

## *Escalante Massacre in Negros*

20 September 1985



The Marcos administration's corruption and mismanagement of the sugar industry led to extreme poverty, starvation, unemployment and abuse of the *sacadas* (sugarcane workers) in Negros. In September 1985, thousands of Negrenses participated in the Welgang Bayan, where they demanded fair wages, due work benefits, and a stop to human rights violations by military and paramilitary units in the region. The government responded with high-powered rifles and machine guns, leaving 20 people dead and 24 wounded.

*Nagbunga ng kahirapan, kakulangan ng makakain, kawalan ng trabaho, at pang-aabuso sa mga sacadas ng Negros ang palpak na pamamalakad ng diktadurang Marcos sa industriya ng asukal at kurapsyon ng kanyang mga krony. Maraming mga Negrense ang lumahok sa Welgang Bayan upang igiit ang patas na pasahod, maayos na benepisyo kaugnay sa trabaho, at ang pagtigil sa mga pang-aabuso ng mga militar. Nauwi ang pagkilos sa isang karahasan nang buwagin ng mga miyembro ng kasundaluhan ang hanay ng mga nagprotesta sa pamamagitan ng mga baril at water cannon. Dalawampung tao ang namatay habang dalawampu't walo naman ang nasugatan.*

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### References:

Human Rights Violations Victims' Memorial Commission. (2021, September 20). The story of Negros and the Escalante massacre of 1985. <https://hrvvmemcom.gov.ph/the-story-of-negros-and-the-escalante-massacre-of-1985-2/>.

*Escalante Massacre*. Photo from Bantayog ng mga Bayani. Retrieved from "The Story of Negros and the Escalante Massacre of 1985," 2021, September 20, Human Rights Violations Victims' Memorial Commission (HRVVMC) via <https://hrvvmemcom.gov.ph/the-story-of-negros-and-the-escalante-massacre-of-1985-2/>

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## *Acknowledgements*

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<https://martiallawmuseum.ph/>

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

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

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