

## CPP declares ceasefire

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Operational Command of the New People's Army made public on August 19 its order for a ceasefire to all NPA units and people's militias in support of, and to strengthen, the resumption of the peace talks between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

The unilateral ceasefire will take effect from 12:01 a.m. on August 21 and will last up to 11:59 p.m. on August 27 to occur simultaneously with the resumption of the talks in Oslo, Norway.

The declaration was made hours after Benito and Wilma Tiamzon walked free as the 15th and 16th of the NDFP consultants which the GRP released within five days.

As per order, "During the ceasefire period, all NPA units and people's militia shall cease and desist from carrying out offensive military campaigns and operations against the uniformed armed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines."

Nevertheless, "The NPA shall consider as hostile action

*to be continued on page 3*

Editorial

## It's the economy

**M**atters concerning the economy are at the root and link the different crucial issues affecting the people. The people yearn for social and economic policy changes to set the economy into the course of progress from the long period of crisis and stagnation.

Despite its progressive declarations, the Duterte regime's economic policies, in general, continue to follow the neoliberal programs of the past: attracting foreign investments, funding infrastructure that are meaningless with the persistence of landlessness and low wages.

In alliance and struggle with the Duterte regime, the Filipino people should push for substantive changes in economic policies and direction in order to solve their urgent and strategic problems.

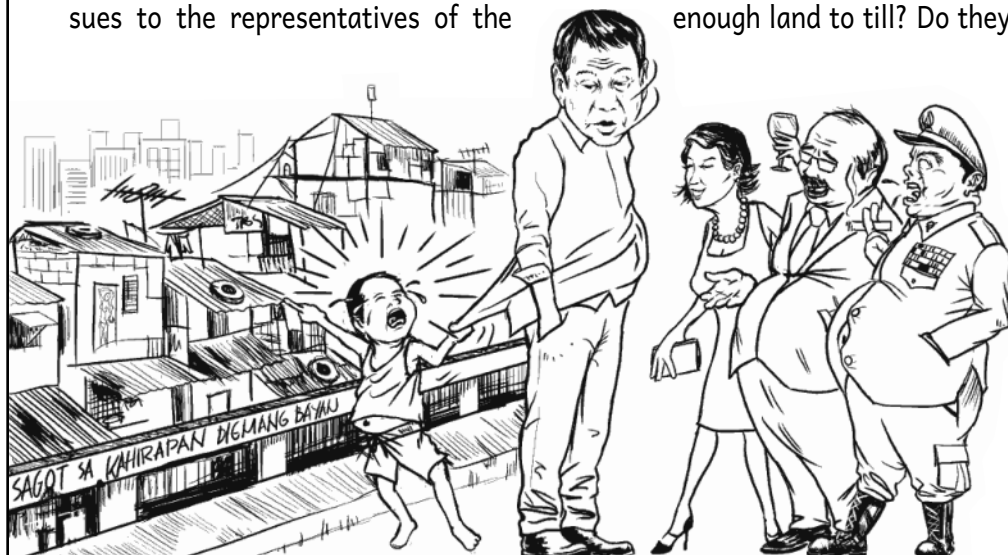
It is timely that peace talks are set to focus on the economy over the next few months. The Filipino people must actively engage to underscore their miserable social conditions and their demand for comprehensive and substantial economic changes.

The people will play a big role to achieve fruitful peace talks. They must assert their grievances and issues to the representatives of the

NDFP and the GRP to integrate these in the agreements to be forged. They must insist that the economy is viewed and regarded from the people's point of view and not from the perspective and interests of foreign banks and their trained bourgeois academics and technocrats.

They must assert that a healthy and progressive economy is measured not in terms of the GNP or GDP, foreign direct or portfolio investments or credit ratings. All these merely measure how much foreign investments the Philippines draws in but does not reflect the concrete conditions of the people.

They must assert that the economy must be understood from the people's perspective and measured in terms of the welfare of workers, peasants and small employees and professionals. Do they have jobs? Do they earn enough? Do they have enough land to till? Do they



have sturdy houses, do they have water, electricity, communications and other measures of decent living? Can they avail of college education? Are they provided with health services?

The entire people must become economic experts. They must shatter the belief that studying the economy is only for experts and academics. They must study revolutionary theory and apply the study of economics to the concrete experience of the toiling masses.

They must study, shred and repudiate neoliberalism and other

economic theories promoted by the IMF and its factotums to justify the policies that condemn the economy to chronic crisis under the semicolonial and semifeudal system.

For the toiling masses and productive sectors, questions of the economy or the economic system pertain to ownership of the means of production, the state of the means of production, participation in production or creation of wealth and appropriation of such wealth.

Under the current system, the means of production are owned by the big landlords and bourgeois compradors. In collusion with foreign big capitalists, they exploit cheap labor-power and plunder cheap agricultural

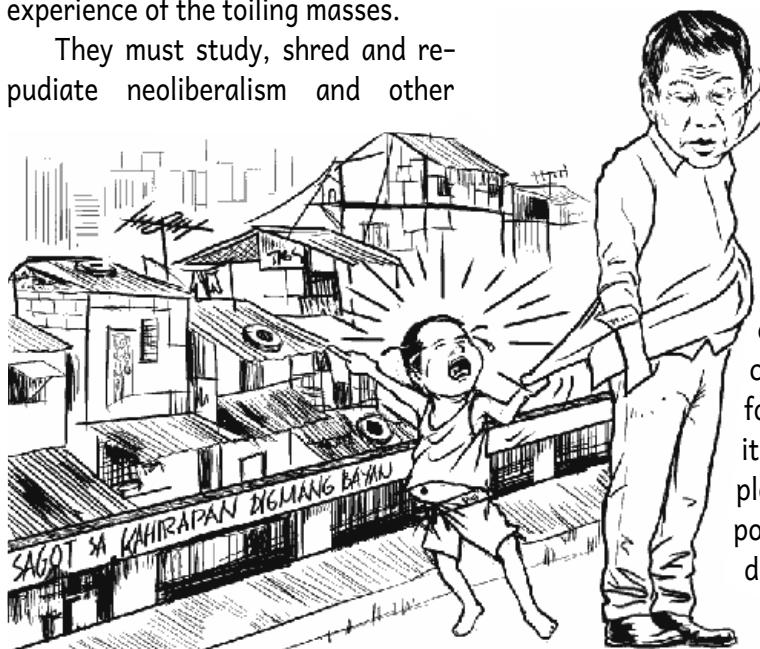
products, minerals and other raw materials.

It is the workers, peasants, farm-workers and other productive sectors who create wealth. But this is appropriated by the ruling classes. The toiling masses carry the burden of widespread unemployment, low wages, migration, landgrabbing and others.

The people hope that the Duterte regime's progressive aspect will grow stronger so it will positively address their aspirations for change. The people hope that Duterte will pursue his progressive declarations by pushing for land distribution even under CARP, end "endo" and other labor flexibilization policies, raise wages, put an end to relentless demolitions of urban poor communities as well as to plunderous mining operations, develop public health and education services, trash K-12, subsidize rice and food production and others. Duterte must strengthen independent foreign policy in order to open opportunities for economic cooperation and sourcing of oil and other resources, capital for investments and technology.

Duterte's progressive determination can be measured by how much he will strengthen his ties with the national-democratic forces through peace talks and other forms of cooperation to pursue substantial economic and social changes. Whether such changes are extensive or not, other parts of the ruling classes will surely be stirred up, including Duterte's big comprador and landlord supporters.

In the final analysis, fundamental changes in society and the economic system will be attained only through revolutionary change. Thus, the Filipino people must always strengthen and consolidate their independent political force and look forward to overthrowing the old rotten system and building a new democratic state that will pursue socialism.



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encroachments on the territory of the people's democratic government by operating troops of the AFP and its paramilitaries to conduct surveillance, psywar and other offensive operations that are labelled as "peace and development", "civil-military", "peace and order" and "law enforcement" operations."

The CPP hopes that the recommendation for a general amnesty for all political detainees will be discussed in Oslo. The NPA and the CPP are also open to the possibility of a longer ceasefire after all political prisoners are released.

Concurrently, the NDF-Northeast Mindanao Region announced that the NPA will release the five prisoners-of-war currently under its custody during the talks. The NPA captured the said police personnel in separate operations in Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte on July 5 and July 24.

Likewise, the NPA-Southern Mindanao Region announced its intent to release POWs Arnold Ongachen and Michael Grande. Ongachen was chief of police in Gov. Generoso, Davao Oriental when captured by the NPA on May 29 while Grande was arrested on July 19.

In response, GRP President Duterte declared an indefinite ceasefire which will also start on August 21 midnight. The CPP welcomed this development. **AB**

## GRP releases NDFP consultants; Talks set on August 22

The revolutionary movement and organizations advocating peace talks celebrate the release of 17 consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and two political detainees. The consultants will attend the formal resumption of peace talks in Oslo, Norway on August 22.

Last August 19, Benito Tiamzon and Wilma-Austria Tiamzon were released from Camp Crame after posting bail in four local courts. Porferio Tuna and Pedro Codaste were also released along with Loida Magpatoc who was detained in Bilibid.

Adelberto Silva, Ariel Arbitrario and Eduardo Genelsa were released on August 18.

Earlier, a large number of consultants were temporarily released on August 17. Among them were Tirso Alcantara, Alan Jazmines, Renante Gamara, Ma. Concepcion Araneta-Bocala, Ernesto Lorenzo and Alfredo Mapano. Alex Birondo and Winona Birondo were also released at the same time. Meanwhile, Kennedy Bangibang and Ruben Saluta were released last August 16.

Jaime Soledad who was detained in Ormoc City Jail was acquitted on August 15 for trumped up murder charges.

However, Leopoldo Caloza and Renato Baleros remain in jail including Eduardo Sarmiento, Edgardo Friginal and Emetrio Antalan, who were convicted with 15-year to life imprisonment for trumped-up charges.

In a press confer-

ence last August 18, the released consultants expressed gratitude to their lawyers, to the Filipino people and to organizations supportive of the peace talks.

"The consultants will ensure that socio-economic and political reforms which will benefit the people will be put forward during peace negotiations," said Jazmines.

They also called for the immediate dismissal of all trumped up charges against them and other political detainees. According to them, their release proves that Duterte is rectifying mistakes committed by the past Arroyo and Aquino administrations.

The CPP warmly welcomed the release of 19 political detainees. They also hope for the release of other consultants in coming days. Despite all these, the CPP also encourages Duterte to free more than 550 political prisoners across the country.

Last August 15, Duterte met with NDFP representatives in Malacanang to iron out the consultants' releases.

"In general, the relationship between the revolutionary movement and President Duterte is excellent, glitches can be fixed through peaceful dialogue," said Luis Jalandoni. **AB**



# Kamurayawan\*

Inside a guerilla front in Northern Samar, discussions are lively on the Duterte regime's characteristics and the revolutionary movement's prospects on the peace talks. In the face of rapidly changing developments, members of the local Party branch, Red fighters and local activists strive to clarify to the revolutionary forces and the people they lead the Party's views and policies in relation to the regime.

Since May, they have intensified the study of the Party's memos, statements and views, including those featured in *Ang Bayan*. Says Ka Mosi, a member of the Party section in Cluster 5, they may watch television at times, or listen to the radio, but mainly they rely on the Party newspaper to deliver the news and analysis of current events. They exert effort so that 100% of members of mass organizations are able to discuss its issues.

"We have been able to answer and clarify a lot of the questions about Duterte as unification inside the Party and people's army has been fast," says Ka Unli, the local NPA's political instructor. Peasants have no problems appreciating the two opposing characteristics of the Duterte regime. They are aware that while it has progressive facets, it remains the representative of the ruling class.

Nothing has changed in their everyday lives. Even when Duterte declared a unilateral ceasefire, soldiers did not leave their communities. According to Ka Lani, member of the local Makibaka chapter, it would have been better if Duterte also ordered a military pull-out from their barrio during the ceasefire. They are a hindrance to the people's livelihoods, as the military singles out those who work in their fields outside the barrio and accuse them as NPA members. They encamp in homes and in barangay halls. In the past, they had been driven out from the barrio by the

residents' petitions but time and again, they return to conduct operations. According to Mosi, many peasants have been victimized by abusive soldiers. Up to the present, not one soldier has been punished.

In spite of this, the people in the guerilla front are optimistic of the peace negotiations. Like other peasants in the entire country, they are happy that their issues such as the free land distribution and needs such as farm implements, seeds and irrigation will feature in the talks. They are also glad that aside from the talks, progressives have been given positions in the reactionary government, small as these may be. They may be miles away from Manila, but they are able to follow the people's agenda, Ka Paeng Mariano's moves inside the Department of Agrarian Reform and other issues. "We are ready for whatever comes out of the peace talks," declared Ka Inday, Ka Singko and Ka Olan, members of the local Party branch.

The local NPA unit and people's militias are also ready to comply with the ceasefire declaration by the CPP and the NPA National Operational Command, once it is declared. They were not surprised

when Duterte withdrew his first ceasefire declaration. There should be negotiations first, before any ceasefire, says Ka Menang, a guerilla front Party official. A ceasefire should be the result of negotiations, she adds. This is one of the lessons gleaned from the failed ceasefire and peace negotiations during Cory Aquino's time in the 1980s.

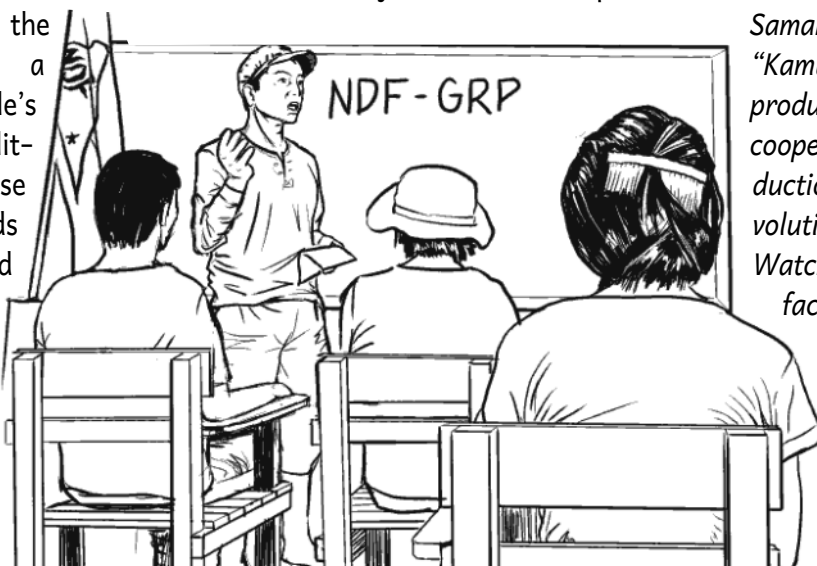
The Party and the people's army have already laid out plans in anticipation of the upcoming talks and possible ceasefire. These include continuing education campaigns, anti-feudal struggles, recruitment and expansion of the guerilla base. Particular to the people's army, plans for all Red fighters to finish the basic Party course and push onwards with the intermediate course are already afoot. Regular discussions based on *Ang Bayan* issues, nightly news discussions and cultural efforts will continue.

Most of the revolutionary work should not only be continued but even intensified. An example is the people's militia's defense of their communities. With or without the talks, bad elements will not disappear in the barrios, says Ka Dito, people's militia commander in the said cluster. They don't stop with their activities, that's why the militia has still a lot of things to do, he adds.

*\*Peace in Waray language*

*Interviews with the Northern Samar comrades can be seen in "Kamurayawan," a video feature produced by SineProletaryo, in cooperation with Talutang Productions, Eastern Visayas' revolutionary multimedia collective. Watch at youtube/prwc and facebook/philippinerevolutionwebcentral. Also available are Ang Bayan videos and other SineProletaryo productions such as on the NPA Medics and What is CPP.*

AB



## NPA burns paramilitary's marijuana plantation in Bukidnon

The New People's Army (NPA)-North Central Mindanao Region launched a series of tactical offensives last August 17 targeting marijuana plantations run by the paramilitary group Alamara.

Ka Alan Juanito, the NPA's spokesperson in the region, said that the NPA confiscated a Garand rifle, two carbines, five shotguns and two sacks of marijuana. The NPA burned the marijuana in the presence of residents of Sitio Kat-ablaran, Barangay Kanangaan, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon. An Alamara member, the notorious Manlumakad Bocalas, was one of those killed.

According to Ka Alan, the Alamara together with the Bocalas brothers have been sowing terror among the Lumad communities in the boundaries of Agusan del Sur and Bukidnon provinces.

Before this, on August 5, the AFP's 1st Special Forces Battalion (SFB) and CAFGU elements launched a surprise attack against an NPA unit under the Mt. Kitanglad Subregional Command encamped at a forested area in Subvillage Tungungan, Barangay Lilingayon, Valencia City.

The firefight lasted for almost

an hour. Three Red fighters were wounded.

The following day, AFP troops carrying out clearing operations were ambushed by an NPA team wounding a soldier. The AFP used the NPA's supposed extortion as a pretext which obligated them to respond to the area.

At midnight, soldiers roused the residents of the nearby sub-village and forced them to help in transporting to their command post their casualties and equipment left behind by the NPA. The soldiers threatened to kill the residents' livestock if they disobeyed.

Last August 6 and 7, the AFP fired mortars on the site of the encounter, bringing fear to the civilians.

According to another statement by Ka Alan, the NPA unit lowered their guard even when the GRP had already withdrawn its unilateral ceasefire last July 31. Furthermore, the NPA should triple its alertness against enemy attacks.

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## CPP pulls out of Duterte's anti-drug campaign

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) declared on August 12 the withdrawal from the Duterte regime's anti-drug campaign. The CPP explained that the regime's anti-drug war is clearly anti-democratic and anti-people because this has spiralled into a frenzied campaign of extrajudicial killings and vigilante murders perpetrated by the police and by police-linked criminal syndicates.

The New People's Army (NPA) will continue to intensify its operations to arrest and disarm drug trade operators and protectors in its territory. As before, the NPA will continue to exercise due process in dealing with suspects, such as those PNP officers presently in custody in Compostela Valley and Surigao del Sur.

These past few days, Duterte

has come up with one list after another of so-called protectors, narco-politicians and judges without proof nor clear basis for accusations of their involvement in drugs. It is a mystery even to the chief intelligence officer and head of the PNP. It would be no surprise if the lists made public by Duterte were fed to him by these criminal syndicates.

## NPA seizes 6 firearms in Compostela Valley

THE NPA's 8th Pulang Bagani Company seized six firearms in a series of successful counter-offensives against troops of the 25th IB in Monkayo town, Compostela Valley during the first week of August.

At about 7:30 a.m. last August 5, Red fighters ambushed a 25th IB company in Sitio Inuburan, Barangay Rizal. Five soldiers were killed and more or less ten were wounded. The NPA confiscated two M203 grenade launchers, one M4 rifle, Harris radios and other military hardware.

Earlier, on August 4, Red fighters attacked a platoon of the 25th IB in Barangay Paisan, Monkayo. Two soldiers were killed and three were wounded.

On August 2, the 8th PBC-NPA neutralized Cpl. Castro, an intelligence operative of the 25th IB who was caught conducting combat intelligence operations in the communities of Barangay Baylo, Monkayo. A 9mm caliber and .22 caliber pistol were seized from him.

According to Rigoberto F. Sanchez, NPA-Southern Mindanao Regional Operational Command spokesperson, the series of offensives was carried out in response to the 25th IB's ceaseless operations in the barangays of Monkayo since June, even during the government's ceasefire declaration.

In reaction, soldiers attacked civilians and their communities. Among the military's crimes were aerial bombings, strafing, hamletting and food blockades against the Lumad people. **AB**

Hundreds have been killed while "resisting arrest" or while under custody and detention, in police cars as well as in jails.

Many of the summary and vigilante killings are being carried out by the criminal syndicates who use the "anti-drug war" as camouflage for waging all-out war against their rivals and their rival protectors in the police, bureaucracy and judiciary or to rub-out their own men.

The CPP added, "Duterte's "drug war" is bound to fail because it does not address the socio-economic roots of the problem. It has been proven in history that no amount of killing will succeed in putting an end to the drug menace.

All democratic forces must unite and demand justice and an end to the madness of police and vigilante killings. At the same time, the people should amplify their urgent clamor to set the conditions to end the proliferation of drugs," the CPP calls.

In this regard, on August 2, the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), which counts as members more than 300 organizations all over the world, denounced the spate of drug-related extrajudicial killings of suspects in the Philippines. They called on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to call on Duterte to immediately stop the killings.

The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), a coalition of Christian churches, and other lawyers' and activist youth groups also denounced the executions.

Meanwhile, the NDF-Eastern Visayas denied having cleared former congressman Emil Ong and present congressman Edwin Ong as protectors of drug traffickers, but instead said that they are presently under investigation. Spokesperson Fr. Sanny Salas also said that the Ongs concocted the media releases that they have been cleared. AB

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## No to Marcos' burial at Libingan ng mga Bayani

The CPP condemned the Duterte regime's plan to give the former fascist dictator Ferdinand Marcos a hero's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on September 18. Other progressive organizations likewise denounced the plan.

The Filipino people hold all post-Marcos regimes equally culpable for the political restoration of the Marcos family—Imelda and their children, who all took part in the machinations of the Marcos dictatorship. According a hero's burial to the dead dictator will complete the Marcoses' political restoration and will complete the white-wash of all the crimes they perpetrated against the people.

The CPP supports the people's protests against the Duterte regime's plan to give a hero's burial to Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. The revolutionary forces continue to stand against the political restoration of the Marcoses and demand that they be made to pay for all the crimes against the Filipino people.

The planned burial is a "travesty of justice and distortion of history,"



and the Marcos dictatorship has yet to pay for the thousands of youth activists who were killed for fighting martial law, according to Anakbayan. The Alliance of Concerned Teachers, for its part, said that this equals "rewriting history" and insults martial law victims and their families. The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines, a national association of more than a thousand Catholic schools in the country, declared that Marcos is a "plunderer who was responsible for a failed economy—the effects of which we are seeing now in the oppressive poverty all around."

In Congress, seven congressmen from the Makabayan bloc filed on August 11 House Resolution 197 opposing the move as a "monumental historical distortion." The National

Historical Commission also stated that Marcos is unfit for burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani because he lied about his military medals.

Protest actions were launched on August 13 in Quezon City by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, and by SELDA and other groups in Luneta, last August 14.

The next day, a formal petition was filed at the Supreme Court by former Bayan Muna Representative Neri Colmenares, former congressman Satur Ocampo, Dr. Carol Araullo of Bayan, National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera, Bonifacio Ilagan and Dionito Cabillas of SELDA and other groups appealing for certiorari and prohibition of the said burial. AB

# NPA's use of landmines is legitimate

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) maintain that the revolutionary movement has taken great pains to observe the highest standards of international humanitarian law in waging armed struggle for national liberation.

It has demonstrated such through formal and official adherence to the Geneva Conventions and its 1997 Protocols, and likewise with its agreement with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in forging the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). All these declare that in the course of armed conflict, civilians and the civilian population are to be protected.

The use of improvised explosives and landmines - in particular those that are command-detonated anti-personnel and anti-vehicle types, and including those target-detonated anti-vehicle types, are legitimate for so long as they only target legitimate military objects of attack, and prevent any potential, actual and impending damage to civilians and the civilian population.

The command-detonated landmines that the NPA currently uses do not explode even when these are stepped on, tripped upon or kicked around. These are wired to manual blasting machines which the Red fighters most carefully attend to in order to ensure that these will explode only against legitimate military targets. These are carefully manufactured by ordnance units of the NPA. These are discriminately laid out, always manned and within the immediate proximity of the NPA unit that emplaced them. The NPA is most careful in using weapons that may accidentally harm civilians.

What the Ottawa Treaty clearly prohibits is the use of anti-personnel landmines that are target-detonated. These explosives are designed to blow up when

stepped upon or contacted by the target. The Ottawa Treaty does not prohibit use of command-detonated anti-personnel landmines, or both target-detonated and command-detonated anti-tank and anti-vehicle landmines. The CPP is not bound by the Ottawa Convention because only state actors can sign it to become contracting parties, aside from the fact that the Ottawa Treaty does not belong to customary law which is otherwise binding on all subjects of international law.

Although not bound by the treaty, the CPP and the NPA respect the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines and explosives that are target-activated or contact-activated. The NPA makes sure that explosives used are solely, directly and exclusively directed against and guaranteed to hit only legitimate military objects of attack such as combatants or military personnel.

The AFP conceals the failures of its forces by misrepresentation of facts, fabrication of allegations, distortion of CARHRIHL principles regarding landmines, and outright vilification of the revolutionary movement. Those reactionary troops killed or injured by command-detonated landmines are falsely portrayed as "victims" that



are purportedly engaged in non-military activities such as "humanitarian work" or "relief missions" when in fact, they are combatants. Likewise, those alleged anti-personnel and claymore landmines supposedly confiscated from the NPA are none other than US government-supplied military assistance to the AFP against the NPA.

Conforming to the vilification of the revolutionary movement are the schemes of some rabid anti-communist and reactionary individuals, as well as populist and pacifist international non-government organizations (NGOs) that masquerade as advocates of the prohibition of landmines. They demand that movements for national liberation like the NDFP denounce the use of landmines.

For the NDFP, ploys by these NGOs, which in truth are imperialist-funded, are objectionable. The national liberation movements are pressured to surrender the use of landmines as the weapon of the revolutionary forces and people against an enemy that uses far more destructive weapons against the civilian population. Examples of these are bombardments, artillery fire, arson, use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) such as cluster bombs, white phosphorus, daisy cutters, MOABs, etc. It would be more proper for these NGOs to devote time and effort to campaigning against nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and the said WMDs, and against state terrorism and wars of aggression.

There is a lot of hypocrisy from critics of landmines especially the apologists and defenders of the US which is known to be the foremost supplier, stockpiler and user of landmines. Instead of stopping the NPA to use command-detonated explosives, these critics should call on the US to stop using WMDs that are prohibited under international laws. They should also demand that the GRP's armed forces stop its attacks against civilian communities and suspected areas of the NPA. **AB**

# Harassment of progressives and civilian communities continue

**H**UMAN rights organizations expressed alarm on the growing number of surveillance and harassment cases committed by military agents against known activists and civilian communities.

**Ifugao.** Brandon Bonulna, a member of the Ifugao Peasants Movement (IPM) said he recently noticed men in civilian clothes tailing him after he attended a court hearing and visited political prisoners in Lagawe.

According to the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, it was not the first time Bonulna had come under surveillance. He was among the leaders, members and supporters of the IPM who were openly tagged as supporters of the New People's Army.

**Sorsogon.** Juvy Solaon, staff of Karapatan-Sorsogon, was followed by military agents aboard a motorcycle from their office in Barangay Polvorista. According to Solaon, she already noticed two men standing in front of their office before she rode the tricycle going to her friend's house.

Aside from surveillance, harassment of communities and individuals continue.

**Antipolo.** In a forum commemorating World Indigenous Peoples' Day, last August 8, Arnel de los Santos shared the harassment committed by 80th IB elements in a Dumagat community in Apia, Calawis village. Because of this, residents evacuated their community. Residents acknowledged that the series of harassments were done because they oppose the construction of a 500-megawatt Wawa pump storage hydropower project by Olympia Violago Water and Power Inc. between Antipolo and Montalban, Rizal.

Delos Santos is currently the secretary general of Bigkis at Lakas ng Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan. His father, Nicanor de los Santos was killed by the AFP's Task Force Panther last December 8, 2001

while leading the protests.

**Agusan del Sur.** Troops indiscriminately fired at house belonging to a certain Lolong Gomez in Purok 7, Barangay Zillovia, last August 13. Tony Bautista, Lolong Kali and his 13-year old nephew, who were gathered inside the house during the strafing, were wounded. A neighbor was also hit and is in critical condition.

Manobo families evacuated to the Zillovia barangay gym for fear of their lives and to escape the surveillance by paramilitary groups formed by former Loreto mayor, Dario Otaza. The NPA meted out death penalty to Otaza last 2015.

**Compostela Valley.** Residents of Purok 4, Sitio Tagbaw, Barangay Rizal in Monkayo complained about the ongoing patrols of 25th IB in their communities.

According to Purok chairman Lino Inbad, the AFP pretended to be NPA members.

Last August 7, soldiers prevented farmers from going to their farms after an encounter between the AFP and the NPA occurred. Around 37 families were affected by these harassment. Soldiers have been conducting operations in their community since July 25.

**Batangas.** A military operation was also conducted by the 16th IB and 730th Combat Group of Philippine Air Force in Sitio Santolan, Barangay Coral ni Lopez last July 26. This took place even after Duterte's unilateral ceasefire declaration.

The community has been enduring the military operations by the joint forces of the Philippine Army and Philippine Air Force since December 2015. It has long been

the AFP's practice to harass and accuse them of being NPA members. According to Agaton Bautista of Samahang Magbubukid ng Coral ni Lopez, they were told that their names are on the Order of Battle, a military hitlist. Because of this, many farmers have fled their homes and farmlands out of fear.

Farmers have already filed a complaint regarding their case at the Department of Agrarian Reform. **AB**

## Paramilitary kills 2 Lumad activists

TWO LUMAD activists were killed on August 12 in San Luis, Agusan del Sur in successive AFP-backed paramilitary attacks.

Jerry Layola, 42, was attacked first inside his home in Barangay Balit at around 7 p.m. A few minutes later, armed men shot Jimmy Mapinsahan Barosa, 48, outside a friend's house in Barangay Baylo. Barosa, a Barangay Kasilayan resident, was in Balosa en route to a hospital to deliver food to his wife. Nineteen-year old Rene Mapinsahan was wounded in the incident.

Both men were members of Tagdumala, a Banwaon organization actively fighting against destructive mining in their municipality. This includes the plan to initiate open-pit mining by the Tambuli Mining Company Inc and Malampay Mining Inc, for whom the AFP are conducting clearing operations.

The responsible paramilitary group was formed and is being funded by the 29th IB. It was previously headed by a CAFGU element. **AB**



## State forces illegally arrest KMP, RMP officials

JOINT FORCES from the police and military illegally arrested two known activists holding high positions in progressive organizations. This was at a time when the NDFP and the entire revolutionary and progressive forces were gearing up to the formal opening of the peace negotiations.

On August 19, state forces arrested Amelia Pond, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) regional coordinator for the Southern Mindanao Region, in Barangay Lahug, Cebu City. She also serves as a researcher and teacher to the Salugpongan schools in Mindanao. Pond left the RMP three-day national assembly when she was accosted by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group inside the taxi she was riding. Four other assembly delegates were with her at that time. She was slapped with trumped up murder and frustrated murder charges under the name “Adelfa Toledo.” She was accused of

being a member of the CPP Mindanao Commission.

On August 20, RMP-Cebu members protested in front of Camp Sotero in Cebu City to demand her release.

Prior to this, state forces also illegally arrested Antonio Pajalla in Macalelon, Quezon on August 12. Pajalla was then boarding a jeepney for Catanauan to prepare for a peasant protest.

Pajalla is KMP’s vice-chairperson and longstanding Piglas (Pinagkaisang Lakas ng Magbubukid sa Quezon) leader. He led the coconut farmers’ struggle in Quezon to reclaim the multibillion coco levy funds. He was arrested and charged with a rebellion case filed in 1995. He was detained despite having presented an amnesty certificate awarded in 1997. He is currently under the PNP-Macalelon’s custody.

On August 13, progressive organizations picketed to call for his immediate release.

## Farmworkers launch anti-Tiempo Muerto struggles in Negros

**F**ARMWORKERS in Negros Occidental’s sugar plantations launched a three day protest from August 10 to 12 to demand the immediate release of food aid from government agencies.

They demanded the immediate distribution of P40 million in calamity fund and the multimillion Social Amelioration Fund which should aid the poor but are actually pocketed by landlords. (See *Ang Bayan July 21, 2016.*)

The sugarcane farmworkers launched their protest during the Tiempo Muerto (dead season), the months between planting and harvesting sugarcane. This is typified by widespread hunger and death due to the absence of the sugarcane farmworkers’ alternative sources of livelihood. Since the start of Tiempo Muerto in June, protests have been launched in the sugarcane plantations of Murcia, Don Salvador Benedicto, Talisay City, Silay City, EB

Magalona, Manapla, and Escalante City. The dead season usually lasts till mid-September.

Yearly, sugarcane farmworkers go through Tiempo Muerto and its accompanying hunger and hardship. This is according to Danilo Ramos, spokesperson of Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura. They seek alternative work but these are very scarce due to Negros’s backward system of monocropping and decades of feudal oppression. Land monopolization is high in the island, which produces 48% of sugarcane supply in the country.

According to Roland Rillo, chairperson of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW), Tiempo Muerte is worse this year.

He says, as in other provinces, the island experienced El Niño, such that there were even less chances of finding work during the planting season. There are times when landlords hire workers during Tiempo Muerto but at very low wages (P8 -17/daily).

On the other hand, “sugar barons” or big landlords continue to rake in profits. According to a recent NFSW research, a landlord acquires up to P80,000 net income per one hectare planted with sugarcane.

Aside from immediate aid, the UMA and NFSW demanded the implementation of genuine land reform and industrialization.

He said, in the long term, only these can solve the hunger and death brought by Tiempo Muerto, as with the other basic issues of farmers and farmworkers. **AB**

## International Indigenous Peoples' Day observed

UNDER Katribu's leadership, nationalist groups observed on August 9 the International Indigenous People's Day by a protest action at the Mendiola Bridge in Manila. At the same time, the Cordillera People's Alliance paraded through Session Road in Baguio City before gathering at the Igorot Park.

Although the international theme for this day was education for indigenous people, the indigenous peoples in the Philippines presented other matters that affected them. Among these are genuine recognition of their right to ancestral land and self-determination, an end to plunder of patrimony in their territories, adequate and appropriate basic social services, and relief for disaster victims. They also called for the resumption of peace talks between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

They held fora and workshops in different places throughout the country. Among these were a series of sharing sessions between indigenous Cordillera youth and youth of Taiwan from tribes such as the Amis,

Atayal, Kavalan, and Truku. Activist youth groups participated in the discussions.

On August 8, more than 300 indigenous people attended a forum at the College of the Holy Spirit in Quezon City. Dumagats, Aytas, Mangyans, Igorots, Tumandoks and Lumáds attended the forum, as did students and teachers of Holy Spirit. Aiza Seguerra sang her support.

Earlier, Katribu picketed the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) office the last week of July to demand the repeal of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act and dismantling of the NCIP, the agency it created. According to Katribu, the said law is being used by local and foreign corporations to arrogate ancestral lands for big mines and agribusiness plantations. NCIP even grants fake "datu" titles to paramilitaries like the New Indigenous People's Army for Reform (Nipar), a group which indiscriminately fired at a wedding last July 30. Therefore, they should share responsibility for this massacre and other sufferings foisted on the Lumad. AB