

Good only for public relations

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US ambassador to the Philippines Kenney's statement that it respects human rights and thus wants an end to political killings in the country is so much double talk. The US has no moral ascendancy to talk of human rights when it tortures and incarcerates without due process suspected terrorists in the Abu Ghraib prison, and when Iraq remains under the military heel of its illegal occupation.

This is the same with the Gloria Arroyo regime. It is all talk and no action. The spate of statements about solving extrajudicial killings and all these so-called concrete steps to ending political killings are good only for public relations.

The people will believe it only when activists stop being assassinated and killers are hauled into prison. Until then, Arroyo and Kenney's brave statements are mere propaganda made under duress of public and international outrage.

We have been there and they have done that—in the case of Ka Popoy Lagman, the working class leader who headed whose barinchlid was the Partido ng Manggagawa. Six years after, the assassination remains unsolved. ###