



OPIAN BANTAY LAYA

a primer.

prepared by:

ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT
 *for* JUSTICE
& PEACE



The spate of political killings, victimizing **696** persons as of June 30, 2006, has reached alarming proportions. It is already an affront to our love for freedom, our civility, and value for life.

The number of political killings during the five and half-years of the Arroyo administration is almost half of the 1,500 political killings committed during the 14 years of Martial Law. This record is made even worse when the **176** forcible disappearances are taken into account. Impunity characterizes

the commission of these abhorrent crimes against humanity.

And these do not yet present the total picture of the human rights record of the Arroyo administration. The current regime is also known for its persistent attacks on the people's civil liberties and political rights.

The whole nation was put under a "State of National Emergency," with Presidential Proclamation 1017 (PP1017) in February. The Arroyo government has time and again issued threats against the media. It enforced a "calibrated preemptive response" (CPR) policy to curtail the people's freedom of expression; made warrantless arrests and filed trumped-up charges of rebellion against government critics, particularly against representatives and officials of Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, and Gabriela Women's Party, to silence dissent. Arroyo issued Executive Order 464 to prevent government officials and employees from participating in Congressional investigations. All these have been declared illegal by the Supreme Court but the Arroyo administration still persists in implementing these policies.

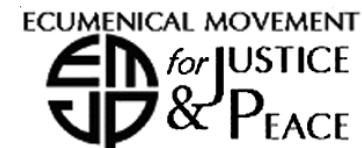
In the regions, the Arroyo administration and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have imposed a state of military rule where peoples and communities are attacked with impunity;

- Let us encourage our relatives, friends, and neighbors to participate in forums, discussions and protest actions, and to join alliances and organizations defending and promoting the people's rights
- Support the activities of relatives and friends of victims held every third Saturday of the month under the auspices of Karapatan and the Ecumenical Movement for justice and Peace

STOP POLITICAL KILLINGS!

EXPOSE AND OPPOSE OPLAN BANTAY LAYA!

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS!



There is no other way to assert the people's rights but through a broad and organized struggle, which is deeply rooted among the Filipino people.

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

- Participate in discussions, forums, and mass actions against Oplan Bantay Laya and for human rights
- Join alliances and organizations that defend and promote civil liberties and human rights

WHAT EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN DO

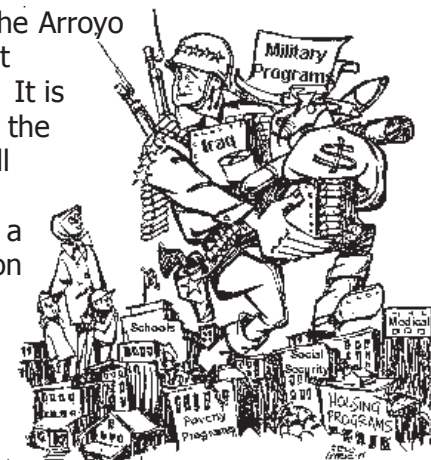
- Explain to your relatives, friends, and neighbors what Oplan Bantay Laya is all about and how it violates the people's rights
- Organize forums and discussions regarding Oplan Bantay Laya and the human rights situation
- Write letters of protest to different agencies of government such as the Office of the President, Department of National Defense, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, to your local officials and Congress persons, Senators, Commission on Human Rights, Department of Justice, and others
- Write letters to the editors of different newspapers, call all radio and television stations to express your protest against Oplan Bantay Laya and violations against our civil liberties and political rights
- Write letters to your relatives and friends abroad and encourage them to protest against Oplan Bantay Laya and violations of our civil liberties and political rights to be able to generate strong international pressure on the Arroyo administration to force it to put a stop to Oplan Bantay Laya and political killings, and to respect human rights

and local governments are rendered inutile. These are being done in the name of counter-insurgency operations, the "total war" declared by the Arroyo administration not only against groups waging a revolution against the current dispensation such as the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) but also against militant people's organizations, which it accuses as being "front organizations".

The violent attacks of the Arroyo government on the Filipino people and organizations critical of it can be viewed in the context of:

1. *the deep socio-economic crisis of the semi-colonial, semi-feudal Philippine society, which is a reflection of and worsened by the deep crisis enveloping the current world order*
2. *the support and local implementation of the Arroyo administration of the U.S. "war on terror"*
3. *the intensifying political crisis brought about by questions of legitimacy hounding the Arroyo presidency, which caused the polarization of Philippine society; the persistent moves to oust Arroyo from Malacanang; and the increasing strength of the CPP-NPA-NDFP*
4. *desperation of the U.S. and the Arroyo regime to defeat groups waging armed struggles such as the CPP-NPA-NDFP, MNLF, and MILF*

The human rights record of the Arroyo administration is already the worst after the downfall of Martial Law. It is projected to worsen further after the Arroyo government abandoned all peaceful venues for resolving the internal armed conflict in favor of a militarist solution with its declaration of a "total war" against the CPP-NPA-NDFP and the release of an additional P1 billion fund to augment the counter-insurgency operations of the



AFP. The Arroyo administration's declaration that it would defeat the CPP-NPA-NDFP within two years is in line with the AFP's counter-insurgency program dubbed Oplan Bantay Laya.

THE MILITARIST SOLUTION

Oplan Bantay Laya is the latest in a series of counter-insurgency programs of the AFP.

Right after the declaration of Martial Law, the former dictator Marcos launched intensive military operations to "nip in the bud" the CPP and the NPA, which were established in 1968 and 1969 respectively. Unable to achieve its objective, even as the country was under Martial Law and human rights violations were mounting, the Marcos regime launched in 1982 what it described as a more comprehensive and coordinated counter-insurgency program, Oplan Katatagan, to neutralize and destroy the political infrastructure of the CPP-NPA-NDFP. By then, the Marcos dictatorship was already desperately clinging to power while the struggles of the broad anti-dictatorship movement is gaining momentum and the CPP-NPA-NDFP had grown considerably in size and influence. The final years of the Marcos dictatorship, from 1982-85, were the worst in terms of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. During the 14 years of Martial Law, more than 120,000 individuals were arbitrarily arrested and detained, around 769 disappeared, and approximately 1,500 were victims of extra-judicial executions.



The AFP's counter-insurgency programs did not end with the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship. In 1987, the Aquino administration unleashed its "sword of war" through Oplan Lambat Bitag. With Oplan Lambat Bitag, the AFP implemented a "low intensity conflict" (LIC) strategy, which is consistent with the

Ricardo who was earlier killed, and another farm worker, Robin Solano, when the two were approaching the house to investigate. The two were brought by the armed men as they were leaving the farm through the main gate, destroying the padlock in the process. The armed men and their captives left using a Mitsubishi Adventure and a public utility jeep as getaway vehicles.

The farm was merely 250 meters away from a detachment of the 24th Infantry Battalion. The armed men and their captives also had to pass through a checkpoint of the Philippine Army, 100 meters away from CV Tamayo Farm. The next day, the military issued an official statement claiming that NPA guerrillas were the perpetrators.

This case is just one example of how civilians are brutally killed by the military.

Likewise, leaders and members of progressive, legal organizations are targeted. Data from Karapatan reveals that the number of political killings under the Arroyo administration is the worst after Martial Law.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PUT A STOP TO THE KILLINGS AND OPLAN BANTAY LAYA

The Filipino people must exert all efforts to put a stop to the killings and Oplan Bantay Laya.

History teaches us that whatever rights the people currently enjoy is a result of their struggles, a fruit of their concerted action.

During times of intense economic and political crisis, the people becomes restless and their movement to assert their rights gains strength. This is usually met by repression and violence by an anti-people government.

The use of repression and violence is not a manifestation of a strong republic. It is a desperate attempt of an anti-people and undemocratic government to halt the growing people's movement to be able to perpetuate itself in power.

VIOLATION	NUMBER OF CASES
Killings	696
Frustrated killings	350
Forced disappearances	176
Torture	312
Forced evacuation	76,971
Source: KARAPATAN	
*as of June 30, 2006	

Last February 1, 2006, between eight and nine in the evening, during a wake for a dead child, twelve men bearing long arms, wearing fatigue uniforms, and with their faces covered by ski masks, climbed the walls of CV Tamayo Farm owned by Conching Valmocina-Tamayo.

Inside the farm, the armed men accosted three farm workers namely, Michael Milanay, Melchor Cardinal, and Manuel Avila Jr. Melanie Cardinal, Melchor's wife who was nine months pregnant, was with the men at that time. The three workers were asked to turn over their guns and cell phones to the armed men. When the three said that they had no guns, they were accused of being NPA supporters and were beaten up. The three farm workers lost consciousness as a result of the beatings. Michael and Manuel were shot when they fell down. Melchor was carried a distance from Melanie by the armed men and eventually shot. Melchor sustained 15 gunshot wounds, and had other wounds all over his body including a gash from the right cheek to the chin, and a wound over the left eye. One of his hands was smashed after being hit with rifle butts. Michael and Manuel had four to five gunshot wounds each.

The armed men then entered the house of Valmocina. They chanced upon Ricardo Valmocina, brother of the owner of the farm, with Roel Joseph Valmocina, his grandson, as the latter were going out of their room to see what was happening. Both were immediately shot. The armed men entered the room and took jewels and money amounting to P110, 000 then left the house. As they were leaving, they encountered Ricardo Valmocina Jr, son of



"proxy war" approach of the U.S. Armed Forces. An important aspect of LIC is the utilization of paramilitary groups particularly the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) and vigilante groups such as the Alsa Masa in military operations. After intensive military operations, CAFGUs were tasked with preventing the return of NPA guerillas while AFP units conduct military operations in other areas.

Under the Aquino administration, around 1.5 million people were forcibly displaced from their communities. The most number of enforced disappearances was recorded during this period, reaching 810. There were killings of human rights lawyers and advocates by death squads. Suspected NPA sympathizers were also killed by vigilante groups, who were known to decapitate their victims. These were done to create a terror effect upon the populace but were not as numerous as today.

Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, who served as AFP Chief of Staff and Defense Secretary during the Aquino administration, made further adjustments to Oplan Lambat Bitag. He presided over the design and implementation of Oplan Lambat Bitag I, II, III,IV up to the time he was president from 1992-98. Particular to these programs was the "total approach" to counter-insurgency. With the total approach, emphasis was given to psychological warfare (psywar) and intelligence operations. This approach is a combination of intelligence operations to identify target areas and individuals, massive military operations; and offers of amnesty and capitulation. Under the Ramos administration, the AFP formed Special Operations Teams (SOT) for psywar and intelligence operations.



On the other hand, the Ramos administration entered into agreements that defined the framework and conduct of the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the CPP-NPA-NDFP.



The Estrada administration came up with Oplan Makabayan in 1998 and Oplan Balangai in 2000. The strategy of concentrating heavy troop deployments and conducting intensive and relentless military operations in priority areas where the AFP assessed as strongholds of the NPA, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), or Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) was employed.

The Estrada administration launched heavy military operations against the ASG and the MILF. But by 2001 Estrada was ousted in a people power uprising putting Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacanang.

OPLAN BANTAY LAYA

The Arroyo administration replaced Oplan Balangai with Oplan Bantay Laya. Oplan Bantay Laya was launched in January 2002. As contained in AFP documents, the strategic goal of Oplan Bantay Laya is “to decisively defeat insurgents armed groups in order to attain and maintain peace and security for national development.” The medium-term objectives set by the AFP under Oplan Bantay Laya are:

- *to preempt the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) resurgence by maintaining AFP presence*
- *to reduce lcm (local communist movement) affected areas; manpower and firearms and dismantle its politico-military structures;*
- *and to degrade the military capability of the spsgs (Southern Philippines Secessionist Groups)*

In its documents, the AFP revealed that one major change it instituted in Oplan Bantay Laya was to focus its operations against the CPP-NPA-NDFP. By 2003, the AFP identified thirteen priority

vigilante groups, private armed groups of businessmen, landlords and politicians, and private security agencies which are being used in land and labor disputes...

Article 4. The principles and standards of IHL shall likewise apply and protect the rights of persons, entities of objects involved or affected in any of the cases or situations cited hereunder.

1. *Neutral persons or entities and medical personnel, including persons of humanitarian and/or medical organizations like International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) shall be protected and respected. The establishments, facilities, transport and equipment of these persons, entities and organizations; objects bearing emblem of the red cross and the flag of peaceful intention; and historic monuments, cultural objects and places of worship shall likewise be protected.*
2. *Civilian population and civilians shall be treated as such and shall be distinguished from combatants and, together with their property shall not be the object of attack. They shall likewise be protected against indiscriminate aerial bombardment, strafing, artillery fire, mortar fire, arson, bulldozing and other similar forms of destroying lives and property, from the use of explosives as well as the stockpiling near or in their midst and the use of chemical and biological weapons.*

In general, Oplan Bantay Laya renders inutile the justice system in the Philippines. It runs roughshod over the right to due process. With Oplan Bantay Laya, civilian authority is subjugated by the power of the AFP.

EFFECTS OF OPLAN BANTAY LAYA ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

In the three and a half years of Oplan Bantay Laya, it already resulted in numerous cases of human rights violations.

2. The inherent and inalienable right to life of the people to establish a just, democratic and peaceful society, to adopt effective safeguards against, and to oppose oppression and tyranny similar to that of the past dictatorial regime.

3. The right to life, especially against summary executions (salvagings), involuntary disappearances, massacres and indiscriminate bombardments of communities, and the right not to be subjected to campaigns of incitement to violence against one's person.

Part IV. Respect for International Humanitarian Law

Article 3. The following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the persons enumerated in the preceding Article 2:

1. *violence to life and person, particularly killing or causing injury, being subjected to physical or mental torture, mutilation, corporal punishment, cruel or degrading treatment and all acts of violence and reprisals, including hostage-taking, and acts against the physical well-being, dignity, political convictions and other human rights;*
2. *holding anyone responsible for an act that she/he has not committed and punishing anyone without complying with the requisites of due process;*
3. *requiring persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the armed conflict to disclose information other than their identity;*
4. *practices that cause or allow the forcible evacuations or forcible reconcentration of civilians, unless the security of the civilians or imperative military reasons so demand; the emergence and increase of internally displaced families and communities, and the destruction of the lives and property of the civilian population;*
5. *maintaining, supporting and tolerating paramilitary groups such as armed religious fanatical groups,*

areas in seven regions namely, Ilocos-Cordillera, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Bohol in Central Visayas, Caraga, Compostela Valley in Southern Mindanao.

Other changes included the strengthening of coordination between and among AFP area commands and government units; and reorienting intelligence operations towards "target research".

Oplan Bantay Laya was framed after the U.S. "war on terror." The Arroyo administration received \$4.6 billion in U.S. military assistance for the AFP. Added to this is the \$30 million allotted for "counter-terrorism" trainings.

Oplan Bantay Laya was patterned after U.S. military strategy. This included the utilization of propaganda to demonize as "terrorists" those it considers as enemies; the conduct of intensive military operations using heavy weaponry to "shock and awe" its enemies as well as suspected supporters from the civilian populace; the conduct of preemptive strikes and rendition or the abduction, torture, and/or killings of suspected "terrorists." Groups and individuals proscribed as terrorists are deprived of all their rights.

FEATURES OF OPLAN BANTAY LAYA

Essentially, Oplan Bantay Laya is the same as previous counter-insurgency programs.



It divided military operations into four stages, clear-hold-consolidate-develop. Conduct of military operations to "clear" the area of insurgents, "hold" the area by forming paramilitary groups and an intelligence network; "consolidate" the area by improving relations between the AFP and the civilian population through civic action operations such as medical and dental missions; "develop" the area by introducing livelihood and development projects.

While seemingly inclusive of stages when people are provided with social services and livelihood projects, the impact of these interventions are at most temporary. Medical and dental missions

are palliative and do not provide the people with long-term access to essential services.

Worse, military operations are usually conducted in areas where there are mining and logging concessions, agri-businesses and plantations, and land conflicts. Consequently, the “develop” stage involves displacing the peasants, including indigenous peoples, from their land and offering small livelihood projects that readily collapse thereby burying them deeper into debt. Those who are not displaced are subjected to far worse forms of oppression and exploitation. When peasants and indigenous peoples start to organize again and fight for their rights, they are accused of being rebels and are killed.

In terms of military tactics, Oplan Bantay Laya employs the same combination of intensive military operations, intelligence, and civic action or triad operations. Military operations are conducted by regular troops of the Philippine Army. During military operations, peasant organizations and cooperatives are normally suspected of being NPA projects and are thus targeted. Peasant leaders and activists are killed. Cooperative stores are ransacked and destroyed. The harvests and poultry of peasants are confiscated purportedly to deprive the NPA of food and supplies.



Intelligence operations are carried out by units of the *Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Military Intelligence Group* (ISAFP-MIG). Civic actions and psywar operations are done by *Reengineered Special Operations Teams* (RSOT).

Particularities of Oplan Bantay Laya and how it intensifies the commission of human rights and international humanitarian law violations

Oplan Bantay Laya is contrary to Article III, Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution, which states that:

Section 1. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

Examples of provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights being violated by Oplan Bantay Laya are:

Article 1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development.

Part 3, Article 6. Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

Part 3, Article 7. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

With regards the CARHRIHL, Oplan Bantay Laya is contrary the following provisions:

Article 2: 1. The right to self-determination of the Filipino nation by virtue of which the people should fully and freely determine their political status, pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and dispose of their natural wealth and resources for their own welfare and benefit towards genuine national independence, democracy, social justice and development.

program plain and simple. The idea was to cripple the Nationalist Liberation Front (NLF) by killing influential people like mayors, teachers, doctors, tax collectors-anyone who aided the functioning of the NLF's parallel government in the South."

Zepezauer added, "Many of the 'suspects' were tortured and some were tossed from helicopters during interrogation. William Colby, the CIA official in charge of Phoenix (he later became director of the CIA), insisted this was all part of 'military necessity'- though he admitted to Congress that he really had no idea how many of the 20,000 killed were Viet Cong and how many were 'loyal' Vietnamese.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales' June 19 statement that the loss of civilian lives may be unavoidable in an all-out war with communist insurgents and that "You can't avoid collateral damage . . . Sometimes there are bombings and civilians might get hurt," apparently means the same thing, that it is a "military necessity."

But U.S. involvement in the internal armed conflict is more than just coincidental. There has been a continuing presence of U.S. Special Forces units in the country. And U.S. soldiers, under the pretext of joint military exercises and counter-terrorism trainings, have been sighted in areas where there are intensive military operations. Similar to its involvement in Vietnam, the U.S. Armed Forces initially assumed an advisory role. With the March 24, 2006 agreement providing for the creation of a Security Engagement Board for "non-traditional security concerns like terrorism", a more direct U.S. role in the counter-insurgency operations is an increasing possibility.

Oplan Bantay Laya and Laws, Conventions, and Agreements on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

Oplan Bantay Laya violates several provisions of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Comprehensive Agreement of Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) entered into by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP.

AFP documents reveal that Oplan Bantay Laya has three strategies namely, Strategic Holistic Approach, Win-Hold-Win, and Sustained Operations.

The Strategic Holistic Approach is the AFP's solution to what it perceived as the lack of coordination between and among government agencies, the AFP and Philippine National Police (PNP), and civil society institutions such as NGOs. On paper, the objective of this strategy is to comprehensively approach the insurgency problem. The president heads the machinery for the Strategic Holistic Approach while the AFP and PNP are in-charge of military operations and Area Coordinating Centers. These centers coordinate AFP and PNP units, local government agencies, and other sectors such as NGOs in the area.

On the surface, it seems that the purpose of this strategy is merely to strengthen coordination and cooperation in government. But a deeper analysis of this strategy reveals that it subsumes all programs of government as well as civil society groups under the framework of counter-insurgency.

Counter-insurgency operations are essentially military operations. By subsuming everything under counter-insurgency operations, government services and civil society programs are thereby patterned to serve military objectives. This strengthens the position and powers of the military. It is therefore not surprising that on the national level, the most powerful cabinet cluster is Cluster E on national security. At the local level, local officials are virtually stripped of decision-making authority and are even threatened by AFP commanders if they question the latter's actions. Civilian authority is practically subjugated by the chain of command of the AFP. Even NGOs and other civil society groups are forced to surrender their independence and to cooperate with the AFP or risk being branded as "terrorist or front organizations" and be dealt with accordingly

This explains why the Arroyo government lends a deaf ear to cries for justice and to demands to put a stop to political killings and other human rights violations. There are and will never be a genuine investigation into the killings, which would lead to the prosecution of human rights violators. Suspected human rights



violators are even promoted as in the case of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who is being praised by the Arroyo government and the AFP for his effectiveness in counter-insurgency operations. Task Force Usig, which was formed in response to public clamor against political killings, has been consistent in its role of whitewashing the

investigation. Without going through the motions of an investigation, it has already echoed the government and AFP line that the killings are a result of NPA purges.

The identification of priority areas is in line with the strategies of Win-Hold-Win and Sustained Operations. Priority areas are subjected to heavy military deployment and intense operations. This explains the transfer of 1,500 troops from Mindanao to Central Luzon. The concentration of troops is followed by sustained massive military operations. Operations would only stop when the AFP assesses that the “political infrastructure” of the CPP-NPA-NDFP has been destroyed.

An example is Mindoro. The island was subjected to intense and sustained military operations that resulted in numerous cases of political killings and other human rights violations. When the AFP thought that the island was saturated enough and that all political and people’s organizations had been destroyed, they transferred the troops and the operations to Batangas.

OPLAN BANTAY LAYA AND POLITICAL KILLINGS

Since Oplan Katatagan, an objective of military operations is to destroy the political infrastructure of the CPP-NPA-NDFP. But in Oplan Bantay Laya, the political infrastructure of the CPP-NPA-NDFP is equated with “sectoral front organizations.”

An AFP document read, “CPP programs are being implemented on the various sectors composing the positive

ORGANIZATION	NO. OF VICTIMS
Trade Union Sector (KMU, including its local member unions/federations and partylist)	59
Peasant Sector (KMP, including those from local organizations and partlist)	193
Anakpawis partylist	21
Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)	5
KARAPATAN and PCPR	27
Bayan Muna	95
Women’s Sector (Gabriela, including its local women’s organizations)	32
Gabriela Women’s Partylist	3
Youth/Students Sector (League of Filipino Students, Anakbayan)	7
COURAGE	1
KADAMAY	3
Source: KARAPATAN	
*as of June 30, 2006	

The AFP’s priority areas for military operation registered the most number of political killings. Southern Tagalog, a priority area in 2003 and 2004, topped the list with 148 killed since 2001. Central Luzon, which was subjected to intense military operations after the transfer of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan in September 2005, is second with 120 political killings. Bicol and Davao, which were named as priority regions by the Arroyo administration and the AFP just recently followed with 84 and 63 political killings, respectively. Eastern Visayas, which was subjected to intense military operations under Palparan from February to August 2005, is sixth in the list with 41 killed. At the same time, Eastern Visayas registered a very high number of enforced disappearances at 31.

The pattern of killings under Oplan Bantay Laya resembles that of Operation Phoenix, employed by the U.S. in Vietnam.

In his book titled, *The CIA’s Greatest Hits: Called Operation Phoenix*, Mark Zepezauer stated that, “it was an assassination

4. *involved in recruitment drives for the underground movement.*
5. *participates in symposia, lectures, teach-ins and other activities designed to mobilize the audience against the government.*

B. nominally involved personalities - a person can be classified as nominally involved if he/she satisfies any one of the following indicators:

1. *active in open and legal mass activities but not in underground party activities.*
2. *activities are only limited to the sector he/she belongs or represents.*

These explain why political killings increased after the implementation of Oplan Bantay Laya and why those being targeted belong to legal political organizations such as Bayan Muna, which includes in its program, patriotic and democratic principles such as land reform, national industrialization, democratic rights, among others, and is actively involved in the movement to oust Arroyo.

NUMBER OF POLITICAL KILLINGS PER YEAR UNDER THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION	
YEAR	NUMBER OF VICTIMS
2001	98
2002	111
2003	128
2004	73
2005	182
2006	104
Source: KARAPATAN *as of June 30, 2006	

Political killings numbered more than a hundred starting 2002, the year Oplan Bantay Laya was implemented. It progressively increased every year, except in 2004 when elections were held. The number of political killings for the first half of 2006 already surpassed that of 2001.

forces of the revolution which is crafted and implemented through the different CPP sectoral front organizations."

Consequently, it stated that, "The Intelligence Task Allocation (ITA) should be modified to emphasize the neutralization of CPP programs vis-a-vis the PPW framework." Neutralization in military parlance means to kill.

What are these organizations identified by the AFP as "sectoral front organizations" to be subjected to a sectoral/front organization Order of Battle (OB)?"

According to AFP documents, these are:

A. LCM-influenced (local communist movement-influenced) - a sectoral organization can be classified as lcm-influenced if it satisfies any two of the following indicators:

1. *it is created or established by the CPP/NPA/NDF and other factions of the lcm.*
2. *it is under the influence of a national democratic underground mass organization (ndugmo) of the CPP or its counterpart in the reactionist faction.*
3. *it adopts the NDF 12-point program of actions and similar programs of the other lcm faction.*
4. *it is actively involved in multisectoral rallies wherein issues raised are beyond the traditional interests of the particular sector it represents.*
5. *it is radical and violent in the conduct of mass protest actions.*

B. LCM-infiltrated - a sectoral organization can be classified as lcm-infiltrated if it satisfies any two of the following indicators:

1. *it is not categorized as lcm-influenced but is actively involved in party-led activities.*

2. it has in its decision-making apparatus a person or group of persons who can influence the plans, programs and activities of the organization in (sic) consonance with the NDF's 12-point program of actions or the programs of the other lcm faction.

3. its aims, objectives, policies and/or pronouncements are similar or parallel to the political lines espoused by the lcm.

4. its activities are similar or complementary to those of the lcm.

5. it maintains close relationship with suspected lcm personalities and/or organizations.

Thus, if a peasant organization calls for a genuine agrarian reform program and is involved in rallies against charter change, it is identified as a sectoral front organization and subjected to an order of battle. Likewise, a church-based organization that advocates for human rights and joins mass actions calling for the ouster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is also marked as a sectoral front organization.

SECTOR	SUB-SECTOR	PPW Framework	NUFC
LABOR	Industrial Laborers	Party Bldg	KMU
	Transport & Service Sector	Party Bldg	PISTON
	Public Sector (gov't employees)	Party Bldg	COURAGE
	Agri-Workers (urban-rural)	Party Bldg	KMU
	Community Labor (urban poor)	Gen Uprising	KADAMAY
PEASANT	Agri-Workers (wood, mining, agro-industrial)	Support Bldg	KMP
	Fisherfolks	Support Bldg	
	Small Farmers	Support Bldg	KMP
	Indigenous Peoples (IP)	Base & Army Building	CPA ROL, Lumad/KAMP
MIDDLE FORCES	Youth & Students	UF Building	ANAKBAYAN CEGP LFS NUSP SCMP
	Religious	UF Building	PCPR KARAPATAN GOMBURZA (Priest) SAMIN (Nuns) AMRSP CBCP EMJP PIC UCCP
	Professionals (doctors, lawyers, bankers)	UF Building	FLAG PLLP HEAD HEAL IBON Databank AGHAM NUJP PETA
	Teachers	UF Building	ACT CONTEND
	Local Politicians	Broad UF	
	Small Entrepreneurs	Broad UF	
NATIONAL BOURGEOIS	Politicians	Broad UF	
	Big Business	Broad UF	
	Big Compradors	Broad UF	

SPECIFIC CHARACTER OF THE PROTRACTED PEOPLE'S WAR

AFP documents read, "The advocacy in 'Knowing the Enemy' which presents the CPP/NPA/NDF programs to attain its goal, should be used as a gauge to inform the higher authorities of the real condition/status of the insurgency problem in the country."

It also includes a memo that read, "Extreme caution, however, should be observed, as the objects and subjects of this undertaking are mostly legal organizations duly recognized not only by the local community or public at large, but also by the National Government itself."

The leaders and members of these groups are then classified and from this an order of battle is drawn up. The classifications are as follows:



A. actively involved personalities - a person can be classified as actively involved if he/she satisfies any two of the following indicators:

1. exerts maximum degree of influence in the group. (the term "maximum degree of influence" means that the person is a ranking officer of the organization such as president, chairperson, secretary, secretary-general, etc or included in the policy-making body of the organization)

2. engages in activities beyond the concern of the sector.

3. involved in fund raising activities of the lcm.