



# Red-Baiting in the Philippines

## Final Project Report



- Civil Society under general suspicion -

### Outline

When no distinction is drawn between terrorists and human rights activists, state actors put the whole civil society under general suspicion. Red-Baiting is the practice to publicly and detractively classify government-critical individuals and organizations as state enemies, communist terrorists or members of communist front organizations has a long tradition in the Philippine politics. The security forces still fail to differentiate between organizations that bear arms to fight the state and legitimate unarmed organizations that oppose the government within the framework of their guaranteed rights and freedoms.

This report constitutes the third and final report of the International Peace Observers three-year Red-Baiting Project in the Philippines. Prior reports in 2011 and 2012 described the social phenomenon of Red-Baiting in the Philippines from theoretical, social, political and legal perspectives. In 2013 the first part of the report gives a final comprehensive analysis of measures, achievements and outcomes of IPONs engagement between 2011 and 2013. The second part presents the results of a comprehensive study of the modus operandi of Red-Baiting, with a special focus on the criminalization of HRDs through legal attacks.

We wish to emphasize that despite this report constitutes a final project report the need for policy developments to counteract the issue of Red-Baiting persists. The phenomenon of Red-Baiting deserves the unrestricted continuing attention of all involved stake-holders, especially the Armed Forces of Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Commission of Human Rights (CHR). With the presented study and policy recommendations to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Supreme Court (SC) we wish to draw stake holder attention to the latest developments of Red-Baiting strategies by the military/police and create awareness for the increase of legal attacks on HRDs in recent years. With great concern IPON observes that Philippine state actors instrumentalize the Philippine justice system for the systematic criminalization of HRD. The social and political consequences of such practices for civil society are severe and should not be underestimated thus



**we hope that the presented findings will initiate policy development processes with the objective of creating preventive measures that tackle the root causes of these latest developments.**

**Nevertheless, based on IPONs past project experiences we are positive that all relevant Philippine state actors are willing to commit themselves to the above mentioned challenges in order to pave the way for the future development and implementation of encompassing conflict solution strategies concerning Red-Baiting in the Philippines.**