Fascist state on a rampage

NDFP files another case vs. Arroyo regime at UN

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) filed another case against the Arroyo government last August 10 in Geneva, Switzerland. Arroyo's officials are being made to account for the abduction of two NDFP consultants and one NDFP staff and his wife. The missing NDFP consultants are Leo Velasco, who was abducted in Cagayan de Oro City on February 19, 2007; and Cesar Batralo, who was seized in San Mateo, Rizal on December 21, 2006. NDFP staff member Federico Intise is believed to have been abducted with his wife Nelly in Gen. Santos City on October 26, 2006.

The case filed by the NDFP at the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances named as respondents Gloria Arroyo, AFP chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, PNP chief Oscar Calderon, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Velasco's daughter Lorena Santos is hopeful that her father is still alive and in the custody of the military. Assisted by Karapatan, Santos went to several military camps last August 8. She was accompanied by Fr. Dionito Cabillas of Karapatan, Linda Cadapan and Lolita Robinos, who were also looking for their missing children. Santos was met by Lt. Col. Jack Baltazar of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP). Baltazar denied having Velasco in custody but admitted that the ISAFP had an arrest order for him.

The first case filed by the NDFP at the UN involved the involuntary disappearance of NDFP consultants and staff Rogelio Calubad and his son Gabriel, Prudencio Calubid and his wife Celina Palma, Leopoldo Ancheta and another civilian, Gloria Soco.

NDFP negotiating panel chair Luis Jalandoni said, "It is a shame that the Arroyo government is in the UN Human Rights Council, even as UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, Amnesty International, among others, have exposed its gross violations of human rights of the Filipino people." AB

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