

In Thailand, giant rubber ducks were used by peaceful protesters as shields against police armed with riot gear using water cannons. The 'protector duck' became a symbol of Thailand's pro-democracy movement in the face of police abuses. Images of the ducks went viral inspiring global solidarity.

WHAT'S INSIDE

79

PROTECT THE PROTEST CAMPAIGN

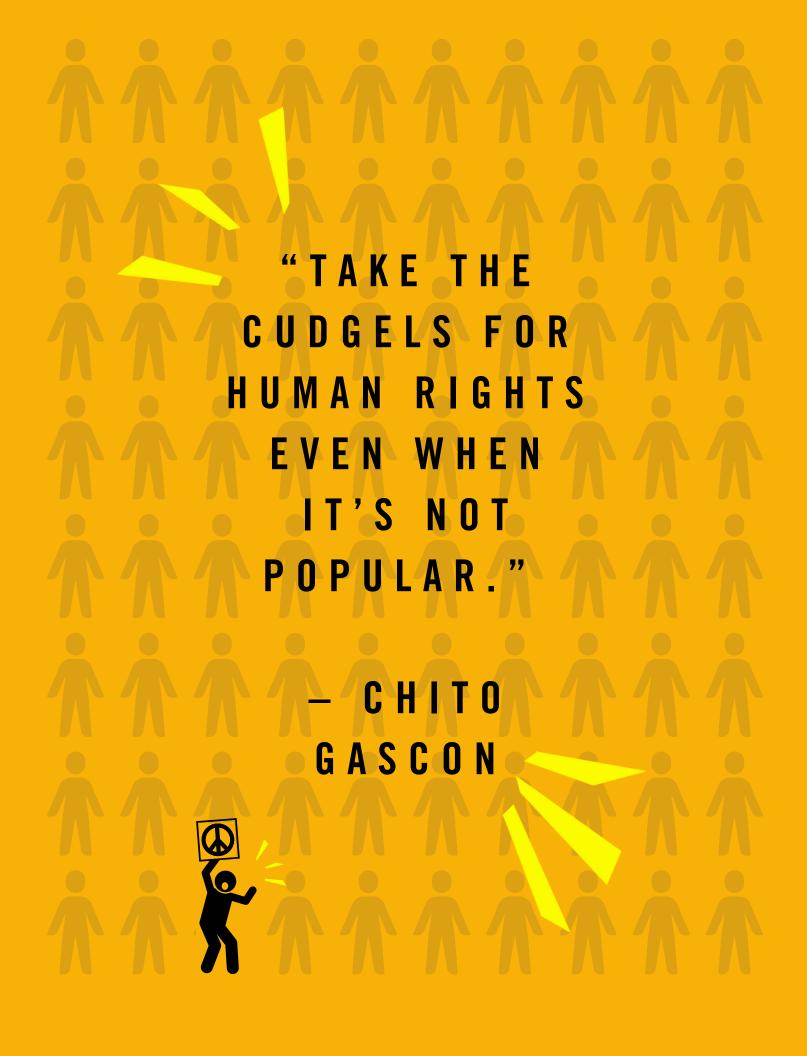
EDUKASYON X AIPH COLLABORATION

HISTORY OF PROTEST IN THE PHILIPPINES

UNPOPULAR OPINION: ELECTIONS

MANOBO-PULANGIYON

AND MORE!





PROTECT THE PROTEST

In France, when large demonstrations were temporarily banned, people lined up thousands of empty shoes at an environmental summit at Place de la République to ensure their voices would still be heard. This peaceful protest inspired global solidarity and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent his jogging trainers in support.

ON 19 JULY 2022, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHED A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO CONFRONT THE UNPRECEDENTED WORLDWIDE THREAT TO THE RIGHT TO PROTEST.

From Russia to Sri Lanka, France to Senegal, and Iran to Nicaragua, state authorities are implementing an expanding array of measures to suppress organized dissent. Protesters across the globe are facing a potent mix of pushbacks, with a growing number of laws and other measures to restrict the right to protest; the misuse of force, the expansion of unlawful mass and targeted surveillance; internet shutdowns and online censorship; and abuse and stigmatization. Meanwhile, marginalized and discriminated against groups are subjected to even further barriers.

Amnesty International's "Protect the Protest" campaign will challenge attacks on peaceful protest, stand with those targeted and support the causes of social movements pushing for human rights change.

International human rights law protects the right to protest through a number of separate provisions enshrined in various international and regional treaties which, taken together, provide protests with comprehensive protection. Even though the right to protest is not codified as a separate right in human rights treaties, when people engage in protests, whether individually or collectively, they are exercising a variety of rights, which can include the

rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

"In recent years we have seen some of the biggest protest mobilizations for decades. Black Lives Matter, MeToo, and the climate change movements have inspired millions the world over to take to the streets and online to demand racial and climate justice, equity and livelihoods, and an end to gender violence and discrimination. Elsewhere, people have stood up in their thousands against police violence and killings, state repression and oppression," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

"Almost without exception, this wave of mass protest has been met with obstructive, repressive and often violent responses by state authorities. Instead of facilitating the right to protest, governments are going to ever greater lengths to quash it. This is why, as the world's biggest human rights organisation, we have chosen this moment to launch this campaign. It's time to stand up and loudly remind those in power of our inalienable right to protest, to express grievances, and to demand change freely, collectively and publicly."



Governments across the world are justifying restrictions by arguing that protest constitutes a threat to public order and by stigmatizing protesters; branding them "troublemakers", "rioters", or even "terrorists". By casting protesters in this light, authorities have justified zero-tolerance approaches: introducing and misusing vague and draconian security laws, deploying heavy handed policing, and taking pre-emptive deterrent measures. This approach was witnessed in Hong Kong, where the National Security Law and its expansive definition of "national security" have been used arbitrarily, among other things, to restrict protest. And, in India, the anti-terror Unlawful Prevention (Activities) Act (UAPA) and the crime of "sedition", have been used repeatedly against peaceful protesters, journalists, and human rights defenders.

People who face inequality and discrimination, whether based on race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, occupation, social, economic or migratory status are also more affected by restrictions on their right to protest and face harsher repression.

For example, women, LGBTI and gender-non-conforming people are facing different types of gender-based violence, marginalization, social norms and legislation. In countries including Sudan, Colombia and Belarus, women have been sexually assaulted for participating in protests, while in Turkey, for example, Pride marches have been banned for years.

"Our campaign comes at a critical juncture. The precious right to protest is being eroded at a terrifying pace, and we must do all we can to push back," said Agnès Callamard. "Countless protesters have been killed in recent years, and it is partly on their behalf that we must now raise our own voices and defend our right to speak truth to power through protests in the streets and online."

Locally, the Philippine section of Amnesty International joined the global launch of the new flagship campaign with a short social media campaign over the week following launch day, including sharing the global launch video; the individuals at risk; and the Protest Safety Pack just ahead of the expected protests ahead of the 25 July SONA. The Media, Communication and Publication Program also hosted several Intro Sessions over the last weekend of July to discuss the Communication Framework of the campaign as well as what members can look forward to in the next few months.



In Syria, to get their peaceful message across in dangerous territory, activists sent thousands of painted ping pong balls down streets and hills with messages such as "Freedom" or slogans for passersby to read.

The campaign continues into August and September with consultations for campaign outputs and a call for a Video Action. You can find details of these on Amnesty's website and social media accounts or reach out to any member of the National Secretariat to learn more.

In this campaign, Amnesty wants to say: Your voice matters. You have the right to say what you think, share information and demand a better world. You also have the right to agree or disagree with those in power, and to express these opinions in peaceful protests.

Amnesty International supports people who speak out peacefully for themselves and for others – whether a journalist reporting on violence by security forces, a trade unionist exposing poor working conditions or an indigenous leader defending their land rights against big business. We would similarly defend the right of those who support the positions of big business, the security forces and employers to express their views peacefully.

We consider anyone put in prison solely for exercising their right to free speech and peaceful protest to be a prisoner of conscience and call for their immediate and unconditional release.





THE SOLUTION: WHAT IS AMNESTY CALLING FOR?

- Prisoners of conscience around the world should be released immediately and unconditionally.
- All laws criminalizing people who speak out or protest peacefully, should be struck off the law books.
- Laws against hate speech or other incitement to discrimination and violence must not be used to repress peaceful dissent.
- People should have access to information, and the power of governments and companies to obtain information about individuals and organisations must be restricted.
- If you would like to join us in Protecting the Protest, you can sign the petition on Amnesty's Take Action web page.

Nine Young Activists Gear Up to Defend Online Spaces

DIGITAL DISRUPTORS IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S YOUTH-LED DIGITAL CAMPAIGNING PROJECT. IT AIMS TO TRAIN YOUNG ACTIVISTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS BY CREATING THEIR OWN ONLINE CAMPAIGNS.



Digital Disruptors campaigns were first launched in Puerto Rico, Sweden, Nigeria, and Kenya - and this year, the Philippines.

Tech-savvy, bold, and creative, young Fllipinos have been in the front line of social change for generations, claiming their space and defending others' rights in public and online spaces.

Nine young people from all over the Philippines have been selected to make the biggest Digital Disruptors team to date. Individually, each Digital Disruptor comes with a set of skill sets in their own field and together, they form a formidable crew of passionate human rights defenders ready to take and defend their online space.

As part of the project, AIPH organized two face-to-face workshops in addition to online training sessions. The first one was the 3-day Kick-Off Workshop (3DW) held in Quezon City in late June, followed by a 2-week Workshop (2WW) in Cebu in mid-July.

The 3DW was the youth team's first time meeting their teammates and the staff in person. Although there had been online welcoming sessions prior, the face-to-face workshop essentially served as a space to induce the young disruptors into the project and for the youth team to get to know their new teammates more closely. The Digital Disruptors project prioritizes personal and collective growth in the training strategy. That is why to kick-off the youth team's journey, the 3DW was composed of growth sessions focusing on inclusion, and team culture. They were also asked to share their own perspectives on disruption and learn more about each other's advocacies.

Another focus of the project is campaign development. During the 3DW, the youth team went through several training sessions on research methodologies, particularly survey, FGD, and interview. This helped them plan their own context mapping activity, which would be carried out during the time between the three-day workshop

The context mapping was carried out for 3 weeks and was used in gathering data to understand the current situation of youth rights, digital rights, and their intersections. The results would later be discussed during the 2WW in Cebu.

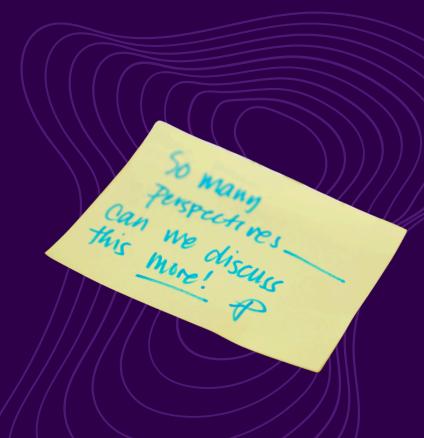
Online context

VARIES

from person to

Person.

HOW ABOUT
FILIPINOL WA
HOD access to
tech?



The Digital Disruptors project will proceed with youth-led campaign planning and development, well-being sessions, peer learning sessions with Digital Disruptors Kenya, and overall project planning.

VOTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Voters that put human rights first.

This was the vision of Sagot Mo Ba Ako: Tangan Ko, Karapatan Mo—Amnesty Philippines' project that ran alongside the 2022 National Elections. It is in this same vision that lit a shared spark with Edukasyon.PH, giving a direction into their hope to contribute to making the elections count.

Edukasyon.PH is an online platform that provides support for Filipino students and young professionals to enrich their learning experiences by bridging them with opportunities, and developing accessible resources on a range of academic, technical, and social topics.

We first met Edukasyon back in 2021 through a former youth member excited at the possibility of bringing her advocacy for young people's education and human rights together. Among a series of exploratory meetings into different projects—Sagot Mo Ba Ako stood out. The drive for the partnership is simple: We want to talk about human rights in the elections. This is where Amnesty comes in. We want this to reach young voters. This is what Edukasyon is all about. And social media is undoubtedly one of the biggest and most impactful spaces for conversation around politics. This is how we work together.

AIPH X EDUKASYON COLLABORATION

After months of planning, a post was released on 25 February (a week after the launch of SMBA) in Edukasyon's facebook page asking thousands of their youth followers "What qualities do you look for in a political candidate?". This spawned hundreds of comments, and even discussions under the posts—some typing in traits of a specific candidate kindly and aggresively, but others genuinely expressing their hope for a good leader. This set into motion a series of content in varying formats building onto each other towards an understanding of human rights, its role in the elections, and the duty of young people.



The campaign consisted of 10 content in total. In addition to the one above, was another post asking "Which current issues should political candidates address in their platforms?". These interactive prompts were meant to stir discussion around the election, and gauging where human rights is in the consciousness of young voters. This was followed by the release of several articles aimed at gradually shaping the audience's understanding of human rights. There was even an online quiz that related human rights issues as we witness them in everyday life.

Finally, the launch of the SMBA Quest. Housed in Edukasyon's website, it's a two-prong interactive learning experience. It requires the learner to read through various resources then process their understanding. In the 1st Quest, these were materials on human rights, issues, and governance culminated by a comprehensive quiz about how they see a leader should carry and promote human rights. In the 2nd Quest, after reading through articles of an individual's human rights duties and their shared responsibility in nation-building, they shared about what they see is their role in the elections and the country's development and explored ways to actualize it. Within just the first two weeks of the launch, 520 individuals had already completed both quests.

Throughout the three-month period, there were also social cards released that aimed to summarize and reinforce the topics and concepts covered by previous assets. And two weeks before the elections, a video on human rights and good governance was shared as an encouragement to youth voters to vote for the Philippines they want to see.

These assets and resources were co-designed by Amnesty and Edukasyon, maximizing Amnesty's expertise on human rights education and heartwired communication, with Edukasyon's skills in creating active engagement with young people online, and delivering information in digestible and effective formats.

The AIPH x Edukasyon SMBA partnership prompted many possibilities in the way we can engage and educate in online spaces by maximizing a variety of different tools and formats. But ultimately, it was how this codelivered campaign was received by the audiences that was telling of its impact. There were advocates, trolls, and critics coming from all sides. Comments ranged from support-



- and encouragement to dissentions and provocations. But amid all that, are conversations and individuals willing to be a part of it.

It's easy for organizations like Amnesty to speak in spaces occupied by like-minded people—sometimes, it's even inevitable especially in social media where algorithms tend to keep users in their boxes. But through the three-month social media campaign with Edukasyon that targeted individuals almost exclusively outside of Amnesty's usual audiences of human rights advocates, we experienced first-hand how human rights is seen and talked about by the very people we want to eventually reach—and more importantly, the possibilities of how we can hold a space for these conversations with differing views and conflicting perspectives and the hope to bridge them.

There's a lot to be said about how the elections turned out. And even more about the polarization and anxiety that plagued it, and plagues us as a nation now. As we find ourselves searching for our next move as human rights defenders (and as citizens) in this post-election environment, it might be a good idea to look back at who we reached and who we didn't and what made the difference. It could be a good place to start again.

HISTORY OF PROTEST



One of the earliest recorded protests in the Philippines was a massive rally staged by the first workers' union in the country. Over 100,000 people attended, and members of the group were arrested and harassed even in the succeeding months.



In 1985, President Marcos Sr. was being pressured by the public and his US allies to declare a snap elections and he surprised everyone by announcing on US television a snap elections in which he would be running for office. Just two months after an organization formed to call for her Presidency, Cory Aquino – widow of the assassinated Ninoy Aquino – received a petition with more than a million signatures drafting her to run against Marcos.



The Lapiang Malaya movement formed in the 1940s. In May 1967 their leader called on then-President Ferdinand E. Marcos to resign. The Philippine Constabularly (PC) repeatedly attempted to break up the assembly which eventually boiled over into violence – with 32 members of Lapiang Malaya killed and over 300 more arrested and taken to Camp Crame. To justify their actions, the PC came out with alleged reports linking the group to communists.

RITAL LAW MARCUS : ■ ERA [1967-1985] ■

IN THE PHILIPPINES

Another protest that came together somewhat organically and was facilitated by technology was the Million People March on August 26 of 2013. What started as a Facebook post turned into a rallying cry against corruption and culminated with 100,000 people in Manila and more in other cities. The call of protestors was the abolition of the the discretionary funds given to lawmakers for their pet projects.





Even the COVID-19 pandemic was not enough to stifle the spirit of protest in the Filipnos. During the strictest period of the lockdown in April 2020, several dozen protesters gathered in Quezon City demanding food and cash aid from the government. 21 of them were arrested for rallying without a permit and the local government strongly asserted that food packs had been continuously distributed throughout the city.

On 15 January 1987, farmers from Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas camped outside of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform with three demands: give lands to farmers for free; zero retention of land by landlords; and stop amortization of land payments. After a few days camped outside the building, and one day when they barricaded the building not allowing employees in to work, they marched to Mendiola.





UNPOPULAR OPINION

OPED BY WILNOR PAPA

Literally everyone I know has already weighed in on the results of the 2022 Philippine Presidential Elections. I have heard every 2-cents worth with varying insight, depth and truths as to why, what, when, where and how. Not a single soul was spared of anyone's take on the matter — toddlers not excluded. And yes, even the least political had a take on the matter. And yes, it took me a number of weeks to decide if there's a further need to have my two-cents heard (or published).

First thing's first: we never really got our messages across. This became a popular debate topic when this current president's predecessor won in 2016. The choice for an iron-handed murderous madman, with blatant disregard for law and common decency came as a shock to many of us, yet people also looked the other way, saying it's for the better. So what became of the decades worth or organizing, education and advocacy work targeting all tiers, circles and every iteration of the country's social structures? Did they just turn their backs on us? Some were truly scared. Some were forced to pick a side not to their liking. And many, actually, believed.

We never got messages across? We should have realized this decades ago. Bear with me here.

In 1992, six years after EDSA Revolution and 24 years before the madman was voted into power, the wife of the late dictator ran for presidency. She got more than 10% of the votes - 2,338,294 votes to be exact. She had more votes than former Senator Jovito Salonga, a hero that fought the dictatorship. And this was just a few years after the dictator was deposed. The winning president won with 5,342,521 votes.



In 1998, 12 years after EDSA Revolution and 18 years before the madman was voted into power, an actor whose acting and political career started to flourish during the heydays of the dictatorship won the presidency. He was kicked out of the office three years later and was replaced by then vice president. This replacement, decided to run after her term 'ended' in 2004 and won a very much contested Presidential elections rife with allegations of widespread cheating. And despite the corruption scandals, killings of activists and various political debacles, she came back strong during the reign of the madman and even stronger now with son of the former dictator.

In 2010, the son of the widower who was in the forefront of EDSA took the helm. More on this later.

Within and in between these national elections, multitudes of local politicians at the barangay, municipal, city, province, district and administrative regions are elected. Who have always been voted into power? Even during the local and national elections that were held immediately after EDSA, those who continue to win are the same names, the same types and literally the same people who surrounded the dictator and his allies. Of course, some of us were scared and were forced to vote for a person not to our liking. In many cases, there wasn't any choice. Worst, despite the many years of stagnation or decay in their localities, many continue to put their faith and believe that these "trapos" will bring progress, development, and untold richness and comfort in their lives.



It doesn't matter who leads the country. A year after EDSA revolution, we saw the widower being hounded and at times, surrounded by those that supported her nemesis. Her son's administration was plagued by the same malady — they carry different names but the same type of parasites nevertheless.

We should have realized this decades ago. We should have realized this a day after EDSA took back the power from the dictator. One of the indicators that provides proof of connecting and getting our messages across is seeing better leaders on the ground. People will demand leaders that they truly deserve. But we didn't take the obvious seriously.

We chased the dictator out of Malacañang but his flea and tick infested dogs stayed, many taking over various pockets of power and influence here and there. The culture of greed and abuse that permeated his rule stayed. While we celebrated and tried to piece our lives and this country together, they were already paving the way for the dictator's family to return with influence and power a day after EDSA was won. And they made those living within those various pockets of influence and power here and there believe that theirs will be seen as the better days.

We need to get the messages across. We focused too much on the national and the big names that come out of it. We never even bothered with the outcomes in our own localities. And these localities from north to south will never understand because they have never even heard of the messages we were trying to convey. We neglected those that needed to hear and connect with us the most.

The message we carried was strong amongst us but it was faint and absent where it should matter. There was jubilation but the realities made many forget what made us jubilant in the first place.

MANOBOPULANGIYON

On 19 April 2022, shots rang out suddenly while Presidential candidate Leody de Guzman spoke with leaders and members of the Manobo-Pulangiyon indigenous community regarding their ancestral domain. They were standing in part of the contested area in Baranggay Kiantig in Quezon, Bukidnon when unknown gunmen shot at them, injuring four members of the community and one of de Guzman's campaign team.



NOT THE FIRST TIME

An investigation was launched by local officials and resolutions were filed in both houses of Congress regarding the incident but the truth is it was just the most recent altercation in a yearslong fight by the Manobo-Pulangiyon to claim their ancestral land as their own. This is not even the first time violence has been inflicted on the community due to the land dispute. As recently as 2017, Renato Anglao, a leader of their community and secretary-general of Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group, was killed by three men over the course of their struggle to reclaim their ancestral home.

According to Manobo-Pulangiyon their ancestors have lived on this land, a property consisting of nearly-1000 hectares, since before the Spanish arrived. In their Statements they refer to several key landmarks that are not only easily identifiable but also significant to their culture. These include the Salagapon Falls which is their ritual area; Banban, their sacred burial place; and the Karikayanan are from where they source root foods and herbal plants and serves as their hunting and fishing grounds.

However, in 1986 this ancestral land was placed under the control of Kiantig Development Corporation (KDC) (formerly known as Cesar Fortich Incorporated) via the awarding of the Forest Land Graze Management Agreement (FLGMA) No. 122. An FLGMA is a product-sharing agreement between a qualified entity and the government to develop, manage, and utilize grazing lands. This same FLGMA has since expired in 2018. In January 2019, a representative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) acknowledged that property was no longer in their jurisdiction and that authority over the property had passed to the Natioonal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

OLD, OLD ROOTS

According to Manobo-Pulangiyon their ancestors have lived on this land, a property consisting of nearly-1000 hectares, since before the Spanish arrived. In their Statements they refer to several key landmarks that are not only easily identifiable but also significant to their culture. These include the Salagapon Falls which is their ritual area; Banban, their sacred burial place; and the Karikayanan are from where they source root foods and herbal plants and serves as their hunting and fishing grounds.

However, in 1986 this ancestral land was placed under the control of Kiantig Development Corporation (KDC) (formerly known as Cesar Fortich Incorporated) via the awarding of the Forest Land Graze Management Agreement (FLGMA) No. 122. An FLGMA is a product-sharing agreement between a qualified entity and the government to develop, manage, and utilize grazing lands. This same FLGMA has since expired in 2018. In January 2019, a representative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) acknowledged that property was no longer in their jurisdiction and that authority over the property had passed to the Natioonal Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

CAST OUT

The Manobo-Pulangiyon filed for their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) with the NCIP on 5 June 1998. However, to date, no CADT has been awarded to them. In fact, in 2017, the indigenous families were forced out of the contested area, driven away from their community near the banks of the Pulangi River. At this time, Pablo Lorenzo III, who was appointed as general manager of KDC was vice-mayor of Quezon, Bukidnon. In 2019, he was elected mayor and he serves in that position to this day.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Following the violence in April, Amnesty International Philippines became involved in the case when Task Force Detainees of the Philippines reached out for financial assistance through the Human Rights Defenders Protection project. At the time, Amnesty provided the community – who have been living in the back streets of Quezon with no assistance from the government – with sacks of rice and medical assistance to one of the wounded community members.

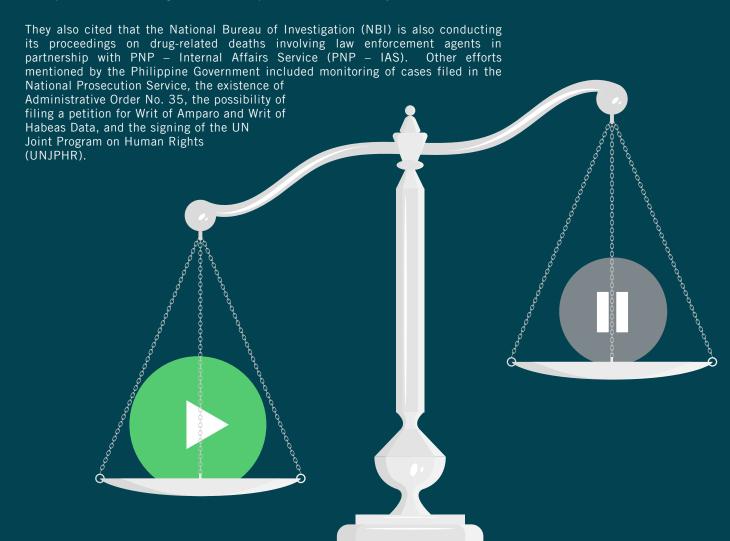
Aside from providing material resources to support their community's ongoing survival, Amnesty has committed to assisting the Manobo-Pulangiyon with reclaiming their ancestral lands from KDC. They have given their free prior and informed consent to partner with us in their struggle and have undergone several consultations and trainings with us, including on human rights essentials and security. A full-scale campaign and lobby work is expected to launch in late September 2022 which will hopefully also involve several leaders and members of the community travelling to Metro Manila to meet with representatives of NCIP and DENR among other government agencies. There are also plans to partner with schools and media for the Manobo-Pulangiyon to tell the story of their struggle as widely as possible.

THE INVESTIGATION RESUMES

Six months after the government of the Philippines (GovPH) submitted its request for the deferral of the investigation of the Philippine situation, the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) at the International Criminal Court (ICC) has released its request to the Pre-Trial Chamber I (PTC I) to resume the investigation of the alleged crimes against humanity in the context of the so-called "War on Drugs" (WoD) that occurred in the Philippines between 1 November 2011 to 30 June 2016.

THE INITIAL REQUEST

On November 10, 2021, GovPH through the Ambassador of the Philippines to the Netherlands submitted a six-page letter in response to the Prosecution's notification of the PTC's decision to authorize an investigation of the Philippine situation at the ICC. In the letter, GovPH requested that the Prosecution defers to the Philippines' investigation of nationals or others within its jurisdiction, citing that the ICC may only exercise jurisdiction where national legal systems fail to do so "which is certainly not the case in the Philippines." To fully demonstrate that "the domestic institutions in the Philippines are fully functional and more than adequate to address the issues," the Philippine Government mentioned the DOJ review panel whose role is to investigate all reported deaths during anti-narcotic operations in the country.



The GovPH's deferral request was communicated to the PTC I by Prosecutor Karim Khan QC on November 18, 2021. Based on the communication to the PTC I, the Prosecution requested additional information from the GovPH under rule 53 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. Such additional information is necessary for the Prosecution to assess the scope and effect of the Deferral Request, and to determine whether to apply to the Pre-Trial Chamber, under article 18(2) of the Statute, for authorization to continue investigating. The Prosecution also suspended its investigative activities while it assesses the scope and effect of the Deferral Request; however, the Prosecution continued its analysis of information already in its possession and any new information it may receive from third parties.

The GovPH was given six months to comply with the OTP's request for additional documents supporting their claims stated on the Deferral Request. After six months, the OTP is mandated by the Court to release an assessment of the Deferral Request and to decide if it will request to forfeit or resume the investigation based on its assessment. On June 24, 2022, Prosecutor Khan announced that his office is requesting the PTC I to resume the investigation of the Philippine situation concerning the alleged crimes against humanity that occurred in the context of WoD. Prosecutor Khan reported that "the Philippines provided additional information to my Office in December 2021 and again in March 2022, all of which has been made available to Pre-Trial Chamber I along with today's application." In his 53page report, Prosecutor Khan concludes that the Deferral Request of the Philippine Government is not substantiated, and, in any event, the national proceedings referenced do not sufficiently mirror the Court's investigation.

Consequently, he asserted that the investigation should be reauthorized and resumed. Prosecutor Khan also mentioned that he has informed the Philippine authorities of his intention to file his application to the PTC I to deny the deferral request. In his press statement, Prosecutor Khan clarified that he remains "ready and willing to continue the productive dialogue they have had since November 2021, and to explore ways in which, moving forward, they can effectively cooperate to deliver justice to victims in the Philippines."



The PTC I have yet to respond to Prosecutor Khan, but the Prosecution has called on victims and relevant organizations to submit their views on the OTP's request to proceed with the investigation. The views will again be forwarded to the PTC I which they will consider in finalizing their decision. The Prosecution will accept communications until September 8, 2022. Communications may be sent by victims themselves or through their representatives.



The journey toward justice remains a difficult battle for victims and their families. The complexity of the Court and its processes has added to the prolonging of the investigation and issuance of a verdict. Yet despite all of this, the community of victims and their supporters continues to commit themselves to pursuing justice at the ICC. Efforts to organize and mobilize families victimized by the WoD are still being implemented by different civil society organizations and coalitions such as Amnesty International Philippines (AIPh) and the Philippine Coalition to the International Criminal Court (PCICC) in hopes that such efforts will strengthen victims' participation in the Court which is an integral part of the justice-seeking process. As we anticipate the next development at the ICC, AIPh and PCICC will continue to boost their advocacy and education work on the ICC and its relevance to victims and the public.



IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR,
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
PHILIPPINES ADOPTED
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
RIGHT TO FREEDOM TO
PROTEST OF METU
STUDENTS IN TURKEY.

RIGHTS

ARE

HUMAN

RIGHTS

The students of the Middle East Technical University (METU) had planned a PRIDE March for June 10. However, on June 7, three days before the planned event, the administration of the university sent an email to all students declaring that the March had been "absolutely banned" and threatening the students with police intervention if they chose to demonstrate peacefully.

The email claims that the university has a peaceful, productive, and creative academic environment, and that their reputation is being threatened by their students demonstrating in a nonviolent manner during Pride Month.

Just three years ago in May 2019, students and staff of METU had attempted to hold a peaceful PRIDE March on campus but were met with excessive police force. At least 21 students and staff were detained with 19 among them being prosecuted. This case was adopted by Amnesty International for its Write for Rights campaign in 2020 and more than 445,000 people from 43 countries demanded their acquittal. In October of 2021, they were finally acquitted after a protracted legal battle.

States have a positive obligation to facilitate peaceful assemblies in law and in practice. As is the case in Turkish-

-law, the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is not subject to permission of government authorities, this right is also protected under international law and standards in conventions Turkey is a party to. Any decision to disperse an assembly should be taken only as a last resort and carefully in line with the principles of necessity and proportionality, that is only when there are no other means available to protect a legitimate aim which outweighs the right of people to assemble peacefully. In any such situation, police must, as far as possible, avoid any use of force and, in any event, must always restrict it to the minimum level necessary.

Now, Amnesty International has launched another petition for the students at METU and their right to protest. The petition calls for METU Rector, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Verşan Kök, to speak in support of METU students. The petition asks that they condemn the violent dispersal, facilitate the immediate and unconditional release of those detained and commit to respect and uphold the freedom of assembly within the METU campus.

SIGN THE PETITION ON AMNESTY'S
TAKE ACTION WEB PAGE.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!



facebook.com/amnestyph



twitter.com/amnestyph



@amnestyph



@amnestyph

