

A Call for the Criminal Prosecution of  
Gloria Macapagal Arroyo  
Before a UN International Criminal Tribunal

Whereas, UNITED NATIONS Special Rapporteur Philip Alston has reported to the UN Human Rights Council that the Philippine Military is responsible for a significant number of summary executions in the Philippines. The UN Special Rapporteur has also accused the Philippine government --- especially the Executive Branch, the Military, the Ombudsman, the Department of Justice, and other key government institutions --- of abdication of responsibility on the spate of killings. Mr. Alston has further directly accused President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of actively preventing valid Congressional inquiries into the extrajudicial killings;

Whereas, the PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL (PPT), Second Session on the Philippines, has found President Gloria M. Arroyo and the Philippine government responsible for "crimes against humanity" because of gross and systematic violations of human rights, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, massacres, torture and other atrocities;

Whereas, the Philippine government-established MELO COMMISSION has found General Jovito Palparan and some of his superiors responsible for allowing, tolerating, and even encouraging the extrajudicial killings. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo allowed, tolerated, and encouraged General Jovito Palparan and his superiors in the commission of extra-judicial killings because, not only did she fail to prevent, punish or condemn them, but in fact heaped praises and accolades upon them during her 2006 State Of the Nation Address;

Whereas, the EUROPEAN UNION (EU) has condemned the continued attacks against political activists in the Philippines and has demanded that the Philippine government immediately put a stop to the killings, to no avail;

Whereas, the United Nations Security Council, acting under Chapter 7 of the Charter and as a collective security measure, has characterized serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law as threats to international peace and has resorted to criminal prosecutions and penology against those who are guilty of the commission of international crimes such as crimes against humanity and war crimes, including extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, through the formation of International Criminal Tribunals, such as those established for the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and in Cambodia;

Whereas, by her own acts of allowing, tolerating, and encouraging extra-judicial killings and forced disappearances, including her failure to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators thereof, --- and even actively preventing the investigation and prosecution of the same --- President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is criminally responsible under international humanitarian law and international human rights law either as an abettor or on the basis of command responsibility, or both ;

Whereas, efforts to shame Mrs. Arroyo into complying with Philippine state obligation to protect and promote human rights has become futile given her utter rejection of the conclusions and recommendations made by Prof. Alston, the Melo Commission report, and even the Permanent People's Tribunal findings;

**NOW THEREFORE, by reason of the above premises, the Undersigned make the following Manifesto:**

**1. The continued extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances in the Philippines have been criminally abetted by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo;**

**2. National and International fact-finding bodies have established the criminal liability of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo under the principle of command-responsibility, in addition to her overt acts and omissions aimed at encouraging these killings and disappearances;**

**3. Legitimate and constitutional means to make Gloria Macapagal Arroyo answerable for these killings and disappearances, through impeachment proceedings among others, have been illegally thwarted;**

**4. The unabated killings and disappearances have reached proportions that amount to heinous and despicable crimes against humanity committed by the highest official of the country;**

**5. There being no other legal means under the Philippine legal system to stop the extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances, the Undersigned call for the criminal prosecution of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo before a UN International Criminal Tribunal for violations of international humanitarian and international human rights law and for crimes against humanity;**

**Done in May 2007: Metro Manila, Philippines.**