

## **HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES**

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Human rights violations are rampant in our country, wherein most of the victims are civilians. The best example is during the Martial law of Marcos regime wherein thousands of people were victims of human rights abuses. During that time the military was the most powerful entities in the society. Like in our town in Basilan, during Martial Law, the military troops burned houses of innocent civilians. They arrested innocent people without any valid reason. Extrajudicial killings at that time were frequent, many civilians were helpless.

And during the Arroyo administration, I observed that there are many reports about human rights violations, committed whether by the military, police, or influential individuals. Like what I have watched in a documentary show on television, General Jovito Palparan, Commander in Chief in Southern Luzon during Arroyo's administration, allegedly involved in extrajudicial killings, wherein one of the victims said that General Palparan is the mastermind. As was told on the report, the troops of Palparan arrested suspected New People's Army in their town, after several days they did not hear anything about those arrested NPA and they are missing.