



# KADAMAY

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF FILIPINO URBAN POOR  
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## Urban poor want resumption of peace talks for genuine housing rights

### *All-out war signifies a commitment to conflict instead of peace*

News Release

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Reference: Michael Beltran - 09554571061, Carlito Badion, Secretary General – 09283508777

Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap mobilized thousands of urban poor Filipinos at the government Housing Summit headed by HUDCC chief Evasco and attended by President Duterte himself. KADAMAY stressed that it is in the best interest of poor Filipinos that the peace talks continue especially since housing rights are a prominent feature. The socio-economic reforms currently on the table were on a fast track to be agreed upon by both sides just before the president cancelled the negotiations.

“Dapat ituloy ang negosasyon at sayang ang napakaraming napagkasunduan at mapagkakasunduan pa. Kasama na dito ang pagtitiyak ng mass housing sa mamamayan at pagtigil ng mga ilegal at mararahas na demolisyon sa mga komunidad,” said Carlito Badion, KADAMAY Secretary General.

On the other hand, Badion also assailed the pronouncements of the administration and the AFP in particular towards ending the peace process. “It’s as if the AFP and the government have been innocent during the ceasefire. In fact the atrocities and violations committed during the ceasefire have been perpetrated by state elements.”

On the cancellation of the Joint Agreement on Immunity and Safety Guarantees (JASIG) he added that “Duterte is giving way to more fascist steps in addressing the conflict by encouraging more military activity. A government committed to more military activity alone is not one searching for a peace alternative.”

According to a report by human rights group, Karapatan, there have been 14, 659 cases of harassment and intimidation since August to December of last year. There have also been 4, 170 cases of endangerment of civilians due to indiscriminate fire and bombing and 7, 841 instances wherein schools, churches and other civilian areas were used for military purposes.

Some members of KADAMAY witnessed the proceedings inside to support any progressive stances. However most of the thousands protested outside and lamented the persistence of demolitions and corporate neo-liberal housing policies.

According to KADAMAY, under Duterte demolitions have increased while relocation sites continue to fill up without adequate utilities. This was identified early on yet the administration persists with a neo-liberal framework enjoining corporate interests in housing instead of providing services for the people.

“The peace talks and socio-economic reforms are a real shot for the benefit of the poor. Ending demolitions, housing rights for all Filipinos and genuine development of communities can become a reality. At the moment, the government is intent on fostering more conflict while the people clamor for peace. *Paano magkakaroon ng kapayapaan kung pinapalayas kami, binubusabos at pinapatay?*” explained Badion.