

PNP TF USIG Press Release

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PNP Task Force USIG Belies Report Claimed by Human Rights Watch

The Philippine National Police Task Force USIG presently handles a total of 141 cases related to the killings of militant party list members/leftist activists and media practitioners.

Out of the 141 cases, a total of 18 cases involved military/para-military and police personnel as suspects wherein 15 cases were filed and 3 remain under investigation. Out of the 18 cases, 10 involved military personnel, 1 member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), 1 military informant, 2 civilians allegedly linked to the military and 4 involved police personnel as suspects.

There is no truth to the report of Human Rights Watch as contained in the Malaya newspaper issue of February 6, 2008 captioned " AFP, PNP still in denial over HR violations", that as of this date, no member of the military has been convicted for involvement in any case that occurred since 2001.

Based on records, two (2) cases of slain media practitioners were already resolved by the proper courts providing for the conviction of four (4) suspects. These are the cases of Edgar Damalerio in Region 9 where suspect PO1 Guillermo Wapile is presently detained at the National Bilibid Prison; and the Marlene Esperat case in Region 12 where suspects Estanislao Bismanos, Jerry Cabayag, and Randy Grecia are all detained at Tacurong City Jail. All of the suspects in these 2 cases were convicted to a penalty of reclusion perpetua. Sgt Rowie Barua, one of the suspects in the Esperat case turned state witness.

We would like to assure the public that the PNP is committed to enforce the law without fear or favor and bring to the bar of justice the suspects in these killings.

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