

A **F₃IRM/GabNet** condemns the murder of some 50 persons in Maguindanao, Philippines.

The more-than 57 victims include some 14 women, who appear to have been raped as well, and at least 27 media people. It is ironic that at the start of 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women , the Philippines should once again make news around the world for an act so vile that it boggles the mind.

AF₃IRM/GabNet condemns the continuing tolerance of and for petty feudal-clan dynasties which are antithetical to the country's claims of democracy. Feudal-clan dynasties make a mockery of the Philippines' self-characterization as a republic and reveal its barbaric political structure as nothing more than fiefdoms controlled through violence and suppression.

AF₃IRM/GabNet holds the administration of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo responsible for this climate of impunity toward the murder of journalists, political rivals and political critics

. This administration has become the quintessential expression of lawlessness, power-addiction and violence that characterize puppet governments who rule through violence and against the consent and allegiance of the people. Warlordism has become rife in the country as Macapagal-Arroyo continues to allow her allies to build private armies, steal and loot from the public treasury, kill all those who dissent and consider themselves so coddled by the central government they deem themselves to have the divine right to power by virtue of

Written by Jollene Levid

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violence. OUST GLORIA
NOW
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AF₃IRM/GabNet demands absolute justice for the victims and punishment for all those responsible, including members of the Ampatuan clan who have been named as having committed and/or ordered this massacre. Let us not tolerate once again the historic pattern of political killings in the Philippines where masterminds get away scot-free while the hirelings are thrown under the bus by their overlords.

AF₃IRM/GabNet notes that this unprecedented act of murderous barbarism occurs at a time when the United States has entered the Mindanao region in support of the Macapagal-Arroyo government, and that violence has escalated in the region since this incursion. US HANDS OFF
MINDANAO
AND
THE
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And lastly, **AF₃IRM/GabNet** reminds our Filipino brothers and sisters of the Islamic faith of this verse from the Holy Qu'ran:

{xtypo_quote} And the servants of Allah... are those who walk on earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say 'Peace.' {/xtypo_quote}

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