



EDITORIAL

United, the masses and the people's army are invincible

After six years, the New People's Army (NPA) and the Filipino people have defeated the US-Duterte regime's annual declaration of crushing the revolutionary armed struggle. Instead, the people's spirit and determination to resist are heightened in the face of relentless fascist suppression and state terrorism and widespread suffering brought by the crisis-ridden moribund ruling system.

Like rabid dogs, fascist soldiers, police and paramilitary forces were unchained to furiously attack the people. The monsters charged wherever people have been aroused, united and struggling in order to terrorize, blindfold, silence and shackle them.

On orders of their bloodthirsty master Duterte, they laid siege and sowed violence on villages. They

made no distinction between the armed and unarmed. Defenseless people have been killed, abducted, arrested, tortured and imprisoned left and right and forced to "incriminate themselves and surrender." Their communities have been hamletted and fenced off to guard their every movement. Farms and forest resources have been left untended. Their villages, fields and mountains

are being bombed, shelled and strafed.

Mining companies, plantations, ecotourism projects, bridges and roads are rushed in to make profits flow and fill the pockets of gluttonous big capitalists, big landlords and big merchants, and the corruption-addicted military officers. The minority masses are driven away from their land and forced into "housing projects" away from their forest homes. Millions of peasants impoverished by importation of rice and other products are dislocated, forced to sell their land and left wallowing in poverty and hunger.

But the people and their peop-

le's army are undeterred. Instead, these have heightened their spirit and determination to resist and confront all hardships and sacrifices to advance the people's well-being.

With the help of the NPA, the basic village mass organizations of peasants, youth, women, children and cultural workers continue to be built. They are learning to overcome their fear and the means of fighting. They are holding meetings and study sessions without being seen, heard or detected by fascists in their midst. They collectively defy the left and right orders of wannabe masters to fetch water and firewood or to clean or repair their camps. Walls are painted slogans expressing the people's grievance and anger. They closely watch the monsters to stop their terrorist plans against the people, and act collectively to protect their neighbors. Military camps and barracks are quietly approached or aimed from a distance by units of the NPA and people's militias.

Assisted by the people's army, the peasant masses are rising up to demand lower burdensome land rent, higher wages of farm workers and increased farmgate prices for their products. They collectively solve their economic, security,

health and education problems. They iron out contradictions among the masses to further raise their unity in confronting bigger problems.

With the people's army and the masses working together, the people's war is certain to advance across the country. There are limits to the terrorism of the fascist reactionaries, to their use of bombs and artillery, or the number of mercenaries who can surround or lay siege on tens of thousands of villages that are rising up and resisting.

The people's army and the Party must exert all effort to shoulder the heavy tasks to continue strengthening the NPA, recruiting and training thousands of new Red fighters from young peasants, workers, pettybourgeois intellectuals, women and other sectors. The conscious iron discipline of Red fighters must be further steeled by raising their political and ideological consciousness. The people's army must heighten their capacity in guerrilla warfare, in their methods of secrecy in their trails and camps, in order to keep the enemy blind and deaf and render ineffective their modern equipment in surveillance and bombing. Through strict secrecy, the






NPA can always wield tactical initiative in war, and maintain strong ties and collaboration with the people.

Every unit of the NPA must learn lessons from the losses of some units over the past years of the enemy's onslaught. These prove the correctness of waging extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare on an ever widening and deepening mass base in order to prevent units of the people's army from being besieged. With firm and widespread mass support, they can counter-encircle, deny the enemy of a target, shift quickly and strike the enemy from the flanks and rear.

The armed revolution is certain to further intensify and widen as the NPA frustrates the enemy's heightened strategic offensives, strengthens its bonds with the masses, defends them against fascism, strengthens their basic mass organizations, and creatively and determinedly resists the fascist enemy and advances the antifederal struggles.

The Party, the NPA and the Filipino people must steel their minds in fighting major and intense struggles against fascism and state terrorism. As we celebrate the upcoming 53rd anniversary of the NPA, let us look forward to greater advances in the coming years and strengthen our determination to march forward along the path of armed revolution.

AB

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An army service cherished by the masses

Medics from the New People's Army are rich in experience of providing health services. As they are confronted with all sorts of situations, these medics, many of whom come from the peasant masses, have become experts in handling all kinds of medical emergencies.

Such was the case when Ison, a 9-year old Dumagat, slipped on some rocks and broke his arm. A group of Red fighters chanced upon him and his father when the accident happened. Since an NPA unit was already in the barrio, their medical officer was able to extend assistance.

"The child was almost unconscious and was crying under so much pain," Ka Nonoy, one of the Red fighters on the scene, related. Used to moving quickly, the Red fighters were able to gather betadine, gauze, plaster, elastic bandages and pain relievers at once. Armed with her first aid kit and her pistol, medic Ka Aida was immediately dispatched to respond to the emergency and was able to provide first aid. They put the child's arm on a splint. The emergency was quickly addressed that the unit was able to continue with their meetings in the barrio. Even Ison's mother, who was greatly worried by the accident, was able to attend.

Months later, the Red fighters once again chanced on Ison and some other children by the river. His wound and arm had already healed, after the medics provided him with constant medical care for a week. When asked, he was quick to say that he was already fine. "I can climb the mango tree again to get some fruits for *tatay* (father)," he said as he energetically waved his arm around. He gave some mangoes to the comrades. "Thank you so much. My arm is already healed. I promise, I will be more careful next

time!"

He and the children offered to help the comrades in crossing the river. The children are what the comrades call their "drivers." They help secure stuff when the water is high and the rocks are slippery. They pile the comrades' backpacks on big *salbavidas* (inflated tire interiors) and bring them across the river (to keep them dry).

Scenes such as this are commonplace in areas where the people's army operate.

As many barrios lack basic medical services, the masses rely on the services provided by the NPA. What the masses receive, they return tenfold in cherishing the comrades.

This was the experience of medic Ka Primo who was once shot in the leg during a defensive battle. At first he thought he could "crawl" his way but was later unable to pull himself up. The comrades had to carry him in a hammock, after the enemy fired mortars their way.

They maneuvered out of the area for more than two weeks. The masses were quick to assist them in every sitio they came across. In each one, the masses provided them with food and information on the routes they had planned to take. Their help in carrying Ka Primo was invaluable.

"There was a system where people took turns," Ka Primo narra-



ted. In the middle of their journey, Gimo, a farmer who he once treated, arrived. Gimo once suffered a blow in the head and lost consciousness. It was Ka Primo who provided first aid and stayed until he regained consciousness. He made sure that the patient was recovered before he left the area.

"When I heard that you were wounded, I said to myself I have to go and help! This way, I can return your service!" Gimo greeted Ka Primo. This greatly buoyed the spirits of the wounded comrade and cemented his resolve to serve the revolution. They traveled a path that was not easy—narrow, sharp, hanging and overgrown with vegetation. The masses and the Red fighters helped each other until they were able to send Ka Primo outside to be treated.

After months of treatment, Ka Primo recovered. When he came back, Gimo was already serving the Red army.

AB

The staggering price hikes in oil, goods and services

Prices of petroleum products skyrocketed on March 15 with the latest increase of up to ₱13.15 per liter of diesel, ₱7.10 for gasoline and ₱10.50 for kerosene. This is the 12th and sharpest price hike since the start of 2022.

This resulted in a cumulative price increase of almost ₱31 for petroleum products since January. This is almost twice the increase in prices for 2021. Increases in the prices of petroleum products in the provinces are even higher.

Oil companies argue that they will incur losses if they do not raise prices due to higher costs of crude oil imports. Thus, they let the people shoulder the increase in prices. This greed for profit has led Petron to amass ₱6.41 billion last year. The weekly price increase is in fact a depravity because companies have permanent reserves for several months which are not affected by fluctuations in prices. The Philippines imports petroleum products from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and other countries which have large depots for crude oil.

Drivers in public transportation are among those severely affected by oil price hikes. According to Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston), drivers lose up to ₱363 from their daily income. Small fisherfolks also lose almost ₱145 from earning ₱300-₱400.

Meralco was quick to announce that it will increase charges by ₱0.063 per kilowatt hour or equivalent to ₱13 per month for households who consume 200 kwh per month. It claims that this does not yet cover the recent oil price increases.

Meanwhile in markets, prices of canned meat products increased by more than ₱1 and condensed milk by ₱2.75. These amounts are still based on the oil price increases of the previous weeks. According to the

Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association, prices of basic goods increased by 3% up to 6% since the first week of March. Rice prices are also feared to increase by up to ₱3 per kilo owing not only to price hikes in oil, but also fertilizers.

Even smallscale businessmen are hit hard by transportation costs. In Benguet, a trucker who delivers vegetables to different markets in Manila spent an additional ₱7,000 in March compared to their budget in January.

The Duterte regime's response to all these is to distribute a meager ₱200 per month or ₱6 daily for families belonging to the poorest 50% (only for 4Ps beneficiaries, according to a latest clarification from Malacañang). A paltry subsidy is allocated for drivers (₱6,500) and small fishermen. Aside from being limited, these subsidies do not reach everyone as processes are purposely made difficult and agencies are

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Workers push for ₱750 national wage

Workers are again pushing to institutionalize a national daily minimum wage of ₱750 amid skyrocketing prices and service bills.

According to Ibon Foundation, the gap between the current minimum wage and living wages has grown wider. According to the group's computation, a family of five needs ₱1,072 a day or ₱25,252 a month to live decently. This was when the state put inflation at a "low 3%," and has not yet factored in prices increases in March.

It is not true that prices increase because wages go up, as claimed by the Duterte regime's economic officials. Wages have increased the slowest under the Duterte regime and wage values are at its lowest in the last 35 years.

Last May 11, the Unity for Wage Increase Now! again petitioned the Department of Labor and Employment for a wage increase. They submitted the petition after a consultation where 100 worker's representatives met in the National Cathedral of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente in Manila City.

On March 17, they protested in front of Congress during a hearing on enacting a national minimum wage.

Women's Day

The 105th International Women's Day last March 8 served as occasion for women to vent their



contempt of the Duterte regime amid rising prices. Gabriela members spearheaded women's rallies in Metro Manila, Baguio City, Cavite, Naga City and Davao City to mark the day.

Gabriela's Joms Salvador likened Rodrigo Duterte's inutility in stemming successive price increases to "a man battering a woman without let-up until he kills her." From Mendiola, the protesters marched to Liwasang Bonifacio, both in Manila City. **AB**

NPA-Surigao del Sur seizes R4 rifle

The New People's Army (NPA)-Surigao del Sur ambushed soldiers of the 75th IB riding a *habal-habal* (motorbike transport) along Purok 2, Barangay Bolhoon, San Miguel last March 14. An R4 rifle was seized from the soldiers, one of whom was killed in action. The soldiers were returning from combat operations from adjacent communities.



The NPA unit meanwhile apologized that a civilian driver was wounded in the ambush.

Seven soldiers were killed in a counter-offensive mounted by the NPA-Bukidnon against operating troops of the 1st Scout Rangers Battalion and 8th IB in Sitio Kiito, Barangay Can-ayan, Malaybalay City at noon last March 3. Another soldier was killed in a counter-raid of the NPA against the 88th IB in Sitio Bendum, Barangay Busdi of the same city last March 9.

In Agusan del Sur, two soldiers of the 67th IB were killed while seven other were wounded in an NPA ambush in Barangay Manat, Trento last March 12.

The NPA-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) mounted successive harassment operations in villages of Catubig town. Last February 16, the NPA fired at troopers of the PNP-Special Action Force at the boundaries of Barangay Roxas and Barangay San Jose (Hebobollao). Two soldiers were killed while two others were wounded.

In Barangay Tungodnon last February 21, the NPA fired at 20 operating troops of the enemy. Two were reportedly killed. Another operation was mounted by Red fighters against operating troops at CM Recto (Lobedico) last February 24.

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sluggish in releasing funds (in some parts of Northern Mindanao, drivers only receive ₱6,000, depending on their political affiliation).

Drivers and consumers are demanding an immediate rollback in oil prices to pre-2022 levels. They also demand, at least, a suspension of taxes on fuel. The Duterte regime rejected this, despite having collected more than ₱75 billion from fuel taxes.

Some of these demands were drummed up by democratic groups during several days of protests against oil price hikes from March 15-18. Coordinated actions were held in different parts of Metro Manila, Negros, Iloilo, Davao City and Legazpi City. Pamalakaya conducted a fishing strike at Laguna de Bay and Manila Bay.

Jeepney drivers are also amplifying the calls to increase fares up to ₱10. This is in tandem with the demand for wage increases, a rollback in prices of food and goods, an end to dumping of agricultural imports, increase in farmgate prices, and other urgent demands. AB



Negros barriofolk's barricade. Residents of Sityo Cabiti, Barangay Santol, Binalbagan surrounded the house of their villagemate Lucia Sales in the early morning of March 20 to protect her against raiding soldiers and police. Sales was targeted by state forces because of her affiliation with the Asosasyon para sa Kauswagan sang mga Mangunguma kag Mamumugon sa Uma.

27th death anniversary of Flor Contemplacion. Migrante staged a picket in Mendiola, Manila last March 17 in commemoration of the execution of Flor Contemplacion. Contemplacion, a domestic helper, who was hanged in Singapore for murder. She was meted out the death penalty in the country in 1995. She was a victim of the Philippine reactionary state's negligence on migrant Filipinos.

Justice for New Bataan 5! Programs were held last March 11 in Davao City, Cebu City and Quezon City to call for justice for New Bataan 5 after the autopsy report on Chad Booc was released. Investigations revealed that Booc was killed after being sprayed with bullets. Although no official autopsy was done on the remains of Elgyn Balonga and Gelejurain Ngujo II, their bodies bore visible evidence of similar gunshot wounds and bruises.

No tax on teachers' allowance. Members of Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) staged a picket in front of the Comelec last March 10 to lambast the 20% tax imposed on their election allowance. Local unions of ACT report that the meager ₱2,000 allowance will be reduced by ₱400 for taxes. In the past, the tax was only at 5%, and was demanded to be repealed.

Military illegally arrests 3 NDFP consultants

Three consultants for the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) were illegally arrested by military forces in the past two weeks. Two of them are yet to be surfaced. Meanwhile, attempts were made on the lives of two mass leaders who are active in electoral campaigns, as 13 Lumad civilians were illegally detained.

Elements of the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command abducted Ezequiel Daguman, NDFP consultant for Southern Mindanao. Daguman has been missing since March 7. He was abducted on his way to peasant communities in New Corella, Davao del Norte. He was set to hold consultations with plantation workers and farmers.

In Northern Samar, the military abducted consultant Edwin Alcid, known as Ka Veejo, and two of his civilian companions last March 8 in Barangay San Jose, Catubig. Ka Veejo, 74, suffers from diabetes and needs medical attention. The AFP has yet to surface Ka Veejo, a retired cadre of the Communist Party of the Philippines. According to reports, two AFP helicopters landed in the village to take them.

Another consultant, Ramon Patriarca, was illegally arrested last March 18 in Negros. Arrested with him were Carmen Jonahville Matarlo and John Michael Baldonado, both activist researchers conducting social investigation in the haciendas of the Cojuangco family in Sityo Tondo, Barangay Suay, Himamaylan, Negros Oriental. They were slapped with trumped-up charges.

Frustrated killing. Unidentified men shot Larry Villegas, leader of Piston-General Santos and campaigner for Bayan Muna, last March 13. The assailants barged into his residence in Barangay Buayan, General Santos City. He was earlier red-tagged by the NTF-Elcac.

Meanwhile, unidentified men blocked and aimed a calibre .45 on Amalia Alcantara, a leader of the urban poor in Pook Malinis, Barangay UP Campus, Quezon City last March 12. This failed when the residents in the area responded.

Illegal arrest and detention. In Bukidnon, five civilians were illegally arrested in Sityo Kilapagan, Barangay Can-ayan, Malaybalay City last March 3, when soldiers chanced on them while they were cutting lumber for their homes. They were tortured, and high caliber firearms, explosives and a laptop were planted as evidences against them. They were later reported as members of the New People's Army.

Nine farmers, eight of which are Lumad, were detained inside a local clinic since the first week of March in Barangay White Culaman, Kitao-tao, Bukidnon by soldiers of the 72nd IB. They were forced to "sur-



render" as members of the NPA to "clear" their names and have been illegally detained by soldiers since then.

In Cavite, 10 volunteers for the Makabayan campaign for the Leni-Kiko tandem were arrested last March 10 in Sityo Silangan and Talaba 7, Bacoor. The PNP-Bacoor attacked the community under the pretext of the "anti-drug war." The three who were wounded during the attack were identified as Charlie Aquino, Richard Felipe and Johmel-da Lucernas. Joel Salabanya, Anakpawis Partylist-Cavite vice president, was beaten and police shot at his wife.

The PNP-Silang also illegally detained Jonathan Mercado, spokesperson for Teatro Kabataan Mula sa Nayon, along with two of his companions. He was released after being detained for two days. The progressives were arrested a few days after Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Cong. Crispin Remulla red-tagged the participants in the Leni-Kiko rally in Cavite.

Carlo Reduta, organizer for Coco Levy Funds Ibalik sa Amin-Quezon, was arrested in the evening last March 18 in Barangay Cawayan, Gumaca, Quezon.

Bombing. At least eight bombs were dropped by the AFP in five farmlands in Barangay Deit de Turag, Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar last February 20. The following day, AFP helicopters strafed the farms. A farm hut and coconut trees were destroyed. A farm was also destroyed after being made as a landing pad for helicopters. AB

International group mounts #StopTheBombingsPH campaign

THE FRIENDS OF the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) launched its campaign to end indiscriminate and terrorist aerial bombings against civilian communities in the Philippines. More than 200 cases of aerial bombings and artillery shelling by the Armed Forces of the Philippines have been recorded under the Duterte administration.

The group launched the campaign to encourage friends and allies from different countries to support and heighten the clamor to stop aerial bombings which primarily affects civilians. "It is the poor and indigenous communities in the remote areas that are hit the hardest," the group said.

— IN — SHORT

16
MILLION

women were added to the ranks of unemployed workers from 2016 to 2021

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Gabriela Silang

Born in **March 19, 1731**, known as the first **woman revolutionary**. She led guerrilla attacks on garrisons of colonial Spaniards in Ilocos Sur in four months before being captured and executed on September 1763.

200

incidents of **air raids** and **716 individual airstrikes** were carried out in February by **Saudi Arabia** in Yemen, using US-made arms.

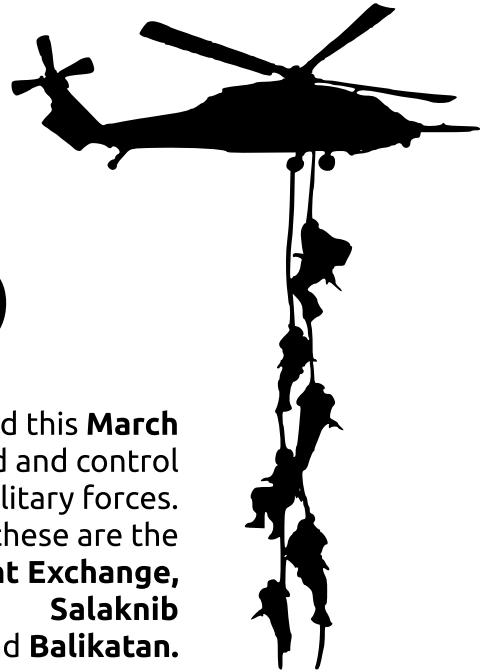
These killed 15 civilians.

Source: Yemen Data Project



3

military exercises are slated this **March** to tighten US command and control over Philippine military forces. Among these are the **Bilateral Air Contingent Exchange, Salaknib** and **Balikatan**.



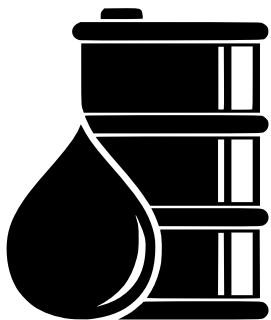
₱12.03
TRILLION

Philippine national debt—equivalent to **₱110,364 per Filipino**—by the end of January due to the Duterte regime's borrowing spree to fund its anomalous **Build, Build, Build**.

March 14, International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams

Started in 1997, this year highlights the value of rivers on the lives of communities in the face of threats of big dams, spilling of industrial wastes, and encroachments.

10.2%



inflation rate in 2008 when crude oil prices surged to **₱5,618 per barrel** in the world market. **N**This **March**, this shot up to **₱6,240 per barrel**.

Source: Ibon Foundation

180,000

number of attendees in the **Leni-Kiko** tandem campaign rally last **March 20** in **Pasig City**.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

Return of open-pit mining and TGCP strongly opposed

The people of South Cotabato strongly oppose the local government's move to amend the Environment Code prohibiting open-pit mining in the province. In February, local officials held two rounds of consultations to supposedly listen to the opinion of residents. This is despite the fact that the basis for banning open-pit mining in the province remains. More than 3,000 residents showed up to protest against open-pit mining. Among them are the Archdiocese of Marbel, farmers' organizations, leaders of settlers and the B'laan tribe who are most affected by the company's operations.

The consultations were held upon the prodding of Sagittarius Mines Incorporated (SMI), in connivance with some officials and employing some tribal leaders, in order to pave the way for Tampakan Gold-Copper Project's (TGCP) renewed operations. This is among the projects revived after the Duterte regime issued Executive Order No. 130 which allowed the reopening of open-pit mines on the pretext of revitalizing the economy. This type of operation was stopped by former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Gina Lopez.

In October 2021, more than 90,000 individuals signed a petition against amending the Environment Code. Earlier, a local court junked the case filed by SMI to nullify the local ruling.

The Environment Code was ratified in 2010 after the people of the province demanded a stop to the open-pit mine of erstwhile Xstrata-SMI. The code was instrumental for

the people in blocking TGCP in the face of Executive Order 79 issued by the Benigno Aquino III regime which aimed to circumvent the ban on open-pit mining and grant SMI an Environmental Compliance Certificate in February 2013.

TGCP covers several thousand hectares of mines along the borders of South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani. It purports to be the largest gold mine in Southeast Asia. It is also said to have the largest copper deposit in the whole world.

The continuing struggle

For three decades, the people of Far South Mindanao have been putting up armed and unarmed resistance against TGCP. Because of a strong and widespread democratic mass movement and the corresponding people's resolute armed struggle and victorious punitive actions and offensives by the New People's Army in the region, the

giant multinational companies formerly operating the mines were driven away.

Ownership of the mine has changed through the years. In 2005, Western Mining Corporation of Australia sold the mine to Xstrata Plc., which in 2013 sold its shares to Glencore. In 2015, Glencore withdrew and left SMI as the sole operator.

During this time, consecutive victories in the legal arena also blocked the mine's continuous operations. In 2004, the organization La Bugal won a court petition which challenged the legality of the Mining Act of 1995. This was reversed by the Supreme Court because the state supposedly needs the funds generated from foreign mining investments.

In March 2020, the Duterte regime extended for 12 more years the expired Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples followed suit by releasing a "Certification Precondition" based on the supposed concession of B'laan tribal leaders. But according to reports, the company openly bribed the tribal leaders for their consent. Those suspected of continued opposition are harassed and threatened by the military.

The military and the company's paid agents responded with widespread violence in the form of extrajudicial killings, abductions and torture against those who oppose the mining operations. Some of the victims killed include activists Renato Pacaide, the Lagaro siblings, Boy Billanes, father and son Datu Anting and Viktor Freay, and Jovy Capion and her two small children. The military is also charged with several cases of forced disappearances. AB



Remembering the anti-Moro massacres under the US-Marcos dictatorship

To claim that the Jabidah and other pogroms did not take place under Ferdinand Marcos Sr.'s martial law is lunacy and a gross lie. This was the reaction of Moros in the face of the repeated pronouncements of pro-Marcos reactionaries that massacres against the Moro people are made up and deceptive.

They see the importance of commemorating these massacres especially as elections are nearing and politicians are once again courting their votes.

One such incident is the Jabidah massacre where 28 Moro youths were killed after they refused orders from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to kill fellow Moros to occupy Sabah. The massacre took place in March 18, 1968 while they were training in Corregidor, Cavite City.

History recognizes the Jabidah massacre as the spark that ignited the armed resistance of the Moro National Liberation Front established by Prof. Nur Misuari in 1969. But the Moros consider the massacre in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat in September 24, 1964 as the most violent and biggest massacre. Even now, survivors remember clearly the gruesome events and brutality perpetrated against them by the state.

"It was timed at dawn, just after the fourth day of the holy observance of the Ramadan, that the military fired their cannons on us," Ama Amed, a madrasah sanawi (high school) teacher, narrated in an interview with Ang Bayan. "Several barangays in our town were hit. The people were shouting in fear, especially the women and children. We could do nothing but pray to Allah."

Ama Amed was then just a teenager who dreamed of finishing school to help his fellow Muslims. When the soldiers invaded, he was one of the young ones who managed to escape to the forests. Some of his family members did not survive.

"The military was not satisfied

after raining bombs on us. Four AFP battalions entered civilian communities and arrested everyone they saw. They dragged the men and detained them in a mosque in Tacbil in Barangay Malisbong."

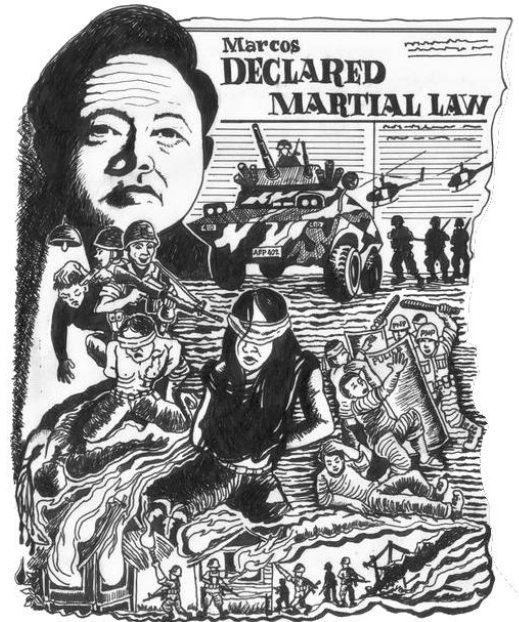
According to narratives gathered from survivors, around 1,500 men with ages 11 to 70 who were kept in the mosque were killed by the fascists. There are reports that up to 3,000 died in separate incidents during the period.

"Every day, a group of 10 or more would be taken out (of the mosque) and killed. They were made to dig their own graves before being shot. The detained who asked for food had copra (dried coconut) thrown at them. They were forced to strip and made to do lascivious acts, which are considered grave sins against Allah. They violated and trampled on our humanity and our faith as Muslims," Ama Amed tearfully recounted the brutal experience.

There were also records that said up to 3,000 women and children, ages 3 to 60 who were arrested and kept inside a warehouse in the barrio and in military ships. Around 300 houses were burned by the fascists.

"Many women were raped by the soldiers. Many children died due to starvation and hardships that they experienced." The Palimbang massacre was perpetuated two years after the Marcos regime imposed martial law in September 21, 1972.

According to some sources, the Marcos regime was then fearful that the MNLF will expand not only in Pa-



limbang and other parts of Sultan Kudarat, but in the entire area under the then AFP Central Mindanao Command. The AFP reasoned that it only targeted the MNLF rebels. But what the state ordered was the genocide of the people of Palimbang. Under the dictator's orders, AFP generals directed the bombings and massacre of Moro civilians. Brig. Gen. Gonzalo H. Siongco, appointed by Marcos as Sultan Kudarat's governor, was among those who led the carnage.

In addition of the Jabidah and Palimbang massacres, the Moro people likewise will not forget the massacre in Manili in 1971 where 70 worshippers were killed inside a mosque in Manili, Carmen, North Cotabato. There is also the Tacub massacre which killed 40 civilians on their way home after failing to vote in a special election. They were accosted by soldiers in a checkpoint and shot in Tacub, Lanao de Norte.

During Marcos' entire military rule, many Moro communities in Mindanao were destroyed, more than 200,000 people were killed and many were forced to evacuate, including half a million Moros who fled to Sabah, Malaysia. AB

Land preparation campaign forms part of Indian agrarian revolution

The revolutionary people of India celebrated last February the victory of the widespread land levelling campaign which started in 2011. Land levelling is preparing the land in order for fields to retain water from irrigation dikes similar to rice paddies in the Philippines. Land preparations form part of efforts to improve the backward state of agriculture and raise production in India's countryside.

In the state of Bastar, in particular, peasants rely on rainfall. They can only plant crops in the proximity of ponds or wells. (A state in India is the equivalent of a region in the Philippines, but much larger.) A campaign to build paddies was started in 2011. People's committees started the campaign to level wide swathes of land. Committees allotted 5 to 20 days of levelling per community. Before each campaign, investigation meetings are held to analyze the economic standing of

people in villages and determine the class standing of families. These meetings determine who are most in need. Planning includes land levelling for martyrs and fighters of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army, the people's army led by the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist). Every year, more than 1.5 lakh or 150,000 people energetically take part in these activities.

Everytime there is collective preparation of land, people's health committees provide assistance. Red

guerrillas also participate. Because there are no agricultural machines, everyone brings their own farm implements. Every night, people's artists perform. On the last day of the activity, the committees slaughter a cow for the participants. Every year, local people's governments allot funds for the activity which the CPI-Maoist likens to communal work.

In 2021, the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee resolved to sum up their 10 year experience in land levelling. All people's committees are set to participate. The zonal committee covers the wide regions of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana and Andhra.

The reactionary state was never happy with the agrarian reforms implemented anywhere in Dandakaranya. Over the past 10 years, at least six comrades were killed in onslaughts of state forces against these activities. Police forces illegally seize the medicine prepared for these activities. They intensify their attacks whenever people's preparations for cropping are on the way. But people have devised creative means to deceive and lead the enemy's attention from their activities.

(Based on a report by Comrade Amrut of the CPI-Maoist).

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