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Editorial

Resist the Aquino regime's out and out puppetry

With only close to two years in power, the Aquino regime has surpassed all previous chief puppets in ceding the country's sovereignty to US imperialism. Benigno Aquino III has paved the way for the intervention of American soldiers and allowed the use of the Philippines as one big launching pad for US imperialist domination of the Asia-Pacific.

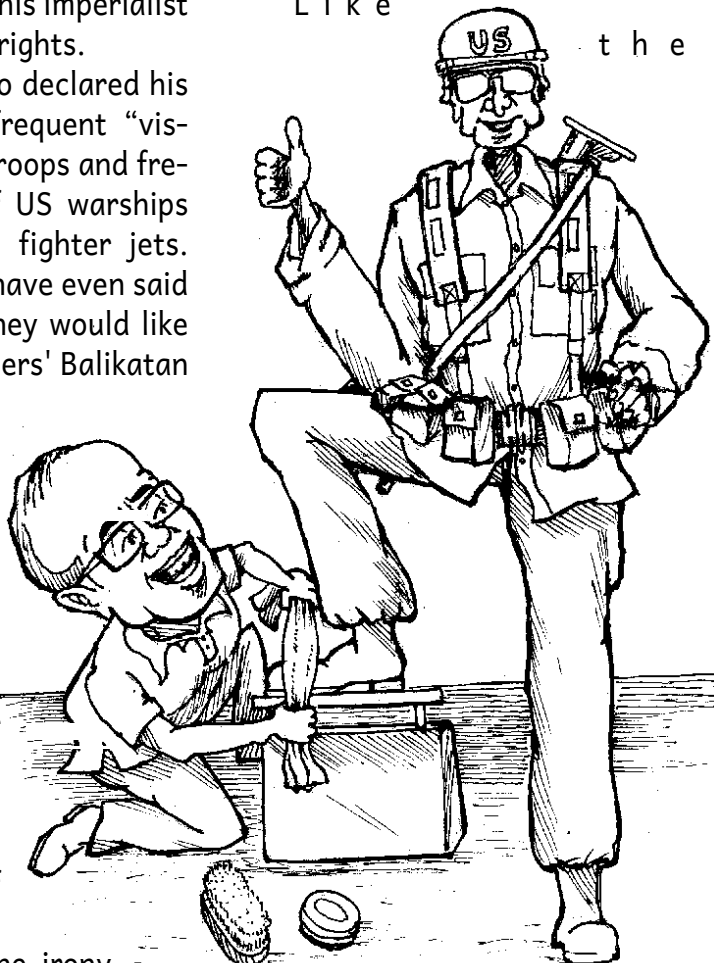
The Aquino regime does not have even an iota of interest to defend Philippine national sovereignty. The puppet president recently declared that he would allow the US military access to Philippine air space to fly and operate surveillance drones, as if this were one of his imperialist master's intrinsic rights.

Aquino has also declared his acquiescence to frequent "visits" by American troops and frequent dockings of US warships and flights of US fighter jets. Aquino's officials have even said that if possible, they would like the American soldiers' Balikatan military exercises to be held daily in all areas of the country.

The "defense of Philippine sovereignty" is Aquino's hugely ironic justification for the growing presence, frequent ingress and egress and domination of American troops in the country. The irony,

however, is completely lost to someone who is a US puppet to the hilt. Aquino wants to absolutely deprive the Filipino people of their national dignity and cede the country's sovereignty to his powerful imperialist overlord.

Like the



previous reactionary puppets, Aquino wants Filipinos to swallow hook, line and sinker every lie spewed out by US imperialism and believe that the American military and capitalists have no other interest but to "defend freedom and democracy." Just as US imperialism described its occupation of the Philippines and the massacre of more than 400,000 Filipinos in the early 1900s as "benevolent assimilation," Aquino claims that the thousands of American troops who have been coming to the country have nothing but the country's interests at heart. Aquino fetes them like gods, sacrificing before them every single freedom possessed by the Philippines.

Aquino is thoroughly subservient to his imperialist masters. In exchange for ceding all

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Philippine freedoms, he is only too glad to be gifted with his masters' surplus military hardware. In fact, US imperialism gives away its mothballed warships and other military equipment to the Philippines so these could be used for purposes defined by the US. The US-assisted AFP "modernization" program has no other objective but to strengthen the AFP's capability to suppress the people's democratic and patriotic struggles.

The Aquino regime has been boosting US military domination in the Philippines by paving the way for American troops to maintain permanent presence, set up their intelligence infrastructure, launch intelligence operations and clandestinely join counter-guerrilla operations in the guise of "military exercises" and by

opening seaports and airports to US warships and warplanes conducting operations in order to dominate the Asia-Pacific.



By making US military strength predominant in the Philippines, the US is able to enhance its ability to influence and control Philippine economic, po-


litical and military affairs. Aquino's overdependence on US military assistance makes him very susceptible to his master's every whim and desire.

Aquino is a stooge to US economic dictates. Like the previous puppets, he pursues the policies of trade and investment liberalization, privatization, deregulation and denationalization which have caused a crisis unprecedented in severity in the last three decades.

Aquino and his allies have been pushing for amendments to the reactionary 1987 constitution in their desire to become part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and further open up the economy to plunder by foreign big capitalists.

Aquino is servile to US foreign policy. He allows himself to be used as a pawn in instigating war or diplomatic attacks on countries perceived as enemies of US imperialism. Whatever the US says about Iran, North Korea, China and other countries is automatically echoed by Aquino. He does not have a shred of dignity in him to assert the right to choose the country's friends or enemies beyond the dictates of his US masters.

Hewing ever so closely to the fascist US Counterinsurgency Guide, Aquino has intensified the Oplan Bayanihan war of suppression. Bombings and other acts of violence against civilian communities have mounted in order to impose a reign of terror and suppress the people's struggles, especially against foreign mining and logging. In accordance with US dictates, Aquino has set aside the peace talks which he has used merely as an instrument to deceive the revolutionary forces and cause their capitulation. Aquino has no interest in resolving the basic is-

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sues behind the civil war, especially those that have to do with advancing Philippine national sovereignty.

In the face of the US and worldwide capitalist crisis, the US will be further squeezing the country dry as a source of cheap raw materials and cheap labor for the operations of American monopoly capitalists. If Aquino had his way, the Philippines would be further condemned to semi-colonial oppression and exploitation in the hands of the US.

The Filipino people and their revolutionary forces must use the remaining days of the puppet Aquino regime to fan the flames of patriotism and kindle the fires of struggles to defend national freedom.

The Filipino people must generate widespread and intense struggles against US military interven-

tion. The cry to expel American troops from the Philippines must reverberate throughout the archipelago. We must thwart with all our might all attempts by American soldiers to use Philippine military and civilian facilities. There should be mounting resistance to the use by US military troops of Philippine air space and territorial waters for their power projection and assertion.

We must rouse the spirit of nationalism and love for freedom by raising the people's, especially the youth's current level of consciousness on the Filipino people's history of struggle against colonialism and neocolonialism.

We must advance nationalism and democracy as the solutions to the social and economic crisis.

We must demand an end to the semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines being advanced by the US and its puppet state.

Use of US “smart bombs” may lead to massacres

Massacres of civilians like those that have transpired in Afghanistan and Pakistan are looming in the face of the AFP's use of so-called smart bombs supplied by the US military. Smart bombs are dropped from the sky on particular targets and are guided by information supplied by global positioning systems (GPS).

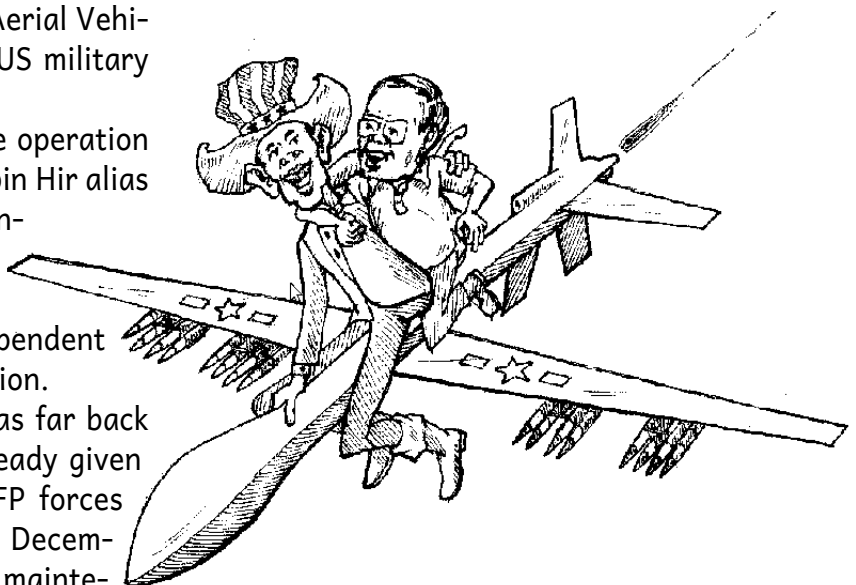
AFP officials recently admitted to dropping smart bombs on an alleged Abu Sayyaf lair in Parang, Sulu at dawn of February 2. These officials disclosed that the US military was involved in the operation by supplying the GPS information that guided the bombs. The time and method of attack were determined through the use of a Scan Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), a small and lightweight US military drone used for surveillance.

The AFP boasted of killing in the operation alleged Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan. Weeks after, however, information surfaced that Marwan had been sighted in another country. To date, there has been no independent investigation of the bombing operation.

The AFP has also boasted that as far back as November 2010, the US had already given smart bombs to the Philippines. AFP forces had been undergoing training since December 2010 on their operation and mainte-

nance. The first trials were undertaken in May 2011. By June, the US had given the AFP 22 more smart bombs. The bombing raid last February 2 was the first time the US unleashed its smart bombs against so-called threats to security.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the use of smart bombs and drones by the US has resulted in widespread casualties among civilians mistaken for “terrorists.” Independent studies have revealed that there have been 550 civilians, including 60 children confirmed to have been massacred by smart bombs dropped by US planes.



People's war reaps major victories in Mindanao



43 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE

People's war in Mindanao continues to advance and reap victories despite Oplan Bayanihan's violent war of suppression.

The New People's Army (NPA) operates in 42 guerrilla fronts all over Mindanao. The number of company-size guerrilla fronts increased in 2011.

Through self-reliance and assistance from relatively more advanced regions, the relatively weaker regions were able to expand and consolidate their sub-regions and guerrilla fronts. In the next year or two, they can be expected to march in step with the other regions nationwide.

More platoons were formed, with the NPA's armed strength growing by 20%. The NPA further expanded and gained strength, raising its capability to launch more extensive and intensive tactical offensives.

From January 2011 to March 2012, the NPA was able to launch about 600 tactical offensives all over Mindanao, 140% more than the 250 tactical offensives launched in 2010. The offensives, which were launched at an average of one to two per day dealt more than a battalion of casualties on troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Two hundred of the casualties were killed in action while a hundred were wounded in action.

The NPA was able to punish notoriously exploitative, oppressive and environmentally destructive big mining and logging companies as well as plantations run by imperialists, big comprador bourgeoisie and landlords such as the Sumitomo Metals-owned Tag-anito Nickel Mines, SMI-Xstrata, Toronto

Ventures, Russell Mining, Dole-Stanfilco, Sumifru and Del Monte, among others.

More barrios were also reached by the Party and people's army's organizing efforts, thus raising the size of the revolutionary mass base in Mindanao to about a million strong. The Party and people's army were also able to establish organs of political power, expand their united front work and consolidate guerrilla zones and base areas. These conditions have provided the NPA with opportunities to launch more extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare based on an ever expanding and deepening mass base.

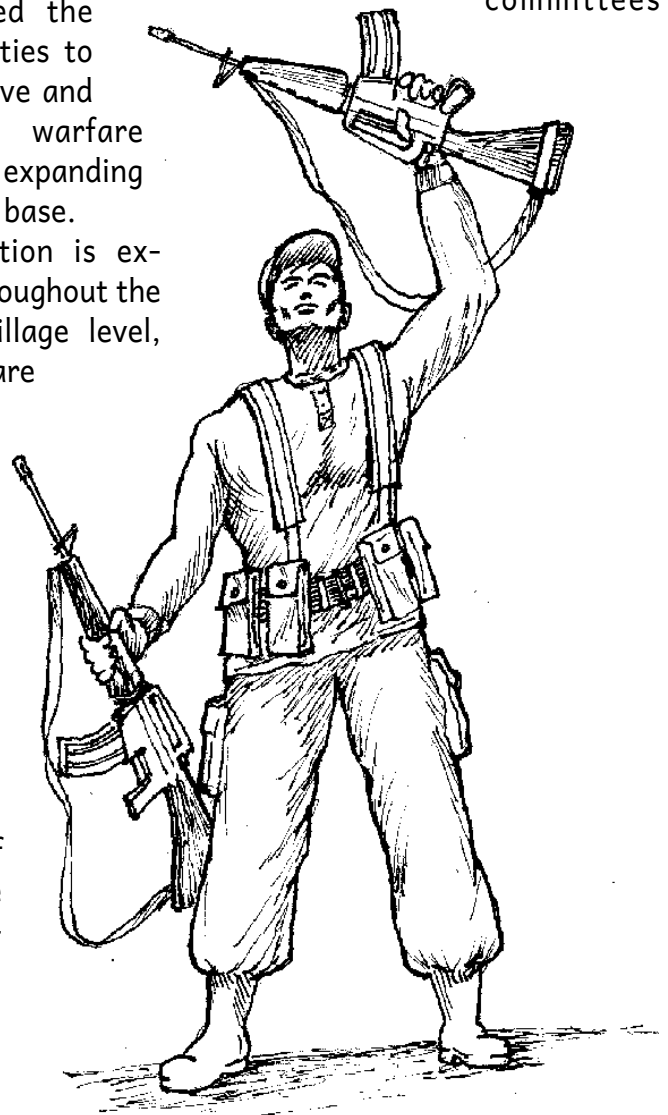
Agrarian revolution is expanding in scope throughout the island. From the village level, agrarian struggles are now being conducted on the town, inter-municipal, provincial and regional levels. Hundreds of thousands of peasants are enjoying the fruits of agrarian revolution, strengthening the political power of the Party and the NPA in the countryside.

Open antifascist, antifeudal and anti-im-

perialist mass struggles against the US-Aquino regime are gaining strength. Fuelling the people's rage are the brutality and human rights violations committed by the state's fascist machinery. Protest actions are being launched against extrajudicial killings, oil price hikes, destructive mining and logging, the seizure of farmers' lands, the US Balikatan exercises and destruction wrought by the presence of American troops.

Militarization by the fascist regime is intensifying in peasant and Lumad communities through indiscriminate bombings, firing and strafing which have caused dislocation and evacuations and worsened the poverty of people in the CARAGA region, the Davao provinces, in Bukidnon and other areas of Mindanao.

Party membership grew in all five regional committees



of Mindanao by more than 30%. The Party continues to strengthen its ideological, political and organizational leadership among NPA units, in the barrios, communities, factories, mass organizations and alliances.

More than 90% of Party members in NPA units have finished the Basic Party Course. The campaign to conduct the Intermediate Party Course among cadres in the regional, subregional, provincial, front and some section levels continues.

The Advanced Party Course is being given at the regional level and will be taken by cadres at

the subregional, provincial and front levels in the next two years.

On the whole, the revolutionary forces in Mindanao have maintained initiative and flexibility against the concentrated and sustained encirclement campaigns of the enemy in two regions. On the other hand, the revolutionary forces in the three other regions have contained the enemy's attacks.

The CPP and NPA's brilliant victories in Mindanao are proof of Oplan Bayanihan's failure to stop the advance of people's war in the island.

Troops of the 57th, 8th IB ambushed in Bukidnon and North Cotabato



43 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE

Guerrillas of the Herminio Alfonso Command of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao Region ambushed forces of the 57th and 8th IBs in Sitio Bantaan, Bagumbayan, Magpet, North Cotabato on March 29, killing a soldier and wounding another. This military unit is responsible for several brutal special operations, and for terrorizing the people and indiscriminately bombing communities in Magpet and in Kibawe, Bukidnon. This has resulted in the widespread evacuation of civilians and various human rights violations in the area. Ka Nonoy, a Red fighter, was martyred in the fighting.

In retaliation for the ambush, the AFP sent two warplanes and an OV-10 and indiscriminately bombed civilian communities in Bagumbayan for two days. The AFP also positioned its two 105 mm howitzers behind the Bagumbayan public school and along the Kabacan river bank in Barangay Binay, Magpet. Up to 122 families were forced to flee the area due to the intense bombings.

On April 1, at the height of the AFP's military operation, NPA Red fighters used a command-detonated explosive (CDX) against a six-by-six truck bearing reinforcements while it was navigating the highway at Purok 4, Mateo,

Kidapawan City. The tactical offensive derailed the AFP's planned operation in the area.

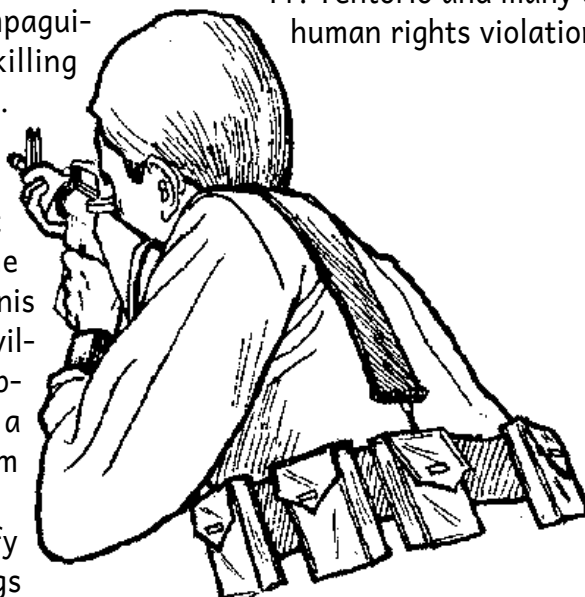
On the same day, Red fighters ambushed a team from the 8th IB in Barangay Sampaguita, Kibawe, killing two soldiers.

After the ambush, the AFP dropped eight bombs in the area, killing Jenis Maguate, a civilian. The bombings also killed a number of farm animals.

To justify the bombings

and attacks on civilian communities, the AFP claimed that the operations were being launched against Ka Parago, commander of the 1st Pulang Bagani Company who is allegedly encamped in the North Cotabato-Bukidnon mountains. In fact, the military operations were conducted by the military in retaliation for the NPA's punishment of Patrick Wineger, a valuable AFP asset who masterminded the murder of Fr. Fausto Tentorio.

No matter how much the AFP maligns the NPA, it could never cover up its heinous crimes against the people of Mindanao. Among them is the widespread militarization that has resulted in the killing of people like Fr. Tentorio and many other human rights violations.



People's war in ST advances despite intense militarization



The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been unleashing vicious military operations in the Southern Tagalog (ST) region, targeting the provinces of Quezon, Rizal, Laguna and Batangas as well as the island provinces of Mindoro and Palawan.

Killings have been rampant, such as the massacre in February of civilian minors who were hunting in Magdalenita, Laguna.

Operations to control the population have led to forced evacuations and economic dislocation among minority people in Mindoro and Palawan. The torture of suspected members of the revolutionary movement is widespread in Quezon and Mindoro. Extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances are common in Batangas, Mindoro and Palawan. There are several cases of illegal arrest and detention and molestation and rape of women. Minors are forced to join the CAFGU and progressive leaders and people's organizations are maliciously linked to the armed revolutionary movement. These are only a few examples from the long list of crimes perpetrated by the AFP against the people.

In the region's urban areas, several urban poor communities and factories have been militarized. Military detachments have become a common sight in workers' communities and impoverished areas around Laguna de Bay under the so-called peace and development and community development operations.

There are a total of 16 AFP battalions concentrated in the guerrilla fronts of ST under the 2nd ID and the Western Command. The number excludes the PNP Special Action Force and public safety maneuver battalions as well as CAFGU units un-

der the 59th Cadre Battalion of the Philippine Army.

Quezon is the region's most militarized province, with four Philippine Army battalions under the 201st and 202nd Brigade: the 74th IB in the 4th District; the 85th IB in the 3rd District; the 76th IB in the 2nd District; and the 1st SFB in the 1st District. The enemy is most concentrated in South Quezon and the Bondoc Peninsula (3rd and 4th Districts) where there are about six battalions of combined AFP, PNP and CAFGU forces deployed in 57 camps and detachments.

Next is Mindoro island with three Philippine Army battalions under the 203rd Brigade—the 80th IB, 4th IB, a battalion-size force of the 23rd Division Reconnaissance Coy and a company of Scout Rangers, a PNP assault battalion and three CAFGU battalions with more than 2,400 men in total spread out in 54 camps and detachments.

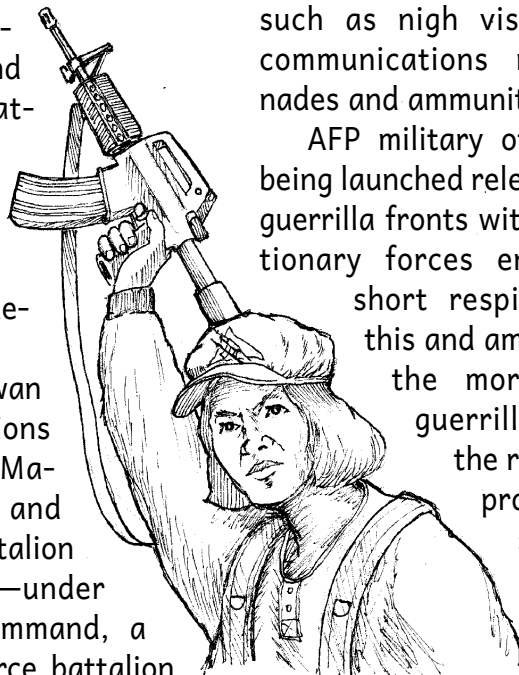
Third is Palawan with two battalions of Philippine Marines—the 4th and 12th Marine Battalion Landing Team—under the Western Command, a Philippine Air Force battalion

(740th Combat Group), a PNP battalion and a CAFGU battalion spread out in 20 camps and detachments.

Meanwhile, the 202nd Brigade which has jurisdiction over the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Batangas and the 1st and 2nd Districts of Quezon has six strike battalions—the 76th IB in North Quezon, the 1st SFB in Central Quezon, the 1st IB in Laguna, the 730th and 733rd CG of the PAF in Batangas and the 16th IB in Rizal. In addition, the 58th IB under the 5th ID has also been launching military operations along the Rizal-Bulacan border.

Despite the AFP's overwhelming superiority in terms of number and weaponry, the New People's Army in Southern Tagalog valiantly faced every attack by the mercenary military and police forces of the puppet US-Aquino regime. According to incomplete reports from the provinces and military areas, a total of 89 tactical offensives were launched in the past two years that killed 63 enemy forces and wounded 39 others. A total of 85 firearms were seized, comprising 48 high-powered rifles, 37 pistols and low-powered rifles and several pieces of military equipment such as night vision goggles, communications radios, grenades and ammunition.

AFP military offensives are being launched relentlessly in all guerrilla fronts with the revolutionary forces enjoying very short respites. Despite this and amid hardships, the more than ten guerrilla fronts in the region's seven provinces have succeeded in preserving themselves. The



relatively smaller and weaker units of the people's army maintained initiative and flexibility to avoid battles that they had not fully prepared for and were not sure of winning even as they looked for opportunities to strike at and deal casualties on the enemy's relatively weaker and more vulnerable parts.

The people's army took full advantage of the short rest periods between military operations to

arouse, organize and mobilize the masses, launch antifeudal struggles and agrarian revolution, participate in production, set up local organs of political power and people's revolutionary organizations, and step up politico-military training. Thus, the base of support for the people's army and the armed struggle continues to arise and expand from the countryside while the people's army develops its iron discipline and steels its will to fight.

NPA metes blows on the 8th ID in EV



Contrary to the boastful claims of the 8th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army that it does not consider the New People's Army a problem in Eastern Visayas, the intensification of armed struggle in the region is giving the military a big headache.

In a statement, National Democratic Front-EV spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas said that the NPA is on the right path in the effort to further intensify tactical offensives and win over the people to the side of the armed revolution against the antipeople, pro-imperialist and militarist Aquino regime.



Last year, the Efren Martires Command (EMC-NPA-EV) registered at least 46 military actions against the 8th ID and other state security forces. These comprised 26 offensives and 28 defensive actions resulting in 70 enemy forces killed. Four Red fighters were martyred on the NPA side.

Among the most striking tactical offensives was the ambush by the Sergio Lobina Command on a unit of the Philippine National Police Provincial Mobile Group (PMG) in Artech town, Eastern Samar on February 27, 2011. Killed in the ambush was P/Insp. Al Tantiado. Three other policemen were wounded. The NPA was able to seize three M16s and an M14 rifle.

Another significant battle was the ambush launched on the night of July 20, 2011 by combined forces of the Efren Martires Command and the Arnulfo Ortiz Command against a convoy of the 34th IB in Paranas, Samar. The military suffered many casualties in this firefight, with seventeen 34th IB troops wiped out. The NPA likewise seized a

K3 (Daewoo) light machine gun, two M16 rifles and more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Meanwhile, in Leyte, the 78th IB was meted a series of defeats by Red fighters of the Mt. Amandewin Command on May 8-13, 2011, with the enemy suffering 21 dead. Despite these losses, the Armed Forces of the Philippines leadership persists in claiming that the military has done away with the NPA's revolutionary influence in Leyte.

The NPA's regular forces are being assisted in their tactical offensives by the more numerous units of the people's militia and the Barrio Self-Defense Corps., who are "farmers by day" and "Red fighters by night."

The New People's Army and the armed people of Eastern Visayas possess the strength and the capability to further intensify guerrilla warfare and make a decisive contribution to the advance towards the strategic stalemate of the people's war within this decade.

Oplan Bayanihan does not have a leg to stand on in Bicol



43 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE

The New People's Army (NPA) has not given the fascist troops much chance to go marauding in Bicol under Oplan Bayanihan. From January to March this year, NPA units launched harassment, sniping, ambush and sapper operations to thwart the US-Aquino regime's counterrevolutionary scheme.

The NPA operations led to a misencounter among soldiers of the 9th IB and the 93rd Division Reconnaissance Coy on March 19 in Sitio Balunis, Barangay Rizal, Dimasalang, Masbate. The NDF-Bicol Information Office reported that two soldiers were killed and an undetermined number wounded in the misencounter.

Earlier, an NPA team under the Jose Rapsing Command (NPA-Masbate) had been waiting for the soldiers but were spotted by a military informer. The NPA team immediately shifted to another position. But three columns of soldiers almost simultaneously opened fire at the elevated area where the NPA was, thinking that the Red fighters were still there. The firing had already been going on for 30 minutes before the fascist soldiers realized that they had been shooting at each other. To prevent the villagers from finding out about the

snafu, the troopers waited for dark before retrieving

their dead and wounded.

The NPA thwarted the military operation of three platoons from the 93rd DRC implementing Oplan Bayanihan in Mobo town, Masbate. The guerrillas opened fire at a platoon of the 93rd DRC in Barangay Sta. Maria at around 11 p.m. on March 19 and again, at around 4 a.m. on March 12. The NPA did the same in Barangay Holhogon, also in Mobo. As a result, the soldiers cancelled an anticommunist village meeting and were forced to return to their camp on March 14.

In Albay, a team from the Santos Binamera Command (SBC) harassed on March 9 a detachment of the Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary (SCAA) in Puro, Legazpi City, at around 8:30 p.m. The startled paramilitaries ran away and abandoned their detachment. Simultaneously, another team from the SBC harassed the Community Police

Assistance Center (CPAC-4) in Taysan of the same city.

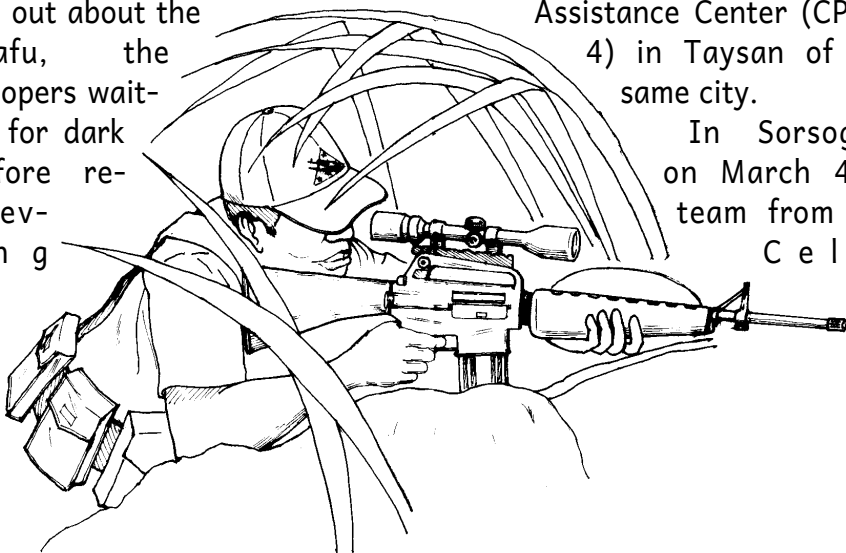
In Sorsogon, on March 4, a team from the Celso

Minguez Command harassed a platoon from the 31st IB implementing Oplan Bayanihan in Lapinig and Biton villages in Magallanes town. At around 4 p.m., Red fighters opened fire on nine soldiers playing basketball in Barangay Lapinig. The frightened soldiers sped away, including those positioned atop a hill. The following morning, they returned to camp. The 22nd IB detachment in San Francisco, Legazpi City was also harassed.

On February 28, five soldiers of the 9th IB were killed and several others were wounded when a team from the Jose Rapsing Command used a command-detonated explosive in an ambush in Barangay Cabangrayan, Pio V. Corpuz, Masbate. The soldiers were then aboard a truck. Earlier, at around 8 p.m. of February 25, an NPA team harassed the 22nd IB detachment in Banuang Gurang.

A team of Red fighters harassed 31st IB troops in Barangay San Juan Daan, Bulan, Sorsogon on February 23. The soldiers were then resting and cooking rice at around 10 a.m. when they were fired upon by the NPA. Many of them were wounded, but officers of the 31st IB denied before the media that a gunbattle had occurred in the area.

On February 10, a platoon of the 31st IB treacherously attacked a platoon of the Celso Minguez Command in Barangay Upper Calomayon, Juban, Sorsogon. But the NPA was able to position itself on higher ground and fight well. The attacking soldiers were forced to retreat, leaving behind five dead and a seriously wounded trooper. It was late in the night when they surreptitiously loaded four of their dead on a truck in



Barangay Calpi, Bulan while the fifth dead soldier and the wounded trooper were brought out via Barangay Catanusan, Juban. The 23 soldiers sent to retrieve their casualties posed as NPA members and were in civilian clothes but the locals knew better.

The military fed the media nothing but lies, saying that the NPA suffered six dead and the AFP had no casualties. In fact, the NPA's lone casualty was a Red fighter who was only slightly wounded.

On February 8 in Barangay Daguit, Labo, three soldiers of the 49th IB were wounded when a team from the Armando Catapia Command (NPA-Camarines Norte) harassed them. At around 1 a.m., Red fighters closed in on the soldiers who had turned the barangay hall into their barracks. As soon as they ascertained that there were no civilians in the vicinity, the NPA opened fire at the soldiers.

Meanwhile, Red fighters of the Jose Rapsing Command launched two sapper operations on January 28. They quietly closed in on the headquarters of the 9th IB Charlie Coy in Barangay Pawican, Cataingan, Masbate and detonated an explosive. Three soldiers guarding the camp were killed. At dawn of January 26, another explosive was detonated at the detachment of the PNP Regional Public Safety Battalion (formerly RMG) and CAFGU in Barangay Poblacion, Batuan. Sapper operations are done to harass the enemy, inflict casualties and disrupt its operations right in its own turf.

The NPA also conducted a series of sniping operations on January 16 and 19 in Barangay Balite, Guinobatan, Albay against the fascist troops of the 2nd IB.

Central Luzon perseveres along the path of people's war



43 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE

Central Luzon continues to reap victories in the armed struggle despite the brutal onslaught of the military's campaign of suppression. The NPA was able to launch victorious tactical offensives, seize weapons from the military and mete punishment on those who owed blood debts to the masses.

The key factor in the region's victories is its determination to advance the people's democratic revolution from the present stage of strategic defensive to the next stage of strategic stalemate.

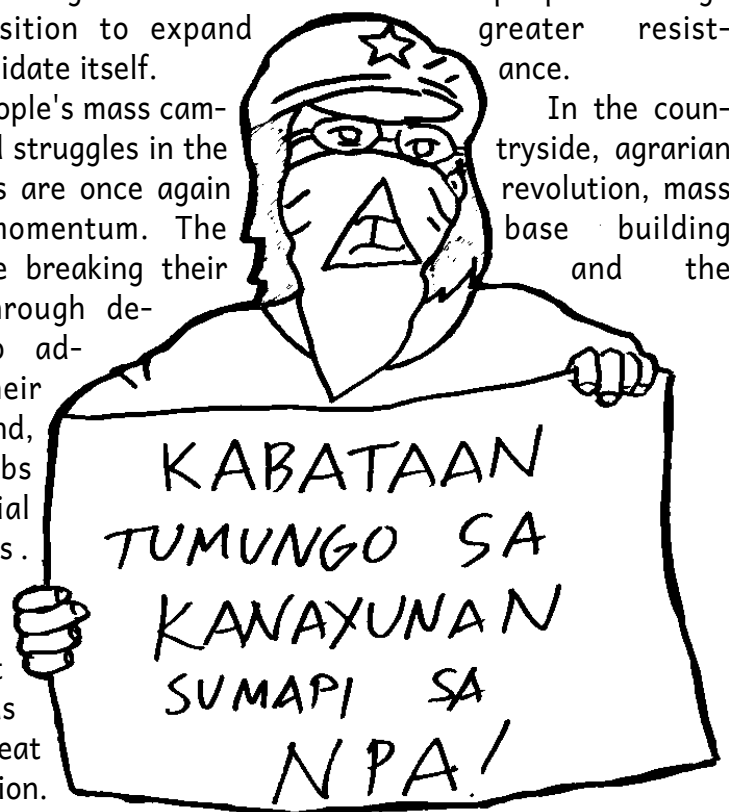
The masses and the revolutionary movement in Central Luzon have proven that no matter how much the state uses its most brutal oplan, it could never defeat a people waging resistance.

Even after Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) ravaged the region, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front in Central Luzon remained standing. With the lessons learned from the people's resistance to OBL I and II, the region is in a far better position to expand and consolidate itself.

The people's mass campaigns and struggles in the main cities are once again gaining momentum. The people are breaking their silence through demands to address their right to land, wages, jobs and social services. Barricades are being set up in areas under threat of demolition.

Protest actions are being launched by minorities and peasants being robbed of their land. Workers continue to assail low wages and contractualization. Drivers were able to launch a massive transport strike last year against the oil price hike. Thousands of youth throughout the region joined a nationwide student strike against the low education budget and tuition fee hikes. The various forms of exploitation are being addressed by the people through greater resistance.

In the countryside, agrarian revolution, mass base building and the



armed struggle are resurgent. The AFP has shamefully declared the provinces of Central Luzon “NPA-free.”

This lie concocted to deceive the people has been belied by vigorous efforts by the New People's Army (NPA) to form mass organizations in the countryside and launch tactical offensives. Last year, the NPA detonated explosives at a military detachment and ambushed approaching reinforcements. These tactical offensives were in response to calls by the people to punish the military for wreaking havoc on their barrio and protecting projects of the ruling classes in the province such as the economic zone being built in Aurora.

In February, another NPA unit detonated explosives to destroy heavy equipment used in constructing the TPLEX (Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway) which has led to widespread demolitions and landgrabbing in the affected provinces.

In March, the normal routine of CAFGU elements and soldiers of the 81st IB was disrupted through successive grenade explosions and bursts of gunfire from high-powered rifles during an attack by an NPA commando unit in Barangay Burgos, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija. Aside from making the 81st IB pay for killing four comrades in the evening of March 8 in Barangay Digmala, Bongabon, the tactical offensive was also in support of the people's struggle against their impending eviction from their land and massive landgrabbing within the former Hacienda Bueno and Igorot communities along the Nueva Ecija-Nueva Vizcaya border to give way to a private expressway going to Cagayan Valley.

The NPA's message is clear. Only by wielding arms within the framework of the people's democratic revolution can the people win their struggle.

CPP calls on Panay youth to join the NPA



43 YEARS OF ARMED STRUGGLE

Join the armed struggle, join the people's army! This was the call issued by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Regional Committee in Panay to the youth in the countryside and urban areas on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA).

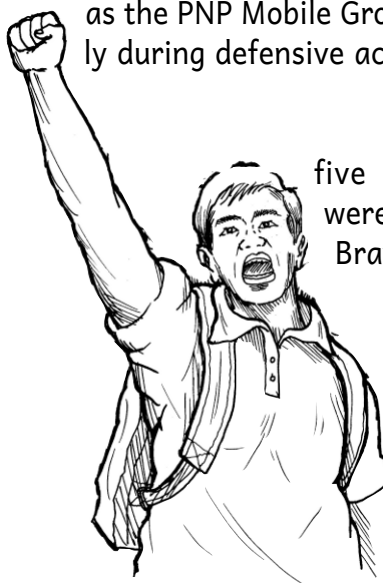
There must be massive recruitment among the youth in order to establish more company-size guerrilla fronts and expand the number of NPA Red fighters in the island.

In fact, one of the biggest victories of the NPA in Panay the previous year is its expansion brought about when many youth joined the platoons of the people's army. The number of regular NPA Red fighters grew by 20%, according to Ka Concha Araneta, spokesperson of the CPP Regional Committee in Panay.

Trainings were also conducted, raising the NPA's level of effectiveness in combat. The Red fighters' capabilities in conducting their expansion and consolidation tasks in their areas of responsibility were enhanced. The guerrillas assist in the activities of peasant associations by raising the level of production, eradicating carabao rustling syndicates and providing other services to the people. The NPA has played a decisive role in strengthening revolutionary political power in the countryside.

Peasant support for the NPA has further intensified. As a result, the people's militia enjoyed an 18% expansion. Some of its members now directly participate in NPA tactical offensives.

Another major victory of the NPA in Panay lay in thwarting the attacks of the 3rd ID of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police as they implemented the Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan. Amid more intensified attacks by the 82nd IB, 61st IB and 12th IB as well as the PNP Mobile Groups, NPA units fought valiantly during defensive actions and launched 21 tactical offensives, dealing 13 casualties on the enemy, including five killed. Among the wounded were two lieutenants of the 61st IB Bravo Coy Command Group.



Meanwhile, according to initial reports, the latest NPA tactical offensive in Panay was an ambush against 82nd IB troops in Tabungan, Iloilo on March 26, three days before the 43rd anniversary of the NPA.

Fake power crisis in Mindanao

It is not true that there is a power crisis in Mindanao, said Jorge “Ka Oris” Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Mindanao. He said that the blackouts or daily four- to eight-hour power outages are nothing but a grandiose show to deceive the people and force them to accept the privatization of power plants and the construction of coal-fired power plants that would allegedly solve the crisis. The US-Aquino regime is in cahoots with local compradors led by Henry Sy in making the fake power crisis seem real.

The current power plants on the island are capable of producing enough electricity for all of Mindanao's regions. The power plants are purposely not being operated at full capacity to create an artificial power shortage. For instance, the Agus 2 plant in Lanao del Sur has a generating capacity of 180 megawatts (MW) but is being made to produce up to 90 MW only. The same is true of the Agus 5 to 7 plants in Iligan City which are being made to produce only 200 MW instead of their generating capacity of up to 309 MW. These plants already produce 70% of the island's overall needs. Add to this the huge geothermal plant in Mt. Apo which is also one of the sources of electricity for the island's north.

The people are also purposely being deprived of electricity because the ruling classes in the island prioritize the big foreign companies. Companies such as Tag-anito, SMI-Xstrata, Toronto Ventures Inc., Nestle Phils., Phil. Sinter Corp.-Kawasaki Plant, plantations and factories of Dole and Del Monte, Holcim Cement and many others siphon off and monopolize electrical power.

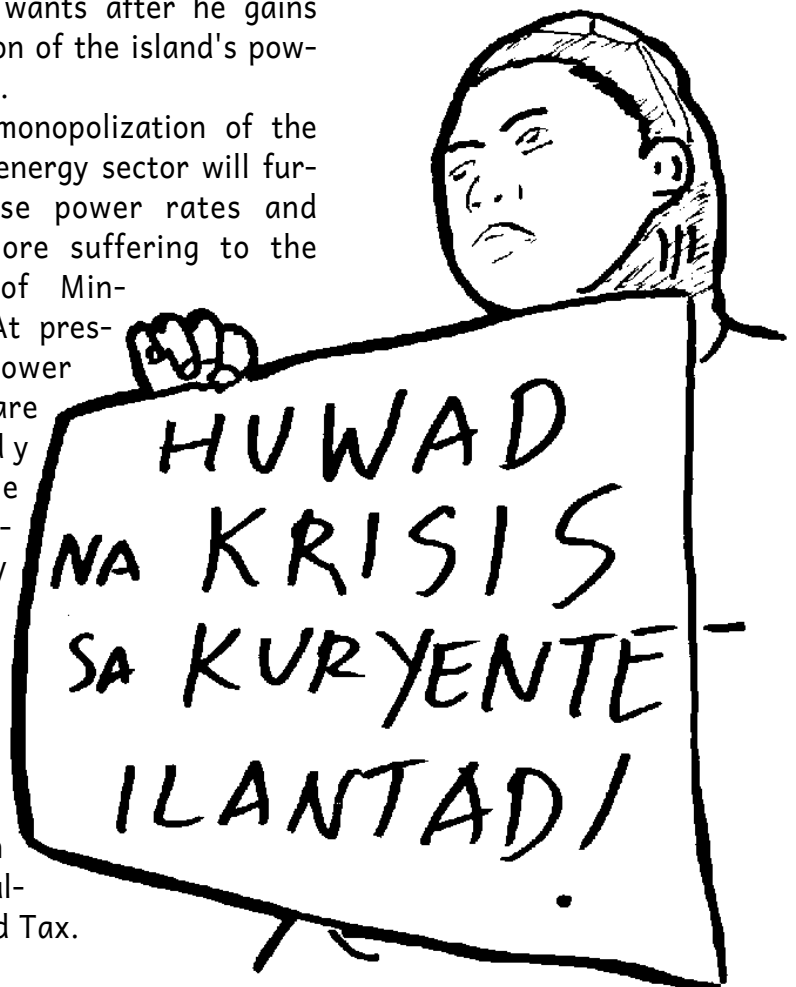
In the 1990s, the US-Ramos regime used the energy crisis as a pretext to give private com-

panies free rein to put up power plants that would address the electric power shortage. In Mindanao, the Alcantara, Dominguez and Aboitiz families exploited the situation to expand their power generation enterprises in the last two decades. Now, Henry Sy is using the same scheme to slowly buy out private and government-owned power plants and monopolize control over the island's energy sector. Since the energy sector is deregulated, Sy can raise power rates whenever he wants after he gains possession of the island's power plants.

The monopolization of the island's energy sector will further raise power rates and cause more suffering to the people of Mindanao. At present, power rates are already high due to profit-hungry independent power producers and the imposition of the Value-Added Tax.

Worse, the US-Aquino regime will be using this crisis to build more coal-fired power plants in the island in addition to those already operating in Sarangani and Misamis Oriental. The technology used in coal-fired plants has long been declared obsolete and is in fact no longer used in the US and Europe. Coal-fired plants also cause major damage to the environment and the health of the people living around the plants. This is contrary to the people's demand for affordable and environmentally friendly energy sources.

In the face of all this, the National Democratic Front in Mindanao has called on the people to expose and assail the fake power crisis that is causing them grave hardships. They must fight this scheme and resist widespread foreign mining, logging and commercial plantations that have wrought havoc on the island's economy and environment.



Military officer rapes minor in Benguet

Armed elements of the state have not relented in targeting progressive leaders and civilians. The most infamous cases involve the rape by a military officer of a minor in Benguet; the harassment of a people's lawyer in Ilocos Sur and a woman leader in La Union; and the arrest of minors in Quezon and mass leaders in Negros. Following are the reports collated by *Ang Bayan* in the past two months.

April 3. Elements of the Bacolod City Police Office arrested two mass leaders in Negros using a warrant for a trumped-up case of robbery. Arrested were Christian Tuayon, BAYAN-Negros secretary-general and Ian Evidenre, Kilusang Mayo Uno-Negros spokesperson. They were seized in the middle of a protest action being held in front of the Bacolod San Sebastian Cathedral.

April 3. Operatives of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested Reynante Gamara in Las Piñas City. Gamara is a Bayan Muna campaigner for the National Capital Region. The operatives inserted Gamara's name in an arrest warrant for the 2007 killing in Mauban, Quezon of a PFC Eri-berto Eclavea and a Richard Cortizano, allegedly a surrenderee. A relative of Gamara said that it was impossible for him to have been involved in the crime since he was in Manila at the time. He is now detained at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame.

Several hours before the arrest, suspected operatives of the regime harassed Gamara's daughter Nikki, a member of Anakbayan at the University of the Philippines-Manila and her friend Cleve Arguelles, also an Anakbayan member and a student councilor at UP Manila.

The two students were harassed twice by the operatives. First, they were tailed by the operatives who pretended to ask directions so they could get

close to Nikki's residence. On the next day, a vehicle tailed Arguelles while he was on the way home from Nikki's house. When Arguelles decided to stop at a restaurant, he was followed in by one of the operatives and asked to come with them. He was repeatedly asked where he lived and what his relationship was to a "Nikki."

March 31. Human rights lawyer and Ilocos Sur second district board member Atty. Robert Tudayan reported receiving death threats. This was after 3rd IB commanding officer Lt. Col. Rogelio Mesias claimed that Tudela was sighted bathing in a creek with a barangay official and guerrillas of the New People's Army in Barangay Lopez, Lidlida, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tudayan vehemently denied the military's accusations and said it was all part of the harassment he has been getting for helping the poor and succeeding in securing the dismissal of a case involving two alleged NPA members arrested by the military.

Meanwhile, a Bayan Muna organizer was threatened and robbed in her own home in Barangay Casantaan, Sto. Tomas, La Union. In a statement, Clarita "Nanay Caling" Bilog said she was sleeping at around midnight when she felt someone tying up her hands and feet. When she struggled, she was hit and gagged. Her assailants took her cellphones, money and goats.

March 28. Three youth were illegally arrested by elements of

the 74th IB of the Philippine Army in Sitio Tagbakan, Barangay Pansoy, San Andres, Quezon. The military arrested minors Elmer Desoyo and Rey Rodrigo, both 17 years old, and Reynaldo delos Reyes. They were accused of being NPA members and collecting taxes from the residents. The three victims were only looking for work in a coconut plantation when they were arrested.

March 27. Seven farmers from Hacienda Luisita were arrested after elements from the Tarlac City police and the military demolished a protest camp set up by the peasants in Barangay Balite, Tarlac City. Arrested were Winky Esteban and Jay Martinez-Dionisio, officials of Barangay Balite; Manuel Mandigma and Robert Mendoza; and minors Alfred Martinez, 17 and Meric Trinidad, 16. They were charged with malicious mischief and detained at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Tarlac City. Martinez and Trinidad were released that afternoon. Meanwhile, two policemen dragged woman leader Flor Sibayan. Another protester, Becky Canlas, had a gun pointed at her while the protest camp was being demolished.

March 8. Soldiers harassed residents, including a teacher in Pantukan, Compostela Valley. Eighteen soldiers from the 71st IB led by Sergeants Macalanda and Mabalot entered Purok 9, Sitio Sapang Tin-aw, Barangay Tibagon in Pantukan aboard a truck owned by a mining company. The troopers occupied three houses and interrogated civilians Nellyn Calva and Herculano Sumilhig for six hours. The soldiers were forcing them to admit to being members of the New People's Army.

The harassment was repeated on March 11 when the soldiers called a meeting ostensibly

to discuss the government's 4Ps program in Sitio Cadapa; Sitio Sapang Tin-aw; and Sitio Sapang Lubog. Macalanda tried to force Marilou Lambo, a teacher at the Sayong Edukasyon Pambata to admit that their school was established by the NPA. Macalanda shouted at Lambo and accused the residents of their community of being NPA members.

A number of residents from Purok 10 fled their homes out of fear due to the military's onslaught. The soldiers also set up a checkpoint and blocked the Quick Reaction Team sent by Karapatan-Southern Mindanao to investigate the harassment.

February 17. A 16-year old girl was raped by a military officer in Mankayan, Benguet. Isabel (not her real name) went missing for three days before she came home weak and unable to speak. According to Inna-buyog-GABRIELA, Isabel, who experienced deep trauma, failed to take her final exams and was not able to graduate with her high school class.

The perpetrator was identified as Capt. Danilo Lalin, an officer of Highland 86 of the Philippine Army 50th IB. Lalin first invited Isabel to be his text mate before asking to meet her. He made her take contraceptive pills before raping her several times. Isabel's parents and supporters are seeking justice for her and demanding punishment for Lalin.

Isabel's case is the second in the Cordillera. In 1999, a 14-year old girl was raped by three soldiers in Abra, according to records of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA).

The CHRA said that there may be more unreported cases of abuse against women and other Cordillerans because of continuing militarization under the Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan.

Bombings and widespread militarization in Mindanao

A brutal and all-out war is currently being waged by the US-Aquino regime against the people of Mindanao. The war is in accordance with the regime's antipeople and antinational program that gives free rein to foreign mining and logging companies and commercial plantations to plunder the island's natural resources.

Since the start of 2012, the state's armed minions have been conducting relentless bombings, strafings and other human rights violations in civilian communities.

These sustained attacks have been concentrated in the areas of operation of multinational mining and agribusiness companies such as the South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Davao del Sur-Sarangani quadri-boundary where SMI-Xstrata operates; the Surigao del Sur-Surigao del Norte-Agusan del Norte tri-boundary where the huge nickel mines like Tag-anito and Nickel Asia are found; the vast plains of North and South Cotabato where the Dole-Stanfilco plantation is; Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley where the giant Russell Mining operates; at the Zamboanga Peninsula where Toronto Ventures Inc. is; and in Bukidnon where the sprawling Del Monte, Dole and Sumifru plantations are and where the First Gen hydroelectric power plant is located.

The indigenous people, progressive groups and human rights advocates have condemned the brutal and widespread bombings of civilian communities populated by national minorities in Mindanao. On March 30, tribal people who were forced to flee their homes marched in Butuan City to assail the indiscriminate bombings and demand the pullout of AFP troops from their communities.



The AFP's military operations have been extended over a wider scope through the use of Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary Units (SCAA) that were formed and expanded by the Aquino regime in October 2011. The formation of the SCAA was in accordance with the regime's policy of encouraging the entry and expansion of big foreign mining companies and protecting their interests.

On the whole, up to 3,000 people have been forced to evacuate during the crucial planting and harvesting seasons.

Three separate incidents of forced evacuation and other human rights violations have been documented in Bukidnon, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Norte and Compostela Valley by human rights advocates from February to March. Up to 250 families were forced to flee their communities in Kitcharao, Cabadbaran and hilly portions of Butuan, Agusan del Norte; Claver, Surigao del Norte; and Borobo, Surigao del Sur.

More than 120 families evacuated from Magpet, North Cotabato, more than 50 individuals from Kibawe and 19 families from San Fernando, both in Bukidnon, with other evacuees coming from Barangay Tibagon, Pantukan, Compostela Valley and Barangay Balabag, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.

Among the evacuees was the entire family of slain Lumad leader Jimmy Liguyon, who fled along with other members of his clan and community due to relentless threats from Aldy Salusad, leader of the New Indigenous People's Army for Reform (NI-PAR), a paramilitary group run by the 8th IB. NI-PAR killed Liguyon in February in his house in Dao, San Fernando. Salusad is also a member of the San Fernando Matigsalug Tribal Datus (Sanmatrida), a group being paid by big foreign mining companies to eradicate local opposition to their operations in the area. The evacuees from Dao are currently staying in Malaybalay, the capital of Bukidnon.

15 policemen killed by Maoist guerrillas in India

FIFTEEN elements of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed in an ambush by Maoist guerrillas in Maharashtra state on March 27. Twenty-eight others were wounded. It was the biggest guerrilla attack since June 2010, according to the CRPF spokesperson.

The ambush occurred at around 11:30 a.m. when the Maoist guerrillas detonated an explosive, hitting the bus the policemen were riding.

The latest clash took place in

Gadchiroli district, near the border with Chhattisgarh, currently the center of the armed struggle being waged by the Indian Maoists.

The attack transpired despite claims by the reactionary government that the Maoist guerrillas are on a "tactical retreat."

The Maoist-led struggle began in 1967. In 2009, the reactionary state launched a massive offensive known as "Operation Greenhunt" that resulted in

widespread human rights violations. Nonetheless, it failed to defeat the Maoists.

In January this year, 12 policemen were killed and three others were wounded when an explosive was detonated on the enemy's vehicle in a forested area of Jharkhand state. In June 2010, twenty-six police officers were killed in an ambush in Chhattisgarh, two months after guerrillas attacked a police detachment in the same state.