

USDOS – US Department of State

Country Report on Terrorism 2020 - Chapter 5 - Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)

Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army

Aka CPP/NPA; Communist Party of the Philippines; CPP; New People's Army; NPA; NPP/CPP

Description: The Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA) was designated as an FTO on August 9, 2002. The military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) — the New People's Army (NPA) — is a Maoist group formed in 1969 with the aim of overthrowing the government through protracted guerrilla warfare. NPA's founder, Jose Maria Sison, reportedly directs CPP/NPA activity from the Netherlands, where he lives in self-imposed exile. Luis Jalandoni, a fellow Central Committee member and director of the CPP's overt political wing, the National Democratic Front, also lives in the Netherlands. Although primarily a rural-based guerrilla group, the CPP/NPA has an active urban infrastructure to support its terrorist activities and, at times, has used city-based assassination squads.

Activities: The CPP/NPA primarily targets Philippine security forces, government officials, local infrastructure, and businesses that refuse to pay extortion, or “revolutionary taxes.” The CPP/NPA also has a history of attacking U.S. interests in the Philippines. In 1987, for example, the group killed three U.S. soldiers in four separate attacks in Angeles. In 1989, the CPP/NPA issued a press statement claiming responsibility for the ambush and murder of Col. James Nicholas Rowe, chief of the Ground Forces Division of the Joint U.S.-Military Advisory Group.

Over the past several years, the CPP/NPA has continued to carry out killings, raids, kidnappings, acts of extortion, and other forms of violence primarily directed against Philippine security forces.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, several attempts were made to establish a cease-fire and peace deal between the CPP/NPA and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Reported violations from both sides, however — including reports of the CPP/NPA's continued recruitment in the Philippines and attacks against government forces and civilians — stalled peace efforts through 2019.

In 2018, seven suspected members of the CPP/NPA were killed in a shootout with Philippine police in the town of Antique; authorities found a cache of cellphones, laptops, firearms, and explosives at the site. In 2018, CPP/NPA members used an antipersonnel mine to attack a military patrol in the city of Catarman. The attack killed four soldiers and two civilians.

In 2019 and 2020, the CPP/NPA continued attacks against security forces and civilians. The deadliest of these was a 2019 offensive in which CPP/NPA detonated bombs using an improvised land mine in a surprise early morning attack clash on Samar Island, killing six Philippine troops.

Strength: The Philippine government estimates that the CPP/NPA has about 4,000 members. The group also retains a significant amount of support from communities in rural areas of the Philippines.

Location/Area of Operation: The Philippines

Funding and External Aid: The CPP/NPA raises funds through extortion and theft.

ecoi.net summary:

Brief description of the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2020)



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