several thousands were arrested and paraded as "NPA surrenderees" especially in the countryside, while hundreds of rallyists and volunteers were arrested in various urban centers since April 1 for purportedly "violating" lockdown protocols.

On top of this, *AB* also recorded at least 3,537 victims of threat harassment and intimidation.



(March 15-December 3, 2020)

Counterinsurgency operations during Covid-19 pandemic

	Areas affected
Barangay	1,075
Town/City	389
Province	64

Bombing, strafing, artillery shelling, aerial surveillance

	No. of incidents
Bombing and/or strafing	22
Artillery shelling	14
Aerial surveillance	28
Strafing	11

Attacks on communities during the Covid-19 pandemic

The regime further heightened its counterinsurgency operations in the countryside, and squandered billions of pesos in conducting combat and psywar operations, bombings and drone surveillance.

From March 15, *AB* recorded various types of military attacks in at least 1,075 barangays of 389 towns in 64 provinces. The highest number of affected barangays were recorded in Southern Tagalog and Eastern Visayas (200 barangays each), followed by North Central Mindanao Region (198) and Bicol (144). Meanwhile, 26 incidents of aerial surveillance were also recorded.

At least 31 cases of indiscriminate bombing, strafing and artillery shelling were reported during the same period, 27 of which were perpetrated in Mindanao. Bukidnon (11) experienced the highest number of attacks followed by Surigao del Sur (6), Northern Samar and Sarangani (4 each).

Among the most recent attacks was the AFP Northern Luzon Command's shelling and strafing of farmlands in Barangay Lawak Langka, Mangatarem, Pangasinan on November 24 under the guise of counterinsurgency operations. There was no NPA unit in the area when the incident took place.

These indiscriminate attacks combined with military occupation of barrios resulted in the evacuation of at least 20,898 residents from their respective communities across the country. Majority of the evacuees are from Western Mindanao (11,810). In Far South Mindanao, nearly 2,500 families were affected by food and economic blockades arbitrarily imposed by operating troopers in at least 28 barangays in Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat. **AB**



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cppinformationbureau@gmail.com

@prwc_info

@prwcnewsroom

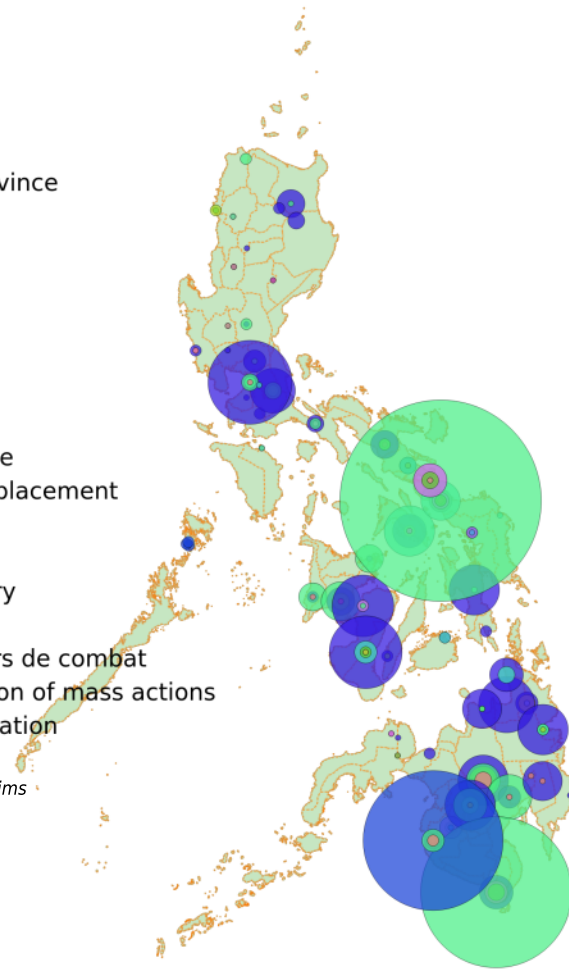
Human rights violations

	Abduction	Arrest and detention	Coercion	Curfew Restrictions	Demolition	Destruction of property	Political Killing	Food and economic blockade	Evacuation	Frustrated killing and seizure	Illegal search and seizure	Physical assault and injury	Threat, harassment and intimidation	Torture	Violation of the rights of labor	Restriction of mass action
Children	33					3				3	2	3	2	1		
CPP-NPA-NDF	4					15								3	11	
Church	1				1								5			
Cultural worker						1										
Driver	22									1	1	1				
Gov't employee	1					4										
Health worker	1															
HR worker	9					3							32			
IP	167	78	50		135	6	15,908	18,496	21	14	6	540	10			
LGBTQ+	20															
Lawyer									1		1					
MAKABAYAN/Bayan	165					1						1				
Media worker	9					1						3				
Migrant													1			
NGO worker	1	2														
Peasant	218	101	1,381		26	48		2,402	10	103	33	2,930	10			100
PWD						1	39									
Student-Youth	58												11			
Teacher	2															
Urban Poor	21				3,168	2				1						
Women	9															50
Worker	18	16			3	2			1	3	2	10				

HRVs by type distributed by province

- Abduction
- Arrest and detention
- Coercion
- Curfew implementation
- Demolition
- Destruction of property
- Extrajudicial killing
- Food and economic blockade
- Forcible evacuation and displacement
- Frustrated killing
- Illegal search and seizure
- Physical assault and/or injury
- Torture
- Violation of the rights of hors de combat
- Violent dispersal or restriction of mass actions
- Threat, harassment, intimidation

* Circle size corresponds to number of victims



Counterinsurgency Operations

- ✈ Aerial bombing
- ✈ Aerial surveillance
- ★ Artillery shelling
- ⚔ Military presence and Operations

