

NPA-Negros seizes 17 firearms

PEOPLE OF Negros island celebrated the successful ambush by the NPA-Central Negros (Leonardo Panaligan Command or LPC) on July 21 in Sitio Mag-saysay, Brgy. Mandie, Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental of Philippine National Police (PNP-Guihulngan) forces.

The police's mobile was climbing up a zigzag road when they were ambushed by the Red fighters. After half an hour, the police forces were annihilated. All their firearms were confiscated, namely six M16 rifles, three M4 assault rifles, seven 9mm pistols, and a .45 caliber pistol. The LPC also retrieved nine bandoliers, magazines and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

Six were killed on the enemy side, including PNP-Guihulngan chief Superintendent Arnel Arpon.

According to Ka JB Regalado, LPC spokesperson, the people of Guihulngan were pleased, especially the families of the said policemen's victims because they have long been waiting for justice to be meted on these crimes. Among the many crimes of the PNP-Guihulngan is the killing of the Vergara brothers Irol and Roland Jr. and their father Roland Sr. On March 2008, Irol was illegally arrested and tortured to death. The other two Vergaras were successively killed in 2009 and 2010 when they pursued filing cases against the criminal police.

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EDITORIAL

Raise the militance against the US-Duterte regime

In the face of the Duterte regime's unfolding as the present US imperialism's client state and its use of the iron fist in serving and defending the Philippines' semicolonial and semifudal system, it has virtually closed the avenues of cooperation with the progressive and revolutionary forces of the Filipino people for upholding national sovereignty and social justice.

The US-Duterte regime is revealing itself as an anti-people regime. It is an anti-peasant regime. It has zero plans to implement genuine land reform and in reality is continuing land grabbing. Almost 70 peasant activists have been killed this past year.

It is anti-worker, deaf to the cries for decent and living wages. It has turned its back to the promise to end contractualization. Striking workers' picket lines are being violently dispersed.

This regime is anti-youth. It con-

tinues the anti-people and pro-foreign K-12. The education system remains commercialized. Duterte claims for himself the praise for the free tuition law for public colleges and universities despite the youth and students' tireless efforts in pushing for this.

The Duterte regime is anti-poor. Budget allocations are extremely insufficient for public hospitals, housing and other basic needs of millions of people.

His anti-drug war is an anti-poor

war. Reports show that almost 12,000 poor people have been slain by policemen and hired vigilante groups. Using the police, he has liquidated a few whom he has accused as drug lords. Suspicions are strong that such killings are part of syndicate wars in favor of a few groups.

The US-Duterte regime is anti-women, anti-environment, anti-Lumad, and anti-Moro.

Duterte has forthrightly killed the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Duterte is a fascist madman. For him, his perceived enemies are lower class people with no right to live. He has an inflated opinion of himself. In his thoughts and declarations, he is the government. He is the law. He threatens the supreme court and enforces his absolute rule. For Duterte, there are no such things as human rights, more so when these hinder his plans and wishes.

But he kowtows to US imperialism and its powerful military. His tirades against the US are devoid of meaning now that US imperialist mil-

itary operations are in full swing in Marawi and other places. The US-controlled military still holds sway over the Philippines.

The people have no other recourse but to tread the path of militant struggle and collective action.

However, the devious politician Duterte will surely continue using various tactics to pre-empt the people's ire and thus prolong his rule.

He will continue making the country wait for his promised "change is coming." Although he has revealed himself as pro-US, he will keep repeating that he is a Leftist and socialist. He will implement showcase, token or small changes to keep the people hoping that bigger ones will follow.

The national democratic forces must persevere in exposing the US-Duterte regime as the present face of reactionary rule in the Philippines. Their militance must be raised to overcome both Duterte's duplicity and fascism. The people must advance their anti-imperialist and democratic struggles. They must







unreservedly advance the militant and collective actions of the workers and peasant, the youth and other democratic sectors.

Anti-fascist struggles must be fully advanced especially in the face of all-out attacks against human rights, relentless killings, bombings and disregard of the masses' lives and livelihood. Martial law in Mindanao and the plans to extend and expand this throughout the country must be opposed to the utmost.

Firmly relate the Duterte regime's fascism and implementation of martial law to large-scale corruption, cronyism, onerous conditions on foreign- debts, and foreign corporations' benefits in the planned massive infrastructure projects.

Duterte's intensifying fascism, corruption and puppetry is facing the people's heightening wrath and intensifying determination to fight.

A broad people's united front to expose, isolate and oppose the US-Duterte regime must be established and firmly wielded. AB

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Aside from this, PNP-Guihulngan elements also served as gun-for-hire in the killing of Cyrus Fat, Councilman of Guihulngan City, on February 2014. The police also shot and burned to death Brgy. Councilman Endrique Calago and spouse Rosalie on May 2015.

The PNP-Guihulngan forces were also protectors of the city's shabu drug lords and pushers from Cebu City. They also operated robbery groups that preyed on groceries and even on the Catholic Church.

Ilocos Sur ambush. In Ilocos Sur, ten were confirmed killed and five wounded among troops of the 81st IB when they were ambushed by NPA-Ilocos Sur (Alfredo Cesar Command or ACC) in Barangay Sorioan, Salcedo on July 22. The 81st IB concealed information on their casualties and only claimed

the wounded as 2Lt. Jade Lyzterdan P. Gavino, Cpl Robertson Caalim, PFC Jayson B. Aboc, PFC John Joshua M. Toledo and PFC Jefree L. Alferez.

According to Ka Saniata Maglaya, spokesperson of ACC, the ambush was a punishment to 81st IB for serving as protectors to Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corporation. The 81st IB also relentlessly occupies public facilities such as schools, barangay halls, plazas and civilian homes.

The enormity of beating prompted 81st IB commander Lt. Col. Eugenio Julio C. Osias IV to release fake news that there were NPA members killed, wounded and arrested. Seven residents of nearby Barangay Baybayading were also terrorized and arrested illegally.

Harassment operations in Samar. In Northern Samar, at least ten soldiers and paramilitary men were of the 52nd IB-CAA were killed in a series of offensives by NPA-Northern Samar (Silvio Pajares Command or SPC) from June 29 to July 29. Detachments of the 52nd IB-CAA were targeted using combinations of rifle fire and command-detonated explosives.

On June 29, around 11 p.m., Red fighters and militia units harassed the 52nd IB-CAA detachment in Brgy. Bangon, Gamay. Unit commander Sgt. Falconete and five

other soldiers were killed. That same night, another SPC unit attacked the detachment in Brgy. Carawag, Palapag. One soldier was killed.

On July 24, at 1 a.m., the SPC attacked the detachment in Brgy. Potong, Lapinig. Three were killed and the detachment commander was seriously wounded. On July 29, around 5:30 p.m., the detachment in Brgy. Bangon, Gamay, was again harassed. According to the residents, a separate enemy unit at the nearby hilltop hurriedly withdrew from the place, leaving behind their guns.

Meanwhile in Southwest-Eastern Samar, combined forces of Jorge Bolito Command and Sergio Lobina Command simultaneously attacked forces of the 87th IB in Brgy. Mabini. According to residents' reports, only six elements returned from the patrol. Four days after, comrades burned the enemy camp being erected in Brgy. Mabini.

POW release. In Southern Mindanao, NPA-Southern Mindanao Region released on July 28 prisoner of war PO1 Alfredo Pasabica Jr. after 17 days of captivity by the NPA.

Basabica was turned

over to Secretary Christopher Bong Go of the Office of the Special Assistant to the President, who managed the policeman's release. Two days after this, Basabica was presented to GRP Pres. Duterte who was then in Davao City.

The NDFP release order stated that Basabica is being freed because he showed good conduct while in NPA custody and was subjected to investigation. Basabica also showed remorse for his violations and voluntarily declared he would stop carrying out additional crimes against the people and revolutionary movement.

According to Ka Rene of NPA-SMR's Front Committee 25, Basabica was released despite the breakdown of the peace talks between the GRP and NDFP. Further, Basabica could have been released earlier if not for the hindrance posed by continued military operations.

PO1 Basabica was captured by the NPA on July 11 in the municipality of Compostela, Compostela Valley. AB



Second SONA highlights fascist rule

Almost 40,000 people joined the rally near the Batasang Pambansa on July 24 to hold GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte to account for his failed promises of last year and to condemn his regime's fascism. Carrying a big banner with "Oppose the US-Duterte regime's anti-national and anti-people policies," they called for a stop to contractualization, attacks on Lumad schools, and martial law in Mindanao.

The rallyists listened to Duterte's two hour drivel liberally laced with boastful claims where he defended his "anti-drug war" and martial law declaration in Mindanao. He insulted those who criticized these measures while

praising military and police elements whom he called "vanguards of the war for peace and order." His sycophants several times applauded his recognition of soldiers and policemen as "who gave up their lives for democracy." He shed

crocodile tears for the civilian victims of his crazy bombing spree in Marawi. His militarist solution to his so-called terrorism and insurgency were starkly spelled out in this speech.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, for him to arbitrarily scuttle the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). On August 4, Duterte finally wrote finis to the negotiations without even going

through the agreed process of termination.

Duterte lambasted the mining companies for pro-environment appearances. But behind this hollow threats, he only desires to collect more taxes to fund his pro-foreign infrastructure programs. He repeated his bluster against “white” intervention but only regarding his “anti-drug war,” making no mention of the present burgeoning number of US military troops in the Philippines, including the troops directing his “anti-Maute” war in Marawi. To make himself appear patriotic, he even hitched a ride on the people’s bandwagon demanding from the US the return of the Balangiga Bells to Samar.

He took pride in being a “bully” against the “enemies of the state,” the military and police label for progressive and democratic organizations fighting for their rights and welfare. He repetitively slammed human rights defenders and media people who criticize him.

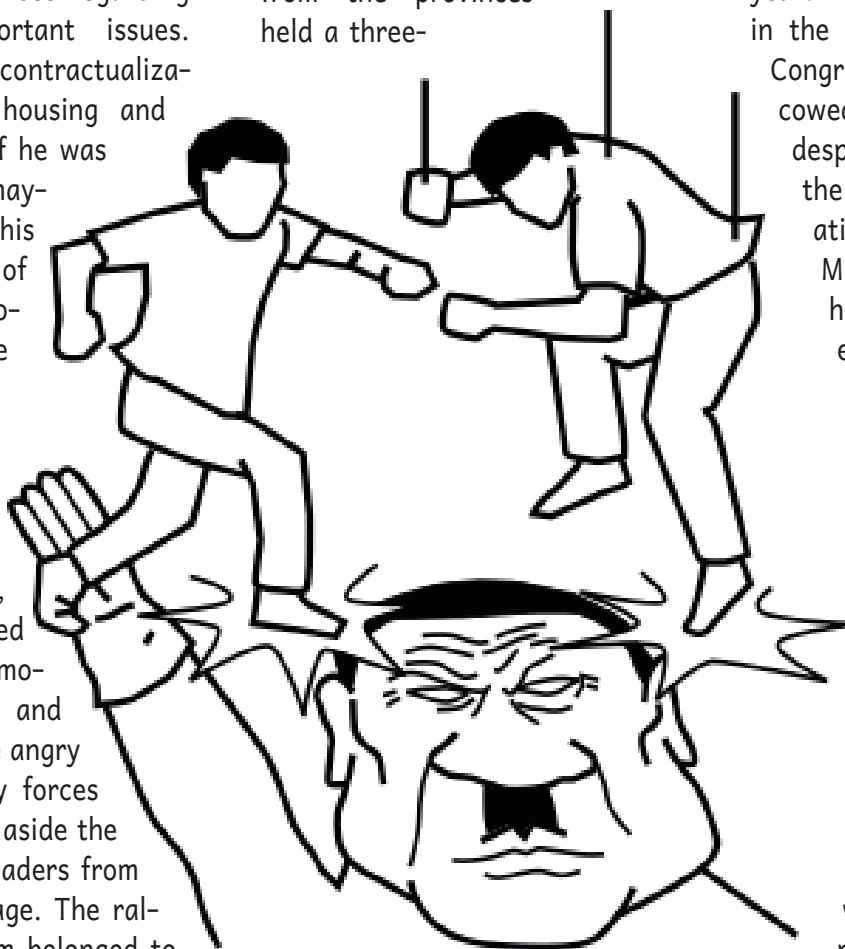
There was no mention at all of his first SONA promises regarding the people’s important issues. There was no anti-contractualization, wage hikes, housing and others. Talking as if he was still a small town mayor, he boasted of his piecemeal proposals including the anti-smoking ban, national government portal, and even the digitalization of television.

Around 7 p.m., he arrogantly faced the national democratic forces’ rally and tried to appease the angry people. His security forces capriciously pushed aside the mass movement’s leaders from the latter’s own stage. The rallyists, most of whom belonged to

basic sectors such as workers, urban poor, drivers and youth, likewise peasants and indigenous people from Southern Tagalog and Mindanao, put up with his 15-minute tirade and insults. They interrupted his boasts once in a while by catcalls. In their ire, the rallyists threw down and beat up his seven-foot Hitlerite effigy after he hurriedly left the stage after he noticed that no one was pleased with his declarations.

In his press conference after this, he retaliated at the Lumad who faced him at the rally and declared he will bomb their schools. The next day, he also lashed back at the national democratic movement saying he ought to have poisoned them when he entertained them at dinner in Malacañang.

Other actions were held in various places in the country aside from Metro Manila. In Cebu, hundreds of people marched to Colon Street in downtown Cebu with their demands. In Davao City, residents of the city, together with workers and Lumads from the provinces held a three-



day camp out in front of Pan-acañang. Other protest activities were held in Baguio City, Bicol, Panay, Tacloban, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro.

Meanwhile, some 100 evacuees from Iligan City held a rally led by Tindeg Ranao. Thousands of marchers from Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro were not able to join the anti-martial law rally because they were stopped and illegally detained at a military checkpoint. That same day, representatives of Dansalan Tano sa Kalilintad had a dialogue with the military controlling Marawi to allow them to return to the city. Twenty students from Khadija Mohammad Islamic Academy in Marawi City entered the venue and unfurled streamers and shouted anti-martial law chants while Department of National Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana was speaking. They were detained by the military.

Before this, on July 22, the Congress shamelessly approved the extension of martial law in Mindanao till December 31 of this year. Even the avowed opposition in the House of Representatives Congress and Senate were cowed by Duterte’s dictates despite the intense demands of the Moro people’s representatives to stop the bombing in Marawi City. The cries of hundreds of thousands of evacuees cramped into evacuation centers or the homes of their relatives outside the province failed to move even those pretending to sympathize with their plight.

In this session, eight youth were arrested when they militantly unfurled a banner and shouted “No to Martial Law” while Lorenzana was speaking. They were released on July 26. AB

Duterte exposed anew as anti-Lumad

GRP President Duterte revealed from his own mouth his anti-indigenous people sentiments in a press conference after the State of the Nation Address (SONA) when he threatened to bomb Lumad schools.

In the face of widespread condemnation, his apologist and AFP spokesperson Restituto Padilla tried to salvage the situation by saying that this was only the president's figure of speech. The effort became more convoluted and discordant when he explained that only schools without children will be bombed, and those without government permits will be closed down.

In fact, even before the SONA, the US-Duterte regime has long been suppressing Lumad schools by continuing the then Oplan Bayanihan up to the present Oplan Peace all-out war. There is no end to the incidents of thousands of Lumads who have evacuated in the of the harassment, massacres and bombings of their communities.

The worst was the attack on Lianga, Surigao del Sur where ALCADEV's school director was killed on September 1, 2015. The ALCADEV school in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur was also destroyed and burned on November 12 of the same year, and other schools in Talaingod and Kapalong in Davao del Norte which resulted in massive evacuations. On October 23, 2015, paramilitary troops together with AFP elements closed down Fr. Fausto Tentorio Memorial School

which was managed by the Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation, Inc. (MISFI) in Barangay White Kulaman, Bukidnon. Many other schools in this province were burned or closed down.

Latest was the strafing on June 20 of Salugpongan Ta' Tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center, Inc. (STTICLCI) sa Palma Gil, Talaingod. (See Ang Bayan, June 21, 2017.) Before this was the killing of spouses Leonela and Ramon Pesadilla on March 2 in Barangay Ngan, Compostela Valley because they donated land for the Lumad school.

The Save Our Schools (SOS) Network has recorded more than 95 military and paramilitary attacks on Lumad schools in 2014. Of the 53 recorded cases this year, 47 are in schools managed by the Salugpongan Ta' Tanu Igkanugon. Eighteen of the 55 schools of the Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services (CLANS) in Palembang, Sultan Kudarat was forced to close down due to militarization.

Schools as right to self-determination

Indigenous people give importance to education as part of their

right to self-determination. For a long time, corporate mining, logging and plantation companies have taken advantage of their illiteracy to grab their ancestral lands.

It is as though the government is making it intentionally difficult for Lumads to attain education. Public elementary schools near Lumad areas are usually without teachers, or if there are any, are usually open only for three days weekly because the teacher still has to walk for many kilometers. Due to the DepEd policy of promoting students at all grade levels, many students finish Grade 6 without learning how to read or write. Aside from this is the use of methods and teaching topics which are not applicable to the students' situation.

The existing Lumad schools targeted by Duterte are supported by the indigenous people because these ensure that children learn not only reading and writing but above all an analytical consciousness and skills immediately useful to the community, especially for self-determination. Teachers use effective methods such as song, dance and storytelling to continue developing indigenous culture while effectively clarifying topics to the students.

The schools have comprehensive services for the community. There are health care trainings so that some students become health officers upon graduation. The school clinics become community clinics. They also study agricultural development so the schools have their own production plots that support their needs. In 2001 and 2005, ALCADEV schools were given the National Literacy Award. They were also in the short list for the said award in 2014.

Almost 150 Lumad schools existing today in Region 11 and Region 12 have graduated more than



Billion-peso bombing in Marawi

ALMOST THREE months since the US-Duterte regime started the so-called suppression of the Maute group, bombs continue to shatter Marawi City. The government has taken out billions of pesos from the country's coffers to inflict severe damage to the lives and livelihood of the Moro people.

Extensive aerial bombing, mortar shelling and machine-gun strafing are the AFP's methods of laying siege on Marawi. The Philippine Air Force (PAF) uses the OV-10 Bronco, MD-520 MG (this was used by the US in its war of aggression in Vietnam), SF260, S-211, AW109, and FA-50 in its airstrikes.

It drops 500-pound (or almost 230 kilos) MK-82 (unguided) bombs worth almost \$2,500 or P112,500 per piece and a number of GBU-12 (Guided Bomb Unit) costing \$19,000 each or P855,000. According to a Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) study, the MK-82 has only a 5.5% possibility to hit its target thus many bombs need to be dropped.

The area this directly affects is almost 2,400 sqm. or an estimated 80 x 30 meters. For example, in a bombing in Iraq in 2003, one bomb

hit and totally demolishing two houses and immediately killing 17 civilians. In this basis, 24 houses can be wrecked in a day.

An average of twelve bombs daily have been dropped in Marawi since May 24, spending more than P1.3 million per day on bombs only. Add to this P40 per M-16 ammunition round, 105mm howitzer that costs P30,000 per tube, .50 caliber machine-gun ammunition worth P200 each and the 20mm rounds of FA50 worth P1,500 each. Aside from these are the soldiers' daily operational expenses and for their auxiliary.

The government spends billions of pesos to destroy billions of pesos worth of property and above all, the lives of civilian victims in the war waged by Duterte and the AFP. Duterte uses this as reason to beg for firearms for his modernization ambitions and to appease the fas-

cist AFP. He had hoped to receive both Chinese and Russian support but aside from China's one-time tranche of low-quality arms, he got nothing more from them. Instead, since October last year, the US sped up and increased dumping old war materiel under the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement and Mutual Defense Treaty.

Duterte and the AFP will also surely succeed in increasing the military budget for 2018 by 5.5% or P145 billion (\$ 2.9 billion).

The US promised \$180 million worth of military equipment for the year 2016-17. This June, the AFP bought more than \$150 million worth of equipment from the US. These included two spy planes that the US delivered last July 26. In addition were Duterte's long wished-for 2,000 bombs and rockets, likewise 1,000 grenade launchers which he threatened to use against civilian communities. These had previously been promised by the US for modernization of the AFP. AB

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5,000 elementary and high school students. Some graduates are now teacher's assistants. Before, the Lumads did not dare to dream of sending their children to high school. Only the well-off could do this, because the distance of high schools require the students to spend for boarding houses and separate food, aside from the many expenses on tuition fees and school supplies. Lumad schools resolve this by building dormitories within school grounds and assuming all expenses, including meals, school supplies and textbooks.

The more than 400 voluntary teachers of STTICLC are organized into the Association of Community Educators (ACE). Students are also organized. They are the most active defenders of their schools and share their knowledge with the

community.

Lumad schools as community effort

Lumad schools were started under the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in 1990 as literacy-numeracy centers in Compostela Valley. MISFI also set up schools in 2005 as part of their comprehensive response to disasters, in a tri-people orientation which included building a Moro school in Carmen, North Cotabato. Most of these were non-formal schools. Upon the continued request of indigenous people, formal schools were set up in 2005, bringing into existence the STTICLC and MISFI Academy which were DepEd-registered. The indigenous people were able to push the DepEd into formulating particular policies applicable to indigenous peoples' schools, unlike

the usual commercial private schools. As enrolment increased, high schools were set up in 2013. Different grades were established in different regions based on the areas' particular needs.

In the face of intense military destruction especially since 2014, the indigenous people defended their schools. There were even cases of traditional armed Lumad groups facing the paramilitary themselves. The AFP then used sham indigenous schools in their IP-centric Approach anti-insurgency program in 2015-2016, which taught obedience to the oppressive government. But because the Lumad understood their struggle for self-determination and defense of ancestral land, they continued to promote the Lumad schools that they themselves built and supported. AB

Business benefits in Marawi

LIKE VULTURES, big bourgeois compradors lie in wait to take advantage of the city's destruction even as the fighting has yet to end in Marawi City.

Events in Marawi are no different from what the Aquino regime did after the destruction of Zamboanga City in 2013, likewise in other areas damaged by war and massive disasters such as the typhoons Haiyan and Yolanda and Pablo. In the name of rehabilitation, the reactionary state sold lands to foreign and private business to artificially and temporarily strengthen the economy. They built infrastructures for the benefit of their own business while setting up showcases and piecemeal assistance to the disaster victims. Until now, hundreds of thousands of natural disaster survivors still do not have decent jobs and housing.

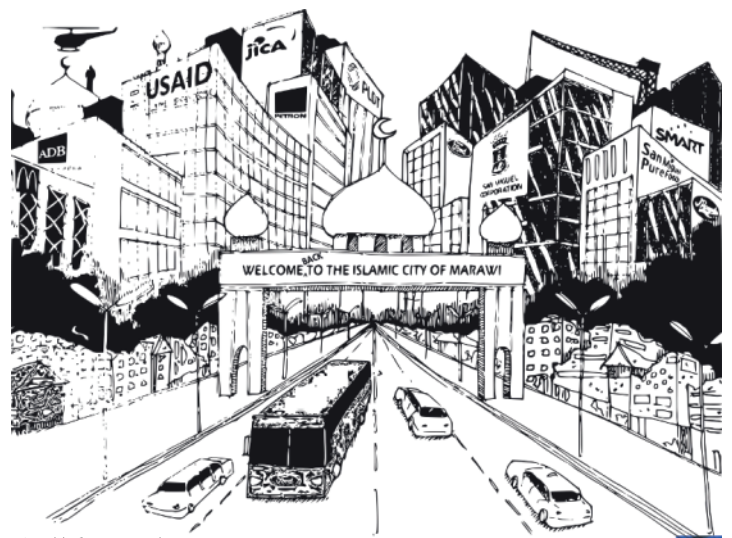
Bourgeois compradors reap benefits from the destruction of communities. These present opportunities for them to build their business while promptly pushed by bureaucrats in government who expect to collect huge shares or bribes from the projects. They take advantage of the large number of people desperately seeking to survive the poverty, even through contractualization, absence of benefits and low wages.

As early as last month, the compradors have been salivating for Marawi. Dennis Uy, one of the closest and most favored businessmen from Davao, has allotted a P100-million fund for the city's "rehabilitation." Since his patron Duterte took power, the stock market value of his Phoenix Petroleum rose by 92%. Ramon The, Enrique Razon, Jr, Henry Sy and the Gokongwei and Tan families have also shelled out initial funds to start their business

not only in Marawi but in the whole Mindanao. They show off with promises of assistance for families of killed soldiers. They ride on the proposals to make Marawi a tourist center.

Australian company TierOne Communications International's US\$60 million or P3 billion investments are also certain, most of it in Marawi.

The US-Duterte regime will surely use the war against so-called terrorists to justify bombing operations that are focused on destroying civilian infrastructures and social services. Thus, foreign and local capitalists will find it easier to move into the said. This is in line with the US modus in its targeted countries due ostensibly to the presence of terrorist groups, such as the ISIS in Syria and Iraq, and Taliban/Al Qaeda in Afghanistan. AB



Graphic from Karatula

Human rights violations intensify under martial law

Three killings, nine illegal arrests and increasing number of violent actions—these are the latest cases of human rights violations experienced by the people under the US-Duterte regime.

Killings. On July 21, elements of the 71st IB and 46th IB killed Boy Cañete, farmer and resident of Maragusan, Compostela Valley. Cañete was a member of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela

Meanwhile, another farmer, Alberto Tecson, was killed on July 24 by masked men. Tecson was a member of Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma ug Mangingisda sa Bulado, an organization of peasants and fisher folk in Brgy. Bulado, Guihulngan

City, Negros Oriental. He was shot inside his house, dragged outside, and shot again. Before this, soldiers have accused him of transporting Red fighters in his pump boat. The Tecson community has been militarized for several weeks already.

In Masbate, military elements killed farmer Edgar Suriaga, resident of Brgy. Gangao, Baleno, Masbate. In the morning of July 31, his house was strafed, instantly wounding him. He was then

dragged outside his house, hit with a rifle butt, and shot in the head.

Detention and illegal arrest.

The PNP arrested Belinda Capacite, member of the Asosasyon han Kablas nga Parag-uma ha Can-avid sa Eastern Samar upon accusations of being a collector of revolutionary taxes. According to her child, plainclothes policemen barged into their house and interrogated her father Rodolfo before taking Belinda away to be imprisoned. Belinda fainted twice due to stress and had to be brought to the hospital.

In Bicol, the NDF-Bicol condemned the illegal arrest of Antonio Narvaez, resident of Sitio

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NCA elections held in Venezuela

Elections for representatives to the Venezuela national constituent assembly (NCA) were successfully held on July 30. This was despite disturbance and violence from the Mesa de la Unidad, coalition of various pro-US opposition groups in the country. According to the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE), more than 41% or eight million voted while two million failed to make it to the polls because of the opposition's threatened violence. The CNE transferred some polling places to avoid the disturbance.

According to NDFP Negotiating Panel Senior Political Adviser Luis Jalandoni, one of the invited observers, it was an stirring experience to observe the earnest desire of the Venezuelan people to exercise their right to vote and fully put democracy into effect in their country. The observers had the chance to see the election process and visit other voting centers. Together with the CNE, they mingled with the voters in the polling places.

In an assembly in Caracas, Chairman Nicolas Maduro thanked the Venezuelan people for their support in achieving peace and unification in the country. He said, this is the biggest recorded number of voters under the Bolivarian revolution.

In the main, the voting process was peaceful, save for a few violent incidents such as some guarimbas or barricades by some opposition supporters to hinder the voters.

The elected representatives of the national assembly will draft their new constitution to restore the peace, reunification and ease the tension and disorder in the country in the past months.

The Venezuelan people elected 545 representatives, 364 per region, eight for national minorities and 173 for every sector. This is also the first election where indigenous people voted for their own representatives. From 6,120 candidates, eight were voted from the ranks of the peasants and fisher folk, five businessmen, five for the disabled, 24 students, 28 pensioners, 24 community councilors and 79

workers. Former Venezuelan foreign minister Delcy Rodriguez was elected chairperson of the National Constituent Assembly.

Despite the Venezuelan people's and Maduro government's efforts to restore peace, the pro-US opposition, pushed by big American capitalists and the Organization of American States, persist in creating disorder and instigating violent protest actions to give the impression that Venezuela is in the midst of crisis and disorder and thus open the door to imperialist intervention.

Even Smartmatic, the company managing the machines that have been used in Venezuelan elections since 2014 released a report that CNE's announced number of voters is padded by one million.

Tibisay Lucena, CNE chairperson, belied this allegation. According to her, Smartmatic is responsible only for technical matters, while the data are exclusively in the hands of the CNE. Chairman Maduro also accused Smartmatic for going under US and Great Britain pressure.

Since 2009, the U.S. Department of State has been funding the rightist group with almost \$49 million for their violent protests.

In 2014, the opposition groups set up guarimbas to violently overthrow president Maduro. The following year, they garnered the majority in the National Assembly. But instead of resolving the crisis faced by the people, they focused on how to remove Maduro from office.

Moreover, halfway through the elections for the National Assembly, US Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin, declared freezing Maduro's and 13 other government officials' properties in the United States. US government officials were forbidden to relate with the Maduro government and the US government branded him a dictator for purportedly imposing socialism on the people.

In response to US imperialism's apparent sanctions, Maduro averred that Venezuela is free and will never bow to the dictates of any country. Moreover, he said, no one or nothing can stop the National Constituent Assembly.

The Maduro government and the elected representatives of the constituent assembly continue to invite the MUD to negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.



New race for control of Africa

The imperialist crisis is goading the intensified exploitation of Africa as dumping ground for surplus capital and commodity. These past few years, the continent has again become the focus of imperialist contention.

Africa had been divided among seven Western European capitalist during the early years of imperialism. By 1913, 90% of Africa had been colonized by 20 countries, with at the lead and UK (colonizing almost 14 countries). Big chunks of the continent were also controlled by Belgium and Germany. After the Second World War, most of these countries became semicolonies.

Imperialists covet Africa's rich resources. As the second biggest continent with an area of 30 million square kilometers, this is also leading in mineral deposits of cobalt, gold, diamond, uranium, likewise deposits of gas, oil and carbon. Africa has an estimated 120 billion barrels of oil reserves, and some 600 million hectares of untapped agricultural land.

Capitalist interests also desire to exploit Africa's 1.25 billion population (with a median age of 20 years) for their markets and cheap labor, including 230 million youth. By estimates, one fourth of the world population by 2050 will come from Africa, where one billion will become part of the world labor force. Meanwhile, six of the ten countries with the lowest wages in the world are in Africa.

This July, in the meeting of the main imperialist countries under G20, Germany pushed for Compact with Africa, a program underlining the expansion of their investments in the said continent.

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany promised to invest \$335 million. According to International Monetary Fund estimates, \$100 billion per year will be have to be in-

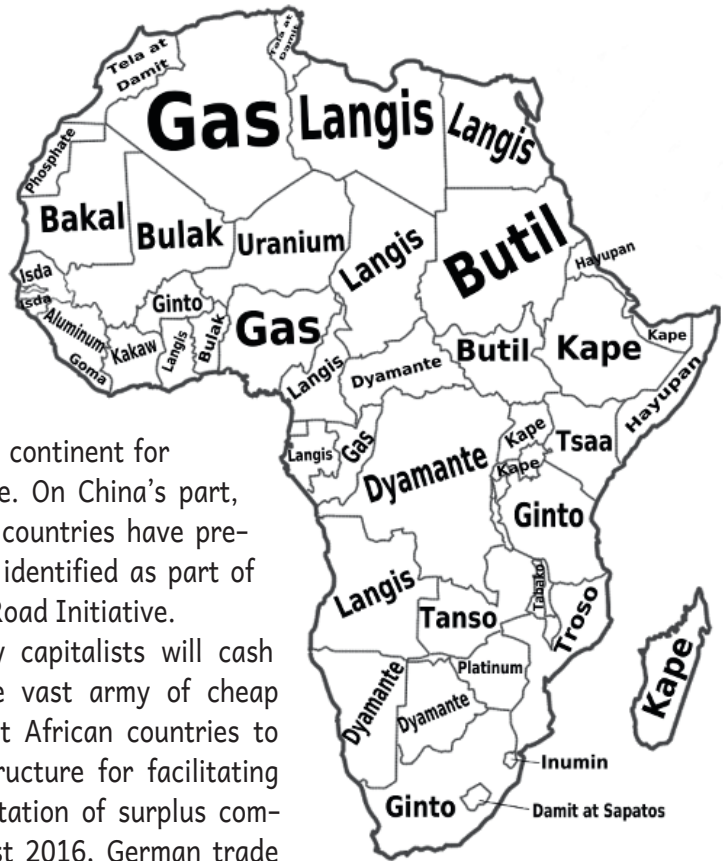
vested in the continent for infrastructure. On China's part, four African countries have previously been identified as part of its Belt And Road Initiative.

Monopoly capitalists will cash in on of the vast army of cheap labor in most African countries to build infrastructure for facilitating the transportation of surplus commodities. Last 2016, German trade surplus reached \$297 billion, while that of China was \$196 billion.

Part of China's 73.6 million metric tons of surplus steel products in 2016 will also go to infrastructure in Africa. Likewise, infrastructures will also hasten the plunder of mineral and other resources of the continent.

The new investments are speeding up the continued dumping of surplus capital and commodities in Africa. In 2011, China's export to African countries had already reached \$73.4 billion. At present, China is Africa's biggest trade partner. In 2016, China's products to Africa were valued at almost \$83 billion, while \$54.3 billion worth of African countries' products were exported to China. These are aside from more than 10,000 Chinese manufacturing companies worth \$180 billion that have already been operating in Africa. Germany has also 600 companies already invested in Africa.

Although the US had the most number of direct investments in Africa in 2015, this decreased by 4% the following year. Likewise, the existing value of US investment went down by 12%. Last May, US national security officials noted



that the country's investments were less than China's, and this will result in decreased influence in the continent.

The former colonizers, imperialists of Western Europe remain the biggest capitalists in Africa. In 2015, UK investments increased by 50%, and capital investment (machinery, factories, and other production equipment) rose by 98%. Similarly, France maintained influence in its former colonies. Until the present, 14 of its erstwhile colonies are still required to deposit 85% of their foreign exchange reserve in France's Central Bank, and will serve as loans except for 15% of their deposited finances. France retains the priority to buy newly discovered natural resources, and the first to be awarded contracts in projects. At present, it is the third biggest investor in Africa, and investments increased by 10% in 2015. It added 2.3 billion investments in energy in 2016.

Surplus capital has also been on Africa in the form of "aid." With these aids are economic conditions such as reduction of govern-

"New race..." continued on page 10

Salaysay, Brgy. Sibaguan, Sangay, Camarines Sur, on June 19. Before this, elements of the 83rd IB illegally searched his house.

Seven farmers were from Salcedo, Ilocos Sur were also arrested by elements of the 81st IB on July 25. They were identified as Divino Tabucol, Dhanjor Hagacer, Isaias Anganan, Ricardo Foronda Sr., Ronald Dagui, Nicolas Acutan and Ricardo Foronda Jr. It was already evening when they were turned over to the PNP Salcedo. The peasants were interrogated on accusations that they were NPA supporters.

Meanwhile, Marcos Aggalao, 74-year old political detainee, was rushed again to the hospital on August 4. It was the third time he was hospitalized after suffering a stroke that resulted in paralysis of half his body. Aggalao was arrested last year during the reciprocal ceasefire of the NPA and AFP and accused with trumped-up cases.

Violence. Anakpawis and Piglas-Quezon strongly condemned the filing of trumped-up charges against 21 farmers of Hacienda Uy on July 22. They were charged with qualified theft by the landlord Dr. Vicente Uy. The farmers have been tenants of the Uys for decades, bearing the oppressive 60-40 sharing of the crops in favor of the Uy family.



Their wages for working in the family's storehouse were also frequently delayed.

On July 25, four Alamara paramilitary members threatened the students of Salugpongan and residents of Sitio Dulyan, Brgy. Palma Gil, Talaingod. The paramilitary were looking for Parents-Teachers and Community Association members Benacio Dalin, Benjo Bay-go and Nonoy Dawsay; and a student of the school, Lando Lalin. The Alamara threatened that they planned to kill one of the people they were looking for.

In Quirino, the family of one Red fighter who was killed in an encounter on July 26 in Nagtipunan were blocked by 20 policemen and ordered at gunpoint to lie prone on the ground. The family were brought to the PNP Maddela Station where they were interrogated like criminals. Before this, the residents were forced to evacuate when the AFP launched military operations in their village.

The occupation by 20th IB troops led by Col. Noli Lapizar of the Las Navas National High School on August 4 brought fear to the teachers and students. As early as May, the soldiers have been carrying out military operations in the area. They occupied the school, forcing the students to hold classes in tents outside the school. AB

ment subsidies for essential social services such as health care, education, infrastructure and even agriculture. Last January 2017, in the span of only two weeks, the European Union poured in more than \$5.5 billion as aid. This is apart from the \$18 billion German aid. Germany, the biggest economy of the EU, promised to increase its aid by 20%. On the other hand, the US grants up to \$8 billion aid to Africa.

It is also important for the imperialists to establish their military presence to secure their economic and political interests and suppress threats. In the whole continent, ten capitalist states have positioned their military bases and stations in 24 African countries. US troops occupy 46 of these.

This last week of July, Pres. Emmanuel Macron of France met with adjoining countries, its former colonies—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, to organize a 5,000-strong joint army against the purported extremists Al Qaeda. The European Union also pledged \$57.2 million in military aid for the said multinational army.

Djibouti stands out in military occupation by seven countries for its strategic location in world trade. It stands at the mouth of the Suez Canal, one of the most important trade routes from Asia to Europe. This is the route for cargo vessels that carry 10% of the world's annual oil trade and 20% of commercial exports.

Whatever, increased investment in Africa will not resolve the crisis of surplus capital of the imperialist countries, because this will only result in bigger capital enlarged by profit and interest. In the end, monopoly capitalists of Germany, China and others, will still search for new places to invest their capital. AB

Ka Carlo and Ka Billy, Sorsogon martyrs

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the whole revolutionary movement in Bicol gave highest honors to martyrs Andres “Ka Carlo” Hubilla, Miguel “Ka Billy” Himor, and the peasants Arnel Borres and Dick Laura who were massacred by reactionary forces on July 28 in Brgy. Trece Martirez, Casiguran, Sorsogon.

Andres Hubilla is known as Ka Carlo, Ka Magno, Ka Bunso and Lolo Pay to the many youth who have observed and been with him in his tireless integration with the masses. He was born on November 30, 1958, in Sta. Cruz, Casiguran, Sorsogon.

Ka Carlo was gradually politicized by observing the study sessions of the Kabataang Makabayan, of which his sibling was a member. He was 14 years old when arrested illegally, imprisoned and tortured in 1975 after being turned in a government informer. After winning his case in court, he continued his studies. A natural leader, he became chairperson of the Sangguniang Kabataan of their area in 1976.

He finished BS Education in Annunciation College of Sorsogon while working as househelp. While a teacher in high school, he became a member of Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid in 1984. In 1986, he took his oath as candidate member of the CPP. In 1987, he decided to join the NPA, and be-

came a full member of the CPP in 1989.

Ka Carlo was very close to children. Aside from his five children, he considered all children every place he went to as his own. Countless children have been able to continue school by his and his collective’s efforts to look for resources for the children’s schooling.

After several decades of dedicated service and unhesitating self-remoulding as a communist, he was appointed as secretary of the Sorsogon Party Committee and member of the Executive Committee of the Bicol Regional Committee.

As secretary of Sorsogon, Ka Carlo and his collective contributed greatly to expanding and balancing revolutionary strength in the whole region and country. The province steadfastly grew and expanded in spite of the rampaging successive operation plans of the fascist state.

He was arrested and imprisoned four times and at every instance he was able to get out

and return to the fold of the masses and the Red army using different methods.

Even inside prison, Ka Carlo continued his organizing work. Under his guidance, the prisoners became active in uniting and realising what they can still contribute to society.

Miguel “Ka Billy” Himor was born on Mayo 28, 1996 in the same barrio as Ka Carlo. As a youth, he was full of life in the activist youth group. At a young age, Ka Billy was already determined to become a Red fighter. He vigorously carried out all his tasks while waiting for the right age to become a member of the NPA. He worked in Manila in the meantime and by his 18th birthday, returned to Bicol to become a full time NPA member in 2014. Ka Billy was a young fighter who displayed potential for development in military work. He eased the burden of sacrifices by his jokes, and was outstanding in discipline regarding the principles of simple living and continuous remoulding especially when he was assigned to fulfil work as part of the Party provincial staff. Ka Billy was wed on March 29, 2016 and was full of dreams about raising a revolutionary family. AB

Duterte is responsible for slaying Carlo and Billy

ON JULY 28, joint forces of Sorsogon Police Public Safety Coy, 96th Military Intelligence and Combat Operatives, 31st IB and 22nd IB raided the house where Ka Carlo and Ka Billy were temporarily staying. Ka Carlo was able to move away but he was immediately shot. Ka Billy and farmers Arnel Borres and Dick Laura were arrested. All of them were killed on the spot. Residents of the place say no encounter happened.

The CPP holds Duterte himself criminally responsible for this massacre. A few days before the killing, Duterte ordered his men to kill NPA fighters instead of arresting them. When Ka Carlo and Ka Billy were cornered by the enemy, they should have been recognized as hors de combat (combatants disabled from fighting) recognized their rights, and humanely handled.

In the concerned Casiguran massacre, the CPP and whole revolutionary movement vowed to mete justice for the ruthless killing by Duterte’s military and police forces.