

# Romaragit

## REN GALENO

Davao City  
artnirenren@gmail.com

The long-standing tension between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and various Moro-Islamic groups in Mindanao and Sulu have made the Island-Region unstable. Since 1970s, the fight for Muslim independence has always been met with strong military opposition by the GRP who seeks to maintain some control of the region. Perhaps the most recent of their many clashes is the Marawi Siege of 2017, which claimed the lives of dozens of Filipinos, as well as subject many civilians to abuse from both sides. However, the details and intentions of the opposing parties may matter very little in the eyes of a child. The short komik “Romaragit” illustrates this conflict from the perspective of those left most vulnerable to suffer its consequences. We join our protagonist as he experiences firsthand how his village is attacked by the fearsome bird *Romaragit*, and how he comes to see the true face of cruelty. The work borrows traditional *okir* motifs to visualize the protagonist’s narrative and the dream-like landscape in which it takes place.

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**REN GALENO** is a visual artist from Davao City. She graduated from the University of the Philippines Diliman with a degree in BA Fine Arts, major in Painting. Her work has since shifted to comics and illustrations that explore the Filipino perspective through visual storytelling.



# Nowaragit









































