

TASK FORCE CENTRAL LUZON

Fact Finding Mission Report Pampanga and Bataan April 24-26, 2006

I. INTRODUCTION

Rationale

Central Luzon¹ holds a prominent place in Philippine history. A long and glorious record of actively taking part in the democratic and nationalist struggles from the Spanish period up to present can be attributed to its people.

But this time, recent events has transformed the region into a *No Man's Land for Progressives and Activists* with more than fifty activists and leaders dead due to extra-judicial executions since September 2005.

These extra-judicial executions are suspected to be perpetrated by unknown vigilantes and unnamed members of the military and police. These men and women are guilty of nothing but having the interest of the majority at heart and of dedicating their lives in the pursuit of a more democratic, equitable and just society.

The escalation of salvagings coincided with the deployment of Major General Jovito Palparan in September of 2005.

As the head of 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army covering both Central Luzon and Northern Luzon, he has made public his desire to wipe out 'insurgency'—including so-called front organizations of such groups².

Concurrently, the military landscape also changed.

In 2004, six battalions can be found within. Now, there are seven army battalions excluding Special Action Groups and Provincial Mobile Groups of the PNP. And of course, the paramilitary units such as CAFGUs and the vigilante groups³.

By September 2005, the first of the fifty killings started.

First strike was made in Nueva Ecija⁴, closely followed by salvagings in Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan and finally Bataan and Zambales. Record showed that between September 2005 to February 2006, there occurred an average of three political killings every week.

¹ Central Luzon is composed of seven provinces—Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Aurora.

² Seven days after Palparan assumed office he declared in a radio interview that ' [he] will wipe out all the leftists in the region'.

³ Some of which are undocumented but made up of known criminal/bandit elements in the community, rebel returnees and hired guns believed to have connections with military or police personnel, sometimes even politicians.

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To illustrate the extensive and systematic manner in which these dastardly elements operate: on October 26, 2005, three cases of extra-judicial executions in Bulacan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija simultaneously occurred with a total of four dead and one injured.

The trend of salvagings or extra-judicial executions is indeed alarming. Despite condemnation of such dastardly acts, the killings continue and the military and police blithely wash their hands of any involvement and has dismissed accusations of their involvement as a mere figment of the imagination of the aggrieved and their families.

At the same time, the killings have a chilling effect on the citizenry forcing them to turn a blind eye to the killing spree, thus allowing the perpetrators to continue their despicable actions.

It is in this context that the FACT-FINDING MISSION on April 24-26 2006 in two provinces – Bataan and Pampanga where some of the recent political killings have transpired was conducted⁵.

Objectives of the Fact- Finding Mission

1. To ascertain the perpetrators of these extra-judicial killings through proper documentation in the region. Eventually, it is hoped that cases will be pursued against the perpetrators in local and international bodies—human rights agencies, government institutions and even in court.
2. To create a strong public opinion and to pressure the State under the GMA regime in enabling a positive and decisive response in resolving the extra-judicial killings cases.
3. To draw public sympathy and support.
4. To break the culture of fear in the area and enable the citizens to stand up to their rights.
5. To prepare for the eventual conduct of an International/Regional Human Rights Fact - Finding in the Philippines.

⁴On September 12, 2005 the first victim of extra-judicial execution fell.

⁵As we prepare for this report, six leaders and activists have died nationwide wherein one victim was from Central Luzon, in a period of twenty-one days.

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Sponsoring Groups and Participating Organizations

Twenty individuals representing fourteen organizations participated in the actual Mission.

The mission was jointly led by the Citizen's Council for Human Rights (CCHR) and Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (Movement for National Democracy).

KPD is a multi-sectoral organization pursuing nationalist and democratic aspirations of the Filipino people while CCHR is a broad human rights movement concerned with individual and people's rights.

CCHR is represented by participants from the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute (GZO), Balay Rehabilitation Center.

Other organizations present were from the Ateneo Legal Services, Focus on the Global South, Pacific Concerns Resource Center, Kabataan Kontra Krisis and local radio station.

During the Pre-FFM Press Conference on April 24, 2006, former Vice-President Teofisto Guingona ,AKBAYAN Representative Etta Rosales and Atty. Byron Bocar, whose forte is international law, all expressed support for the Mission although were unable to directly participate in the actual FFM.

FFM Participants

1. Binkki Hipolito	Ateneo Human Rights Center/ Ateneo Legal Services
2. Karen Malabanan	Ateneo Human Rights Center/ Ateneo Legal Services
3. Wilbert Mercado	Balay Rehabilitation Center
4. Sr. Arnold Maria Noel, SSPs	Balay Rehabilitation Center/ SULONG CARHRIHL
5. Louie Crismo	Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND)
6. Corazon Estojero	Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND)
7. Herbert Docena	Focus on the Global South
8. Karen Tañada	Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute
9. Glenn Acob	Kabataan Kontra Krisis (KKK)
10. Fr. Jose Bagadiiong, SVD	Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD)
11. Aurora Broquil	Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD)
12. Millet Morante	Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD)
13. Marie Jo Ocampo	Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD)
14. Joselyn Rivera	Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD)

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15. Corazon Fabros	Pacific Concerns Resource Center
16. Atty. Virgie Suarez-Pinlac	Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan (KAISA KA)
17. Jo Cunanan	Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM)
18. Max de Mesa	Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)/ Citizen's Commission on Human Rights (CCHR)
19. Fr. Bernie Abrazado, SVD	SVD Missionary Priest
20. Jerbert M. Briola	Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)

Fact-Finding Mission Itinerary

Date	Activity
<i>April 24 – DAY ONE</i>	<p>Press Launching of the Task Force Central Luzon Fact Finding Mission</p> <p>Final Orientation of FFM and Media Participants</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Travel to Pampanga</p> <p>Interview with Unions/Victims of Police Harassment</p>
<i>April 25 – DAY TWO</i>	<p>Interview of Witnesses to the Salvaging of <i>Antonio Adriaes</i> of Aguman Dareng Maldang Talapagobra Queng Gabun (AMTG)</p> <p>Interview with a survivor of attempted salvaging by men believed to be members of a para-military group</p> <p>Ocular visit to San Pablo, Mexico, Pampanga one of 19 militarized barangays</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Travel to Bataan</p> <p>Interview with witnesses to the salvaging of <i>Cathy Alcantara</i>, Central Luzon coordinator of Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya</p>
<i>April 26 – DAY THREE</i>	<p>Interview with witnesses to the salvaging of <i>Audie Lucero</i>, a youth leader of Youth for Nationalism and Democracy</p> <p>Interview with witnesses to the abduction and disappearance of <i>Tomas Paras</i>, a farmer from Bataan.</p> <p>Ocular visit to areas where <i>Alcantara</i> and <i>Lucero</i> were killed/last seen alive</p>

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II. SITUATIONER

Geographic, Political and Human Rights Situation of the Areas Visited

Central Luzon

This agricultural region cut into vast haciendas became the birthplace of the first peasant uprisings during the Spanish time (1600's- 1800's). This became burgeoning desire for freedom and democracy only grew over time as nationalist, democratic and even revolutionary organizations flourished in the region.

The continuing desire for dignity and the betterment of their lives is the driving force behind the dynamism exhibited by people Central Luzon. Over time, past administrations have been unable to uplift their lot in life and whatever positive changes that affected their lives were bought by their reliance to the justness of their demands and aspirations.

Despite being under the Marcos Dictatorship, tens of thousands of men and women marching against such issues as the presence of US Military Bases⁶ and the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

In Bataan, during 1982-83, a series of 'Welgang Bayan' or province-wide strikes against the BNPP were launched. Lasting three to four days at the time, it was capable of paralyzing the whole province and was enthusiastically supported by the locals.

It was only a matter of time before such militancy would be forcibly silenced by the police and military.

The Marcos dictatorship was toppled in 1986 and Corazon Aquino regime assumed power. After Ninoy Aquino's widow assumed presidency, she 'unsheathed the sword of war' against insurgents.

By 1989-1991, three provinces -Bataan, Pampanga and Zambales came under a systematic plan to crush all nationalist forces within, dubbed as "Operation Lambat-Bitag" or "gradual constriction"⁷.

Sorely battered but not beaten, the nationalist and democratic organizations reclaimed lost ground in the struggle for democratic rights and welfare.

In recent years, the region was in the forefront of opposing the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the US-RP war exercises, the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) via blockades

⁶ Found in Angeles, Pampanga and Subic, Zambales. Now, they have been transformed into economic zones.

⁷ Gradual Constriction or GRADCON implemented by the military. It is based on the premise of 'taking the fish out of water' or cutting off the insurgents, progressives and activists from their network of mass support. Ironically, Major-General Jovito Palparan was assigned to Bataan during GRADCON.

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and the Northrail Project. NLEX and Northrail are strategic projects in Central Luzon's development plan.

Gut issues like the continued increase of oil prices was answered by successful paralyzing transport strikes. Sectoral struggles against land-use conversion for the peasants and workers' welfare in the economic zones also made their mark in the national landscape.

This is indelible proof that the desire for freedom, democracy and genuine social justice is alive and well, much to the consternation of the present regime.

Militarization : Paving the Way for the 'Global Gateway'

Central Luzon boasts of having world-class facilities in the form of a seaport in Subic and an airport in Clark, a fact that is difficult to replicate in other regions of the country

According to the Global Gateways Development Program, the seven provinces would be integrated into an 'industrial oasis at the heart of Central Luzon' and envisions the **Subic-Clark Corridor** as a: new regional growth center, globally-competitive international logistics hub and an inter-modal transshipment hub.⁸

Former US Military Bases turned economic zones in Clark (Pampanga) and Subic (Zambales) are being developed in this context. Clark Development Center (CDC) houses 15,000 workers while the Subic Bay Freeport Zone boasts of 30-40,000 workers.

Projects to be implemented for 'development' would be done so at the expense of the people. Such projects like the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), North Rail Project⁹, land-use conversions are expected to incur protests from the people. Thus, the need for the 'pacifying effect' of the military and police.

Officially justified by the government as a response to insurgency, military deployment and the rise of para-military groups and vigilantes is designed to quell the people's protest and dissent and eventually silence the people's movement--permanently.

Mexico, Pampanga

It is located 80 kilometers north of Manila. Comprising forty-three barangays¹⁰, it is considered an agricultural community.

Its proximity to San Fernando City, the regional business center, has given rise to land-use conversion: transforming agricultural lands to commercial or residential use. An issue that is dispossessing farmers of the lands they till.

⁸ Taken from *Global Gateways in Central Luzon: Propelling the Country Towards Global Competitiveness*, a brochure published by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) outlining the region's projected development from 2004 to 2009.

⁹ The North Rail Project or the Manila-Clark Rapid Railway System is set to cut across urban poor communities from Manila, Bulacan and Pampanga resulting in the displacement of more than 50,000 persons.

¹⁰ In the Philippines, the municipality or town is divided into barangays (villages).

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Historically, the municipality of Mexico is one of the bastions of peasant struggle for genuine land reform. The area is no stranger to democratic and nationalist aspirations and have traditionally engaged in such movements.

At present, there are many peasant organizations existing in the area. One of which is the *Aguman Dareng Maldang Tagapagobra Queng Gabun (AMTG)* or Organization of Land-Tillers, that has a strong following in fifteen of Mexico's forty-three barangays.

Peasants in the area are actively engaged in campaigning for their rights to farm abandoned lands or that the local government subject unoccupied lands under land reform for distribution to farmers.

With Major General Jovito Palparan's (Commanding Officer of the 7th Infantry Division of the Phil. Army) deployment in the region, Mexico was a logical laboratory for his anti-insurgency antics. Since September 2005, military detachment of the 69th Infantry Battalion of the Phil. Army containing six to ten soldiers in full battle gear can be found in nineteen of the 43 barangays.

Later, these detachments were shifted from one barangay to another. Part of the Army's mode of operation is a regular foot patrol at night with a bigger size composition aside from the regular number of army stationed in the detachments, show of force during the daytime and the conduct of Census among the residents. .

The detachments are located at the heart of each barangay oftentimes occupying the barangay halls (to the consternation of the local officials) or even churches (as in the case of Barangay San Pablo).

The presence of the 69th IB Phil. Army in the area have intimidated the residents and people's organizations and have resulted in numerous human rights violations.

The people are subjected to "forced invitations" to so-called 'anti- left' seminars and rallies sponsored by the 69th IB PA.

This atmosphere has caused some barangay officials to become hesitant in asserting their authority over their constituents despite being opposition to the military's antics in their areas. To be vocal in opposing the military, they risk being tagged as 'leftist supporters' or sympathizers.

All this actions are consistent with the tactic of low-intensity conflict (LIC). As differentiated from so-called high-intensity or actual armed confrontation of insurgents, the LIC employs a more subtle approach via political and psychological warfare.

Bataan

It is located a hundred kilometers north from Manila. It is divided into eleven towns and one city. The economic activities in the province centers on fishing and farming and the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ) which employs some 10,000 workers.

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Bataan's claim to fame arose from its history of militancy as a province. Notable examples are : the valor shown by Filipinos during World War II¹¹, the success of peasant struggles, Welgang Bayan and BEZ-wide strikes.

These experiences has made the province a natural target for counter-insurgency campaigns, the worst being the "Gradual Constriction" (GRADCON) implemented during 1989-1990.

At the height of the GRADCON, three battalions were deployed in the province, along with scores of para-military groups and vigilantes that resulted in heavy casualties for progressive people's organizations in the area.

Despite this harrowing experience, the people continue to struggle in order to advance their quality of life and their welfare through its strong support for people's organizations.

III. CASES COVERED BY THE MISSION

A. CASE: SALVAGING

1. **Name of Victim:** Audie Lucero, 19 years old
Date of Incidence: February 13, 2006
Place of Incidence: Barangay Capitangan, Abucay, Bataan
Perpetrators: Elements of 24th IB PA and Lubao (Pampanga) Police

Audie Lucero at the time of his death, was an active member of Youth for Nationalism and Democracy (YND) in Samal, Bataan.

On February 2005, a dialogue between members of the 24th IB PA led by company commander Major Valdez, the police headed by Major Rivera and the Mayor of Samal with organizational representatives from trade unions, peasants, fisherfolk and the youth which was (at the time) represented by Lucero.

The said dialogue failed to convince the representatives of the people's organizations to allow the 24th IB PA to setup a detachment in the area.

As Lucero was most vocal in his opposition, it earned the ire of Majors Rivera and Valdez. Prompting the former to declare heatedly, "*Kilala namin ang YND. Kilala namin ang nasa likod nyo. Kilala namin kayong LAHAT.*" [We know what YND is. We know who is backing you up. We know all of you.]

After this ominous declaration, Major Rivera insinuated that YND is connected to the underground movement, which the representatives denied saying instead that theirs was a legal organization. Despite the result the dialogue, a detachment was still established in

¹¹ It is here where the Filipinos and a handful of Americans made their last valiant stand against invading Japanese Occupation troops s in the 1940's .

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Barangay Palili, Samal, Bataan. Thereafter, elements of the 24th IB PA conducted night patrols, and even medical missions in the said area.

By September 2005, another dialogue with people's organizations was called by police chief Rivera wherein Lucero figured as the spokesperson of YND. From then on, Lucero was known locally as the leader of YND in Samal and actively participated in all its activities especially mobilizations.

Around 5:00 pm on February 12, 2006, Audie and two companions acted as good samaritans and brought a wounded friend to the Isaac and Catalina Medical Center (ICMC) in Balanga City. While waiting for the relatives, Audie and one of his companions bought a cigarette at a nearby store.

By 6:00 pm, a single motorcycle and a Balanga police car arrived and chanced upon Audie and his companion. The third companion already left before the police came. Immediately the policemen proceeded to bombard Audie and his companion with questions as to their relationship to the victim and other details pertaining to the injuries of the patient. They tried to answer the queries politely.

Around this time, the nurse called Audie's companion in order to procure blood for the patient, leaving Audie alone with the policemen. The time was around 7:00 pm and Audie was still alive.

According to reliable witnesses who were present in the area at the time, the Balanga police left the hospital.

By 8:00 pm, the patient's wife arrived from Lubao and noticed that a military truck was parked in front of the hospital premises and there were soldiers milling about. They were later identified by some witnesses as belonging to the 24th IB PA. The soldiers were estimated to be more than ten in number.

As she entered the hospital, she asked the guard on duty where she can find her husband. She was directed to the information desk where she was met by a policeman and a soldier sporting a t-shirt and fatigue pants. Many soldiers were behind them. It was later known that the policeman was from the Lubao PNP.

She was then asked about the identities of those who brought her husband to the hospital and whether she knew what her husband was doing.

The military asked her "*May naghatid sa mister mo na isang binata, sabi ng binata ay kilala ka.*" [Do you know the young man who brought your husband to the hospital. He says he knows you.]

The military man pointed out Audie who was with the soldiers, a few meter away obviously scared and seemingly crying.

She replied : "*Hindi ko siya kilala. Ang alam ko nagkawang-gawa lang siya na tulungan ang asawa ko.*" [I don't know him. I only know that he was kind enough to help my husband.]

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She repeated that she did not know the young man being pointed out to her.. Then, she politely excused herself to attend to her husband.

By 11:00 pm, she left the hospital to get blood from the Red Cross. The military, the police and Lucero were no longer at the hospital premises.

The next day, Audie Lucero was found dead at rice field in Barangay Capitangan, Samal Bataan which was around 6 kilometers from ICMC.

He suffered from three gunshot wounds : one in the left chest, one below the left wrist and one below the left knee¹².

An interview with the medical director of ICMC confirmed the presence of military men and police inside the hospital on the night of February 12.

2. **Name of Victim:** Irma ‘Kathy’ Alcantara, 48 years old
Date of Incident: December 5, 2005
Place of Incident: Abucay County Resort, Abucay , Bataan
Perpetrators: Two unidentified gunmen riding a motorcycle

At around 9 AM on December 5, 2006, Kathy Alcantara arrived at the County Resort in Abucay, Bataan to bring rice for the conference participants. It was the third day of a conference of farmers and fishers from all over Luzon organized by the Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM).

Kathy had helped organize the conference by taking care of the local logistics. After leaving the rice at the kitchen and speaking with the cook, Cathy walked out of the resort to leave as she had an important meeting to attend to. About ten to fifteen minutes later, just as the seminar was about to be called to order, participants heard the sounds of gunfire. Kathy lay dead at the side of the road.

Case 2 Witness 1, said that he saw Kathy arrive and, ten minutes after she left, heard five gunshots. He peered out the walls of the resort and saw a white vehicle with three men aboard, all looking towards the back of the car. One of them was wearing a sando with the letters “PMA.”¹³

He also saw someone outside signalling that someone had been shot. He made his way to the front gate and there saw Kathy lying on the ground and motioning for him to get back in. He went back inside and told his companions to help bring Kathy to the hospital. But when they were about to go out, they saw members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) coming in.

¹² According to the autopsy report, the fatal wound was the shot to the chest which pierced his right lung, broke one of his ribs before exiting at the back.

¹³ Stands for Philippine Military Academy

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Case 2 Witness 2 another participant, recalls telling his companions in the conference room that the sound of gunfire they had just heard was that of ‘firecrackers’. He went to the left side of the room to check what happened. He saw many onlookers had gathered. When they found out Kathy had been shot, they decided to abort the conference and pack up. Suddenly, the police force arrived, shouting, “Search the area!”

The police, some of whom were in civilian clothes, rounded up all the conference participants, telling them that they were there to protect them from the assailants. None of them was able to rush outside to attend to Kathy.

It appears that outside, a certain **Case 2 Witness 3** , who was then at a hardware store diagonal from the entrance of the resort, called up the police.

According to **Case 2 Witness 4**, another conference participant, saw three members of the police arrive: two of them went directly inside the resort while another one attended to Kathy. According to **Case 2 Witness 2**, the first batch of police personnel arrived ten to fifteen minutes after he heard the sound of gunfire. Kathy was then taken to the hospital using the vehicle of the Hardware owner where the hardware store is located just across the road from resort).

After thirty minutes, three more police patrols, with around 10 police personnel each, arrived. They were in full-battle gear, with high-powered guns and magazines. **Case 2 Witness 4** said some of them were wearing bonnets. Recognising one of the police officers, **Case 2 Witness 2** claims that the police units that responded were from the PNP Abucay station. **Case 2 Witness 5**, another conference participant, noted that contrary to the earlier claim of the police that they were there to protect them, they actually treated us as suspects and were harassed.

Case 2 Witness 4 recalls that prior to the incident, they learned that the police had been asking about Kathy so much so that they had to orient everyone in the organization never to identify her. He continued to relate that Kathy showed him a text message she received from their colleagues in Zambales, reporting how the police who prevented them from joining a protest rally also asked if they knew Kathy.

Case 2 Witness 4 also remembered that people would show up at their office asking if Kathy was there or if they knew her. About this time, there was an unusual increase in the visits of suspicious characters posing as vendors and jewellers.

Case 2 Witness 6 recounted that she was outside her home doing the laundry that fateful morning. She recounted that the three gunshots she heard came from the direction of the Abucay Country Resort.

She recounted: “On the second shot, I saw a single motor, a wave or XRM type, passed by the Resort to Roman Highway. On the third shot, I saw another single motorcycle, a wave or XRM model, color black or blue, with two riders, parked in front of the Resort, towards the direction of the Roman Highway.”

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She said that she joined the gathering crowd a few minutes later and found out that it was Kathy that has been shot. She noticed though that Kathy was still breathing when she was put to a pick-up to be brought to the hospital. She also saw a policeman gather Kathy's bag and cellphone. She also remembered seeing a white car and single motorcycles type wave or XRM passed many times (*pabalik-balik*) that day prior to the shooting.

3. **Name of Victim:** Antonio Adriaes, 60 years old
Date of Incident: January 10, 2006
Place of Incident: San Isidro, Laug, Mexico, Pampanga
Perpetrators: 2 unidentified gunmen

Antonio Adriaes was a farmer and a barber. He was a leader of Aguman Dareng Maldang Talapagobra Queng Gabun (AMTG) in Mexico, Pampanga. He was active in the struggle on the land issue in the area and was among the leaders that was vocal against the setting-up of 69th IB PA detachments in Mexico, Pampanga.

On January 10, 2006 at around 9:30 pm., someone was knocking at the door of their barbershop located in front of their home in San Isidro, Laug, Mexico, Pampanga and was calling out the name of Ka Tony.

Case 3 Witness 1, peeped from the window and saw 2 men (one man wearing a maong jacket and a cap, standing 5'3 or 5'4 tall and with a large built, while the other man also wore a cap, had a large built and stands 5'5 or 5'6) standing in front of the barbershop with a white car parked near their location.

After Antonio responded, he went outside through the backdoor walking towards the front of their barber shop.

Case 3 Witness 1 heard one of the two men said "*Apung Tony, mallari kaming magpamakbong?*" [Apung Tony, can we shoot?] Immediately thereafter, she heard 5 gunshots.

She peeped again through the window and saw her husband lying down the floor and also heard the motor of the vehicle start. She shouted for help and together with her children they went to Antonio's location.

She and her children found Antonio at the front of the barbershop floor already dead. They saw Antonio suffered from four bullet wounds (two shots to his chest, one at his nape and another at his cheek).

The Barangay Captain of Laug came after five minutes to look into the incident. Thirty minutes after four policemen came to investigate.

Before Antonio was killed that night, **Case 3 Witness 1** recalled hearing someone knocking and calling out to Aris Lopez (another AMTG officer) but did not hear Aris respond from his house which is just next to the Adriaes residence.

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She also recalled that Antonio told her that several men were frequently visiting him. She recalls that those who visited her husband were the members of the group called “Batu brothers”. They are known to be notorious armed bandits freely roaming and operating in the towns of San Simon, Apalit, Minalin and Mexico of Pampanga.

B. CASE : ATTEMPTED SALVAGING

Name of Victim: Marlon C. Maspat, 27 years old

Date of Incident: January 31, 2006

Place of Incidence: Barangay Sta. Monica, San Simon, Pampanga

Perpetrators: Oscar Sese Romero and Michael Arsenio (members of Batu Brothers group)¹⁴

On January 31, 2006 about 8:10 pm, Marlon Maspat with his wife and mother-in-law were resting in their house at Barangay Sta. Monica, San Simon, Pampanga was surprised when two motorcycles carrying two men each parked in front of their house.

Maspat identified two of the four men as Oscar Romero Jr. (alias Doydoy), wearing a white cap and sporting a high-powered rifle and Michael Arsenio (alias Roy) who was sporting a short pistol.

Romero and Arsenio immediately pointed at Maspat as their motorcycles parked.

Maspat was alarmed and ran towards his house and heard a gun shot and felt he was hit by a bullet. He ran all the way to their second floor and locked himself in the room. Romero and Arsenio followed Maspat inside the house.

Romero proceeded to fire more shots aimed at the concrete ceiling. Apparently frustrated in being unable to draw out Maspat, immediately left the house with Arsenio.

After the men left, the relatives rushed Maspat to the hospital.

Prior to the shooting incident on January 30, 2006 Ramil Batu , a known member of the Batu Brothers Group, was killed in San Simon, Pampanga.

Maspat believes that he was being hunted down by the Batu Brothers because they believe he was involved in death of Ramil Batu who was attacked near their compound. He also revealed that the group targets members of people’s organizations and his activities in the local organization may also be a reason why he caught their eye.

The armed Batu Brothers Group have records of harassing members of people’s organizations not to mention their involvement in hold-ups and extortion activities.

¹⁴ A bandit group believed to have strong military linkages operating in the towns of San Simon, Mexico, Apalit, and Minalin of Pampanga.

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According to a witness, on June 12, 2005 these members of Batu Brothers Group were present during the actual encounter between the 69th IB PA and the Rebolusyunaryong Hukbo ng Bayan (Armed Revolutionary Group) and in fact assisted the military.

On February 6, 2006 Marlon Maspat filed a Frustrated Murder case against the perpetrators. In the course of the series of hearing in the Provincial Prosecutor Office in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga Marlon and his family had been continuously being harassed and forced by Luisito Batu (main Witness of the accused and alleged leader of the Batu Brothers Group) to agree with a compromise settlement. An offer which Marlon refused.

There was an incident during the March 17, 2006 hearing and before it started when the mother-in-law of Marlon was harassed by Luisito Batu, shouting at her while running after her armed with a firearm. An act done by Luisito even though he was in the compound of Justice Hall in the City of San Fernando.

At present the suspects are freely roaming the area and Maspat even recalled an instance where he saw one of them inside the Municipal Hall.

C. CASE : DISAPPEARANCE

Name of Victim: Tomas Paras, 47 years old

Date of Incidence: October 13, 2005

Place of Incidence: Barrio Site, Barangay Palili, Samal, Bataan

Perpetrators: SSgt. Elizaldo Betty of the 24th IB PA and members of the 24th IB PA

Tomas Paras and **Case 6 Witness 1** were rebel-returnees who formally surrendered in the General Army Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo on December 10, 1997. Since then, they have settled with their children in Barrio Site, Samal, Bataan where they earn a living by producing charcoal. They maintain a small hut upland where they rest for days after burning charcoal.

Sometime in April 2005, they were told by the 24th IB Phil. Army in the Palili, Samal, Bataan Detachment that they were still in the Army's Order of Battle (OB) list. Dorina suspected that it was pressure tactic to force her husband to accept the Army's offer to be part of the land mines team as he is skilled in this type of work.

On October 13, 2005 at around 8:30 pm, a group of soldiers in full battle gear belonging to the 24th IB PA approached their upland hut and asked Dorina to wake her sleeping husband.

Upon seeing Tomas, one of them shouted "*Kumander, beto na siya*" [Commander, here he is.]

Some of the soldiers were wearing bonnets that hid their faces from view but the 'Commander' whom the soldier addressed was the same one who passed by their hut a few days before and whom **Case 6 Witness 1** offered a cup of coffee as a courtesy.

She remembered that the soldier identified himself as 'Staff Sergeant Elizaldo Betty'.

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The soldiers forcefully pulled Tomas out from the hut. **Case 6 Witness 1** intervened at the rough treatment but the soldiers declared they were just going to ‘talk’ to Tomas. Tomas was dragged into the nearby woods which was only a few meters away from the hut. It was very dark outside at the time.

She attempted to follow but one of the soldiers poked a gun on her. This soldier eventually left her but in her fear she did not dare follow.

Ten minutes after Tomas had been dragged in the woods, **Case 6 Witness 1** heard faint moans coming from her husband whom she assumed was being beaten by the soldiers. She attempted to reach the area where she heard the moans by circling behind their hut and passing through her brother-in-law’s nearby pineapple field. When she reached the spot where she heard the moans, she realized the soldiers and her husband have already left.

Earlier that day, at around 4:30 pm, Tomas and her were burning charcoal a short distance from their hut. She remember hearing the dogs barking and believed that strangers came into their hut. This was confirmed by her daughter who told them that while they were out, soldiers came in looking for Tomas.

Furthermore, they also heard that the reason for the presence of many soldiers was because someone was ‘going to be made an example of’ [*May isasampol ngayon*]

On the morning of October 14, 2005, **Case 6 Witness 1** returned to the hut and noticed the boot marks made by the soldiers’ foot wear and bare foot marks made by her husband on the dirt floor of their hut.

On her way to see the barangay captain about her husband’s disappearance, she passed by two groups of soldiers laughing. She saw SSgt. Betty among the laughing soldiers and assumed that her husband may just be held somewhere and hopefully still alive.

Upon talking to the Barangay Captain Mercedes Jasmin, she was advised to go ahead and report the incident to the municipal police as (SSgt) Betty and Dazo (another soldier) was looking at them. After reporting to the Municipal Police, she was accompanied two policemen to the 24th IB PA detachment.

Upon reaching the detachment, she was informed by the soldier that there was no ‘SSgt. Elizaldo Betty’ in that detachment.

Some days later, the detachment in the area was pulled out and transferred elsewhere.

D. CASE: HARASSMENT

- Name of Victim/s:** Officers and Members of MAKABAYAN Central Luzon
Date of Incident: October 27, 2005
Place of Incident: Marisol, Angeles, Pampanga
Perpetrators: Two Unidentified Armed Men

TASK FORCE CENTRAL LUZON

That on October 27, 2005 at around 7:30 am at the Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (MAKABAYAN) or Workers for National Liberation Angeles Office which was also the office of the Angeles Electric Cooperative (AEC) , Roel Gudes was surprised by the loud pounding at the door.

Roel Gudes is a live-in staff of the office and a member of Conquest Phils. Workers Union (CPWU), an affiliate union of MAKABAYAN. The MAKABAYAN Office was at the right-most apartment on the second floor.

A man's voice ordered Gudes to open the door. Instead of opening the door, Gudes peeped through the window beside the door and saw two men, one of which was wearing camouflage pants.

Again, the man's voice angrily ordered him to open the door. Gudes replied that since he did not know them, he would not open the door.

The man's voice asked if the apartment is a union or organization's office and Gudes replied that the apartment was the office of the Angeles Electric Cooperative (AEC).

At this point the two men introduced themselves as 'Ka Rey' and 'Ka Marlon'. 'Ka Marlon' asked if Gudes knows of a certain 'Ka Ed' or 'Ka Edong' who was known to be 'a good leader and organizer in Pampanga'. Gudes replied in the negative.

'Ka Rey' added that they needed 'to find this person as soon as possible, as it was the orders of their boss'. Gudes in turn asked why they were bent on finding this person and was rebuffed by 'Ka Marlon' saying, "*wag ka nang magtanong kung ayaw mong madamay*" [Don't ask any questions unless you want to be involved in this mess.]

More words were exchanged until finally an obviously upset 'Ka Rey' asked him to accompany them to Angeles, a surprising question since the two were already in Angeles. The question revealed to Gudes that the two were obviously not from the locality.

'Ka Marlon' again queried Gudes if he knew the person they were looking for, again Gudes gave the same negative reply. 'Ka Marlon' asked who was managing the office and Gudes said that it was Jun Miranda who manages the office.

Gudes further said that he was a distant relative of Miranda who was the one who asked him to come in as a staff in the said office.

At this point, 'Ka Rey' was getting angrier and lifted his shirt to reveal a gun tucked in his waistband. Noticing this , 'Ka Marlon' pulled down 'Ka Rey's shirt to hide the gun once more.

The two men left Gudes and Gudes proceeded to watch the men as they turned and walked away from the office towards the stairs of the building which is right besides the other closed door and window of MAKABAYAN office. . At this point, Gudes overheard that 'Ka Marlon' was speaking to someone over the phone who was addressed as 'Boss'.

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Gudes heard 'Ka Marlon' say : “ *Boss,wala talaga dito yung tao at hindi ito ang opisina at center post ng MAKABAYAN Pampanga,*” [Boss, the preson we want is not here, And this is not the office or center post of MAKABAYAN Pampanga.]

Because of Gudes' proximity to the conversing 'Ka Marlon' and the strong signal of the latter's cellphone, he heard the 'Boss' say: “ *di ako maaring magkamali,yan talaga ang center post ng MAKABAYAN*” [I cannot be mistaken. That is really the center post of MAKABAYAN]

'Ka Marlon' (as heard by Gudes) insisted that he (referring to Gudes) was not the man they were looking for as Gudes was younger and did not sport a pot belly.

After the call, Gudes watched, through the window, the two men go down the apartment building and meet up with another man who was standing at the waiting shed in front of the apartment building. The waiting shed is located approximately ten meters away from the front of the apartment building.

Gudes still watching through the windows, saw the three men converse a little and then all piled into an old, single motorcycle and rode towards the direction of the city proper.

The next day,October 28, 2006 at around 5:00 pm, as Gudes was about to go home to the office from work, he saw 'Ka Marlon' and the man they met at the waiting shed yesterday, obviously watching the office. Instead of heading straight to the office, Gudes positioned himself at a nearby small carnival (peryahan) which was some eight meters from the two men. The men left after an hour.

2. Name of Victim/s : SMART Workers

Date of Incident: December 13, 2005

Place of Incident: Smart Shirt Phils. Inc. at Clark Development Center in Clark, Angeles, Pampanaga

Perpetrators: CDC Security

Smart Shirt Phils. Inc. has a total of 2,700 workers and the first ever company in Clark Development Center whose union (Smart Shirts Phils.,Inc. Workers Union-SSPIWU) was able to successfully negotiate their CBA (Collective bargaining Agreement). Their landmark achievement in the former US Base paved the way for other unions.

SMART SHIRT produces garments for export. Of the total work force, around 1,200 workers are considered union members.

The employees union actively engages not only on the worker's issues but are also involved in the political struggles such as anti-NLEX toll hike, oil price hike, and May 1 labor protests.

On December 13, 2005 around 1-2pm, **Case 8 Witness 1** and **Case 8 Witness 2**, Union President and Shop Steward respectively, heard the fire alarm of the company. Earlier, they were briefed that a 'fire drill' was to be conducted. The workers immediately proceeded to the many exits of the building.

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After everyone was outside, they were ordered to return inside the building. As the bulk of the workers were already inside someone shouted that there was a ‘bomb’ in the building, panic quickly spread down the workers ranks as they scrambled to get to the exits.

Because of all the panic and confusion, around ten workers (including some pregnant women) sustained injuries from the stampede that resulted and were later brought to the hospital. The management footed the bill.

When everyone was outside the building, **Case 8 Witness 1**, **Case 8 Witness 2** and other Union Officers asked the management on what happened. The management representatives replied “*hindi namin alam at lumayo na lang kayo*” [We didn’t know, better to stay away].

From where they stood, they noticed the CDC Security and elements of the Philippine Air Force with K-9 dogs arrived and entered the building.

The Union Officials immediately asked the management to give the workers a day off given the incident. The management granted the proposal.

A day after the incident, December 14, 2005 the Union Officials , upon their request, held a dialogue with the management representative Marialyn Tacle and Arnel Sabido.

In the said dialogue, management reps admitted “ *wala kaming alam sa nangyari kahapon. Ang aming alam ay may nagtext kay Dante Deang, Chief Security, na mayroon daw bomba sa loob ng planta. Kaya siya tumawag sa CDC Police at inutusan siya na palabasin ang workers sa factory*” [We did not know anything about what had happened yesterday. All we knew was that somebody sent a text message to Dante Deang, Chief Security, telling there was a bomb inside the factory, and he informed the CDC Police. The CDC Police ordered him to let all workers vacate the factory].

Case 8 Witness 1 later recalled that a week after the incident, a union member who has a relative working in the Phil. Air Force based in Clark told the union member that according to their intelligence report, it was the NPA who put the bomb in the Smart factory.

On the said incident, no one was held responsible for the setting-off of fire alarm. Neither the management knew who was responsible for it, though the management should know who is the only proper person authorized to push the button to the fire alarm.

3. **Name of Victim/s:** Workers of Conquest
Date of Incident: December 16,2005
Place of Incident: Conquest Phils. Inc. inside Clark Development Center (CDC)
Perpetrators: CDC Security

Like SMART SHIRT Inc. Conquest Phils. also manufactures garments for export. Conquest has a much smaller workforce, numbering only three hundred. Along with the union in SMART SHIRT Inc., Conquest workers are actively taking part in workers’ issues and political struggles. Like SMART, these workers enjoy their hard-won collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

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On December 16, 2005 at around ten am, some union members called the attention of union officials, Roman Gabriel and Catherine Cabigting, to the fact that three CDC security elements were copying the complete names of the Conquest Philippines Inc. Workers Union (CPIWU) officers from the Union bulletin board located at the company's entrance.

This created quite a apprehension among the workers since they knew that there was no need for the CDC security to drop by and copy the officers' names from the board as a copy is always furnished to the CDC ecozone management especially at the conclusion of the CBA negotiations.

The two union officials went to the Human Resources Development (HRD) Officer Gilda Magunddayao to relate the incident.

Magunddayao related that the CDC security asked her the complete names of the union members and even went as far as asking for the key to the glass-paneled bulletin board in order that they may procure a copy of the documents (including memorandums) posted on the union bulletin board. She added that the men (CDC Security) told her that they did not have a copy of the union officials in the CDC main office.

Magunddayao further revealed that the CDC Security specifically asked her the name of the union president and the identity of the labor organizer of the said union. She answered the question regarding the identity of the union president and said that all she knew of the labor organizer of the union was that he was called 'Ka Primo'.

This incident created quite a stir among the workers coming at the heels of the inquiries made at the Angeles office of MAKABAYAN.

E. HARASSMENT AND MILITARIZATION IN THE COMMUNITY

- 4. Name of Victim/s:** Residents of Mexico, Pampanga
Date of Incident: Started on October 2004 up to the present
Place of Incident: Mexico, Pampanga
Perpetrators: 69th IB PA

On October 2004, residents of four (4) towns of Pampanga (San Luis, Sta Ana, Arayat and Mexico) were surprised when the 69th IB Phil. Army put up detachments in 11 Barangays in these towns.

Three days upon arrival in Mexico, Pampanga, Colonel Visaya (Commanding Officer of 69th IB PA) informed Mayor Tumang of Mexico, Pampanga that the army intends to stay in the area even without the approval of the local officials until such time the national command re-deploy them in other areas.

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In protest, the Association of Barangay Captains in Mexico made a petition supported by the town mayor, urging the army to pull out all the detachments in the town but to no avail.

After more than a year, two unsolved and highly suspicious salvaging of two Barangay Captains had been committed by still unidentified men.

To date there are 19 Army detachments in 19 barangays in the 43 barangays in Mexico. Majority of these army detachments have been put up in the barangay halls or offices. Consequently their presence have influenced the dynamics of the day to day operation of the barangays. In San Pablo, the army is using as its detachment the extension of the Catholic Chapel as the barangay hall is still under construction.¹⁵

The Army conducts foot patrols at night creating a climate of fear among the night workers—such as tricycle drivers, night shift workers and farmers who go to their work at night and to their farms at dawn.

In February 2006, according to a witness who requested anonymity, the army forcibly invited several people from the different barangays including him to a 3 day seminar which turned out to be an ‘anti-leftist seminar’.

Some of those who attended, including this witness, were interrogated by Major Limas of 69th IB PA citing intelligence reports of their active participation in the rallies while some were being recruited to be their ‘intelligence assets’.

On March 3-4 and April 1-2, 2006 an anti-left seminar and rally were held by the Philippine Army led by Major General Jovito Palparan. The first rally in March was participated in by Barangay San Patricio and San Pablo, Mexico while the April seminar/rally was participated in by 16 barangays of Mexico. However, the participants in the April rally were forced by the army to join the said activity.

To verify reports about the peace rallies, particularly in Barangays San Pablo and San Patricio, the Fact-Finding team met with officials of San Pablo on April 25, 2006 at the residence of the Barangay Chairperson, Ms. Carlita Edos.

Aside from the Barangay Chairperson, also present were the Barangay Secretary, Mr. Rodrigo Manuel, and members of the Barangay Council.

The Fact-Finding team gathered the following information from the meeting with the Barangay Council:

1. That on March 3 and 4, 2006, an anti-communism rally was held in two barangays, namely, San Pablo and San Patricio;

¹⁵ *A few days after the FFM, the detachment in San Pablo was transferred elsewhere.*

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2. That prior to the rallies, people from the two barangays were invited to attend a seminar-workshop called by the military, (through the detachment commander), and coursed through the chairperson of each of the two barangays;
3. That in said seminar, government personnel from the TESDA and the Philippine National Police were among the speakers, and that topics included discussion of the Anti-Terrorism Bill;
4. That it was impressed in the said seminar that Mexico is greatly influenced by the presence of leftist groups;
5. That on the second day, March 4, 2006, rallies were held in the streets of San Pablo and San Patricio. The rallies were participated in by people from the two barangays who attended the seminar in the first day;
6. That in said rallies, the people were made to carry placards denouncing both the New People's Army (NPA) and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHB) as terrorists and anti-people. Written in some of the placards paraded in the two barangays are: "AYAW NAMIN SA NPA" [We Don't the NPA] at "AYAW NAMIN SA RHB" [We don't want the RHB].
7. That the slogans written in the placards were reportedly the outputs from the seminar-workshop. The people who attended were reportedly asked the question, "What can you say of the NPA?" Some of the presumed answers read by the workshop facilitators a day after the said workshop;
8. That the rallies were also in support of the Anti-Terrorism Bill.

IV. FINDINGS

1. The Mission found that the victims of salvagings were all members and/or leaders of people's organizations that were all active in local struggles and national issues.
2. Motorcycle-riding gunmen often figured in the salvaging cases and even in the harassment case involving the office of MAKABAYAN.
3. The salvaging cases were done in a manner as to affect instantaneous death except for the case of Lucero where two of his three wounds seem to o make him talk before sustaining the fatal chest wound.
4. Main suspects in the perpetration of human rights violations are military and military-backed groups, an example of the latter is the Batu Brothers of Mexico, Pampanga who are notorious bandits.
5. No one was arrested or convicted which shows a culture of impunity such as that exhibited by the Batu Brothers in freely roaming the area and engaging in banditry,

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crime and extortion activities which suggest that they believe themselves to be 'untouchable' or 'invincible'.

6. There is practically militarization in the areas that were visited as indicated in the fact that there was military superiority over civilian, as in the Army usurping civilian functions.
7. In the case of the harassment of unions/workers, they are indications that they are being harassed because they are active in asserting their rights and the welfare of their fellow workers and there could be possible collusion between management/CDC security and may extend to military or police elements to affect such harassment/s.
8. Military elements deployed in barangays are performing civilian functions and are systematically trying to condition the local residents into accepting their presence, at the heart of their barangays, as normal and should be supported rather than feared or opposed.
9. The victim's relatives exhibited reluctance to seek the assistance of the local police or law enforcement agents as they have lost trust in these agents believing them to be involved/have knowledge of the incidents.
10. Extra-judicial killings breed a climate of fear in the areas. This in effect deters potential witnesses and suppresses the truth from surfacing.
11. Although there were witnesses who came forward and gave their statements, they still fear for their safety as there is no effective sanctuary offered by the local government.
12. The salvagings are still ongoing especially as there yet to be a breakthrough case that has prosecuted the perpetrators of salvagings.

V. ANALYSIS

The death toll from extra-judicial executions have reached almost a hundred across the nation. In Central Luzon alone, the killings are being spaced as near as forty-eight hours apart from the previous average interval of seven to twenty-one days.

Central Luzon's place in the present regime's economic agenda, its strong roots in the national and democratic struggle and proximity to the nation's capital are reasons enough to be the prime laboratory of this dastardly design of annihilation--any and all forms of progressive opposition whether real or imagined.

No longer content in removing the fish or progressives out of the water as seen during the 1989-1991 gradual constriction policy dubbed as "Operation Lambat-Bitag" implemented in three of the region's seven provinces, the fish are now being killed and the water, which is the network of support, is being poisoned by conditioning fear and breeding political apathy.

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Openly, Major General Jovito Palparan declares war against insurgents alongside issuing point blank denial of any involvement in the face of the extra-judicial executions of leaders and members of *progressive and militant organizations*.

In the communities, it is the military which harasses the local residents and enjoins them to participate in 'anti-left' activities while forcibly assuming supremacy over the civilian authorities.

But as seen in the cases of Lucero, Paras and Maspat , there is evidence to belie the staunch claim of the military, represented by Palparan, of innocence and non-involvement.

No sector is considered safe as the victims of the killings and harassment are varied. Anyone can be targeted—the youth, women, peasants, workers, religious, local officials, journalists and even lawyers.

The Arroyo regime's ominous silence and indifference to the brazen killings is undeclared approval for Major General Palparan's actions. Only after international human rights entities called the attention of the Chief Executive did a Task Force materialize, a move which still has to bear any tangible gains.

It is to the long-term advantage of the Arroyo regime to render decisive crippling blows to the people's movement in Central Luzon as well as across the nation.

Through its most effective implementor :Major General Jovito Palparan who rose to fame for his cold-blooded salvagings of progressives and activists, the Arroyo regime aims to forcibly stop the people's movement literally dead on its tracks.

A population cowed by fear and broken by the almost daily salvagings is a population that will pose no threat to the flow of investment from foreign big business that is funneled in development projects with high social costs like North Rail as seen in the proposed transformation of Central Luzon into a fully-operational 'global gateway'.

This type of atmosphere smoothens the implementation of unpopular and detrimental and repressive policies and programs such as Charter Change, the Anti-Terrorism Bill and the National ID System since there would no longer be any kind of opposition as the most vocal of which are already permanently silenced.

The twin tactics of harassment and extra-judicial executions bred by impunity and disregard for democratic institutions, makes a mockery of freedom and puts the Arroyo regime's commitment to human rights in question. This is especially appalling given that the country has a seat in the UN Human Rights Council.

Never before has the Philippines witnessed the currently unfolding diabolical and sophisticated design aimed at silencing all left and progressive organizations in such grand scale.

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If allowed to go unchecked, the mounting death toll and human rights violations will ultimately deaden the sensibilities of the nation where the value of life is reduced to nothing and the inalienable right to life becomes no more than an abstract concept.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ To build up cases that would lead to the prosecution of the perpetrators
- ❑ Prepare and provide sanctuary to witnesses which would ensure their safety and welfare as well as serve as encouragement to potential witnesses who are still reluctant to come forward.
- ❑ Immediate pull-out of all army detachments and military elements in the affected areas.
- ❑ Dismantling of paramilitary groups in the said areas.
- ❑ Submit the mission report and seek appropriate action from national and international human rights entities as well as local legislative bodies like the Philippine Senate and the House of Representatives for appropriate action.
- ❑ Conduct massive human rights education and training aimed at affected communities as a tool to aid in the protection of their human rights.

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List 1: Barangays of Mexico, Pampanga with Military Detachments Belonging to the 24th IB PA

1. Sabitanan
2. Divisoria
3. Calabasa
4. Suklaban
5. Eden
6. San Carlos
7. Sto. Rosario
8. San Antonio
9. San Jose Matulid (TRANSCO – Main Camp)
10. Masangsang
11. San Vicente
12. Concepcion
13. San Patricio
14. San Isidro Malino
15. Pangatlan
16. Pamipuan
17. Parian
18. San Pablo
19. Laput

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List 2: Municipalities in Pampanga where the Batu Brothers are Known to Operate

- ❑ Mexico
- ❑ Minalin
- ❑ San Simon
- ❑ Apalit