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Fascist state on a rampage

Arroyo regime harasses 3 women leaders



The fascist Arroyo regime relentlessly harasses and suppresses the Filipino people. Gaining the most prominence this August was news about the surveillance and harassment of three officers of Gabriela Network USA. Three members of Anakpawis were also abducted in Zamboanga del Sur even as the regime stepped up repressive measures against the Moro people. In Samar, a death squad shot to death the brother of a suspected revolutionary leader.

August 19. A military death squad killed Romeo Sarmiento, head of the Department of Agriculture training center in Barangay Irawahan, Catubig, Northern Samar. Sarmiento was shot in cold blood right in the town center. He was the brother of Eduardo Sarmiento, whom the AFP claims to be a Communist Party cadre in Eastern Visayas. Though he was not involved in the revolutionary movement, Sarmiento was killed as part of a campaign of repression against families of suspected revolutionary leaders.

August 14. At least 100 Agta minorities and 20 settler families from Dingalan, Aurora are in dire need of food and medicines due to a military-imposed food blockade. The AFP has prohibited the entry of foodstuff and medicines despite a malaria outbreak among residents of Sitio Pinamaypayan and Sitio Malakawayan in Barangay Umiray, Dingalan on the outrageous pretext that the supplies might end up with the New People's Army. Aid workers fear that many villagers may die if the military persists in blocking the entry of much-needed supplies.

August -16. The Arroyo regime has put three officers of Gabriela Network USA (GABNet) on its watchlist of alleged terrorists.

GABNet national chair Annalisa Enrile, famed writer Ninotchka Rosca and GABNet International Relations Officer Judith Mirkinson were in the country to attend the GABRIELA-sponsored Women's International Solidarity Affair in the Philippines (WISAP) when they learned that they had been put on the Department of Justice watchlist.

Enrile was barred from leaving the country last August 5. She was given the runaround by various government agencies when she sought to find out why there was a hold order against her. She, Rosca and Mirkinson were again accosted at the airport on August 16 because of their alleged links to Al Qaeda. They were detained for 30 minutes at the airport before being allowed to take their flights.

GABRIELA has condemned the DOJ watchlist, saying it was an instrument to intimidate foreigners wishing to support the Filipino people's struggle.

August 3. Policemen arrested worker Karahudin Usman Talib in a shopping mall in Taguig City, claiming he was a "terrorist" and member of the Jemaa Islamiyah. Talib was presented to the media where he made a scripted confession that he was involved in plans to bomb bus terminals and shopping malls in Manila and Taguig.

Talib's lawyer Zainudin Malang denied the police's accusations and said that his client who hailed from Libutan, Maguindanao was working as a tricycle driver at the Maharlika Village while waiting for his documents to be processed so he could go abroad.

Talib was arrested with another Moro, Juenail Abdul, even without a corresponding arrest warrant, following provisions of the Human Security Act. Abdul remains missing.

That same day, police also arrested Emran Gumanod, Mohammad Cosain and Nashrudin Cambang, all residents of Maguindanao province, along with five others, including a number of minors. The arrests took place in Cotabato City and Davao City. The victims have been accused of bombing the YBL bus terminal in Koronadal City last August 3.

Meanwhile, the Arroyo regime's henchmen abducted three Anakpawis members from Guipos town in Zamboanga del Sur last August 3. Antonino Roda, 39; Eric Buhain, 23; and Julius Sango, 21 have been missing for more than two weeks.

The victims were aboard a passenger van en route to Dingas town when they were abducted. Four armed men aboard a motorcycle blocked the van as it approached Barangay Balongating in Guipos.

Roda, Buhain and Sango along with two other women passengers were forced into a white van with five men aboard. [AB](#)

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