



ANG

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

Bayan

Special Issue

July 26, 2017

www.philippinerevolution.info



Resist the anti-people and fascist rule of the US-Duterte regime

Central Committee, Communist Party of the Philippines
July 26, 2017

The Duterte regime has now clearly assumed the role of the neo-colonial client-state of the US imperialists. The US-Duterte regime, as it should be rightfully called, stands squarely against the Filipino people. Rodrigo Duterte's declarations of being a "socialist" and "the country's first Leftist president" has been overshadowed by his servility to the economic and security policies of US imperialism even if he seeks friendship with US imperialist rivals China and Russia.

He has set up a government predominated by officials who are zealously loyal to US imperialism and to the neoliberal agenda of the US/IMF/WB triad. He has implemented measures that perpetuate the US hegemonic rule in the Philippine semicolonial and semifeudal system.

Duterte's strongman ambitions and dependence on the US-trained, -indoctrinated and -funded armed forces has ineluctably led him to a

state of subservience to US imperialist power, especially to its security and counter-insurgency policies. He sought but failed to cause the pacification and capitulation of the Party and people's national democratic forces.

It is fast turning openly fascist and threatens to impose authoritarian rule. Duterte has the predilection for employing iron-hand tactics. He has caused widespread death and destruction in the three wars he

has launched: the so-called war against drugs, the war against the Moros and the all-out war against the revolutionary forces and the Filipino people. He has extended Mindanao martial law and seeks to expand it.

The US-Duterte regime is the current administrator of the reactionary ruling system. It is set on accelerating the neoliberal push to breakdown all remaining trade and investment restrictions. It has promised to railroad the foreign debt-funded infrastructure projects that will mostly benefit the big foreign capitalists and their local big bourgeois comprador partners as well as the bureaucrat capitalists whose pockets are set to be lined with fat commissions.

The Filipino people are suffering worsening forms of oppression and exploitation under the US-Duterte regime's new and carryover policies from its predecessors, which are detrimental to the workers and peasants, the mass of unemployed, students and teachers, small professionals and other small income earners. The people's mass struggles and armed resistance is steadily advancing and can further accelerate as the social and economic crisis heighten their national and democratic aspirations.

1. The US-Duterte regime is subservient to US security policies.

a. It has made no effort to abrogate existing unequal military treaties between the Philippines and the US, particularly the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and others.

It has permitted the US military to conduct 257 joint exercises with the AFP under the MDT and VFA. In Balikatan exercises last May, at least 2,500 US troops entered the Philippines to project and flex interventionist muscles, conduct war games including sea-to-land raid maneuvers, live-fire exercises and joint maneuvers. They carried out

operations in Capiz, Leyte, Eastern Samar, Cebu, Aurora, Clark, Subic and other places. They undertook thinly disguised psywar activities such as token school building repairs, teaching dental hygiene, lifesaving skills and so on.

b. It has announced that the US military will proceed with the construction of its facilities inside at least five camps of the AFP, namely in the (a) Antonio Bautista Air Base (Puerto Princesa, Palawan); (b) Basa Air Base (in Floridablanca, Pampanga); (c) Fort Magsaysay (Nueva Ecija); (d) Lumbia Air Base (Cagayan de Oro); and (e) Benito Ebuena Air Base (Mactan, Cebu). The US military has also proceeded to construct permanent structures for stockpiling and forward stationing of weapons.


c. It has given the US military, as well as its military contractors, the privilege to station an undetermined number of troops and personnel in the Philippines in their military facilities in order to conduct intelligence and electronic surveillance, train and advise the local military in line with US doctrines, and direct or participate in combat operations on the ground. A case in point is the likely initiation and direct participation of US military in the May 23 bounty-hunting operation to capture Isnilon Hapilon of the Abu Sayyaf which led to the Marawi clashes and reported deaths of scores of AFP troops similar to the US-Aquino regime's Mamasapano debacle of January 2015. Among the first to be dispatched to Marawi City on May 24 were troops belonging to the Zamboanga-based Philippine Seals which arrived at 5 a.m. followed in the afternoon by hundreds of troops of the secretive Light Reaction Regiment based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. Both units are trained and funded by the US military.

d. It has allowed the Philippine naval forces to conduct joint sea patrols with the US Navy along the


Sulu Sea last July 1. Although Duterte disallowed the Philippine Navy from conducting joint sea patrols with the US forces in the South China Sea in order not to antagonize China, he has raised no protest against incursions by US naval warships in the Philippine territorial waters and exclusive economic zones. The US continues to conduct its so-called "freedom of navigation" operations in the South China Sea and uses its warships to make provocative approaches towards China claimed territories. US warships continue to dock in Philippine ports one after another.


e. It has declared a "war against terror" with the aim of suppressing the various armed Moro groups which have arisen in opposition against the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). Over the past years, the US government has been actively pushing the BBL (and its earlier version, the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain or MOA-AD during the US-Arroyo regime). Some Moro groups have accused the US military of actively meddling in local politics in the Bangsamoro to dislodge anti-BBL clans or groups from political power. Duterte's declaration of a "war against terror" has paved the way for heightened US military interventionism under the pretext of "fighting ISIS." The long-term aim of US imperialist military interference in the Moro conflict is to secure a large share of the rich natural resources, especially plantation lands, mineral and water resources in and around the Bangsamoro areas for US companies to plunder.


f. Its order for the AFP to lay siege on Marawi was carried out and conducted in line with US methods and weapons. Incessant aerial bombardment has resulted in the complete destruction of Marawi City and the displacement of more than 410,000 in and around the city. This war is a page off the US'





Special Issue | July 24, 2017

 [instagram.com/prwcinfo](https://www.instagram.com/prwcinfo)

 [youtube.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral](https://www.youtube.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral)

 [@prwc_info](https://twitter.com/prwc_info)

 [fb.com/philrevwebcentral](https://www.facebook.com/philrevwebcentral)

 cppinformationbureau@gmail.com

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

"shock doctrine" and patterned after the relentless US bombardment of Syria's Aleppo and Raqqa districts and of Mosul in Iraq to create a "blank slate" for the big capitalists. The bombing campaign has made the AFP ever more dependent on surplus and second-hand US attack helicopters as well as on so-called smart bombs. It has also served as an opportunity for the US to test and market its latest night-time attack drones. It fits perfectly with the US "disaster capitalism" complex of generating widespread destruction to open opportunities for capitalist investments in war services (military contractors) as well as in civilian infrastructure and reconstruction. Business vultures are circling over Marawi even while displaced people have yet to return to their homes and resume normal lives.

g. The US-Duterte regime continues to build its fascist machinery. It is pushing for implementing a National ID system which will be weaponized for mass surveillance and restricting people's civil liberties. A crucial component of its fascist machinery is controlling the information environment. Duterte has threatened critical mass media outfits with business sanctions and outright repression. His political mob has spent large amounts of money to build a network of fake internet accounts (trolls) to manipulate public opinion by drowning social media with a barrage of fake news and canned babble. On the other hand, legitimate accounts critical of the regime have been taken down. They have created a fraudulent image of popular support for Duterte's fascism, Marcos idolatry, outright contempt for the poor, abhorrence for human rights, complete disregard for the rule of law and other ultra-reactionary and anti-people policies. The suppression of the truth has worsened several times over with the imposition of martial law in Mindanao. A case in point is how the AFP and its US operators have

seized complete control of the information environment in the Marawi siege, even mobilizing their own "media" to control the martial law narrative about so-called ISIS terrorists, suppress reports of military abuses and plunder of people's homes and so on.

2. The US-Duterte regime is compliant with US counterinsurgency doctrine.

a. Since last year, it has been carrying out an all-out war policy against the Party, the New People's Army, the NDFP and the Filipino people. Even when there was supposed to be a simultaneous and reciprocal unilateral ceasefire declarations between the GRP and the NDFP, the AFP forward-deployed their troops and carried out offensive operations. Towards the end of 2016, it initiated Oplan Kapayapaan which continues and intensifies the psywar, intelligence and combat operations of the defunct Oplan Bayanhan war of suppression against the revolutionary forces, patterned after the US counterinsurgency guide.

b. On March 9, 2017, Duterte ordered the AFP to "flatten the hills" and authorized the use of all fighter jets, helicopters and other available war matériel to conduct aerial bombardment and shellings. The AFP has since carried out at least 20 such bombing campaigns targeting those communities which are in proximity to clashes between the AFP and units of the NPA. Such aerial bombardment endangers the lives of civilians and cause the destruction of farms and the environment. These are carried out in outright contempt of international humanitarian law. In complete disregard of civilian lives, Duterte declared "sorry, if there are collateral damage."

c. Under the regime, cases of human rights violations are on the rise. Military and police personnel are emboldened to carry out abuses of human rights by the fascist rhetoric of the strongman Duterte. As

early as November 2016, fascist troops of the AFP have occupied at least 500 barangays which they suspect to be part of the NPA mass base. The armed forces of the reactionary state have perpetrated close to 70 cases of extrajudicial killings (or more than one killing a week) against unarmed activists, mostly peasant activists. The Eastern Mindanao Command, Duterte's favorite command, has executed the most number of killings. In addition to the large-scale displacement in Marawi City, more than 10,000 people in Mindanao have been forced to evacuate as a result of AFP aerial bombardments, harassments and military occupation of communities. Activists among workers, students, women, as well as other sectors have been subjected to surveillance, threats and harassments. The number of political prisoners continue to increase.

d. The US-Duterte regime tried to coopt, pacify and cause the capitulation of the Party, the people, their revolutionary forces and aboveground national democratic forces through phrasemongering and tokenism. The appointment of a couple of NDFP-nominees to his cabinet was countervailed by the superior number of militarists and neoliberal stalwarts. He promised the release of more than 400 political detainees but released only 19 NDFP consultants and only on temporary freedom. Its declarations of distributing public land to tillers were nothing but soundbytes.

e. Consistent with the US counter-insurgency doctrine, the Duterte regime only showed interest in the NDFP-GRP peace negotiations in as much as it could be serve as a tool to push the surrender and pacification of the revolutionary forces. Through one round of talks after another, the GRP pressed on the NDFP to agree to a protracted ceasefire that seeks to preempt negotiations and agreements on social, economic and political reforms. Faced with the refusal of the NDFP to

accept such a capitulation scheme, Duterte upon advise of the US-directed AFP officials, canceled the fifth round of talks and put on the table more unacceptable terms for negotiations practically ending peace negotiations.

f. The Party and revolutionary forces considered that the worsening crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system, the intensifying contradictions among the ruling classes as well as its interaction with the multipolar world could bring forth a regime that could challenge US imperialist dominance and break its semifeudal economic and political base. On such basis, the revolutionary Left offered the then inchoate Duterte regime the possibility of alliance against US imperialism and for progressive reforms for the people's benefit. Duterte, however, quickly revealed his Marcos-inspired strongman obsessions in waging the bloody drug war and the military occupation of hundreds of civilian communities in the first few months of his rule. His penchant for iron-fist policies brought him right under the protectorship and control of the US imperialists and its agents in the AFP.

g. The regime's Oplan Kapayapaan and all-out war is further exacerbated by the imposition of martial law in Mindanao. This is aimed not only against the Moro people, but against the Party-led revolutionary forces as well, especially against the NPA and its mass base which have made big strides in the island over the past several years. The AFP's "Operational Directive 02-17" identifies among its keys tasks the "(degrading of the) armed capabilities of the NPA," despite earlier insistence that Mindanao martial law is aimed only at Marawi. Since the imposition of martial law, fascist troops of the AFP have been on a rampage carrying out aerial bombardments in North Cotabato, Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao

City, Compostela Valley and other provinces. Emboldened by martial law, AFP-armed paramilitary forces have carried out threats and harassments against the teachers of the Salugpungan Schools in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Harassments by soldiers and paramilitaries against the ALCADDEV and TRIPPFS Lumad schools in Lianga, Surigao del Sur forced the Lumad community to evacuate again for fear of a repeat of the 2015 paramilitary murders against them.

3. The US- Duterte regime implements imperialist-dictated neoliberal economic policies.

a. Its cornerstone economic policies follow the dominant neoliberal policy regime of the US-IMF-World Bank triad. Contrary to the demand of the Filipino people for a decisive break from the past forty years of liberalization, privatization and deregulation, the regime's so-called 10-point economic agenda and "Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022" merely dovetails with the series of "development plans" of past regimes patterned after IMF/WB blueprints. It has set forth the aim of achieving a "middle-class society" by 2040, a statement that things are not about to change for the oppressed and downtrodden sectors in the next few years.

b. As before, its economic policies are geared towards attracting foreign loans and investments with cheap labor, low-taxes and guaranteed profits. In line with this aim, it has proposed a tax reform program which will bring down taxes on foreign investors, higher-income individuals and local big businesses; and increase the tax burden on the lower-income brackets by raising taxes on consumer goods in order to raise an addition P600 billion in annual revenues to assure its foreign creditors of funds for loan repayments.

c. Its supermajority in congress is also pushing for amending the 1987 constitution in order to make it conform to all-out investment li-

beralization. It is also actively campaigning to help forge the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would require breaking down all barriers protective of national patrimony and local businesses against unfair foreign competition.

d. It has maintained the policy of cheap and suppressed labor. It has refused to heed the demand of workers for higher wages. It has made no measure to stop the fall of wages and instead has allowed such policies as the two-tier wage system" to continue pulling down workers' wages to the bare minimum. Contractual employment arrangements remain legal under the new policy issued by the labor department (DOLE Order No. 174) under Duterte. Workers rights continue to be violated with impunity inside the labor enclaves.

e. Its neoliberal policies makes no room for land reform as a social justice measure. Against the clamor for free distribution of land to landless tillers, the regime is pushing for the conversion of vast tracts of land to plantations operated by foreign big companies. One of the disputed territories in the Bangsamoro area is the 1,100 hectare oil palm plantation in Lanao del Sur which operation has been halted because of the opposition of the local Moro people.

f. It has made a major pitch to draw in large amounts of Chinese loans and grants. In October 2016, China pledged a \$24 billion package of loans (\$19 billion) and grants (\$5 billion) for various infrastructure projects. The Duterte regime is pushing for the 200-hectare reclamation project in the Davao port, the Davao-Tagum railway system, the Mindanao railway system and other projects. It has also bagged a \$4.4 billion loan package from JICA (Japan International to build the Metro Manila Subway System.

g. Duterte's officials have announced plans to spend \$9 trillion over the next five years. He aims to

whet the interest of the biggest possible number of big bourgeois compradors in order to have them stand solidly behind him. To Duterte, the large amounts of loans and grants from China and other imperialist countries are the key to his effort to unite the big bourgeois compradors, landlords and bureaucrat capitalists. He aims to use strongman powers to accelerate the implementation of these projects, giving everyone a slice of the China \$24 billion tikoy (sticky rice cake), silencing opposition and threatening the courts against issuing restraining orders.

4. US imperialism tolerates Duterte's pseudo-independent foreign policy and anti-US histrionics.

a. Duterte launched anti-US diatribes last year, declaring that his government is "leaving the US" to establish an alliance with China and Russia. He railed at US abuses during the US colonization of the Philippines, and even against US aggression in Iraq and other countries. He threatened to abrogate the ED-CA and send home American soldiers stationed in Mindanao. He declared there will be no more joint military exercises with the US.

b. Duterte's railings against the US have proved to be empty bluster. No concrete policy measure has been implemented that challenges US military presence and intervention in the Philippines. Neither has Duterte stood against the US military's power projection in the South China Sea nor against US military presence and intervention and control of AFP through indoctrination and provision of weapons.

c. Duterte's anti-US and pseudo-independent foreign policy rhetorics from August to September last year were largely a big show to encourage China to provide a substantial amount of economic and military aid to his government. Duterte was able secure \$24 billion in loans and grants during his state

visit to China last October 2016. Upon his return, Duterte noticeably started to tone down his anti-US tirades and began emphasizing partnership and friendship with the Trump government.

d. When it comes down to the basics, the \$24 billion pledge from China is an advance payment in exchange for Duterte's decision not to pursue the country's territorial and economic rights as determined by the June 2016 decision of the Hague International Tribunal and his continued silence and consent to China's rush of construction of military facilities in the Spratly Islands and increased deployment of naval warships in the South China Sea.

e. Duterte has openly courted Russia for military assistance. In his meeting with Russian President Putin last May, he sought soft loans from Russia so he can buy firearms from Russia. He has whipped-up the anti-ISIS scare to encourage Russian military hardware support. Russia, however, is not keen on committing itself to disturbing US dominance in the Philippines at the moment. Russia military support to Southeast Asian countries is minimal.

f. US imperialism welcomes China's large investments in the Philippines as these help perpetuate the semicolonial and semifeudal system under US imperialism, especially amid the global protracted depression of the capitalist system. While keenly aware of China's strategic aim of countering US economic and military power in the South China Sea, the US do not regard these package of loans and grants from China as an immediate challenge to its hegemony. On the other hand, China knows the AFP remain the strategic pillar of US imperialist hegemony in the country. To nurture the goodwill with the Duterte regime, it donated as much as P370 million in brand new weaponry, including around 3,000 armalite rifles. The AFP, however, has virtually rejected the weapons cache, accep-

ting only 100 while giving the rest to the PNP.

g. The US imperialists will continue to tolerate Duterte's anti-US and pro-China/Russia histrionics as long as these do not pose a strategic challenge to US hegemony. Duterte himself has declared recently that the country's military alliance with the US will remain. On the other hand, Duterte needs to continue friendly ties with China (including keeping silent on China military facilities in the Spratly Islands) to ensure that all promised loans and grants actually become concrete investments in the form of infrastructure projects. US dominance in the Philippines, however, is a cause for China's long-term concern and can dissuade them from committing greater economic engagement in the Philippines.

5. The Filipino people must resist the US-Duterte regime while taking advantage of contradictions in the ruling system.

In the face of Duterte's servility to US imperialism and all-out war and martial law, there is really no other option for the Filipino people but to wage revolutionary struggle to advance their national democratic cause.

The people are increasingly disenchanted over Duterte's melodramatic declarations and grand acts of deception. "Do not destroy the Republic! Do not destroy the Filipino people," he declaims, but at the same time drops bombs over Marawi and elsewhere, destroying homes, crushing the people's livelihood and killing the poor in their numbers with total disdain. "Do not destroy the youth!," he rants, while ordering "his soldiers" to drop bombs over Lumad schools and destroying the lives of the youth.

Duterte is the Defender of the Republic of the big bourgeois compradors, big landlords, big bureaucrat capitalists and the US imperialists. He is the Punisher of the

downtrodden. He quells the resistance of the workers and peasants and ushers in the big foreign banks and big foreign capitalists.

The Party and all revolutionary forces must expose with all-out vigor the farcical claims by the US-Duterte regime. They must exert all-out effort to firmly unite the people and mobilize them to resist the US-Duterte regime.

a. The Filipino people must resist the anti-people and fascist rule of the US-Duterte regime. They must condemn its triple war and rise to demand justice for all the killings and all other brutalities unleashed against the broad masses. They must take the US-Duterte regime to task for all its unfulfilled promises.

By being servile to US imperialism and resorting to strongman tactics, the Duterte regime is rousing the Filipino people to rise up and resist in increasingly bigger numbers. A broad united front against the US-Duterte regime is quickly arising among the masses of the Filipino and Moro people. They must advance their democratic mass struggles and advance their rights and interests:

Demand the immediate lifting of martial law in Mindanao. Vigorously oppose its extension and expansion.

Expose and oppose widespread military abuses under martial law and under Oplan Kapayapaan's all-out war.

Demand an end to US military presence in the Philippines. Demand an accounting of all US troops and weapons and their immediate pullout.

Expose and oppose all neoliberal economic policies and plans for

further liberalization, privatization and deregulation.

Oppose the Tax Reform Law. Demand an end to budgetary cuts to social services, a reversal of privatization of public utilities and an expansion of free public health, education, housing, water, electricity, internet and others.

Demand an end to automatic debt servicing. Demand transparency in all new debt deals. Call for an accounting of all planned infrastructure projects and demand protection for the people and the environment.

Demand the demilitarization of the South China Sea, the pull-out of all US naval warships and the dismantling of Chinese military facilities in the Spratly Islands. Call for an end to military support and financing to the Duterte regime's martial law regime from the US, as well as from China and Russia.

Demand immediate compliance to the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). Call for the release of all political prisoners. Campaign to end aerial bombardments and shelling of communities. Demand an end to the occupation of communities by AFP and paramilitary troops.

Call for the resumption of the NDFP-GRP peace negotiations with no precondition in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration. Demand GRP compliance with the CARHRIHL and the JASIG.

Demand the dismantling of land of all haciendas and plantations and carry out free land distribution. Carry out collective occupation and tilling of idle lands.

Demand an end to contractualization. Build or rebuild workers unions and demand the regulariza-

tion of workers, wage increases and better working conditions.

b. The Party urges the Filipino people, especially the youth, to join the New People's Army (NPA) and wage revolutionary armed struggle to fight the fascist and pro-imperialist troops of the AFP and other armed groups of the reactionary state, wage agrarian revolution and build the people's democratic government. The NPA must carry out extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare on an ever widening and deepening mass base. It must continue to seize the initiative and launch more and more tactical offensives and military counteractions nationwide in order to frustrate the US-Duterte regime's all-out war under Oplan Kapayapaan amid overstretching its military resources and personnel and ever-reliance on US support. The NPA must aim to increase its number of firearms primarily by seizing more and more firearms from the enemy and through other means. It can direct the main blow against the worst fascist criminals and perpetrators of the most cruel forms of military abuses and violations of human rights, as well as the biggest plunderers of the environment and the people's resources.

The NPA must accelerate its growth by stepping-up its recruitment of new Red fighters especially amid rapidly increasing numbers of people, especially the oppressed peasants and workers, Moro people and other national minorities, who are disgruntled with the US-Duterte regime and the ruling system. The US-Duterte regime is bound to face the Filipino and Moro people's all-out resistance and is risking a fate worse than the detested US-Marcos dictatorship. AB