

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

A publication of the International Office of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines



NPA@45: Global support intensifies for People's War

By **Jose Emilio Jacinto III**
and **Roselle Valerio**

On 29 March 1969, the New People's Army was established under the absolute command of the Communist Party of the Philippines, in order to advance and complete the people's democratic revolution against US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. Forty five years on, Filipino revolutionaries have overcome the most violent forms of reaction, including 14 years of the Marcos fascist dictatorship and the successive post-Marcos pseudo-democratic regimes, persevered and scored victories in the People's War.

In celebration of the NPA's 45th year anniversary, NPA platoons gathered to render 21-gun salutes to honor the martyrs and heroes of the revolution. Local Party committees and NPA commands across the country organized community meetings and cultural presentations, all under the noses of the enemy security forces.

In the national capital region of Metro Manila, allied organizations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines held daring "lightning rallies" and cultural programs, evading the claws of the US-Aquino regime. The lightning rallies were led by the Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions, Kabataang Makabayan (KM, Patriotic Youth), Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Makibaka, Patriotic Association of New Women), Katipunan ng Samahang Manggagawa (KASAMA, League of Workers' Associations) and Compatriots. In Quezon City, the NDFP-Southern Tagalog Chapter and the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM, National Peasants' League) held a program for several minutes on the anniversary day itself, 29 March.

next page...

**Victorious offensives greet
NPA 45th anniversary**
page 3

**Filipinos in Europe vow
bigger support for NPA**
page 4

**CPP leaders' arrest spurs
global condemnation**
page 5

**CPP and Prof. Sison on the
territorial dispute in
the West Philippine Sea**
page 6 & 7

**US, EU stir trouble in Ukraine,
Cut back Russian power**
page 8

**Venezuela needs
thoroughgoing revolution**
page 10

... from page 1

From around the world, communist parties and revolutionary organizations sent messages of congratulations and ardent solidarity for the people's war under the leadership of the CPP, such as messages from **Initiative für den Aufbau einer Revolutionär Kommunistischen Partei** (Austria), **People's Revolutionary Movement** (Brazil), **Revolutionary Initiative** (Canada), **Ateneu Proletario Galego, Marxistisch-Leninistische Partei Deutschlands** (Germany), **Kommounistikí Orgánosi Elládas** (Greece), **Maoist Communist Party Manipur**, **Communist Party of Mexico** (Marxist-Leninist), **Revolutionary Popular Front-Mexico**, **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine**, **Kommunistiska Partiet** (Sweden), **Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Turkey/North Kurdistan**, **Partido Comunista Revolucionario del Uruguay**, and the **International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC)**.

Meetings were held in Brazil, Hong Kong, Switzerland, and the UK, to commemorate the momentous anniversary.

In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the NDFP International Information Office hosted a multinational cultural and educational event on 30 March. Comrades and guests from Belgium, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Kurdistan, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Turkey, and the UK delivered solidarity speeches and cultural performances, and joined in the discussions.

Video presentations paid tribute to the martyrs and heroes of the revolution, and highlighted the various aspects of work of the people's army – health and medical, literacy and numeracy, economic production, cultural activities, military trainings, and armed offensives. A voice recording was also played of Filipinos now working in Europe, saluting the NPA and vowing to help forge international solidarity for People's War in the Philippines. They vowed to gather political and material support for the NPA and the armed revolution.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines, spoke on "Building the People's Army and Waging the People's War". He recalled his experiences during the founding and early years of the people's army.

"I recall how I presided over the founding of this revolutionary army of the Filipino people on 29 March 1969 in my capacity as Chairman of the CPP Central Committee and its Military Commission.

"We started the NPA from scratch in the second district of Tarlac in 1969. We had only nine automatic rifles and 26 other inferior firearms to rotate among 60 Red fighters to whom we had given politico-military training." He stressed, "But we were confident. We had a party that had avidly studied Marxism-Leninism, the revolutionary experience of the Filipino people, the teachings of Comrade Mao Zedong, and the writings of Vietnamese comrades on building the people's army and waging the people's war."



Prof. Sison also discussed the growth and victories that have been accumulated in the last 45 years, and the prospects of the people's war in the country. "At present, the CPP is reported to have about 150,000 members, the NPA has about 10,000 fighters, the people's militia tens of thousands of personnel, and the self-defense units hundreds of thousands."

He continued, "The guerrilla fronts number more than 110, covering significant portions of 71 provinces. The mass organizations have members in the millions; and the people's democratic government has millions of people in its territory.

"The CPP and NPA are determined to realize the plan to advance from the strategic defensive to the strategic stalemate in the near term. They intend to bring up the number of CPP members to 250,000, the NPA to 25,000, the guerrilla fronts to 200, and the scope of the agrarian revolution and the mass base to many more millions of people."

The NDFP's Chief International Representative, Luis G. Jalandoni, spoke on the antifeudal united front. He stressed on the resolute determination of the majority peasant population to fight for agrarian revolution, serving as the rock-like foundation of the antifeudal united front and the main content of the New Democratic Revolution.

Jalandoni, a Member of the NDFP National Executive Committee, disclosed the many gains achieved by the NPA through the successful combination of agrarian revolution, mass base building and armed struggle. (This) has resulted in the building of Red political power in more than 110 guerrilla fronts in 71 out of 81 provinces of the country. The people's democratic government has been set up in more than ten thousand villages and some municipalities."

He explained, "The minimum program of agrarian revolution consists of the lowering of land rent, the eradication or lessening of usury and the raising of farm workers' wages. In some areas, where the peasant association and the people's army are sufficiently strong, the maximum program of land confiscation and free distribution of land are carried out. The gains in the agrarian revolution benefit many millions of peasants and farm workers."

Jalandoni stressed, "The gains of the agrarian revolution fire up the enthusiasm of the peasantry for the revolution. They are ready to give their best sons and daughters to the New People's Army. As the agrarian revolution grows and the mass base building and organs of political power consolidate, the People's War advances."

Excerpts from the message of the CPP Central Committee to the NPA Red commanders and fighters were also read during the program.

Visual artworks from NPA artists adorned the walls of the meeting hall, as revolutionary songs and music videos were presented throughout the afternoon. The program ended with the singing of "Internationale", in the various languages of the guests, and chanting of praises for the Philippine revolution. Long live the New People's Army! Onwards to total victory of the People's War! ■



NPA platoon on the march. Photo by Rafael Bernal.

Victorious military actions greet NPA's 45th anniversary

By Roselle Valerio

Red fighters of the New People's Army launched eight victorious military actions in various parts of the country to usher in the 45th anniversary of the people's army.

Quezon. Ten soldiers were killed, including their commanding officer 1Lt. Rey Jun Blancada, and five others were wounded when a unit of the Apolonio Mendoza Command, NPA Quezon Province, used a command-detonated explosive (CDX) and rained bullets on a 15-man mercenary force of the 85th Infantry Battalion riding a Hummer-type jeep in Barangay (village) Ilayang Cogorin, Lopez town on 24 March.

Ifugao. Two 54th Infantry Battalion troopers were wounded in a sniping operation conducted by the Nona del Rosario Command, NPA-Ifugao Province, on 21 March. The enemy unit was then conducting patrols in Barangay Camandag in Asipulo town. The Red fighters made a safe retreat after the armed offensive.

Agusan del Sur. An NPA team under the Western Agusan Norte-Agusan Sur Subregional Command detonated a CDX on a convoy of four six-by-six trucks bearing troopers of the 26th Infantry Battalion and Scout Rangers, at Km. 22, Side 2, Don Alejandro village, San Luis town, at around 12:30 midnight of 20 March. The ambush killed two soldiers and wounded 15 others. One of the trucks was destroyed.

Misamis Oriental. A team under the Eastern Misamis Oriental-Northeast Bukidnon Subregional Command of the NPA harassed enemy troops of the 58th Infantry Battalion on patrol in Libertad, Gingoog City, at around 4:00 pm of 15 March. The armed offensive killed two enemy soldiers.

Rizal. Eight mercenary troopers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were wounded in back-to-back tactical offensives launched by Red fighters under the NPA Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NAAC) in Barangay Calawis, Antipolo City, on 3 and 7 March.

Seven soldiers were wounded when an NAAC squad ambushed elements of the 16th Infantry Battalion conducting military operations on 7 March. Earlier, another NAAC squad harassed a detachment of the 59th Infantry Battalion in Sitio Apya of the same village on 3 March, wounding a soldier. There were no casualties among the Red guerrillas in these two firefights.

Compostela Valley. Nine soldiers under the 9th Infantry Battalion were killed and 13 others were wounded in two ambushes staged by Red fighters under the Comval-Davao Gulf Subregional Command in Maco town. The NPA seized eight military backpacks, a pair of night vision goggles, and important documents from the two gun battles.

Five enemy troopers were killed and ten others were wounded when Red guerrillas ambushed the patrolling enemy units in Barangay Panuraun on 12 March. Earlier, on 16 February, another unit under the same NPA command ambushed elements of the 9th Infantry Battalion in Barangay New Barile, killing four soldiers and wounding three others.

The NPA currently operates in more than 110 guerrilla fronts, covering significant portions of 71 provinces from Luzon in the north, to Mindanao in the south, including provinces surrounding the national capital region. It plans to carry out more frequent big and small tactical offensives against enemy detachments, checkpoints, and police stations, and private security agencies, private armies and criminal gangs, with the aim of seizing more weapons, and striving to increase its armed strength to 25,000. ■

Filipinos in Europe vow bigger support for NPA

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Filipino migrant workers in Europe have vowed to continue support to the New People's Army (NPA) as it celebrates its 45 years of waging armed resistance for national and social liberation.

OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) expressed their support in a five-minute pre-recorded message played during the solidarity event held 30 March 2014 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The cultural and educational celebration was attended by Filipinos and guests from nine different countries.

The OFWs who are members of the revolutionary underground organization COMPATRIOTS, are currently living and working in Italy and the UK. These two countries have the biggest concentration of Filipino migrants in Europe. The continent reportedly hosts about one million Filipinos, working mostly as caregivers, nurses, domestic workers, service personnel, and *au pairs*.

Many OFWs in Europe come from the poorest areas and provinces in the Philippines neglected by the corrupt ruling elite and plundered by foreign multinational corporations. These are also areas where the NPA is strong. A number of OFWs in Europe have family members who have become victims of the violence, extrajudicial killings, and other types of terrorism perpetrated by the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

When they get a chance to visit the homeland, many go on "exposure trips" to NPA guerrilla zones in order to learn first-hand about the armed revolution. A number have chosen to return to the Philippines for good and help the NPA in peasant organizing.

Meanwhile, Philippine government statistics indicate that OFWs from Europe remitted about PhP15.3 billion (US\$353.2 million) in 2012, or an average of PhP94,000 per OFW in one year. Yet despite this contribution which keeps



the bankrupt Philippine economy afloat, OFWs are considered by the Filipino ruling elite as mere "milking cows" to be exploited, and are usually left to fend for themselves and fight for their rights and welfare in the face of abuse and exploitation while working overseas.

Responding to the criminal neglect by the BS Aquino regime of the victims of typhoon Haiyan and other past disasters, Filipinos in Europe actively sent cash and relief donations to the devastated provinces of Samar, Leyte, Panay, Negros and Cebu. They are firmly supporting calls to hold the BS Aquino regime criminally liable for the fate of the disaster victims and are calling for the immediate ouster of the US-Aquino regime.

"I support the New People's Army (NPA) because I share their highest dream and aspiration for the liberation of our people and the nation", stressed Kris, a domestic worker in Italy for more than a decade. Despite being far away from the motherland, Kris says she continues the struggle and revolution among Filipinos and Italians in Italy, organizing and helping them build international solidarity for the Philippine revolution.

Her organizing work among Filipinos has helped deepen her own understanding of why she had to leave the Philippines and her loved ones, and endure hardships in a foreign country.

The ruling class and elite in the Philippines, she stressed, cannot be expected to give Filipinos genuine freedom, economic prosperity, democracy and peace. It is only through the victory of the armed revolution in the Philippines being waged by the NPA, she says, that the Filipino people would be able to achieve national and social liberation.

"Long live the 45 years of continuing armed struggle and revolution being waged by the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines. Filipino workers unite and join the NPA in the countryside", Kris defiantly concluded.

Emy, a domestic worker in the UK who comes from Bulacan province avers that she supports the NPA because it is the real army of the Filipino masses. "I salute the 45 years of the NPA. Long live the CPP-NPA-NDF!", Emy declares.

Maya, who hails from Ilocos Sur, and has been working as a registered nurse in the UK, says she believes in the cause of the NPA because it serves the genuine interests of the Filipino people, particularly in advancing agrarian revolution, and struggles against "imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism".

The OFWs vow to continue building the broadest international solidarity for the people's war in the Philippines, specifically in gathering political and material support for the NPA and the armed revolution.

COMPATRIOTS is the revolutionary organization of Filipinos working abroad and their families back home, representing their interests and aspirations, and unites the broadest number of compatriots for the advancement and victory of the national democratic revolution. It recognizes the class leadership of the proletariat through the Communist Party of the Philippines, and unites with the Constitution and Program of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. COMPATRIOTS is the newest member of the NDFP. ■

CPP-NDFP leaders' arrest spurs widespread condemnation



By Bagani Dong-ilay

Numerous revolutionary organizations, progressive groups and patriotic individuals around the world condemned the illegal arrest and detention of Comrades Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria, senior leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

They were arrested on 22 March 2014 in Aloguinsan, Cebu, along with Rex Villaflor; Lorraine Castillo; Joel Enano, Jeosi Nepa; and Arlene Panea. They were slapped with a charge of illegal possession of firearms even if no firearms were found in their possession, as stated in the report of the local police. Comrades Benito and Wilma are also being implicated in the “Hilongos massacre” along with about 50 other progressive and revolutionary leaders.

In successive statements, the CPP, Luis Jalandoni of the NDFP Negotiating Panel, NDFP Chief Political Consultant Jose Ma. Sison, and Comrade Jorge Madlos of NDFP-Mindanao assailed the illegal arrest and filing of trumped-up charges against Tiamzon and Austria. Public statements of condemnation were also released by the CPP-Southern Tagalog, NDFP-Bicol, Kabataang Makabayan (KM, Patriotic Youth), Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM, National Peasants League), Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU), MAKIBAKA (Patriotic Movement of New Women), Compatriots, NDFP-Cavite, KM-Manila, NPA-Southern Mindanao, NPA-Quezon, RCTU-Southern Tagalog, and many other organizations in the Philippines.

Several street actions were launched in the national capital region, calling for Comrades Benito and Wilma’s immediate release. MAKIBAKA marched along busy Carriedo Street in the center of Manila on 24 March. A similar march was launched by NDFP allied organizations on 28 March in Mendiola, near the presidential palace, on 28 March. On 29 March, right on the NPA’s 45th anniversary, NDFP-Cavite members rallied right in front of Camp Crame, the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police, where the two leaders were being held.

The arrest is a violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). The agreement, which was signed by the NDFP and the Manila government in 1995, stipulates that persons involved in the peace talks are exempted from being arrested, charged, surveilled, and being subjected to other forms of persecution. The JASIG aims to create a positive atmosphere for the peace talks and provide guarantees to persons involved in the talks to perform their duties without interference or danger.

Jalandoni said that Comrades Benito and Wilma are both listed as NDFP peace talks consultants. Ka Wilma is listed under her real name while Ka Benito is listed under the assumed name of Crising Banaag. They both had their documents of identification in their possession when they were arrested. Their arrest and detention are gross violations by the US-Aquino regime of the peace talks.

The CPP disclosed that upon their arrest, the two leaders were busy performing tasks assigned to them by the CPP and NDFP. In particular, they were investigating the conditions of the toiling masses in the Visayas devastated by supertyphoon Yolanda and victimized by the Aquino regime’s negligence. They were closely monitoring the rehabilitation work being conducted by the New People’s Army (NPA) in the devastated areas.

They were also in the middle of performing tasks in connection with their roles as consultants on the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER), which forms part of the substantive agenda currently being discussed. Negotiations on the CASER have failed to prosper because of the GPH’s failure to comply with previously signed agreements such as the JASIG.

In fact, at the time of their arrest, Comrades Benito and Wilma were on the way to a consultation on the resumption of informal talks this May, as agreed upon by NDFP chief negotiator Jalandoni and GPH chief negotiator Alexander Padilla. The May discussions would have explored ways on how to resume the stalled formal negotiations—a possibility once more derailed by the Tiamzons’ arrest.

next page...

US and China are both bullies seeking control of South China Sea

By Communist Party of the Philippines

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) condemns both the US and Chinese governments for acting like bullies in their effort to fortify their military foothold in the South China Sea to the detriment of the Filipino people's sovereignty claims over the islands and land formations and territorial waters within the country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

The CPP denounces both the Chinese and US governments for carrying out maneuvers and counter-maneuvers last 29 March while a Philippine boat delivered supplies to the Philippine outpost ship BRP Sierra Madre which has been stationed at the Ayungin Shoal since 1999. The CPP denounces both the Chinese Coast Guard for attempting to prevent the Philippine supply boat from reaching the Ayungin shoal and the US military for carrying out fly-bys to project and assert its power and control of the area.

The CPP further denounces the Aquino regime for playing to the US hegemonist plan to establish its permanent presence in the South China Sea by invoking US military support, and seeking increased US military financing and protection. The fly-by of US jets over the Ayungin shoals last March 29 was carried out with the permission of the Philippine armed forces, although AFP officials feigned ignorance. Malacañang also pretended to be unaware of the US fly-bys when it declared that the Philippine supply boat just "somehow managed" to reach the outpost ship despite the presence of the Chinese Coast Guard ship.

... from page 5

According to the NDF-Eastern Visayas, the arrest of the two CPP leaders is a huge insult to typhoon Yolanda survivors. The NDF-EV called for the continuation of the peace talks and genuine reconstruction in the Visayas.

Meanwhile, the CPP belied claims that the arrest of the two leading CPP cadres spells the end for the armed revolution. Although the role of individual leaders is important, the collective leadership of Party committees at various levels is more crucial.

Whatever the setbacks resulting from Ka Benito and Ka Wilma's arrest, these are temporary, said Ka Oris.

Jose Maria Sison added that the advance of the revolutionary movement did not stop with his arrest in 1977 when he chaired the Central Committee. In fact, within 24 hours from his arrest, another comrade immediately stepped in to assume his duties, and the entire revolutionary movement continued to gain strength.

In statements issued by the revolutionary forces in ST, Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Southern Mindanao, they were all one in declaring their determination to continue advancing the armed struggle. Their common call was to bring the people's war to the next higher stage of the strategic stalemate.

In another statement, the KM extolled Ka Benito and Ka Wilma as models to be emulated by the youth. They said that KM chapters are open to the growing numbers of youth who

The CPP has long supported the demand of the Filipino people to assert Philippine sovereignty over the small islands and land formations in the South China Sea within the country's 200-mile economic zone. It has long called for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts through diplomatic negotiations and international arbitration.

The Aquino regime seems to act in favor of a peaceful resolution by filing a case supporting the Philippine claim before the International Tribunal on the Law of the Seas (ITLOS). However, it did so only after years of war-mongering, which heightened tensions with China.

Since 2011, Aquino has kept the tensions high in the South China Sea by allowing the US military to station its warships in the area and invoking protection under the Military Defense Treaty. Aquino would allow the US to sail its warships and fly its fighter planes in the area to project US imperial power in order to provoke China to make counter-aggressive power projection naval and aerial maneuvers.

The US imperialists have long been the biggest violators of Philippine sovereignty. Its historical record of aggression and colonization of the Philippines is incomparable to that of China, which has never deployed its militaries in the Philippines, prior to sailing its coast guard boats in Philippine territorial waters.

Over the past several years, the US has further entrenched itself in the Philippines. It has further strengthened its foothold by maintaining a permanent military presence in the Philippines. It keeps a 700-strong contingent of combat

next page ...

want to follow in their footsteps. MAKIBAKA, in particular, hailed Comrade Wilma as a revolutionary woman and cadre who should be emulated and not put behind bars like a common criminal.

Among the revolutionary parties overseas that called for the immediate release of Tiamzon, Austria and their five companions were the Central Committee of Revolutionary Initiative-Canada, the Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany and the Maoist Communist Party of Manipur.

Meanwhile, statements were also issued by militant organizations like Anakbayan, BAYAN, Bayan Muna, KARAPATAN, Desaparecidos, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), League of Filipino Students (LFS), Victims United for Justice (Hustisya) and many others.

Church people also aired their views. In a forum, Catholic Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, Head of the Secretariat of the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP) expressed concern on the implications of the illegal arrest of the CPP leaders on the peace talks. He said that principled negotiations are needed to achieve genuine and lasting peace, not the surrender of one party to the other.

On the other hand, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and former GPH peace panel chief Silvestre Bello said that Tiamzon and Austria should be released if they were able to present genuine JASIG documents, because the government must comply with its commitments to the people and the NDFP. ■

... from page 6

troops stationed in Zamboanga City. Since 2011, it has docked its naval warships, submarines and aircraft carriers several times a week in Philippine ports. US jetfighters, Ospreys, drones and other aerial vessels are permanently stationed in various parts of the country.

At any given time, there are thousands of US troops stationed in the Philippines who sail within Philippine territorial waters and fly within Philippine airspace anytime to advance US hegemonist strategies. The US and Aquino governments seek to further strengthen the foothold of the US military in the Philippines with the planned Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

The CPP contends that further strengthening the US' military foothold in the Philippines does not help the Philippine cause to advance sovereign claims over the South China Sea islands, formations and territorial waters. Heightening US military presence, in fact, counters the Philippines' efforts to strengthen its sovereignty claims as it puts the Philippines under the dominance of the US military.

In asserting Philippine claims while invoking US military support, the Aquino regime is actually seeking to become a protectorate of the US government, subjecting the entire country, including the international trade routes in the South China Sea, to US control. To be "protected" by a bigger bully who claims to be a friend

to fend off another bully is to forever be under the sway of that bigger bully.

The claims to benevolence and friendship of the colonial and later neocolonial US forces are among the biggest hoaxes imposed upon the Filipino people. We must decisively disabuse ourselves of that hoax. ■



graphic by Lindsey Burrows

On international arbitration vs. China claims in West Philippine Sea

By Prof. JOSE MARIA SISON
CPP Founding Chairman
NDFP Chief Political Consultant

In a previous interview, I said that the strongest piece of international law in favor of the Philippines is the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), particularly with regard to the 200 mile exclusive economic zone. I even challenged the Manila government to file a case in the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

By manifestations through writing and mass actions, the patriotic and progressive forces have stood for Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity over the islands or islets in question in the sea west of the Philippines on the basis of UNCLOS and other international instruments. This is not the first time that their position has concurred with that of the Philippine reactionary government on a territorial issue, as in the case of Sabah.

It is better than not for the Philippines to file the case before ITLOS and in particular the Arbitral Tribunal as the chosen mechanism for arbitration regarding the islands or islets west of the Philippines. When the revolutionary government gains the personality to make representations for the Philippines in the community of states, it will certainly take responsibility for asserting territorial integrity.

The Chinese government of today invokes the position of previous Chinese governments as far back as the feudal dynasties in the same manner as the irredentist Mussolini of

Italy invoked the scope of the ancient Roman empire to claim territories. The Chinese government also argues that certain territories are owned by a country no matter how far those are and closer to other countries. But it should also mention that such territories are usually inhabited by nationals of the owning country (e.g. British territories closer to Germany and France than to the UK), or occupied through colonization (e.g. Malvinas island and all previous British colonies).

The Philippines cannot accept the view that China is ever willing to negotiate with the Philippines and yet it asserts from beginning to end that its claim of sovereignty over the islands in question is nonnegotiable. What China actually means is that it has the sovereignty and territorial integrity over the islands and the Philippines can only negotiate or beg for some accommodations, like permission for Filipino fishermen to fish in the area, to have more time to tow away the stranded boat on Ayungin shoal, or continue the joint oil exploration stupidly agreed to by the Arroyo regime.

I do not agree with the view that the Philippines should not have filed the case against China before ITLOS and the Arbitral Tribunal, supposedly because the Philippines should fear retaliation from China and/or because the Philippines stands to gain something from "negotiating" with China. Even after filing of the case, it is still possible to negotiate the issue out of court. After all, there are more matters than this issue that require both China and the Philippines to negotiate and transact business. In the first place, filing the case before ITLOS and the Arbitral Tribunal is not a violent act at

next page ...

US, EU stir trouble in Ukraine, Cut back Russian power

By Prof. JOSE MARIA SISON
Founding Chairman, Communist Party of the Philippines

Since the horrendous attack of Nazi Germany, the great anti-fascist victory of the Soviet Union, and the socialist reconstruction after World War II, Ukraine has suffered a series of catastrophes in so many decades: the rise of modern revisionism and gradual restoration of capitalism from the late 1950s onwards leading to the rapid full-scale restoration of capitalism and collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the social and economic devastation of the Ukraine as the Mafia-type bourgeoisie fully privatized the economy, exploited the people with impunity and carried out the neoliberal economic policy of boundless greed.

The US and the European Union have sought to extend the tentacles of Western monopoly capitalism and the NATO to the borders and weakest parts of the former Soviet Union, including Ukraine. The section of the Ukrainian big bourgeoisie most servile to Western imperialism has imagined that it can overcome the socio-economic and political crisis and further guarantee its profit-taking by being integrated in the European Union. It is oblivious of the fact that Ukraine would be in deeper trouble if it gave up the emergency loans

... from page 7

all, no matter how China presents it as a hostile act. Had the Philippines desisted from filing the case, China would have certainly used the desistance as proof of a Philippine lack of conviction and interest in the case.

The national democratic movement must stand firm for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and should not give a chance to the Aquino regime, its military minions and propagandists to misrepresent it as pro-China on the issue at hand, in order to favor their vicious use of the issue to justify their collaboration with the US in the violation of Philippine national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The US is a long-standing violator and a far bigger transgressor of Philippine territory than other foreign forces. It has arrogated unto itself the power and privilege of occupying the Philippines at will, under the guise of protector and under other guises.

A former diplomatic official of the Philippine reactionary government has said that it is futile for the Philippines to file a case before ITLOS and the Arbitral Tribunal. He says that China can refuse to go before the international tribunal and that, as a matter of real politik, China can even defy a ruling favorable to the Philippines because the tribunal does not have any enforcement agency and China has veto power in the UN Security Council. Furthermore, the US will in fact remain neutral over the issue between China and Philippines or can even join China in the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the disputed area. But it is decisively necessary and better for the Philippines to make a well-grounded and sustained case before the international tribunal and before world public opinion, especially for long-term purposes, than do nothing at all.

The national democratic movement should assert that the

and concessional oil supply from Russia, and accepted the austerity programs being applied by the EU on its member countries in debt crisis.

The current political turmoil in Ukraine, which has been simmering since 2012, is fuelled by the same basic factors that caused the so-called Orange Revolution in 2004. The main internal factor is the impact of the world capitalist crisis on the Ukrainian economy, especially among the young workers and student youth. This has intensified the struggle between bourgeois factions, some of which want Ukraine to integrate with the EU, while others want the country to either join the Russia-led alliance or manage a balancing act between the two imperialist powers.

Upon the signal of the US, the EU fomented trouble in Ukraine by offering to it an economic agreement packaged as the path to integration, with clauses offensive to Russia, such as the imposition of NATO policies and restriction on economic relations with Russia. At first, the Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich (a big bourgeois belonging to a robber baron family) showed interest in the EU either with real earnestness or for the purpose of bargaining with Russia.

He rejected the offer in November 2013 when he saw that he could get, at the most, only a loan of US\$ 600 million from

next page ...

islands in question belong to the Filipino people or the Philippines as a country in accordance with the UNCLOS and oppose the following:

- The claim and related actions of China in contravention of the UNCLOS.
- The US for taking advantage of the territorial dispute in order to entrench itself further in the Philippines and does worse than China in encroaching upon the entire Philippines and violating Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- The Philippine reactionary government for puppetry to the US, for believing that the US is its best protector against China and for belatedly making the case before ITLOS and the Arbitral Tribunal.

The national democratic movement should take a long term view. The future revolutionary government shall be in a fundamentally better position to assert national sovereignty and territorial integrity because it shall engage in national industrialization and become capable of producing the ships, planes and other instruments to defend the country and people. It shall be in a position to deal properly with the Chinese comprador big bourgeoisie now exploiting the Philippines and the Chinese mining operations now plundering the natural resources of the Philippines, and all other forms of unwelcome Chinese intrusions.

It shall not be limited to being a passive object of interest of the US and China, and shall avail of broad diplomatic and trade relations in order to preempt subservience to any foreign power. Now and in the future, the more than one hundred million Filipino people and the other hundreds of millions of people in Southeast Asia should not allow themselves to be bullied by any foreign power. ■



*Fanatics of the extreme right Svoboda Party rally in Kiev.
Photo from ilmanifesto.info.*

... from page 8

the EU, and Russia was to provide an emergency loan of US\$ 15 billion in several tranches, and reduced prices for fuel supply. In this regard, Russia is considerate of its security needs (naval fleet in Crimea and defense facilities elsewhere) and desires to develop a Eurasian economic bloc.

Since late November 2013, opposition groups agitated by the economic crisis and bureaucratic corruption, and motivated by the pro-Western big bourgeoisie, have generated mass actions (so-called Euromaidan) at the Independence Square of Kiev and other parts of Ukraine to demand the resignation of the Yanukovich government and integration with the EU as a form of salvation from the capitalist crisis. They have taken an appearance of petty-bourgeois forces demanding democracy, especially after anti-protest laws were passed in January by the pro-Yanukovich parliament. The government became more repressive. Then, in the face of rising and spreading mass unrest, it offered a coalition government by offering the positions of prime minister and deputy prime minister to leaders of the opposition.

At first, a prominent opposition leader, Vitaly Klitschko, former world boxing champion and known agent of Germany, was inclined to accept the compromise. But when he consulted the street leaders of Euromaidan, he was rebuffed, especially by the Pravy Sektor (Right Sector) that had gained control over the mass actions. This group is a collection of fascists, football hooligans, ultra-nationalists, and various neo-Nazi elements. Ultra-nationalist paramilitaries identified with the extreme-rightist Svoboda party eventually took the lead in seizing weapons, burning government buildings, and sniping at and battling with the police.

Since 1991, the US has spent US\$ 5 billion for the so-called democratization of Ukraine. It has fielded intelligence and political operatives to cultivate intellectual and political agents to become pro-US and anti-Russia. It has funded anti-Russia and Russophobic NGOs, student and professional groups, and even hooligans. In the current political turmoil,

the US has been pushing the EU to proclaim and undertake sanctions against Ukraine in order to inflame anti-Russia sentiments.

Despite the repeal by parliament of the anti-protest laws and the offer of amnesty, violence has escalated between the security forces and street militants. The latter have occupied, barricaded or firebombed government buildings and facilities. They have seized arms from armories. Scores of death have been inflicted on one side by the other of the contending forces. The most assertive Ukrainian nationalists are vociferous about being Russophobes, opposing Russian colonialism and basing themselves on the Ukrainian-speaking population in western Ukraine.

By stressing Russophobia and avoiding class struggle against the Russian big bourgeoisie in Ukraine, they are practically goading the Russian-speaking population to unite as Russians in the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine as well as in major cities to assert their own Russian character. The Russian population in the Ukraine is the product of long history, including the struggle against the Tatars, the integration of the Ukraine in Russia for two centuries, the opening of what was formerly a vast eastern hinterland for Russian settlement, the integration of the Ukraine in the Soviet Union and the role of Russian workers in building factories and major cities from which the Ukrainian bourgeoisie would arise.

Upon the breakup of the Soviet Union and the declaration of Ukrainian independence in 1991, both the Ukrainian-speaking and Russian-speaking Ukrainians showed cohesiveness even in their distressful situation of severe economic suffering and declining life spans. But now the break up of Ukraine into two Russian-speaking and Ukrainian-speaking countries has become a distinct possibility as the Western imperialists

to page 12 ...

Venezuela needs thoroughgoing revolution

By Bagani Dong-ilay

The US and its reactionary lackeys within Venezuela have not stopped at making trouble since Hugo Chavez came to power and instituted some progressive reforms that have benefited the poor and working masses. They engineered a short-lived coup in 2002. Chavez was restored into office 48 hours later by a mass uprising that was supported by the Venezuelan armed forces.

This failed coup attempt has not discouraged the US and its paid bootlickers from resorting to other means to effect regime change in Venezuela. They have recently stepped up their trouble-making after tasting some kind of success in Ukraine, where the US and its Western imperialist allies employed neo-Fascist thugs and Blackwater mercenaries to oust a pro-Russian regime. The intention was to oust one set of oligarchs allied with Russia in order to install a pro-US puppet regime representing a different set of oligarchs.

When Hugo Chavez came to power, he carried out some reforms for the benefit of the working masses. He used the oil income of the country to improve health care, build houses for the poor, and introduced free education from the primary to tertiary levels. He formed a Bolivarian movement politicizing the masses and engaging them in participatory democracy. The US and the local landlords and compradors cannot forgive Hugo Chavez for these.

US trouble-making

Just recently, the Venezuelan armed forces discovered a weapons cache with over 2,000 mortar rounds and other heavy weapons in Rubio, Tachira State, near the Colombian border. The US is now using Colombian paramilitaries to sow chaos in Venezuela. These paramilitaries have been

inserted into the “protesters” posing as students, and throwing Molotov cocktails at police, burning garbage in the streets, and attacking public buildings. According to reliable sources, the “students” are being paid US\$300 a day by US agencies to make trouble in the streets. Snipers are firing at both pro-government and anti-government forces, to provoke the government to take firm measures which are then trumpeted in the privately-owned opposition media as “Maduro killing his own people”.

The US has continuously plotted and carried out a systematic destabilization campaign to overthrow Chavez, and now his successor Maduro. First, there was the failed 2002 coup. It was followed by the managers’ lockout of the petroleum industry in 2002-2003.

Through the years, the local ruling classes of landlords and comprador-bourgeoisie have been carrying out economic sabotage by creating artificial food shortages through hoarding, driving up consumer prices, and creating hyper-inflation, in order to create unrest among the population.

In 2012, the reactionaries carried out an attack on Venezuela’s largest oil refinery at Amuay, killing 48 people and inflicting great damage on the facility. The US and the local ruling classes especially hate Chavez for using oil income to benefit the masses.

The US monopoly bourgeoisie is seething with anger because it cannot take control of the largest known oil reserves in the world. The local ruling classes are unhappy that they cannot get their hands on the huge oil profit, and most especially because Chavez and Maduro are spending oil income for education, housing, and health services for the poor, whom they derisively call “Chusma” which means “lower class scum”. Their refined sensibilities are quite upset because the poor

next page...



... from page 10

now have the same rights and some of the same things that they have enjoyed for years, thanks to the progressive reforms carried out by Chavez.

The US and its reactionary lackeys will stop at nothing to have their way. Leopoldo Lopez was a high-profile opposition figure who had been involved in the 2002 coup and all previous destabilization campaigns. He had also appeared on television at the start of the current destabilization campaign with Maria Corina Machado calling on their supporters to “create chaos in the streets” in order to overthrow the government. But he recently learned of a dirty plot hatched by the CIA and its lackeys to assassinate him and then put the blame on the Maduro government so as to invite foreign intervention or ignite a civil war. He suddenly made a turn-around and surrendered himself to the Venezuelan authorities out of fear for his life.

In Venezuela, you have the unique situation in which the rich are protesting in the streets while the poor are celebrating the successes of what they call the Bolivarian revolution. In Caracas, the violence is limited to the wealthy areas of Altamira and Chacao. In the favelas where the working people live, life goes on as normal. Home Secretary Miguel Rodriguez Torres has remarked that only around 2,000 are involved in these violent protests out of 30 million Venezuelans.

Those protesting in the streets have been taking their cue from three right-wing politicians: Leopoldo Lopez, Henrique Capriles and Maria Corina Machado. They come from three of the wealthiest families in Venezuela. Leopoldo Lopez and Henrique Capriles were involved in the 2002 coup. At that time, they were mayors of the two wealthiest municipalities in Caracas. Maria Corina Machado was a close ally of Pedro Carmona, the rich businessman who proclaimed himself dictator during Chavez’s brief ouster. Lopez and Machado signed the so-called “Carmona Decree”, dissolving the parliament and nullifying the constitution.

The US National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funds Machado’s NGO Sumate, Capriles’ right-wing party Primero Justicia, and Lopez’s Voluntad Popular. From 2000-2010, US agencies poured more than US\$100 million dollars to opposition groups in Venezuela.

In 2006, the US began funding youth and student groups. Student leaders were sent to the US and given training on internet activism and media networking. They also received training in staging street riots to promote regime change. In 2007, these student groups took to the streets of Caracas to demand Chavez’s resignation after the government decided not to renew the franchise of a private television station known for showing seedy soap operas. The “students” and right-wing opposition leaders cried, “Suppression of freedom of the press!” Although the protests failed to oust Chavez, the “students” had earned their place as a regular fixture in the ranks of the right-wing opposition.

A thoroughgoing revolution

Before Chavez was elected in 1998, Venezuela was in a dark period. Poverty was pegged at around 80% and the economy was in shambles. The middle-class was in despair. Corruption was rampant. Those who protested were persecuted, put in jail, tortured, summarily killed, or disappeared.

Venezuela was then ruled by a few families that held the wealth of the nation and pocketed the profits from the

In Venezuela, the rich are protesting in the streets while the poor are celebrating the successes of the Bolivarian revolution.

lucrative oil industry. They ruled Venezuela as if it were their own personal estate. Millions of dollars from profits of the nationalized oil industry filled the bank accounts of the ruling families and corrupt government officials, who had homes in New York and Miami, among others. Hugo Chavez’s electoral victory in 1998 was a big blow against the merry-making of these blood-sucking ruling classes.

Under Chavez, poverty has been reduced by over 50%. With the help of Cuba, quality healthcare has become accessible to all. Education from the primary through graduate school is heavily subsidized. State subsidies are provided for food and housing for the needy. The minimum wage has been raised by 10-20% each year. The state provides manpower training and job placement services. Pensions are guaranteed after 25 years of work. Even those working in the informal economy are guaranteed a pension from the state.

This is why the US and its reactionary lackeys in Venezuela hate Chavez and his followers so much. And they will resort to all the dirty tricks in the book to return the crooks and bloodsuckers to power.

The local reactionaries still have enormous economic and political power in their hands. They own 70% of media outlets, which they freely use to spread lies and to incite people to counter-revolutionary violence. Dual power exists in Venezuela. The exploiting classes have not been completely overthrown.

The Maduro government has so far remained calm and confident because of the overwhelming support of the people and the armed forces. The “uprising” has very little mass support and appears to be fizzling out. It is only in the opposition-controlled media in Venezuela and internationally through the CNN, Fox News, etc. where the “revolution” is portrayed to have nationwide spread. On 12 February 2014, the anti-government protests started in 18 municipalities controlled by opposition mayors, but has since dwindled down to six. The party founded by Chavez, PSUV, controls 256 of 337 municipalities in the country.

But the people must not be lulled into complacency. The US and the local reactionaries will continue to make trouble and continue to make attempts to stop the revolutionary process from moving forward.

At the moment, the people have the reins of government in their hands and the loyalty of the majority of the armed forces. They must not stop half way. They must proceed to carry out a thoroughgoing revolution by breaking up the economic power of the landlords and comprador bourgeoisie. They must decisively suppress the ability of the reactionaries to make a comeback, and by so doing also deprive the US of any internal basis for carrying out destabilization or resorting to military intervention. ■

Massive protests mark World Cup 2014

By Ed Ladera

More than a million Brazilians poured into over 100 cities in June 2013 to protest against the Brazilian government spending billions of dollars to host the World Cup, while the people suffer from dire poverty, spiraling prices of transportation and basic commodities, inadequate housing, and low wages.

The protest actions which have continued during the holding of the World Cup condemn the government for corruption and police brutality. Police and other state security forces have used tear gas, stun grenades, pepper spray and rubber bullets against protesters.

In some cases, they have used real bullets. Teenager Marcos Delefrate died in the June 2013 protests. English teacher

Rafael Marques Lusvarghi was mauled and arrested on 23 June in Rio de Janeiro. Scores have been wounded, and many more have been arrested.

The protesters condemn the lavish spending of US\$ 11.5 billion to build and refurbish 12 football stadia. This has caused the eviction of many poor people. The protesters declare that this amount of money should have been used instead for urgently needed health, housing and education programs.

For example, in Natal, in the State of Rio Grande, heavy rains caused mudslides that devoured entire homes in the low-income neighborhoods. More than 100 homes were destroyed. The people condemned the building of an expensive stadium there, amidst the deteriorating infrastructure and public services in the country.

Besides the mass protests, Brazilian workers carry out collective actions. They decry the death of 11 construction workers during the building of football stadia while they continue to suffer low wages. The staff of the two main airports in Sao Paulo went on a go-slow strike on the opening day of the World Cup. Subway workers in Sao Paulo also went on strike on the same day. ■



... from page 9

continue to foment an anti-Russia movement and violence continues to escalate, according to some observers. At any rate, in the absence of a strong revolutionary movement led by the proletariat, the big bourgeoisie which is predominantly Russian-speaking will make the crucial decisions on retaining Ukraine as a whole country of 46 million people. The fuel dependence of the Ukraine on Russia is also a major desideratum.

In the meantime, the Western imperialists in the US and EU are happy that they have whipped up the current social and political turmoil and these open up to them further opportunities to make trouble in Ukraine, to turn Ukraine against Russia and to burden Russia with bigger problems and possibly lessen its capabilities in the struggle for a redivision of the world among the imperialist powers.

The Western imperialist powers are always engaged in a drive to contain and debilitate Russia in its own home grounds and vicinity. They are playing a dangerous game

adverse to the cause of world peace. In this regard, they must be condemned for interfering in the Ukraine, whipping up civil war, further messing up the lives of the people, and endangering peace on a scale beyond Ukraine.

The current political turmoil may not yet lead to a full scale civil war in Ukraine or to a regional war but it is an episode towards further episodes as the crisis of global capitalism worsens and the struggle for a redivision of the world intensifies among the imperialist powers. ■



The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace.

It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

BOARD OF EDITORS

Roselle Valerio
Ed Ladera
Isah Antonio
Jose Emilio Jacinto III
Bagani Dong-Ilay
Rafael Bernal

CONTACT INFO

NDFP International Office
Postbus 19195
3511 EP Utrecht
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 30 2310431
Email: ndf@casema.nl
Web: www.ndfp.net