

The US-backed counter-insurgency program under the Duterte and Marcos regimes: a disaster for International Humanitarian Law

Presentation by Mr. Teodoro Casiño

Chairperson, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (New Patriotic Alliance)



The Philippines' counter-insurgency program, inspired, financed, trained, and supplied with weapons by the US government, targets unarmed civilians and exacerbates the root problems of the armed conflict.

"KILL EVERY ONE OVER TEN."

---GEN. JACOB H. SMITH.

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Criminals Because They Were Born Ten Years Before We Took the Philippines.

Since the Philippine-American War of 1899-1902 through the colonial and post-colonial periods, US involvement in counter-insurgency operations in the Philippines has never ceased.

TRUMAN DECLARES PHILIPPINES FREE

Proclamation on Independence
Read at Special Observance
at Washington Quarters

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
WASHINGTON, July 4—Presi-
dent Truman formally recognized
the independence of the Philippines
today through a proclamation.

Philippines

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President Truman
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The 1946 grant of independence was preconditioned on the continued stay of US troops, military bases and facilities. The Mutual Defense Board and joint Security Engagement Board oversees joint military activities of both countries.



A succession of US-backed regimes sought to suppress the people's continuing struggle for genuine democracy and national and social liberation, with the US providing military assistance, training and advice, and direct involvement in combat operations.

Subic Naval Base, Zambales



Clark Airfield, Pampanga



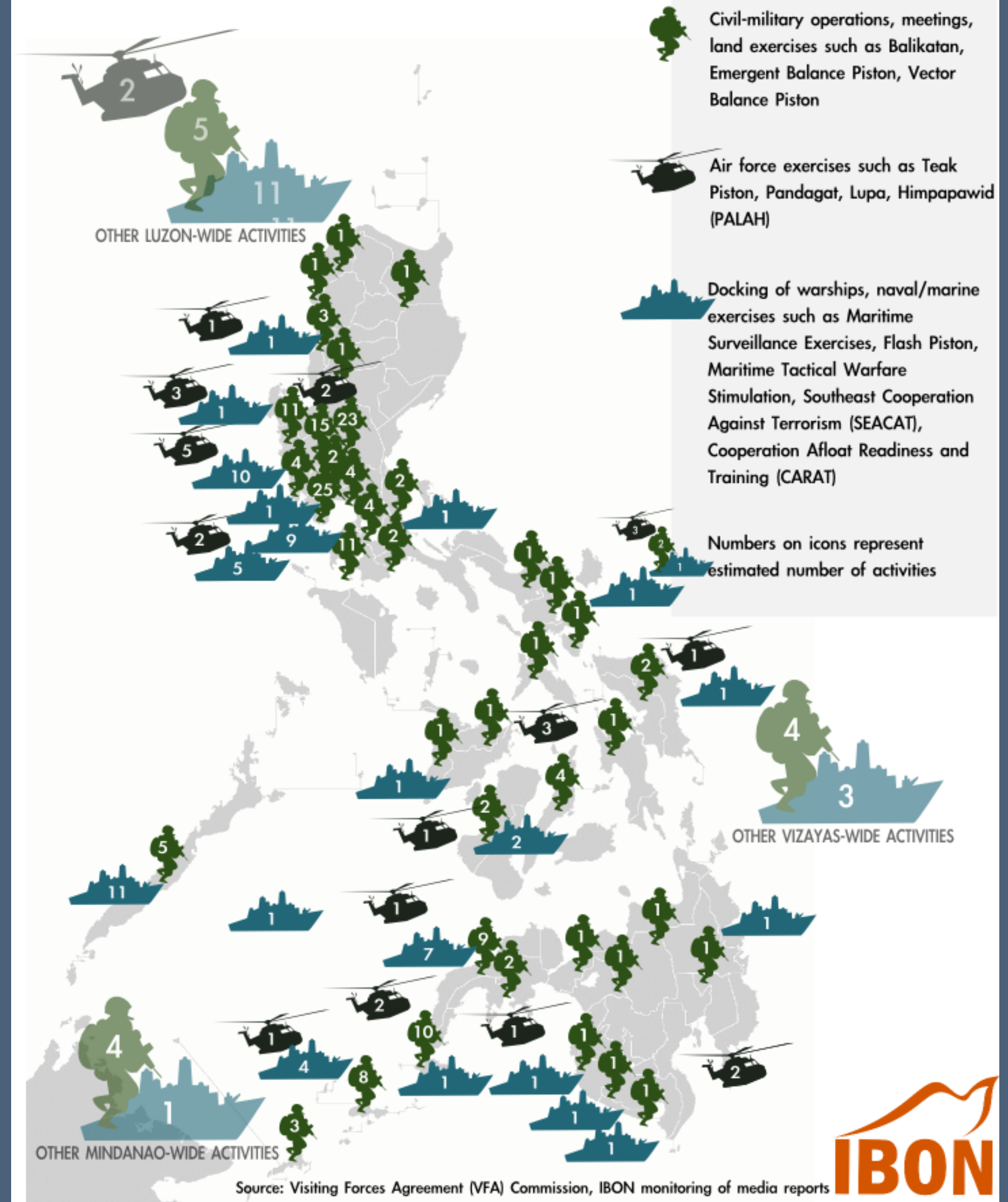
The US military bases have been dismantled but through the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA), and Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), the Philippines has been transformed into one big US military facility.



Annual PH-US Balikatan (Shoulder to Shoulder) military exercises.

US MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, 2001-2013

Balikatan exercises are usually held in known strongholds of the New People's Army, Muslim rebel groups, or areas of strategic importance to the US.





“

Hitler massacred 3 million Jews ... there is 3 million drug addicts (in the Philippines), there are... I'd be happy to slaughter them.”

Rodrigo Duterte

Pres. Rodrigo Duterte speech on September 30, 2016.



“

If there’s an encounter and you see them armed, kill, kill them, don’t mind human rights, I will be the one to go to prison, I don’t have qualms.”

President Rodrigo Duterte

on how police and military should deal with communist rebels

March 5, 2021



Applied to his counter-insurgency program, Duterte's drug war tactics led to massive and systematic violations of International Humanitarian Law.



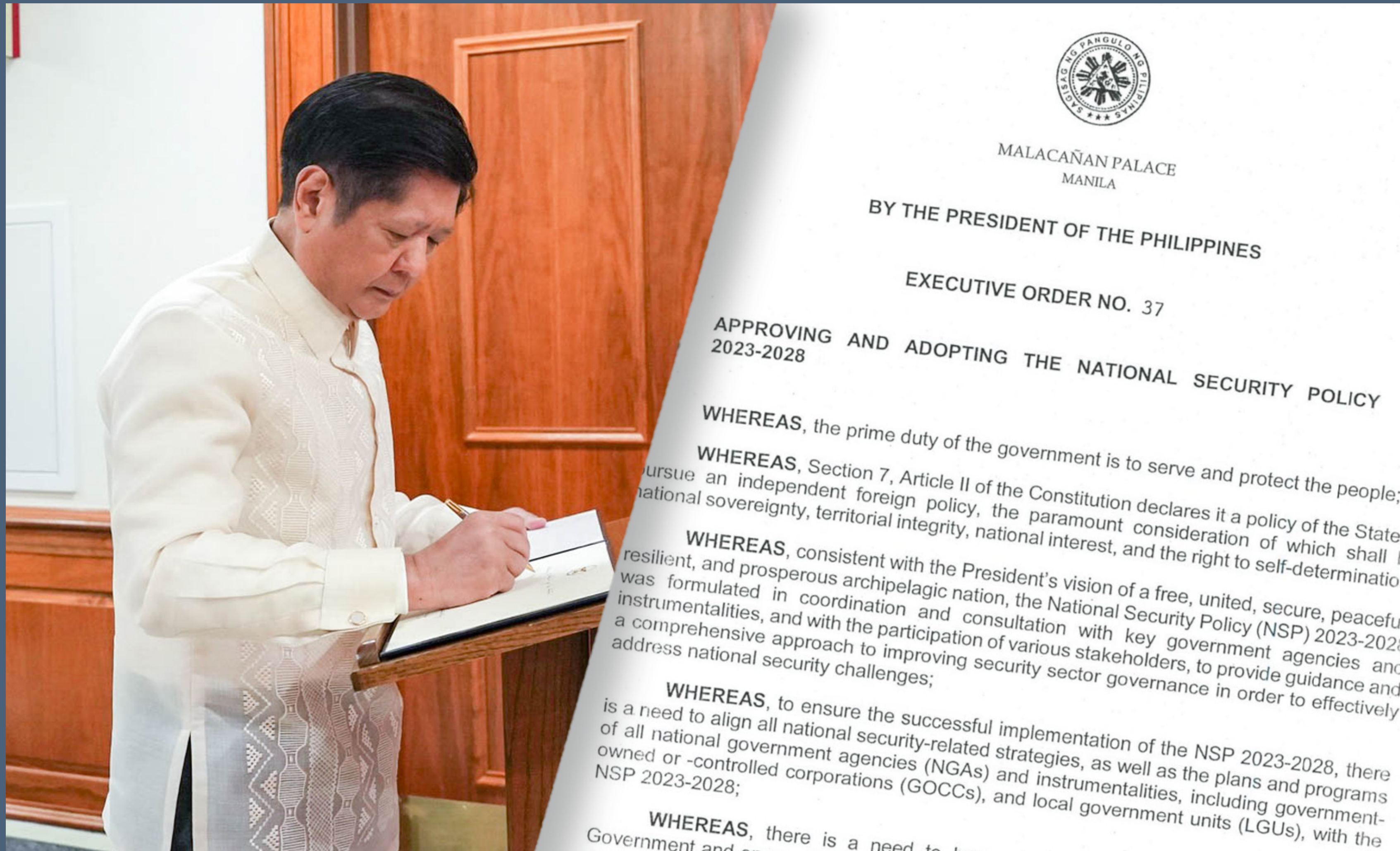
Despite Duterte's anti-US posturing and rhetoric, the US continued to support his regime, turning a blind eye to its gross and systematic violations of HR and IHL.



UNITED NATIONS RAPPORTEUR URGES NTF-ELCAC ABOLITION; GOVERNMENT SAYS NO

Following her 10-day official visit to the Philippines, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression Irene Khan on Friday urged the government to abolish the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), which she said will address red-tagging and allow for more inclusive peace-making platforms in the country.

**PHILIPPINE
STAR**



Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. issues Executive Order No. 37 or his regime's National Security Policy on August 10, 2023.



Marcos' NSP doubles down on targeting unarmed activists by labeling them as communist-terrorists.



Manipulated photo of 309 supposed NPA surrenderees in Masbate province. The Philippine Army's 9th Infantry Division later apologized for the edited photo.



Philippine Army photo of seven alleged NPA members killed in a clash in Bonbon, Northern Samar province.



NEWS FEATURE

NEWS

IP GROUP SLAMS AFP BOMBING RUNS IN CAGAYAN VALLEY



LUCAS CRUZ



SINAG STAFF



NORTHERN DISPATCH

Indigenous peoples' rights group KATRIBU condemned the recent indiscriminate bombing by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a counterinsurgency operation in Sitio Birao, Hacienda Intal, Baggao, Cagayan on February 2 at around 1:30 PM.

Citing reports from Danggayan Daggiti Mannalon ti Cagayan Valley, a local chapter of Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, they said that the 95th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army's 501st Infantry Brigade dropped four bombs and used rockets and machine guns using a Sikorsky S70i Black Hawk and Agusta Westland 1129 ATAK.



Peace advocates demanding the removal of the terrorist designation of the CPP-NPA-NDFP and resumption of the peace process.



Marcos meets Biden during his state visit to the US in 2023.



Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) Sites in the Philippines

LEGEND

- current sites
- new sites



In February 2023, after less than a year in office, Marcos granted the US four additional sites for its military facilities under the EDCA, bringing the total to nine.

HEADLINES

Bilateral Defense Guidelines include AFP modernization, cyber defense

Kaycee Valmonte - Philstar.com

May 4, 2023 | 12:54pm



The guidelines expanded the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty to include security threats from space and cyberspace as well as any form of asymmetric, hybrid, and irregular warfare and gray-zone tactics.



This photo shows Philippine and American troops participating in the 2023 iteration of the Balikatan exercises.



U.S. - Philippines Defense and Security Partnership

\$1.14B

(Php57.56 billion)

The Philippines is the **largest recipient of U.S. military assistance in the Indo-Pacific region.** Since 2015, the United States has delivered more than **Php57 billion (\$1.14 billion)** worth of planes, ships, armored vehicles, small arms, and other military equipment and training to the Philippines. Since 2015, the U.S. has conducted more than 850 ship visits to the Philippines and participated in more than 1,300 bilateral military engagements alongside our Filipino allies.



\$475.3M

(Php23.9 billion)

Foreign Military Financing (FMF)

The Philippines is **one of the largest recipients of FMF in Southeast Asia.** Recent deliveries include the successful turnover of four ScanEagle unmanned aerial systems, greatly improving AFP domain awareness in support of border security, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.



\$445M

(Php22.4 billion)

Capacity Building

Assistance to develop and enhance AFP critical capabilities to combat terrorist threats and promote respect for the rule of law and human rights. Recent deliveries to the AFP include tactical equipment and precision guided munitions.



\$112.9M

(Php5.68 billion)

Threat Reduction Programs

Support to the National Coast Watch Center's counter-proliferation initiatives and the Philippines' cooperative threat reduction program initiative enhancing interagency systems.



\$95.3M

(Php4.8 billion)

Maritime Security

Assistance to increase the maritime domain awareness capacities of the Philippines and address maritime security challenges in Southeast Asia. Recent contributions include ship sensor upgrades, radar capabilities, and small-scale construction projects.



\$15.5M

(Php780 million)

International Military Education & Training program (IMET)

The Philippines is the **second largest IMET recipient in the Indo-Pacific region.** 521 Philippine military personnel received training under IMET and other programs from 2015-2021.

Key equipment transfers

Item	Amount	Date
Cessna aircraft	\$5.8M (Php298.1M)	Feb. 2022
ScanEagle Drones	\$4M (Php200M)	Oct. 2021
New weapons, munitions and equipment	\$4.6M (Php231.5M)	June-July 2021
Sniper & Anti-IED Equipment	\$29.3M (Php1.4B)	Dec. 2020
ScanEagle Drones	\$14.7M (Php704.1M)	Nov. 2020

*Exchange: Php50.32 = \$1
**Data from FY15-FY22



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The national liberation movement in the Philippines aims to address the decades-old problems of social injustice and oppression. The US-backed counter-insurgency programs of the Duterte and Marcos regimes aims to maintain the status quo.

Thank you.