

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



By Maria Sol Taule, Tanggol Bayi
(Defend Women)- Philippines



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

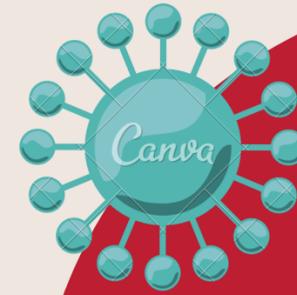


613 recoveries



428 deaths

as of 4:00pm, April 20, 2020



766

healthworkers are infected



339 are doctors



342 are nurses

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



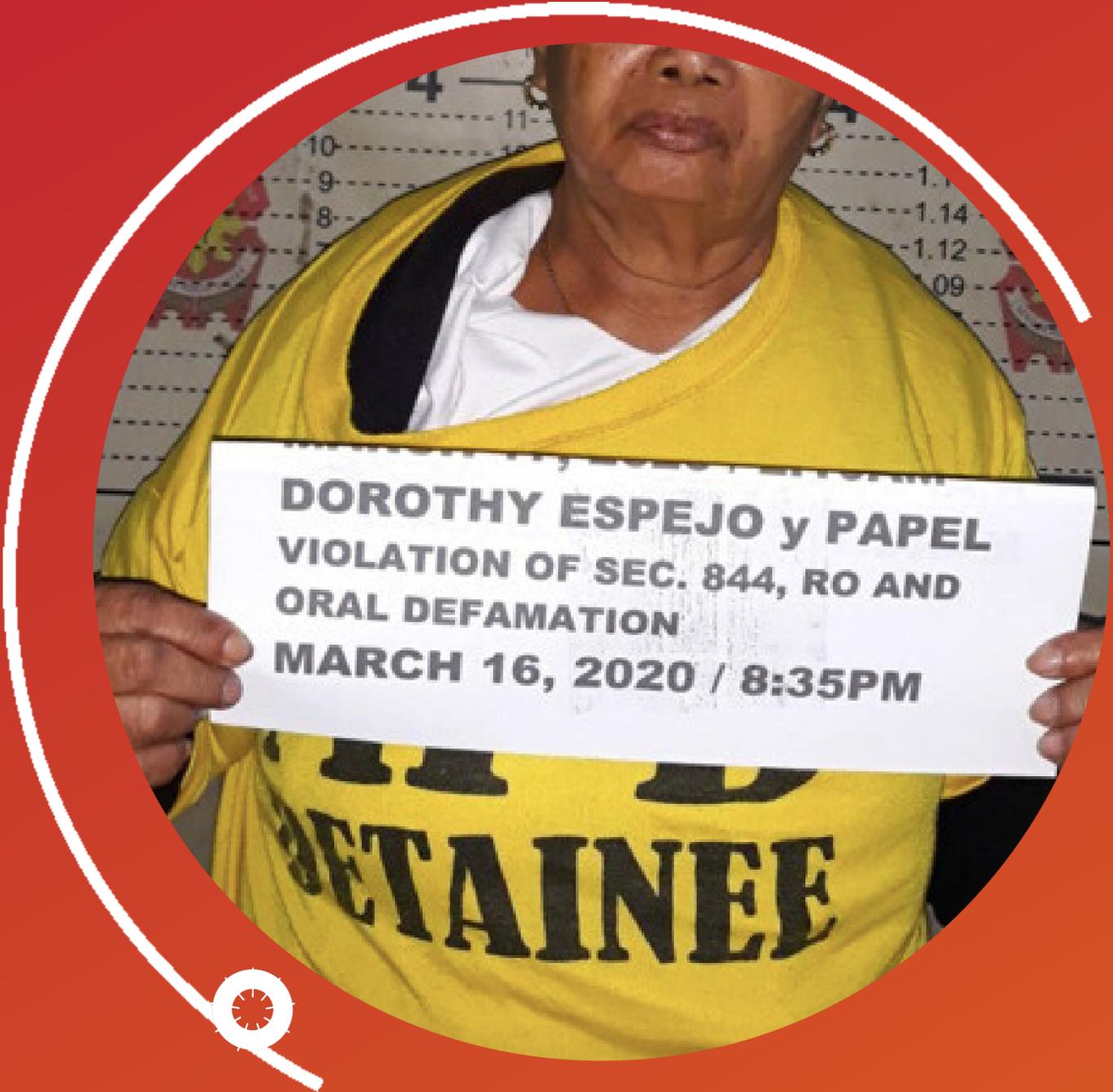
MILITARIST POLICIES THAT VIOLATE CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

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



INA NACINO



REA CASIDO



CORA AGOVIDA



GEANN PEREZ

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!