Resist the rampaging state terrorism of the fascist puppet Duterte regime

Central Committee, Communist Party of the Philippines

he Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and all revolutionary forces vehemently denounce Duterte's Proclamation No. 374 declaring the CPP and New People's Army (NPA) as terrorist organizations, in a vain effort to strong-arm the revolutionary and progressive forces and the Filipino people to submit to his fascist puppet rule and, thus, pave the way for establishing a fascist dictatorship.

Terror proclamation to heighten state terrorism

State terrorism under the Duterte regime is set to further heighten with its issuance of a terror proclamation. With it, Duterte is poised to make full use of the Arroyo-era Human Security Act (HSA) in order to employ its draconian provisions to criminalize forces opposed to his fascist and puppet rule and flagrantly attack their democratic and civil rights.

By terror tagging the CPP/NPA, Duterte has set the stage for an escalation of his all-out war against the Filipino people and their revolutionary and democratic forces.

He is also set to use the HSA against the legal democratic organizations which he has recently subjected to the worn-out Cold War-style terror- and redtagging by accusing them of being "fronts" of the CPP and, by implication, as "terrorists" themselves, making them open to arrest and violent attacks.

Duterte's terror proclamation desperately aims to malign the revolutionary forces

which have long fought for the Filipino people's aspiration for national and social liberation. Contrary to the proclamation, it is Duterte, with the backing of the US and the AFP, who is the real terrorist for having unleashed a campaign of mass murder and state terrorism: from Oplan Tokhang to the Marawi Siege, Mindanao martial law to all-out war. After only one year under Duterte, the number of people killed by state and state-affiliated forces (estimated to be at 13,000), more than three times greater than those killed under the 14-year Marcos dictatorship.

By issuing his terror proclamation, Duterte has completely turned his back on the peace negotiations and its signed agreements. He has revealed his foolish reliance on a purely militarist solution to resolving the civil war and his complete disregard and contempt for the people's just demands for basic socio-economic and political reforms especially amid worsening poverty, joblessness, landlessness, starvation wages and incomes, rising prices and the overall crisis of the ruling system.

The US imperialists applaud Duterte's terror proclamation which apes the long-standing terror-listing of the CPP, NPA and Prof. Jose Ma. Sison by the US State Department. The US military is eager to bring in their weapons of mass destruction in the vain hope of crushing the anti-imperialist revolutionary forces.

Fascist terror on a rampage

Duterte's terror proclamation against the CPP/NPA will surely result in an escalation of abuses and violations of human rights by his fascist minions in the military, police and paramilitaries.

Soon after arbitrarily and treacherously terminating the

NDFP-GRP peace talks last No-

vember 24,

Duterte ordered the escalation

of his brutal all-out war against the NPA as well as against peasant and minority peoples communities which the AFP suspect of supporting and sympathizing with the NPA and the legal democratic organizations. He aims to drown in blood the Filipino people's aspirations for genuine national freedom and democracy.

In the countryside, the AFP conducts aerial bombing and shelling against peasant and minority communities, while its units occupy civilian homes and infrastructure, impose food blockades, out arbitrary arrests. carry searches and interrogations resulting in forced mass evacuations and grave hardships on tens of thousands of people. There has also been no let up in the militarization and military offensives by the AFP in Bangsamoro areas in accordance with the AFP's pompous claim to finish off all armed Bangsamoro resistance by the end of the year.

He has issued orders to "shoot to kill" any suspected member of the NPA who will not surrender. Such blusters will surely embolden the fascist thugs of the AFP who have been racking up the body count with extrajudicial killings against peasant activists and captured NPA fighters who are already hors d'combat.

He has ordered the mass arrest of all members of the CPP as well as



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NDFP consultants to peace negotiations. This is bound to be used against the legal democratic forces and will surely lead to more widespread and worse atrocities against political prisoners. Duterte himself has led a crescendo of vilification and threats against Bayan and its affiliate organizations. By tagging them as "fronts" of the CPP, Duterte aim to use the HSA to clamp down on progressive and independent trade unions, peasant groups, community associations, teachers and student organizations, human rights advocates and others.

The armed forces
have unleashed
death
squads
against unarmed activists of
the legal
demo-

cratic movement. Last November 28, its armed minions carried out an daylight attack against human rights advocates and peasant leaders in Negros Oriental. This was followed soon after by the ruthless killing of a 73-year old retired priest in Nueva Ecija known for supporting people's causes. On the same day, soldiers killed a pastor in Mindoro purportedly in an encounter with the NPA.

The Duterte regime has also vented its fascist ire against jeep-ney drivers and operators for having carried out nationwide peaceful protests against corporatization of transport services which would forcibly displace hundreds of thousands of drivers and small to medium-sized operators.

Since declaring all-out war, Duterte has completely and blatantly abandoned all leftist and propeople pretensions and has fully assumed the role of a blood-thirsty defender of the decadent and despicable rule by the big bourgeois compradors and big landlord classes and their US imperialist master.

Revolutionary forces will never surrender to Duterte's fascist thuggery

It is Duterte's pipedream that the NPA and all revolutionary forces will surrender to his fascist rule. The NPA is the people's army. Red fighters as well as all true communists and revolutionaries have committed their lives to serving the people's cause and would readily choose death than submission to Duterte's fascist and puppet tyranny.

Duterte is set on using people's

money to purchase from the US military new surveillance and attack drones and helicopter gunships as well as other armaments, to the delight of his military cronies who are drooling over the opportunities for bu-

reaucratic loot. The AFP is set to complete early next year the recruitment of 10,000 additional troops to compose ten more combat battalions.

Having deep and wide support of the peasant and other toiling masses, the NPA is unperturbed by Duterte's threat to do more and worse harm against the NPA, nor by the latest declared aim of the AFP of crushing the NPA by the end of 2018. This is a mere recycle of the same old bluster which accompanied all the failed "oplans" from the Marcos dictatorship onwards.

Duterte's fascist war is an unjust war. It is cruel and brutal in its desperation to suppress the people's resistance. It serves the interests of a small number of exploiters and oppressors while most of its foot soldiers and rank-and-file police come from the ranks of the exploited and poor people. It will surely be frustrated by a determined revolutionary war, which is just, aims for genuine national and social liberation and draws strength from the organization and mobilization of the people.

Through his all-out armed counterrevolutionary war and fascist attacks against the people, Duterte himself is unveiling the ruling state's turn to the naked use of force to impose its anti-national, anti-masses and anti-demo-

cratic rule. Intensified fascist repression will surely meet with even more

widespread

and more determined armed and unarmed resistance by the people. It will only further accelerate Duterte's complete political isolation and hasten his ignominious downfall. It will not save the rotting ruling system, but will further hasten its destruction instead.

To frustrate Duterte's all-out fascist war and defeat the AFP's offensives, the NPA must continue to persevere in waging people's war and carry out widespread and intensive guerrilla warfare on the basis of an ever-widening and -deepening mass base. It must continue to arouse, organize and mobilize the broad peasant masses and inspire them to wage all-out armed and unarmed resistance against their armed oppressors and exploiters.

The NPA must mount more and more tactical offensives. It must ensure victory for these tactical offensives by relying on the support of the people, taking advantage of the physical and social terrain and by mastering guerrilla tactics to preserve its forces and inflict deadly blows against the fascist troops. No amount of high tech weaponry and

fascist brutality can defeat a people and their people's army who are determined to cut out the national destiny with their own hands.

Against an enemy that is overweening and militarily still far superior, we should avoid hitting hard

targets, employ different tactics to divide the enemy forces, force him to defend and attend to so many points

so that his small and weak units become soft targets that are vulnerable to attack and annihilation by the guerrilla forces of the NPA. We should combine many body blows with well selected head shots in which victory is assured by concentrating a superior force that is well prepared to overcome the defenses, fortifications and target denial moves of the enemy.

We must adapt to the increased intensity and ruthlessness of the war due to the prolonged focused operations against priority target guerrilla fronts and the increased use by the enemy of drones, electronic surveillance and other hightech means of area monitoring and surveillance. We need to continuously build and develop a wide intelligence network that covers our guerrilla fronts and surrounding areas to effectively monitor any enemy troop build up and movement.

The NPA will continue to gain strength in the course of fighting Duterte's fascist all-out war. It will never be defeated because it is fully and completely dedicated to fighting for the liberation of the nation and people and defeating all fas-

cists and imperialist puppets. In the same way that the Marcos dictatorship stirred up the people to wage revolutionary armed struggle, so will Duterte's fascist attacks and dictatorial ambitions inflame the people to join to NPA and carry forward the armed revolution to even greater heights.

The Party calls on the broad masses of workers, peasants, youth, women, the religious, professionals, patriotic businessmen and other democratic groups and individuals to unite and resist the Duterte regime's fascist terror. In the face of Duterte's rampage and attacks on all fronts, there is urgency for all to come together in a broad united front against fascism and state terrorism. It can enjoin as well the patriotic-minded soldiers and police to refuse becoming cannon fodder and stand against the fascist orders of Duterte and the AFP and PNP echelon.

The Party calls on the Filipino people to wage mass struggles against Duterte's fascist and puppet regime. They must not allow their basic rights and freedoms to be taken away. They must continue to organize and mobilize and push forward with their democratic struggles. They should mount bigger and bigger mass demonstrations in order to draw in the people in their large numbers.

By unleashing an all-out war of suppression and aiming to establish a fascist dictatorship, Duterte is stupidly ignoring the lessons of history which his idol Marcos learned through his downfall: No amount of fascist brutality will silence and defeat the people's determination to resist and be free.