Human Rights Backdrop

- Changing economic & political landscape towards the end of the 20th century posing new threats & challenges to HR
  
  ✓ **Globalization** – trade liberalization, privatization of public utilities & social services, freeze in wages, reduction of national budget for social services, imposition of new taxes

  ✓ **War against terror** – anti-terrorism laws, national ID system, illegal arrest, search & seizure, use of torture of suspected terrorists
HR Backdrop

- Since the start of her reign in power as president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) has not had any clear-cut HR program.
- Phil. government’s commitment & all-out support to globalization & US-led war against terror as manifested in its policies, priorities & pronouncements.
- HRVs remain unabated with the members of the police forces (PNP) & military (AFP) as the top HR violators in the country.
1. Political Arrest & Detention

- Political prisoners
  - Total no. of PPs/detainees: 225
  - Total no. of detention centers: 55

Vulnerable groups
- Elderly (70 yrs. & above): 7
- Women: 6
- Minors: 8
- Sickly: 9
- Muslim: 49
- Torture: 15
- PPs on Death Row: 6
2. Death Penalty

- Death penalty reimposed in 1994 with the passage of Republic Act (RA) 7659
- 46 crimes labeled as heinous are eligible for the death sentence although 25 of these crimes are “mandatory death offenses”
- As of Jan. 2005, a total of 1,081 are on death row – 1,051 males and 30 females.
- 1/30 females on death row is an 83 year old woman
- There are 21 children/minors on death row, 14 of whom are together with adult death row inmates at the state penitentiary in Metro Manila.
### Profile of Death Row Inmates, Jan. 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 &amp; below</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-21 yrs.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-39</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-59</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 &amp; above</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,051</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Extrajudicial Executions

- Paris-based Reporters San Frontieres classified the Philippines as one of the most dangerous places for journalists to practice their profession.

- Committee to Protect Journalists, a New York-based NGO, has labeled the country as “the most murderous country for journalists” followed by Iraq, Colombia, Bangladesh & Russia.
Civil & Political Rights

- Since 1986 after the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship, a total of 66 Filipino journalists in the line of duty have been summarily executed.
  - Aquino – 17 journalists killed
  - Ramos – 14
  - Estrada – 5
  - Macapagal-Arroyo – 30
- In 2004 alone, a total of 13 journalists were murdered.
- At the start of 2005, there were 3 killed in the line of duty. The most recent was Klein Cantoneros, a broadcaster of a local radio station in Dipolog City, Misamis Occidental in Mindanao.
Civil & Political Rights

- Extrajudicial killings or summary executions have become commonplace in at least 2 major cities in the country: Davao and Cebu.
- Davao City is notorious for the “Davao Death Squads”.
- Between 1998-2004, based on the documentation done by the NGO Coalition Against Summary Execution (CASE), there had been 247 victims of summary execution.
Civil & Political Rights

No. of Victims of Summary Execution, 1998-2004, Davao City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Cebu City, following the method used in Davao City to curb criminality, Mayor Osmena formed the “Hunter Team” composed of 16 police sharpshooters to go after criminals last December 2004. Several weeks after, 5 suspected criminals were shot dead in various parts of the city.

As an incentive, a policeman on-duty who is able to capture a person committing a crime will be rewarded Php20,000 or 285 Euros.

Most of the victims in both cities are children & adolescents who belong to poor families suspected of engaging in petty crimes like mobile phone snatching, peddling of illegal drugs, petty thieves, etc.
4. Involuntary Disappearance

- Since the start of the Arroyo government in 2001 up to Dec 2004, the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), recorded a total of 31 cases involving 78 victims of involuntary disappearance in the country.

- All 78 victims were affiliated with either militant groups or political parties, or suspected members &/or sympathizers of non-state armed groups like the NPA and MILF.
### No. of Cases & Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, Feb 2001-Dec 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Cases</th>
<th>No. of Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civil & Political Rights

5. National ID System

- Recently, the Arroyo government issued Executive Order (EO) 420 referred to as “multi-purpose ID system”
- Part of the package of anti-terrorism measures being implemented by the state together with the plan to pass an anti-terrorism law in the country.
1. Right to work & decent wages

- Employment & income are 2 critical factors for people to be able to satisfy their basic needs & for them to live decently as human beings.

- Government data show there is a big gap between the current **minimum wage** that workers are supposed to receive and the **living wage**, i.e. the daily income w/c a family of 6 has to earn to be able to satisfy the essential requirements for human existence.
**Economic, Social & Cultural Rights**

**Minimum & Living Wages in Pesos & Euros (as of March 2005)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Min. Wage</th>
<th>Living Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro Manila</td>
<td>300 = 4.30 E</td>
<td>663 = 9.50 E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARMM</td>
<td>170 = 2.43</td>
<td>824 = 11.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilocos Reg. (I)</td>
<td>200 = 2.86</td>
<td>618 = 8.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Luzon (III)</td>
<td>243.50 = 3.48</td>
<td>582 = 8.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicol Region (V)</td>
<td>194 = 2.77</td>
<td>563 = 8.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Vis. (VII)</td>
<td>208 = 2.97</td>
<td>638 = 9.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Vis. (VIII)</td>
<td>195 = 2.78</td>
<td>419 = 5.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davao Reg. (XI)</td>
<td>209 = 2.98</td>
<td>551 = 7.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Economic, Social & Cultural Rights

- Unemployment & low & unstable incomes are 2 of major problems resulting to the perpetuation of poverty & gross HR violations of the people ESC rights.
- Unemployment rate of the country (Jan. 2005) was 11.3% w/ the Metro Manila having the highest rate followed by Central Luzon.
- Lack of employment opportunities with decent wages has resulted to the increasing no. of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).
Government data reveal a total of about 6-7M OFWs employed as domestics, entertainers, seafarers, construction workers, professionals, etc., throughout the globe.

OFW remittances is estimated to be US$7-8B annually.

As of 2001 based on NEDA figures, 34% or 25.8M Filipinos were living below the poverty line.
2. Right to health

- Malnutrition continues to affect a significant portion of Filipino children & youth.
- According to the Comm. on Population, about 15.3M Filipinos start their day w/o any breakfast on the table (2001)
- 2003 Report on the Nutritional Status of Filipinos done by the Food & Nutrition Research Institute revealed the following data:
  - For every 100 preschoolers, 32 are anemic, 30 underheight, 28 underweight & 1 overweight.
  - Among pregnant & lactating women, 40 in every 100 are anemic
Infectious but preventable & curable diseases continue to be in the list of the top leading causes of mortality & morbidity of the country like tuberculosis, pneumonia, measles, etc.

Diarrhea, a filth-related disease, has consistently been the no. 1 leading cause of morbidity especially among infants & children.

- As of 2000, 24% of households throughout the country still do not have access to safe water supply while 31% do not have sanitary toilets.
Economic, Social & Cultural Rights

- ARMM has the highest percentage of households with no access to safe water supply at 38% and with no sanitary toilets at 57%.
- In the Ilocos Region alone – May-Sept 2004, 13,682 people were afflicted with acute gastroenteritis and 619 with cholera, both water-borne diseases.
- People’s access to quality & affordable health care services seriously affected by the privatization or “corporatization” of public health facilities resulting to the adoption of user-fee schemes.
### Infant & Under-5 Mortality Rates, 1993-2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey yr.</th>
<th>IMR</th>
<th>Under-5 MR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deaths per 1,000 Live Births</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Due to the rising costs of health goods & services including hospitalization, 54% of deaths in the country are not medically attended.

62% of infants are born at home because of economic and cultural reasons.

Decreasing no. of health professionals in government hospitals due to the mass exodus of nurses & doctors to the USA, UK, Canada, Ireland & Saudi Arabia.
A disturbing development in the health sector is the phenomenon of doctors, many of whom are consultants & specialists, taking up nursing as a second degree in order to leave for abroad.

At least 9,000 doctors have become nurses or about to become nursing medics.

Out of the 9,000 doctors, 1,500 have left the country while another 1,500 have just completed taking the nursing licensure exam.

The remaining 6,000 are currently enrolled in shortened 1 ½ to 3-year nursing courses.
Economic, Social & Cultural Rights

- Mass exodus of nurses & doctors has contributed to the worsening state of health care delivery in rural areas due to the lack or non-availability of health professionals.
- 3 hospitals in Mindanao & 2 hospitals in Isabela have been closed because of the absence of doctors & nurses.
- Mass exodus of nurses has led to the deterioration of the quality of health care due to the increase in no. of patients that nurses have to attend to (nurse-patient ratio).
Ideal nurse-patient ratio is 1 nurse for 4 patients (1:4).

In the leading state training hospital in the country, Phil. General Hospital (PGH), the ratio is 1:15-26 patients; at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, it is 1:30-40 patients.

In some hospitals in Davao del Sur, the nurse-patient ratio is 1:45-55 patients.
Health is not a priority of the State as reflected in the annual budget for health.

In the 2005 national budget, a measly 1.13% went to the health sector compared to 5% for national defense and 33.2% for debt servicing.
3. Right to education

- Unlike health, education received the highest budgetary allocation among the social services. But not as much as the budget for debt servicing. In the 2005 budget, Php112B was allotted for education while debt servicing received Php301.7B or 33.2% of the total national appropriations.

- In terms of per capita basis (per student), the Depart. of Education is spending Php5,500 per student/year (78.60 Euros) which makes the country one of the lowest spenders for education. The average spending for education per student worldwide is Php40,000 (571.43 Euros). This is just 1/6 of what Thailand spends on education per student/year.
The low value placed by the state on education will partly explain why through the years, the quality of public education has been deteriorating side-by-side with the deterioration in the school performance of students.

For every 1,000 Grade 1 entrants, 312 do not complete elementary education.

249 students finish the 6-year elementary education at an average of 9.6 years due to repetition.
Out of 1,000 entrants, 439 complete elementary schooling in 6 years.

The country’s public school system has persistently been suffering from lack of teachers, classrooms, chairs, textbooks, oversized classes, & dilapidated & leaking school buildings.
Currently, there is a shortage of:

- 49,212 teachers
- 44,716 classrooms (based on a ratio of 1:45 pupils)
- 4.9M chairs
- 24.2M textbooks
People’s Response

- Human rights education, research, training & information work among the youth & students, urban & rural poor, workers, peasants
- Campaigns on various human rights issues conducted by NGOs like campaign against torture, death penalty, discrimination of Muslims, anti-terror measures being implemented by the State
- Lobby work in Phil. Congress for the passage of laws that promote & protect human rights
Thank You.