

**PROFESSOR PHILIP ALSTON**

Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions  
Special Adviser, Human Rights Commission  
UNITED NATIONS

Dear Professor Alston:

Further to my first letter to you on December 20, 2007, I write your good self once again to invite your kind attention to some recent events in the Philippines involving activities of the New Peoples' Army (NPA).

Last December 24, 2007, NPA guerillas raided the police station in the town of Hinabangan, Western Samar, overpowering four (4) police officers on-duty by hogtiewing them, thereby divesting them of several firearms and ammunitions, and worse, killing in the process Pedro Abadiano, a militiaman and father of SPO2 Rufino Abdiano, a police officer assigned to the said station. There are reports that one of the officers is missing and might have been abducted by the guerillas. The foray was well-planned as the rebels planted land mines along the national highway four (4) kilometers away from the raided police station, obviously to prevent immediate arrival of reinforcements.

The foregoing incident was the second offensive mounted by the NPA since the Philippine Government unilaterally declared a Yuletide ceasefire; unilateral because the NPA rejected the government's offer of peace. The first attack happened in the town of San Vicente, Palawan, where three (3) unarmed military men (marines) were killed on their way to market.

The Samar and Palawan incidents manifest NPA's lack of sincere intention to give peace in the Philippines, a chance. In fact, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) itself admits having directed NPA fighters after the Palawan ambush to intensify its offensive against government troops.

It seems therefore, that the "culture of impunity" of which the Philippine government has been unduly accused of tolerating in respect to extrajudicial and/or political killings, is actually being perpetrated by the CPP-NPA, and not by the government. For, as steadfast as, or perhaps even greater than, the government's efforts in addressing the issue of extrajudicial killings in the country, the CPP-NPA is resolutely and extensively trying its best to counteract these efforts.

As I write, many a killings are being perpetrated by the NPA all over the Philippines, most of which will perhaps remain unreported by the victims' families for fear of reprisals from their same aggressor.

Thus, it is hoped that hereafter, your office will fairly report activities in the Philippines by the CPP-NPA that are certainly violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, or in other words, extrajudicial killings.

Thank you.

Truly yours,

**UNDERSECRETARY RICARDO R. BLANCAFLOR**  
Department of Justice  
*Chairman, TASK FORCE 211*