

# A look into Duterte's dirty war during the first half of 2021

Human rights report  
(January-June 2021)

Ang Bayan

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

Based on AB's records, there have been at least 16,845 victims of human rights violations this year (93 victims per day on average). The figure excludes the tens of thousands of civilians who were arrested and detained or punished for purportedly "violating" lockdown protocols imposed during the pandemic, as well as those killed in the name of the continuing "war against drugs." It also excludes hundreds of individuals who were red-tagged and subjected to surveillance including activists, government officials, government, lawyers, judges and ordinary citizens, while petitions against the Anti-Terror Law (ATL) were being heard by the Supreme Court.

On average, there were at least two cases of political killings every week. Approximately two individuals were also arrested daily.

These data prove that armed state agents are systematically targeting civilians. These attacks against civilians and their communities are a dirty tactic employed by the Duterte regime and its National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) in line with their bloody counterinsurgency campaign.

In violation of the the international laws on war which upholds the protection of the lives of non-combatants, the AFP is targeting civilian communities which they besiege and occupy, and subject to military operations supposedly against the New People's Army (NPA). Martial law is imposed on these villages and residents are subjected to cases of harassment, warrantless searches, intimidation, and mobility, livelihood and business restrictions. Highly militarized areas recorded the highest number of cases of human rights violations during the said period.

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

## Human rights violations (January-June 2021)

Political killings	60
Frustrated killings	3
Arrest and detention	201
Destruction of property	2
Illegal search and seizure	9
Abduction	5
Torture	5
Demolition	300
Coercion	195
Forcible Evacuation	16,232

## Killing, frustrated killing, torture and abduction

At least 60 civilians fell victim to political killings across the country during the first half of the year. The number of victims this year is higher compared to figures recorded during the same period in 2020 (46). Majority of those killed (33) were farmers. Three victims were minors. In most cases, victims are falsely presented by state forces to have been killed in "encounters" after attempting to "fight back."

Like in the previous year, the Bicol region recorded the highest number of victims (18), followed by Southern Tagalog (13) and the Negros Island (12). The first two regions are located in the area of responsibility of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) headed by notorious red-tagger NTF-ELCAC spokesman Lt. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr. Bicol and Negros are both covered by the Memorandum Order 32 issued by Duterte in 2018 which directly deployed additional battalions to the said areas. Among provinces, the highest number of killings were recorded in Negros Occidental (7), followed by Rizal and Camarines Norte (6 each).

AB documented five massacres during the same period. The latest incident reported was perpetrated by the 3rd Special Forces Battalion in Barangay Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur who massacred three Lumads, including a minor, last June 8. The victims are believed to have been tortured before being executed, while two of them are believed to have been raped. A week prior to the incident, elements of the 2nd IB and police also massacred three farmers in Barangay Anas, Masbate City.

A case dubbed "Bloody Sunday" took place on March 7 wherein nine activists were killed separately in Cavite, Batangas and Rizal. On May 28, state forces also liquidated two National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace consultants in the Visayas, Fr. Rustico Tan and Reynaldo Bocala. This is a violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

Five individuals were reportedly abducted by state forces and are yet to be surfaced. The victims include youth activist Kemuel Ian Cometa who was abducted by police elements in Barangay Macabbling, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna on May 21, simultaneous with the massacre of three other activists.

Additionally, AB recorded three victims of frustrated killing and five victims of torture. The victims include Angelo Karlo Guillen, a lawyer representing individuals who petitioned against the ATL. He was stabbed on the head on March 3 in Iloilo City. He also represents the nine Tumandoks who were massacred, and 16 others who were arrested in Capiz and Iloilo on the last day of 2020.

### Massacre

Date	Name of victims	No.	Place	Sector/Group	Perpetrator
2021-02-08	Buenaventura Dawal; Dennis Nogollos; and another	3	Sarayan, Pres. Roxas, North Cotabato	Farmer	90th IB, 72nd IB
2021-03-13	Enrique Cabilles; Arnel Candelaria; Nomer Peda	3	Lanot, Mercedes, Camarines Norte	Farmer	PNP Bicol
2021-05-21	Christoper Boton; Cristina Estocado; Rommel Riza	3	Macabbling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna		202nd IBde, SAF
2021-06-08	Ailyn Bulalacao; Ramon Boy Brioso; Antonio Poligrates	3	Anas, Masbate City	Farmer	PNP-Masbate, 2nd IB
2021-06-15	Willy Rodriguez; Lenie Rivas; Angel Rivas	3	Diatagon, Lianga, Suriagao del Sur	IP 1 child	3rd SFB

## Arrest and detention

At least 201 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention were recorded by AB during the first half of the year. The month of March saw the highest number of cases with at least 78 victims, majority of whom are from the peasant sector (74), followed by national minorities (73). The highest number of victims (80) were recorded in Southern Tagalog. At least 63 individuals were arrested in Rizal alone. The victims include 60 Dumagats who were arbitrarily arrested after being accused as members of the NPA in Rodriguez and Antipolo City on March 14 and April 13.

AB also recorded at least eight incidents of mass arrests during the same period. Last of which was the arrest of nine members of the Mapula family along with four other individuals in Bulan, Sorsogon on June 2. The arrests were perpetrated by elements of the 22nd IB. Six of those who were arrested during the said incident are minors, youngest of whom is two-year old Althea Mapula who was arrested with five other children.

In sum, at least 28 minors were arrested during the same period. The victims include 19 Lumad students who were arrested in the Bakwit School in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City on February 15 along with seven teachers and their supporters. The teachers who were arrested include Chad Booc who is also a petitioner against the ATL.

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### Attacks on communities

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Affected areas

Barangay	610
Town/City	321
Province	65

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### Bombing, strafing, artillery shelling

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No. of affected barangays

Bombing	32
Shelling	4
Strafing	27

On top of this, AB also recorded at least 15 cases of threat, harassment and intimidation. These figures include hundreds of individuals who were red-tagged by the NTF-ELCAC, and members of progressive organizations who continue to be subjected to threats by armed state forces.

### Attacks on communities

Since January, AB recorded various types of military attacks in at least 610 barangays of 321 towns in 65 provinces. The highest number of affected barangays were recorded in North Central Mindanao (80), followed by Southern Tagalog (74) and Eastern Visayas (58).

At least 32 barangays were affected by incidents of indiscriminate bombing, strafing and artillery shelling during the same period. This includes 21 barangays in the Quezon Province which were covered by the bombing and strafing campaign of the military in February. Four barangays were also reportedly shelled by the military.

Among the most recent attacks was the bombing and shelling of forested areas of Barangay Kasapa II, La Paz, Agusan del Sur on April 6, near the farmlands and communities of residents. The military also dropped six bombs in the area using two FA-50 fighter jets. The said barangay was also strafed thrice in February.

These indiscriminate attacks combined with military occupation of barrios resulted in the evacuation of at least 16,232 residents from their respective communities across the country. Majority of the evacuees are from Southern Tagalog (15,000).

AB



## Human rights violations

	Abduction	Arrest and Detention	Coercion	Demolition	Destruction of property	Killing	Evacuation	Frustrated Killing	Illegal search and seizure	Physical assault	Rape and molestation	Threat, harassment, intimidation	Torture
CPP-NPA-NDF						6					1		
Children	28					2					1		1
Church	2					1							
Driver	4												
Government Employee	2				3								
Health Worker	1												
Human rights worker	6					1							
Indigenous People	73	19			1	5	15,623				1		3
Lawyer								1					
MAKABAYAN/Bayan	2					1			1			3	
NGO worker						1							
Peasant	5	74			1	33	600	2	7	1		9	1
Student/Youth		1										2	
Teacher		1							1				
Urban poor		1		300									
Women		1											
Worker		5				2						1	

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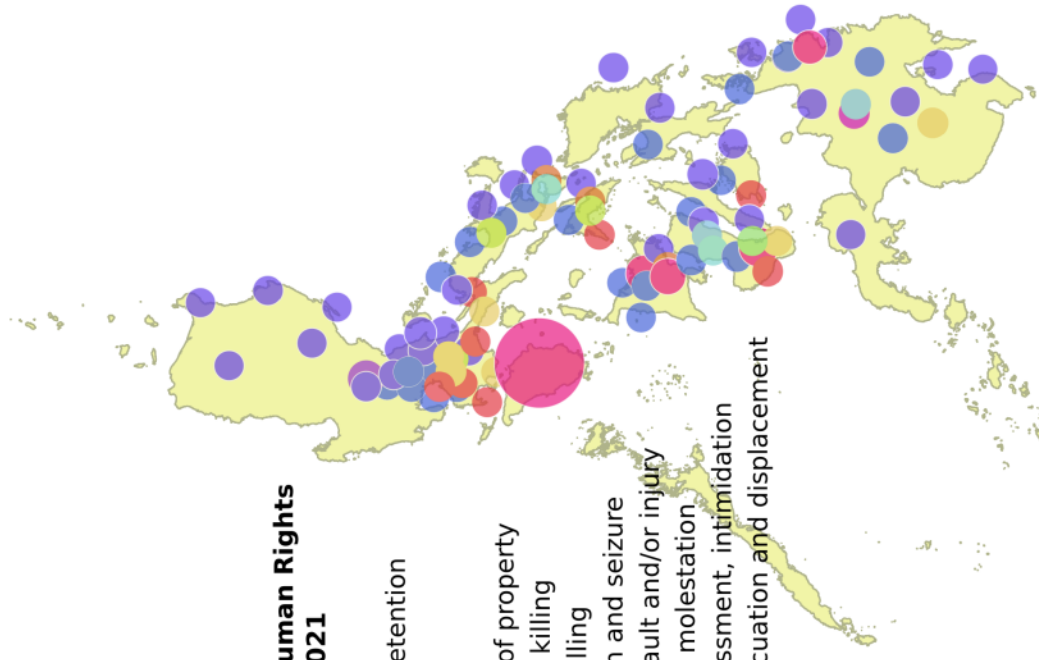
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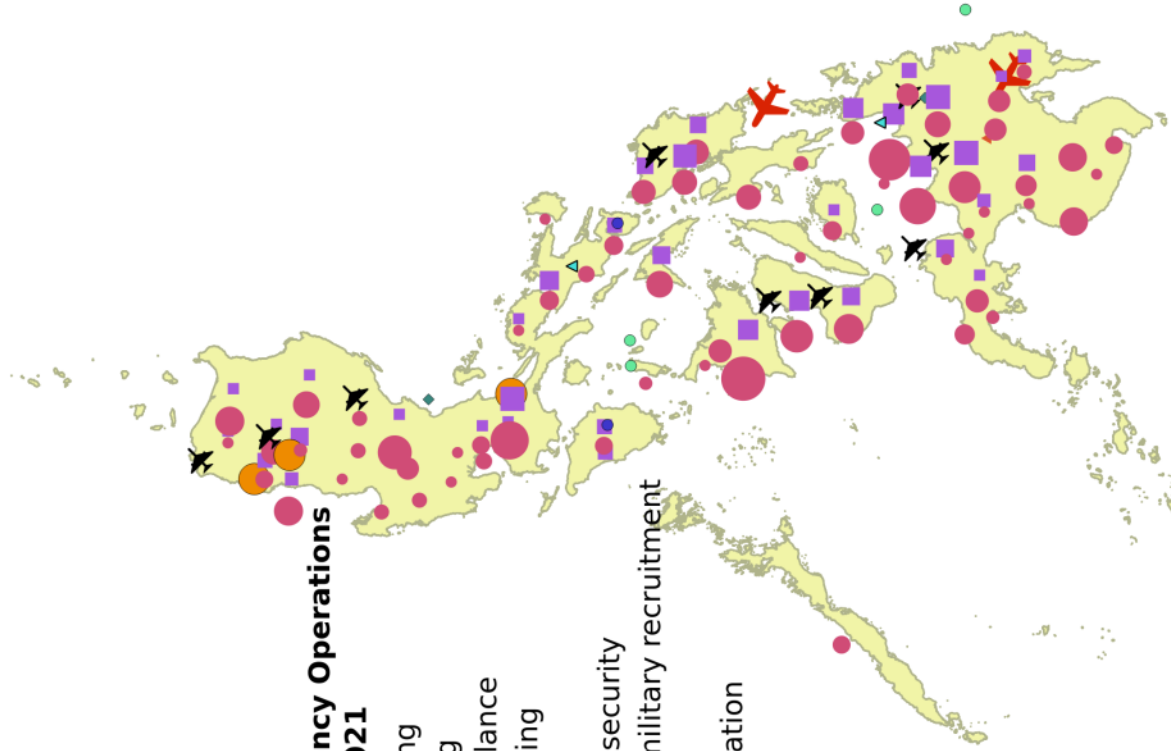
### Violations of Human Rights January-June 2021

- Abduction
- Arrest and detention
- Coercion
- Demolition
- Destruction of property
- Extrajudicial killing
- Frustrated killing
- Illegal search and seizure
- Physical assault and/or injury
- Rape/Sexual molestation
- Threat, harassment, intimidation
- Forcible evacuation and displacement
- Torture



### Counterinsurgency Operations January-June 2021

- Aerial bombing
- Aerial strafing
- Aerial surveillance
- Artillery shelling
- Strafing
- Big business security
- CAFGU/paramilitary recruitment
- Checkpoints
- Combat operation
- Psyops



\* Ang laki ng mga bilog ay tumutukoy bilang ng mga biktima