

PRESS RELEASE

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Militants brace for resurgence of death squad attacks in Central Luzon

Reference: **Roman Polintan**
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City of San Fernando, Pampanga
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Militant groups in Central Luzon are wary of the resurgence of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the region as 4 people were abducted and another one was killed during the first quarter of this year.

Roman Polintan, Bayan-Gitnang Luzon chair, said the killing of Felisa T. Ocampo in Morong, Bataan on March 2, and the abduction of Abner Hizarza in Subic, Zambales on March 22; Josephine Nogoy in Brgy. Iba, San Jose, Tarlac on March 27; Amor Adona and an unidentified companion of his in Sta. Ana, Pampanga which also took place on March 27, signal the renewed attacks of military death squads on activists and ordinary civilians.

Except for Nogoy who is a plain housewife, the rest of the victims are members of progressive partylists, notably Bayan Muna and Anakpawis.

"We are apprehensive that this systematic violence would again escalate as the election draws near. It is very evident that this is intended to strike fear on the electorates to prevent them from voting for our partylists," Polintan said.

"We ask all candidates to speak up, condemn these atrocities and help put an end to political killings," he added.

Polintan also urged the people not to get intimidated but continue to exercise vigilance to advance their rights and interests. ###