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MAY-JULY 2023



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THE PEOPLE'S WAR IS A JUST WAR

Editorial

The People's War is a Just War

"The seizure of power by armed force, the settlement of the issue by war, is the central task and the highest form of revolution. This Marxist-Leninist principle of revolution holds well universally, for China and for all other countries."

- Mao Zedong, *Problems of War and Strategy* (November 6, 1938)

The French bourgeois revolution of 1789, the Russian socialist revolt in 1917, and the victory of the Chinese revolution in 1949 as well as all other social and national revolutions waged against repressive monarchs, regimes and systems did not only shape and change world history, but also more importantly, upheld the natural right and duty of the people to revolt when the government became corrupt, tyrannical and oppressive.

As Mao proclaims, the Marxist-Leninist principle of revolution holds well universally for all other countries, and the Philippines is no exception.

Currently, under the US-Marcos-Duterte regime, the people's economic, political, and cultural rights and situation have been transgressed and trampled upon. The masses continue to suffer under conditions of depressed wages, widespread unemployment, and record-high inflation, all while enduring the destruction of their lands and livelihoods as the joint US-RP Balikatan Military Exercises take place, and the AFP conducts lethal air strikes in the countryside, and combat operations against the people's revolutionary forces.



Likewise, the relentless attacks against people's rights persist. Alleged NPA supporters, NDFP personalities and CPP officials are murdered while children and minors who are families of NPA fighters are abducted, held hostage and even killed.

The corrupt, repressive, violent, and anti-people regime of Marcos Jr, which stems from the semi-feudal and semi-colonial system of Philippine society that is ruled by Imperialism, Feudalism and Bureaucrat Capitalism, gives the Filipino people no other option but to claim and exercise their right and duty to revolt.

This right and duty to revolt is the substance of the justness of the people's war being waged by the CPP-NPA-NDF for the past five decades. Concretely, the people's war is the only certain, correct, and effective way to overthrow the US-Marcos regime, and establish a society enjoying national freedom, genuine democracy, social justice, economic equality and security and lasting peace.

As the political and economic crisis of the ruling system worsens, the Party, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front become even stronger weapons of the Filipino people for destroying their enemy and for advancing the people's democratic revolution. US imperialism, the local reactionary government and all reaction are certain to be doomed. 🚫



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LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people's struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

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Marcos Jr's First Year in Power: Intensified Corruption, Crises and State Terror

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The Filipino people have been subjected to worsening oppression and exploitation under the US-Marcos regime. All indications show that the next five years under Marcos Jr will see unprecedented corruption, state terrorism, foreign subservience, and anti-people policies.

Intensified corruption

Marcos Jr ascended to power through downright automated cheating during the 2022 elections. His presidency is widely considered illegitimate by broad segments of the Filipino people.

He has been busy recovering and securing his family's hidden wealth accumulated during his father's 14-year martial law dictatorship and refurbishing the image of his father.

Rifts are slowly coming to the foreground in the Marcos-Arroyo-Duterte alliance of corruption and tyranny amid early political posturing for 2028.

Marcos pet project, the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF), will favor the businesses of his cronies and further expand his political patronage. The MIF is set to become the mother lode of the Marcos corrupt regime.

The Marcos regime is subservient to foreign powers, primarily to military, geopolitical and economic interests of US imperialism, and its financial agents such as the World Bank and other institutions. At the same time, it kowtows to superpower China even in the face of outright military and economic intrusions into Philippine territory.

While the US and other big capitalist centers are protecting their economies, Marcos continues to push for neoliberal policies that destroy local productive forces, dispossess the people of their means of production, and undermine the local economy.

Worsening socio-economic crises

The further liberalization of agricultural imports result in the precarious dependence on imports of domestic supply of rice, sugar, onions, vegetables, and other basic food commodities. Local agricultural producers, including small tillers, are being pushed to bankruptcy.

Like his father, Marcos Jr is closely working with big agribusiness corporations to promote the use of patented seeds, chemical fertilizers, and other inputs purportedly to raise the yield of rice land measures like those under Masagana 99 which buried the peasant masses deep into debt.

Marcos' servility to US imperialism is blatantly demonstrated by his acquiescence to US plans to build at least four more military bases, in addition to five existing, under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). The construction of these facilities is part of the US plan and strategy to contain China's rising power by encircling it within the First-Island Chain, and threatening to undermine Chinese sovereignty in Taiwan.

The collusion of the Marcos regime with the US, is dragging the country into the maelstrom of the US-China conflict which can lead to open military confrontation and war, to the detriment of the country's national interests.

Over the past 12 months, Marcos Jr indulged in lavish parties and frequent foreign trips instead of addressing the cost-of-living crisis, food and job insecurity, and the post-pandemic economic hardships. Since he fraudulently grabbed power a year ago, Marcos Jr has been to 11 trips abroad and even attended the 2022 Singapore Grand Prix.

The recent order to increase the daily minimum wage in the National Capital Region by ₱40 is a nasty insult to workers. It represents less than 7% of the difference between the family living wage of ₱1,160 a day and the current minimum wage of ₱570. In Marcos Jr's first year, he issued only one regional wage order increasing wages. Former presidents had issued several times more in their first year in office: Arroyo – 9, Aquino II – 17, and Duterte – 11, respectively. From January – May 2023, average inflation was at 7.5%.

As of June 2023, the average price of rice (staple food of Filipinos) was at Php44-45/kg (US\$0.81-0.83/kg), double than Marcos Jr's promise of making rice available to Filipinos at Php20/kg (US\$0.37/kg).

Marcos and his economic managers and statisticians try to conceal the gravity of the jobs crisis by inflating numbers and concealing unemployment data with rising numbers of informal, self-employed and part-time workers. As of April 2023, unemployment was at 4.5%, 2nd highest in Southeast Asia. There was a 4.4 million decrease in full-time workers, an increase of 5.5 million part-time workers, and only 1.5 million jobs created.

Marcos is vigorously pursuing the labor export policy as solution to domestic joblessness, deploying thousands of Filipinos every day in dangerous jobs overseas, at the same time, robbing them of their hard-earned money through an endless stream of dues, fees, and payments.

The Marcos regime turns a deaf ear to the clamor for genuine land reform and urgent economic aid amid widespread agricultural crisis. Instead, it has pushed for a new land use law (National Land Use Act) to facilitate the widespread land-use conversion which in turn will drive away peasants from their land.

Escalating attacks and state terror

The US-Marcos regime continues to unleash more vicious and widespread acts of state terrorism. The military establishment continues to tighten its control over the entire bureaucracy through the National Task Force – to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac), where the AFP directs civilian agencies and civilian functions in the name of its “whole-of-nation approach.”

In the countryside, armed agents of the reactionary state carry out campaigns of repression against the people with even greater destructive force. Marcos' military, police and paramilitary forces aim their guns, howitzers, jet fighters and helicopter gunships directly against entire civilian communities. De facto

martial law reigns across the countryside. The AFP is carrying out a shameless war of deception to prevent the crimes perpetrated by state forces from being exposed in public. It floods the public with disinformation and false news, and issues threats against media and alternative media outfits which do not willingly comply with the military narrative. Human rights defenders are vilified and targeted for armed suppression.

The military and police target organizations which are active in advancing the struggle for land reform and defending the ancestral land of indigenous communities. Military operations characterized by large-scale mobilization of armed troops, hamleting of communities, aerial reconnaissance and combat operations continue to be stepped up in desperation, to conjure the illusion of “wiping out” the armed revolution. The AFP uses heavy bombs in aerial bombardment and artillery shelling in violation of the principle of proportionality under international humanitarian law.

Extrajudicial killings and massacres by military and police forces of civilians and non-combatants are on the rise, with at least 100 victims over the past year, or almost two victims every week, including five children. There are increasing reports of abductions, illegal and secret detention, torture, and constant harassment. The military and police carry out their campaign to force people to “surrender” on the vague accusation of “supporting the NPA” without being charged or brought to court, in violation of their basic civil and political rights.

In the cities, military and police operations target leaders and members of workers unions. Organizations in poor communities also face harassments. In schools, military and police personnel routinely conduct “seminars” in which they threaten students against joining national democratic or other progressive student organizations and alliances in outright violation of their basic rights and freedoms. Organizations of teachers and health workers are constantly threatened and maligned by the NTF-Elcac and its vile mouthpieces in social media.

The broad masses of workers, peasants and the rest of the hardworking people have no other option but to wage militant resistance to defend their rights and advance their aspirations for genuine national freedom and democracy. 🚩



#DiMataloto: The people's Red warriors gaining strength

By Ana Rosario

"Bakit hindi namin susuportahan at mamahalin ang mga NPA? Pinoprotektahan at ipinagtatangol nila kami laban sa mga sakim na panginoong maylupa at mababangis na militar ng gobyerno. Tumutulong pa sila sa aming gawain sa bukid, samantalang ang mga sundalo ng militar ay inaagawan pa kami ng aming kaunting kakainin."

["Why should we not support and love the NPA [New People's Army]? They protect and defend us against despotic landlords and the soldiers of the government. The NPA helps us even in our work as farmers, while the members of the reactionary army even take away what little food we have."]

"Dinadala pa nila ang kanilang medik para gamutin kami kung mayroon kaming sakit. Tinuturuan din nila ang mga anak namin at maging kami na magbasa at magsulat. Tinuturuan din nila kami kung paano iharap ang aming mga kahilingan sa mga panginoong maylupa at komersyante. Kaya mahal na mahal namin ang NPA at kaya namin sila tinutulungan."

["They even bring their medical team to look after our health problems and teach our children how to read and write. They also teach us how to bring our demands before the landowners and traders. That is why we cherish our people's army and why we help them, too."]

The Filipino masses in the countryside support and cherish the NPA.

With the support and encouragement of the masses in the countryside, the New People's Army continues to gain strength and build the genuine people's democratic government with each military operation launched against the enemy. The NPA has launched key military actions including tactical offensives, harassment operations, ridding of enemy agents/spies in the different regions of the country.

These guerilla operations belie the propaganda of the reactionary members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police

(PNP) that the NPA is a spent force. The enemies of the people forget that the NPA fights for the interest of the people and are supported and loved by the masses.

The following are some of the military operations undertaken by the NPA in different regions of the country from April-June 2023.

NORTHERN LUZON

- A member of the 24th IB was killed by the NPA in Naguillan, Sallapadan, Abra last June 27.

"The military action served as a punishment against the mercenary AFP for its continuous combat operations, harassment and threats against civilians accused by the AFP of supporting the NPA," the NPA-Abra said in a statement.

In another military operation by the NPA, a member of the 102nd IB was wounded. Wounded was Private Zerganie Pagtan. The 102nd IB was formerly deployed in the Cordillera region under the 5th ID where it sowed terror among the people since 2022.

CENTRAL LUZON

- Two soldiers of the 70th IB were killed in an encounter with a unit of the NPA-Bulacan in Barangay San Isidro, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan last April 28.

According to the report of the unit, the NPA encountered the enemy troops of the 70th IB undertaking combat operations in said area. There were no casualties on the side of the people's guerrillas.

These mercenary troops are the rabid collectors of the Villars, Robles and Aranetas who belong to the top members of the ruling classes of the country. According to the NPA spokesperson of NPA-Bulacan, the Araneta family, for example, was grabbed more than 700 hectares of land by displacing the peasants and their families.

The troops of the 70th IB have been operating for weeks and causing havoc in the area. The mercenary soldiers control the livelihood of the residents and set the amount of food and supplies they could buy and consume.

The 70th IB was also involved in violating human rights in Bulacan and Zambales during the past years such as the strafing of houses of civilians in Barangay San Mateo, Norzagaray; stealing rice, chicken and ducks from the peasants.

- Seven enemy troops from the 91st IB were killed in action during a tactical offensive launched by the NPA-Aurora in Barangay Diteki, San Luis, Aurora last June 9. This operation followed an earlier NPA attack against the same enemy unit last June 3 in Barangay Punglo, Maria Aurora where two soldiers were killed. Among those killed in the firefight was Corporal Noel F. Caya.

The armed operations against enemy troops and their minions are rendering revolutionary justice for the peasant masses in Aurora against the abuses of the soldiers. For the past weeks the peasants and their families in the area have been subjected to different human rights violations. The worst is being prohibited to attend to their fields, sell their crops and firewood for coal and restricting the buying of enough food and other supplies for their daily needs.

“Di lang kami pinapatay ng bala. Gusto rin nila kaming patayin sa gutom!” [“They not only kill us with bullets. They also want to kill us with hunger!”]

SOUTHERN TAGALOG

- The Red fighters of the NPA-Rizal ambushed troops of the 80th IB in Barangay San Rafael, Rodrigues last March 31. One enemy soldier was

killed. Since February this year, the troops have been operating in barangays covered by the Wawa-Violago Dam Project. They have caused harm to communities who are at risk of being displaced because of the said infrastructure project. Said troops have been serving as guards of the Wawa-Violago Dam.

- A member of the 4th IB was killed when the NPA-Mindoro launched an ambush operation on his unit in Barangay Monteclaro, San Jose Occidental Mindoro last April 25. Killed was Pvt. Mayu-ay Onaw. Confiscated from Onaw was a calibre .45 and two magazines.

Pvt. Onaw was active in combat operations and was used to guide and accompany search-and-destroy operations, gather intelligence, forced surrender and torture of his fellow natives. According to the NPA unit, he was also an active tentacle of CAFGU recruitment among the Hanunuo and Buhid indigenous peoples in the towns of Rizal and San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

VISAYAS

- Meanwhile, the NPA-Central Negros confiscated two firearms from thugs in Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental last March 30. The weapons, confiscated from Eddie Abarques and Lemark Nueva, were being used to harass, threaten, and terrorize the residents whose land they want to grab.
- Revolutionary justice was rendered against Jorge Javier, during a partisan operation by operatives of NPA-Central Negros last April 16 in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental. An asset for espionage for the AFP in Negros, Javier was responsible for giving information which led to cases of arrest, torture, and killings. He informed the military on the whereabouts of then pregnant Cristina



Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) - Melito Glor Command in Southern Tagalog marches in military formation to commemorate the founding anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

Jacolbe, her 16-year-old daughter Everly Kee Jacolbe and farmer Rodan Montero which resulted in their murders by the 62nd IB. Jorge was also involved in the killing of Victor Baldonado in November 2022 and Orlando Fat in January 2023.

Taken from Javier was his Barangay Intelligence Network ID, Colt cal. 45, a caliber .357 mangum, KG-9 submachinegun, two magazines, ammunitions, and other military materials.

- A series of armed actions was launched by units of the Napoleon Tumagtang Command of NPA-Southern Panay in the southern part of the island of Panay from May 2. The harassment operation against the soldiers stationed in the CAA Detachment in Barangay Luyang, Sibalom, Antique last May 2, was the first in the series.
- This was followed by the destruction of construction materials amounting to PhP900,000 owned by Atrila Builders, Inc. which has continuously refused to pay the wages and improve the working condition of its workers. The operation last May 5 in Barangay Cabungaan, Leon, Iloilo was meant to paralyze Atrila Builders as it continues on its anti-workers policies.
- Last May 6, the Red fighters fired upon troops of the Philippine Army responding to the call for support by a company that was to launch operations against the NPA. One of the vans carrying enemy troops and command-detonated explosives was hit. Because of the attack of the Red fighters, the enemy troops retreated and discontinued their operations in the area.
- On May 8, a unit of the NPA launched a harassment attack on a CAA detachment in Barangay Igcococ, Sihalom, Antique.
- Three soldiers of the 62nd IB were killed during a counter-raid operation by NPA-Central Negros last June 13 in Sityo Cupad, Barangay Macagahay, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental. There were no casualties among the Red fighters. The bodies presented by the military were civilians Benjie Ebarle and Roweno Anubong who were killed by the rapid fire of the military.

BICOL

- A series of attacks against enemy troops were also launched by units of the NPA in Bicol. According to the NPA units, these acts of attrition against the AFP were part of rendering justice for the victims of militarism and fascist brutality in the provinces of the Bicol region.
- Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA)-Masbate confiscated an armalite rifle from

military assets in Sitio Pondol on the border of San Carlos and Matagbac barangays in Milagros on April 14. The assets were used in the aggressive attacks on the citizens of the second district of the province.

Two of the assets were identified as Glenn Masamoc, a CAFGU element, and Ganga Dalanon. They were both responsible for the killing of civilian Rodante Arizala in 2022. The two were also joined by husband and wife, Rina Verdida and Larry Quilantang, who also served as military agents.

According to the report of the Red fighters, while their weapons were being confiscated, Dalanon and Masamoc fought back and even used their fellow civilians as shields. Because of this, the fighters quickly moved to help the civilians, especially a child so that they could go to safety.

During the incident, Dalanon was killed while Quilantang and Masamoc were injured. According to the unit, "a child was saved while a young man was injured after a despicable attempt to harm them by Dalanon and Masamoc."

- In Camarines Norte, three soldiers were confirmed killed in an attack by the NPA against the 9th IB in Barangay Canapawan, Labo last June 8. The Red fighters fired on the enemy troops as they approached the base of the NPA. The firefight lasted only 15 minutes, but the enemy troops continued firing and detonating explosives for more than two hours. The Red fighters were able to retreat safely.
- On June 10, units of the NPA launched several harassment operations against detachments of the enemy in Barangay Pantao, Libon and Barangay Cuyaoyao, Pio Duran. Operations were also launched against 81st IB detachments in Barangay Inoyunan, Bula, Barangay Cambalidio, Libmanan in Camarines Sur. Sniping operations were also launched by the people's guerrillas in Barangay Calabnigan against military units undertaking the Retooled Community Service Program.

The masses know that the reactionary army of the regime defends and protects the interest and wealth of the very people that oppress and exploit them. They know that the only army that fights for their welfare and interest is the New People's Army. And this is reflected on their continuous and unceasing support for the Red fighters and the revolutionary struggle. This is the reason why the NPA continues to gain strength and why no Oplans of any brutal regime will ever succeed.

#DiMatalotalo 


The NDFP pursues the main content of the national democratic revolution, with or without peace talks

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Liberation International interview with Julie De Lima*, interim chairperson, NDFP Peace Panel, July 16, 2023, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Of late, the topic of the status of the suspended peace talks between the GRP and NDFP has once again resonated in the media and peace advocate circles, with GRP officials parroting and insisting on their line of disavowal of its continuation. The NDFP for its part has repeatedly stated that it never closed its options to pursue peace negotiations for a just and lasting resolution of the roots of the armed conflict. Even the late great founding chairman of the CPP, Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, days before he expired, had relayed this desire to continue negotiating for peace, manifesting his own lifelong commitment to the peace process.

In this interview, the NDFP through its Peace Panel interim chairperson, clarifies its position on the most important substance and contentious theme of the suspended peace negotiations that have seemed lost in the narrative of pursuing or disavowing peace talks.



Julie De Lima, interim chairperson of the NDFP peace panel during the 50th Founding Anniversary of NDFP held in Utrecht, the Netherlands last April 22-23, 2023.

Liberation International (LI): Now that peace talks have remained suspended, how does the NDFP pursue the realization of its agenda, for instance, in the goals that it set in its draft for socio-economic reforms, such as distribution of land under CARP for free, free home lots, confiscation of private agricultural lands, upholding people's rights, among others?

JDL: With or without peace talks, the NDFP continues to pursue the realization of the main content of the national democratic revolution, which is pursuing agrarian reform to liberate the peasant masses from landlord exploitation and oppression in the Philippine semifeudal and semicolonial ruling system. Depending on the strength of the peasant movement in certain areas it conducts struggles for the minimum demand of land rent reduction to the maximum of confiscation of land for free distribution to the landless tenants in the particular area.

CARP is the government's bogus land reform program on which the peasants cannot depend. The peasants have to organize and strengthen themselves to be able to achieve agrarian reform.

LI: Former AFP general Carlito Galvez, the presidential peace adviser, has claimed in an earlier interview that appeared in a GRP website, we quote: "CASER is based on an obsolete framework and is no longer relevant since it is largely based on the pre-industrialization and pre-globalization era. It is a formula for the surrender of the national government's integrity as well as the state's sovereignty".

JDL: Galvez does not know what he is talking about and is irrelevant to the issue of what is the character of the Philippine economy. We know for a fact that the Philippines is nonindustrial. It has not achieved the status of being an industrial economy. It has no industrial foundation of its own. It does not produce the industrial equipment but imports these with income mainly from the export of agricultural products and mineral ores. It does not have an independent steel industry. It has no machine-building industry nor the capacity to produce machine tools, vehicles, computers, basic chemicals, medicines and other capital goods and major manufactures.

Local manufacturing is dependent on imported machines and raw material inputs. So-called export processing zones of multinational firms are detached from the domestic economy and are engaged in semiprocessing and assembly. They are mere appendages or segments of the international assembly line of multinational firms.

The so-called service industries serve as adjuncts, not of an independent industrial capacity for the country,

but of comprador-type operations in export and wholesale domestic trade, finance, tourism and travel, and the whole gamut of media, communications and infotech-based businesses that merely skim their share of profit from these basically commercial operations with some globalized character. Such industries may impart a glossy, capitalist-like sheen on the Philippine economy at first glance, but are simply unsustainable outgrowths of the semifeudal economy.

Agriculture remains a major base of the economy but it is in the main afflicted by traditional feudal relations of production, by backward, non-mechanized, non-irrigated, and with low output. There is scattered use of harvester and thresher combines in small to medium landholdings displace farmworkers. Large-scale agricultural production with some amount of mechanization and hiring of seasonal farm workers is carried out in foreign-owned and big comprador-owned plantations producing export crops.

The extent of unemployment is an indicator of development. According to 2019 official statistics, 12 million people or more than 26 per cent of the 45 million labor force cannot find work in the Philippines and have to seek jobs abroad. Another 10.6 million or 23 per cent of the labor force remain in the Philippines and are admitted by the reactionary government as unemployed. A total of 22.6 million people or more than 49 per cent of the labor force are unemployed.

Aside from exporting raw materials for foreign monopoly capitalism, the Philippines has exported huge amounts of cheap labor since 1980.

The Philippines economy consists of pockets of large-scale industrial capitalist production dependent on imported equipment and components, including electronic parts, electrical wiring production and other export commodities inside the export processing zones. These zones of cheap Filipino labor and tax evasion form part of the international assembly line (now more fashionably called "global value chains") of multinational corporations.

The Philippines has large-scale extractive industries such as mining operations which make use of giant earth moving machines, high explosives, open pits and heavy doses of cyanide and other lethal chemicals, and international shipping vessels which often avoid customs with the complicity of corrupt officials. Large numbers of the Filipino proletariat are concentrated in these areas of economic activity. The question, however, is whether these form part of, or contribute to domestic capitalist development. The processing of the mineral ores is done abroad beyond the primary stage.

Except for the low wages they pay to workers, the mining enterprises, in fact, do not contribute anything fundamental to domestic capitalist development. In fact, they prevent local capitalist factors from developing industrially by sucking in domestic resources, and influencing economic policy to the detriment of the national bourgeoisie. The independent local capitalist sector is limited mainly to small and medium-scale manufacturing, with significant numbers in the local food manufacturing.

LI: Galvez mentioned CASER's questionable provision, and among these questionable provisions, Galvez said, is the one on Financing National Industrialization, wherein funds for such purpose will be sourced from "confiscated and expropriated assets of foreign monopoly capitalists, big compradors and bureaucrat capitalists."

JDL: This so-called questionable provision is one mutually worked out and agreed upon with the GRP Working Committee on Social and Economic Reforms. During the negotiations, expropriation with compensation was agreed upon whereby the government would compensate the landlords for their land for free distribution to the tenant cultivators of the land. And the landlords would be encouraged to invest these proceeds in industrial development.

LI: Galvez further claimed: "First of all, we cannot agree with the language in which this particular provision has been framed. It has been crafted in such a way that we expect it to cast a dark cloud over the nation's economy. And second, such a measure will surely put the country at loggerheads with the

international financial community, and consequently, could lead to the weakening and eventual decline of the country's economic standing in global markets."

JDL: Galvez's claims are unfounded.

The measure would indeed put the country in contradiction with the monopoly capitalists and the comprador big bourgeoisie in control of the Philippine economy. But this is the very measure needed to assert Philippine sovereignty, including economic sovereignty. This is a measure that would have the support of a broad united front of the people, including the national bourgeoisie and would encourage them to evolve into an industrial bourgeoisie, together with the compensated landlords who would be encouraged to invest the compensation for their land.

LI: Finally Galvez alleged: "In fact, if we don't have an insurgency problem, our country's gross domestic product could even hit double-digit figures."

JDL: The country's unsatisfactory GDP is not the result of the so-called insurgency problem. It is caused by the lack of industrialization that would provide employment to the workers and keep them in the country instead of seeking jobs abroad.

LI: Moving the narrative forward on the need to address the root causes of the armed conflict, and/or why the GRP appears so terrified at CASER, what would be your advice to the GRP?

JDL: The government should embrace negotiations on CASER. It can grow stronger by accomplishing social and economic reforms and put the Philippines on an industrial footing step-by step. 🚫



Sowing the Seeds of its Own Destruction: Special Report on the US-Marcos Regime's Attacks Against Youth and Children

By Ricardo Lozano and Ana Rosario

Nine-year-old Kyllene Casao was walking with her father on their way home in Barangay Guinhawa, Taysan, Batangas when troops from the 59th Infantry Battalion (IB) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shot her dead. Kyllene was killed on July 18, 2022, barely a month since Ferdinand Marcos Jr. fraudulently grabbed power in the May 2022 elections.

The killing of Kyllene signaled a slew of brutal state-sponsored assassinations and other forms of attacks against minors exposing the US-Marcos' regime's dirty war against children and youth. Going by the numbers, the attacks against children and youth in particular have increased in the past years since Marcos Jr. became the GRP's fake president.

Table 1. Violations of Children’s Rights under Marcos Jr.

(June 30, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Violation	Children Victims
Killings	7
Abductions	5
Torture	11
Arrest and detention	16
Indiscriminate Firing	4,403
Food and economic blockades	13,884
Forced evacuation and displacement	22,628
Threats, harassment, and intimidation	11,857

Source: Ang Bayan Special Report July 23, 2023

At least 7 children killed under Marcos Jr.

In the latest count of Ang Bayan, the official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), at least 103 people have been killed between July 2022 to July 2023. Across the provinces, Negros Occidental documented the greatest number of killings amounting to 33 cases since last year. This is followed by Masbate which reported 15 killings, and Samar documenting at least 12 cases.

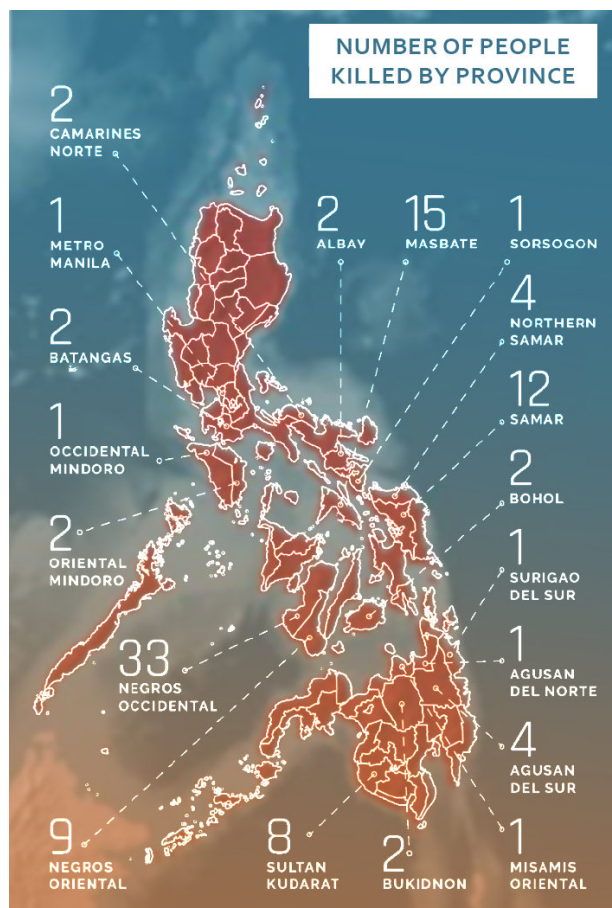
According to Ang Bayan, the massive military operations conducted in these areas serve to protect the interests of big businesses, bureaucrat capitalists and their foreign collaborators. They use the state’s armed machinery and paid mercenaries to suppress the masses resistance to these destructive projects.

In Negros Occidental for instance, there are widespread exploration activities to search for gold, copper, and silver reserves in the Southern part of the province. Manganese mining is also prevalent in Kabankalan City while sand and gravel quarries are spread across the rest of the province.

Among those killed by state forces, 58 are farmers, 14 are women, one indigenous minority while 7 of the victims are minors. The report also documented a 5-month pregnant woman killed by soldiers of the 62nd Infantry Battalion (IB) in Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental together with her 16-year-old daughter.

Below are some of the cases of children and youth killed under the current Marcos Jr administration:

- July 3, 2022. A minor was shot and killed by the 4th Infantry Battalion (IB) and Philippine National Police-Special Armed Force (PNP-SAF) troops when they fired at the house of Mr. Inyab in Sitio Tauga DAKa, Brgy. San Vicente, Roxas town on July 3, 2022. The police and soldiers strafed the house outrightly claiming that its occupants, who belonged to the Mangyan-Buhid indigenous



Source: Ang Bayan Special Report July 23, 2023

minority community, were supporters of the New People’s Army (NPA).

- July 18, 2022. The 59th IB shot and killed 9-year-old Kyllene Casao while she was walking with her father towards their home in Barangay Guinhawa, Taysan, Batangas on July 18, 2022.
- July 26, 2022. Everly Kee Jacolbe, 16, was killed after soldiers of the 62nd IB attacked the hut where she was staying with her mother Cristina who was 5 months pregnant at the time in Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental on July 26, 2022.
- June 14, 2023. A poor peasant family of four were massacred by fascist troops of the AFP on June 14, 2023. Rolly Fausto (50); his wife Emilda (49), including their two children Ben (15) and Raben (11) were killed in their sleep at their residence in Sitio Kangkiling, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental in central Philippines. The four other Fausto children were not at home when the massacre happened.
- June 16, 2023. Just two days after the Fausto Massacre, elements of the AFP’s 2nd Infantry Battalion killed 17-year-old Rey Almarion Belan in Masbate. According to reports, Rey and his friends were hunting for food when soldiers from the 2nd IB open fired at the group followed by

the ignition of two bombs. Rey was hit four times, three times in the body and once in the knee.

In attempts to cover up their tracks, the AFP has repeatedly pinned the blame of these child and youth killings to fake encounters with the New People's Army (NPA). In most of the cases documented, the children and their families were subjected to red tagging by state forces and were accused as being supporters of the NPA.

Weaponization of the Anti-Terror Law

A clear indication of the worsening situation of human rights in the Philippines has been the weaponization of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 (ATA). The ATA gives the GRP the authority to arbitrarily brand individuals as enemies of the state and subject them to criminal prosecution including the freezing of their assets and property as well as restrictions on liberty such as the right to travel. According to Ang Bayan, at least 67 individuals have been designated by the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) as 'terrorists', 7 of which were added during the time of Marcos Jr.

On June 26, 2023, Karapatan Southern Tagalog received a copy of a subpoena summoning Anakbayan Southern Tagalog Regional Coordinator Ken Rementilla and Jasmin Rubia, secretary-general of Mothers and Children for the Protection of Human Rights (MCPHR). The two youth activists were accused of violating Section 12 of the ATA or providing material support to 'terrorists.'

The charges stemmed from a fact-finding mission in July 2022 which saw the participation of Rubia and Rementilla. Led by MCPHR, an alliance of church

workers, women activists and human rights advocates, the mission aimed to investigate the killing of 9-year-old Kyllene Casao in Taysan, Batangas by elements of the 59th IB.

Threats, Harassments, and Intimidation

In January 2023, suspected state agents breached the Manila office of Anakbayan, a progressive youth-led activist organization. A CCTV footage showed a man attempting to break into the property. After the said incident, members of Anakbayan said their office was disorganized, their cellphones were not where they left, tables were moved, windows were open, and doors showed clear signs of forced entry. The next day, the group reported the unusual presence of multiple police mobiles stationed near their office including incidents of unidentified men tailing and photographing them after protest actions around Metro Manila.

Between January 18 and February 9, 2023, up to 11 policemen and members of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) in Region 2 repeatedly visited the house of Rona Bugtong in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. Bugtong is a volunteer teacher of Arapaap, a youth organization providing free tutorials and alternative classes to community children amid the pandemic.

On February 6, 2023, men who introduced themselves as part of military intelligence showed Annaliza Loren a video of her daughter Chaela Loren speaking at a gathering. Annaliza manages a store at Purok 5, Barangay Lugam, Malolos City while her daughter, a journalism student at Bulacan State

94th IB brutally massacred peasant family in Negros Occidental

The brutality of the Armed Forces of the Philippines once again showed it has no bounds when the members of its 94th IB massacred the Fausto family last June 14 in Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental. Murdered were the couple Rolly (52) and Emilda (51) Fausto and their two children Ben (15) and Raben (11).

The AFP tried to weave lies after lies against the Fausto family to hide its crime. It painted the family as victims of "internal cleansing of the NPA" then revised their tale stating that the Fausto couple were spies for the reactionary military to justify another lie that the NPA killed the family.

The fact is the Fausto couple were active members of a farmers' association, the Baklayan, Bito, Cabagal Farmers Association (BABICAFA). The BABICAFA is a legally registered organization that supports peasants and farmworkers in their fight for land, better price for their produce, and for strengthening cooperation among the peasants and farmworkers. Because of their active participation in the organization the Faustos were consistently subjected to interrogation and accusation of being supporters of the NPA and red tagging by soldiers of the 94th IB.

In fact, last May the soldiers of the 94th IB attacked the Fausto family in their own home and subjected it to violent interrogation in their vain attempt to force them to admit to being NPA supporters. They demanded that the Faustos spy for the 94th IB. The Fausto family refused.

Their murder by the soldiers of the 94th IB under Colonel Van Donald Almonte, commander of the 94th IB and Col. Orlando Edralin, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade that leads the operations of the 94th IB was meant to send a chilling message to the masses to cooperate with the reactionary AFP or suffer arrest, torture, imprisonment, and death.

Universty, chairs the Student Alliance for National Democracy (STAND), a student party at the school. The men intimidated Annaliza and told her to convince her daughter to “come back to the government fold.” Chaela Loren continues to experience surveillance after the incident, while her monther continues to receive phone calls from military personnel asking for the whereabouts of Chaela.

On January 13, 2023, operatives of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) red-tagged various organizations including youth groups Kabataan Partylist, League of Filipino Students (LFS), Anakbayan, College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP), Student Christian Movement of the Philippines (SCMP), National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) in a school assembly attended by 200 students of Benguet State University in La Trinidad. The presenters from NICA mocked the said youth organizations and branded them as ‘terrorists.’

In similar fashion, NICA operatives from Region 1 together with forces from the 17th IB, 202nd Maneuver Company Regional Mobile Force Battalion 2 held a “Campus Peace Symposium” in Cagayan State University on March 3, 2023 speaking to around 1,400 students. In the said symposium, the state fascist forces prohibited students from joining progressive youth organizations such as LFS, Kabataan Partylist, CEGP, SCMP and NUSP.

On March 4, 2023, elements from the PNP in Estancia, Panay along with members of the NTF-Elcac spoke before the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) cadets at the main campus of the Northern Iloilo State University once again branding progressive youth progressive organizations as ‘terrorist fronts.’

And on March 11, 2023, NICA intelligence agents together with the 205th Maneuver Company 2 conducted a forum for the students of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) of the University of La Salette in Santiago City, Isabela. The students were made to swear an oath not to join the aforementioned youth organizations.

Enforced Disappearances and Abduction

No one is spared in the US-Marcos regime’s dirty counterrevolutionary war, even pregnant women. In addition to the killing of 5-month pregnant Cristina Jacolbe, fascist armed elements of the state have abducted at least 5 pregnant women and have kept them in unidentified locations. They are either accused as being Red fighters or are being used as hostage to force the surrender of their spouses and relatives who are allegedly members of the NPA.

This includes the case of Cherylín Rebíta who was abducted by military agents last August 26, 2022, in Surigáo City. Rebíta was accompanied by Roselle Polinar and Jackilyn Egtob. They were abducted by troops of the 402nd IB and were kept in a safehouse in Ata-atahon, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte. Both Rebíta and Egtob were “released” by the AFP, but took Rebíta’s child, Baby Rhea as hostage. Baby Rhea was only two months old at the time.

In addition, AFP forces also abducted then pregnant Aurily Havana (Ka Lyza) and Jennifer Binungkasan (Ka Laile) in Barangay Libertad, Butuan City last November 3, 2022.

A 27-year-old former student leader from the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) – Gene Roz Jamil “Bazoo” de Jesus was abducted in Taytay, Rizal together with companion Dexter Capuyan, a Cordillera-based activist. De Jesus hails from Bulacan and worked as information and networking officer of the Philippine Task Force on Defending the Rights of Indigenous People. De Jesus served as the chair of the Council of Leaders at UP Baguio and regional convenor of the National Union of Students of the Philippines. He finished Bachelor of Arts Communication major in Journalism in 2016 as a cum laude.

De Jesus and Capuyan went missing on the night of April 28 in Taytay, Rizal. Days before the two activists went missing, unidentified individuals suspected as state agents were observed in the vicinity of the area where they were abducted. Last July 10, the Court of Appeals granted the families’ plea for habeas corpus and ordered the AFP, PNP, and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to surface the two activists. As of writing, De Jesus and Capuyan remain missing.

Conclusion

In its desperate attempt to silence the dissenting voices of the youth and use children in its dirty counter-revolutionary tactics, the Marcos administration fails to recognize that it is sowing the seeds of its own demise. History has shown how repression breeds further resistance. Recall that the best recruiter of the NPA was the fascist dictator Marcos Sr. himself when he declared martial law in 1972 leading to the radicalization of the Filipino people and the youth. His fascist dictates and all-out war against all democratic forces and the revolutionary movement eventually led to his own demise: and the same fate awaits his son, Marcos Jr.

A government that suppresses its own youth and resorts to violence to maintain power is treading on a path of self-destruction. The US-Marcos regime will ultimately be held accountable for the lives of children and youth it has extinguished. 🚫

AFP aerial bombings violate the rules of war

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

The conventional definition of terrorism fits best in the spate of brutal bombings of communities conducted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in its counter-guerrilla operations. This same doomed tactic is reminiscent of the US war against the Vietnamese people who despite bringing the US and their South Vietnamese puppets to a humiliating defeat, suffer until today from the effects of an array of bombs dropped during the war.

According to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the use of heavy bombs (typically 125- or 250-kilograms each) in counter-guerrilla operations violate generally accepted laws and customs of war which prohibit the use of weapons and methods that cause superfluous injury and death to combatants. These are acts of war that are criminal in nature for which Marcos Jr. and the AFP must be held accountable for.

The CPP also explained that: “In warfare, dropping heavy bombs are typically reserved against heavily fortified military targets, unlike guerrilla camps where combatants are protected only by trees or trenches. In using such weapons, the AFP aims to give the NPA no quarter, or cause the maximum number of deaths and injury, which has long been considered unlawful and in violation of international humanitarian law.”

While AFP aerial bombings have hit a number of NPA guerrilla camps, according to the CPP, majority of the bombs dropped by the AFP since 2017 have missed their targets, hitting instead swidden farms, mountain communities, and fields near civilian populations.

A July 2022 study released by the CPP revealed that AFP bombing only has an 18.44% accuracy in terms of hitting guerrilla targets. Between 2017-2022, there were at least 144 people killed by the AFP’s air strikes. Out of the 144, at least 68 were the AFP’s own soldiers and police, which is more than the 66 casualties suffered by the NPA. At least 10 civilians have been killed in AFP bombings, the CPP study stated.

In condemning these continuing acts of terror, the CPP pointed to the most recent incident of heavy bombing which the AFP conducted last June 16 in Barangay Anticala, Butuan City in Mindanao island. Contrary to the claims of the AFP that there was a ‘fierce firefight’ during the Butuan bombing, there was no actual encounter on the ground between AFP soldiers and NPA guerilla forces, the CPP stated. Around an hour after the strike, the 29th Infantry Batallion (IB) reportedly arrived on the scene only to observe the carnage and destruction their heavy weapons had wreaked.

The air strike in Butuan however was not an isolated case. The non-stop spate of bombings has also been conducted in many other communities in the countryside, namely:

- October 6 and 8, 2022 bombings in Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental province.
- March 9 and 13, 2023 in Barangay Gawaan, Kalinga. AFP-PNP fighter jets and drones dropped at least 10 bombs. Affected were Sitio Cocodwe and Sitio Utah. Bombs were also dropped near the Gawaan Elementary school while students were holding classes.
- March 13 and March 15, 2023 bombings in Barangay Culaman, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon province.
- April 29 and May 8, 2023 bombings and strafings of communities in Bongabong and Bansud, Oriental Mindoro province affecting thousands of residents of Barangay San Vicente, Roxas and Barangay Balugo and Waygan, Mansalay in the same island province.
- May 11, 2023 bombings in the mountains of Katarungan in Barangay Lobo, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur province.

These documented incidents of bombings by the AFP, according to human rights organizations have resulted in at least 6,931 victims, in the first year of reign of the illegitimate Marcos Jr. regime. The Geneva Conventions explicitly ban weapons that “cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering” as well as means of warfare that “cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment.” Further, Articles 51 and 54 prohibits indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations, and destruction of food, water and other materials needed for survival.

By all accounts, the AFP’s aerial bombings, led by their commander-in-chief Marcos Jr., does not distinguish between civilian and military targets, and constitutes a war crime under international humanitarian law. 



Imperialism means war:

US military expansion overseas

By Hugo Francisco

In a recent wave of international demonstrations, groups from various parts of the world are voicing opposition against the US military's expansion overseas. Mass protests have erupted in major cities, demanding a re-evaluation of US foreign policy and a redirection of resources towards more pressing global issues.

The expansion has seen the establishment of new US military bases in strategic regions, such as Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The goal is to counter the growing influence of emerging powers, like Russia and China, and ensuring 'stability' in areas where anti-US aggression sentiments are on the rise.

In Germany, thousands of demonstrators from across Europe gathered near the Ramstein Air Base last June to protest the G7's decision to send weapons to Ukraine instead of addressing urgent global concerns such as climate change, unemployment, and poverty. The protesters also called for the withdrawal of the Ramstein US Air Base arguing its presence only escalates regional tensions. The US military facility in Ramstein, Germany is also the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Allied Air Command headquarters, hosting 54,000 US troops -- the largest in Europe.


During the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan, last May, hundreds of protesters took to the streets to demand the removal of US military bases in Japan. The protesters voiced their grievances against the environmental, social, and security concerns associated with the presence of these bases on the island. The demonstrators urged the G7 leaders to address the longstanding issue of US military presence, a point of contention between the local community and the Japanese government.

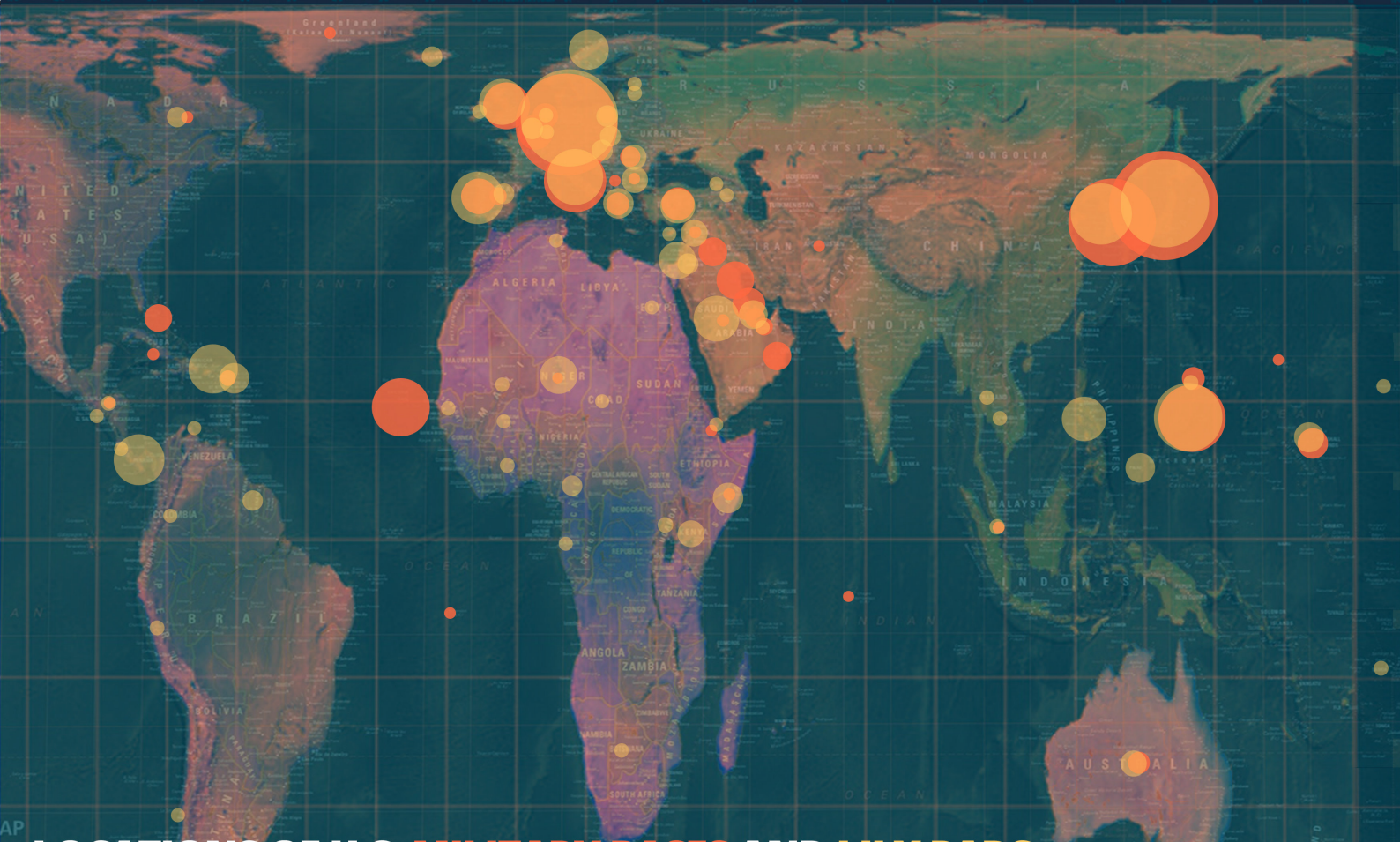
Japan hosts the largest number of US military bases overseas totaling 120 active bases, followed closely by Germany with 119 and South Korea with 73. Local communities in Japan have long voiced their opposition to military bases. Okinawa for instance has been one of the most vocal anti-US military base communities in

the world constantly protesting against the violence perpetrated by US base personnel. In 1945, the US dropped two nuclear warheads in Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing at least 110,000 people.

In the Philippines earlier this year, the Marcos Jr. regime has once again kowtowed to imperialist dictates by allowing the US to expand its military footprint thirty years after a popular anti-war movement ended permanent US military presence in the country. Using the lopsided deal Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), the US intends to establish five additional military facilities in vital positions across the archipelago. Boasting the deal under the pretext of 'modernization of US-PH alliance,' the US was admittedly on a mission to ensure power projection and influence in the region, citing China's continued advance towards Southeast Asia. This move has escalated military tensions in the region, undermining peace, and stability not just in the Philippines but across Asia Pacific.

The Filipino masses have suffered immensely from hosting US military bases. Hundreds of cases of rape, child abuse, killings, and toxic waste pollution have been documented in the past decades, leading to heightened opposition against US military bases in the country. In 2014, US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton killed Filipina transgender woman Jennifer Laude. Pemberton was eventually convicted in Philippine courts but was later granted absolute pardon by the fascist Duterte regime. The case sparked massive protests demanding justice for Laude and denouncing continued US military presence in the Philippines.

According to data from the Cato Institute, the US has about 750 military bases in 80 countries – a conservative figure given the Pentagon releases very limited information, so the actual number may be even higher. In addition, data suggests that supporting hundreds of these bases abroad costs US taxpayers an estimated 55 billion dollars annually. 



LOCATIONS OF U.S. MILITARY BASES AND LILY PADS

Base = Generally, any "base site" listed by name in the Pentagon's annual Base Structure Report
 Lily Pad/Small base = a small military installation, including a base site counted in the Pentagon's annual Base Structure Report as unnamed "other side" which by the Pentagon's definition are sites consisting of less than 10 acres or a value of less than \$10 million.
 Source: David Vine, "Lists of US Military Bases Abroad, 1776-2021," American University Digital Research Archive, 2021

Legend:
 ● - Bases
 ● - Lily Pads

August 26 declared Global Day of Action to support the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation

By Ricardo Lozano

The Friends of the Filipino Struggle (FFPS) will launch on August 26 a Global Day of Action to support the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation. The activity marks the anniversary of the Cry of Pugad Lawin where Andres Bonifacion led the tearing of cedulas as a symbol of the Filipino people's resistance against the Spanish colonizers. It is said that the first armed clash between the Guardia Civil and the Katipuneros took place on that same day.

"Thus, even more than a hundred years later after the Cry of Pugad Lawin, the Filipino peoples' struggle continues through a new type of revolution - the people's democratic revolution - participated in by thousands of revolutionaries from the National Democratic Front and its allied organizations. Through the people's war, the Filipino people lay the ground to a genuinely sovereign, nationally industrialized country governed by a people's democratic government," FFPS said in a statement.

"Through the people's war, the Filipino people lay the ground to a genuinely sovereign, nationally industrialized country governed by a people's democratic government," FFPS added.

The FFPS called on friends and allies to celebrate the struggle of the Filipino people for national liberation through people's war on August 26. The FFPS also condemned acts of state terrorism perpetrated by the Marcos Jr regime, including the aerial bombings on communities. The FFPS called on the international community to condemn the US and other imperialist powers that threaten the Filipino people's sovereignty.

According to FFPS "as the Friends of the Filipino people in Struggle, we continue to recognize the justness of the Philippine revolution. We continue to support their aspirations for genuine peace equivalent to social and national liberation." 🚫



A Tribute to Heroes and Martyrs of Revolution in India and the Philippines

By Ricardo Lozano

The people's war in India and the Philippines emerged from a common history marked by centuries of colonization, exploitation, and inequality. In both countries, the rural poor, the workers, and other marginalized sectors of society bear the brunt of capitalist plunder and greed, leading to the birth of proletarian movements aimed at dismantling imperialism and all reaction.

Inspired by the teachings of Marx, Lenin and Mao, leading communist parties in both countries wage their own democratic revolutions through protracted people's war that aims to overthrow the semi-colonial and semi-feudal states in India and the Philippines. Since the reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on December 26, 1968, and the prompt formation of the New People's Army (NPA) on March 29, 1969, the protracted people's war in the Philippines has valiantly advanced in the countryside. From its small beginnings, the NPA has become a nationwide force of several thousand Red fighters. Armed with unbending loyalty and boundless ties to the broad masses of peasants, workers and toiling people, and guided by the correct leadership of the Party, the NPA builds its strength and deals lethal blows against the enemy.

Likewise, the Communist Party of India - CPI (Maoist) has led the People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA) to unprecedented heights. From the first armed uprising in the 1960s in the remote Naxalbari village to the merger of the People's War Group and the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI), the PLGA has amassed significant strength, now commanding tens of thousands of Red fighters deeply rooted in the struggle of peasant masses in the Indian countryside.

But as we celebrate the victories of the people's war, we must also pay tribute to the martyrs of the revolution who sacrificed their lives in the struggle. In observance of International Committee in Support of the People's War in India's (ICSPWI) campaign to honor the martyrs of the revolution in India and the Philippines, let us remember these heroes of the epic people's war:

Ka Laan (March 20, 1951 - August 22, 2022) and Ka Bagong Tao (December 21, 1952 - August 22, 2022)



Benito "Ka Laan" Tiamzon and Wilma "Ka Bagong-tao" Austra-Tiamzon played key roles in carrying out the Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM) in 1992-1998 which reaffirmed the Party's Marxist-Leninist-Maoist stand and basic principles, and strategy and tactics of waging protracted people's war to carry forward the national democratic revolution. They led the defense of the CPP's Central Committee

and frustrated the attempts of the revisionist traitors to lead astray or divide the Party.

Under their guidance, the Party and the Philippine revolution was steered onto a path of greater progress and expansion. For an impressive span of thirty years, Ka Laan served as the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee, which entailed the day-to-day leadership of the Philippine revolution. Ka Bagong-tao served as general secretary of the Central Committee. In the Party's Second Congress in 2016, both were re-elected to the Central Committee and its central organs, demonstrating the high regard and trust they earned from their peers.

Throughout their lives, Ka Laan and Ka Bagong-tao dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to serving the oppressed and exploited masses. They relentlessly worked towards realizing the aspirations for national freedom and democracy, socialism and ultimately communism, giving their utmost effort and commitment to these noble causes. On August 21, 2022, Ka Laan and Ka Bagong-tao were brutally murdered by fascist troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ka Joma (February 8, 1939 – December 16, 2022)



Ka Jose Maria “Ka Joma” Sison, the founding chairperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, passed away peacefully after a period of hospitalization in the Netherlands on December 16, 2022. Through his prolific writings, Ka Joma laid the theoretical groundwork for the Philippine revolution. He played a key role in fortifying the Party in all aspects, imparting knowledge and expertise to thousands of cadres from the Party’s Central Committee, central organs, and regional committees, who then spearheaded the Party’s expansion and consolidation nationwide.

In 1969, under Ka Joma’s leadership, the New People’s Army was established. He provided invaluable training and guidance to the initial cadre of Red commanders and fighters. In 1973, he also led the establishment of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), further advancing the cause of the people’s war, which rapidly spread across the country like wildfire.

Despite facing nine years of torture and imprisonment in the hands of the enemy, Ka Joma’s indomitable revolutionary spirit never wavered. He emerged from captivity, having withstood the brutality of fascist dungeons, and was eventually freed when the dictatorship of Marcos was overthrown by the surge of people’s struggle and armed resistance.

In 1987, Ka Joma was compelled to go into exile when his passport was revoked by then Cory Aquino’s government, preventing his return to the Philippines. For more than 35 years, he resided in a modest apartment in the Netherlands, accompanied by his family, friends, comrades and with the support of Filipino migrant workers, he steadfastly continued his commitment to guide the Philippine revolution ever forward.

Ka Fiel (December 31, 1951 – November 25, 2020)

Eugenia Magpantay Topacio, fondly called “Ka Fiel” by her comrades served as secretary general of the CPP. She was a former member of the Political Bureau and the Executive Council of the Central Committee and headed the Party’s National Education

Department. Ka Fiel played a leading role in the success of the Party’s 2nd Congress in 2016.

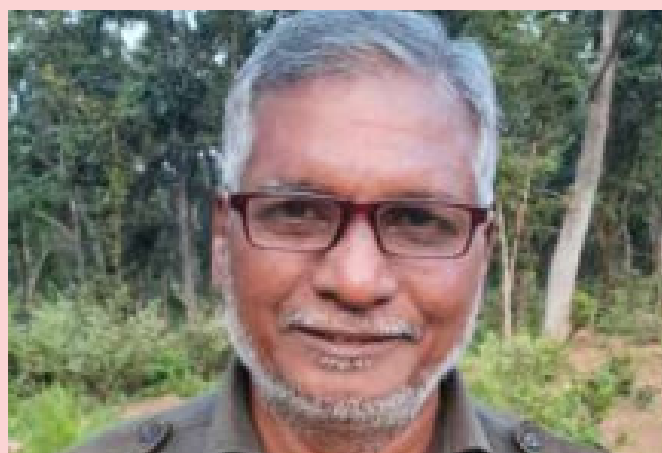


Ka Fiel was a youth activist during the Marcos fascist dictatorship. She joined the First Quarter Storm in 1970, and left school early to do full-time organizing work with the Labor Committee of Samahan ng Demokratikong Kabataan (SDK). She was first arrested in 1977 where she met her husband Agaton “Ka Boy” Topacio.

Ka Fiel as described by her comrades, was “an ardent student of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.” She tirelessly read and re-read the classic texts of the Great Communist Teachers and successfully applied the proletarian viewpoint, standpoint, and method in solving critical issues of the day. She was renowned for her ability to be self-critical and to constantly learn from her mistakes.

Ka Fiel retired from active service due to age and health limitations. She suffered from diabetes and severe arthritis which severely weakened her body. In the wee hours of November 25, 2020, policemen gunned down Ka Fiel together with her husband Agaton “Ka Boy” Topacio in their residence in Angono, Rizal.

Comrade Anand (1954 – May 31, 2023)



Comrade Katakam “Anand” Sudarshan was among the most prominent leaders of the Communist Party of India – CPI (Maoist), member of the Politburo Central Committee and is considered one of the most important guiding figures of India’s struggle for

national and social liberation. Comrade Anand was a teacher before he joined the Naxal movement in the 1970s.

Over the course of five decades, he demonstrated unwavering commitment to the cause of the new democratic revolution in India. Notably, Comrade Anand played a pioneering role in expanding the armed revolution in the Dandakaranya area. He earned renown for his exceptional expertise in guerilla tactics, inflicting heavy setbacks against Indian security forces.

For nearly two decades, he served as Secretary of the Central Regional Bureau and also contributed significantly to the revolutionary magazine, People's March, and helped elevate the Indian revolutionary struggle to international recognition and prominence. Comrade Anand's legacy remains an enduring symbol of dedication and determination in the pursuit of justice and liberation for the peoples of India. He died from a heart attack on May 31, 2022.

Comrade Kishenji (1955 – November 24, 2011)



Mallojula Koteswara Rao, affectionately known by comrades and the masses as Comrade Prahlad, Kishenji, and Bimal, held a significant leadership position in the Indian revolutionary movement. During his high school years in Peddapally town, he actively participated in the historic Telangana movement in 1969. Inspired by the influential Naxalbari and Srikakulam movements while pursuing his studies at SRR College in Karimnagar, he joined the revolutionary cause and became an active member of the Party starting in 1974.

From 1994 onwards, Comrade Kishenji focused on expanding and strengthening the revolutionary movement in Eastern and Northern parts of India, including West Bengal. As the secretary of the North Regional Bureau (NRB), he played a key role in leading Red fighters in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab states. Moreover, he actively participated in unity talks between the People's War Group and the MCCI, leading to the formation of a unified Central Committee and Politburo after the merger of the two parties in 2004. He also served as member of the Eastern Regional Bureau.

Comrade Kishenji's revolutionary journey spanned four decades, tragically ending on November 24, 2011,

when he was captured alive and subsequently killed by the fascist forces of the Indian ruling clique. His unwavering commitment and contributions to the Indian revolutionary case has left a profound impact on the movement and the people he served.

Comrade Vijaya (1979 – December 10, 2005):



Injamuri "Comrade Vijaya" Mariamma was born in Gogulapadu village, located in Gurajala mandal in Guntur district. She was the cherished and only daughter of her poor, Dalit parents who loved and cared for her deeply. Her village, Palnadu, was a focal point of the class struggle in India, witnessing fervent anti-feudal movements led by the peasant class in the 1990s. Despite having three police stations within an hour's distance, the villagers provided shelter for the guerilla fighters. Many individuals from the village eventually joined the armed resistance, including Comrade Vijaya.

Her exceptional military abilities earned her the role of B section commander in the newly formed platoon in 2004, marking the first People's Liberation Guerilla Army (PLGA) unit in Guntur district. Comrade Vijaya actively participated in various military campaigns conducted by the PLGA. Under the pen name "Hai Tsia," she authored numerous stories and poems, inspired by a heroine from a Chinese novel.

Leading squads with expertise, she coordinated successful organizational, political and military tasks for the Party. In 2005, she further advanced her position and became the Candravanka ACS. However, on December 10, 2005, during an encounter with state security forces, her partner, Comrade Sunil was martyred right before her eyes. Undeterred, she bravely fought the fascist Indian troops alone until succumbing to enemy bullets.

The martyrs of the people's war in India and the Philippines exemplify the spirit of self-sacrifice, determination, and courage in the face of adversity. Their sacrifices illuminate the path to social transformation, inspiring generations to rise against oppression and injustice. Their legacy extends beyond their local contexts, inspiring similar struggles for justice and freedom across the globe. May the sacrifices of the martyrs continue to fuel the flames of people's war in India, Philippines and other parts of the world. 🚩

In Praise of Martyrs

We praise to high heavens
And for all time
The heroes who die
In the hands of the enemy
In the battlefield
In the torture chamber
And against the wall.
In these bloody places,
The struggle is sharpest
And the meaning of one's life
Is tested in one crucial moment.
Courage to the last breath
Makes the martyr live beyond death.

Jose Maria Sison
9 December 1977



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