

***MV Karagatan*****3 July 1972**

CANVAS-COVERED CORPSES of government soldiers killed by NPAs during battle for M/V Karagatan off Digoyo Point, Palanan, Isabela.

In 1971, the New People's Army (NPA) negotiated an arms shipment from China. MV Karagatan, the ship carrying arms, arrived at the mouth of the Digoyo River in Isabela on 3 July 1972. The crew were unable to move the arms to the jungle as the military strafed and bombed the beach. This unsuccessful attempt by the Communist Party of the Philippines to bring in arms was later cited as one of Marcos Sr.'s rationale for imposing martial law.

*Taong 1972 nang magpadala ng materyal na tulong ang Tsina sa New People's Army (NPA) sa pamamagitan ng pagpapadala ng mga bala at baril . Mula sa Tsina, ipinadala ang mga ito sa Pilipinas lulan ng MV Karagatan. Ngunit, nang dumaong ang barko sa bukana ng Ilog Digoyo sa Isabela, sinalubong ito ng puwersa ng militar, kung kaya nakuha ng NPA ang mga armas galing Tsina. Itinuturing ang insidenteng ito bilang isa sa mga dahilan sa pagdedeklarang batas militar.*

---

**References:**

Scalice, J. (2023) The Drama of Dictatorship: Martial Law and the Communisit Parties of the Philippines. Cornell University Press.

*MV Karagatan.* Photo from "Arms shipments to NPA bombings, kidnappings, terrorism, propaganda" by P. Mijares, 1972, September 24, The Sunday Express Volume 1, no. 141, p. 3. Retrieved from the Martial Law Museum and Library, Ateneo de Manila University via <https://library.martiallawmuseum.ph/>

09.21

We will never forget.



## Acknowledgements

UP Diliman Office of the Chancellor

Ateneo Martial Law Museum and Library  
<https://martiallawmuseum.ph/>

Human Rights Violations Victims' Memorial  
Commission (HRVVMC)  
<https://hrvvmemcom.gov.ph/>

Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation  
<https://bantayogngmabayani.org/>

## Project Team

MONICA FIDES AMADA W. SANTOS  
*Project Head*

MARK LOUIE L. LUGUE  
*Curator*

JHUNIE PEARL SANCHEZ  
*Project Coordinator*

RHODALYN WANI-OBIAS  
LARAH VINDA DEL MUNDO  
AARON VIERNES  
LORENZO JOSE MARTINEZ  
RISVEN ALLEN DELA PAZ  
*Researchers - UP Department of History*

CYPRIAN JEREMIAH DAMOT  
*Graphic Designer*

LUISITO MAINOT  
RENCY PULIDO  
JOHN EMERSON ROMANILLOS  
*Exhibition Staff*