A journey for the truth

NATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION REPORT ON THE KILLING OF FATHER CECILIO LUCERO

Catarman, Northern Samar
October 7-10, 2009

Karapatan Alliance for the Advancement of Peoples' Rights • Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) • Ecumenical Mission for Peace and Development (EMPD) • Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) • Missionaries of Jesus • Diocese of Catarman • United Church of Christ in the Philippines–East Visayas Jurisdiction • Ecumenical Bishops Forum (EBF) • National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) • Katungod - Sinirangang Bisayas • Katungod - Northern Samar • League of Filipino Students - Northern Samar • Bulatlat.com

INTRODUCTION

On September 6, 2009, the nation was stunned by the news that **Rev. Fr. Cecilio Lucero**, 48 years old, a Roman Catholic priest of the Diocese of Catarman, was killed by unidentified armed men in the province of Northern Samar. In the history of extrajudicial killings in the country since 2001, this is the first time that a Roman Catholic priest, with powerful politician relatives at that, was gunned down ambush-style

According to reports, Fr. Lucero and his two companions, electrician Isidro Miras and his police escort, PO2 Eugene Bation, came from Allen, Northern, Samar, on their way back to Catubig. The three were on board the Toyota van which Fr. Lucero was driving. They were traveling along Maharlika highway going to Catarman, Northern Samar. At 8:30 AM, on the hilly portion of Brgy. Layuhan, San Jose, Northern Samar, they were ambushed by at least five persons armed with high-powered rifles.

Isidro Miras was wounded and still in a state of shock while PO2 Eugene Bation was unharmed, though the Toyota van was peppered with bullets.

At the time of his death, Fr. Lucero was the parish priest of St. Joseph Parish Church in the town of Catubig, Northern Samar. He was known for his staunch human rights advocacy as Chairman of the Human rights desk of the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Catarman. He was also a member of the Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR)-Northern Samar. Fr. Lucero was the younger brother of former Northern Samar Representative Wilmar Lucero and Northern Samar Vice-Governor Antonio Lucero.

The Diocese of Catarman, Northern Samar, the Archdiocese of Palo, Leyte and the Archdiocese of Manila of the Roman Catholic Church condemned the killing. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines, the Promotion of Church People's Response and other church people's organizations and congregations here and abroad also declared their indignations. HUSTISYA (Victims of Human Rights

Violations under the Arroyo Regime) strongly condemned the killing and declared that Fr. Lucero was another victim of the counter-insurgency program, Oplan Bantay Laya, which has been one of the reasons for the killings in the country.

Government authorities especially the Commanding General of the 8th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army (8ID, PA) issued two conflicting press releases. Immediately after the incident, the first statement of the Philippine Army blamed the ambush on the New People's Army. Another statement issued later said that Fr. Lucero was a victim of the bickering of the local politicians. The Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 8 organized the Task Force Lucero, a body tasked to investigate the killing but has yet to release an official report of its investigation.

To ferret out the truth, Karapatan (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights) organized a National Fact-Finding Mission (NFFM) on October 7-10, 2009. The Diocese of Catarman hosted the participants of the NFFM.

The National Fact-Finding Mission for Fr. Cecilio P. Lucero is composed of Karapatan (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights), Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR), Ecumenical Mission for Peace and Development (EMPD), Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP), Missionaries of Jesus, Diocese of Catarman, United Church of Christ in the Philippines–East Visayas Jurisdiction, Ecumenical Bishops Forum (EBF), National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), Bulatlat. Com, Katungod–Sinirangang Bisayas, Katungod-Northern Samar and the League of Filipino Students–Northern Samar.

In general, this NFFM aimed to uncover the truth behind the killing of Fr. Cecilio Lucero through the conduct of a thorough investigation in order to determine the perpetrators and motives of the incident; the Mission also would look into other cases of human rights violations in Northern Samar.

The specific objectives are:

1. To properly document and investigate the killing of Fr. Cecilio Lucero and gather data/ information relevant to the case.
2. To document other cases in Northern Samar that have not been properly documented and looked into
3. To make the public aware that killings and other human rights violations are continuing
4. To submit the findings to the concerned agencies (Senate and HOR committees on HR, CHR, other government bodies, UN mechanisms) and urge them to conduct investigations/ inquiries into these incidents;
5. To launch a campaign against human rights violations in the country both locally and internationally

CONDUCT OF THE NFFM

The NFFM was organized mainly by Karapatan, PCPR and the Diocese of Catarman, which hosted the participants of the NFFM. Katungod-Northern Samar served as the coordinator of the entire Mission for the whole duration of the said activity.

On September 28-30, 2009 an advance team composed of representatives from Karapatan and from PCPR visited the area to make the necessary preparations for the actual fact-finding mission. The team coordinated with the families of Fr. Cecilio Lucero and other victims, the Social Action Center of the Diocese of Catarman and other government agencies as well as the local government units (LGU's) in the province to gather initial data and evidences.

The actual conduct of the fact-finding mission was based on the recommendations of the advance team.

The first day (October 7) of the Mission was designed for the arrival of the participants, orientation and ocular visit as well as an initial meeting with the witnesses in the place of incident (Fr. Lucero's killing). The participants were able to meet some of the clergy of the Diocese of Catarman and Bishop (Emeritus) Angel Hobayan. The participants failed to make a courtesy call on Bishop Emmanuel Trance, the present bishop of the Diocese of Catarman because he is in Manila. At the Catarman Airport, the participants from Manila were able to meet Vice-Governor Antonio Lucero, the brother of Fr. Lucero.

On the second day (October 8), the NFFM, composed of 22 delegates, was divided into different groups so that these groups can simultaneously interview witnesses/survivors, gather evidences on and document cases of human rights violations that were presented to the Mission. Team 1 was tasked to get the blotter at the PNP Station in San Jose, Northern Samar, re-trace the incident by gathering vital information from the eyewitnesses and visit the Northern Samar Provincial Jail where political detainees can provide information about how their captors investigated them about Fr. Lucero's "connection" with the New People's Army (NPA). Team 2, 3 and 4 stayed at the Farmers Training Center of the University of Eastern Philippines to document the stories of the military operations and abuses in the campus and other towns in Northern Samar.

The fact-finding team

On the third day (October 9), some of the Mission participants were able to meet with the Commission on Human Rights Region 8 investigators led by Special Investigator Fernandez. They were also investigating the human rights violations in the province of Northern Samar and shared some stories about the motives that the CHR are considering on the matter of the killing of Fr. Lucero.

In the morning of October 9, the NFFM met the chairman of Task Force Lucero, Col. Gil Hitosis, the Deputy regional director for Operations of PNP Region 8 and Col. Eusebio Mejos, the PNP Provincial Director. The participants were briefed by Col. Hitosis on the PNP investigation report. The police allowed the participants to see and take photos of the destroyed Toyota van of Fr. Lucero presently impounded in the PNP provincial headquarters.

In the afternoon, the NFFM presented the findings to the local media through a public forum held at the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP). In that forum, the vicar general of the Diocese of Catarman challenged the concerned citizens of Catarman, who were present, to band together under the Justice for Fr. Lucero and Justice for All Victims of Human Rights Violations.

In the late afternoon, the participants, together with the families of **Ruth Gecaro** (the supposed partner of NFFM who was tasked to guide and bring the victims human rights violations from Lope de Vega in Catarman but was abducted by the elements of the 63rd IBPA on October 5 in the town of Catubig), staged a protest picket at the jeep terminal and market place of Catarman to announce to the public that Ruth was missing.

On the afternoon of the same day, a photo copy of a military intelligence report was handed over to a member of the team by an "unidentified state forces asset" who said in a local dialect that "this might help you."

On the Last Day (October 10), a short evaluation of the fact-finding mission was conducted to mark the end of the Mission.

FINDINGS OF THE NATIONAL FACT-FINDING MISSION ON THE KILLING OF FR. CECILIO LUCERO AND OTHER CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NORTHERN SAMAR

ON FR. CECILIO LUCERO'S KILLING

- Fr. Lucero was supposed to go home on September 05, after officiating a mass in Brgy. Ogon, Capul, Northern Samar. But because it was already late, his parishioners insisted that Fr. Lucero and his companions stay for the night and proceed home the following day.

- On September 6, 2009, while driving his van, together with Isidro Miras and Police Officer Eugene Bation, Fr. Lucero was killed in an ambush with 4 to 5 men chasing the van while continuously firing at it. Later, according to witnesses, a loud explosion followed the bursts of gunfire.

- The perpetrators numbered only 4 to 5 people armed with high powered rifles as against the record in the police blotter (as reported by PO2 Bation) that they were ambushed by "forty (40) heavily armed men" or "30 unidentified armed men" (PNP PD spot report).

- After the last blast, PO2 Bation emerged from the incident and was seen with blood on his head and shoulder and carrying his service high-powered rifle

- The perpetrators withdrew from the site and were seen moving towards the hilly side of the next barangay (Sitio Kan-Emac, Brgy Aguadahan), about 30-minutes walking distance from the crime scene

- The place of incident is about one-minute drive away from the San Jose PNP Station. The PNP PD claimed

Police investigators at the place of incident.

that they responded within 10 minutes. However, based on witnesses' accounts the police responded almost an hour late.

- Witness testified that when the police arrived at the crime scene, bursts of gun fire were again heard and people in the area scampered for cover.

- A Police Officer of the San Jose PNP Station told the NFFM that the PNP Provincial Director instructed the San Jose PNP that all reports and documents would be issued by the PPO; but the PNP PD "clarified" that this instruction is applicable only for media people.

- Fr. Lucero is a human rights advocate and months before he was killed, Fr. Lucero led a series of fact-finding missions on human rights violations involving state security forces in the Municipalities of Lope de Vega, Las Navas, Pambujan, Palapag

- Before his death, Fr. Lucero admitted to his colleagues that he had been receiving death threats and had to acquire the services of a police escort.

- On September 3, 2009, around 8 pm, elements of the 63rd IBPA visited Fr. Lucero at Catubig Parish. According to the testimony of the witness, he saw five men in civilian clothing entered the priest's office. He heard them talking to Fr. Lucero about the killings that happened in the municipality of Lope de Vega. He heard the men apologizing to Fr. Lucero and told him that it won't happen again. He also testified that outside the office, he saw a 6x6 military truck with about 10 people in military uniform and fully armed.

- On January 27, 2007 survivors of torture testified that Fr. Lucero was repeatedly mentioned by their military interrogators and they were asked about Fr. Lucero's supposed involvement with the NPA

- On January 12, 2009 another survivor of torture testified that his military interrogator asked him about the involvement of Fr. Lucero in the "movement"

The PNP Task Force Fr. Lucero

- According to the Task Force Fr. Lucero Progress Report, dated Oct 5, 2005 released by PS/Supt Gil Hitosis, there are 4 probable angles related to the killing:

  - Dismissed PSupt Tonog case which was an incident of an attempt of "summary execution" of a certain Carlos Espinosa whose captors was allegedly "ordered" by PSupt Tonog to "waste" the person but had survived. Mr. Espinosa filed a case against the captors but the case was

dismissed for lack of evidence. PSupt Tonog was dismissed from the service on orders of the Ombudsman. Based on the PNP's investigation, PSupt Tonog holds grudges against Fr. Lucero because the latter was one of those who filed cases against Tonog in the Ombudsman.

- The killing of the Mayor of Catubig which the PNP claimed was politically motivated. Fr. Lucero was "implicated" in this incident. (according to the PNP investigation, somebody told a relative of the mayor that they will just take revenge as they knew who the mastermind of the mayor's killing was. The killing was already owned up by the NPA but Fr. Lucero was being linked to the armed rebels. Rumors were being spread that Fr. Lucero was also a member of the NPA).

- The Jojo Basiloy and Elinor Morillo case, an incident in Brgy. Sumuroy, Lope de Vega, documented by Fr. Lucero. The priest took custody of the survivor. The military claimed that the incident was a legitimate encounter between the Philippine Army and the New People's Army but the survivor claimed otherwise. Fr. Lucero got angry about this incident which prompted the 63rd IBPA to "visit" him in his parish on September 3, 2009.

- After the death of Dr. Bartolome Resuello who was tagged by the military as a "revolutionary tax collector", a public statement was released by Col. Hitosis, that Fr. Lucero wanted to replace him as "collector."

- Based on the initial assessment of the Task Force Lucero, the dismissed PSupt Tonog case and the Catubig case would be taken into consideration for further investigation

- TF Lucero is also looking into the possibility that the perpetrators are former military men hired to kill Fr. Lucero. TF Lucero is also investigating who the principals are and who paid the killers.

- According to the interpretation of medical experts, the autopsy report from the PNP crime lab was insufficient. No description of the metallic fragments was provided. There was no detailed explanation regarding the trajectory of the bullet wounds sustained by Fr. Lucero to ascertain the position where the shots came from.

ON OTHER CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE PROVINCE

- **Jerwin Marino, Jojo Basiloy and Elinor Morillo** were sprayed with bullets by military elements belonging to the 63rd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army without any reasons on August 27, 2009 in Sitio Pili, Brgy. Sumoroy, Lope de Vega, Northern Samar. Basiloy and Morillo are both councilors of Brgy. Sumoroy. Morillo was able to survive the strafing but unfortunately, Marino and Basiloy died in the area. The incident was earlier reported by the military as an encounter between the military and the NPA.

- **Ruth Gecaro** was forcibly taken and forced into a vehicle by elements believed to be soldiers from 63rd IBPA on October 5, 2009 in Catubig, Northern Samar on her way to fetch witnesses and victims for the National Fact Finding Mission. As of this time, Gecaro's whereabouts are still unknown.

- **Noriel Caparal's** body was found on July 27, 2009 at the back of an elementary school at the poblacion in Mondragon, Northern Samar. The family of the suspected police perpetrator attempted

to settle with Caparal's family by paying the latter to dissuade the family from pursuing any legal move against the suspect.

- **Dr. Bartolome Resuello** was killed on April 1, 2009, at around 5:30 in the afternoon. Dr. Bartolome Resuello left his house in San Roque, Northern Samar on his way to his other house in Pambujan, Northern Samar aboard his motorcycle. At around 6:00 in the evening, while he was passing Sitio Canmili, Brgy. Cababto-an, Pambujan along the highway, with an estimate of 300 meters away from the Pambujan Bridge, four (4) men in civilian clothes wearing ski masks came out of the road and immediately sprayed him with bullets. When Dr. Resuello fell to the ground, one of his assailants approached him and shot him again in the head.

  Dr. Resuello sustained several gunshot wounds in his body and his head which caused his immediate death. His face was deformed due to the gunshots he_sustained. Police who "investigated" the incident recovered several M-16 rifle and .45 caliber pistol bullet casings. In 2005, there was an attempt to assassinate Dr. Resuello by suspected members of the military's death squad in Northern Samar_

- **Prof. Jose Maria B. Cui** was in his classroom located at the Engineering Building of the University of Eastern Philippines on January 19, 2007. While he was supervising the examinations of his History class, two (2) armed men shot him at close range (the gunman was only 3-4 meters away from him), in plain view of his students, hitting him twice – one on the forehead and another on the chest. He died on the spot. The perpetrators drove off to the direction of Mondragon town. (This is the direction towards the nearest military camp situated at San Agustin, Mondragon, Northern Samar) His direct involvement in the human rights issues, employees' welfare and anti-corruption stand could have made him a target of the "neutralization" campaign of the AFP in its Operational Plan (Oplan) Batay Laya 2.

  It can be remembered that during the terror-reign of Gen. Palparan, Prof. Cui was a subject of the smear campaign of the military, maliciously tagging him as a high-ranking member of the New People's Army (NPA). As matter of fact, flyers were distributed and posters were posted by military men sometime in November 2004 maligning his name. He was also charged with libel by the then Commanding Officer of the 63rd IBPA Col. Manuelito Usi. He was listed no. 2 in the military's order of battle (OB).

- **Student Leaders from the University of Eastern Philippines** are continually harassed by military elements. Included in these harassment incidents is the child of Prof. Cui, who was the former chairman of the University Student Council. The Military's presence inside the campus and its nearby communities is highly visible.

- **Human Rights Violations** reported by the Diocese of Catarman led by Fr. Lucero like the killing of Agustin "Titing" Olchondra, Jeric Lurindo on September 8, 2006, Trifon "Epong" Matimco on May 2, 2009. Other cases will not be mentioned for the security of the victims. All these violations were committed by the elements of the 63rd IBPA as documented by the Diocese.

"THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE REPORT"

Based on the documents provided to the NFFM, the following information was contained in this report:

> On August 2009, Cpt Husain A. Esmael, Acting Engade S2, submitted a (sic) MOTHLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY (Period Covered 06 July 2009-09 August 2009) to the Commander of TASK GROUP 'PEACEMAKER', 803rd BDE, 8ID, PA.
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> In this report, names of personalities of progressive and party-list organizations in Northern Samar were listed in the OB (Order of Battle) of the Philippine Army. They are GABRIELA leader/members Tita Adriatico, Ruth Figueroa Martiriez and Nenet Sarmiento; BAYAN MUNA Joel Cabedes, Jane Orsolino and Leomar Orsolino; BAYAN Fr. Joel Barlaan at its Sec. Gen; OTHERS are Fred Ampuan, Rudy Yco, Romula Obleopaz, Virginia Adriatico, Jun Balang, the NUSP leader, (Dr.) Bartolome Resuello, Fr. Fernando Bugtong (connected to Fr. Lucero), Sr. Maribel Casiller, Venus Cardinas, Roderick (Rodrigo) Destura, Inday Sarmiento Manganda, Lea Marino, Nestor Molato, Danny Obleopaz, Fritz Perez, Eladio Perfecto, Nick Sarmiento, Marilou Turla and Nila Turla.
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> The leaders of the League of Filipino Students (LFS) of the University of Eastern Philippines who are also officers of University Student Council are Ronald Matnog, Andrew T. Sudario, Luke Jansen R. Detera, Jay Niel Verano, Kristina Calvo, January Rosbel Aniban, Marian Ladeza, Marjorie Sarah F. Martinico, Jeremy Evardone and Julia Evardone.
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> The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) of Northern Samar are Leo Carl T. Chin (Associate Editor), Angelo Karl Doceo (Managing Editor), Michael C. Bernaro (News Editor), Micah Susana Rubenecia (Filipino Editor), Allen Buensalida (Sports Editor), Wences Tony Balanguit (Cartoonist), Ronato S. Ballado EdD (Technical Adviser) and Chrysalis L. Lagrimas CPA (Financial Adviser).
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> The report described how the activities of the progressive organizations of Northern Samar had been stopped during the said period. Efforts of the Philippine Army in neutralizing the personalities were also mentioned like visiting the mothers of the LFS leaders. There were activities that would insulate the "Non-affected Personalities," "Co-optation of Affected personalities," and winning over the "students of the secondary school and university."
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> Also stated in the report is how the Army militarized the University of Eastern Philippines and nearby barangays. The Army presented power point of the "Enemy of the State" and showing of Video of Katleen Ramos.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the information gathered; the NFFM concludes the following:

1. The brutal killing of Fr. Cecilio Lucero is part of the government's counter-insurgency program, Oplan Bantay Laya, which targets to neutralize perceived enemies of the state.

Fr. Cecilio Lucero's killing shows the patterns attendant to the many cases of extrajudicial killings in the country. His name being mentioned in the Military Intelligence report and his death is no coincidence. The vilification and smear campaign launched against him, persistent attempts to link him to the armed rebels and eventually accusing him of being a member of the armed rebel group are all systematic patterns to discredit him as a credible human rights defender, especially of people who are very poor and are also being accused by state security forces of either being supporters, if not outright members, of the rebel group and therefore are "enemies of the state." His staunch advocacy for human rights and fearless campaign to end violations of such has earned him the enmity of forces responsible for such violations.

2. It is very unusual, if not incredible, that Police Officer Eugene Bation was not harmed nor did he sustain any wound considering that the side of the van where he was seated sustained around 5 to 6 gun shots.

3. Testimonies of witnesses point to the fact that the perpetrators were expecting Fr. Lucero's group to pass by Maharlika Highway in the morning of September 06. Considering the fact that Fr. Lucero's group changed their plans of returning to Catarman as an after thought on the evening of September 05, a strong possibility that someone close to Fr. Lucero that day could have tipped off the perpetrators may not be discounted.

4. Ruth Gecaro's abduction and disappearance at the time that she was supposed to help the NFFM to fetch and accompany the victims of human rights violations is deplorable and can only be viewed as an attempt to conceal the truth.

5. The rate of human rights violations perpetrated with impunity in the province of Northern Samar is still in an alarming rate.

6. The exposition of the Military Intelligence report blatantly including several names in the Order of Battle list cannot be taken for granted. Dr. Bartolome Rosuello was already killed and Fr. Lucero, mentioned only in relation to Fr. Bugtong, followed barely four months later.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on these conclusions, the NFFM recommends the ff:

1. That the TF Lucero look into the angle that Fr. Lucero's case is a case of one of the extrajudicial killing cases under the Oplan Bantay Laya program.

2. PO2 Bation must be investigated.

3. That persons named in the OB list of the military file writs of amparo and habeas data for their protection and the military must be held accountable if something bad happens to any person in the list, while in the porocess of filing the said writs .

4. Launch a strong campaign to expose and oppose the human rights violations in the province and in the country.

UNITY STATEMENT

We, the delegates of the National Fact Finding Mission for Fr. Cecilio Lucero from Karapatan Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights, Katungod-Sinirangan Bisayas, Katungod-Northern Samar, Promotion of Church People's Response, Missionaries of Jesus, Ecumenical Mission for Peace and Development, United Church Christ in the Philippines-East Visayas Jurisdiction, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, League of Filipino Students, and in cooperation with the Diocese of Catarman, are united in seeking the truth to attain justice for Fr. Cecilio Lucero and other victims of human rights violations.

We strongly condemn the series of extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations in the province of Northern Samar because of the following cases of human rights violations documented during the National Fact Finding Mission conducted from October 7-8, 2009 here in Northern Samar:

- **Fr. Cecilio Lucero**, parish priest of Catubig, Northern Samar and a known human rights advocate, was brutally killed when he was ambushed by four to five heavily armed men last September 6, 2009, at around 8:30 in the morning while he was passing Brgy. Layuhan, San Jose, Northern Samar aboard his van.

- **Jerwin Marino, Jojo Basiloy** and **Elinor Morillo** was sprayed with bullets by military elements belonging to the 63rd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army without ample reasons last August 27, 2009 in Sitio Pili, Brgy. Sumoroy, Lope de Vega, Northern Samar. Basiloy and Morillo are both councilors of Brgy. Sumoroy. Morillo was able to survive the strafing but unfortunately, Marino and Basiloy died in the area. The incident was earlier reported by the military as an encounter between the military and rebel group.

- **Ruth Gecaro** was forcibly taken and boarded in a vehicle by elements believed to be soldiers from 63rd last October 5, 2009 in Catubig, Northern Samar on her way to fetch witnesses and victims for the National Fact Finding Mission. As of this statement, Gecano's whereabouts is still unknown.

- **Noriel Caparal**'s body was found last July 27, 2009 at the back of an elementary school at the poblacion in Mondragon, Northern Samar. The family of the suspected police perpetrator attempted to settle with Caparal's

family by paying them to discontinue any legal move against the suspect.

- **Student leaders** from the University of Eastern Philippines are continually harassed by military elements. Military's presence inside the campus and its nearby communities has been visible.

We believe that Fr. Lucero's active involvement in human rights advocacy is the real reason why he was killed. Fr. Lucero has been consistent in defending victims of military abuse. His name has been mentioned several times during interrogations of the military of torture victims linking him to the rebels.

We further believe that the spate of human rights violations in Northern Samar is a systematic campaign of the government thru its counter-insurgency program, Oplan Batnay Laya, which targets progressive leaders, government critics and farmers suspected as members or supporters of the rebels.

We are alarmed that the police still have not released its report on the investigation of Fr. Lucero's killing. In addition, their investigation is narrowing only on the personal motives of their suspects and dismissing his involvement in human rights advocacy.

We call on the police for the immediate disclosure of the results of their investigation on Fr. Lucero's case.

We call on the perpetrators to immediately surface Ruth Gecaro.

We call on the authorities to investigate cases of human rights violations in Northern Samar perpetrated by the 63rd Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army.

We call on for the immediate pull out of military troops in the University of Eastern Philippines campus and communities and in all civilian communities in Northern Samar.

Justice for Fr. Cecilio Lucero!

Justice for all victims of extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations!

Oppose Oplan Bantay Laya!

Defend human life and dignity!