

# STATE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19 RESPONSE



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# BACKGROUND OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- March 9- President Duterte declared state of public health emergency
- March 12- President Duterte placed Metro Manila under community quarantine
- March 16- President Duterte placed the entire island of Luzon under ECQ
- March 20- President Duterte warns local officials to follow national orders or risk facing administrative cases.
- March 23- Congress held a special session to tackle and approve a bill declaring a national emergency granting the President additional powers.
- On April 1, President Duterte said in a press conference: "My orders to the police and military ... if there is trouble and there's an occasion that they fight back and your lives are in danger, shoot them dead.
- April 16- Duterte has ordered the military and police to be ready to take over the enforcement of social distancing and curfew measures, describing the takeover as similar to martial law

# TOTAL NO. OF COVID-19 CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

6,459

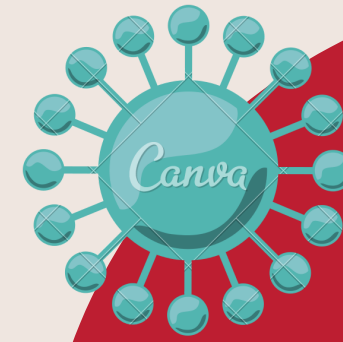


613 recoveries



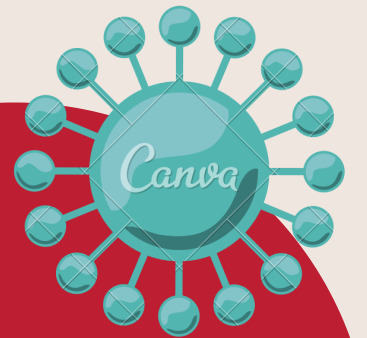
428 deaths

as of 4:00pm, April 20, 2020

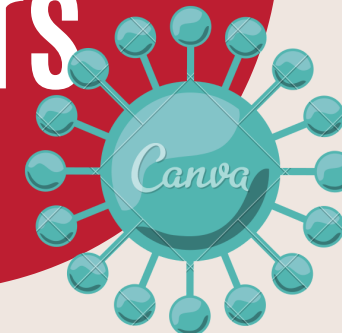


766

healthworkers are  
infected



342 are  
nurses



339 are  
doctors



# GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC



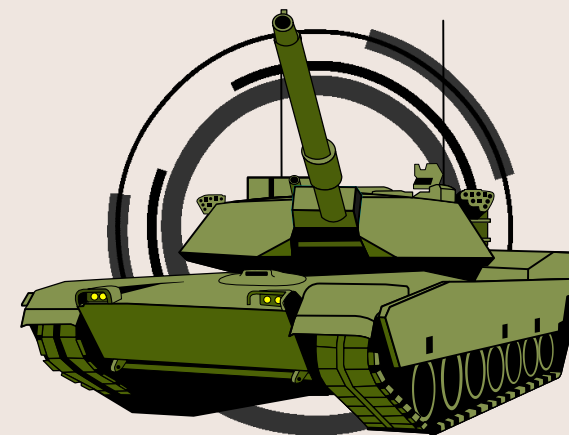
**Budget Cut**



**No Free Mass Testing**



**Lack of PPE**



**Militarist Policies**

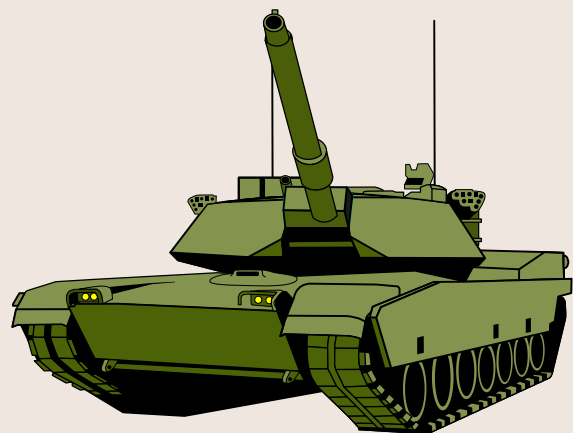
# ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE LOCKDOWN ON WOMEN

- UNEMPLOYMENT
- WIDESPREAD HUNGER AND POVERTY DUE TO GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO EASE THE EFFECTS OF THE LOCKDOWN

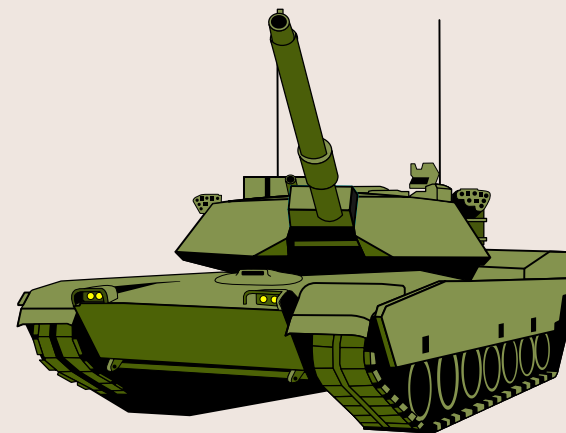


# MILITARIST POLICIES THAT VIOLATE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

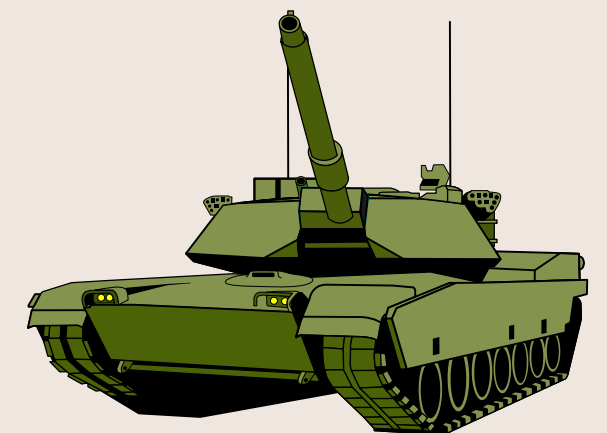
**ARRESTS RELATED  
TO VIOLATION OF  
QUARANTINE RULES**

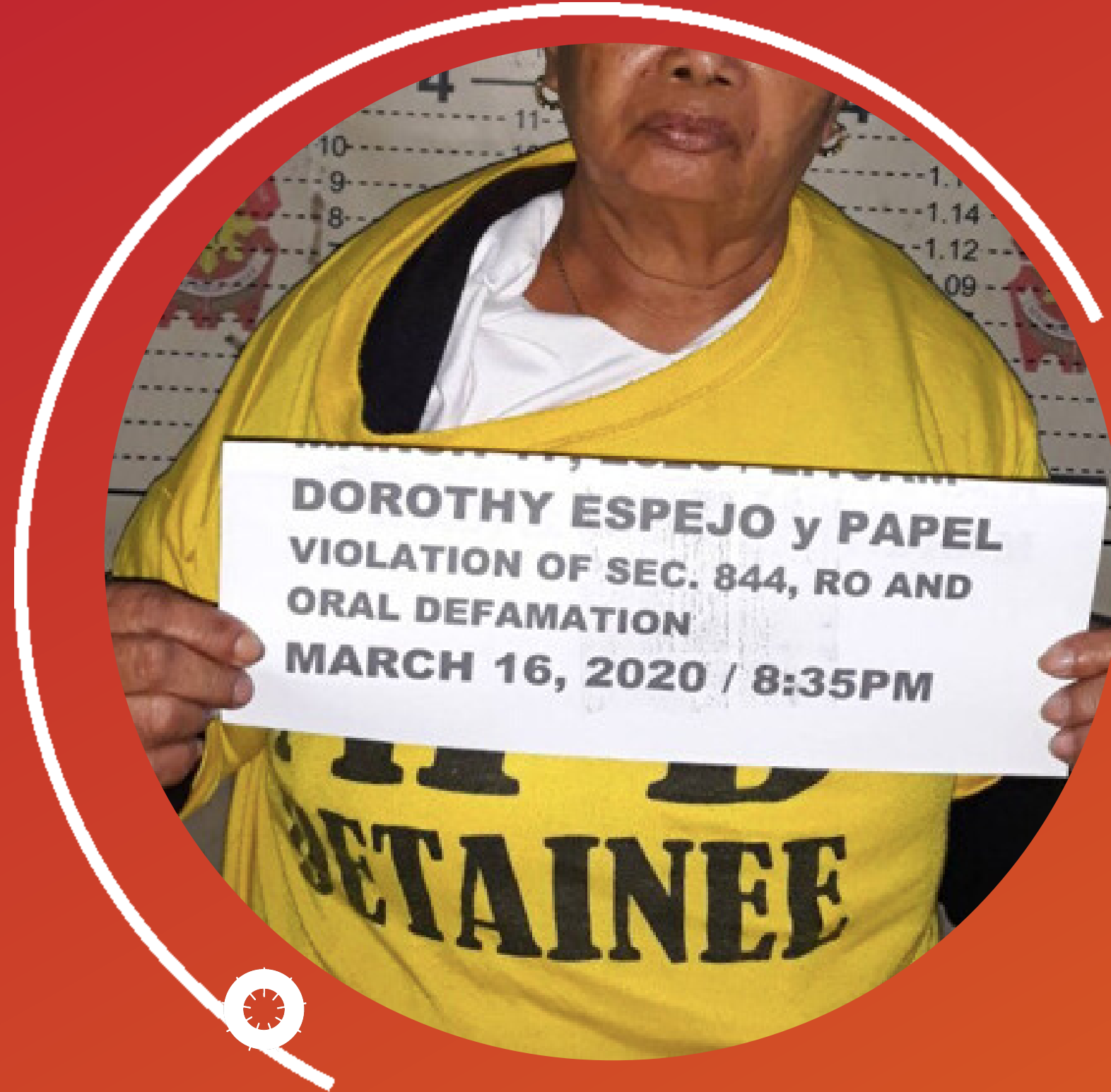


**ARRESTS RELATED TO  
COUNTER-INSURGENCY  
PROGRAM**



**ATTACKS ON FREE  
SPEECH**





# 69-YEAR OLD HOMELESS WOMAN ARRESTED IN MANILA





**ON APRIL 1, RESIDENTS OF SAN ROQUE, QUEZON CITY, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN WENT TO THE STREETS TO DEMAND FOOD ASSISTANCE. INSTEAD OF HEEDING THEIR DEMANDS, 21 OF THEM WERE ARRESTED AND JAILED, 5 OF THEM WERE WOMEN.**







**ON MARCH 27, 2020, 55-YEAR OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER JULIET ESPINOSA WAS CHARGED WITH SEDITION AFTER POSTING HER CRITICISM ON FACEBOOK AGAINST THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE HEALTH CRISIS, RESULTING IN THE STARVATION OF RESIDENTS.**

**MARIA VICTORIA BELTRAN, A CEBU-BASED ARTIST AND BUSINESSWOMAN HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY POSTING MISINFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA ABOUT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

**SHE POSTED "9,000+ NEW CASES (ALL FROM ZAPATERA) OF COVID-19 IN CEBU CITY IN ONE DAY. WE ARE NOW THE EPICENTER IN THE WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM."**





**TERESITA NAUL, KARAPATAN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER FOR NORTHERN MINDANAO WAS ILLEGALLY ARRESTED ON MARCH 15, 2020 AT HER RELATIVE'S RESIDENCE IN LALA, LANA O DEL SUR, ON THE BASIS OF TRUMPED UP CHARGES OF KIDNAPPING WITH SERIOUS ILLEGAL DETENTION AND DESTRUCTIVE ARSON.**



**ON MARCH 31, 66-YEAR OLD NORA  
APIQUE, A PEASANT LEADER OF THE  
KAPUNUNGAN SA MGA MAG-UUMA SA  
SURIGAO DEL SUR WAS KILLED.**



# FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS



609



100



63



47



MYLES ALBASIN



FREE  
INA NACINO!

KADAMAY MANILA COORDINATOR

INA NACINO



REA CASIDO



FREE  
GEANN  
PEREZ

AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

Perez is a 20-year-old political prisoner with leprosy. She is presently detained at the Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. Given her health condition and the congestion in the prison facility, she is now at risk amid the coronavirus pandemic.

#FreePoliticalPrisoners

KARAPATAN

GEANN PEREZ



CORA AGOVIDA

# **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACWC FOR A FEMINIST RESPONSE IN ADDRESSING COVID-19**



**Coordinate with and ensure ASEAN governments on their plans for the protection of women and children against gender-based and all forms of violence;**



**Monitor ASEAN government's implementation of UNSR'S recommendations and views on the protection of women and children and of their civil, political, economic and social rights;**



**Echo the call of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on the release of prisoners, including women human rights defenders in detention.**





**THANK YOU!**