

Refer To: Committee on Laws and Justice and Human Rights

TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
RECEIVED
DATE: 3-21-25
BY:
TIME: 10:50 am
TANDAG CITY, SURIGAO DEL SUR

noted

1st Endorsement

March 20, 2025

Respectfully forwarded to Mr. Edgar G. Perez II, J.D., Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the herein attached basic communication dated March 19, 2025 from **PCOL HARRY B. DOMINGO**, Provincial Director, Police Provincial Office, this Province, providing response to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 2856-25 dated February 18, 2025 entitled, *"Earnestly Requesting PCOL Harry B. Domingo, PNP Provincial Director, This Province And Its Hierarchy To Establish Prudent Policies And Guidelines In Treating Lawyers Who Are Handling Cases Involving Communist Terrorist Groups (CTG's) In The Province Of Surigao Del Sur"*.

For the August Body's information and appropriate action.

MANUEL O. ALAMEDA, SR.
Vice Governor

Tanggapan ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan
SURIGAO DEL SUR
OSSP-SDS-2025-4557
Telephone No.: (086) - 211 - 5832
E-Mail: tspsurigaosur@yahoo.com
Date: _____
Time: _____
Received by: _____

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, POLICE REGIONAL OFFICE 13
SURIGAO DEL SUR POLICE PROVINCIAL OFFICE
Camp Hon. Vicente L. Pimentel Sr., Tandag City, Surigao del Sur

March 19, 2025

VICE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
(RECEIVED)
DATE: 3/20/25 TIME: 8:56am BY:

HON. MANUEL O ALAMEDA, SR
Vice Governor/Presiding Officer
Office of the Provincial Council
Province of Surigao del Sur

Dear Honorable Alameda,

Warm Greetings!

This pertains to **Resolution Number 2856-25, Series of 2025**, containing your earnest request for the undersigned to establish prudent policies and guidelines in treating lawyers who are handling cases involving communist terrorist groups in the province of Surigao del Sur.

In response, we would like to reiterate the Philippine National Police's (PNP) **firm stance** on the issue of **red-tagging.** The PNP **does not endorse, participate in any form of red-tagging**. Furthermore, there is no official policy within the organization that promotes or condones such practices. Our mandate remains focused on upholding the rule of law, ensuring public safety, and respecting the rights of all individuals, regardless of their affiliations.

Additionally, we emphasize that there is no need to establish separate policies on this matter, as **PNP personnel are consistently guided by existing directives and commands from higher offices**. These directives already uphold the highest standards of professionalism, respect for human rights, and strict adherence to the rule of law.

To reinforce this commitment, the **PNP through the Human Rights Affairs Office (HRAO), reminds all PNP personnel** of their duty to uphold human rights and avoid any actions that could lead to misconceptions or violations. In this regard, an **HRAO Memorandum (PC)-240909-0930** was issued in September 2024, with subject: **"Human Rights Advisory on Upholding Human Rights and Prohibiting Unverified Labeling of Individuals or Groups Allegedly Affiliated with CPP/NPA/NDF.** This directive outlines the following guidelines that must be strictly observed by all PNP personnel:

1. **Prohibition Against Red-Tagging and Unverified Labeling**

   PNP personnel **shall not engage in any act or make statements** that may be construed as red-tagging or labeling individuals or

groups as insurgents or terrorists **without verified, lawful evidence.** Such actions could lead to violations of an individual's rights and expose PNP personnel to accusations of human rights violations.

2. **Commitment to the Rule of Law and Human Rights**

   PNP personnel must strictly adhere to the rule of law and its mandate to uphold human rights. The PNP **condemns any act of violence or threats** against an individual's life, liberty, or security and remains committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all citizens.

3. **Ensuring Evidence-Based Actions and Due Process**

   PNP personnel shall ensure that all actions, reports, and communications must be **grounded in factual evidence-based information** and **comply with the legal standards**. No individual shall be subjected to accusations without due process or lawful investigation.

Rest assured that the **PNP remains dedicated** to fostering **a just, impartial, and accountable law enforcement system** that **upholds human rights, promotes the rule of law, and ensures public trust** in our institution.

Thank you and more power.

Respectfully yours,

HARRY B DOMINGO
Police Colonel
Provincial Director

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, PNP
HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS OFFICE
Camp BGen Rafael T Crame, Quezon City

HRAO (PC)- 240909-0930
MEMORANDUM

FOR : See Distribution

FROM : OIC, HRAO

SUBJECT : **Human Rights Advisory on Upholding Human Rights and Prohibiting Unverified Labeling of Individuals or Groups Allegedly Affiliated with CPP/NPA/NDF**

DATE : September 9, 2024

---

1. References.
   a. 1987 Philippine Constitution;

   b. Supreme Court of the Philippines landmark decision in the case of Siegfred D. Deduro v. Major General Eric C. Vinoya, (*G.R. No. 254753, July 4, 2023*);

   c. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law; and

   d. PNP Human Rights Development Program.

2. This pertains to the issue of **"red-tagging"** involving the PNP. The PNP affirms that it does not endorse nor participate in any form of red-tagging. Furthermore, there is no official policy within the organization that promotes or condones such practices.

3. In this regard, the PNP through HRAO, reminds all PNP personnel of their duty to adhere to the highest standards of professionalism, respect for human rights, and the rule of law. Additionally, be reminded of the following provisions under Article III (Bill of Rights) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution:

   Section 1. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws;

   Section 2. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be

inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

Section 3.

a. The privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful order of the court, or when public safety or order requires otherwise, as prescribed by law; and

b. Any evidence obtained in violation of this or the preceding section shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding.

Section 4. No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances; and

Section 5. The right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged.

4. In addition, all PNP personnel are reminded to strictly adhere to the following guidelines:

a. PNP personnel are advised not to engage in any act or make statements that may be construed as red-tagging or labeling individuals or groups as insurgents or terrorists without verified, lawful evidence. Such actions could lead to violations of an individual's rights and expose PNP personnel to accusations of human rights violations;

b. PNP personnel shall strictly adhere to the rule of law and its mandate to uphold human rights. The PNP condemns any act of violence or threats against an individual's life, liberty, or security and remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all citizens; and

c. PNP personnel shall ensure that all actions, reports, and communications must be grounded in factual, evidence-based information, and comply with legal standards. No individual should be subjected to accusations without due process or lawful investigation.

5. To reiterate, it is crucial to emphasize that the PNP does not condone any act of violence that threatens an individual's right to life, liberty, or security. The PNP strictly adheres to the rule of law and to the state's obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights.

6. Please submit a report of your actions taken to this office (Attn: PCDD) through email address: pcddhrao@gmail.com on or before **September 18, 2024.**

7. For favorable action.

CESAR T MAGSINO
Police Colonel

Distribution:
RDs, PROs 1-13, CAR, BAR, NCRPO
(Attn: RPHRO)
Dirs, NSUs
(Attn: PHRO)