

victims of right wing death squads have been Leandro Alejandro, the Secretary General of BAYAN, a prominent social reform movement, who was killed last September. There has been no progress in identifying or apprehending the perpetrators. In early December, an attempt was made on the life of Nemesio Prudente, President of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Left wing human rights abuses are also widespread and growing. The work of the NPA death squads, known as the "sparrows", has attracted considerable attention by targeting officials and police officers. The NPA recently targeted American military personnel and killed 2 servicemen and a locally engaged American employee at Clark Air Force Base. These assassinations seek to further destabilize the government and to express NPA antipathy towards US support to the Philippines military establishment. Current events suggest that there may be further escalation of violence and human rights abuses by both right and left wing elements.

#### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada deplores the continuing cycle of violence and attendant human rights abuses in the Philippines. Canada has made human rights an area of top priority within our development assistance programme to the Philippines. We have expressed our concern to the government over continuing instances of human rights abuses and an apparent inability of civilian authorities to control this violence or to bring the perpetrators to justice.