



International People's Tribunal

**KATARUNGAN: The Filipino People vs. US Government and the
Marcos and Duterte regimes**

The Convenors



**International Association Of
Democratic Lawyers**



**Friends Of The Filipino
People In Struggle**

What is the IPT?

The International Peoples Tribunal 2024 is a quasi-judicial forum that aims to investigate and address alleged war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law committed by the US-supported Marcos Jr. and Duterte regimes.



The Charge

I. Serious violations of the laws applicable in armed conflict that constitute WAR CRIMES

II. Killing of persons hors de combat and members of the NDFP that do not perform combat functions, including the desecration of bodies of slain combatants, and

III. Attacks, killings, abduction, arrests, detention, torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of NDFP consultants, peace advocates, and human rights defenders including the act of Red- of Terror Tagging.



IPT Testimonies | Day 1

(US-Duterte Regime)

- **Marjorie Cohn**, *professor at Thomas Jefferson Uni, IADL*
- **Teddy Casiño**, *Chairperson of BAYAN*
- **Coni Ledesma**, *Member of NDFP Negotiating Panel*
- **Ariel Casilao**, *National President Anakpawis Partylist*
- **Brandon Lee**, *Chinese-American Environmental and Human Rights Activist*
- **Eufemia Cullamat**, *Filipina farmer, activist, former politician*
- **Marison Diaz**, *Daughter of slain activist Maurito Diaz*
- **Rose Hayahay**, *Indigenous women human rights defender*

IPT Testimonies | Day 2 (US-Marcos Regime)

- **Jonila Castro**, *Environmental and Community Activist, Akap Ka Manila Bay)*
- **Mercedita De Jesus**, *Mother of disappeared activist Gene Roz Jamil “Bazoo” De Jesus*
- *Kalinga Bombings*
- **Emile Fausto Germino**, *Member of slain Fausto Family*
- **“Toni”**, *Alias of relative of Hannah Cesista, victim of Bilar 5 massacre*
- **Hailey Pecayao**, *Professor at Thomas Jefferson Uni, IADL*
- **Juliet de Lima**, *Chairperson, NDFP Negotiating Panel*

Jonila Castro

Jonila Castro is a human rights defender, serving as a **community organizer at the local group Alliance for the Defense of Livelihood, Housing, and Environment in Manila Bay**, known as Akap Ka Manila Bay. (Embrace Manila Bay)

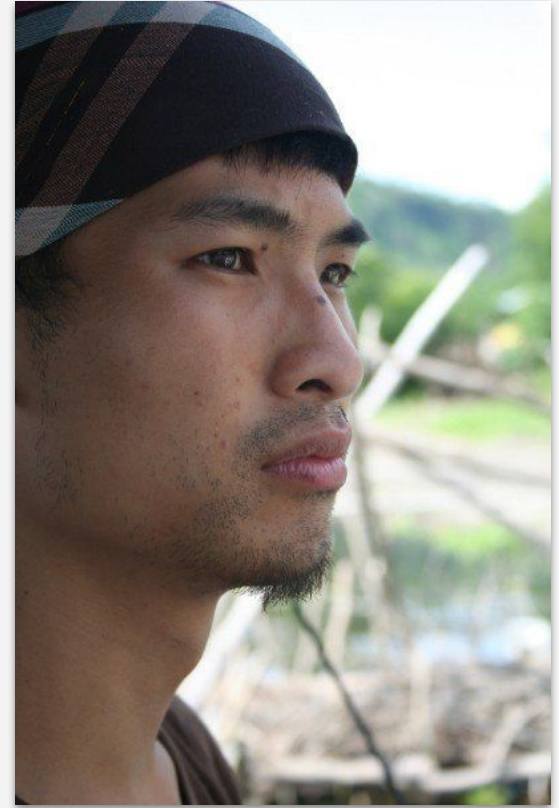
On 2 September 2023, Jonila Castro, along with Jhed Tamano, another woman human rights defender, was **kidnapped by four armed and masked men** in front of the Orion Water District Office in Bataan province, West of Manila. They were forcibly taken into a grey sport utility vehicle, only to later discover that **they were being held in custody by military personnel.**



Brandon Lee

In August 2019, Brandon Lee, a Chinese-American environmental and indigenous rights activist, survived an **assassination attempt** by the 54th Infantry Battalion of the **Armed Forces of the Philippines**. He was **shot and hit in four places** rendering him a quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down with only partial sensation in his arms and hands. After community efforts to medically evacuate him from the Philippines, Brandon now lives in the US with his family and **continues his advocacy for human rights in the Philippines**.

Brandon is currently touring the United States to share his story.



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FIGHT LIKE BRANDON LEE!

A SPEAKING TOUR FOR
JUST PEACE
IN THE PHILIPPINES



[tinyurl.com/Support-
Brandon-Speaking-Tour](http://tinyurl.com/Support-Brandon-Speaking-Tour)

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Findings

The verdict of the panel of jurors consisted of findings pertaining to the following:

- **The armed conflict and the applicable law**
- **Attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects during military operations**
- **IHL violations against persons rendered *hors de combat* (outside of combat)**
- **Attacks against and persecution of individuals and organizations allegedly linked to the NDFP**
- **Impunity and Lack of Effective Domestic Remedies**
- **United States involvement**



Findings

The armed conflict and the applicable law

The civil war between the GRP and NDFP satisfies the legal thresholds of intensity and organization of the belligerent parties, thus, qualifying it as an armed conflict under international law.

Both parties are bound by IHL and human rights law which include that **all persons, civilians and combatants alike, must be treated humanely and with due regard for their dignity.**

The existence of an armed conflict **does not *ipso facto* result in the wholesale denial of human rights.**

Findings

Attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects during military operations

Evidence presented during the IPT substantiated that under the Marcos and Duterte regime, the AFP and PNP engaged in:

- The **massacre of civilians**, including entire families and their children, members of rural and indigenous communities, and land rights defenders, and activists
- **Attempted cover up of killings of civilians** by “red-tagging” those slain as NPA combatants
- **Indiscriminate attacks through airstrikes and shelling** in areas with civilian infrastructure, households, and schools
- **Hamletting** of civilian communities and *de facto* military control

Findings

IHL violations against persons rendered *hors de combat*

GRP forces, as a matter of practice, **carried out summary executions of NPA fighters** who had been captured or were no longer capable of taking part in hostilities because of sickness, wounds, or other causes.

For example, the five NPA fighters slain in Bilar, Bohol province were **already unarmed and under the control and custody of AFP units when they were executed.**

Evidence also established the AFP's **routine desecration of the remains of slain NPA fighters**, as they did in the case of 22-year-old Jevelyn Cullamat, whose body was displayed and photographed as a “trophy” by government troops.



Findings

Attacks against and persecution of individuals and organizations allegedly linked to the NDFP

Trumped-up charges were filed against NDFP consultants, peace advocates, activists, human rights and environmental defenders, humanitarian aid workers, journalists, and members of organizations red-tagged as “fronts” of the CPP-NPA-NDFP. These allegations have resulted in the murder, serious injury, and disappearance of activists.



Findings



Impunity and Lack of Effective Domestic Remedies

A recurring fact and common denominator notably runs through all the testimonial and documentary evidence as well as by responses to the questions of the Tribunal: the continuing lack of genuine accountability, brazen impunity, and proven general ineffectiveness and **inadequacy of domestic remedies that by and large prevent or fail to give justice to the victims.**

There are common perceptions that **the justice system remains very slow, protracted, tedious, complicated, cumbersome and expensive** or inaccessible to the poor.

Findings

United States Involvement

The **anti-imperialist struggle of the Filipino people led by the CPP-NPA-NDFP threatens US geopolitical and economic interests in the Asia-Pacific**. Maintaining a US-controlled regime in the Philippines and suppressing efforts by the Filipino people to assert their right of self-determination is essential for the United States to preserve its dominance and to counter any threat in the region.

The GRP's counterinsurgency strategy is also adopted from the US counterinsurgency model that takes a militaristic approach. **The US government is responsible for directing, training, and arming the GRP in its counterinsurgency operations**, and for providing the latter with diplomatic cover when it faced global condemnation.

Verdict

GUILTY of all charges of war crimes and violations of International Humanitarian Law alleged in the indictment.



Rodrigo Duterte



Ferdinand Marcos Jr.



Joe Biden

War and Peace in the Philippines

The struggle of the Filipino people against US imperialism and local feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism is *just* under international law

It is the **right of a people to resist colonial domination** and repressive regimes- recognised even by the United Nation

The IPT further establishes the **legal basis** and makes the case to designate the atrocities committed by the US puppet regimes as *war crimes* because it is in the context of the just war waged against foreign domination and a repressive regime



Q&A



BALTCHRP



Terp**CHRP**

Take Action!

- Call for an international independent investigations against the US-backed Marcos and Duterte regimes
- Raise public awareness on the human rights situation in the Philippines
- Join an organization and build the solidarity movement for the Philippines!



*Hold accountable the
US-Marcos regimes and end
US Support for War Crimes
in the Philippines!*

<https://peopletribunal.net/>