Chronology: recent threats, harassment, intimidation, vilifications against The Right Revd Antonio Nercua Ablon

Gatub Chapel at Brgy. Gatub, Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur. Discovered in September 27, 2018



In a retaining wall that protects landslide, boundary of Municipalities of Kumalarang and Lakewood Zamboanga del Sur, discovered in September 29, 2018.



In a retaining wall that protects from landslide along Brgy. Lacupayan, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur. On the other side of the highway, in a second picture, is a makeshift detachment of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headed by an army regular, a sergeant.





In the highways of Tangud City, Ozamiz City, Oroquieta City and Plaridel in Misamis Occidental from October to December 2018.







In Cagayan de Oro City particularly in my former Parish Church-Bulua Parish and the Cathedral Church, two placards were seen early in the morning of December 26. 2018 which says, "the priest of this church is teaching what is contrary to the holy scriptures" and "this church is spreading study of activist.."



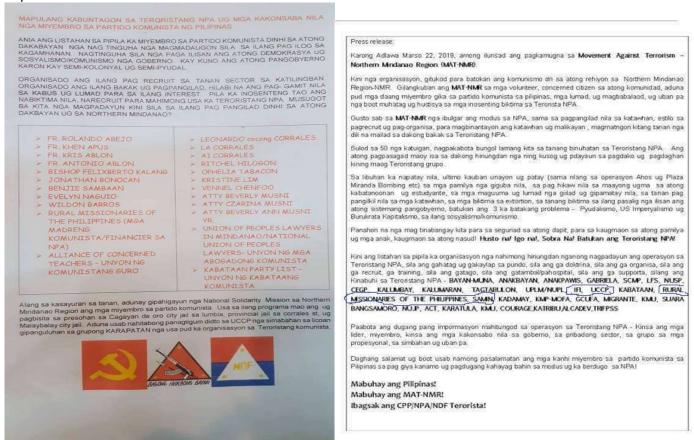
In January 25, 2019 the wall of the Church and the fence of the compound in Bulua Parish were vandalized with, "The priests of IFI (are) terrorists" and the other is just like in the placards in December 2018.



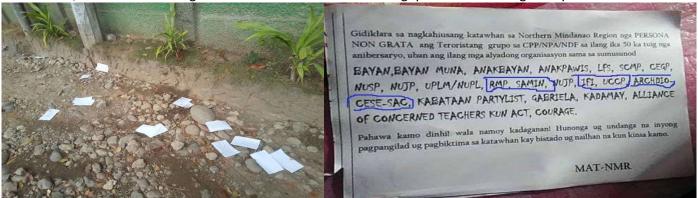
Also in January 25, 2019 simultaneous with that of Bulua Parish were found vandals saying, "This church is the hide-out of the NPA.." and "The priests of the IFI are teaching terrorism.."



In February 22, 2019 while holding an activity in a hotel in Cagayan de Oro City regarding the recent attacks on activists and church people and the human rights violations in the area, leaflets with the names of bishops and priests, lawyers, media people and other activists and human rights defenders equating them to be one with the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and National Democratic Front of the Philippines. In March 22, 2019 with the same content, but now including all sectoral organizations and NGO's with the churches, were also distributed around the city.



In March 29, 2019 leaflets are again found outside of a school in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City.



In May 25, 2019, two streamers were hanged on the walls of Bulua Elementary School which is on the only in the other side of the road where the IFI Bulua Church is located thanking the IFI and the clergy with our names for the relentless support to the Commuist Party. While the other streamer is a condemnation of the terrorist NPA and Communist Party together with the IFI clergy with our names again in it. The photos below show that a number of AFP, army personnel and officers were on that school very early in the morning and they were already there when the streamers were discovered.



In June 25, 2019 another streamer was hanged along the wall of the IFI –Bulua Parish and in the gate of our lawyer who is a member of the Union of People's Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLM) with all the same persons and organizations. There is no photo available for the other place.



In early morning of July 7, 2019, Sunday another set of posters, now colorful and sophisticated, are found on the walls of our parishes in Agusan and Cugman in Cagayan de Oro City with all the same messages except for one poster that is already improved with photos of supposed to be atrocities of the NPA and accused our priest, in the photos, as member of "terrorist and demonic NPA." This is the Sunday after we announced our lobbying at the UNHRC starting July 2, 2019.



The significance of these churches and parishes in the Diocese of Cagayan de Oro are as follows; 1) It is my home diocese; 2) Cugman Parish is my birthplace and my wife's too where we spent our younger years in the church life. We still are coming every now and then to this parish; 3) Agusan parish is our common place – both our families traced our roots in this big village and we used to spend our time in the church life, etc in there before our barangay Cugman became a parish; 4) Cagayan de Oro Cathedral is aside from a common place for us IFI's, I was also reporting there for quite a long time during my incumbency as the Diocesan Program and Development Officer; 5) Bulua Parish is my last parish before I was elected and instituted as the Diocesan Bishop of Pagadian; 6) Most importantly my own family is until now living within this village, in this parish jurisdiction. By the way, I also have brother who is a priest and is the current National Program Coordinator of the Church. He is at the Central Office in Manila. The Fr. Ablon here can also be interpreted referring to him.

July 24, 2019. Now it included the name of our Obispo Maximo (Supreme Bishop) who was in the place. In his FB post, he said "New sighting of another set of streamers red tagging IFI bishops and clergy posted near the venue where the Mindanao Conference on the Ministry for Human Dignity is held. Fresh assault to the church and its clergy; another cowardice act of vilification that deserves condemning!"



Another materials found near the area were pamphlets, one of them is a recycled from that of July 7, 2019. In ihis another FB post, the Obispo Maximo said, "Pamphlets thrown and spread out near the venue of the Mindanao Conference on the Ministry for Human Dignity irresponsibly tagging and maliciously associating the IFI and its clergy as terrorists!"



The activity that these streamers and pamphlets referred to is the Mindanao Conference on Ministry to Human Dignity. It is the first wave of the implementation of the church's advocacy arm on PROPHETS – People's Right to Organize, to Peace, to Health, to Education towards Transformation of Society. This is one of the many calendared activities for the Mindanao Bishops Conference, which I am the current president, but I am participating in absentia only.



I am, The Right Revd Antonio N. Ablon, Diocesan Bishop, Diocese of Pagadian, Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) an Independent Filipino Catholic Church in the Philippines. Pagadian City is in the province of Zamboanga del Sur in the Western Mindanao; President of the Mindanao Bishops Conference (14 IFI dioceses in Mindanao); Member, Executive Commission (EXECOM) — the highest Governing Body of the Church; Main convener, Patriotiko Mindanao — an alliance of patriotic organizations and individuals in the defense of Philippine sovereignty and patrimony; Chairperson, KARAPATAN (rights) — an alliance for the advancement of people's rights in Western Mindanao region; Co-convener of Barug Katungod Mindanao (Stand for People's Rights in Mindanao) — a Mindanao-wide alliance of human rights advocates. PROTECT Western Mindanao — the alliance of organizations and individuals; Co-convenor, PROTECT — alliance of environmental activists in Western Mindanao.