



List of Attorneys, Prosecutors, Judges, and Legal Workers Attacked With Murderous Intent in the Philippines During the Duterte Government Since July 2016

As of 28 February 2020

**Compiled by the IAPL Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers¹
in cooperation with Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC)**

During the 44 months from 1 July 2016 to 28 February 2020, 67 attorneys, prosecutors, and judges were violently attacked in the Philippines. The attacks resulted in 55 deaths, making an average of 1.25 extrajudicial killings of attorneys, prosecutors and judges per month. In addition, four legal workers were attacked, killing three. Murderous attacks against legal professionals continue to increase under the government of President Rodrigo Duterte with few meaningful investigations or prosecutions. The entrenchment of impunity for attacks on legal professionals impairs the ability to obtain legal representation and undermines the right of equal access to justice.

On 11 July 2019, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UN HRC) adopted a resolution requesting the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) to present a comprehensive report on human rights in the Philippines to the UN HRC in June 2020. The resolution also urged the Philippines “to take all necessary measures to prevent extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, to carry out impartial investigations and to hold perpetrators accountable.”² In September 2019, LRWC and other NGOs,³ including the IAPL, submitted a statement to the UN HRC recording 45 extrajudicial killings of attorneys, prosecutors and judges in the 37 month period between 1 July 2016 and 28 July 2019 – an average of 1.2 extrajudicial killings of legal professionals per month. At the 43rd session of the UN HRC in March 2020, groups highlighted the extrajudicial killings of 48 legal professionals since the start of Duterte’s presidency, of whom 31 were attorneys, 10 were prosecutors and seven were judges. The Philippines has never conducted an independent public inquiry into the pattern of extrajudicial killings of legal professionals.

This report provides a comprehensive list of the attorneys, prosecutors, judges and legal workers attacked with murderous intent between 1 July 2016 and 28 February 2020. The list below stands as stark and tragic evidence that the Philippines has failed to comply with the July 2019 resolution of the UN HRC. LRWC and IAPL call on the Philippines to cooperate and comply fully with the UN HRC July 2019 resolution and to institute a comprehensive public inquiry into attacks on and extrajudicial killings of attorneys, prosecutors, judges and legal workers in the Philippines since 1 July 2016 that complies with international standards established by the Minnesota Protocol (2016).

¹ **A note about terminology:** The term “lawyers” is used differently in different part of the world and by different organizations. IAPL uses the term “lawyers” to refer to practicing lawyers (“attorneys”), prosecutors and judges. See below (p. 6) for IAPL’s definition of “attacks on lawyers.” LRWC uses the term “lawyers” to refer to lawyers in private practice and prosecutors. LRWC refers to lawyers, prosecutors, judges, and legal scholars collectively as “jurists.” This joint IAPL/LRWC document uses the term “attorneys” to distinguish lawyers in private practice from prosecutors. For clarity, we use the phrase “attorneys, prosecutors and judges” throughout.

² UN Human Rights Council, Promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines, A/HRC/41/L.20, 12 July 2019, available at: https://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/41/L.20.

³ LRWC et al, “Philippines: Extrajudicial killing of jurists as part of a pattern of widespread and systematic violations of human rights,” Joint Written Statement to the UN HRC, September 2019, submitted by LRWC, Lawyers for Lawyers, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, and Asian Legal Resource Centre, and endorsed by the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, IAPL, and Philippines National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers (NUPL), available at: <https://www.lrwc.org/philippines-extrajudicial-killing-of-jurists-written-statement-to-the-hrc/>.

ATTORNEYS, PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES KILLED**ATTORNEYS**

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
1. Bato, Rogelio	August 23, 2016	Tacloban City, Leyte
2. Evasan, Allen	August 23, 2016	Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao
3. Tolentino, Melver	September 15, 2016	Magsingal, Ilocos Sur, Luzon
4. Mazo, Honorato	October 7, 2016	Malalein Town, North Cotabato, Luzon
5. Apada, Jemar	December 1, 2016	Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya, Luzon
6. Castenada, Arlan	December 20, 2016	San Pablo, Isabela, Luzon
7. Paderanga, Goering Sr.	December 22, 2016	Cebu City, Cebu
8. Paderanga, Gerik Caesare	December 22, 2016	Cebu City, Cebu
9. Canoy, Victor (former judge)	February 2, 2017	Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, Mindanao
10. Mascarinas Green, Mia Manuelita	February 14, 2017	Tagbilaran City, Bohol
11. Mitra, Elmer Jr.	June 1, 2017	Paco, Metro Manila
12. Yumol, Dolores	June 6, 2017	Las Pinas City, Metro Manila
13. Aban, Hermie	August 15, 2017	Puerto Princesa, Palawan
14. Gahol, Pablito (former prosecutor)	September 3, 2017	Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
15. Baldeo, Expectation	December 3, 2017	Tiaong, Quezon, Luzon
16. Ungab, Jonah	February 19, 2018	Cebu City, Cebu
17. Herrera, Henry,	April 22, 2018	Atimonan, Quezon, Luzon
18. Marabe, Geronimo (retired prosecutor)	May 22, 2018	Ozamis City, Misamis, Occidental, Mindanao
19. Galit, Joey	June 21, 2018	Cainta, Rizal, Luzon
20. Solima, Salvador (former prosecutor)	July 2, 2018	Barangay Guadalupe City, Cebu City
21. Atutubo, Rafael	August 23, 2018	Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Negros
22. Villamor, Connie, Connie del Rio	September 24 2018	Tagum City, Davao del Norte, Mindanao
23. Romero, Edel Julio	September 28, 2018	Roxas City, Capiz, Panay
24. Ramos, Benjamin Jr.	November 6, 2018	Kabankalan, Negros Occidental
25. Laban, Nasser M.	December 6, 2018	Cotabato City, Maguindanao

26. Batocabe, Rodel	December 22, 2018	Daraga Town, Albay, Luzon
27. Castro, Mary Ann (former prosecutor)	January 17, 2019	Cebu City, Cebu
28. Mendoza, Alwyn (abducted, no news or ransom demand, presumed dead)	February 23, 2019	Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, Luzon
29. Lopoz, Rex Jasper	March 13, 2019	Tagum City, Davao del Norte, Mindanao
30. Mejia, Chairmaine Pelayo	March 26, 2019	Las Piñas City, Metro Manila
31. Crisostomo, Val	May 17, 2019	Barangay Bonuan Guest, Pangasinan, Luzon
32. Golla, Edilberto Jr.	May 17, 2019	Rodriguez, Rizal, Luzon
33. Trinidad, Anthony	July 23, 2019	Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, Central Visayas
34. Gomez, Nicolas Jr.	July 28, 2019	Barangay Poblacion in Valencia City, Bukidnon
35. Cabugoy, Irineo Michael	September 6, 2019	Antipolo City, Rizal, Luzon
36. Acpal, Jesus	September 21, 2019	Brgy. Poblacion, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila
37. Moncada, Raymond (died 14 January 2020)	January 3, 2020	Dumaguete, Negros Oriental
38. Mendoza, Edgar	January 9, 2020	Tiaong, Quezon, Luzon
39. Anselmo, Carlos	January 8, 2020	Sta. Rita Pamapanga
40. Santos, Frederic	February 19, 2020	Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila
41. Dalangin, Bayani	February 26, 2020	Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Luzon

JUDGES

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
42. Abul, Godofredo Jr.	August 5, 2017	Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, Mindanao
43. Begino, Ricky	June 12, 2018	Presentacion, Camarines Sur, Luzon
44. Pintac, Edmundo P.	October 8, 2018	Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental, Mindanao
45. Lacaya, Reymar	May 17, 2019	Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte, Mindanao
46. Dagala, Exequiul (former judge, prosecutor ⁴)	November 1, 2019	Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte
47. Bañez, Mario Anacleto	November 5, 2019	San Fernando, La Union

⁴ Dagala is included because his killing fits Sec. 2 of IAPL's definition of an attack on a lawyer(s). (See p. 6) Even though he was no longer a judge or prosecutor, his death would be likely to impact negatively on other lawyers, especially judges and prosecutors.

PROSECUTORS KILLED

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
48. Acido, Rolando	October 26, 2016	Mati City, Davao Oriental, Mindanao
49. Mingoa, Johanne Noel	January 11, 2017	Quezon City, Metro Manila
50. Azarcon, Diosdado	May 22, 2017	Caloocan City, Metro Manila
51. Ronatay, Maria	July 18, 2017	Taytay, Rizal, Luzon
52. Luna, Reymund	September 29, 2017	Infanta, Quezon, Luzon
53. Tagnong, Ramy (Chief Legal Officer, PNP, Calabarzon, prosecuted erring police officers)	May 4, 2018	Antipolo City, Rizal, Luzon
54. Velasco, Rogelio	May 11, 2018	Quezon City, Metro Manila
55. Ednaco-Tanyag, Madonna	June 4, 2018	Quezon City, Metro Manila

ATTORNEYS AND PROSECUTORS SURVIVING ATTACKS (NO JUDGES SURVIVED)**ATTORNEYS SURVIVED**

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
1. Abinal, Nasser	May 5, 2017	Quiapo, Metro Manila
2. Espinosa, Ron Elyla	August 2017	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon, Luzon
3. Cabatbat, Argel	February 13, 2018	Quezon City, Metro Manila
4. Donasco, Wilmer W	September 26, 2018	Ecoland, Davao City, Mindanao
5. Perera, Jason	September 29, 2018	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, Luzon
6. Del Castillo, Erfe	December 22, 2018	Talisay City, Negros Occidental
7. Dela Cerna, Inocencio	September 2, 2019	Cebu City, Cebu, Central Visayas
8. Heredia, Criselda	September 23, 2019	Panitan, Capiz, Western Visayas

PROSECUTORS SURVIVED

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
9. Tesiorna, Manuel	February 6, 2017	Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, Mindanao
10. Olivarao, Josephine C.	June 10, 2019	Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro
11. Susano, Elmer	September 10, 2019	Caloocan, Metro Manila
12. Rondo, Tacod	February 21, 2020	Cotabato City, Mindanao

LEGAL WORKERS

HUMAN RIGHTS PARALEGALS KILLED

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
1. Pura, Edwin C	October 26, 2017	Gubat, Sorsogon, Luzon
2. Acob, Mariamr Uyo	September 23, 2018	Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Mindanao

HUMAN RIGHTS PARALEGAL SURVIVING ATTACK

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
1. Lee, Brandon (survived attack)	August 6, 2019	Lagawe, Ifugao, Luzon

COURT OFFICIAL KILLED

<i>VICTIM</i>	<i>DATE OF INCIDENT</i>	<i>PLACE OF INCIDENT</i>
1. Villaruz, Randel	October 1, 2018	Batac City, Ilocos Norte, Luzon

Number of attacks on attorneys, prosecutors and judges per year under the Duterte government:

2016 (6 months only)

Attorneys, prosecutors and judges killed	9
Attorneys, prosecutors and judges survived	<u>0</u>
Total attacks	9 (18 equivalent yearly number based on rate of 1.5 p.m.)

2017

Attorneys, prosecutors and judges killed	12
Attorneys and prosecutor survived	<u>3</u>
Total attacks	15

2018

Attorneys, prosecutors and judges killed	15
Attorney disappeared	1
Attorneys survived	<u>4</u>
Total attacks	20

2019

Attorneys, prosecutors and judges killed	13
Attorneys and prosecutors survived	<u>4</u>
Total attacks	17

2020 (2 months only)

Attorneys, prosecutors and judges	5
Prosecutor survived	<u>1</u>
Total attacks	6 (36 equivalent yearly number, if rate continues)

Aggregated totals:

Attacks on Attorneys, Prosecutors and Judges

Attorneys, judges and prosecutors killed	55
Attorney disappeared	1
Attorneys and prosecutors survived	<u>12</u>
Total attacks	67

Attacks on Legal Workers:	
Paralegals killed	2
Paralegals survived	1
Court official killed	<u>1</u>
Total attacks	4
Grand total	71

Summary of violent attacks on attorneys, prosecutors, judges, and legal workers

There have been 71 violent attacks against Filipino attorneys, prosecutors and judges (67) and legal workers (4) under the Duterte government from July 1, 2016 to 28 February 2020. As a result:

- 58 have died.
- 13 survived (8 attorneys, 4 prosecutors, 1 paralegal).

Categories of those killed

Attorneys, Prosecutors and Judges:

41 Attorneys
6 Judges
8 Prosecutors
55 killed

Legal Workers:

2 Paralegals
1 Clerk of a Regional Trial Court
3 killed

Total 58 killed

Rate of killing of attorneys, prosecutors, and judges under last three Presidents⁵

Duterte, Rodrigo R., 2016- present: 1.25 per month *
 Aquino, Benigno S. III, 2010-2016: .62 per month
 Arroyo, Gloria M., 2001-2010: .68 per month

* Since the statistics of killings under previous presidents do not include legal workers, for purposes of comparison, legal workers killed under the Duterte government are not counted here.

Definition of Attacks on Lawyers (IAPL)

IAPL defines “attacks on lawyers” as consisting of

- 1) actions, physical or non-physical, directed at a legal professional or professionals, that are intended to, or have the natural effect of, interfering with the performance of their professional duties;
- 2) actions, physical or non-physical against a former legal professional or professionals that are likely to impact negatively upon other legal professionals' capacity, or willingness, to carry out their professional duties, in whole or in part, without fear or favor.

⁵ The noted rates of killings of attorneys, prosecutors and judges under Presidents B.S. Aquino and Gloria M. Arroyo are estimates based on research conducted by Gill Boehringer from 2006 to 2020 using news sources, data from confidential sources, government briefings, and reports of human rights organizations.

Related publications

Gill H. Boehringer, "On Duterte's Regime: Wars on Drugs and the People (Part 2): Attacks on Lawyers in the Philippines" *Search News* (Nov. 2019, v. 26:3) (Australia). (Available from the author).

Gill H. Boehringer, Affidavit of Gill H. Boehringer on Attacks on Legal Professionals and the Relationship to Duterte's "War on Drugs", Submission to the International People's Tribunal on the Crimes of the Duterte Regime, Brussels, September 18-19, 2018. (Available from the author).

Gill Boehringer, Stuart Russell, Kristian Boehringer, Julio Moreira, "Defending the Defenders: Attacks on Lawyers, a Problem in Search of Solutions" *Dissent*, Special issue May 2015, 1-44, , available at: <https://www.cak.cz/assets/komora/dissent-special-issue-attacks-on-lawyers.pdf>

Gill H. Boehringer, Stuart Russell, Kristian Boehringer, Julio Moreira, "Attacks on Lawyers: A threat to democracy" (2015) *Alternative Law Journal* (Australia) v.40:1,71-2.

Gill H. Boehringer and Stuart Russell. "Globalization, Lawyers and the State" (2008) *Alternative Law Journal* (Australia) v. 33:3, 169-72).

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), et al, "Philippines: Extrajudicial killing of jurists as part of a pattern of widespread and systematic violations of human rights," Joint Written Statement to the 42nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council, September 2019, submitted by submitted by LRWC, Lawyers for Lawyers, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), and the Asian Legal Resource Centre, and endorsed by the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales, the International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL), and the Philippines National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL), available at: <https://www.lrwc.org/philippines-extrajudicial-killing-of-jurists-written-statement-to-the-hrc/>.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, The Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death (2016), available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/MinnesotaProtocol.pdf>.

* * *

International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) and Lawyers' Right Watch Canada (LRWC) 31 March 2020

Researched and written for IAPL and LRWC by Gill Boehringer with an introduction by Gail Davidson and Catherine Morris, 31 March 2020.

The International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) is a federation of organizations of people's lawyers, jurists, law students, paralegals and legal workers in various countries, facing human rights violations. IAPL: <http://iapl.net/>. IAPL Monitoring Committee on Attacks on Lawyers: <https://defendlawyers.wordpress.com/>

LRWC is a volunteer-run committee of lawyers and other human rights defenders who promote international human rights, the rule of law, the integrity of legal systems and advocacy rights around the world, through advocacy, education and legal research. LRWC has Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council. LRWC: <https://www.lrwc.org/>