

REACTION PAPER on AMPATUAN'S MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE

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Every person is entitled to have human rights, simply because they are human being. In the case of Ampatuan's Maguindanao Massacre it is the right of the family of the victims to fight for justice and to be given by the government a justice. Ampatuan is evil, the land-demon he deserves death out of the thing that he did. He must not just be in prison but must be in fire burning his flesh together with his militia and other private people who supports him in doing this heartlessness acts. Before I strongly opposed the idea of having the little injection but maybe by now if I were to ask I will surely agree with that idea to give him a lesson and all other forces engage in this kind of action. The most damning aspect of the report, however, is the support by the state, the police and the military to the Ampatuans, allowing them to consolidate their power. A press release from HRW highlights certain portions of the report:

The report details how the military and police provided the Ampatuan family with manpower, modern military weapons, and protection from prosecution. Most members of their private army were also members of the police, military, or state-sanctioned paramilitary forces, including Civilian Volunteer Organizations and the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGUs).

One also that made me more irritated is the interruption of the X President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in this issue, imagine just ignored the issue of the abuses that the Ampatuan's family perpetrated in 2002 there were about 33 killings happened. It is said that there is no person above the law but why is it Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is still free and out of prison? Though her illegal acts are obviously seen. When will be the time for changes? When we'll achieve the real justice? Until when will we suffer? Apart from murder and torture, the Ampatuans and their militias have also allegedly abducted women and raped them. The

government needs to stop being part of the problem and instead disband the militias and hold abusers to account.

Human Rights Watch said that police, the Justice Department, and other government agencies have long failed to investigate crimes linked to the Ampatuans. As a result, family members have acted as if they were above the law and without fear of being held accountable. A government source told Human Rights Watch that when the authorities arrested Ampatuan, Jr. following the massacre, he asked, "Which hotel will I be billeted in? The Ampatuans' militia was just one of more than 100 private armies estimated to operate throughout the Philippines. In practice, their size and armament is limited only by local politicians' ability to fund operational costs. Successive administrations have not dismantled and disarmed these militia forces, as stipulated in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, nor have they investigated and prosecuted unlawful activities by those who control, arm, and use them for private ends.

The Filipino people expects much from our recently elected President Benigno Aquino III, to fulfill his campaign promises of justice for victims of the Maguindanao massacre and other rights abuses by directing the National Bureau of Investigation to give priority to investigating the alleged abuses of the Ampatuans and their militia. He should carry out his pledge to abolish private armies by banning all paramilitary and militia forces in the Philippines. And he should act to eliminate the spread of military weaponry to armed groups outside the professional national security forces.