

The EU Promotes Human Rights in the Philippines

The EU-Philippines Justice Support Programme aims to assist Philippine society (government agencies as well as relevant constitutional bodies and civil society) in bringing an end to Extra-Legal Killings (ELKs) and Enforced Disappearances (EDs).



**Delegation of the
European Union
to the Philippines**

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Component 1: Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the Philippine criminal justice system

Major achievements

- 160 cases of ELKs and EDs have been reviewed with the adoption and implementation of new investigation plans leading to encouraging progress in several of them;
- 4 operational manuals have been produced, disseminated, and implemented on crime scene examination, criminal investigation, and internal discipline;
- Improved institutional structures and operational procedures and protocols for crime investigation and case management are in place reflecting new pro-active working practices, behaviours, and attitudes all along the criminal justice process;
- 5 new training curricula have been developed, adopted, and conducted on crime scene examination, criminal investigation, case management, detective and internal discipline;
- 1,720 police officers, 289 prosecutors, and 24 judges have been trained many of which as future trainers on the above-cited subjects as well as on inter-institutional coordination, criminal intelligence, personal safety, and witness protection;
- New investigation techniques, crime scene kits, forensic investigation and IT criminal intelligence training and equipment have been provided.



Component 2 : Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of the Commission on Human Rights

Major achievements

- Several case files under Commission on Human Rights' investigation have been reviewed and improved;
- 129 staff have been trained on investigation techniques and protocols, case management, human rights education, and personal safety;
- 2 manuals on security and field investigation and case management have been reviewed, adopted, and implemented;
- 8 e-learning tools on human-rights related subjects have been produced;
- Computer equipment has been provided for national and regional offices.



Component 3 : Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of civil society organisations

Major achievements

- 10 grants have been awarded for a total of PhP 53 M allowing to:
 - i) Provide assistance to more than 300 victims;
 - ii) Train 795 civil society people from various non-government organisations;
- 143 CSO staff have been trained on crime scene examination, witness protection, victim assistance, investigative journalism, and personal safety;
- A web-based networking system allowing incident reporting has been developed;
- A handbook for human rights defenders has been produced and disseminated.



Component 4 : Enhance human rights awareness and training of uniformed services (Armed Forces of the Philippines – AFP – and Philippine National Police – PNP):

Major achievements

- AFP and PNP training curricula on human rights have been improved;
- 150 PNP and 84 AFP staff have been trained on human rights;
- 724 AFP staff have been briefed on human rights;
- AFP Human Rights handbook has been revised.



Component 5 : Establish a National Monitoring Mechanism

Major achievements

- 5 forums on the European experience of monitoring and reconciliation have been organised;
- 4 monographs on related-subjects have been produced;
- A Public Service Announcement has been produced and broadcast.



Definition

Extra-legal (or extrajudicial, unexplained, arbitrary, or summary) killings (ELKs) and enforced (or involuntary) disappearances (EDs) are the most serious violations of human rights as they violate the civil and political rights to life, liberty, and security, as well as to recognition as a person before the law, amongst other rights. They are in turn major impediments to economic, social, and cultural rights.

There is to date no international definition of [extra-legal killing] but the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions defines it as a concept that “encompasses any killing by Government forces as well as killings by any other groups or individuals which the Government fails to investigate, prosecute and punish when it is in a position to do so”. In the Philippines, several definitions have been formulated such as for instance in Department of Justice Order 841 which defines cases of ELKs as “cases where the suspects or perpetrators are members of the military, police and other law enforcement agencies”.

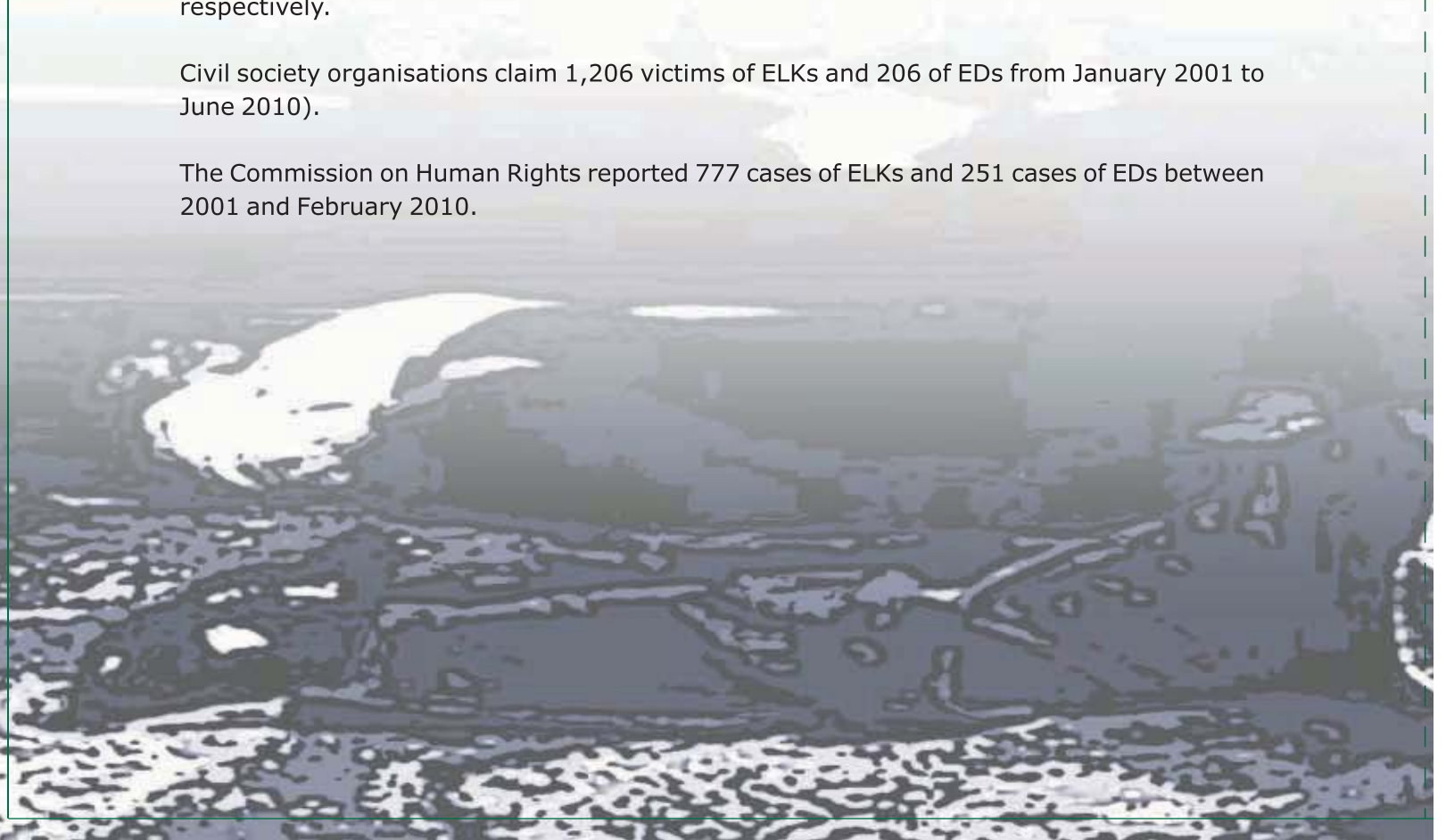
Aligned to the international definition, the Philippines “Humanitarian Law” Republic Act 9851 defines EDs as meaning the arrest, detention, or abduction of persons by, or with the authorization support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons, with the intention of removing from the protection of the law for a prolonged period of time.

Scope

Government’s Task Force USIG (investigating militant and media killings under the PNP) and previous Task Force 211 (addressing ELK and ED cases in coordination with other agencies under the DoJ) have since 2001 covered 161 and 265 (up to of 23 February 2010) cases respectively.

Civil society organisations claim 1,206 victims of ELKs and 206 of EDs from January 2001 to June 2010).

The Commission on Human Rights reported 777 cases of ELKs and 251 cases of EDs between 2001 and February 2010.





The EU-Philippines Justice Support Programme (EPJUST), is the European Union's (EU) answer to the request of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines for technical assistance in addressing the problem of extra-legal killings (ELKs) and enforced disappearances (EDs).

The project started on 23 November 2009 and ended on 31 July 2011 with a budget of € 3.9 million or PhP 234 million.

EPJUST aims to assist Philippine society (government agencies as well as relevant constitutional bodies and civil society) in bringing an end to ELKs and EDs. Towards these ends, EPJUST carries out technical assistance activities through the EPJUST expert team, headed by a Senior Prosecutor and also comprised of a Senior Police Expert and a National Human Rights Expert, with the end in view of contributing to the effective investigation, prosecution, and trial by the competent Philippine authorities, of persons involved in any way in ELKs and EDs. EPJUST's work is advisory in nature, and it will not undertake (nor expected to undertake) any functions directly related to the investigation, prosecution, and trial of ELK and ED offences.