



September 27, 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 2

SUPPORT OUR WORK:



Dear Members!

The Medical Action Group (MAG) is pleased to announce the 2nd issue of our e-newsletter to bring you the latest news about projects and activities related to our work in providing health services to human rights violation victims and survivors, in torture prevention and adherence to Code of Medical Ethics, Human Rights Principles and International Humanitarian Laws.

In our 2nd issue, you will find our feature article about the Malnutrition in Bukidnon and the Online Database of the Trained Public Health Doctors ([www.MD4HR.net](http://www.MD4HR.net)) as well as news articles about MAG, a research on Medico-Legal Documentation conducted by our member, Dr. Catherine Anne Dacanay, and the activities we organized and supported such as torture prevention activities, HIV Forum, Human Rights-Based Policing and Restitution for the Victims and Families of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

We hope you liked our 1st issue and we would appreciate if you could spread the 2nd release to your family, colleagues and friends.

Thank you.

*Erlynda N. Senturias*  
Erlynda N. Senturias, M.D.  
Chairperson  
Medical Action Group

MALNUTRITION IN BUKIDNON

Malnutrition is one of the common health problems of the IP Children in Bukidnon. 198 malnourished children among four (4) schools and two (2) communities from the three (3) municipalities of San Fernando, Kitaotao and Quezon were documented by the Medical Action Group (MAG). These malnourished children were provided with nutritional support like wet feeding and multivitamins for three months. The Rural Health Unit (RHU) of Kitaotao headed by Dr. Madel Andres and the Committee of German doctor conducted a medical check-up and deworming to monitor and determine the progress of the health condition of the children.

To easily facilitate the feeding program, a core group was formed by the parents to assist the daily cooking activity. The teachers, Barangay Health Workers (BHW), the Barangay Council and community leaders took part in the activity and provided guidance and monitoring to ensure the smooth implementation of the feeding program. Parents also contributed vegetables in addition to the feeding supplies to accommodate normal children. As a result, 130 children improved their health status and 68 remain undernourished due to some reasons like illness, school tardiness, house location, implementation of feeding at the end of school year and the involvement of children in mining area. These resulted to the increase of absences in the feeding activity and school classes.

The feeding program will resume this September. OPT for the primary baseline data is being conducted to determine who are among the children is malnourished. Policies were also discussed among parents, teachers and BHW and Barangay council member to ensure that the parents and the malnourish children will actively participate in the feeding activity and complete the three-month feeding program. MAG Bukidnon staff members are looking forward to the success of the feeding program in the partner school and communities in the target areas and would replicate the success and experiences in other Indigenous Peoples (IP) areas in Bukidnon. [View article on the web!](#)

MEDICAL DOCTORS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ([www.MD4HR.net](http://www.MD4HR.net))

The Medical Action Group, Inc. (MAG) has launched an online database of its trained public health officers to ensure utilization of the knowledge acquired such as enhanced capacity to conduct medical documentation and testify in court as government witnesses. The training activities were sponsored by The Asia Foundation through its Law and Human Rights Program and the British Embassy Manila through its Human Rights and Democracy Programme.

The [www.MD4HR.net](http://www.MD4HR.net) aims to make health information available and accessible to the public and to the victims of human rights violations specifically cases of torture, extra judicial/legal killings and sexual violence through an online interactive map. It also offers a venue for reporting cases and provides medical and psychological documentation and examination.

The website also includes the list of the Department of Health (DOH) retained hospitals and Women and Children Protection Units (WCPU) and flowchart to assist the victims of torture, sexual assault and other forms of human rights violations.

Torture Prevention Activities

I. THE MONTH OF JULY

※ BASIC DEATH INVESTIGATION COURSE  
July 29 - August 2

The Asia Foundation and the University of the Philippines College of Medicine Department of Pathology, with MAG support hold the 3rd Batch of Basic Death Investigation Course to selected City and Municipal Health Officers, Doctors to the Barrios, Commission on Human Rights and Emergency Physicians in areas with high incidence of human rights violations.

The five-day capacity-building activity is hosted by UPCM Department of Pathology through the initiative of Dr. Raquel del Rosario-Fortun, a renowned Forensic Pathologist in the country. The training activity aims to develop the skills of the doctors in Science Investigation, Forensic Autopsy, Anthropology, Sexual Assault Examination and DNA Analysis, Basic Toxicology, Documenting Sharp, Blunt and Gun Shot Wounds and Death Certification.

II. THE MONTH OF JUNE

※ CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 9745  
June 19, UP Law Center; July 15 TFDP Office; July 19, Cejerrina's Restaurant



CSOs assess the implementation of RA 9745.

Civil Society Organizations' Learnings and Recommendations for the Effective Implementation of the Anti-Torture Law was organized by Amnesty International-Philippines, Balay Rehabilitation Center, Medical Action Group (MAG), Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) and University of the Philippines Institute of Human Rights (UP IHR) in cooperation with the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC)-Philippines and Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)...

[Continue reading!](#)

※ INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE:  
MAKE PHILIPPINES A TORTURE FREE ZONE! RIGHTS GROUPS RUN AGAINST TORTURE  
June 26, Quezon Ave, Quezon City

On its seventh year, in commemoration of the June 26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the Medical Action Group (MAG) joined the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC)-Philippines and various anti-torture advocates in the "Bastal Run Against Torture 7" (BRAT VII) to call on the government to make the Philippines a Torture Free Zone. ...

[Continue reading!](#)



The UATC-Philippines mobilized about 300 members of the security forces—the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) through their Human Rights Affairs Offices, running alongside with anti-torture advocates. Members of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) had also joined the annual run.

※ VISIT OF OXFAM PAKISTAN  
June 17-21, 2013



Edeliza Hernandez, Executive Director, receives a token of appreciation.

The Medical Action Group (MAG), welcomed the visitors and friends from Pakistan namely Mr. Abdul Mabood (Oxfam Great Britain), Ms. Begum Naema (SAP-PK), Mr. Shams Jalil (SPO) and Mr. Ghaffar Abdul (Sindh Development) for a week exposure on the different government and non-government organizations working on campaign against torture.

It was indeed an enlightening week for them to know more about the campaigns and efforts of MAG and other actors and stakeholders in the fights against torture. MAG also returned the favour by extending its gratitude to four different organizations from Pakistan and expressed MAG's confidence in its new-found friends and partners in human rights and peace.

III. THE MONTH OF MAY

※ HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED POLICING FORUM  
May 22, 2013, Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Quezon City



Dr. Amanglis Ng-Abcede receives the Plaque of Appreciation to the Medical Action Group.

The focus of the forum laid on the newest developments within the PNP Human Rights Affairs Office (HRAO), in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, in support of its Human Rights-Based Policing Project guided by the PANTHER Principles. The activity was attended by various government and non-government agencies.

Furthermore, PNP HRAO awarded a plaque of appreciation to the Medical Action Group for the successful conduct of the six-wave-Training of Prosecutors and Law Enforcement Officers from January to March 2013, in partnership with the DOJ and PNP and funded by the British Embassy Manila.

[Continue reading!](#)

Other attended Human Rights activities

※ HIV FORUM; WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS ENDING STIGMA, SHAME, DENIAL, DISCRIMINATION, IN-CATION AND MISACTION  
June 3, 2013, UCCP Cosmopolitan Church

The HIV Forum was a gathering of faith-based organizations with HIV programs and various advocacy groups as well as individuals like Wango Gallago, a person living with HIV. The aim was to point out clearly the importance of working together to end Stigma, Shame, Denial, Discrimination, Inaction and Misaction, in short SSDMIM.

The focus revolved on the role of the church in case of dealing with HIV, which until now was more on silencing or ignoring it. Another big issue was to show the necessity of education, the support through the family, friends and work... [Continue reading!](#)



The Lighting - Participants lightened candles around the AIDS Quilt.

※ RESTITUTION: A RIGHT AND REMEDY!  
May 28, 2013, the House of Representatives

The ASIAN FEDERATION AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE (AFAD) AND FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE (FIND) invited all concerned stakeholders, governmental as well as nongovernmental organizations to a roundtable discussion (RTD) on Restitution, according to the new law, the Republic Act No. 10353 known as the "Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The Philippines enacted this landmark legislation as the first Asian country which aims to criminalize acts of enforced disappearance (ED). [Continue reading!](#)

MEMBERS' CORNER

Dr. Catherine Anne N. Dacanay is a MAG member who underwent Medical Documentation Training in Cagayan de Oro on October 23-25, 2012, in partnership with the British Embassy. Since then, she became active in initiating activities pertaining to Medico-Legal. She published her paper entitled **Medico-legal Documentation of Emergency Department Patients: A Short Course Training as a tool to Better Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Outcomes among Emergency Medicine Physicians.**

Background of the Study:

Medico-legal documentation is one of the responsibilities of Emergency Medicine physicians. This study was used not only to assess the capabilities of EM physicians in relation to proper documentation of Emergency Department patients but also to introduce more awareness and concern about torture as part of medico-legal cases faced in medical practice. With the help of the Medical Action Group Inc., the focus of this research was enlightened through integrated training on documentation emphasized on the Istanbul Protocol.

In the challenge of seeking continuous education, this study hopes for more development to expand this awareness in further improving our quality of patient care. [View article on the web!](#)

Comment:

My seventh month

Magandang araw sa inyong lahat! How time flies! Now I'm already over seven months at MAG and also in the past couple of months I learnt and saw a lot of new things.

There have been interesting, exciting and meaningful activities which I really wouldn't like to miss as currently the implementation of the online database on trained public health officers through MAG. It was just a short-term project (one Month, from August to September) but even though, they managed to realize the website through a very tight and busy schedule. Meetings have been held in various parts of the Philippines.

The website by itself is good structured, easy to follow and manage. But it's also more than just an informative website, accessible for everyone. You have directly the possibility to report an incident! I could follow the developments of the project from the beginning which was for me exciting and a good learning process too.

Through the visit of OXFAM Pakistan, where MAG arranged a whole week program I got the chance not only meeting new people but also getting a deeper view of how and with whom MAG works.

One of the most thrilling event with even a bit of (physical) exercise, had been in my case the BRAT Run, because I was part of a group who stands for a Philippine torture free-zone!

In between there also have been meetings and workshops which I could attend. The HIV Forum, which addresses a very important and still stigmatized issue or the gathering of the civil organizations concerning on the Republic Act 9745, better known as the "Anti-Torture" Act in June and July, just to mention two of them.

It is still a whole new world for me and I'm really enjoying watching on how NGOs interact as well as work together amongst themselves and with GOs.



Celebrating the birthday of Doc. Amy at MAG, with Mercedes De Josa, John Vincent M. Mesa, me, Jerbert M. Brista and Edeliza Hernandez (from left to right). Photo taken by John Abster Soriano

But beside the work there have been also really nice social events, as of the birthday of Doc. Amy. Also at the End of May to welcome me for further months, MAG organized a small celebration with a very delicious meal. In these cases and as well as in similar further events with other NGO colleagues, I felt very touched and accepted especially by the MAG Staff, which become already good friends to me.

Contact Us

Address: 129-D Matatag Street, Barangay Central, Quezon City 1100 Philippines

Telephone Number: +63 2 4 33 1594, E-mail: [mag.1982@magph.org](mailto:mag.1982@magph.org), Website: [www.magph.org](http://www.magph.org)