GENERAL GUIDELINES TO ADDRESS STUDENTS INVOLVED IN RED-TAGGING INCIDENTS[1]

1. WHAT IS RED-TAGGING?

Red-tagging is the malicious labeling of individuals or organizations critical of the Government. It involves associating an individual or group with forces that warrant security actions from State. It implies a security threat even in the absence of proof to support the threat. Malicious labeling can happen online and be demonstrated on public platforms to send the message that an individual or group is associated with a security threat.

Red-tagging leads to harassment by State forces and the general public. It violates the presumption of innocence of individuals and organizations and can deprive them of the opportunity to be tried before the court.

Red-tagging is inimical to the Philippine Constitution, particularly the Bill of Rights, and to the commitments of the University under Republic Act No. 9500 or the "University of the Philippines Charter of 2008," which states, among others, that the "National University is committed to serve the Filipino nation and humanity. While it carries out the obligation to pursue universal principles, it must relate its activities to the needs of the Filipino people and their aspirations for social progress and transformation. The National University may provide venues for student volunteerism."

2. RED-TAGGING AS A CRISIS SITUATION

Red-Tagging puts a Student in distress because malicious labeling can lead to events with serious implications on students' security, peers, and family members. The incident can invite dangerous attention on students' speech and movement and can lead to harassment of their family members and peers close to the said Student.

A Student, for the purpose of this Guidelines, and as adopted from the 2012 Code of Student Conduct of UP Diliman, along with the related provisions of the University Code, is any individual admitted to and registered in a degree or non-degree program, cross-registered in any course of the University on a regular or part-time basis, including one who is officially on leave of absence; and who has not yet been separated from the University formally through either transfer, graduation, honorable or dishonorable dismissal, expulsion or expiration of the period allowed for maximum residence.

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[1] 23 June 2021 version. The initial version of the Guidelines was prepared by the UP System Sub-Committee on Students-in-Distress on 21 May 2021. The initial version was reviewed to the UP System Crisis Management Committee and the UP Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs on 21 May 2021 and 10 June 2021, respectively.

3. ADDRESSING RED-TAGGING INCIDENTS

3.1. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKFLOWS

- To coordinate the units that will ensure the security and safety of Student who is the subject of the red-tagging incident.
- To facilitate the return to normal when the threat of red-tagging is significantly addressed.

3.2. CRISIS MANAGEMENT TEAM

The *Head of the CU Office of Student Affairs (OSA) or the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA)* is the Crisis Manager for the incident. The Crisis Manager shall assign/constitute/involve the following individuals/units as part of the Crisis Management Team:

- *CU Student Relations Officer (SRO)*. The SRO shall be a personnel assigned by the OSA/OVCSA to receive reports, liaise with the student, and update the Crisis Management Team regarding the student's status.
- *CU Public Affairs Units (PAU)*. The PAUs may be composed of the CU Information Office and the Student's Home Unit. The PAU prepares the communication concerning the Red-Tagging incident
- *CU Security Committee*. The Security Committee shall be composed of members who can provide Legal Services, Security Assistance, and other Services to coordinate the provision of services to support the Team's response. The Committee shall also include a Student Representative and a Barangay representative (in case of campuses covered by a Barangay)

The CU shall allocate funds to finance the actions to address crises involving students. The allocation shall cover Legal Services, Student Support Services, Housing, Transportation, and other Administrative Actions required to manage the crisis and ensure the Student's safety.

3.3. COMPONENTS OF THE WORKFLOW DURING THE RED-TAGGING INCIDENT

Step 1.   A Student reports to their CU OSA/OVCSA through their designated CU SRO. A formal report should be filed before the SRO acts on the incident.

Step 2.   The SRO contacts the concerned Student to document the case and confirm the details of the incident reported as a red-tagging situation.

Step 3.   The SRO manages the threat by advising the Student to minimize exposure online.

Step 4.   The SRO reports the incident to the OSA/OVCSA. The OSA/OVCSA declares a crisis if the report is a confirmed red-tagging incident.

Step 5.   If the incident is a confirmed red-tagging incident, the SRO alerts the CU PAUs and the CU SC.

Step 6.   The PAUs shall issue publicity condemning the red-tagging incident.

Step 7.   In coordination with the red-tagged Student, the SC designs the crisis action plan to ensure the security of the Student.

Step 8.   The SC relays the plan to the OSA/OVCSA, SRO, and the concerned CU Executive Offices (e.g., Office of Student Housing, Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Community Affairs, CU Legal Office). The Actions may include:
  i.   Housing the Student on-campus or in other UP campuses
  ii.   Coordinating the case with the Barangay
  iii.   Meeting with the Philippine National Police (PNP) to address the security concern
  iv.   Filing of Legal Action to address the security concern

Step 9.   The SRO contacts the students to orient them regarding the crisis action plan. The SRO assists the Student according to the activities in the crisis action plan.

Step 10. The SC follows up on the different CU Executive Offices to be involved in the crisis action plan.

Step 11. The PAUs, SC, and SRO report to the OSA/OVCSA on the Student and crisis action plan status.

Step 12. The OSA/OVCSA reports the status to the CU Office of the Chancellor.

3.4. COMPONENTS OF THE WORKFLOW AFTER THE RED-TAGGING INCIDENT

Step 1. The OSA/OVCSA makes arrangements with the different Student Services units to support the students involved in the red-tagging incident.

Step 2. The SRO regularly checks on the status of the Student and assesses the threat of red-tagging.

Step 3. The SRO reports the assessment to the OSA/OVCSA.

Step 4. The OSA/OVCSA convenes PAUs, SC, and SRO to determine if the crisis action plan can be terminated

   i. If recommended to be terminated, the SC and SRO make arrangements to facilitate return to normal case. The OSA/OVCSA reports the status to the CU Office of the Chancellor.

   ii. If not recommended to be terminated, the crisis action plan remains in effect. The OSA/OVCSA reports the status to the CU Office of the Chancellor.

Step 5. If the crisis is addressed and actions to return to the normal case is completed, the OSA/OVCSA declares the termination of the crisis action plan. The OSA/OVCSA reports the status to the CU Office of the Chancellor.

3.5. LEARNING FROM THE INCIDENT

Step 1. OSA/OVCSA reports the experience to the System Sub-Committee on Students in Distress.

Step 2. The Sub-Committee reviews the General Guidelines.

Step 3. The Sub-Committee recommends enhancement to the General Guidelines in view of improving the responsiveness of the University.