

April-June 2023:

Farmers' blood overwhelm Negros Island under the rule of Marcos Jr

IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2023, terrorism and violence perpetuated by the mercenary and fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), and National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac continues and escalates further on Negros Island in their desperation to crush the New People's Army (NPA) and the entire revolutionary movement before the year ends. Rampant militarization persists in the countryside causing terror among the population and trauma to children.

From April to June, *Ang Paghimakas* documented 92 cases of human rights violations, with no fewer than 3,000 victims falling prey to the abuses of the fascist and butcher state forces. These incidents are part and parcel of over 300 cases of violations of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and international humanitarian law committed by the AFP/PNP/NTF-Elcac and their force



multipliers during the first year of the US-Marcos II regime on Negros Island.

Violations by state forces greatly increased compared to the first quarter of 2023, revealing a more intense and aggressive counter-insurgency campaign. Gen. Andres Centino, the AFP Chief of Staff at the time, bragged during his visit to Negros last May that the NPA on Negros Island could be destroyed by the end of the year. However, in truth, civilians became the target of killings, physical assault, illegal arrests, illegal detentions, threats, harassment and intimidation, and other abuses.

Despite the AFP's declaration that the Central and Southwest Fronts of the NPA were already "weakened," they still augmented 47th IB troops that arrived from Bohol in March and 50 soldiers from the Light Reaction Company. They continue to delude that the North and Southeast fronts were "dismantled" but, until now, military presence heightens in their relentless combat operations. They intensified militarization of the countryside through month-long operations and battalion-sized troops entering communities.



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The AFP/PNP/NTF-Elcac are so desperate to eliminate the NPA as soon as possible. They resorted to the brazen implementation of a dirty and bloody counter-insurgency campaign and no longer differentiated combatants and civilians. They concocted dramas and fabricated evidence to be presented to the public through media and paid propaganda.

The abduction of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Rogelio Posadas (Ka Cocoy) and his companion Lyngrace Marturillas while onboard two motorcycles driven by Denald Mialen and Renel de los Santos along the highway of Brgy. Aranda bound for Brgy. Camalobalo in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental on April 19, around 6:25 PM, became prominent during the past months. According to witnesses, a white van blocked their path, and

armed individuals wearing bonnets forcibly took Posadas, Marturillas, and the two drivers into the said vehicle.

The 303rd Brigade declared that NDFP consultant Rogelio Posadas died in a supposed encounter between the NPA and troops from the 94th IB and 62nd IB in Brgy. Santol, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental on the morning of April 20. As for Marturillas, Mialen, and De los Santos, they have not been found yet. Despite the families' continuous search for the victims, the 303rd Brigade showed no mercy by concealing the truth behind the incident.

From April to June, majority of 10 extrajudicial killing cases and other human rights violations in the island were concentrated in Central Negros, where the notorious fascist and butcher 94th IB and 62nd IB are stationed. It is here that state forces acknowledge the strongest presence of NPA forces.

April-June 2023:

92 human rights violations

Not less than 3,000 victims

First year of Marcos Jr's reign on Negros Island:

More than **300** cases of violations of CARHRIHL and international humanitarian law by AFP/PNP/NTF-Elcac and force multipliers

Not less than **24,000** victims

27 of said cases directly involved more than 50 minors

94th IB: Massacre Battalion

ON MAY 3, AFTER AN encounter between the troops of the 94th IB and the Mt. Cansermon Command-New People's Army (MCC-NPA) in Sitio Dangalon, Bray. Hilamonan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, 39-year-old farmer Crispin Tingal Jr was captured and brutally killed by the 94th IB. Tingal had just attended a meeting of farmers' associations in Kabankalan City when he was apprehended by elements of the 94th IB while walking along the road. He was subjected to torture before being killed.

On December 26, 2022, Tingal was also one of the victims of the military's raid on nine households. The Tingal family and others in the same com-

munity were victims of severe harassment, intimidation, and other forms of abuse. They were summoned and presented by the military as so-called "surrenderees."

The heinous massacre of the Fausto family on June 14 at 10:00 PM in Sitio Kangkiling, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental was deeply condemned by the people. Four members of the family were killed: Rolly (father), 52 years old, Emilda Fausto (mother), 49 years old, and their two children Ben, 15 years old, and Raben, 11 years old.

The Fausto family had been subjected to abuse by the 94th

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IB multiple times before. Last year, Rolly Fausto was arrested by the 94th IB and was tortured at the Hilamonan Detachment, falsely accused of being a member of the NPA.

In recent months, the Fausto family endured continuous harassment, intimidation, and raids of their home by the military, particularly troops stationed in Brgy. Hilamonan and Brgy. Mahalang, Himamaylan City. Prior to the incident, three particular individuals were observed lurking around their house at night, and one of them was identified as a military asset, also a rebel returnee.

The Fausto family is a legitimate member of BABICAFFA (Baklayan, Bito, Cabagal Farmers and Farmworkers Association), a local association in the area. The family is also actively involved in the church of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI). The remaining children of the Fausto couple continue to be threatened and pursued by the military and police.

The 94th IB is desperate to whitewash their massacre of the Fausto family. On June 19, Benjie Teruel, a relative of Crispin Tingal, was summoned by the aforementioned military troop to force him to confess responsibility for the family's murder. Teruel is the uncle of Crispin Tingal Jr and has difficulty walking due to a physical disability. He was also falsely accused of being an NPA member and an accomplice in the harassment incident at the Hilamonan Detachment on June 13.

On May 3, during Tingal's killing, the military shot at Ramon, who was about to approach his brother, Crispin. Later, Ramon heard his sibling's labored breathing and saw him being



stuffed into a sack. Meanwhile, elements of the 94th IB chased and shot at Tingal's son, Cristan, who was trying to go near their house.

The homes of Tingal's siblings and relatives living in the community were once again forcibly searched on the same date. The military even took money from the houses they ransacked. Several weeks later, the military returned to the Tingal family and threatened them that if they filed a case, they would all be killed.

Meanwhile, Allan Ramos, a neighbor of Tingal, was illegally arrested on May 11 at 5:00 PM after the said military troop strafed Ramos' house and that of his brother, Albert. The 94th IB declared this incident as an encounter. Afterward, 878 individuals in Sitio Dangalon and neighboring sitios in Barangay Hilamonan, Kabankalan City, were forcibly evacuated following the incident and likewise after an encounter between MCC-NPA and the 94th IB on May 3.

Susan Medes, 58 years old, a mere farmer was illegally arrested by the 94th IB and PNP forces on June 25 at Sitio Calasa, Brgy. Caradio-an, Himamaylan City. She is the chairperson of BABICAFFA and

resides in Sitio Bito, Brgy. Buenavista in the same city. She was arrested on trumped-up charges of murder and frustrated murder in connection with an NPA ambush that occurred in Sitio Bunsad, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City, on May 12, 2018.

Susan Medes is the wife of Rodrigo Medes, who was also arrested by the police and military along with five other residents and a pastor of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines (UCCP) in Brgy. Buenavista on June 26, 2019, based on the same fabricated charges and has been languishing in prison till now.

On April 15, a 70-man troop of the 94th IB reportedly fired an M203 grenade launcher near a farm on the pretext that NPA members were residing in Sitio Pisok, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City.

From April 10-13, the 94th IB conducted checkpoints in the communities of Sitio Bungyod, Montara, Victoria, and Proper, Brgy. Camangcamang, Isabela, Negros Occidental. They interrogated residents on their activities and took pictures. Soldiers also harassed and threatened

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the communities and went from one house to another in the said areas, including sitios Jamaica, Kalubihan, Conchita, and Emma of the same barangay. The military occupied these communities for almost two weeks.

Meanwhile, the But-ay family's house in Sitio Pallacon, Brgy. Payao, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental was raided and indiscriminately fired at in the early morning of April 11. The military shot a carabao owned by the family mistaking it as an NPA member.

The 94th IB had the gall to feign being pro-people and to advocate peace under the leadership of Lt. Col. Van Donald Almonte when they sent letters to residents of Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City last May. However, this was only a prelude to the brutality they perpetrated against innocent civilians, especially in the said barangay.

The home of the De Leon family in Sitio Cantupa, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City was raided on June 8. They were one of the families who received a letter from Almonte. Meantime, in Sitio Pisok of the same barangay, Joel Casusa's house

was raided on April 15, and his more than 300 newly planted taro (bisol) and over 50 banana trees were destroyed.

Aside from BABICAFFA, the 94th IB also attacked officials and members of other farmer associations, accusing their organizations of being "front organizations" of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and NPA.

Five farmer and farm workers associations in

Kabankalan City held a dialogue with Mayor Benjie Miranda and City Legal Atty. Zafra on June 8 to address the abuses they suffered from the 94th IB and assert their demands for justice for the victims of killings, illegal arrests, investigations, threats, ransacking of houses, and physical assault, and to put a stop to these mili-tary atrocities against

VIOLATIONS	CASES	VICTIMS
Extrajudicial Killing	2	5
Frustrated Killing	2	2
Illegal Arrest	2	2
Indiscriminate Firing	2	3
Threats, Harrassment and Intimidation	7	160 (20 children)
Illegal search and seizure	4	47 (22 children)
Destruction of Property	1	1
Forced Evacuation	2	878
Encampment in communities	2	50
TOTAL	24	1,148

the people of Kabankalan City.

Similar incidents occurred with farmer associations in Brgy. Salong and Camansi on June 17. They were harassed and accused by Sgt. De Atras, a soldier of the 94th IB, having the NPA work on their fields. The soldiers wanted to obtain the list of their members, causing fear and anxiety among the residents.

62nd IB: Peasant Killer

ON MAY 20, AT 5:00 in the morning, five farmers were brutally killed by the fascist and peasant killer 62nd IB in separate incidents and were then tagged as NPA causualties in encounters. Couple Juliven Ramirez, 23 years old, and Evelyn Meren, 31 years old, from Sitio Napiluan, Brgy. Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, were massacred. The 62nd IB soldiers raided their house where NPA members were resting. Meanwhile, Ruben Obidas, 49 years

old, from Sitio Nakuruhan, Brgy. Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla, was finished off. He was wounded by a stray bullet during the shooting by the said military troop.

The 62nd IB and the 16th Scout Ranger Company (SRC) mercilessly killed father and son Antonio Babor, 77 years old, and Jurielen Babor, 27 years old, from Sitio Amumuyong, Brgy. Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, after an encounter between the 62nd IB and the Leonardo Panaligan Command-New

People's Army (LPC-NPA) in the said area.

Meantime, the 62nd IB brutally killed, at his own home, Jose "Jojo" Albores, 32 years old, a farmer from Sitio Upper Tiyos, Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla on April 18, at 5:00 in the morning. His house was suddenly strafed by a platoon of operating troops of the 62nd IB. Prior to his death, he stood as witness to the blotter filed by

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siblings Jeffrey and Jessel Gella, farmers who were beaten by the same troop on April 7 in the same sitio.

Indiscriminate firing by the 62nd IB on June 13 at 9:00 in the morning in Sitio Cupad, Brgy. Macagahay, Moises Padilla resulted in the deaths of farmers Roweno Anubong, 40 years old, from Sitio Agogolo, Brgy. Macagahay, Moises Padilla, and Benjie Ebarle, of legal age, married with three children from Sitio Bungaw, Brgy. Trinidad, Guihulngan City.

The home of couple Jerry and Maricel Montefalcon in Sitio Natuling, Brgy. Budlasan, Canlaon City was illegally searched on April 15. Jerry Montefalcon was immediately arrested by members of the 62nd IB. He was falsely accused of being a NPA member and had already experienced harassment and intimidation a year before. A similar incident happened to Lucricio Villegas, 57 years old, on the early hours of April 22 at Sitio Banban Uno,

Brgy. Guba, Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental. A hand gun and a grenade were planted on him.

Leonido Montero was also illegally arrested at his home on April 28 in Sitio Malatanglad, Brgy. Budlasan, Canlaon City. He already received threats from the military since 2017. He was arrested together with Anthony Curson (Ka Miguel), who was seeking shelter in his house due to kidney disease. Later on, Curson was killed by the fascist 62nd IB. Additionally, Aldren Valbueno, 20 years old, who just returned home from work, was arrested on June 16 in Sitio Manta-uyan, Brgy. Macagahay, Moises Padilla. A .45 cal. pistol and a military pack was planted on him and he was coerced to admit his membership to the NPA.

The indiscriminate firing of the 62nd IB in Sitio Uyangan, Brgy. Budlasan, Canlaon City, on June 15, at around 11:00 pm, caused fear among farmers and children. The same incident occurred in Sitio Cansampo, Brgy.

Bagtik, La Libertad, Negros Oriental, on June 24, at 5:30 in the afternoon. They showered bullets for more than five minutes. The military boasted an encounter between the LPC-NPA and the 62nd IB.

In April, nine farmers were beaten by the fascist 62nd IB in Brgy. Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla, and Guihulngan City. Ronie Catasyo and his three siblings were

beaten at Sitio Kadanlugan, Brgy. Quintin Remo after they denied seeing NPA members when the military questioned them. Jesus Molina was interrogated and assaulted by operating soldiers of the 62nd IB at Sitio Inarawis on April 6, at 7:00 in the morning, shortly after he arrived at his in-law's house. Similarly, on April 7, Ulie Castillo of Sitio Nakurohan and siblings Jeffrey and Jessel Gella of Sitio Tiyos were interrogated and beaten after their houses were raided. In Sitio Ngalan, Brgy. Sandayao, Guihulngan City, Janny de la Pena was also physically assaulted.

From April to June, the mercenary 62nd IB continued its harassment and intimidation, with 100-400 troops conducting military operations. They occupied schools and barangay halls violating international humanitarian law.

The 62nd IB forcibly entered houses and interrogated residents, harassing farmers and accusing them of being supporters of the NPA. This affected the residents of six sitios in Brgy. Quintin Remo and Macagahay in Moises Padilla; Sitio Omot, Brgy. Santol, Binalbagan; Sitio Hinagduan and Aguntilang-3 in Brgy. Riverside, Isabela; Sitio Banban Dos, Bray. Bucalan and Sitio Natuling, Brgy. Budlasan in Canlaon City; sitios Gomuktok and Cansampo in Brgy. Bagtik, La Libertad; Sitio Dadyangao in Brgy. Luz, Guihulngan City; and Sitio Banban Uno in Brgy. Guba, Vallehermoso.

Osot Anillo was threatened on April 11 in Sitio Hinagduan, Brgy. Riverside, Isabela, that if he does not disclose the presence of the NPA, he will face charges and imprisonment. Farmers Jimmy Tanodra, Berto Recisio, Jimmy Panunsi, and Berto De Leña

VIOLATION	CASES	VICTIMS

Extrajudicial Killing	5	8
Illegal Arrest	4	4
Indiscriminate Firing	2	40
Physical Assault	5	9
Threats, Harrassment and Intimidation	14	125 (8 children)
Illegal search and seizure	2	17 (5 children)
Forced Evacuation	1	1,000
Encampment in communities	5	110
Violation of rights of hors de combat	2	2

TOTAL

40

1,315

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from Sitio Banban Dos, Brgy. Bucalan, Canlaon City on April 19 were also accused of being NPA supporters and harboring the NPA in their homes. Meanwhile, the Villegas family home in Sitio Banban Uno, Brgy. Guba, Vallehermoso was raided by a platoon of the 62nd IB. Junior de los Trico (with intellectual disability) was chased down and

threatened with gunshots by 62nd IB troops on June 23 at Sitio Cansampo, Brgy. Bagtik, La Libertad. This incident instilled fear on the victim.

The military also forcibly entered houses and confiscated personal cellphones of the residents, especially those of young people in Sitio Agogolo, Brgy. Macagahay, Moises Padilla, on April 19. The military also reprimanded residents passing by

the houses they occupied in the same village.

Around 250 families were forcibly evacuated in Sitio Napiluan, Brgy. Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla on May 20 after an encounter between the LPC-NPA and the 62nd IB.

The 62nd IB disregarded the rights of two hors de combat they brutally killed. Anthony Curson (Ka Miguel), 22 years old, was arrested and killed in Sitio Malatanglad, Brgy. Budlasan, Canlaon City, at 3:00 in the afternoon on April 28. His feet and legs were swollen, making it difficult for him to walk due to a kidney condition. On the other hand, Alvin Bayno (Ka Dagger), 20 years old, from Sitio Caliban, Brgy. Banogbanog, Isabela, was wounded and could no longer fight back when he was killed even after an encounter between the 62nd IB and LPC-NPA on May 20 at 5:00 in the morning at Sitio Napiluan, Brgy. Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla.



15th IB and 47th IB: Butchers and Deceivers

THE 15TH IB MERCILESSLY KILLED Gusting Mapos in Sitio Bajay, Brgy. Caliling, Cauayan, Negros Occidental on May 21, at 3:30 in the afternoon. Mapos, a local farmer from the said barangay, was just going to his farm in Sitio Bajay when the residents were startled by multiple gunshots. There was no encounter between the Armando Sumayang Jr Command-New People's Army (ASJC-NPA) and 15th IB during that time refuting the false claim of the military that Mapos was a casualty of the encounter.

Two more farmers were killed by the butcher 47th IB in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental.

Jonel Bayno, 27 years old, from Brgy. Manlucahoc, was arrested by soldiers but his body was later found dumped at Crossing Tanduay, Brgy. Camindangan on May 25. In a separate incident,

elements of the same military troop took Rogelio Lacton, a resident of Brgy. Camindangan, and he was found dead at Sitio Sadlum in the same ba-rangay on May 27.

A house of a family living in Sitio Suha, Brgy. Camalandaan, Cauayan was ransacked by troops from the 15th IB on May 1. Meanwhile, in Sitio Lin-ab of the same barangay,

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VIOLATION	CASES	VICTIMS
Extrajudicial Killing Illegal search and seizure	<i>3 4</i>	3 150
Threats, Harassment and Intimidation	4	205
TOTAL	11	358

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soldiers forcibly took the cellphone of a farmer's child and looked at the numbers and messages in the phone.

In a separate incident on May 1 in Sitio Lin-ab, 15th IB soldiers threatened a farmer that his family will be shot at if the door will not be opened. They forcibly entered the house after the family opened the door out of fear. On May 12, in Sitio Buhod, Brgy. Camalandaan, Cauayan, the said military troops also detained people attending a fiesta celebration and did not allow them to go home.

A combined force of the 15th IB and 47th IB forcibly entered houses and took photos of the residents in Sitio Canangan, Brgy. Camalandaan, Cauayan on June 13. On the same date, the fascist troops pretended to be NPA members. They threatened the residents of the 16 sitios of Brgy. Inayawan, Cauayan that if they will divulge the presence of armed men, they will be punished.

11th IB and 79th IB: Fascists and a danger to children

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE HINTERLANDS of Northern and Southeast Negros continue despite the AFP's false claim that the Rachelle Mae Palang Command (RMPC-NPA) and the Roselyn Jean Pelle Command of the NPA (RJPC-NPA) were already "dismatled." The 11th IB and 79th IB still unleash violence against the people.

From April to June, focused military operations have been relentless in 11 barangays of Calatrava, Negros Occidental; barangays San Isidro, Tabun-ac, Bandila, San Jose, and Gen. Luna, of Toboso, Negros Occidental, and in sitios of Brgy. Pinapugasan, Escalante City, Negros Occidental. They occupied communities, schools, day care centers, gymnasiums, markets, and chapels. These caused terror and difficulties to the people's livelihood.

After the counter-offensive of the RJPC-NPA against the fascist 79th IB on April 6 in Sitio

Seraje, Brgy. San Isidro, Toboso, the said military troop directed their revenge towards the residents. The 79th IB soldiers kicked and punched an elderly person while lying in his hammock. They ransacked as well the house of a former CAFGU member and punished him for not reporting the presence of the NPA. Renz Manos, a fish vendor in Sitio Seraje, was also bloody and his mouth was injured after he was beaten by 79th IB soldiers. He was not able to answer when the military asked who the barangay captain of Bray. San Isidro was as he was new to the area.

Likewise, more than 140 individuals were forcibly evacuated after the incident. When the residents had left, 79th IB troops ransacked 10 households in the said sitio, where the door of one house was destroyed. They also took personal belongings such as hammocks, clothes, boots, and money amounting to P10,000.

The mentioned items were shamelessly presented by the 79th IB as "recovered" materiel after the encounter.

While on April 8, two farmers on their way to their farm in Sitio Seraje were threatened by 79th IB soldiers, saying, "What do you want, continue farming here or die?" Frightened, they decided to stop farming in the said sitio.

In the municipality of Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, the 11th IB illegally arrested couple Rani 'Ka Jeje' Casilao and Miralyn 'Ka RV' Fortunado, along with their one-month-old baby, in Sitio Tamlang, Brgy. Talalak on May 14. They were taken to the 11th IB headquarters in Brgy. Salag, Siaton, Negros Oriental, and Casilao was coerced into assisting military operations.

Meanwhile, the said military force conducted indiscriminate

VIOLATION	CASES	VICTIMS
Illegal Arrest	1	2
Illegal Detention	1	10 (including children)
Illegal Arrest	1	10
Physical Assault	3	3
Threats, Harrassment and Intimidation	3	14
Forced Evacuation	1	147
Encampment in communities	5	280
TOTAL	15	466

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firing in Sitio Undol, Brgy. Talalak and illegally detained 10 residents including children and senior citizens and prevented them from going to their farms and fields. This happened a day after a misencounter ensued between the 11th IB and PNP while they were conducting combat operations in the sitios of Brgy. Talalak on May 16.

Residents of sitios Avocado and Tamlang of the same barangay were also pressured to "cooperate" and surrender to the 11th IB on June 4. On the same day, in Sitio Kansarania, Brgy. Apoloy, Siaton, Negros Oriental, pictures of farmers Salvio Dacaldacal and Laden Veranio were forcibly taken while they were holding blank papers. This was part of the military's campaign to persuade the people they alleged as supporters of the NPA to surrender.

The Negrosanon children are in danger

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF Marcos Jr, 27 cases of human rights violations directly committed by the AFP/PNP/NTF-Elcac involved more than 50 minors. Until now, innocent children remain entangled in the coercive and hostage-taking activities of state forces.

Within the three months, the most heinous attack by state forces on the Negrosanon youth was the killing of 15 year-old Ben and 11 year-old Raben Fausto on June 14 in Sitio Kangkiling, Brgy. Buenavista, Himamaylan City.

Baby Marx Cairo Salino remains in the custody of the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) in Escalante City, Negros Occidental. Baby Marx is the child of Red fighters and was taken hostage to force the parents to surrender. He was kidnapped by the 79th IB in January 2021 when he was only two months old.

Meanwhile, the 11th IB continues to search for and offer a reward of P50,000 on a two-year-old child of Red fighters from the Rachelle Mae Palang Command to coerce the parents to surrender.



HEIGHTENING CONDITIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS violations in Negros are intertwined with the entry of various economic interests of big comprador bourgeoisie and foreign capitalists on the island. The people are facing harm caused by large-

scale mining and quarrying, bulk water projects or dams, coastal reclamation, land grabbing schemes or land reconcentration towards landlords such as the National Greening Program and land reclassification, and ecotourism.