



January-March 2023:

Attacks against farmer communities under the fascist counter-insurgency campaign

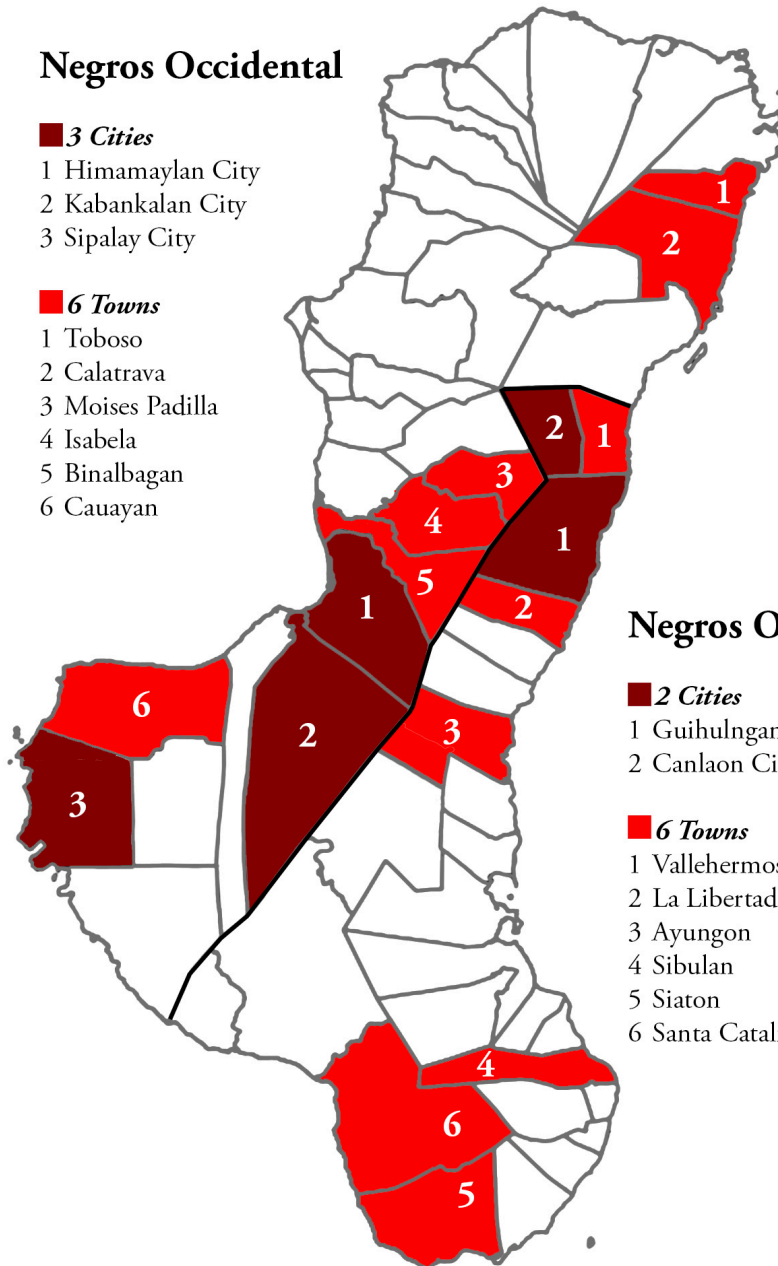
Negros Occidental

■ 3 Cities

- 1 Himamaylan City
- 2 Kabankalan City
- 3 Sipalay City

■ 6 Towns

- 1 Toboso
- 2 Calatrava
- 3 Moises Padilla
- 4 Isabela
- 5 Binalbagan
- 6 Cauayan



Negros Oriental

■ 2 Cities

- 1 Guihulngan City
- 2 Canlaon City

■ 6 Towns

- 1 Vallehermoso
- 2 La Libertad
- 3 Ayungon
- 4 Sibulan
- 5 Siaton
- 6 Santa Catalina

Almost a year into Marcos Jr's assumption of power, brutality and atrocities suffered by the people under his reign has intensified. Militarization is the answer of the inutile regime to the people's demands for livable wage, genuine land reform, adequate social services, genuine peace and social justice.

Particularly in Negros Island, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP) and National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac continues to intensify the use of violence against the people. Under its anti-insurgency campaign and in desperation to "win the counterrevolutionary war," it exercises fascism to suppress and force the people to their knees in order to make them submit to its rule.

The AFP/PNP induces martial law-like conditions in the countryside of Negros that endangers the life and livelihoods especially of farmers. This aggravates the economic crisis confronting the people that generated inflation and skyrocketing prices of basic goods while wages remain cheap. The people also bear the effects of neoliberal attacks such as importation of sugar and rice and other agricultural

Above are areas in the two provinces of Negros Island where focused military operations spearheaded by the 3rd Infantry Division were monitored within the first quarter of 2023. Where there is a concentration of military troops, there are also numerous cases of human rights violations.

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products, privatization of public services like water and power, and oil deregulation. The situation further worsens because of unending corruption of those in power who are in league with Marcos Jr, and him wasting the people's money through luxurious travels abroad.

Under the reign of Marcos Jr, state forces continue to violate human rights of the people in the entire Negros Island. This is a conscious violation of International Humanitarian Law and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). In the first six months since Marcos Jr took office, Ang Paghimakas already recorded 178 cases of human rights violations in the island.

In the first quarter of 2023, not less than 300 to 400 military troops were employed at a time during massive combat operations in farmer communities. These were monitored in three cities and six towns in Negros Occidental, and two cities and six towns in Negros Oriental.

Where there is a concentration of AFP and PNP troops, there are also human rights violations. Fifty-five cases of violations were recorded by Ang Paghimakas in the first quarter of the year. In the 96 communities who experienced the evil effects of militarization, not less than 5,000 individuals were involved, mostly farmers and farm workers. Some

of the violations are extrajudicial killings, illegal detention, bombing, threats, harassment and intimidation, physical assault, surveillance, coercion and violation of rights of hors de combat. The military also occupy homes, churches, public infrastructures like schools, health centers and barangay gyms. These are expected to worsen in the coming months.

Extrajudicial Killings. Three similar cases were monitored within the passed three months where a farmer was executed and then tagged as a member of the New People's Army (NPA) killed in an encounter.

Jose Gonzalez was taken by 94th IB elements pretending to be NPA members from his home in Sitio Cunalom, Brgy. Carabalan, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental on January 8 in the evening and, the next day, the family received news that he was declared by PNP Himamaylan as a casualty in an encounter between the NPA and military. Orlando Fat was also killed by the 62nd IB in front of his wife and children in his home at Sitio Banderahan, Brgy. Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, on January 10, 6:00 in the morning. He was immediately declared by soldiers as an NPA casualty.

Meanwhile, the 94th IB captured and executed Joemari Calumba of Sitio Mugni, Brgy. Oringao, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental on February 4. Calumba was tending his carabao when

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July-December 2022

178 cases of human rights violations

19,258 victims

143 communities

January-March 2023

55 cases of human rights violations

Not less than 5,000

individuals involved

96 communities

ABRIL 2023
SPECIAL ISSUE



ANG **Paghimakas**



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Nagapasalamat ang Ang Paghimakas sa mga kontribusyon agud mangin madinalag-on ang ini nga isyu. Sa pagpauswag sang aton Ang Paghimakas, ginapangabay sa tanan nga bumalasa nga padayon nga mag-amot sang mga balita, piktyur, istorya kag iban pa nga sinulat. Nagapangayo man kami sang inyo mga suhestyon kag komentaryo paano pa gid ini pauswagon.



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the said military troops seized him. He was declared an NPA casualty in an encounter despite being captured and killed a day before the actual skirmish between the Mount Cansermon Command (MCC-NPA) and 94th IB.

Frustrated murder. The 62nd IB strafed the house of farmer Rodrigo Pasinabo in Brgy. Trinidad, Guihulngan City last January 15. Since 2017, he was accused by said military troop of being a NPA member and they kept badgering him in his home to surrender.

Illegal arrest. Marsinita Villaneda of Sitio Tigmaya, Brgy. Gatuslao, Candoni, Negros Occidental was illegally arrested and imprisoned in the Candoni Police Station on the first week of March. She was accused of being a member of the NPA.

Bombing. Two incidents of artillery shelling after an armed encounter between military troops and Red fighters of the MCC-NPA on February 4 caused fear and the evacuation of residents of Sitio Mugni, Brgy. Oringao, Kabankalan City. Around 800 residents were affected by the bombing.

Illegal detention. Soldiers of the 79th IB illegally detained

for hours five farmers from Sitio Odiong, Brgy. Bandila, Toboso, Negros Occidental on separate dates. On January 7, 8:30 in the morning, the military detained Wendell Pasinabo and threatened to chop his head off. Another two farmers were detained on January 26. Meanwhile, Rex Lumayno and Eric Opinggo were seized and detained twice last February 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 in the morning. They were brought to a forested area and were interrogated by the military there.

The 94th IB captured and interrogated Judy and Rodolfo Montesino at Sitio Kotkot, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City on February 10, 7:00 in the evening and released them around 1:00 early morning. They were catching frogs when the military passed them.

On March 17 in the evening, Ricky Elod was seized and questioned by 62nd IB soldiers at his home in Sitio Caliban, Brgy. Banogbanog, Isabela, Negros Occidental.

Threat, harassment and intimidation. Couple Marting and Roama Pedro and their son Digoy were harassed by the 62nd IB last January 22 at Sitio Proper, Brgy. Amuntay, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental. They were accused of being NPA supporters

and were forced to pinpoint the location of the NPA.

The 47th IB harassed again and again residents of sitios Indangawan and Kawilan in Brgy. Manlucahoc, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental since January up to March 3 to force them to surrender as NPA. While 94th IB soldiers intimidated residents of Carabalan Proper, Himamaylan City on March 1 and were shouting "who dares to defy us" and "you will all be killed" that caused fear among the people. On the same date, the 15th IB occupied the house of "Kano" Basa for two nights at Sitio Pulak-pulakan, Brgy. Cabian, Candoni.

Last March 19, 12 soldiers of the 94th IB in plain clothes armed with long firearms hid themselves in a sugarcane field near the house of Narsing Bertulano in Sitio Cabite, Brgy. Santol, Binalbagan. They opened fired four times on residents who were approaching their hiding place. And so, two empty shells of M-16 rifle bullets were found at the scene of the shooting. Two days after the incident, a sugarcane field owned by Bacanoy, in nearby Sitio Mangahoykahoy, was burned. Earlier that day, residents saw six motorcycles each

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with passengers wearing bonnets pass by the area.

Meanwhile, the 62nd IB went to see couple Danilo and Libeth Gerunda three times in Sitio Lower Caliban, Brgy. Banog-banog, Isabela on March 19, 26 and 28. The soldiers forcibly entered their house and took photos of their children who were minors.

The homes of Landie Grapa, Windel and Rosin on March 26 at Sitio Alamag, Brgy. Linantuyan, Guihulngan City were also ransacked by the 62nd IB. They were accused of harboring the NPA.

On the morning of March 31, the 62nd IB forced their way into the houses of Rolando Marosino in Sitio Kanduyanon, Brgy. Linantuyan, Guihulngan City and Dora Legaspi in Sitio Pina-sagan of the same barrio.

Physical Assault. The 62nd IB threatened Jelman Lindayao with a machete on his neck in front of his wife and children last

February 14 at Sitio Nabirasan, Amuntay, Binalbagan while the same troops thrust the side of Lindon Mata using a M-16 rifle at Sitio Bantolinao, Santol, Binalbagan last February 23, 8:00 in the morning. He was only asking permission to fetch his carabao.

The 62nd IB also assaulted Renante Villacapa and Eyok Diala last March 17 at Sitio Caliban, Brgy. Banog-banog, Isabela. The military entered their houses and were forcing them to act as guide during military operations. Men who introduced themselves as members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and elements of the Cauayan Police assaulted Jason Providencia and his sibling and compelled them to admit being NPA on March 20, 11:00 in the morning in Sitio Lu-oy, Brgy. Yao-yao, Cauyan, Negros Occidental. The two were brought to the Cauayan Police Station despite the absence of a warrant of arrest.

In the morning of March 31,

Jonald Belando was attacked by the 62nd IB while his son Arnel was kicked at Sitio Kansiyawan, Brgy. Linantuyan, Guihulngan City. They were being forced to disclose the whereabouts of the NPA and were threatened to be killed if they withheld information. Meanwhile, the same army unit beat farmers Mary Joy Cabanag, Maylin Carillo, Eddie Recanillo, Jenny Bontalao and Lengling Recanillo on the same date and place. They were interrogated and were forced to divulge the location of the NPA.

Surveillance. Agents of the 79th IB placed under surveillance the grandparents of Baby Marx Cairo Salino, son of Red fighters, which compelled them to go into hiding for their security. Two-month old Baby Marx was forcibly taken from his caregiver on January 2021 and for the past two years is under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development despite efforts of the family to get him back under their protection.

Meantime, eight armed individuals pretended to be NPA members at Sitio Pulak-pulakan, Brgy. Cabian, Candoni on March 2 and were suspiciously watching the houses for NPA presence in the area. The 47th IB have continuously conducted a census of residents of sitios Indangawan and Kawilan in Brgy. Manlucahoc, Sinalay City from January 2 to March 3.

Illegal search and seizure. The 62nd IB ransacked the home and took two Baofeng handheld radios of Marting and Roama Pedro on January 22 at Amuntay Proper, Binalabagan. While they also rummaged through the personal items and seized the possessions of couple Randy and Maribel Pecore on January 26 at Sitio Mabato, Brgy. Talaon, La



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Libertad, Negros Oriental. The 62nd IB also intruded and ransacked the houses of seven residents of sitios in Brgy. Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental last February 10. The same army unit conducted similar acts in two sitios of Brgy. Talaon, La Libertad from February 14 to 24. The 62nd IB forcibly seized the cellphone of Jelman and Recil Lindayao on February 14 at Sitio Nabirasan, Brgy. Amuntay, Binalbagan. While they ransacked the house of JR Apao and his wife at Sitio Binil-iwan, Brgy. Calupaan, Guihulngan City last March 17.

Destruction of property. The 62nd IB ransacked and destroyed the home of Dongkoy Pahayahay

at Sitio Apalali, Brgy. Aya, La Libertad on January 26.

Coercion. The AFP/PNP used programs of government agencies such as the Pantawid Pamilya sa Pilipino Program (4Ps) for their deception. On March 29, people from mountain barangays of Kabankalan City, Himamaylan City and Binalbagan were summoned to attend an *Alay Lakad* activity at Kabankalan City, but actually, instead of a parade, the people were surprised when they were asked to carry placards condemning the CPP-NPA. It was a "condemnation rally" sponsored by the military. The attendees became more worried when a "surrenderee" named Ka Aya spoke in the program calling on them to surrender. Fearing for

their security, some went home without finishing the program.

Violation of the rights of hors de combat. On February 4, at Sitio Mugni, Brgy. Oringao, Kabankalan City, the 94th IB apprehended two Red fighters, Arjen Mahinay (Ka Nonong) and Junjun Callet (Ka Ruben) before an armed engagement between the MCC-NPA and the aforementioned military troop. However, the 94th IB declared that they were killed during the encounter. Ka Nonong suffered a stroke and could no longer move and speak when he was captured by the military, while Ka Ruben was the medical officer taking care of him. 



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