



ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas  
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

# Bayan

Vol XLVII No. 23  
December 7, 2016  
www.cpp.ph

## Worsening human rights violations

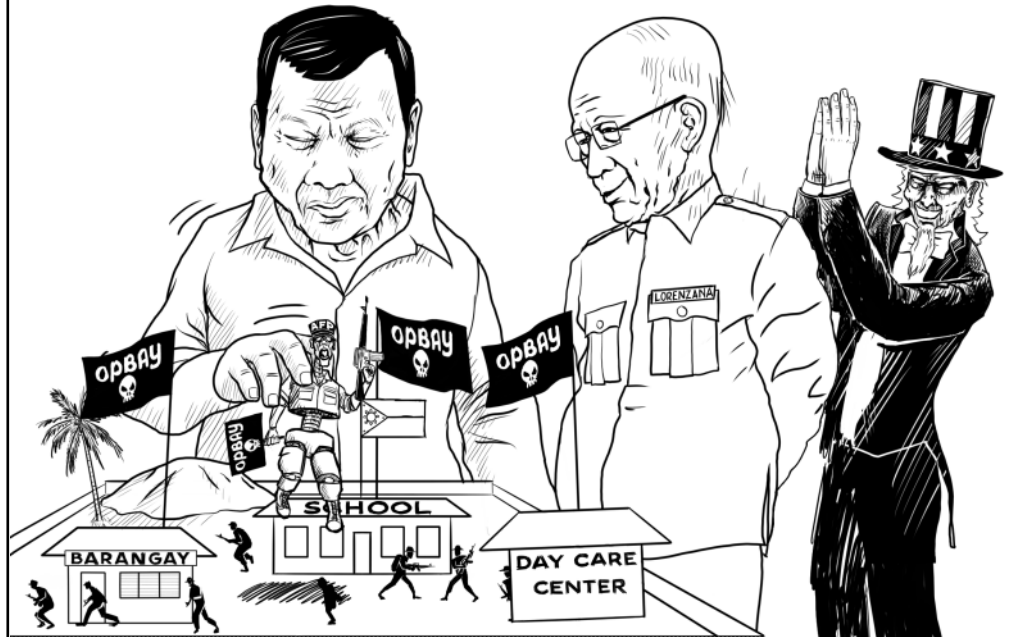
HUMAN RIGHTS violations under the Duterte regime are worsening.. All democratic forces must stand and defend civil and political rights and demand justice for the thousands of victims of extrajudicial killings as well as military abuses in the countryside and continuing political repression and persecution.

Despite his avowal of support for the peace talks and for the CARHRIHL, he has allowed the AFP to continue its war of suppression with impunity. In the past six months, AFP combat units occupied and controlled barrios suspected to be base areas of the New People's Army (NPA).

Several hundred thousand people have been subjected to various forms and degrees of military harassment. Peasant masses have been subjected to curfews, restrictions, interrogations, threats, intimidation and other abuses of civil and political rights. To them, there is practically no difference between the Duterte regime and the previous regimes in terms of military abuses.

Activists continue to be subjected to surveillance and harassment. Close to 20 have been arrested and charged with trumped-up criminal cases. Duterte also has yet to correct the injustice done by the previous regimes against more than 400 political prisoners languishing in

*continued on page 3*



### EDITORIAL

## Conditions for extending the ceasefire

**I**n the spirit of peace negotiations and to extend the unilateral ceasefire declaration, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the Filipino people insist that GRP President Duterte must end or suspend Oplan Bayanihan and the suppression operations against the people and their revolutionary movement.

He must order the Armed Forces of the Philippines to withdraw its armed combatants from the guerrilla zones and areas under the control of the revolutionary government. He must carry this out while fulfilling his promise to free political prisoners en masse through an amnesty proclamation.

If he accomplishes this by January, Duterte can have the guarantee that the CPP will prolong its unilateral ceasefire declaration. It will further encourage the revolutionary forces to forge with it a bilateral ceasefire to boost accelerated negotiations for a just and

lasting peace.

He must cast away his illusion that the GRP has exclusive domination over the entire Philippines. In significant parts of the country, the fact is that there exist two governments which are at war with each other: the GRP and the people's democratic government which the NDFP represents.

By continuing to forward-deploy his abusive troops and occupy peasant communities, he is pressing on the civil war and proving himself no different from the war freak Aquino and Arroyo regimes neither of which were interested in the

peaceful resolution of the armed conflict.

The CPP commends all units of the New People's Army (NPA) for standing by the Party's unilateral ceasefire declaration. They have withstood and forborne the continuing Oplan Bayanihan armed operations of the AFP within and around NPA guerrilla zones and base areas.

The CPP condemns the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for bullheadedly continuing to carry out armed hostile actions against the peasant masses and NPA units in the guerrilla zones and revolutionary areas. For the past three months, the AFP has practically observed no ceasefire.

The unilateral ceasefire declarations issued reciprocally by the GRP and the NDFP have

persisted only because NPA units have chosen to carry out evasion maneuvers to avoid armed skirmishes with the AFP as well as combat troops of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Against the spirit of the reciprocal ceasefire declarations, the AFP leadership itself ordered its troops to continue with Oplan Bayanihan counterinsurgency operations. When confronted by the people, its operating troops even make claims such as "only the NPA has a ceasefire."

The CPP is utterly dismayed at the failure of GRP President Rodrigo Duterte to rein in the AFP war dogs. It is quite apparent that the order made by Duterte last August as commander-in-chief to the AFP to "be friendly with the revolutionary government" and with the CPP-NPA is an empty one considering that not a single area

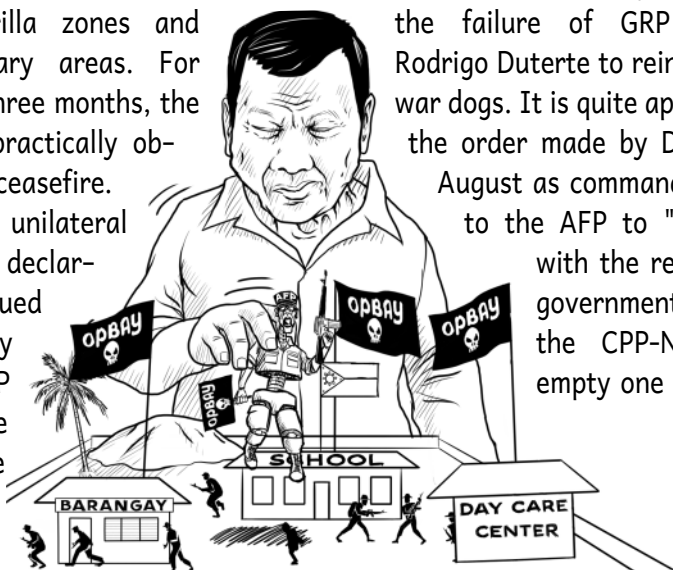
command of the AFP respected nor implemented this policy. On the contrary, the AFP continues to regard the CPP-NPA with extreme hostility.

During the entire course of the unilateral ceasefire, the AFP has deployed armed units and maintained armed presence in centers of civilian communities in violation of the CARHRIHL and international protocols which protect the welfare of civilians in times of war.

Continuing Oplan Bayanihan counterinsurgency operations undermine the reciprocal unilateral ceasefire declarations. By deploying fully-armed units to the very heart of NPA guerrilla zones and guerrilla bases, the AFP leadership wants its units to engage the NPA in armed skirmishes to force the ceasefire to an end. They know full well that the NPA can only evade and counter-manuever so much.

The AFP's forward troop deployments are preparations for an offensive in a vain attempt to crush the NPA and the wide and deep support it enjoys among the peasant masses.

If he presses on with the AFP's deployment in the guerrilla zones and occupation of communities, Duterte will be virtually setting the stage for widespread armed clashes with the New People's Army as Red fighters will be forced to engage in active defense and defend the people against abuses by the forward-deployed combat troops of the AFP. He will only have himself to blame if this forces the hand of the CPP to terminate its unilateral ceasefire declaration. AB



# ANG Bayan

Vol XLVII No. 23 | December 7, 2016

Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Waray and English.

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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines



jail over trumped-up criminal charges. On two successive days last October, protest demonstrations were violently dispersed by the military and police.

There are at least 16 cases of extrajudicial killings against activists, including peasants demanding land reform. In Compostela Valley, environmental anti-mining activist Joselito Pasaporte was killed last October 13. To downplay the killing, Pasaporte was described by the police as being a "drug personality".

The AFP is increasingly using the tactic of linking political repression cases to the war against drugs. In Kalinga, 73-year old retired NPA Red fighter Marcos Agalao was arrested and accused of possession of illegal drugs. On October 4, four peasant activists in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan were arrested and accused of illegal drugs possession. To justify the conduct of hostile operations despite the ceasefire order, "peace and development" operations under Oplan Bayanihan are being described as part of the "war against drugs."

### Grave disregard of human rights in Duterte's war against drugs

There is grave disregard of human rights under the Duterte regime's so-called war against drugs. In just less than six months, close to 5,000 people have been killed. Around half have been killed by police operatives in supposed arrest operations typically in urban slums.

These operations have been so contrived that reporters have practically come up with a report template where victims are described as having "resisted arrest" and in possession of a .38 caliber handgun and several packets of *shabu* (metamphitamine hydrochloride). The general public has grown skeptical of such police reports, especially after the same template was used to explain away the celebrated case of Mayor Rolando Espinosa who was

killed by police operatives inside a police jail in Leyte.

There are also the daily killings of supposed small-time drug users and peddlers and other petty criminals. It is as if there is a national network of death squads which are trying to outnumber each other's kills and outdo each other in the tabloid news media with increasingly sick methods of murder and demented "cardboard messages." Victims are invariably described as criminals in a subtle way of dismissing or even justifying the crime.

This orgy of drug killings has been set forth by Duterte's display of total disdain for human rights. He has brazenly encouraged the police to carry-out gangster killings of suspected criminals with impunity. He has assured police officers of backing and has gone to the extent of reinstating key officers of the PNP behind the Espinosa execution who were relieved for involvement in illegal drugs.

He fans extreme prejudice against drug users whom he has adjudged as social dregs and openly encourages their execution. He chooses to be blind to the deep social and economic roots—unemployment, low wages, poverty and hunger—behind the problem of widespread drug addiction and insists on his killing spree.

He has arrogated judicial powers by coming-up with a so-called narcolist of supposed big drug lords and coddlers. He has practically upturned the universally accepted principle of the criminal justice system: he makes the accusations and demands those he accuses to prove their innocence. Duterte's drug-tagging is a virtual death sentence which only he can lift.

He has employed this power to sow fear and demand

obedience and loyalty from police and military officers, as well as local and congressional politicians; as well as a tool to persecute his rivals and render them inutile. Duterte's anti-drug war has become an additional arsenal in the factional rivalries among the ruling classes.

### Demand justice and defend human rights

Amid continuing abuses of human rights by the Duterte government, the Filipino people must unite and demand justice for all victims of military and police abuses.

Duterte's display of utter disregard for human rights must be denounced by the Filipino people. They must condemn his threats to include human rights organizations among the targets of his anti-drug killings.

He must be opposed in his drive to employ the police and military to trample on human rights with impunity. He must be castigated for any plan to suspend the writ of habeas corpus or bring back martial law.

The Filipino people must unite to demand an end to the war of suppression. They must call for the immediate pull-out of AFP combat troops from their communities. They must raise the demand to free all political prisoners.

The friends and loved ones of victims of extrajudicial killings, including those killed in the course of the war against drugs, must raise their voices and demand justice and reparation from the Duterte government. AB



# Military operations during the ceasefire

AFP and PNP operations are at the core of fear and anxiety in the countryside. This is contrary to Duterte's assertions that the AFP "cannot be pulled out" from the countryside because nobody will "maintain peace and order." These operations of taking over villages cut across the whole country.

Preliminary reports from NPA commands show that the AFP and PNP launched operations in no less than 495 villages in more than 144 towns and 48 provinces from August 21 until the first week of December.

The AFP deceitfully portrays their combat and psywar operations as "peace and development," "civil military operations," "medical mission," "visitation," "community outreach," "anti-drug campaign," and so on.

At a press conference in Sierra Madre on November 24, Jaime Padilla (Ka Diego), NPA-Southern Tagalog (Melito Glor Command) spokesperson expressed that up to 70 villages in the region are covered by Oplan Bayanihan's abusive operations.

A stark example is the 76th IB's marauding of Harrison and Aglipayo villages in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro last August 29. In these barrios, where the population runs to over 4,800, soldiers tried to coerce the villagers into joining the CAFGU. According to the military, CAFGUs must be recruited, otherwise the whole area will be regarded as NPA barrios, and everyone will be arrested whenever an encounter ensues in the area.

In Ilocos-Cordillera region, no less than 64 villages and 17 towns are hounded by PDTs from five battalions of the AFP, as well as combat units of the PNP. In the Ifugao-Nueva Vizcaya border, an 18-column combat operation by 5th ID

troops scoured the NPA's mass base before deploying PDTs to the villages.

Last September 11, combined elements of the 50th IB and the PNP-SAF illegally arrested a 73-year old retired NPA Red fighter and framed him up for possession of illegal drugs. Likewise, four civilian hunters were arrested by the 24th IB and the PNP and were divested of their hunting weapons. They were later accused of being NPA members.

The people of Eastern Visayas (EV) share the same plight. NDF-EV's Fr. Santiago Salas (Ka Sanny) in a statement said that because of the PDTs' military operations, the NPA in the region has no recourse but to actively defend the people and its ranks. In any case, he added, the peace negotiations could proceed even without a bilateral ceasefire.

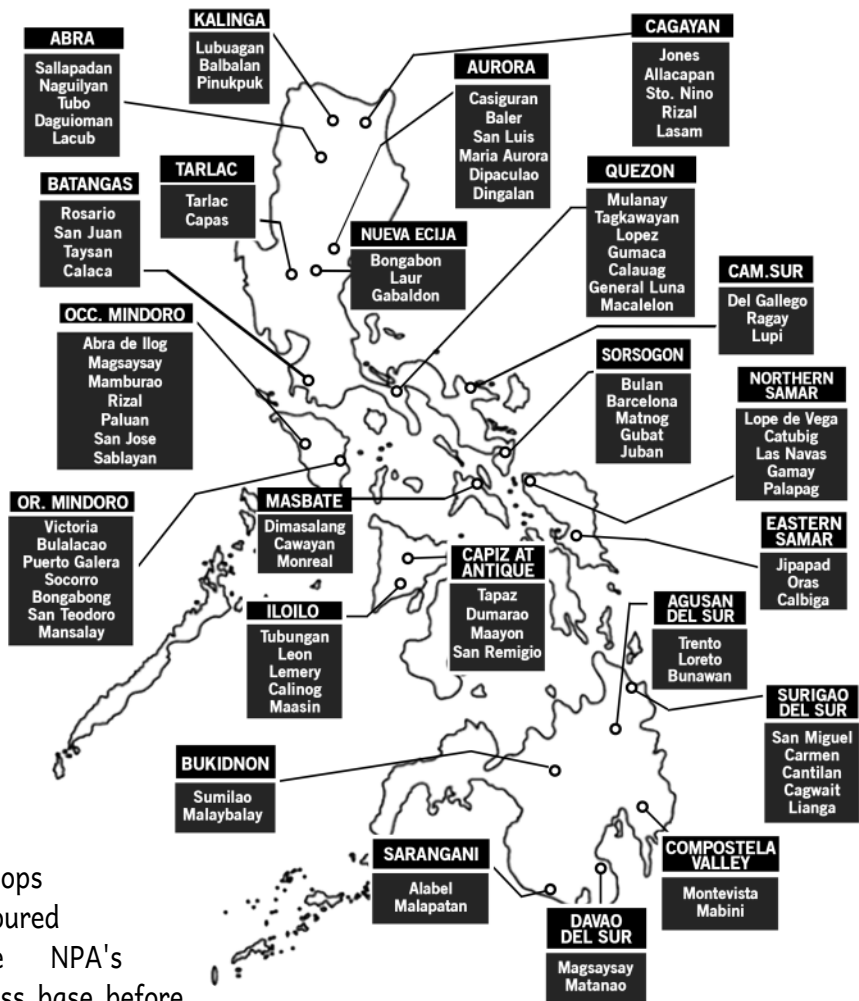
In Panay, up to 40 villages in 14 towns are under attack by PDTs and combat operations by the AFP-PNP. According to Ka Julian Paisano of the NPA-Panay, aside from intimidation of the village folk, soldiers are at the forefront of anti-social

activities such as gambling, selling and use of illegal drugs, pornography, sexual abuse of women, and so on.

In North Central Mindanao Region (NCMR), the military launch unencumbered attacks in up to 78 barrios mainly because Red fighters carry out counter-maneuvers to avoid encounters. Ka Allan Juanito of the NPA-NCMR said that the people of the region are calling for the termination of the ceasefire, due to the fact that AFP operations continue to hound them.

Ka Ariel Montero of the NPA-Northeastern Mindanao Region for his part said that up to 70 villages in the region reported the presence of soldiers.

In Far South Mindanao, no less than 25 villages are currently under the control of different military units. Not once did the operating PDTs pull out nor were their numbers reduced. Worse, the NPA's unilateral ceasefire declaration has even made the military's operations more brazen and indiscriminate. **AB**



*\*data from intial reports*

# Political prisoner dies in jail

The call for general amnesty assumed increased urgency upon the death of another political detainee on November 28. Bernabe Ocasla, 66, expired four days after he was brought to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center upon his third cardiac arrest. He is the 13th political prisoner to die in jail in the past five years.

According to Fidel Agcaoili, ND-FP negotiating panel chief, the ND-FP strongly reiterates its call for the immediate release of all the political prisoners. "Allowing them to continue suffering—and to die—while unjustly detained is an abomination which the NDFP cannot tolerate." He also said that their release is not only a matter of goodwill or justice but the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) that the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines had formally signed in 1998.

NDFP political consultant Rey Casambre also clarified that the release of political prisoners is not just a conditionality for a bilateral ceasefire. "The release of political prisoners is a matter of justice. In fact, it's a matter of life and death."

Ocasla has been suffering from hypertension which was exacerbated by almost a decade of long incarceration under inhuman conditions. He was a peasant activist when arrested at his home in Catbalogan City, Samar in October 31, 2007 and was implicated in the trumped-up murder cases in 1985 in Hilongos, Leyte. He was transferred to the Manila City Jail in 2014 where his ailment grew worse. The trial has still not been concluded at the time of his death.

He was one of the elderly and sickly prisoners on the NDFP list for immediate release on humanitarian grounds. Of the more than 400 political prisoners, 130 are sickly,

33 are elderly, and 33 are women. Four NDFP consultants are still in jail. Three of them, Eduardo Sarmiento, Emeterio Antalan and Leopoldo Caloza, are serving sentences.

President Rodrigo Duterte had promised a general amnesty for more than 400 political prisoners since last May. But according to Agcaoili, this is one of many promises that have since fallen through the cracks. Since then, the GRP peace panel has trimmed down the list to merely 70, "without at all explaining how it arrived at this number, and without any assurance that the most seriously ailing among them, like Ocasla, would be part of the lucky few."

"The planned release of a mere 40-50 political prisoners is an unacceptable token," said the CPP. "Worse, they are being made to go through a tedious legal process which adds to their agonizing legal ordeal after being made to face trumped up criminal charges, typically, possession of explosives which are unbailable." Cleo del Mundo of BHB-Quezon (Apolonio Mendoza Command) supported this statement. The NPA command released a list of political prisoners in their area of responsibility.

According to Ka Diego, spokesperson of NPA-Southern Tagalog (Melito Glor Command), "As long as Duterte treats the NDFP demands this way, the continuation of the peace talks and ceasefire are endangered." The NDFP has earlier clarified that it will not go into a bilateral ceasefire if the GRP cannot

comply with the agreement.

Meanwhile, Ocasla's relatives and human rights activists held various protest actions to demand justice for his death and call for the immediate release of political prisoners. On December 3, protesters from Karapatan-ST, Selda-TK and other groups assembled at the National Bilibid Prison's gate in Muntinlupa City for the International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners. The Bureau of Corrections did not allow them to use a loudspeaker.

Political prisoners in various prisons all over the country have started a hunger strike since Monday, to go on until December 10 to highlight the demand for their release. They will fast until December 7, and stop eating until December 10.

They are joined by their families and human rights activists in a "peace tent" at the Mendiola bridge, where a vigil and fasting until December 10 will also be held. Other strike centers are up at various points all over the country. They are joined in a sympathy fast and hunger strike by 15 NDFP consultants and staff who are taking turns to join fasting political prisoners in different prisons across the country.

To calm the protesters' rage, Silvestre Bello, GRP panel chief, promised to release Martin Villanueva from Bilibid, Bonifacio Suyon and Dindo Absalon from the Leyte Regional Prison, and Rico Bodina from Iwahig. They had long been recommended for pardon but the previous regimes sat on their cases. Bello also said that they will soon release 21 ailing prisoners, three elderly and one woman, but he did not mention their names. **AB**

## Thousands of youth join Black Friday Protest

More than 15,000 trooped to Luneta Park last November 25 to protest the burial of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) and the political rehabilitation of his family.

Dubbed as Black Friday Protest, the rally was organized by the Campaign Against the Return of Marcoses to Malacañang (CARMMA) and was participated in mostly by youth and students from various schools, colleges and universities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Martial Law activists also joined the protest, along with known personalities, teachers and administrators of some of the schools, and different progressive organizations.

According to Bonifacio Ilagan, one of CARMMA's members, the late dictator's burial at the LNMB is a revival of the Marcosian ideology, or the belief that what the country needs is the regime of a dictator who is indisputable and beyond doubt. He likewise criticized Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's threats of suspending the writ of habeas corpus and declaring Martial Law.

The organizers and activists from the Martial Law period commended the significant participation of the youth. The protest highlighted the creativity of different placards and posters which were made by the participants themselves, all of which assailed the former dictator. Youth leaders were called onstage for the symbolic hand-over of the torch of struggle. At the same time, thousands of cell phones and tablets served as torches as the rallyists simultaneously lit them.

In a statement, Anakbayan condemned the Duterte regime for continuing the Marcosian Oplan Bayanihan which militarizes com-

munities, systematically murders activists, and violates human rights. Before marching to Luneta Park, members of the organization earlier assembled at Mendiola. Meanwhile, the League of Filipino Students spearheaded the walk-out of students from their classes to join the protest.

The ACT Teachers Party-List likewise joined the protest and condemned the burial of Marcos and the blatant historical revisionism. Antonio Tinio of ACT Teachers stressed that in fact, history has already judged Marcos as a plunderer, murderer, fascist and criminal. Tinio added that most of the problems being faced by schools today began or worsened during the rule of Marcos.

Meanwhile, the Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas gathered at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo before joining other sectors under Bagong Alyansang Makabayan at Liwasang Bonifacio. KMU said that their action is a condemnation of the continuing widespread contractualization which Marcos introduced.

For the NDFP's part, the hero's

burial accorded Marcos violates the CARHRIHL as the agreement states that both parties should respect the rights of the Martial Law victims against the oppression and tyranny of the Marcos regime. Luis Jalandoni of the NDFP said, "Presenting him (Marcos) as a hero is an insult to the many thousands of victims and their families...the Duterte administration has shown insensitivity to the feelings and position of the many thousands of victims."

Black Friday Protests were also held in major cities and towns across the country, including Tuguegarao, Santiago City, Vigan, Baguio, major cities and towns in Southern Tagalog and Bicol, in Tacloban, Cebu, Bacolod and Iloilo, and also in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Surigao, Iligan and other areas in Mindanao.

In this connection, two officials of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) resigned from their posts. According to NHCP chairperson Maria Serena Diokno and Commissioner Francis Gealogo, Duterte was unyielding with regard to giving Marcos a hero's burial despite the documentary evidence submitted by the NHCP refuting Marcos' claims about his military record. **AB**



# Patriotic youth in the armed movement

In a guerrilla zone in Samar, hundreds of young people actively carry out their tasks in the armed movement. Most of them are members or former members of the *Kabataang Makabayan* (Patriotic Youth) in the barrios and cities. They are the youth who answered the Party's call to directly engage in the armed revolution and offer their vigor, intellect and time in serving the people.

They are challenged to develop themselves in their new tasks, remain steadfast in the face of hardships and limitations, and overcome obstacles to their continuing involvement.

## Sisters, comrades

Among them are sisters Guia, 20, and Lina, 18, who are members of the New People's Army. They are the 6th and 7th among 12 siblings. Their parents are members of the local revolutionary organization.

Prior to joining the people's army, they both served as members of their barrio's youth group. Guia first became a member when she was invited to a study on Philippine Society and Revolution in an outpost set up by Red fighters at the outskirts of their barrio. She remembers being with 20 others from other barrios. When they returned to their respective barrios, they gathered their childhood friends to set-up a KM chapter. To expand their ranks, they held study sessions and invited other youngsters. Her younger sister Lina became one of their students.

From 2014, the sisters became actively involved in carrying out their chapter's plans. Among these were developing their communal farm and setting up a cooperative store which they ran by teams. They had meetings and discussions almost every day. "It's not unusual for discussions to run until midnight," shares Guia, "especially when comrades are in the barrio."

They slept over in the NPA's outposts, delivered supplies and information and gathered donated rice in the barrio.

In 2015, they held a large youth assembly to discuss different national issues. It was during this activity that the sisters became involved in cultural work.

"We had to prepare songs, dances and poems to entertain the delegates," said Guia. Now, the sisters can be counted on to perform a cultural number on any occasion.

During the latter part of 2015, Guia decided to work in Manila to help out with her family. But she didn't stay long. "The wages were pitiful," she said, "and I got so homesick that I cried so much." Her pay was so small that she had to ask one of her siblings to pay for her fare home. After a short while, she decided to serve fulltime in the people's army.

"I've already tried everything," Ka Guia said. "I worked in Manila, I studied, but nothing good came out of it. I should have just gone full time since I've discovered I can help more from here." Her mother agrees, and is thankful to her and other comrades in sorting out a family problem which arose this year. "I've learned a lot of things in the people's army, and I have learned to use these to look for solutions to problems.

Like Ka Guia, Ka Lina also grew into her revolutionary tasks as a KM member. When her sister visited last October, she decided to ac-



company her back to her unit.

"If I didn't go full time, I would've continued with my studies. Even if I graduated, I wouldn't have anywhere to go but Manila," said Ka Lina. And since she knew of her sister's experience, deciding was easier.

## From DOTA to NPA

Zac, 20, an integree from Manila, is also a member of Guia and Lina's unit. An integree is someone who serves in the NPA for a certain period of time. Comrades have been encouraging him to continue his involvement in the countryside for his specialized skill.

Like many youngsters, Zac was very fond of computer games when he was still a student. In particular, he became preoccupied with playing DOTA, an online game involving hundreds of young players.

"I played for a minimum of six hours (each day) then," said Zac. Gaming took up almost all his time and attention that it came to a point that he himself decided to stop. "I lost weight," he said. "And it was such a waste of time and money."

He became even less of a gaming addict when he became an activist. Slowly, he became aware of society's realities during educational discussions which his fellow activist gamers cheekily referred to as "power sharing" sessions. His continuing collaboration with people's organizations and involvement in their activities opened him to other forms of struggle until he was recruited to the underground

movement. He then worked full-time in his unit in the city. When a chance to integrate in a guerilla zone was offered, he jumped at the opportunity.

Since becoming a revolutionary, Zac poured the attention he once gave to gaming to fulfilling his tasks. He still plays games sometimes but he makes sure that this doesn't interfere with his work. A positive thing about gaming, he said, is that it compelled him to study different computer systems. This helps him in his line of work.

Zac sees a world of difference between his past obsessions and life with the Red fighters. "In gaming, you can buy a life when you die," he said. "Here, you just have to very, very good."

Like the strategy games he was once so fond of, he sees reflected in the NPA's movements the importance to map out a correct strategy, read the situation and positions accurately and act closely as a group or collective.

### Support and recruitment

All three Red fighters know Ka Jake, a nearby barangay's KM vice-chairperson. Ka Jake became a KM member after attending a study session organized by Red fighters in 2014. After the

discussion, his chapter also planned to set-up a collective farm. They'd already cleared the land and planted seeds but were forced to give it up when soldiers came and combed through their barrio. Two of his younger brothers are also KM members.

At present, Ka Jake and his group are busy providing support to the local NPA unit. Part of their daily tasks include monitoring and reporting on the enemy's movements. They also help set up travel routes for the comrades.

Last November 4, their group held a meeting to assess their work, put a six-month plan in place and orient new members. They also agreed to set up their collective farm again, hold discussions twice a week and expand into nearby sitios not frequented by Red fighters. Since they have student members, most of their activities fall on weekends.

They also discussed ways on how to further systematize their tasks and support the people's army. Initially, they set up teams and assigned suitable tasks.

In the future, they will put on the agenda a program to deploy members to the NPA. As of now, three of their members are already serving as full time Red fighters. AB

### KM stages lightning rally

ON THE occasion of Kabataang Makabayan's 52nd founding anniversary, members of the organization staged a lightning rally along Blumentritt St. in Manila City. They carried the slogans "Join the revolution! Join the New People's Army!" The rallyists said that KM members are very much alive, young, exuberant, and very ready to take up arms and further intensify the revolution in the countryside.

Also, they called for the junking of Oplan Bayanihan. The KM firmly condemned GRP Pres. Duterte's statement that military and police operations in the countryside will not be pulled out.

"The president's refusal to discontinue Oplan Bayanihan, which has wreaked havoc to the livelihoods of many peasant families and communities of rural peasants, proves that his "genuine change" slogan may indeed be nothing but an election catchphrase," KM said.

KM urged the youth to not only study history and review the excesses and crimes of Martial Law, but also to deeply analyze the socio-economic ills that the country still faces.

## Bonifacio Day commemorated

THOUSANDS OF WORKERS and other sectors led by Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) marched last November 30 to commemorate Bonifacio Day. On this day, the marchers highlighted the condemnation of false hero and dictator Ferdinand Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. At the same time, they demanded an end to contractualization and other neoliberal policies in the country that were initiated during the dictatorship. The rallyists assembled in front of the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City and marched towards Mendiola, Manila.

The workers likewise criticized the Duterte regime's inaction with regard to the people's adversities. "There is no wage increase for workers. Nor is there a significant development to end contractualization, not even the endo system. There also isn't any clear plan on how to implement his supposed independent foreign policy," said Elmer Labog, KMU's chairperson.

According to the group, programs adopted by Duterte are no different from those of the past regimes. For many years, workers have constantly protested the ill effects of liberalization, deregulation, and privatization. Aggravating these are the price increases of basic commodities without any increase in wages and improvement on their livelihoods due to wage regionalization and contractualization.

"Instead of burying Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Duterte should have buried the neoliberal policies which are legacies of Marcos," Labog said.

KMU added that Marcos may already be gone but his legacy of contractualization, cheap labor, ban on unions and strikes, killings, abductions, illegal arrests, torture and militarization are ever thriving and continue to oppress Filipino workers and the people.

The marchers challenged Duterte to emulate Bonifacio and uphold the people's democratic rights and implement an independent foreign policy. AB



## Lakbayan-Visayas launched

CARRYING THE CALL of rehabilitation for the victims of Typhoon Yolanda, hundreds of Samarnons and Leytehanons trooped to Manila to launch a series of protests. Named "Tindog Visayas-Lakbayan Laban sa Kagutuman at Militarisasyon" (Stand Visayas-People's march against Hunger and Militarization), this was spearheaded by People Surge, the organization of Typhoon Yolanda survivors. According to the group, government's neglect of the victims continues to the present. Thousands still remain in temporary shelters and do not receive financial aid for their rehabilitation.

The Samahan han Gudti nga Parag-uma ha Sinirangan Bisayas, a peasant organization, joined the Lakbayan. The group said that the farmers' conditions worsened because after Yolanda, four more consecutive typhoons damaged their areas. Also, pestilence struck their farms thrice, targeting coconuts, abaca and rice. As a result, production fell by 85-90%.

The Lakbayan marchers likewise condemned the militarization of their communities under Oplan Bayanihan.

Progressive organizations from Manila met the Lakbayan delegates and marched towards Mendiola. The caravan will remain at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila until December 10, International Human Rights Day. More delegates from the Visayas are expected to arrive in the coming week. **AB**

## US exercises to continue

LAST NOVEMBER, the Mutual Defense Board and Security and Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City was convened to determine US activities in the Philippines for the next year. US Pacific Command chief Adm. Harry Harris revealed that despite Duterte's fighting words during the past months, he has not formally requested any changes to US-AFP relations. Instead, Duterte only asked to "reduce" joint military exercises from 13 to six or seven for the next year. As a concession to China, two large naval exercises in the South China Sea—the PHIBLEX and CARAT—will supposedly be cancelled.

In any case, military exercises are just one aspect in US control of the AFP. Duterte has not even touched underlying and deeper aspects in the US-Philippines military relations which are largely kept out of the public and classified.

The AFP made it clear that Duterte agreed to this plan in a cabinet meeting on the first week of November. Prior to this, Duterte proved that he does not keep his word when he conveyed to the US that he will honor all military agreements through Department of Foreign Affairs Sec. Perfecto Yasay.

He also allowed Department of National Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana to determine US-AFP relations. Lorenzana stayed in the US as the AFP's military attaché for more than decade. **AB**

## The 1917 October Revolution's socialist programme

**C**entralized economic development, national industrialization, nationalization of feudal lords' lands and industrial advance was the programme set forth by the October Revolution of 1917.

This program gave impetus to the succeeding period of socialist construction. By mid-1937, just two decades after the revolution, the Soviet Union had become a modern socialist country. It achieved more than 700% of the production level before the world war. From the extreme poverty inflicted by the autocracy of Tsar Nicolas and oppression by other stronger imperialist countries, Russia was developed to become one of the most powerful countries in the whole world. In their own generation and of their immediate successors, the revolutionaries enjoyed the fruits of a peaceful and

bountiful life.

The Soviet Union attained 428% of the production level of 1929, the start of the world capitalist crisis. Meanwhile, other imperialist countries reached only 95-96% of the 1929 level, and were poised to fall into a new crisis that would later erupt into a second world war.

The Soviet Union developed modern techniques in industry, agriculture and science. It raised the development of its natural resources in metal, coal, oil, peat, forests, hydro-energy and raw materials for the chemical industry.

When the Second World War

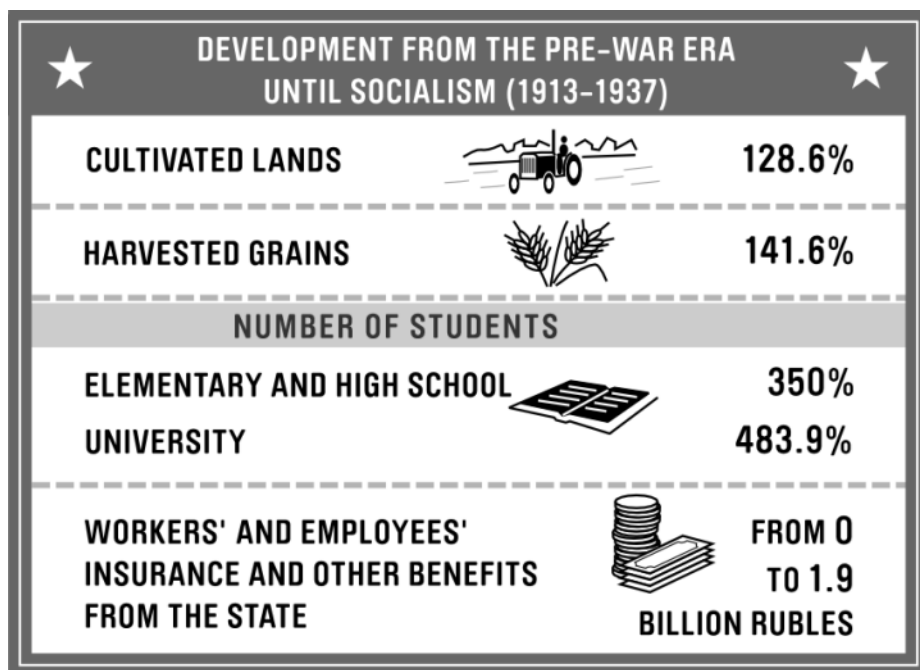
erupted, the Soviet Union's socialist economy was strong enough to defend the revolution's gains against fascist Germany and to play a key role in defeating the Axis powers (Japan-Germany-Italy).

The development of a socialist economy passed through transition measures. After the October Revolution's victory was proclaimed before 11 o'clock in the evening of October 25 (November 7 in the Gregorian calendar), 1917, the Second Congress of Soviets immediately passed the Land Decree, which ended landlord monopoly or confiscated their land without compensation, and passed ownership into the state's hands. All lands owned by the tsar's family and monasteries

were allowed to be freely used by tillers. Foreign trade, all banks, large enterprises in all branches of industry, mineral resources, forest and water resources were nationalized. Debts incurred by the tsar and the Provisional Government were abolished.

At the national level, the government instituted thorough accounting of labor, production, consumption and distribution systems, and financial circulation, to be able to manage this in a centralized scale. The Party launched a vigorous campaign against slovenliness in work, on the absence of labour discipline in industry. Wages were made to correspond to the amount of goods turned out or the amount of work done, superfluous and awkward motions in work were eliminated and correct methods of work elaborated.

The bourgeoisie waged war in the early part of 1918 to recover its lost power, aided by British, French, Japanese and German imperialists. In confronting this civil war, the government instituted War Communism to be able to use the country's resources in defending the newly established government. State control was extended to middle and small industries. The surplus-appropriation system was implemented, wherein all grain aside from the peasant's consumption needs were sold to the government to be able to supply food to the cities and the soldiers at the front. Compulsory labor service was also employed on all classes, under the principle of "He who does not work, neither shall eat."



After the civil war in 1921, the New Economic Policy (NEP) was adopted for the recovery of the economy devastated by the war. The surplus-appropriation system was superseded by a system of taxation. Agriculture was revived, cultivation of grain and industrial crops required for the development of industry was extended, circulation of commodities was reinvigorated, supplies to the towns were improved, and a new economic foundation for the alliance of workers and peasants was formed.

When a certain level of economic invigoration was reached in 1928, the first five-year plan for socialist construction was started, with the state investing 64.6B rubles (\$12.3B) for national growth in industry, electricity, transportation and agriculture. The plan aimed to build industries for the necessary re-equipment and reorganization not only of the whole industry but in-

cluding transportation and agriculture on a socialist basis. The five-year plan's targets were met in four years and three months, and the state sector became the primary factor in the socialist economy.

The second five-year program was launched next in 1932. This aimed to increase economic development eight-fold from the pre-war level. Huge funds were allotted for mechanization and modernization of agriculture, technical reconstruction of transportation and communication, and further elevating the worker's and peasant's standard of living. The determination of the toiling masses and the centralized leadership of the state made it possible to achieve the targets earlier than planned. AB

*This is the third in a series of articles celebrating the centennial of the October Revolution this coming year.*

## Red Salute to Comrade Fidel Castro

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the entire Filipino revolutionary movement gave highest honors to Commandante Fidel Castro, beloved leader of the Cuban revolution last November 27. Comrade Fidel passed away on November 25 at the age of 90. The Party extends heartfelt sympathies to the Communist Party of Cuba, the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban people over their great loss.

Fidel Castro will forever remain a global icon of anti-imperialist resistance. In the 1950s, he led the

armed revolutionary struggle for national liberation and social justice in Cuba. Cuba is a small country

separated by just a strip of sea from the United States of America. They succeeded in overthrowing US imperialism and its puppet Fulgenio Batista regime on January 1, 1959 and established one the most enduring anti-imperialist and democratic governments in the world.

The revolutionary Cuban government confiscated all foreign-owned enterprises, large haciendas and plantations. It carried out widespread land reform and collectivization. It established state farms and collective farms. It promoted a self-reliant economy while engaging in vibrant trade with other countries.

The resources of the Cuban government have been allocated mainly to raise the people's quality of life. As a result, the Cuban people enjoy one of the highest standards of living across the world. The Cuban government has developed and provided the people with free education and public medical facilities which are among the most advanced in the world. Infant mortality is one of the lowest. There is no malnutrition. Virtually

no one is homeless. Disaster-preparedness is the most efficient in the world.

Since the 1990s, they have also struggled to develop the Cuban economy in a more comprehensive way. In an effort to overcome dependence on Soviet imports in the 1960s-1980s, they have sought to develop their own technology for industrial and agricultural production.

For five decades, US imperialism attempted and failed to overthrow Fidel Castro and the revolutionary Cuban government. Declassified documents from the US reveal at least 600 plots to assassinate Fidel Castro. It twice carried out direct invasion or military aggression into Cuba in the early 1960s. It has imposed trade embargoes in an attempt to constrict

the Cuban economy. It has deployed spies and plotted acts of subversion. It re-established diplomatic ties with Cuba only last 2014 in the hope that this will help facilitate the propagation of its political and cultural influence into the country.

Inspired by Fidel Castro's slogan "Socialism or Death!" the Cuban people have united and resisted in their millions to defend Cuba against all forms of US intervention and aggression and carry out the transformation of Cuba.

To the Cuban masses, Comrade Fidel Castro is their star as they relentlessly push their Revolution forward. He will forever remain an inspiration to the people around the world as they march forward along the path of anti-imperialism, social justice and democracy. AB