

Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

REFERENCE:
UA PHL 2/2018

26 February 2018

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacity as Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; and Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 35/15, 28/11, 34/5, 33/12 and 32/19.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning **the alleged extrajudicial or arbitrary killings of 28 individuals and the attempted killing of at least one other person, in the context of the intensifying counter-insurgency operations carried out by members of the Armed Forces, paramilitaries or individuals linked to them. The information also relates to the safety of the relatives of those killed and eyewitnesses to the killings. The victims are members of farmers' organisations, indigenous persons advocating for access to, and protection of, their ancestral lands and their family members.**

Concerns over human rights violations in the Philippines in the context of military operations have been previously addressed by United Nations Council's Special Procedures mandate-holders in the communication PHL 16/2017 of 21 December 2017. Likewise, concerns over allegations of extrajudicial killings committed against human rights defenders and indigenous organization leaders have been the object of communications PHL 8/2017 of 27 July 2017, PHL 5/2015 of 15 September 2015 and PHL 6/2015 of 24 December 2015. We thank your Excellency's Government for its responses to the communication PHL 8/2017. We have taken due note of the information provided, but it does not allay the concerns expressed. We also regret that so far no response has been received to the other communications.

According to the information received:

1. Cases in the Davao Region (16 killings)

Case of Mr. Danilo Ruiz Nadal

On April 2, 2017, at around 11:00 a.m. Mr. Danilo Ruiz Nadal was killed by two armed men believed to be from the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army. He was shot four times when he was about to board his motorcycle. The perpetrators fled from the crime scene on a motorcycle. Mr. Nadal was declared dead upon arrival to hospital.

Mr. Nadal was a 37-year-old farmer and a member of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Pantukan (HUMAPAN) who advocated for farmers' rights to land and against militarization in the area. Mr. Nadal was a resident of, Barangay Tibagun, Pantukan, Compostela Valley.

Case of Mr. Danilo Elias Pureza

On April 6, 2017, around 8 p.m., two unknown men killed Mr. Danilo Elias Pureza at his home. The two unknown armed men knocked on the door and Mr. Pureza interacted with them. It is understood the men were looking for another individual (X). One of the armed men said, "*X is not here*" and suddenly shot Mr. Pureza five times. The perpetrators immediately went outside to where four other men were waiting for them with three motorcycles and drove away.

Mr. Pureza was a 65-year-old farmer and member of Farmer's Association in San Isidro (FASI), an organization that advocates for farmers' rights, and a resident of Barangay Mamangan, San Isidro, Davao Oriental.

Case of Mr. Bernardo Calan Ripdos

On April 8, 2017, an unidentified man killed Bernardo Calan Ripdos in front of his house.

The day of the incident, five unknown men went to the house of a neighbor of Mr. Ripdos. The armed men asked the neighbor if his wife was at home and if he knew where Mr. Bernardo Ripdos' house was and if he was there. The neighbor warned Mr. Ripdos that armed men were looking for him and Mr. Ripdos sat on the porch of his house and waited for them. One of the armed men arrived and asked if he was the man they were looking for, which he confirmed. The man immediately fired his gun and killed Mr. Ripdos.

Mr. Ripdos was a 66-year-old farmer and active member of Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Maco Compostela Valley (KAMAO). He resided in Barangay Sangab, Maco, Compostela Valley.

Case of Mr. Federico Sanchez Plaza

On May 3, 2017, at around 4 p.m. Mr. Federico Sanchez Plaza was killed.

Mr. Plaza, went to collect gas with three other individuals on tricycles. At around 4 p.m., as they were heading back, Mr. Plaza was shot. It is understood, village officials reviewed the CCTV footage in the area and saw that two unknown men on a motorcycle had earlier passed by the village hall.

Mr. Plaza, was 59 years old, an Indigenous People Mandatory Representative to the National Commission on Indigenous People and a village councilor. He was also an active partner in various agrarian campaigns of Hugpong sa Mag-Uuma sa Walog Compostela (HUMAWAC), a provincial chapter of the peasant organization Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP). He was a resident of Barangay Poblacion, Maragusan, Compostela Valley. According to the information received, Mr. Plaza was a firm critic of the increased militarization in his town and actively opposed the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reengineered Special Operations Teams.

Case of Mr. Rodolfo Saguittarius Dagahuya Jr.

On May 9, 2017, Mr. Rodolfo Saguittarius Dagahuya Jr. was killed by military men in front of his house, which is located 10-15 meters away from the military.

Mr. Dagahuya was on his way home on his motorcycle when some members of the military flagged him to stop a few meters away from his house. Mr. Dagahuya complied and told the men that he needed to relieve himself. The members of the military followed him and shot him.

According to the information provided, at around 5:00 p.m., the military told the residents of Sitio Balinawnaw that there was a dead New People's Army (NPA) rebel in the area. At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Dagahuya's body was taken to the Rivera Funeral Homes in Calinan and at 10:00 p.m. persons associated with him collected his body from the Funeral Home. When they tried to return to Barangay Dominga with his body they were stopped and held twice by the military for several hours, interrogated and told instead to go to Barangay Malagos. After being stopped a second time they complied with the request out of fear. At 5.30 a.m. they managed to take his body to a house in Barangay Dominga.

Mr. Dagahuya Jr. was 33 years old, a peasant and member of Dominga Farmers' Association. He was also a resident of Barangay Dominga, Calinan District, Davao City.

Case of Mr. Daniol Lasib

On May 26, 2017, Mr. Daniol Lasib was killed by armed men identified by witnesses as members of the 73rd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army.

Mr. Lasib and another individual were en route to visit a relative of Mr. Lasib in hospital. As they were about to cross a bridge in Kasagaran, Colonsabac, Matanao, five armed men, dressed in civilian clothes onboard three motorcycles, shot them. Mr. Lasib received eleven gunshot wounds, the majority on his head, which caused his immediate death. The other individual received gunshot wounds to his hand and abdomen, was brought to hospital and survived.

Mr. Lasib was 58 years old, a member of the B'laan tribe and a Barangay council member. He was also a member of Akma Akasatu Matanao (Unity of Matanao) and resided in Barangay Colonsabac, Matanao Davao Del Sur.

Case of Ms. Ana Marie Digaynon Aumada

On May 27, 2017, at around 4:00 p.m. Ana Marie Digaynon Aumada was killed by an unidentified man.

Ms. Aumada was sitting inside her house when an armed man, with his face covered, abruptly entered and shot her in the head causing her immediate death. It is understood that on 25 May 2017, two days prior to her death, she had been summoned to the 67th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army Command Headquarters by Lieutenant Colonel [REDACTED]. The summons was supposedly in order to clear her name, but she had decided not to attend.

Ms. Aumada was 29 years old, farmer and a member of the Mandaya tribe. Also, she was an active member of the peasant organization Alyansa sa mga Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Davao (ALMASID). She was also a resident of Barangay Lucod Baganga, Davao Oriental.

Case of Mr. Jessie Cabeza

On May 31, 2017, at around 9 p.m. Mr. Jessie Cabeza was killed in front of his house in Barangay Mascareg, Mabini, Compostela Valley after assailant(s) fired at him and his residence. According to the information received, members of the 46th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army had been camping in a hill nearby Mr. Cabeza's residence. He also had previously been threatened by soldiers.

Mr. Cabeza was 30 years old and a member of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Mabini (HUMABIN), a peasant organization.

Case of Eddie Alyawan

On August 12, 2017, Eddie Alyawan was killed by two persons believed to be from the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army.

The morning of the incident, Mr. Alyawan was at a shop located across from their house. Two individuals on a motorcycle arrived and asked for Mr. Alyawan's services. According to the information received, after inflating the tires, one of the perpetrators asked Mr. Alyawan whether he was another individual. The assailants did not wait for Mr. Alyawan to respond, and proceeded to shoot at him. The perpetrators are believed to be part of the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army – the military unit involved in the surveillance of Panalipdan Youth protesting against the military encampment of civilian communities. Mr. Alyawan had participated to these protests.

Mr. Alyawan was a 27-years-old farmer and member of the Panalipdan Youth, an organization of youth advocating for a safe and healthy environment. He was a resident of Barangay Pindasan, Mabini, Compostela Valley.

Case of Mr. Roger Timboco

On August 23, 2017, at around 11:30 a.m. an unidentified man killed Mr. Roger "Titing" Timboco.

The morning of the incident, Mr. Timboco arrived at the Mawab town terminal and shortly afterwards went to a buko juice vendor stall. While he was at the stall an unidentified man shot him in the back. Mr. Timboco ran in the direction of his village but another assailant appeared and shot him multiple times. He ran through a local hardware store located close to the terminal, but as he tried to exit through another door, another assailant shot him again causing his death. A few minutes after the incident, public officials responsible for crime scenes arrived and cordoned the area.

Mr. Timboco was a 32-year-old motorcycle driver and member of the Mansaka tribe and of the peasant organization called Kahugpungan sa mga Maguuma sa Maco ComVal (KAMMAO). He was also a supporter of a group of farmers who campaigned for free land distribution called Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (MARBAI). He was a resident of Barangay Calabcab, Maco, Compostela Valley.

Case of Mr. Lomer Gerodias

On August 27, 2017, at around 7 p.m., Mr. Lomer Gerodias was on his way from Barangay Poblacion Maragusan to Barangay Magkagong in Walog, Compostela Valley, when an alleged military asset of the 66th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army fired at him and killed him.

Mr. Gerodias was a small-scale miner and member of Abante, a local organization of small-scale miners. Abante is also an affiliate-organization of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog, Compostela (HUMAWAC), a peasant organization. Mr. Abante was an active supporter of peasant struggles in the community.

Cases of Mr. Jezreel Arrabis and Ms. Dalia Velasco Arrabis

On September 2, 2017, Mr. Jezreel Arrabis and Ms. Dalia Arrabis were killed by armed men believed to be from the 84th and 3rd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army.

The day of the incident, they were inside their vehicle when an armed man came up and shot Mr. Jezreel Arrabis multiple times in his head. Ms. Dalia hugged her husband while calling for help. The assailant then shot Ms. Dalia Arrabis. She was hit in the arm and was later declared dead on arrival at the Southern Philippines Medical Center.

Mr. and Ms. Arrabis were both farmers and members of the Farmers Association in Davao City (FADC). They were also residents of Brgy. Tamayong, Calinan District, Davao City.

Case of Obello Bay-ao

On September 5, 2017, Mr. Obello Bay-ao was killed by members of Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and the paramilitary group Alamara.

On the afternoon of the incident, at around 2:30 p.m. in Sitio Dulyan, Talaingod, Davao Del Norte, Mr. Bay-ao was running on the road when he was allegedly shot by Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. Bay-ao pleaded with Mr. [REDACTED] and

introduced himself, but Mr. [REDACTED] shot Mr. Bay-ao again. Mr. Bay-ao told a passerby that he had been shot by Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. Bay-ao was taken to a house and then rushed to the hospital but later died.

According to the information received, [REDACTED] is an active member of CAFGU and [REDACTED] is a member of paramilitary group Alamara.

Mr. Bay-ao was an 18-year-old member of the Manobo tribe and Liga ng mga Iskolar ng Bayan. He was also a student at the Salogpongan Ta Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center (STTICLC-Dulyan) and a resident of Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

Case of Mr. Reneboy Magayano

On September 28, 2017, Mr. Reneboy Magayano was killed by unidentified men.

At around 5 p.m. Mr. Magayano was at the Maragusan Public Market, when men onboard a motorcycle shot him four times. Mr. Magayano died en route to the nearest hospital. According to the information provided, on the day of the incident, at around 5:30 p.m., members of 66th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army were seen on board a motorcycle at the Maragusan Public Market.

Mr. Magayano was a 50-year-old farmer and chairperson of Maragusan Workers Association and a council member of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog, Compostela (HUMAWAC). The organization actively campaigned against the militarization of their communities. Magayano was also active in workers' struggles in Maragusan. He worked as an agriworker under the Asia Pro agency, for the DOLE Stan Filco. He also was a resident of Barangay Coronabe, Maragusan, Compostela Valley.

Case of Ms. Carolina Arado

On July 13, 2017, armed men believed to be from the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army killed Ms. Carolina Arado.

On the evening of the incident, Ms. Arado, her husband, their children and another individual were in Ms. Arado's house, in Barangay Anitapan, Mabini Compostela Valley when armed men, believed to be from the Philippine Army fired at the residence. Ms. Arado was killed and her husband and their children were wounded and immediately transported to the hospital.

Ms. Arado was a 52-year-old farmer and member of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Mabini (HuMaBin), Compostela Valley. HuMaBin is a progressive farmers'

group that opposes the entry of large-scale mining corporations to the province. Ms. Arado and her husband also joined campaigns against alleged abuses of government forces in the area. Ms. Arado was a resident of Barangay Mascareg, Mabini, Compostela Valley.

2. Cases in the Central Visayas Region (5 killings and 1 attempted killing)

Case of Alberto Tecson

On July 24, 2017, Mr. Alberto Tecson was killed by six unidentified men wearing hoods.

The night of the incident, past 10:00 p.m., six men onboard three motorcycles, wearing hoods, went to Mr. Tecson's house asking if they could rent his pump boat. When Mr. Tecson opened the door, he was shot and was dragged outside the house and shot again.

On 23 July 2017, the day before his death, members of the military were looking for Mr. Tecson. They accused Mr. Tecson of transporting armed groups using his pump boat. Mr. Tecson denied the accusation. On 24 July 2017, hours before the incident, members of the military went back to Mr. Tecson's house looking for him.

Mr. Tecson was a 45-year-old farmer, peasant leader of Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma ug Mangingisda sa Bulado (NaMaBu) and a resident of Barangay Bulado, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental.

Case of Oscar Asildo Jr.

On August 30, 2017, at around 11 a.m., Mr. Oscar Solania Asildo Jr. was killed by an unidentified armed man.

The day of the incident, Mr. Asildo Jr. went to his car, parked outside of his office in Paterno Street, Poblacion, Guihulngan City, when an armed man wearing a cap shot him multiple times. As well as the assailant, men onboard another motorcycle and a white car without a number plate were in the vicinity, and are believed to have been serving as look outs. After the shooting, the gunman boarded the motorcycle and sped away, followed by the white car. Those within the area tried to call the Guihulngan Police but to no avail.

Mr. Asildo Jr. was a 46-year-old bookkeeper at the Department of Education Division Office. He was also a member and organizer of the partylist organization

Bayan Muna in Guihulngan. He had worked to champion, uphold and defend people's rights. Mr. Asildo Jr. was a resident of Barangay Poblacion, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

Case of Luardo Yac

On September 7, 2017, Luardo Yac was killed while on his way home from the hospital by unidentified men.

On the day of the incident, Mr. Yac was discharged from the hospital in Dumaguete after being treated for gunshot wounds which he received during another attempted murder on September 1, 2017. He was being driven on a motorcycle by another person through Barangay Balugo, Sibulan, when unidentified men also on a motorcycle shot at them. The assailants instantly killed Mr. Yac and injured the person driving. According to the information provided, alleged military agents are said to be responsible for Mr. Yac's killing.

Mr. Yac was a 59-year-old farmer and member of Kapunungan Alang sa Ugma sa Gagmayng Maguuma sa Oriental Negros (Kaugmaon), a peasant organization working for land reform and peasant's rights and welfare in Negros. He was a resident of Barangay Poblacion, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

Cases of Ms. Elisa Badayo and Mr. Eleuterio Moises. Attempted killing of Ms. Carmen Matarlo

On November 28, 2017, Ms. Elisa Badayo and Mr. Eleuterio Moises, were killed by unknown assailants and Ms. Carmen Matarlo injured.

On November 28, 2017, at around 11 am, Ms. Elisa Badayo, Mr. Eleuterio Moises, Ms. Carmen Matarlo, and 27 others arrived in Barangay San Ramon, Bayawan city, as part of a fact finding mission to investigate alleged land rights abuses in the area allegedly committed by members of a private "army" allegedly used by the Bayawan Mayor and by a powerful landlord family in the area. Upon their arrival, they were stopped by six armed individuals who aimed their guns at the group's vehicle and asked them about their destination, the purpose of their mission and other questions. It is understood these individuals were members of the "army."

At around 2:30 pm, the group split, with Ms. Elisa Badayo, Mr. Eleuterio Moises, Ms. Carmen Matarlo, and two others departing for the Nangka Barangay Hall, Bayawan city, to file a police report to denounce the harassment, with the remaining members continuing to conduct interviews.

Around 10 minutes later, the motorbike which Ms. Elisa Badayos, Mr. Eleuterio Moises and Ms. Carmen Matarlo were riding was shot at by unknown men on another motorcycle. Ms. Elisa Badayos and Mr. Eleuterio Moises were pronounced dead on arrival at Bayawan hospital. Ms. Carmen Matarlo, sustained gunshot wounds to her shoulder, was brought to Bayawan District Hospital before being transferred to another hospital.

Ms. Elisa Badayos, served as an organiser of urban poor communities in Cebu, worked with Desaparecidos, an organization of families of the disappeared, and was the coordinator for Karapatan in Negros Oriental Province. Eleuterio Moises was a member of Mantapi Ebwan Farmers Association, a local peasant organization. Carmen Matarlo, 22, is the provincial coordinator of Kabataan -a group of progressive youths in Cebu.

3. Cases in the Caraga Region (2 killings)

Case of Mr. Meliton Catampungan

On July 10, 2017, Mr. Meliton Villagorda Catampungan was killed by unidentified individuals.

At around 12:50 p.m., Mr. Catampungan stopped at a local convenience store on the way back to his house. A man and a woman arrived in a red motorcycle without a number plate. Both were wearing helmets and jackets and appeared to be moneylenders. The woman alighted from the motorcycle and crossed the road towards Mr. Catampungan. While paying at the store, the woman, still wearing a helmet, stood beside Mr. Catampungan and shot him three times in the armpit. The woman then got back on the motorcycle and drove away in the direction of Surigao City. Mr. Catampungan was rushed to hospital in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte where he later died while being treated.

In May 2017, two individuals believed to be soldiers asked neighbours if Mr. Catampungan was home. Due to this incident, Mr. Catampungan moved to another area.

Mr. Catampungan was a 60-year-old farmer and chairperson of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Norte (NAMASUN) – KMP, a peasant organization. He also worked as a traffic enforcer of his town's Civil Security Unit and resided in Barangay Ouano, Alegria, Surigao Del Norte.

Case of Mr. Silvestre Maratas

On July 16, 2017, at around 8:00 p.m, unidentified men killed Mr. Silvestre Maratas in his house.

On the night of the incident, Mr. Maratas was in his house when there were a series of gunshots, several of which hit and killed Mr. Maratas.

It is understood Mr. Maratas had been previously harassed and received threats. In November 2015, soldiers of the 2nd Special Forces Battalion (SFB) arrived and setup a camp in Magroyong, Barangay Tina, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur. There were intensified military operations carried out in the mountainous areas of Lianga and San Miguel, Agusan del Sur, meaning residents in those communities were forced to evacuate for their safety. Members of the 2nd SFB and the 36th and 75th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army also carried out combat operations in the Andap Valley Complex in Lianga and San Miguel. During this time, threats and harassment against officials and members of progressive organizations in the area also allegedly worsened and Mr. Maratas was among those targeted.

Reportedly, a 22-year-old man identified as "[REDACTED]", and believed to be a "surrenderee-turned-military asset" of the 2nd SFB, was often seen near Mr. Maratas house. After the 2nd SFB left the community in San Miguel, neighbors stopped seeing "[REDACTED]" around Mr. Marata's residence.

In January 2016, Mr. Maratas was charged with attempted murder, in relation to a New People's Army (NPA) attack in a 2nd SFB's camp in Malapsu, Barangay Tina. The information indicates that Mr. Marata was not an NPA rebel and was never involved in combat operations.

In February 2016, an arrest warrant was issued against Mr. Maratas. He was able to post bail. Four court hearings were held where only the Prosecutor attended (no witnesses or complainants attended). During this time, witnesses saw "[REDACTED]" and another alleged "surrenderee-turned-military asset" on a motorcycle around Mr. Maratas' house.

On March 28, 2017, members of the 16th SFB set-up their base in Barangay Tina, San Miguel. "[REDACTED]" was again often seen passing by Mr. Marata's house. Also, in 2017 "[REDACTED]" and another member of the army used the 16th SFB radio program in NICE Radio FM to repeatedly accuse Mr. Maratas of being a recruiter of the NPA.

Mr. Maratas was a 38-year-old farmer and vice-chairperson Kapunongan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Sur (KAMASS-KMP) - San Miguel, Surigao del Sur chapter. He was a resident of San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

4. Case in the Calabarzon region (1 killing)

Case of Mr. Lito Casalla

On June 23, 2017, at around 5 p.m., Mr. Lito Casalla was killed when unidentified men fired at his house.

On the day of the incident, Mr. Casalla returned home from a meeting with members of Task Force Baha Talibayog (TFBT). Shortly afterwards, an unidentified men on a black Toyota Vios stopped and fired at his residence. Mr. Casalla received 15 gunshot wounds to the body that caused his instantaneous death.

According to the information received, the farmers in Calatagan have been fighting for “emancipation patents” covering a 507-hectare land over two Barangays. The patents were given to them on 1989-1990 by virtue of Presidential Decree 27.4. At least 818 emancipation patents were already distributed by the Department of Agrarian Reform to 312 farmers. However, the land’s former owner reportedly sold it to a company. In addition, military operations continue to intensify in several towns in the Province; particularly, in towns in the area of responsibility of the Philippine Air Force. The operations continue to affect residents and are reportedly linked to the business interests of many private corporations.

Mr. Casalla was a 52-year-old farmer and a member of the Task Force Baha Talibayog (TFBT) and Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Batangas (SAMBAT), a peasant organization. He was a resident of Balayan, Province of Batangas. Mr. Casalla was an active advocate in the fight for peasant’s land rights in Calatagan, Batangas.

5. Case in Bicol Region (1 killing)

Case of Mr. Baning

On July 1, 2017, around 1:30 p.m. an unidentified man killed Mr. Joseph Baning.

The day before the incident, on June 30, 2017, Mr. Baning participated in the rally of farmers in Daet, Camarines Norte on the first year of President Rodrigo Duterte’s term in office. On July 1, 2017, while Mr. Baning was feeding his chickens, two unidentified men on a motorcycle stopped in front of his house. One of the individuals, who was wearing a hat, called Mr. Baning to come and he complied. While they were talking, the man shot Mr. Baning in the forehead. The man then held Mr. Baning’s belt and shot him again in the chest. The assailant

fired more shots and then fled towards Sta. Elena. Some individuals came to try and help Mr. Baning, but three unidentified men stopped them from approaching. The unidentified men stayed at the scene. Mr. Baning died minutes later. According to the information provided, Mr. Baning had been previously harassed by soldiers who tagged him as a supporter of the New People's Army (NPA).

Mr. Baning was a 48-year-old farmer and municipal coordinator of Camarines Norte Peoples' Organization (CNPO). He was a resident of Canapawan, Labo, Camarines Norte.

6. Case in Northern Mindanao region (1 killing)

Case of Mr. Ande Latuan

On July 6, 2017, at around 9 a.m., Mr. Ande Latuan was killed by members of the paramilitary group Alamara.

The day of the incident, Mr. Latuan was on his motorcycle on the way to the town of Cabanglasan, Bukidnon to deliver sacks of corn. On the road, members of the armed paramilitary group Alamara blocked his way, made him stop and get off the motorcycle. The individuals were later identified as [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] fired twice at Mr. Latuan, who died instantaneously. According to the information received, a criminal case had already been filed against the five identified members of the Alamara in Malaybalay City.

Mr. Latuan was a 30-year-old member of Pigyayungaan Indigenous Tribal Association and a resident of Cabanglasan, Bukidnon. This Association has actively sought justice for the victims arbitrarily killed by Alamara for allegedly supporting or conniving with the New People's Army (NPA). Pigyayungaan has also advocated for the protection of ancestral land of indigenous communities against destructive investments often backed by the Alamara.

7. Case in Central Luzon (2 killings)

Case of Mr. Mario Castro and Ms. Catalino Castro

On July 20, 2017, at around 8:30 p.m. Mr. Mario Castro and Ms. Catalino Castro were killed by an unidentified man.

On the evening of the incident, Mr. Castro was at his residence after returning from a meeting of peasant leaders. Two men wearing hoods and riding a motorcycle arrived at the Castro residence. One of the men went inside the house

and straight into the kitchen where Mr. Castro was standing. The man shot Mr. Castro in his chest and on the side of his torso and Ms. Catalino Castro in the neck and torso, killing them both. Three local policemen from Rizal arrived at around 10:00 p.m. and Scene Of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) arrived an hour later. According the information provided, Mr. Castro said before going to the meeting that "If I will die, you already know who did it."

Mr. Castro was a 66-year-old farmer, a leader and organizer of Liga ng Manggagawang Bukid – Nueva Ecija. He was a resident of Barangay Paco Roman, Rizal, Nueva Ecija.

The Annex to this letter includes a table summarizing the victims of alleged killings with some details regarding the circumstances of their killing.

With a few exceptions, there is no information available as to whether any official investigations have been carried out into the aforementioned killings. There is also no information available on whether the victims' relatives and the eyewitnesses to the killings are afforded the necessary security measures and conditions to guarantee their rights to life, personal security and integrity.

While we do not wish to prejudge the accuracy of these allegations, we reiterate our most serious concerns over these allegations. We are further concerned for the safety of those who escaped or survived attempted killings, of the relatives of those killed and of the eyewitnesses to the killings. Furthermore, given the number of incidents, which appear to target activists and other leading individuals in their communities, we are concerned that many other individuals, member of farmers' organisations and indigenous persons advocating for their rights, may become the target of similar violence.

The information indicates, *prima facie*, multiple violations of the right to life, security, and of the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of one's life, as set forth in articles 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by the Philippines on 23 October 1986. In its General Comment 6, para. 3, the Human Rights Committee advises that States parties should take measures to prevent and punish deprivation of life by criminal acts, and to prevent arbitrary killing by their own security forces. In addition, in its General Comment No. 31, the Committee stated that there is a positive obligation on States Parties to ensure the protection of the rights contained in the Covenant against violations by its agents and by private entities or persons. The Principles on Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (Prevention and Investigation Principles), in particular principle 9, require that relevant State institutions have the responsibility to undertake thorough, prompt and impartial investigations in all suspected cases of extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions. A failure to investigate and bring perpetrators of such violations to justice could in and of itself give rise to a separate breach of the ICCPR. These obligations arise notably in

respect of criminal acts under international law, such as summary and arbitrary killing. In addition, we also wish to draw your Excellency's Government's attention to Principle 4, which establishes the obligation of States to ensure effective protection to those who receive death threats and are in danger of extra-legal, arbitrary or summary executions. Furthermore, Principle 15 establishes that complainants, witnesses, those conducting the investigation and their families shall be protected from violence, threats of violence or any other form of intimidation.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted by the General Assembly in 2007, elaborates upon existing binding rights in the specific cultural, historical, social and economic circumstances of indigenous peoples. These fundamental human rights include the right to life and security, equality and non-discrimination, all rights that are recognised in the human rights treaties ratified by the Philippines. Article 7 of UNDRIP explicitly provides that 'indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of persons'. Finally, we would also like to highlight the fundamental principles set forth in articles 1 and 2 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which provide for the right to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The full texts of the human rights instruments and standards recalled above are available on www.ohchr.org or can be provided upon request.

In view of the urgency of the matter, we would appreciate a response on the initial steps taken by your Excellency's Government to safeguard the rights of the abovementioned persons in compliance with the Philippine's international human rights obligations and other relevant norms.

It is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to my attention. We therefore would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. In particular, please clarify in each case, the circumstances of the killings, and where relevant the factors that led security and other forces acting on their behalf, to resort to the extrajudicial use of lethal force.
3. Please provide the full details, and where available the results, of any investigation undertaken concerning the allegations of extrajudicial killings. Please provide information on who has undertaken the investigations and whether the reports are available. Further please

indicate if anyone has been charged and whether penal, disciplinary or other sanctions have been imposed on the alleged perpetrators. Please include information on whether investigations resulted in the identification of patterns such as the link between the extrajudicial killings and the victim's work or exercise of their rights? If no investigations have taken place, or if they have been inconclusive, please explain why.

4. Please provide information on the security measures adopted to protect the relatives and eye witnesses of these killings as well as individuals subject to attempted killings.
5. Please provide information of the measures adopted to protect the right to life, personal integrity and security of farmers, indigenous people and human rights defenders in the Philippines.
6. Please provide detailed information on the measures taken by your Excellency's Government to ensure that farmers and environmental human rights defenders in the Philippines, can carry out their legitimate work and their right of association in a safe and enabling environment, without fears of threats or acts of intimidation, harassment and prosecution of any sort.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person responsible of the alleged violations.

Given the seriousness of these cases, and the concerns over the numerous violations of international human rights law, we may choose to publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which our concerns is based appears to be sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be informed about these concerns, and the human rights implications in these cases. Any public expression of concern on our part will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issues in question.

Your Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Agnes Callamard
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

John H. Knox

Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a
safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Michel Forst

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz

Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Dubravka Šimonovic

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Annex 1

	Name	Region	Province	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Organization	Date	Sex
1	Danilo Ruiz Nadal	Davao	Compostela Valley	Members of the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army	Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Pantukan (HUMAPAN)	02-Apr-17	M
2	Danilo Elias Pureza	Davao	Davao Oriental	Unknown	Farmer's Association in San Isidro (FASI)	06-Apr-17	M
3	Bernardo Calan Ripdos	Davao	Compostela Valley	Unknown	Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Maco Compostela Valley (KMAO)	08-Apr-17	M
4	Federico Sanchez Plaza	Davao	Compostela Valley	Unknown	Indigenous People Mandatory Representative to the National Commission on Indigenous People and a village councilor; farmers organization Mag-Uuma sa Walog Compostela (HUMAWAC)	03-May-17	M
5	Rodolfo Saguittarius Dagahuya Jr.	Davao	Davao del Sur	Members of the Military	Dominga Farmers' Association	09-May-17	M
6	Danion Lasib	Davao	Davao del Sur	Members of the 73rd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA)	B'laan tribe, Barangay council member and member of Akma Akasatu Matanao (Unity of Matanao)	26-May-17	M
7	Ana Marie Digaynon Aumada	Davao	Davao Oriental	Unknown - it is understood she was summoned at the 67th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army Command Headquarters	Alyansa sa mga Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Davao (ALMASID)	27-May-17	F

				two days prior to her death			
8	Jessie Cabeza	Davao	Compostela Valley	Unknown - members of the 46th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army had been camping in a hill nearby his residence.	Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Mabini (HUMABIN)	31-May-17	M
9	Eddie Alyawan	Davao	Compostela Valley	Members of the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA)	Panalipdan Youth-organization	12-Aug-17	M
10	Roger Timboco	Davao	Compostela Valley	Unknown	Kahugpungan sa mga Maguuma sa Maço ComVal (KAMMAO), Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries	23-Aug-17	M
11	Lomer Gerodias	Davao	Compostela Valley	Military asset of the 66th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA)	Abante, affiliate -organization of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog, Compostela (HUMAWAC)	27-Aug-17	M
12	Jezreel Arrabis	Davao	Davao del Sur	Members of the 84th and 3rd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA)	Farmers Association in Davao City (FADC)	02-Sep-17	M
13	Dalia Velasco Arrabis	Davao	Davao del Sur	Members of the 84th and 3rd Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA)	Farmers Association in Davao City (FADC)	02-Sep-17	F
14	Obello Bay-ao	Davao	Davao del Norte	One member of Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and one member of Alamara, paramilitary group	Partylist organization Bayan Muna	05-Sep-17	M

15	Reneboy Magayano	Davao	Compostela Valley	Unknown - Members of the 66th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army (IBPA) were seen near the crime scene	Maragusan Workers Association; Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela (HUMAWAC)	28-Sep-17	M
16	Carolina Arado	Davao	Compostela Valley	Members of the 46th Infantry Battalion-Philippine Army	Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Mabini (HuMaBin)	13-Jul-07	F
17	Alberto Tecson	Central Visayas	Negros Oriental	Unknown - members of the Military were looking for him prior to his death.	Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma ug Mangingisda sa Bulado (NaMaBu)	24-Jul-17	M
18	Oscar Asildo Jr.	Central Visayas	Negros Oriental	Unknown	Partylist organization Bayan Muna	30-Aug-17	M
19	Luardo Yac	Central Visayas	Negros Oriental	Unknown	Kapunungan Alang sa Ugma sa Gagmayng Maguuma sa Oriental Negros (Kaugmaon)	07-Sep-17	M
20	Elisa Badayos	Central Visayas	Negros Oriental	Unknown	Karapatan	28-Nov-17	F
21	Eleuterio Moises	Central Visayas	Negros Oriental	Unknown	Mantapi Ebwan Farmers' Association	28-Nov-17	M
22	Meliton Villagorda Catampungan	Caraga	Surigao Del Norte	Unknown	Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Norte (NAMASUN)	10-Jul-17	M
23	Silvestre Maratas	Caraga	Surigao del Sur	Unknown - previously members of the military allegedly threatened and harassed Mr. Maratas	Kapunongan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Surigao del Sur (KAMASS-KMP)	16-Jul-17	M
24	Lito Casalla	Calabarzon	Batangas	Unknown	Task Force Baha Talibayog (TFBT); Samahan ng Magbubukid sa Batangas (SAMBAT)	23-Jun-17	M

25	Joseph Baning	Bicol	Camarines Norte	Unknown	Camarines Norte Peoples' Organization (CNPO)	01-Jul-17	M
26	Ande Latuan	Northern Mindanao	Bukidnon	Alamara, paramilitary group	Pigyayungaan Indigenous Tribal Association	06-Jul-17	F
27	Mario Castro	Central Luzon	Nueva Ecija	Unknown	Liga ng Manggagawang Bukid	20-Jul-17	M