

LIBERATION **INTERNATIONAL**

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A black and white portrait of Jose Maria Canlas Sison, an elderly man with glasses, smiling. He is wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. The background is a solid blue color.

KA JOMA: EXTRAORDINARY REVOLUTIONARY AND PATRIOT

Jose Maria Canlas Sison

08 February 1939 - 16 December 2022

KA JOMA: AN EXTRAORDINARY REVOLUTIONARY AND PATRIOT

This special issue of Liberation International is our humble tribute to Ka Joma who now lives forever in the hearts and minds of the Filipino people in struggle, and of all exploited and oppressed peoples in the world.

Ka Joma's passing last December 2022 has been a sad day for all of us. It, has, however, inspired all of us present-day revolutionaries to more than ever hold on firmly to his teachings. It has also emboldened us even more to achieve and complete the national democratic revolution.

His political biography, detailed no less by the Second Congress of the CPP in a resolution, is an eloquent summary and narration of his life and times as a revolutionary leader, who had lived, stood up and waved the socialist and communist flags in an era that appeared to be orphaned by the dearth of genuine Marxists-Leninist revolutionaries, and muted by the siren songs of imperialist globalization.

The tributes, which have continued to pour in, can best describe him from a lens defined by distance, through his writings and teachings.

Meanwhile, for us revolutionaries living abroad, it is our distinct honor and privilege to have worked and struggled with Ka Joma. We will forever cherish the times we broke bread with him, literally and figuratively, and the days we lived with him as a revolutionary in exile.

We saw for ourselves Ka Joma unfiltered, so to speak, struggling with his own contradictions, overcoming them, and providing us with fine examples of his intellectual humility, kindness, frugality, perseverance, steel commitment, and best of all, comradeship.

As a revolutionary leader, he was at his best during trying times, calculatedly navigating the contours

of a situation, and in the end a hundred percent certain of favorable outcomes.

We remember him as our great teacher during the Second Great Rectification Movement in 1992, which was mainly an education movement. We remember being huddled all together in a classroom, so to speak, all reaffirmists, several sessions, no veterans or neophytes, relearning our basics.

Ka Joma's brilliance as a teacher did not only come from his firm grasp of MLM theory, but also from his skill in explaining these abstractions in our practical day to day lives, not to mention his animated teaching style. He considered any question thrown at him worth replying to. Ka Joma made MLM theory easily savory and digestible to an activist, and even to a layman.

Ka Joma was also a quintessential propagandist. A day never passed by without him writing a statement or a press release. A comrade described him as someone who would get sick if he were unable to write in a day, which could be anything, from a statement, letter, poetry, review, to even matters for his social media account.

Ka Joma was always media copy, and the best part was to watch out for his ad libs and quotable quotes, in the middle of his prepared speech. To him, even bad news or black propaganda against him was good news. Constantly maligned and slandered, it had become an opportunity for him to engage in tit-for-tat against the enemy.

Oftentimes, in discussions with him on the matter of leadership succession in the revolutionary movement, Ka Joma would always cite his arrest in 1977 by the Marcos dictatorship, which neither created a leadership vacuum nor organizational paralysis. Only those who have worked and lived with Ka Joma would be able to make out of his deep

confidence and trust in the leaders of the revolutionary movement in the Philippines he helped establish, build and strengthen. Their firm commitment and steel determination to forge the victory of the national democratic revolution and build a socialist society in the Philippines are what Ka Joma described as the invincibility of the national democratic revolution.

Moreover, despite the extreme personal and political pressures he faced, Ka Joma remained ideologically steadfast without ever losing his cheerfulness, passion for life, and cravings for the simplest things in life – karaoke, telling jokes to kasamas and migrants, and serenading his comrade-wife.

Ka Joma is truly at home in the world, where the rest of humanity's exploited and oppressed dwell. It is in them where his and his predecessors' clarion call for national and social liberation continues to reverberate and bear true meaning. <<<



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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.

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GIVE THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED KA JOMA

CPP CENTRAL
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PHILIPPINES

The Central Committee and the entire Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) grieve the passing away of Comrade Jose Maria Sison (Amado Guerrero), its founding chairman. Ka Joma died peacefully after a period of confinement in a hospital in Utrecht, the Netherlands last night at around 8:40 p.m. (Philippine time). He was 83.

With Ka Joma's passing, the Party lost a great leader. Indeed, he is among the greatest of Filipinos of the past century for masterfully and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to the Philippines and the Philippine revolution, and giving the Filipino people the strength to carve the country's future and attain their aspirations for national freedom and democracy.

The Central Committee and the entire Party will forever be guided and inspired by Ka Joma's immortal revolutionary spirit. Let us forever keep red his memory and legacy and strengthen our determination to continue and bring forward the revolution that he ignited together with other great leaders of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau and Executive Committee.

Through his writings, Ka Joma laid out the theoretical foundation of the Philippine revolution.

He also left us with a rich and deep Marxist-Leninist-Maoist treasure trove, which will serve as guide for the Party's continued growth in the next stage of the Filipino people's revolutionary struggles.

We affirm as well the important role that Ka Joma played as a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist torch bearer who helped inspire the proletariat across the world and keep the embers of the international communist movement as it enters a new phase of resurgence.

In 2016, the Second Congress of the Communist Party of the Philippines issued a comprehensive statement giving Ka Joma the Party's highest tribute and tracing his contributions to the growth of the Philippine revolution.

We declare the following ten days as a period of mourning for the entire Party in order to give the highest possible tribute to Ka Joma. Let us dedicate our Party's upcoming 54th anniversary to Ka Joma's memory, to celebrate his life and all the victories that we have achieved under his leadership and guidance.

We order all units of the New People's Army (NPA) to stand in formation at the break of dawn of December 26 and silently perform a 21-gun salute by way of giving the highest tribute and bidding farewell to our beloved leader.

During this period of mourning, the NPA can stage tactical offensives against the rampaging fascist forces to defend the people.

The Party and all revolutionary forces await the homecoming of Ka Joma's remains or ashes, a wish he had expressed in the past.

This will give the broad masses of workers and peasants the opportunity to pay their last respects, and give honor to the revolutionary leader who dedicated his entire life to the cause of liberation.

Today we declare Ka Joma as the greatest hero of the Filipino people in their past century of resistance against imperialism. His immense contributions to shaping the patriotic and revolutionary consciousness of the Filipino people and breaking open the path towards national and social liberation, will never be erased.

December 17, 2022



KA JOMA: MARXIST-LENINIST-MAOIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

*from the Resolution of the Second Congress of the
Communist Party of the Philippines
November 7, 2016, CPP Central Committee*

Ka Joma is a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist extraordinaire and indefatigable revolutionary fighter. He applied dialectical and historical materialism to expose the fundamental nature of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal social system in the Philippines. He put forward an incisive class analysis that laid bare the moribund, exploitative and oppressive rule of the big bourgeois compradors and big landlords in collusion with the US imperialists.

He set forth the program for a people's democratic revolution as immediate preparation for the socialist revolution. He always sets sights on the ultimate goal of communism.

Ka Joma was a revolutionary trailblazer. In his youth, he joined the workers' federations and helped organize unions. Ka Joma formed the SCAUP (Student Cultural Association of the University of the Philippines) in 1959 - to promote national democracy and Marxism-Leninism and wage ideological and cultural struggle against the religious sectarians and anticommunist forces among the student intellectuals.

Together with fellow proletarian revolutionaries, he initiated study meetings to read and discuss Marxist-Leninist classic writings. Under Ka Joma's leadership, the SCAUP organized a protest action in March 1961 against the congressional witchhunt of the Committee on Anti-Filipino Activities (CAFA),

which targeted University of the Philippines (UP) faculty members accused of writing and publishing Marxist materials in violation of the Anti-Subversion Law.

Around 5,000 students joined the first demonstration with an anti-imperialist and anti-feudal character since more than ten years prior. As a consequence, Ka Joma became a target of reactionary violence and survived attempts on his life. Unfazed, he and the SCAUP continued to launch protests against the Laurel-Langley Agreement and the Military Bases Agreement, and other issues such as land reform and national industrialization, workers' rights, civil and political liberties, and solidarity with other peoples against US acts of aggression up to 1964.

He and other proletarian revolutionaries eventually joined the old merger Socialist and Communist Party in 1961. In recognition of his communist and youthful fervor, he was assigned to head the youth bureau of the old Party and appointed as a member of the executive committee. He initiated meetings to study the classic works of Marx, Lenin, Mao and other great communist thinkers which challenged the stale conditions of the old Party.

He founded the Kabataang Makabayan (KM) in November 1964 and led its development as one of the most important youth organizations in Philippine history.



The National Council of the Kabataang Makabayan.
Jose Ma. Sison, Charlie del Rosario, Leoncio Co,
Ibarra Tubianosa, Arthur Pangilinan.

As KM chair, and as a young professor and militant, he went on campus tours and spoke before students as well as young professionals to espouse the necessity of waging a national democratic revolution.

His speeches compiled in the volume *Struggle for National Democracy* (SND) served as one of the cornerstones of the national democratic propaganda movement. The KM would eventually be at the head and core of large mass demonstrations during the late 1960s up to the declaration of martial law in 1972.

As one of the leaders of the old party, Ka Joma prepared a political report exposing and repudiating the revisionism and opportunism of the successive Lava leadership as well as the errors of military adventurism and capitulation of the Taruc-Sumulong gang of the old people's liberation army. The old party had deteriorated as an out-and-out revisionist party.

Despite Ka Joma's effort, the old party proved to be beyond resuscitation from its revisionist death. Gangsters in the old party would carry out attempts on his life to snuff the revolutionary revival of the Filipino proletariat.

As Amado Guerrero, Ka Joma led the reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines on the theoretical foundations of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. He prepared the Party constitution, the Program for a People's Democratic Revolution and the document, "Rectify Errors and Rebuild the Party", and presided over the Congress of Re-

establishment held in Alaminos, Pangasinan on December 26, 1968. In 1969, he authored *Philippine Society and Revolution* which presents the history of the Filipino people, analyzes the semi-colonial and semi-feudal character of Philippine society, and defines the people's democratic revolution.

He prepared the "Basic Rules of the New People's Army" and the "Declaration of the New People's Army" and directed the Meeting of Red commanders and fighters to found the New People's Army (NPA) on March 29, 1969.

He led the Party in its early period of growth. He wrote the "Organizational Guide and Outline of Reports" in April 1971 and the "Revolutionary Guide to Land Reform" in September 1972, which both served to direct the work of building the mass organizations, organs of political power, units of the people's army and the Party, as well as in mobilizing the peasants in waging agrarian revolution.

He authored the "Preliminary Report on Northern Luzon" in August 1970 which served as a template in the work of other regional committees. While directing the development and training of the New People's Army from its initial base in Central Luzon to the forests of Isabela in Cagayan Valley, he also guided the youth activists in waging mass struggles in Metro Manila against the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Ka Joma was ever on top of the revolutionary upsurge of the students' and workers' movements in 1970 and 1971. Chants of Amado Guerrero's name reverberated in Manila and other cities in harmony with calls to join the people's war in the countryside.

The CPP grew rapidly in its first few years under Ka Joma's leadership. The Party established itself across the country and led the nationwide advance of the revolutionary armed struggle. He personally supervised the political and military training of Party cadres and NPA commanders in the forested region of Isabela from where they were deployed to other regions.

In 1971, he presided over the Central Committee and presented the "Summing-Up Our Experiences After Three Years (1968-1971)". He prepared in 1974 the *Specific Characteristics of Our People's War* which authoritatively laid out the strategy and tactics for

waging people's war in the Philippines. In 1975, he authored *Our Urgent Tasks*, containing the Central Committee's report and program of action. He served as editor-in-chief of *Ang Bayan* in its first years of publication.

In the underground movement, Ka Joma continued to guide the Party and the NPA in its growth under the brutal fascist martial law regime of dictator Marcos. He issued advisories to underground Party cadres and mass activists. Inspired by the raging people's war in the countryside, they dared the fascist machinery and carried-out organizing efforts among students and workers.

The first workers' strike broke out in 1975 preceding the growth of the workers movement. Large student demonstrations against rising school fees were carried out from 1977 onwards completely shattering the terror of martial law.

Ka Joma continued to lead the Party in nationwide growth until 1977 when he and his wife Julie were arrested by the wild dogs of the Marcos dictatorship while in transit from one guerrilla zone to another. He was presented by the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) to Marcos as a trophy. He was detained, subjected to severe torture, put under solitary confinement for more than five years interrupted only by joint confinement with Julie in 1980-1981, and later partial solitary confinement with one or two other political prisoners from 1982-1985.

While in prison, Ka Joma was able to maintain contact with the Party leadership and revolutionary forces outside through clandestine methods of communication. With the collaboration of Ka Julie,



Ka Joma meeting dictator Marcos Sr. in Malacañang after his arrest in 1977.

lifelong partner and comrade of Ka Joma, they produced important letters and advisories.

In 1983, Ka Julie released the article, "JMS On the Mode of Production", which served as a theoretical elucidation and clarification of the nature of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal social system in order to cast away confusion brought about by claims of industrialization by the US-Marcos dictatorship. It counterattacked claims made by pretenders to socialism who insisted that the Philippines had become a developing capitalist country under the fascist dictatorship.

A powerful upsurge of the anti-fascist mass movement followed the assassination of Marcos archrival Benigno Aquino in 1983. This was principally propelled by the workers' and students' movements, which could mount demonstrations of 50,000 or greater from the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1984, Ka Joma released the paper, "On the Losing Course of the AFP" under the pseudonym Patnubay Liwanag to assess the balance of forces and to signal to or sway the Pentagon to better drop Marcos, which would entail causing a split in the AFP. In September 1984, the Pentagon acceded to the Armacost formula and decided to join the US State Department and other US agencies to drop him. By early 1985 Reagan signed the National Security Directive with definite plan to ease out Marcos.

Ka Joma also asserted the need to weaken the reactionary armed strength in the countryside and expand the people's army to a critical mass of 25,000 rifles and one guerrilla platoon per municipality as constructive criticism of the plan to carry out a "strategic counter-offensive."

The anti-fascist upsurge culminated in a people's uprising supported by a military rebellion of elements in the reactionary AFP. The Party's persevering and solid leadership of the anti-fascist movement and revolutionary armed struggle created favorable conditions that led to the overthrow the US-Marcos dictatorship in 1986. Despite strong opposition by the US and reactionary defense establishment, the Aquino regime was

compelled to open the detested gates of the Marcos dungeons allowing Ka Joma to be released.

He wasted no time resuming revolutionary work. In a few months time, he mounted a major lecture series to propound a critical class analysis of the Corazon Aquino regime and expose it as representative of big bourgeois comprador and landlord rule. The series of lectures which later comprised the volume *Philippine Crisis and Revolution* countered the “political spectrum” analysis of populists which pictured the Aquino regime as a bourgeois liberal regime to goad the revolutionary forces along the path of class collaboration and capitulation.

These populists as well as other charlatans carried out a campaign to undermine the basic analysis of classes and production system in the Philippines to justify the convoluted concept of a strategic counter-offensive wishfully thinking that the people’s war can leapfrog to strategic victory bypassing the probable historical course.



Ka Joma meeting President Cory Aquino after being released from prison when dictator Marcos was ousted by people power in 1986.

A number of key leaders of the Party and revolutionary forces were drawn to the self-destructive path of insurrectionism and premature regularization and military adventurism. This would later bring about grave and almost fatal losses to the Party and the NPA, as well as to the urban mass movement.

Forced to exile in 1987 by the Aquino regime which canceled his passport and travel papers, Ka Joma sought political asylum in the Netherlands while on a lecture tour. He eventually resided in Utrecht and work with other comrades in the international

information office of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). Although thousands of miles away from the Philippines, he continued to maintain close contact with the Party leaders in the country and provide advise and guidance to help them in their work.

Ka Joma served as one of the steadfast exponents of the Second Great Rectification Movement launched by the 10th Plenum of the CPP Central Committee in 1992. The Party leadership actively sought Ka Joma’s theoretical insights and analysis.

In preparing the key document *Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify Errors*, the Party leadership referred to Ka Joma and the Party’s founding documents which he authored. With Ka Joma’s full support, the rectification campaign of 1992-1998 united and strengthened the Party to ever greater heights.

Ka Joma also played a key role in authoring the paper, "Stand for Socialism Against Modern Revisionism", which illuminated the path of socialist revolution during the dark hours of the complete restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union in 1990 touted in the monopoly bourgeois mass media as the fall of socialism, a refutation of communism, and the “end of history” and final victory of the capitalist system.

Reflecting Ka Joma’s sharp Maoist critique of modern revisionism, the paper presented a clear historical understanding of the process of capitalist restoration in the USSR from 1956 onwards. This served as key to understanding the continuing viability of socialism and to inspiring the Filipino proletariat to persevere in the two-stage revolution and the international proletariat to carry forward the socialist cause.

Ka Joma’s Utrecht base eventually became a political center of the international communist and anti-imperialist resistance movements. He played an important role in the centennial celebration of Mao Zedong in 1993 which served as a vigorous ideological campaign to reaffirm Marxist-Leninist views and to proclaim Maoism as the third epochal development of Marxism-Leninism.

Up to the early 2000s, he also played a lead role in the formation of the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), which serves as a center for ideological and practical exchange among communist and workers parties which stood for socialism and opposed modern revisionism. He provided valuable insights and practical assistance to numerous communist parties from Asia to Europe and the Americas.

Over the past decades, he has led the International League of People's Struggles or the ILPS, which has served as the coordinating center for anti-imperialist movements around the globe. He authored the paper, "On imperialist globalization" in 1997, which clarified that the proletariat remains in the era of imperialism and socialist revolution. Because of his role in guiding the advance of the international anti-imperialist struggle, Ka Joma was put in the crosshairs of US imperialism.

He was included in the US list of "foreign terrorists", together with the CPP and NPA. At 68 years old, he was arrested in 2007 by the Dutch police and detained for more than 15 days.



Ka Joma's supporters from the migrant and international communities gathered in front of the Justice Palace in the Hague in 2007 calling for his release.

Since 1992, together with the NDFP Negotiating Panel, Ka Joma has also ably represented the interests of the Filipino people and revolutionary movement in peace negotiations with successive representatives of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP).

He has been appointed as Chief Political Consultant of the NDFP Negotiating Panel and has deftly




Ka Joma with Elizabeth Slattum of the Royal Norwegian Government acting as third party facilitator, during the peace talks held in the Netherlands in 2017.

guided it in negotiations with the GRP over the past 25 years. Over the past several years, Ka Joma has continued to provide invaluable insights into the domestic crisis and the situation of the revolutionary forces.

He has continued to provide advise to the Party and the revolutionary forces in the Philippines on resolving the problems of advancing the revolution to a new and higher stage. He has set forth critical analysis of the objective international conditions. He has put forward a Marxist-Leninist critique of the capitalist crisis of overproduction which is at the base of the international financial crisis and the prolonged depression that has wracked the global capitalist system. He has reaffirmed that we are still at the historical epoch of imperialism, the last crisis stage of capitalism.

Ka Joma is the torch bearer of the international communist movement. Through the dark period of capitalist restoration, he has kept the flames of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism burning and inspired the proletariat to take advantage of the crisis of global capitalism, persevere along the path of socialism and communism and bring the international communist revolution to a new chapter of revival and reinvigoration. <<<



STATEMENT OF THE NDFP NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE PASSING OF BELOVED COMRADE JOSE MARIA "KA JOMA" SISON

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines National Council renders its highest tribute and salute to Comrade Jose Maria "Joma" Sison – great proletarian internationalist, patriot, communist, revolutionary leader, teacher and poet, who passed away after a lingering illness on December 16, 2022 in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

As Founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), Ka Joma led in the establishment of the NDFP on April 24, 1973, and in further building the broad national united front by inspiring the basic sectors of peasants, workers, students, women, indigenous people, church people and professionals to form their own revolutionary mass organizations and become members of the NDFP. Together with the CPP, the New People's Army, and Ka Joma's leadership, the NDFP has been able to help advance the people's democratic revolution, and build the people's organs of political power.

The NDFP-NC will forever cherish Ka Joma's wisdom, guidance and inspiration in revolutionary united front work, and vow to build and further strengthen the People's Democratic Government until the total seizure of political power and finally establish the Peoples' Democratic Republic of the Philippines.

We vow to remain steadfast and uncompromising in firmly pursuing the armed revolution to free the Filipino toiling masses from the shackles of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

We send and express our deepest condolences to his wife, Comrade Julie de Lima, his children, grandchildren, friends and close comrades.

Ka Joma Lives!
Advance the People's War to Achieve National Freedom and Democracy!
Victory to the People's Democratic Revolution!
Long Live the People's United Front!
Long Live International Solidarity!

In behalf of the NDFP National Council,

Luis Jalandoni
Member, NDFP National Council
NDFP Chief International Representative

17 December 2022

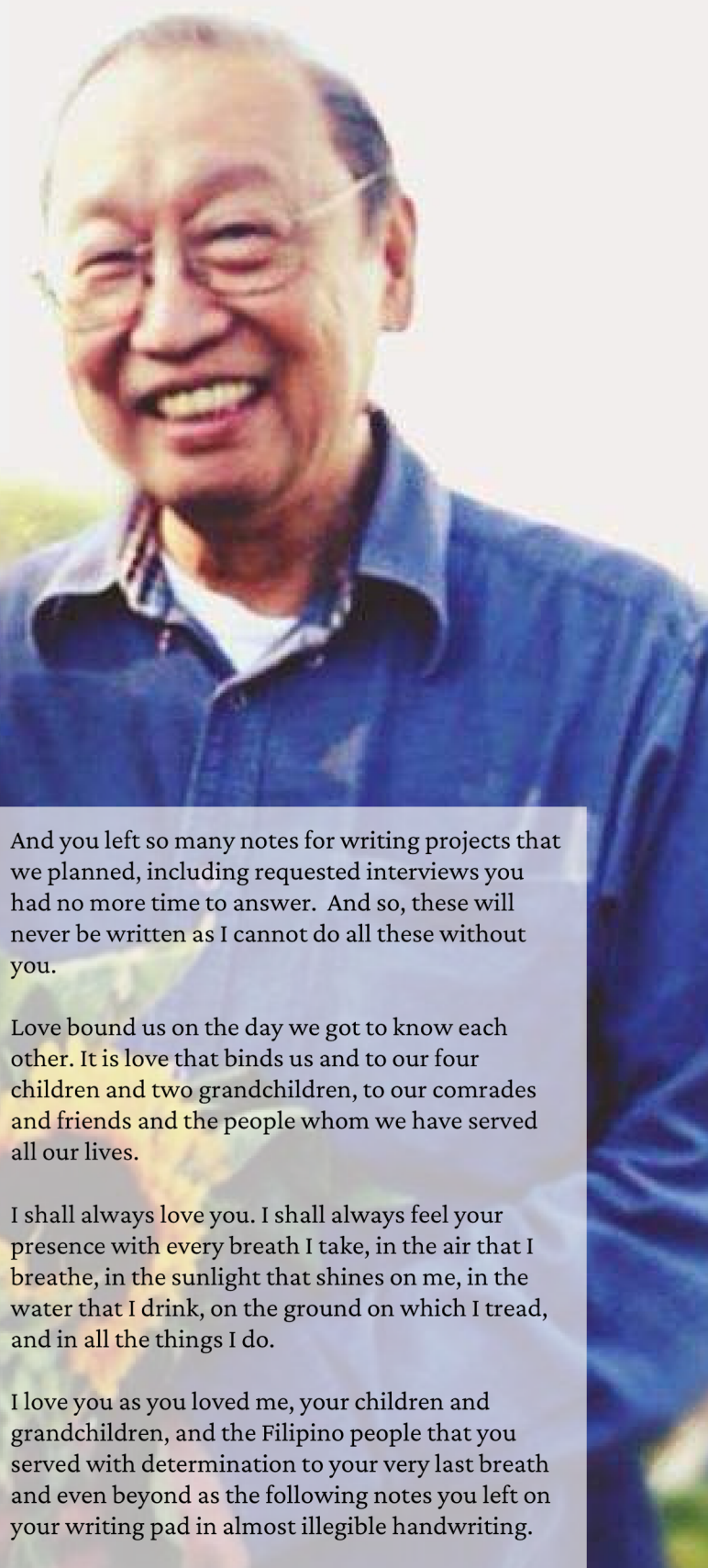
#KaJomaLives

To my dearest husband and comrade,

I was with you in the last few hours of your life. It pained me seeing you suffer so I asked the attending doctor to ease your pain and give you morphine. I hoped it would help but I still could see you straining with pain as I watched the rise and fall of your chest. And I wished so hard that I could breathe for you. But my wish was not to be.

And so you took your last breath. Now you are relieved of pain. And now the pain is with me and forever will be. It squeezes my heart every time I breathe. And it will always until I join you.

The projects we were supposed to finish keep me going. I have all the help I can get from our comrades and friends. They give me comfort and company every day.



And you left so many notes for writing projects that we planned, including requested interviews you had no more time to answer. And so, these will never be written as I cannot do all these without you.

Love bound us on the day we got to know each other. It is love that binds us and to our four children and two grandchildren, to our comrades and friends and the people whom we have served all our lives.

I shall always love you. I shall always feel your presence with every breath I take, in the air that I breathe, in the sunlight that shines on me, in the water that I drink, on the ground on which I tread, and in all the things I do.

I love you as you loved me, your children and grandchildren, and the Filipino people that you served with determination to your very last breath and even beyond as the following notes you left on your writing pad in almost illegible handwriting.

Notes (for a poem)

It is unfair that an entire society
Is called capitalist and yet so few
Can call themselves capitalists
And look down on the rest of the
people.

It is outrageous
That the capitalists boast
Of being the real creators
Of the wealth created by labor.

It is simply unjust and revolting
That the capitalists dishonor
dead labor
To usurp power and wealth
And dominate and exploit living labor.

It is best to fight for a society
Where everyone can call oneself
Like others as socialists
And live with honor in equality.



I have spoken in behalf of all our children. We all are devastated by your passing and they wish to bear their grief in privacy, thus, they are not here with me today.



As my tribute to my dear husband and father of our children, I adopt the resolution of the Second Congress of the Communist Party of the Philippines, “Great communist thinker, leader, teacher and guide of the Filipino proletariat and torch bearer of the international communist movement” on November 7, 2016.

As we grieve his passing, let us turn our grief into revolutionary courage and resolve with ever greater determination to continue the struggle for national democracy until the Filipino people win their victory and proceed to socialist construction and revolution.

Julie

I Wish to Be Taken for Granted

I wish to be taken for granted
Like the wind that you breathe
Like the sunlight on your face
Like the ground at your feet
Like the water that you drink.

I wish to be taken for granted
Like birdsong lofted by the breeze
Like wood on fire for your comfort
Like the grass greening the fields
Like the silent swan afloat on the pond.

I wish to be taken for granted
Like the workers in the factories
Like the tillers in the farms
Like those who dwell in schools
Like those who recreate the world.

I wish to be taken for granted
But I shall smile with satisfaction
If some people sometimes remember
That I did what I could in my time
To add to what is now commonplace.

One new generation after another
Shall create new ideas and new things
To surpass the feats of the past
There are no limits but the sky,
The sun, the earth and the waters.

July 25, 2012

POETRY

I Am Always With You

My body is in prison
But my spirit freely roams
Every region and zone
In every season.

What I have done
For so long in the revolution
Cannot at one blow be undone
It is by you carried on.

When I was arrested,
The revolutionary forces
Were far from the scratch
Where they started.

Dare to continue the ascent.
Don't let anyone's stumble
Disrupt our great movement.
Raise the red flag ever higher.

I am always with you
In your studies, work and battles.
I am always with you
Carrying out our urgent tasks.

I share with you
Your weal and woe,
I am always in the line
Of march with you.

Cover the whole country
Go deep in every locality,
Overcome every difficulty,
Ensure our victory.

Jose Maria Sison
26 December 1977

(from Prison and Beyond, Selected Poems 1958-1983, Jose Ma. Sison, Aklat ng Bayan Publishing House, Inc., 1984)

NDFP Peace Panel Chief Political Consultant Professor Jose Maria Sison on Manila RTC judge's decision on the GRP- Department of Justice (DOJ) proscription case versus the CPP-NPA



RAYA ANDRES - MONTAÑOSA

On 21 September 2022, Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Judge Marlo Magdoza - Malagar junked the DOJ's 2018 petition to proscribe the CPP-NPA as terrorists under the Human Security Act (HSA) of 2017. In a 135-page decision, Judge Magdoza-Malagar argued that the CPP-NPA does not fall within the HSA's scope and definition of terrorism, as it is an established organization with nationwide membership, constitution and programs, and while it engages in armed struggle, it is but a means to achieve its purpose stated in its programs.

In light of this decision, Liberation International (LI) asked NDFP Peace Panel Chief Political Consultant Jose Maria Sison the following questions:

LI: Reportedly, after losing their proscription case against the CPP-NPA, the DOJ intends to file another proscription case using the definition of terrorism under the Anti-Terrorism Law. What are your thoughts on this given that it was a historical milestone for the revolutionary organizations waging a legitimate people's war?

JMS: The NDFP lawyers should look into the following points:

1. Should not DOJ appeal first the proscription case it lost under HSA definition?
2. Did DOJ use the HSA definition previously because ATA did not provide enough leeway for proscribing CPP, NPA and NDFP under the notion of guilt by association?
3. Anti-Subversion Law of the past and the current HSA and ATA are all rotten because they go by the notion of guilt by association, incrimination before due process against every individual accused.
4. By filing another proscription case under ATA and using same evidence previously used in the previous case, is the DOJ not violating the constitutional right against being punished for the same offense alleged?

LI: How does the ruling affect the current (foreign) terrorist listing of the CPP-NPA and the Anti-Terrorism Council's designation of CPP-NPA-NDF and its leaders and consultants as terrorists?

JMS: As a result of the court decision against the proscription of the CPP, NPA and NDFP, said proscription is null and invalid until a higher court can reverse the decision on appeal by DOJ.

LI: What is its impact on the resumption of peace talks, especially that the ruling argued for the correctness of the peace negotiations?

JMS: It is fine that the court decision somehow favored and endorsed the peace negotiations. But it is a matter of political decision of the current regime to go for the resumption of peace talks or not.

THE NEED FOR UNITED FRONT IN THE FILIPINO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

JOSE MARIA SISON

Speech in Celebration of the 40th Founding Anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, April 28, 2013

Good afternoon, dear comrades and friends from various countries and Filipino compatriots, warmest greetings of solidarity!

As chief international representative, Louie Jalandoni, has presented the achievements of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. My assignment is to discuss the united front policy in general terms.

The Filipino people's democratic revolution constantly needs the revolutionary united front because this is the effective way to arouse, organize and mobilize the broad masses of the Filipino people in their millions in order to advance and win total victory. The need for the united front is more urgent than ever as the socioeconomic and political crisis is rapidly worsening and inflicting intolerable suffering on the Filipino people and they must intensify their struggle against those who exploit and oppress them.

The united front is one of the three most powerful weapons of the new democratic revolution. The two others are the leadership of the working class and armed struggle. The united front consists of the working class allying itself with the peasantry, winning over the urban petty bourgeoisie and middle bourgeoisie and taking advantage of the contradictions among the big compradors and landlords in order to isolate and destroy the enemy at every given time. The broad masses of the people cannot defeat the overwhelming state power and economic wealth of the exploiting classes without the application of the united front policy.

The semi-colonial and semi-feudal character of Philippine society has been aggravated and deepened by the ever-worsening chronic crisis of the system and by the crisis-generating policies imposed by US imperialism. The reactionary classes of big compradors and landlords and their

political representatives are subservient to US monopoly capitalism. Thus, the Philippines being ravaged by the US-instigated neoliberal policy of "free market" globalization. It is also being subjected to US military intervention and to the constant threat of outright aggression.

Basic Alliance of the Working Class and Peasantry

The national and democratic character of the Philippine revolution is more than ever clear. In seeking to achieve the victory of this revolution, we have to know who are our friends and who are our enemies. We need to know at the very start the best of friends and the most formidable forces for social revolution. The basic exploited classes of Philippine society are the working class and peasantry. They are the most desirous of revolutionary change and they are definitely the closest and most reliable friends of the revolution.

In the present era of modern imperialism and proletarian revolution, the industrial working class is the leading class and has the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) as the revolutionary party. It is the most progressive political and productive class. But foreign and feudal domination limits it to around 16 percent of the population. The working class is being subjected to a high rate of mass unemployment, loss of job tenure, reduced wage income, lack of social benefits and the suppression of trade union and other democratic rights.

By way of building the revolutionary united front, the working class and its revolutionary party have linked up with the peasantry, which is the overwhelming majority of the people, in order to form the basic worker-peasant alliance.



The program for the people's democratic revolution of the CPP recognizes the peasantry as the main force of the revolution and the fulfillment of its demand for land as the main content of the revolution.

Since its reestablishment in 1968, the CPP has sought to forge the strongest links between the working class and the peasantry. It has done so by building and developing the New People's Army and the peasant mass movement in pursuit of the agrarian revolution and in response to the repeated attempts of the reactionary state to undertake bogus land reform schemes. The CPP and the NPA pursue the strategic line of protracted people's war, which relies mainly on the peasantry. They integrate revolutionary armed struggle, genuine land reform and the building of mass organizations and organs of political power.

They apply the anti-feudal united front policy of relying mainly on the poor peasants and farmworkers, winning over the middle peasants, neutralizing the rich peasants and taking advantage of the contradictions among the landlords in order to destroy the power of the despotic landlords. To resist feudal and semi-

feudal exploitation, the NPA and the peasant masses have delivered lethal blows on despotic traditional landlords and the modern landgrabbing corporations engaged in plantations, mining, deforestation, real estate speculation and so-called economic zones.

United Front with the Middle Social Strata

The working class and the peasantry comprise at least 90 percent of the people and they constitute the foundation of the revolutionary united front. But they need to win over the intermediate social strata as friends of the revolution. These are the urban petty bourgeoisie and the middle bourgeoisie. They are a small part of the population within the range of eight percent and one percent, respectively. But they play key roles in society and are highly influential.

They have professional, technical, entrepreneurial and other capabilities which can best serve the revolution. The middle social strata have played an important role in exposing and condemning puppetry to the US and the worst forms of human rights violations. It is a necessary and crucial function of united front policy to win over the

middle forces to the side of the revolution. Under the conditions of worsening crisis, they are increasingly subjected to unemployment, reduced incomes, higher taxes, bankruptcies and other difficulties. They have played an important role in the legal mass movement for national independence and democracy.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines has been the most outstanding underground united front organization for uniting and harmonizing the national and democratic rights and interests of the toiling masses of workers and peasants and the middle social strata.

Since 1973 the NDFP has excelled at building the alliance of progressive forces of the toiling masses and the urban petty bourgeoisie against the Marcos fascist dictatorship and subsequently against the pseudo-democratic regimes. The alliance of progressive forces has taken major initiatives in the struggle for national independence and democracy.

The NDFP also promotes the patriotic alliance of the progressive forces and the middle bourgeoisie. It supports the aspirations of the middle bourgeoisie for Filipino-owned industrialization. Such aspirations have been undermined and frustrated by a series of US-dictated neocolonial economic policies: the import-substitution reassembly of the 1950s and 1960s and the export-oriented semi-manufacturing which began in the 1970s and expanded under the neoliberal economic policy since the 1980s.

Thus, the industrial development of the Philippines has been stunted. Large numbers of Filipino professionals, technologists and skilled workers have been forced to separate from their families and seek jobs abroad.

Temporary and Unstable Allies

The basic exploiting classes of big compradors and landlords are the class enemies of the revolution. They rule over the cities and the countryside, respectively. They have intertwining interests. They have the most economic wealth and the most political power. They have put up one reactionary regime after another to deceive and suppress the people. They have benefited most from the US-dictated neoliberal economic policy. We may call them reactionaries in general. But we may undertake the broadest possible united front by narrowing the target on the worst of the reactionaries and designating these as the enemy.

The reactionary classes are divided according to their clans, the kind and magnitude of wealth, political affiliation and the degree of their anti-national and antipeople character. The contradictions among the reactionaries often become bitter and violent, especially under conditions of worsening crisis.

The revolutionary forces can take advantage of such contradictions and derive from reactionary ranks temporary allies even if unstable and unreliable, in order to bring about the broadest kind of united front against the worst enemy, which is the most reactionary force in the civil war or the foreign aggressor in a war of national liberation.

The CPP, NPA and the NDFP have firmly stood in principle against the ruling system of the big compradors and landlords. However, as a matter of flexibility in united front policy, they have encouraged and extended cooperation to political groups and leaders of the middle social strata and even some of those from the exploiting classes to take anti-imperialist and democratic positions on major issues within the institutions and processes controlled by the reactionaries.

The revolutionary forces avail of every opportunity to cause the immediate defeat of the current enemy and the long-term disintegration of the entire ruling system.

United front policy in peace negotiations

The NDFP and all the revolutionary forces within its fold have gone as far as to engage the reactionary government in peace negotiations and even to offer immediate truce and alliance on the basis of a clear declaration of patriotic and progressive intent. They are exercising initiative in applying the united front policy and offering even the ruling clique the opportunity to join the struggle of the people against foreign and feudal domination.

The NDFP has succeeded with the reactionary government in making the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and other major agreements. But so far every reactionary clique that has come to power has refused to join the NDFP in confronting the basic social, economic and political problems of the people, addressing the roots of the armed conflict and forging the comprehensive agreements on basic social, economic political

reforms. Under the US-designed Oplan Bayanihan, the US-Aquino regime regards the peace negotiations as a mere means of demanding the capitulation and pacification of the revolutionary forces and people and as a minor dispensable part of the overall military plan to destroy the revolutionary movement. The same ultra-reactionary kind of bureaucrats and military officers are sabotaging the peace negotiations.

The NDFP has persevered in peace negotiations to demonstrate the just and reasonable cause of the revolutionary movement, to spread the content of the program for people's democratic revolution and to anticipate the advance of the people's war and the further worsening of the crisis.

It is possible that a significant change in the balance of forces between revolution and counterrevolution would persuade the reactionary government to engage in serious peace negotiations. In any case, the NDFP resolutely calls for genuine national independence, democracy, social justice, economic development through national industrialization and genuine land reform, a patriotic, progressive and people-serving culture and independent foreign policy.

International United Front Policy

The national united front policy of the NDFP and its revolutionary components have an international dimension. It includes arousing, organizing and mobilizing the migrant workers and other overseas Filipinos to stand for their democratic rights and interests and to develop their solidarity relations with the host people and international organizations.

In representation of the entire Filipino people at home and abroad, the NDFP develops the broadest range of solidarity and cooperative relations with foreign governments and their appropriate agencies, various types of people's organizations, parties and national liberation movements. The NDFP also facilitates the international relations of its component organizations with existing and potential partners abroad.

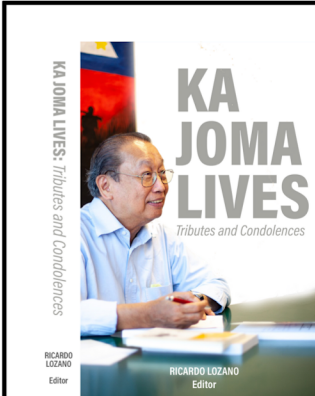
The Communist Party of the Philippines is well known for developing relations with communist and workers' parties in the spirit of proletarian internationalism as well as with various types of parties, people's organizations and movement within the framework of international united front along the anti-imperialist and democratic line.

The other components of the NDFP also develop relations with their counterparts in various countries and participate in international gatherings, movements and campaigns along the anti-imperialist and democratic line.

Perspective of the Philippine Revolution

The Filipino people persevere in waging revolution because the reactionary state persists in being a puppet to US imperialism and in inflicting counterrevolutionary violence to preserve the exploitative and oppressive ruling system. Thus, the revolutionary forces and the people are determined to complete the people's democratic revolution through the nationwide seizure of political power and thereafter proceed to the stage of socialist revolution under the leadership of the working class. The national united front shall be further developed in order to uphold, defend and promote the cause of national independence, democracy and socialism.

The socialist features of the people's democratic state system shall include the leadership of the working class and the Communist Party of the Philippines, the people's army as the main component of state power, the nationalization of the commanding heights of the economy, the planned advance of the economy on the road of socialist industrialization and agricultural cooperation and mechanization, the hegemony of a national, scientific and mass culture and an independent foreign policy of international solidarity, peace and development. <<<



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Climate Imperialism and the Struggle for System Change

RICARDO LOZANO

As the world inches closer to the tipping point of irreversible environmental catastrophe, scientists, activists, and people's organizations are repeatedly sounding the alarm and highlighting the need for system change to fight climate imperialism. And yet, monopoly capitalism, true to its character, could not help but continue on a downward spiral of self-destruction driven by profit and greed.

Historical Roots of the Climate Crisis

In his writings on climate imperialism, Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, founding chairperson of the CPP, reminds us that the historical roots of the climate crisis can be traced back to the rise of imperialist powers: "The unprecedented rise in GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions coincided with the onset of the capitalist system at the industrial revolution and its attendant intensive use of machines, fossil fuels for transportation and energy...Under a system where profit is the primary objective of social production, the environment and our ecosystems are reduced to being a source of raw materials and dumping grounds for wastes."

Indeed, the last two centuries, most distinctly shaped by the industrial revolution, triggered deep-going changes in human societies and their relationship to the environment. The rise of modern science and technology vastly increased human capacity to exploit the environment and expanded the goods and services available for human consumption beyond subsistence needs.

Economic and social processes that emerged since the industrial revolution have caused rapid, extensive and unprecedented changes in the environment, mainly to meet fast-growing demands of the population and the economy for land, consumer and producer goods, which in turn means extracting tremendous amounts of natural resources.

Such processes are overshooting the planet's capacities. For example, the current pace of development is using resources and producing waste over 50% faster than the planet can replenish and absorb them. Unsustainable rates of resource use and waste production ultimately drive global

warming, biodiversity loss, deforestation, soil degradation, chemical pollution, and the depletion of freshwater, fisheries, fossil fuels and minerals.

Capitalism is an inherently expansionary system since its particular form of wealth accumulation, profit-making through mass production of commodities, knows no limits and must by necessity continue expanding in order to sustain profitability. Capitalist firms must constantly seek to expand production, sales, and market share if they are to survive and succeed in the face of cutthroat competition. Consumption of goods and services must also rise in step with production. In short, capitalism tends to over-produce.

Capitalism therefore has a fundamentally contradictory relationship with the environment, since its expansionary drive entails ever-larger exploitation of natural resources, ever-larger production of waste from industry and agriculture, and ever-larger consumption that also produces waste, that are abnormal or in excess of normal needs of populations and natural resources and carrying capacity of the environment. This contradiction is manifested as intertwined environmental problems—pollution, resource exhaustion, ecosystem collapse, and other environmental changes that endanger the long-term sustainability of life in general and the survival of humankind.

Disproportionate Impacts on the Underdeveloped Countries

The global expansion of the ecological crisis is brought about by the global expansion of capitalism through colonialism eventually in the form of monopoly capitalism or imperialism. Climate imperialism has therefore denied

underdeveloped countries mostly in the south, the rightful ownership and control of their natural resources. Their economies were transformed from diversified and self-reliant—even if pre-capitalist—systems into economies tied into the world capitalist system.

These economies, supposedly sovereign and developing, eventually became overdependent on the industrialized North for markets, capital, loans, and development aid. At the same time, capitalist operations by TNCs and other big business firms in the South have resulted in the ecological devastation and exhaustion of land and other natural resources, affecting the lives and livelihood of its innumerable communities.

Monopoly capital has thus created an integrated world economy divided into numerous nation-states occupying fundamentally different positions in the international division of labor. This system is dominated by monopoly capital based in the imperialist countries where finance capital, key industries, and the most advanced technologies are concentrated.

This global economic system enables TNCs to spread and maintain unsustainable patterns of production and resource use in practically all parts of the world. For instance, the industrial model of agriculture remains dominant through the control of the globally integrated food system by a handful of North-based agro-chemical, food processing, and food retail giants. Industrial agriculture is based on monoculture, particularly crops and livestock modified by high technology and dependent on large-scale agro-chemicals and machines. Its goal is to boost productivity and profits, and produce standardized food for large, affluent markets.

The underdevelopment of the vast South, where 80% of the world's population live, and the economic and political dominance of industrialized powers, are maintained through systemic inequalities in trade, debt, investment patterns, and property rights in favor of monopoly capital.

The underdevelopment of the vast South, where 80% of the world's population live, and the economic and political dominance of industrialized powers, are maintained through systemic inequalities in trade, debt, investment patterns, and property rights in favor of monopoly capital. The neoliberal globalization policies imposed by multilateral institutions such as the International

Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization over the last three decades have greatly helped monopoly firms tighten and expand their hold in the underdeveloped countries and accelerated the exploitation of the people and the natural resources in these areas.

The Struggle for System Change

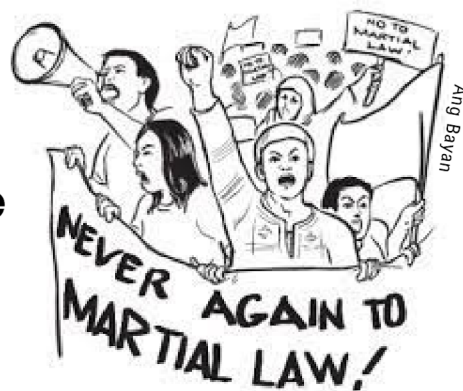
The unrestrained, rapid plunder of the world's resources for the benefit of a select few is the primary cause of the environment's rapid destruction.

In the struggle to defend the environment, more than 1,700 environmental and land defenders have been killed in the last decade, most of them indigenous people. The most vulnerable people, the peoples of underdeveloped countries, are also the most susceptible to the impacts of climate change despite contributing the least to global carbon emissions. As Sison succinctly explains: "Existing environmental and social problems aggravated by global warming will not abate until the plunder of the world for monopoly capital's greed for profits end."

The only way to sustain nature's intrinsic and practical value for human development therefore requires a fundamental reorientation of production and consumption patterns based on human needs rather than unabated accumulation of profit in the hands of the few. In other words, the inherent contradiction between human development and the environment can only be resolved by addressing the primary contradiction of capital accumulation.

In the pursuit of system change to fight climate imperialism, society must take collective control over its resources to meet the needs of social development. This is the only means to avoid overproduction, overconsumption and the exploitation of people and the environment – all of which are inevitable aspects under the prevailing monopoly capitalist system. The oppressed peoples and nations of the world must wage revolutionary struggles for national liberation and democracy with a forward-looking socialist perspective. As imperialist powers scramble to preserve the status quo, we, the people must fight harder and wage militant anti-imperialist struggle for freedom, democracy, social and environmental justice, and peace. <<<

50 years after Martial Law, Filipinos still Outraged and Determined to Fight Back the Return of Marcos' Fascist Dictatorship



JOSE EMILIO JACINTO III

Fifty-years after the declaration of martial law in September 1972 by Ferdinand Marcos, Filipinos from a cross-section of Philippine society, have remained determined to fight back the brutalities, abuses, plunder, corruption and impunity akin to fascist dictatorship.

The people's resistance against these monstrosities have resonated even stronger under the fascist rule of mass murderer Rodrigo Duterte, and after the seizure of dictator Marcos' son, Ferdinand Jr, of the presidency in a stolen elections.

Filipinos now are more agitated not only because there has been no fundamental changes in the Philippine political, economic and social landscape after the dictator was ousted in 1986, but also because and more importantly the abominations of the Marcos' legacy have continued to inflict repression, exploitation and impoverishment among the people, specially the workers and peasants.

Post-martial law regimes have failed in overturning the political, economic and social backwardness of the Philippines, and in dismantling the Marcos legacy and its fascist apparatuses and propaganda.

They have done very little in breaking up historical lies and the Marcos propaganda.

The armed revolutionary movement and the progressive open mass movement have consistently and perseveringly stood firm in fighting tyranny and dictatorship. The revolutionary movement in particular, has remained firm in fighting to overturn the roots of landlessness, poverty, and social injustice by pushing firmly the people's democratic revolution, even entering into peace negotiations with the GRP to address these.

The widespread, nationwide and defiant protests and events in the Philippines and abroad

commemorating the 50 years of the martial law declaration are testimonies that Filipinos never forget and are determined to pursue fundamental changes in Philippine society.

Actions and Events in the Philippines

Numerous gatherings, study activities, cultural and theater performances, protests, art and photo exhibits and installations, caravans, forums, film screenings, book launchings, competitions and other creative activities and ways to mark the 50th anniversary of the declaration of martial law, were held in, among major cities aside from the National Capital Region, Baguio, Naga, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, and Davao. Several of these protest events and activities ran for several weeks.

Most the protest rallies were led by *Bagong Alyansang Makabayan* (New Patriotic Alliance, BAYAN), and other progressive groups including some local government units and officials.

According to reports from *Ang Bayan*, thousands attended a cultural gathering at the University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman in Quezon City on September 21. Speeches and presentations in the gathering highlighted the anti-dictatorship struggles of veteran activists and the continuing struggles of the youth and the people against fascist state repression. Rallies were staged in Mendiola, Manila and other parts of the national capital.

Many youth and students joined the day of commemoration by wearing black clothes, some

with a print slogan “Never Again” and “Tuloy ang Laban (Fight Continues)”.

A “lakbay-aral” (study trip) initiative by teachers and members of the academe was conducted wherein they brought their students to historic spots in Metro Manila connected with the anti-dictatorship struggle.

Some groups also showcased a play about the Escalante Massacre which happened under the Marcos I regime. Others mounted a widescale poster and streamer hanging bearing anti-martial law slogans.

Many other actions have been conducted in the rural areas and guerrilla zones.

Social Media and Others

The hashtags #NeverAgain, #NeverForget, and #ML50 trended on Twitter on September 21. Facebook and other social media posts ran historical articles and comments on martial law. It became a battleground between the pro-Marcos-Duterte forces, fascists and paid trolls, and the progressives, truth defenders and anti-historical revisionists.

Anti-dictatorship websites and information networks were set up. A martial law museum has been planned to be erected. Prayer rallies and masses were also held, and several church officials have issued statements and homilies to the people never to forget martial rule and reject tyranny.

Overseas Protests and Events

Parallel protests activities and events were held in many countries overseas – the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, Hongkong, the Middle East, Italy, Germany, the UK and the Netherlands - to commemorate the 50th anniversary of martial law.

Filipino-American activists in the US hounded Ferdinand Marcos Jr with protests when he visited the country from September 18 to 23 to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). They rallied in front of the New York Stock Exchange where Marcos was set to meet with foreign leaders.

They also held a series of protest actions from September 20 to 23 in New York City on the opening of the UNGA and to commemorate the

50th anniversary of martial law. On September 23, they were at the headquarters of the Asia Society New York to protest Marcos’ attendance in a dialogue.



Art Depicts Life in Utrecht, the Netherlands

In Utrecht, the Netherlands, the NDFP International Information Office and the Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS), held a week-long series of events, and protest activities. They highlighted the heroic struggle of the Filipino people against fascist dictatorship and for liberation through art.

The event also showcased the creations of two martyred artists whose works have inspired and continue to inspire those who have taken the torch of struggle for a truly liberated and sovereign Philippines, namely, the artworks of Jhon Niebres Peñaranda, a.k.a. Parts Bagani (1967 – 2021), and the poetry of Kerima Lorena Tariman (1979 – 2021).

The exposition was conducted alongside film-showings on press freedom, forums, poetry readings, and discussions between some victims of torture and imprisonment during martial law and Filipino, Dutch and other youth activists. Protest rallies were held in the cities of Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and the Hague led by anti-Marcos activists. <<<



People's army holds 'LitNum' classes in Isabela

Many Red fighters in Isabela in Cagayan Valley come from the masses of peasants and national minority people. They are among the most oppressed and neglected sectors of society. As a result, many of them have not attended school, and have difficulty reading, writing and doing simple math, if they are even able to.

To correct this neglect and advance their right to education, a people's army unit developed in Isabela a Literacy and Numeracy or LitNum program designed for them. Formal classroom-style studies are undertaken where two or more students of equal ability participate.

This practice produced a curriculum for comrades who already know how to read and count to continue developing their skills. It is anchored in the tasks they perform within the people's army. It is designed to give them more confidence to lead political activities among both fighters like them and among the masses. Some of the main focus were: Reading and Comprehension, Listening and Understanding, Creative and Technical Writing, Basic Math, and Public Speaking. This was effectively taught through a variety of creative methods and cultural activities.

There are also studies on science and history that are open to all Red fighters. A proven effective method is "Song Analysis" that aims to train comrades in listening to and sharply analyzing the message of songs, news or studies. This is a favorite of music lovers. There was also a workshop on poetry and essay writing in line with revolutionary themes to monitor progress in the spelling of words and constructing sentences or verses.

Science and history classes are completed with tests that push comrades to listen carefully and take notes during discussions. Comrades who could not yet write are encouraged to copy words (in the visual aids) aided by those who know how to write. This helps in memorizing details especially when confronted with new words.

There are also "Clue hunts" in which "clues" hidden in various parts of the camp are found by following instructions given in each one. They must find and answer all of them before the allotted time runs out.

"Skills sharing" are linked to production such as laying traps, skinning rattan, finding (vegetable) shoots, and others, in order to raise the spirit of learning from each other between teachers and students. Another way is developing a Dictionary of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism containing common words used in the studies. The student gives brief explanations based on his understanding, guided by his teacher. This significantly helps prepare students in taking the party courses.

Dealing with Comrades with Possible Dyslexia

The instructors' group developed a curriculum that is adapted to the reading difficulty of a comrade with dyslexia. (Dyslexia is a condition in which one finds it hard to identify letters and numbers making reading and writing difficult to learn). To aid the learning process, a student is asked to use pieces of wood and strings to create shapes of letters and numbers that one forgets or cannot distinguish from each other when written. Since the comrade is also training as a medic, a large image of a thermometer and sphygmomanometer was drawn to help in numeracy training, along with many other visuals to help study acupuncture and names of drugs. <<<

(This article was first published in Ang Bayan on 21 November 2022.)

Why I Remember Comrade Joma While
Watching K-Drama

Like many others, I too am enrapt
watching every episode of K-drama
One after the other, until the serial drama ends.
I do not know why sometimes,
when the protagonists speak their lines,
I think of none other
but him, the great Comrade Joma.

Like in *Dong Yi*,
when the hero said the slaves are pushed
to the limits thus they revolt.
Or in *When Our Love Blooms*,
when no matter how many decades have passed
the activist pianist never gives up
on the goals workers are fighting for.

I just finished watching *The Bridal Mask*,
and while the character, though minor,
is being tortured,
close to death, dared to utter
that the real terrorist
are those who steal from the people.

And with *Capital Scandal* I am currently following,
this is the conversation:

Question: Why are you reading socialism and
independence?

I only want to defend those I love.

Reply: That's it! That is socialism.

That is the struggle for freedom.

With K-drama, I remember my youth,
reading, studying the works of Comrade Joma,
which then were forbidden,
That is why one can't find them in libraries.

Although you are gone Tito Joe, our Comrade Joma,
Your legacy will not vanish.
You will be remembered in every march, in every fight,
In every second of continuous service to the people.

You will remain the flaming torch of our struggle.
You will be remembered, more so by your fans,
And the fans of K-drama.

Dr. Joi Barrios - Leblanc, PhD
BAYANTandang Sora Network,
19 December 2022, Bradford MA

