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Editorial

Shatter the illusion of the "righteous road"

Under the guidance of its imperialist master, the Aquino regime is relentlessly conjuring the illusion of the "righteous road" and has been pouring in funds, lavishing attention and providing personnel to deceptive showcase projects.

This is an indication of the depths of the crisis of the ruling system. The regime wants to deceive the people, create false hopes of a better life and nip in the bud their determination to put an end to the rotten exploitative system.

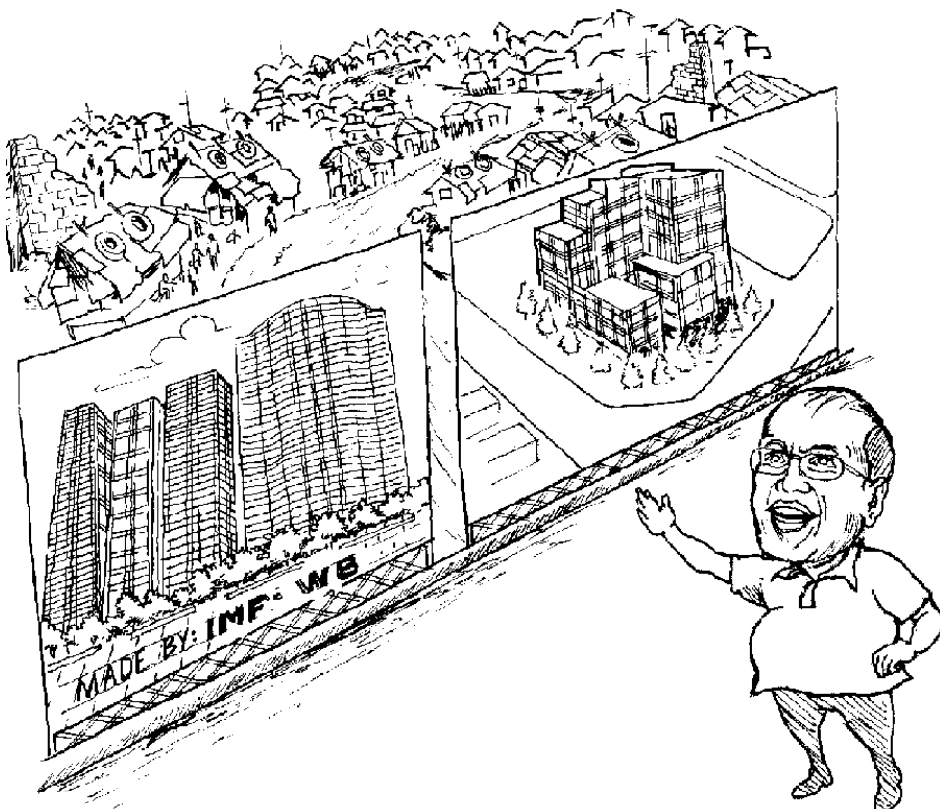
These programs are particularly aimed at winning over the middle sectors of society, including the urban and rural petty bourgeoisie, using the framework of "good governance."

It is crucial for the ruling classes to "gain the trust" of the petty bourgeoisie to maintain the stability of the ruling system. The petty bourgeoisie are forcibly isolated from the movements of the toiling masses and distanced from the path of revolutionary change. They are inundated by glittering propaganda and enticed through idealist slogans that are attuned to their dreams of making it big even as they partake of "con-

crete changes" as individuals, without disturbing the current order of things and abandoning their personal dreams.

Schools, the mass media and the internet are awash with the Aquino regime's propaganda and programs to hoodwink and seduce the petty bourgeoisie. Their closest partners in this sinister endeavor to mobilize the petty bourgeoisie for attention-grabbing but limited housing, education and health programs are agencies appendaged to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) or the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Various imperialist agencies



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are actively engaged in adorning the ruling system's bankrupt political processes. They likewise fund programs to "reform" the judiciary, the bureaucracy, the military and police, aside from sponsoring scholarships for selected students and professors in universities in the US, Europe, Japan and other countries.

The Aquino regime is using "good governance" propaganda to portray itself as the opposite of the corruption-ridden former regime. Aquino claims that the people's poverty is due only to the rule of corrupt officials and government's failure to provide services to the people.

This tack aims to create the illusion and false hopes of achieving change under a "clean, transparent and accountable" government. At the same time, the regime is occupied with implementing showcase programs to create the impression that it is doing something concrete to address the people's grievances.

The biggest of such programs is the so-called Progra-

mang Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino or 4Ps, a World Bank-funded and -driven project begun under the previous regime. Through it, Aquino portrays his government as one that "invests in the future" of the impoverished even without lifting a finger to resolve the people's basic problems, especially landlessness in the countryside.

Aquino thinks that he could buy the confidence of the poor even as he condemns them to a life of exploitation, oppression and further impoverishment. The sheen of Aquino's gilded programs may temporarily blind, but these schemes are soon exposed for what they are to the hungry and suffering toiling masses. Even after just a few years in power, it is already clear that the Aquino regime has failed to stop the continued advance of the peasantry, the working class and the urban poor along the path of militant and revolutionary resistance.

Nonetheless, Aquino and the IMF-WB will continue to invoke


the slogan of "good governance" and hail "concrete gains" in "poverty alleviation" to obscure the real situation of the toiling masses and blind the petty bourgeoisie into taking the reformist road.

Aquino also has as his partners anti-communist petty bourgeois groups who have coopted the language of the Left to portray the US-Aquino regime as a "government of reform" and cover up its class and reactionary character.

Simultaneous to this is the regime's use of the AFP's brutal Oplan Bayanihan campaign of suppression against the masses. Soldiers are used to implement 4Ps and other programs in the countryside. The AFP conceals its fangs behind the cloak of "peace and development" while unleashing brutal encirclement and suppression campaigns.

The oppression, exploitation and poverty suffered by the Filipino people push them towards the path of struggle. They are aware that they have no other recourse but to take a stand and fight in the face of worsening feudal and semifeudal exploitation, widespread landgrabbing and monopolization of land by big landlords, foreign multinationals and ecotourism projects, the displacement of minority peoples, the plunder by foreign companies of the country's mineral resources, the destruction of the environment, the pegging of workers' wages, the eviction of the urban poor, budget cuts for social services and other antipeople policies.

For the people's revolutionary struggle to continue to prosper, the Aquino regime's campaigns of deception must be sharply exposed for hewing to its imperialist master's designs. We must shatter the illusion of

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the "righteous road" and "good governance."

Let us rouse the petty bourgeoisie by showing them the masses' concrete conditions. We must foster their closeness to the masses through widespread programs of integration and service to the democratic movement in both city and countryside.

Let us raise the people's historic and class consciousness in

order to deepen their grasp of the need to put an end to imperialist domination and the rule of the exploitative and oppressive classes.

The rotten system of government will never be cleansed under a corrupt social system. Let us expose the relentlessly worsening bureaucrat capitalism under Aquino's regime and how his "good governance" has been of benefit only to his big com-

prador relatives and friends in cahoots with foreign big capitalists.

Let us propagate the program for a people's democratic revolution as the solution to the basic problems of the people. Let us hail the people's democratic government as the only government in the Philippines with the determination and the commitment to serve the Filipino people. **AB**

"Good governance" is an IMF-WB dictate

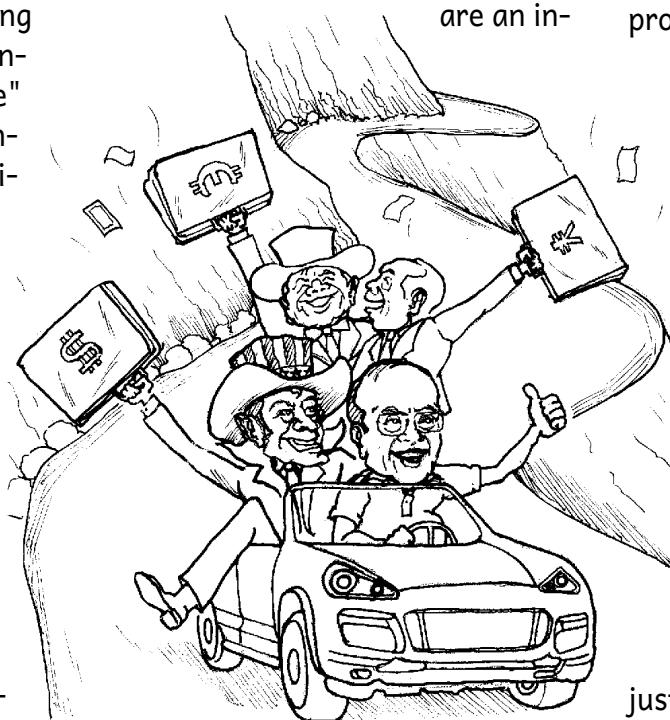
The "righteous road" slogan was lifted entirely from the "good governance" program concocted by the International Monetary Fund-World Bank (IMF-WB) combine. It is part and parcel of the neoliberal "free trade" policy under imperialist globalization.

"Good governance" has been an IMF-WB loan conditionality since the 1980s. But its role as a tool for market manipulation gained prominence after the Asian crisis of 1997 when big capitalists needed direct IMF-WB intervention in governing Asian countries to create a more favorable environment for their investments in the region.

Among the nice-sounding programs being pushed under the "good governance" framework are "transparency" and "accountability." Financial institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGO) closely monitor and grade the IMF-WB debtor countries' compliance with these programs. Among these NGOs are Transparency International (an organization founded by a former World Bank director), bourgeois US institutions such as the Her-

itage Foundation and broad organizations of the biggest capitalists such as the World Economic Forum.

"Good governance" has been a longstanding demand of foreign capitalist investors in semi-colonies like the Philippines. Aquino has stated that the foreign capitalists' most common complaints are an in-



efficient bureaucracy, widespread corruption and insufficient mechanisms to guarantee free competition—all of which belong to the "crooked road."

To solve this, the "righteous road" aims to create "favorable conditions" to reduce costs for local and foreign companies to do business and ensure that their operations run smoothly. Aquino has time and again talked about purging the bureaucracy of anomalous practices and corrupt officials and laying down technical measures ostensibly to avoid the corruption that is endemic to governance.

These measures have no other objective but to facilitate the process of initiating and running foreign capitalist businesses in the Philippines. Aquino has been fast-tracking reforms in order to jumpstart the Public-Private Partnership program. His regime has offered every conceivable incentive to foreign capitalists. On top of tax exemptions, it has allocated funds to guarantee their incomes and debts in case their operations go bankrupt. The regime has no qualms about mangling its own constitution just to be able to accede to the

demands of foreigners to be granted the right to own land and local businesses. It has also justified the rising costs of commodities and services brought about by the all-out privatization of social services such as transportation, water, electricity, education and health. It uses violence and militarization against those who oppose widespread land conversion and destructive mining and energy production enterprises and commercial plantations.

4Ps as an instrument of counterrevolution

4Ps is the operationalization of the World Bank- and Asian Development Bank-funded conditional cash transfer program. Aquino has been giving doleouts to meet the day to day expenses of families who belong to the "poorest of the poor." In exchange for the doleouts, the beneficiaries are obliged to comply with very stringent requirements and conditions.

The poor are further oppressed and exploited under 4Ps. The program involves a gruelling application process that is fraught with anomalies and corruption. Politicians use the program as a milch cow to attract votes during elections and give out its benefits as favors to members of their own families and their loyal supporters.

In villages and communities where there is strong revolutionary resistance, state armed forces consciously use 4Ps as an instrument of counterrevolution. Its funds are used to lure the people into joining the program. Once in, the beneficiaries are required to attend frequent meetings and other activities that are designed to limit their ability to engage in revolutionary action.

Anticommunist associations are likewise organized under 4Ps, as well as programs whose objective is to reduce revolutionary organizations to passivity. AB

People launch counter-SONA in NCR, other regions

Benigno Aquino III boasted of his regime's alleged successes in his 90-minute State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 23, but in the National Capital Region (NCR) and elsewhere, the people's SONA was being proclaimed.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), Bayan Muna and other progressive organizations led the declaration of the real state of the nation. From northern Luzon to Mindanao, they opposed the onslaught of big mining companies, the destruction of the livelihood of peasants and Lumad and the government's neglect of calamity victims.

The people are fully aware that Aquino's government is only for the few, said BAYAN chair Carol Araullo in a rally held in front of the Ever Gotesco Mall in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Before they marched to the Batasan Pambansa, the rallyists comprising workers, youth, students and teachers, urban poor, women, government employees, families of overseas Filipino workers, church people and other democratic sectors swelled to 10,000.

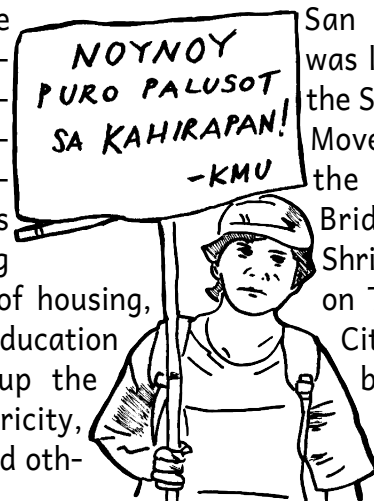
Araullo lambasted the fact that the Aquino regime's Public-Private Partnership program was making big business out of housing, health and education and driving up the cost of electricity, water, fuel and oth-

er commodities. She added that only Aquino's cronies, relatives and fellow landlords in cahoots with foreigners were benefiting from so-called economic development. Despite the much-vaunted economic progress, unemployment, poverty and hunger are on the rise.

Other mass leaders assailed the absence of wage increases in the face of rising prices; the demolition of urban poor communities; the rampage of the antipeople Oplan Bayanihan that has given rise to grave human rights abuses; and the growing frequency of American military presence in the country.

In Southern Tagalog, despite alternating bouts of strong rains and sweltering heat, some 1,000 peasants held a three-day Lakbayan to oppose intensifying militarization in South Quezon and Bondoc Peninsula. The Lakbayan began on July 21 from San Pedro, Laguna and was led by BAYAN-ST and the Save Bondoc Peninsula Movement. They rallied at the foot of Mendiola Bridge, at the EDSA Shrine, at Aquino's house on Times Street, Quezon City and at the US Embassy in Manila.

Peasants from ST and members of Al-



yansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) and Hacienda Luisita converged on the night of July 22 at the Department of Agriculture (DA), Quezon City, where the AMGL had held a vigil. The next morning, they joined the main body of the demonstration and marched toward the Batasan Pambansa.

"Oust Aquino!" cried the rallyists as they tried to move closer to the legislative building. The urban poor demonstrators asserted that a president who oppresses the poor does not deserve to stay a minute longer in power.

Some 6,000 anti-riot policemen blocked the rallyists twice and refused to allow them beyond the Ever Gotesco Mall. The second time, the police brutally dispersed the activists, who fought back. More than 90 demonstrators were injured, with eleven of them needing hospital treatment.

Among the areas outside of the NCR where mass mobilizations were likewise held were Davao City, 5,000; Cagayan de Oro City, 4,500; Koronadal, 500; Digos, 500; General Santos City, 500; Tandag City, 1,500; Butuan City, 2,000; Cotabato City, 100; Zamboanga City, 200; and Ozamiz, 100. In Western Visayas, 3,000 rallied in Panay and 500 in Negros Occidental. Protests were also held in Cebu, Legazpi, Naga, Daet, Baguio and Iligan. Overseas, rallies were waged in Hongkong, the US, Canada and The Netherlands. AB

Arroyo freed in exchange for support to Aquino regime

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo gained her freedom in exchange for her support for the Aquino regime. The former president, who is charged with electoral sabotage was allowed by the Pasay Regional Trial Court, Branch 12 on July 24 to post a ₱1 million bail bond.

Arroyo's release forms part of a quid pro quo arrangement between the Aquino clique and various other factions of the reactionary classes, including the Arroyo clique. It therefore comes as no surprise that Arroyo was freed a day after her minions in the congressional minority hailed Aquino as a "great leader" and applauded the programs he laid down in his State of the Nation Address.

Despite being accused of grave violations of human rights, plundering the nation's coffers and betraying the country's sovereignty, Aquino's people have been giving Arroyo a wide legal berth to prevent her incarceration. Her release from hospital detention was due to a series of legal blunders by Aquino's lawyers and those of the Commission on Elections.

Arroyo is likewise facing a plunder case but the Sandiganbayan failed to issue an arrest warrant that would have prevented her from leaving hospital detention. These developments are clear indications of the Aquino regime's lack of resolve to mete justice to Arroyo. AB

Cha-cha and the myth of globalization

Senate Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile and House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, two of the most rabid advocates of charter change (cha-cha) insist on the need to amend the 1987 constitution because its economic provisions are allegedly preventing the country's development. In particular, Enrile and Belmonte are targeting the removal of restrictions on foreign ownership of land, public utilities, educational, health and media institutions and the country's natural resources.

In chorus with neoliberal economists and their imperialist master, Enrile and Belmonte claim that all-out economic liberalization is a requisite for development. This view is in sync with the Aquino regime's economic program framed in accordance with the bankrupt "free market" policy. Whatever else Aquino says, they are all in agreement that protectionism is passé in the face of globalization.

The actual conduct of international trade shows that this is farthest from the truth. The imperialist countries have never dismantled their markets' basic protective barriers. After the financial crisis of 2007-2008, protectionism has even heightened worldwide. Most of the recent protectionist measures and restrictions have been implemented by no less than the biggest capitalist countries to defend their industrial bases. Growing numbers of smaller countries have also been implementing their own restrictions to salvage their economies from the ravages caused by decades of liberalization.

Practice vs talk

Imperialist countries have long been ramming the "free market" doctrine down the throats of neocolonies and their trade partners. Be-

hind this, however, they have been enforcing measures that close their economies and limit the entry of products and services from other countries.

Since 2008, up to 1,272 new protectionist measures and restrictions have been imposed on products, services and capital. A World Trade Organization report said that 1,013 or 79% of these measures are being implemented by the G20, which counts as its members the biggest economies worldwide. From October 2011 to May 2012 alone, its member countries enforced 124 new restrictions. Exploiting the weaknesses of multilateral agreements, they have stepped up the use of traditional forms of protectionism and have refused to comply with the agreements that they themselves have been pushing for the last two decades. Multilateral negotiations under the World Trade Organization have been at a standstill due to their refusal to implement further liberalization measures.

About 30% of these restrictions were imposed by the imperialist countries as measures to counter alleged abuse of importation and unfair competition. A bigger percentage, 39%, are in the form of "traditional" protectionist measures such as the imposition of higher tariffs and lower import quotas, subsidies for local products and controls on local currency. They have also resorted to laws that guide local competition and industrial production and have instituted

preferential treatment for local products, capital and labor.

In the US, the Obama regime has been imposing tariffs as high as 35% on imports it deems to be detrimental to local industries. It taxes companies on the grounds that they violate the anti-dumping law which imposes fines on imports that are priced lower than counterpart local products.

In 2009, it included a "Buy American" provision as a condition for companies to enroll in economic recovery programs. The provision bans government pump-priming projects from purchasing and using foreign products such as steel and industrial machinery.

In 2010, the US passed the "currency bill," a law imposing taxes on 22 Chinese products as a fine on China for allegedly manipulating the yuan in order to maintain lower prices for these products. On the other hand, the US continuously refuses to remove government subsidies on agricultural products, which artificially lower their prices in the international market.

This year, Obama attempted to have the insourcing bill passed, which grants incentives to companies that would relocate their operations and factories to the US. The bill would also impose high taxes on companies that refuse to do so. One of the bill's targets is the business process outsourcing sector which operates call centers in various countries, including the Philippines.

In spite of this, the imperial-

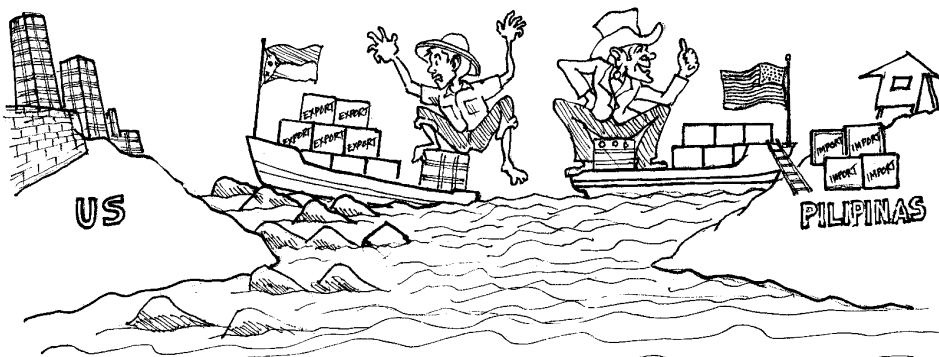
ist countries have the gall to criticize the neocolonies and small countries implementing their own restrictions. In 2011, several African and Latin American countries passed laws to limit foreign investments in land and agriculture. It was a reaction to the widespread land seizures by the imperialists worldwide for mining activities and food production for their own consumption. Many countries have also begun limiting foreign ownership of businesses. Countries where the anti-globalization movement is strong have already effected the nationalization of certain basic industries and services. One example is Argentina which has nationalized the Spanish-owned Repsol, an oil company.

Relentless liberalization

In the face of all this, Philippine puppet officials are scrambling to dismantle the remaining provisions in the 1987 constitution that provide protection to local industries and the national patrimony.

Actually, many of these constitutional provisions have already been superseded by a series of antinational policies enacted in the last 25 years. Among these are the Foreign Investment Act of 1991 that removed restrictions on foreign ownership in practically all local industries and the Investors Lease Act of 1993 that allows foreigners to lease land for up to 75 years.

In the same vein, the Mining Act of 1995 allows foreign ownership of the country's natural resources and 100% profit repatriation. The Senate had earlier ratified the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that dismantled protective barriers for local industry and agriculture against the influx of



cheap foreign goods. The deregulation of the oil industry likewise allowed foreign companies to extract oil and natural gas.

In 2000, the Retail Trade Liberalization Act was passed, allowing 100% foreign ownership in the local retail industry. Foreigners are also allowed to purchase local banks and run them without Filipino partners under the General Banking Law.

This year, the Supreme Court further amended the constitution when it declared that the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) did not violate the constitution's 60-40 requirement when it allowed Salim Group, a Malaysian-owned company to hold 64% of the company's common stocks. The Supreme Court rationalized that Filipinos still hold a bigger percentage of the stocks if the preferred stocks are taken into consideration. This is despite the fact that the preferred stocks are largely held by PLDT subscribers who have no say in the company's ownership and operations.

The reactionary state has been enforcing economic liberalization for more than two decades, contrary to some of the provisions of the 1987 constitution.

This bankrupt economy can only be terminated with the implementation of genuine land reform and national industrialization. Development and progress can only be achieved if local industries are protected and conditions are created that would make fair trade possible. AB

Military uses 2 minors as human shields

The AFP used two minors as guides and human shields in its military operations in Magpet, North Cotabato on July 16.

The 57th IB Alpha Company forced two cousins age 12 and 13 years to guide them in looking for an alleged camp of the New People's Army (NPA) in the area. The two children belong to the Manobo tribe in Sitio Buay-buay, Barangay Basak, Magpet.

The victims were forced to join the military operation for four hours. They were told that if they refused to cooperate, they would be tied to a rubber tree. The children, who did not know where the camp was, pointed to an area with dense foliage and immediately ran away.

Despite claims by Lt. Nasrulla Sema, spokesperson of the 59th Civil Military Operations that they comply with policies forbidding the use of civilians in their operations, a research by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) shows that violations are rampant in the AFP.

The KMP, GABRIELA, Chil-

dren's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) and Kabiba Alliance for Children's Concerns vigorously condemned the military's violation of Part 4, Article 3, Section 9 of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) that prohibits the participation of civilians or civilian authorities in military operations and campaigns. The military also violated a provision of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that states that children must be protected against all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The two child victims revealed their ordeal in an activity conducted by the CRC to assist victims of militarization to recover from severe psychological trauma. They said that their forcible use as guides in a military operation was their most terrifying experience. AB

Urban poor leader killed

FORTY-THREE year old urban poor leader Marilou "Malou" Bacani Valle was shot to death in Sitio Damayan, Smokey Mountain II, Tondo, Manila on July 22, a day before Benigno Aquino III delivered his SONA.

She was the hundredth victim of extrajudicial killing under the Aquino regime.

Valle was elected president of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY)-Barangay 105. She was also the president of the Sityo Damayan Smokey Mountain II. She succumbed to four bullet wounds in the face and one in the shoulder.

Her assailants were members of the Barangay Tanod (village watchmen) in the area.

The crime, which was perpetrated at around 5:45 p.m. in front of the victim's house, was witnessed by her relatives and neighbors.

After Valle was killed, the assailants went to her brother Jerry Bacani's house, where they shot him and his son Ninoy. The victims sustained bullet wounds in their calves and feet and were rushed by neigh-

bors to a hospital.

In March, Malou Valle filed a case of grave threats and child abuse against local goons Raffy and Conchita Tejas, and Benjamin and Sonny Tejas for pointing a gun at her children Marjorie, Jomar and George de Jesus, all of minor age.

On March 22, the Tejas family confronted Valle for distributing leaflets that railed against the demolition of urban poor communities. AB

Families to charge AFP with desecrating guerrillas' remains

Relatives of New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas killed in a gunbattle in Quezon are set to file charges against the military at the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC). The JMC monitors the compliance of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) that was signed by both parties in 1998.

Among the complainants are Leslie Olvinar and Adelisa Albarillo. Leslie is the 20-year old daughter of Eduardo and Rosario Olvinar and Adelisa is the younger sister of Armando Albarillo. Albarillo and the Olvinar couple were among 11 NPA guerrillas killed in a firefight with the military on June 30 in Sitio Sinagtala, Barangay White Cliff, San Narciso town. The gunbattle reportedly lasted three hours. (*For more details, read the July 7 and 21 issues of Ang Bayan.*)

The fascist soldiers brutally desecrated the remains of Leslie's parents. Her mother's intestines were spilling out of her abdomen, and the back of her father's skull was shattered although he had no bullet wounds in the face. The embalmer said that he was likely shot through the mouth.

On the other hand, Armando's body was riddled with bullets and one of his hands was severed.

Both the CARHRIHL and the Geneva Conventions strictly prohibit the desecration of the enemy's remains.

Article 3 (4) of the CARHRIHL states that "desecration of the remains of those who have died in the course of the armed conflict or while under detention" shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to persons hors de combat. Article 4 (9) provides: "Every possible measure shall be taken, without delay, ... [to prevent the] mutilation of [the dead]."

Hustisya secretary-general Cristina Guevarra who joined the fact-finding team formed by the Save Bondoc Peninsula Movement said that the military used excessive force against the small team of NPA guerrillas. Several hours had also passed before their bodies were brought to the barangay center. AB

Political prisoners go on hunger strike

A week before the State of the Nation Address (SONA), political prisoners, their relatives and supporters went on hunger strike to demand that Benigno Aquino III's regime release all 385 political prisoners nationwide. They called for a General, Unconditional and Omnibus Amnesty for all political prisoners. The hunger strike lasted from July 16 to July 23. It was the third nationwide hunger strike launched by political prisoners since Aquino came to power.

KARAPATAN secretary-general Marie Hilao Enriquez assailed Aquino for claiming that there are no political prisoners in the Philippines. The human rights watchdog said that 104 out of the country's 385 political prisoners incarcerated in various detention centers nationwide were arrested under the Aquino administration.

Detainees and their supporters from seven regions joined the hunger strike. At the Compostela Valley Provincial Jail, some 500 regular detainees also staged their own hunger strike to sympathize with the political prisoners.

In Iloilo, activists wore orange clothes to mimic the prisoners' uniforms and stayed inside mock prison cells put up at the center of Plazoleta Gay in Iloilo City.

Relatives of Moro political prisoners also appealed to Aquino to release their loved ones. Most of them were imprisoned during Gloria Arroyo's regime and falsely accused of being members of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf.

In a rally, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas deputy secretary-general and National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace talks consultant Randall Echanis also slammed the Aquino regime for refusing to release the political prisoners, including 14 consultants of the NDFP. The consultants are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees signed by both the Government of the Philippines and the NDFP. AB

CPP assails Aquino's gag order on media

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) supported the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) in its call to the media to resist the Aquino regime's campaign to dictate what they could report on the Philippines.

The CPP issued its statement of support after the NUJP took exception to Benigno Aquino III's accusation that the media only reported negative developments and refrained from carrying the good news such as the country's "robust" economy.

The CPP said that the media should not turn a blind eye to the basic issues confronting the people such as widespread unemployment, poverty, extremely low wages and the persistence of extrajudicial killings and violations of civil and political rights.

The CPP added that Aquino was in no position to dictate on the media editors, reporters, broadcasters and technical crew what to report on in the face of his regime's continued failure to give justice to the more than 30 media personnel who were among the victims of the Maguindanao Massacre in November 2009. There is no assurance to date that the relatives and friends of the media victims would obtain justice because political maneuvers by Aquino's minions have caused delays in the trial of the accused.

In a related development, members of the Radyo Mindanao Network Davao Employees Union (RDEU) won their demands after an eight-day strike. The employees of one of the country's biggest radio networks officially returned to work on July 20 after union representatives and the RMN management

signed a two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Twenty-two employees, including the members of RDEU won ₱1.3 million in wage increases and other benefits.

Among their benefits are a ₱1,040 monthly wage increase this year and a ₱1,560 hike next year. They will also receive two sacks of rice per year, a signing bonus of ₱2,500 and a daily food subsidy.

The management also allowed all regular employees to

join the union and granted them a three-day emergency leave and a five-day sick leave which they could convert to cash if not availed of. They also won a 70-day maternity leave, medical health insurance and ₱5,000 in hospitalization assistance. The RMN likewise agreed to provide ₱10,000 for an education research fund and allowed a ten-day union leave for the employees.

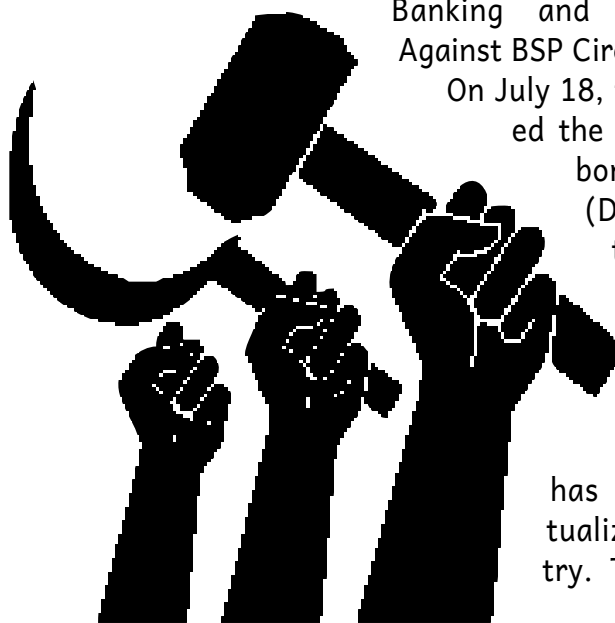
The RDEU president said that the union showed that it could not be cowed by the RMN management's intimidation tactics. The union members relied on their own strength to fight for their interests.

The RDEU is affiliated with the National Federation of Labor Unions-Kilusang Mayo Uno (NAFLU-KMU). AB

ACT2Win: New alliance vs contractualization

A new alliance to fight the scourge of contractualization has been formed. The Action Against Contractualization and Towards Significant Wage Increase Now (ACT2Win) is composed of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Alliance of Filipino Workers, Federation of Free Workers, National Labor Union, Makati Medical Center Employees' Association, Koalisyon ng Progresibong Manggagawa at Mamamayan and Banking and Financial Unions Against BSP Circular 268.

On July 18, the alliance picketed the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to demand the immediate revocation of Department Order 18-A Series of 2011 (DO-18-A), an order that has worsened contractualization in the country. They called for an



end to all forms of contractualization and the passage of a law that would regularize all workers.

ACT2Win belied DOLE's claim that its DO-18-A is favorable to contractual workers. Contrary to its provisions, it is not true that contractual workers would be enjoying the same rights as regular workers. ACT2Win said a provision which allegedly establishes a direct relationship between the company and contractual workers through the establishment of contractual agencies is fraught with loopholes.

The order does not guarantee the protection of the welfare of contractual workers since only corporations or cooperatives with "substantial capital" may run contractual agencies.

The alliance is likewise up in arms against the capitalists' growing use of manpower cooperatives that are allegedly run by contractual workers. The practice is becoming as widespread as mass layoffs. Manpower cooperatives are even more sinister compared to manpower agencies since managements portray contractual workers are among the co-owners of the cooperatives.

In fact, companies make a lot of money from contractual workers who are sent to work for other corporations in need of their services. These contractuels merely receive allowances even if they perform the same work as regulars.

Greedy capitalists have been cashing in on this scheme by paying contractual workers lower wages and depriving them of their right to job security. Capitalists rake in ever bigger profits, while workers' families are condemned to live lives of hunger and poverty. AB

SOVFA with Australia violates Philippine sovereignty

The newly ratified Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) with Australia which allows the Australian military access to Philippine docking and airport facilities is an affront to Philippine sovereignty.

As a junior partner of US imperialism in the Asia-Pacific, Australia launches interventionist military operations in the region that directly support the US' objectives of establishing its hegemony worldwide.

Historically, the US has been able to mobilize Australian military forces in most of its wars of intervention. A few examples are the US' interventionist wars in Korea and Vietnam in the 1950s to the 1970s, in the Persian Gulf in the 1990s and in Afghanistan in recent years.

No less than the US government pushed the Aquino regime to ratify the SOVFA because of the need to provide the Australian military access to Philippine facilities. The SOVFA, which had been pending at the Philippine Senate since 2007, was ratified by the Australian parliament in the same year. On December 10, 2011, Benigno Aquino III aggressively sought the SOVFA's immediate approval. It was ratified by the Senate on July 24 on a vote of 17-1. The voting, which was conducted the day after Aquino's State of the Nation Address was done hurriedly to avoid a public debate on the issue.

The US' current plans to strengthen its military presence in the Asia-Pacific likewise necessitates its use of Australia as a base of operations for its war machinery. In December 2011, the US and Australian governments signed an agreement allowing the US to construct a military base in Australia's far north that will host 2,500 American troops—one of the biggest US deployments in that country since the Second World War. AB



NPA kills 2 notorious paramilitaries

Two notorious leaders of counterrevolutionary paramilitary groups operating in Southern Mindanao Region were killed in two separate incidents on July 27. Five firearms were likewise confiscated in these operations.

In Sitio Lumondao, Marilog District, Davao City, Cawsing Ogaw, leader of the dreaded armed vigilante group Blackfighter was killed at a checkpoint set up by Red fighters under the New People's Army (NPA) Front 54 Operational Command.

In a statement, Front 54 spokesperson Ka Sandawa said Ogaw and his son Keem shot it out with the Red fighters when they were intercepted at the checkpoint and were killed in the ensuing gunbattle. Seized from them were two cal .45 pistols.

Ogaw's fanatic group had many victims in Davao City's Marilog and Calinan districts and in the towns of Magpet and Arakan in North Cotabato. Aside from killings, robberies and terrorizing the local

populace, Blackfighter also served as a private army of multinational plantations and big landlords like Pastor Apollo Quiboloy. In 2010, Blackfighter also formed part of the private army of the Japanese-owned Sumifru plantation. The private army was then led by Ret. Gen. Jovito Palparan. Ogaw also provided sanctuary to Junie Corvala alias Kumander Iring, a paramilitary leader from North Cotabato, after he murdered Italian missionary Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio in October 2011.

Ogaw's bosses in the 84th IB immediately instigated a *pangayaw*, or tribal war. It goaded Ogaw's clan to sow terror in the communities of Marilog. The military also rode on the incident to revive the Alsa Lumad, an anticommunist campaign.

The military has been supporting the depredations committed by Ogaw's fanatic group since the 1980s. As a concurrent member of the paramilitary CAFGU, Ogaw also guided the military in encircling and attacking NPA units and arresting and killing a number of Red fighters.

Almost all of Ogaw's sons are engaged in criminal activities. Two of them are notorious bandits while a third one is also a CAFGU element. The latter served as his right hand in his illegal logging forays.

Meanwhile, in Sitio Kiapat, Barangay Ganatan, Arakan, North Cotabato, operatives of the NPA Front 53 Operational Command meted punishment on bandit leader Abantas Ansabo alias Kumander Ibon. Ansabo was responsible for the murders of 19 peasants and Lumad, including the massacre of a family of seven and the hacking death of two children. Ansabo's punishment was implemented in accordance with an order from the people's court which found him guilty of heinous crimes committed in coordination with the AFP. He was also involved in three cases of attempted murder, three cases of destruction

to property and slaughtering of the masses' farm animals, five cases of robbery and extortion, a case of arson and two cases of grave threats.

As an asset of the 57th IB, Ansabo's latest project was the forcible recruitment to the CAFGU of 30 Lumad from the villages of Ganatan, Mahungkog and Amabel in Arakan town.

Six of Ansabo's men who were arrested with him were later released. Seized from them were a Garand rifle and two shotguns.

