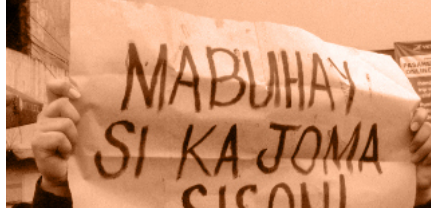


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OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024 **INTERNATIONAL**



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RECTIFY AND ADVANCE!

Celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines



Editorial

RECTIFY AND ADVANCE

**Celebrate the 56th Anniversary
of the Communist Party of the Philippines**

As the revolutionary movement celebrates the 56th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), all revolutionary forces are called on to reflect deeply on the lessons of the past and redouble efforts to overcome shortcoming and weaknesses in line with the Third Rectification Movement. The path of revolution is fraught with challenges, and only through criticism and self-criticism and resolute struggle can the people's democratic revolution advance to new greater heights.

The 56th anniversary of the Party comes amid the continuing economic stagnation of the global capitalist system, marked by intensifying contradictions among imperialist powers. US imperialism, in particular, is stoking wars and fomenting militarization in various fronts in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia to maintain its global hegemony. In the Philippines, the US-Marcos regime's corruption, political repression, and subservience to US warmongering interests deepen the economic and political crises. Workers, peasants, and other oppressed sectors bear the brunt of skyrocketing inflation, landlessness, and systemic wage depression. This dire situation fuels the Filipino people's determination to fight for their urgent demands, from wage increase and genuine agrarian reform to people's rights and national sovereignty.

Against this backdrop, the rectification movement firmly takes root within the revolutionary forces. While significant progress has been made, much remains to be done. The campaign of study and self-criticism, essential to rectifying errors and addressing ideological weaknesses, is steadily gaining ground, albeit in its early stages. Vigorous study campaigns throughout the year have encouraged units to revisit the teachings of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the invaluable writings of Prof. Jose Maria Sison, which illuminate the path of the Philippine revolution and continue to inspire movements and parties abroad.

The revolutionary movement remain meticulous in reviewing their summing-up documents to identify errors, shortcomings, and their ideological roots while also highlighting their strengths. Social investigation and class analysis have been pivotal in updating knowledge of the objective situation and the conditions of the masses and subjective forces. These efforts are complemented by the flourishing of mass campaigns. Amid the deepening crisis, the people are more receptive than ever to national democratic propaganda and organizing efforts. Activists and cadres are undertaking comprehensive mass work, building mass organizations, and mobilizing them in an all-rounded manner. Furthermore, it is encouraging to witness the growth of NDFP-allied organizations as more people join revolutionary mass organizations, contributing to the momentum of our revolutionary struggle.

Even as the New People's Army faced losses, the indomitable spirit of its Red fighters remain unbroken. Most guerilla units continue to persevere, demonstrating their capability to adapt quickly to changing conditions and escape enemy encirclement. The sacrifice and selflessness of the NPA's cadres and Red fighters are a testament to their lifelong commitment to serving the proletariat and advancing the people's war.

This anniversary is also a moment to honor the legacy of Ka Joma, the founding chairperson of the CPP, the NPA and the NDFP, and a guiding light of the Philippine revolution. Ka Joma's writings remain a treasure trove of MLM knowledge, offering incisive analyses and strategies that continue to guide not only the Philippine revolution but

also revolutionary movement and parties across the globe. We also pay tribute to the revolutionary martyrs and heroes of the Filipino people—those who led selfless lives in the service of the national democratic revolution. Their sacrifices remind us of the profound costs of the struggle and the boundless courage and commitment required to advance it.

Encouragingly, new blood and younger cadres are stepping into leading positions within the Party. The rectification movement has invigorated Party committees, making them more conscientious in guarding against liberalism, ultra-democracy, and bureaucratism—weaknesses that have undermined democratic centralism in the past. This new generation of cadres brings fresh energy and determination to the revolutionary cause, ensuring that the Party remains resilient and adaptive in the face of ever-changing challenges.

As we mark and celebrate the Party's 56th anniversary, we remind all revolutionary forces of the critical tasks at hand: to deepen and broaden the rectification movement, to strike deeper roots among the masses and lead their struggle against the puppet, bureaucrat-capitalist, and fascist US-Marcos regime, and advance the people's democratic revolution to greater heights.

The crisis of the ruling system creates fertile ground for revolution. As the contradictions within the semifeudal and semicolonial Philippine society sharpen, the task of the revolutionary forces is to seize this opportunity to further advance the struggle.

The road to victory is long and arduous, but the determination of the masses is boundless. With each battle fought and won, with each error identified and rectified, with each sacrifice honored and remembered, the national democratic revolution draws closer to victory. Indeed, as Ka Joma declared: the Filipino people's democratic revolution is invincible. 🚩

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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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How the revolution prevails despite attacks

(Original article in Filipino by Priscilla Guzman, Liberation Philippines, October 14, 2024 issue)

Ka (Comrade) Andie asked herself: "Shall I stay here or go home to Manila?" The question arose after experiencing a series of severe attacks and bombings by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in areas where her unit operated. Ka Andie was injured in one of these attacks. As before, her answer remains the same: "If others can cope with it, so can I."

Ka Andie is part of the regional propaganda and publication collective in the Visayas. She was a former professional from the National Capital Region who decided and continues to work in the countryside. Since then, whenever Ka Andie was faced with making a difficult decision the answer is always "If others can cope with it, so can I."

Having self-doubt is normal, Ka Andie said. "One definitely experiences doubts about one's self, or doubt about work or about one's ability. Pride will not keep you alive especially when pride prevents you from opening up to the collective. It is important to open up to the collective to find the proper solution to the issues at hand, even in terms of security."

But more than the decision of individuals to stay in the countryside or in the people's army, Ka Andie identified the key elements for the revolutionary movement to prevail despite the violent attacks of the regime of Marcos Jr. through the brutal AFP, the Philippine National Police and the NTF- ELCAC. And Ka Andie shared these key elements with Liberation Philippines.

1. Leadership of the Party in confronting the enemy

It is inevitable that some comrades will experience trauma and demoralization due to the intensity of enemy attacks. Experiencing bombings is no joke. At the same time, when the enemy operation is thoroughgoing and concentrated, extreme hunger sets in. Sometimes, we share coconuts for a week, or young leaves of sweet potatoes, or sweet potato instead of rice and the dish is sweet potato tops.

But no matter the hardships experienced by the comrades, these are quickly overcome if the Party leads the people's army and the masses well. In our experience, this was decisive in enabling revolutionaries to resolutely face the attacks of the reactionary state. The Party maintains revolutionary optimism among the comrades, the army and the masses.

The Party takes the lead in continuously assessing, identifying weaknesses and strengths in the work, in responding to situations faced, and deriving lessons for new plans and standard operational procedures or SOPs. Thus, destructive attacks are prevented.

The enemy does not attack all the time. When the environment is "quiet", we can launch a crash course, for example, the Basic Party Course (BKP). Educational and political work continue. But in the barrios, it does not become "quiet" because the reactionary military is involved in the counterrevolutionary program, the Retooled Community Support Program or RCSP. Thus, there is a need to adjust the mode of action.

We do political work among the people's army and the masses weekly. There are discussion groups (DGs) that are different from educational work. In the DGs, we discuss the national situation, updates on the mass movement, experiences of other countries when they were at war like in Vietnam. Videos—foreign experiences and urban actions posted on social media—are a big help in raising the troops' morale. Here they see the actions of other sectors that also inspire the NPA's advances in armed struggle.

Vulnerabilities of enemy equipment such as drones, Hermes, Tucano and FA50 are also being studied. Even the difference in the sound of airplanes, helicopters and drones is also studied by the masses so that they are not easily startled.

The enemy's mantra that guerrilla fronts no longer exist is fake news. After the bombing, we were even able to

celebrate the anniversary of the Party. There was a large army formation. We were able to eat spaghetti and, most important, we paid tribute to the martyrs of the revolution.

Under the leadership of the Party, the various aspects of resistance become more solid. The determination of the forces and the masses are strengthened. Without the leadership of the Party, resistance is weakened.

2. The partnership of the people's army and the masses

There are times it seems like we are playing patintero (a children's game of tag) with the enemy forces. There was even an incident where many enemy columns collided with our position.

The masses then become an integral part of the maneuver of our army units and of other comrades. The masses come to the rescue of the comrades. With their help, the people's army is able to maneuver and break through many enemy columns. Because they know every corner of the forest, the marks from trees and plants, even the rocks and space between trees that can be used to slip through. They know the forest well.

Cooperation between the masses and the army is truly important. The army's skill in military work and the masses' natural knowledge of the terrain is a powerful combination for advancing the armed struggle. This has been proven time and again. In such situations, I entrust my life completely to the masses and the people's army. That's a lesson in humility.

You really cannot compare the knowledge of the petty bourgeois to the knowledge of the masses, of the peasants. It is important to help each other. There is much more to learn. Most of the petty bourgeois people we know are not practical if placed in the masses' situation. The petty bourgeois is good at laying out the work system, administration. So, a combination of each other's skills is needed. It's just that, you won't see this if you are arrogant towards the masses.

3. Support of the masses

Comrades can still depend on the masses when they have nothing left to eat. When their movement in the village is constrained because of the presence of enemy soldiers, there is an understanding between the masses and the comrades that the comrades could get food from the fields of the masses. The masses also help in planting and storing food, this is part of the practice of the war economy in the countryside.

The masses are also on war footing every day. There is relief in guarding and scouting duties — whether male or female.

But truth be told, such relation is the result of a deep link between the masses and the revolutionary movement. After all, they are not different. The masses and the people's army and comrades are one. Every family, sometimes even an entire clan, has a comrade or member of the people's army in the area, not just one or two.



The successes in the agrarian revolution launched by the Party, the New People's Army, and the revolutionary mass organizations are one of the reasons why the revolutionary movement is deeply rooted in the ranks of the masses. Therefore, it is not surprising that the masses in the barrios automatically support the NPA and the comrades.

As long as the New People's Army is on their side, the fighting spirit of the masses continues.

4. Third rectification movement

For me, this is the height of the humility of the revolutionary movement led by the Party—criticizing one's own mistakes, even in public.

We have also committed some of the errors mentioned in the rectification movement—like having a favorite place to go to or to hang out. These are the villages we are used to and feel at home in.

If this is the case only a limited number of people are mobilized compared to a bigger number if more villages are reached when making the rounds of the area. The pond becomes narrow and other areas are neglected.

This is one reason for the easy surveillance by the enemy especially if a spy is planted in the barrio, people who can penetrate the base and spy on the movement of the people's army and comrades. We should really be mobile to make the rounds of different areas where the masses are. The enemy cannot attack all areas at a given time so it is not impossible to circumvent them.

We also committed the error of conservatism. For example, the reluctance to attack the enemy because we immediately think of its counterattack.

These were already observed even before the Third Rectification Movement was formally launched. A rectification movement was first launched in the region in 2016, but it was not sustained so the losses continued. In 2018, almost at the same time as the 50th anniversary of the Party, there was a resolution to correct the verticalization of the army and improve intensive guerrilla warfare.

The rectification movement is an important measure to identify the strengths and weaknesses in advancing the people's war. It is an important weapon to repel enemy attacks.



5. Individual rectification and continuation of the revolution

My adjustment in the countryside was not easy. It is difficult for a petty bourgeois to sleep in a hammock, or a makeshift hut when camping, especially if they are used to air conditioning, soft bed, if they are used to a comfortable life in the city.

In the countryside, I learned the true meaning of humility. Always reminding myself that I am not enough. It is also true that in the countryside you are ignorant of many things. I found out that I don't know much about the world. In the beginning, I didn't even know how to start a fire. I will go hungry even if I knew how to cook.

From the very start, and especially now, I realized that it is necessary to be a good student—not only in formal studies but also in what is happening in your surroundings so that the response to the situation is the right one and knowing what could be done. Even in matters pertaining to security, loopholes need to be studied.

All that is terrifying becomes less scary if objectified. Just apply dialectical materialism, what we have learned from the Basic Party Course. Not studying, not reading and asking questions why we are here is unacceptable.

My husband, he keeps going back to the question of why he is in the people's army, how heavy are personal

problems when compared to the situation of the masses and how they suffer from the reactionary military. This is where we get our strength to continue.

It is only natural to think of leaving or giving up. But the collective is there to listen to your reservations and see what must be done, what are doable. In our experience, it is the collective that will help process what you are feeling, your doubts, weaknesses. The members of your collective would still be the ones that will help you correct these weaknesses. Once again, humility is needed in such a process – openness in what must be rectified and how to overcome these weaknesses. After the bombings we have experienced, it was still the collective that helped in our psychological and mental recovery.

Part of being open to individual feelings and problems is also being open to ideological struggle, healthy ideological struggle, to bring out what is wrong and correct from actions taken or ideas advocated. This could be heavy for others so there is a need to lay down your views to help understand things without being insulting. This is where strong unity will come from and a more steadfast Party will arise to further advance the revolution.

We do all these sacrifices for the masses and the revolution. So we must think of where and how we could support the revolution for it is the right thing to do. 📌



JASIG VIOLATIONS AND GRP WAR CRIMES SUBVERT THE ESSENCE OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

by Jose Emilio Jacinto III

One year ago in November 2023, the GRP and the NDFP Peace Panels met again after a long hiatus in the peace negotiations, and agreed in a joint statement signed in Oslo, Norway “to a principled and peaceful resolution of the armed conflict” and resolving the roots of the civil war, the very core of why the NDFP is determined to resume peace negotiations with the GRP.

A nationwide civil war exists between the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) and the people’s democratic government of workers and peasants and all the revolutionary forces and people represented by the NDFP (National Democratic Front of the Philippines). And for the NDFP, the determined quest for a just and lasting peace and addressing the roots of the armed conflict is through a people’s democratic revolution that includes other arenas of struggle such as peace negotiations.

Since the formal peace talks began in 1986 between the NDFP and the GRP, negotiations have produced several significant and fundamental agreements such as the Hague Joint Declaration, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAHRIHL) and have set the substantive agenda and method of negotiations and agreement.

The on-and-off character of the peace talks, however, comes from the GRP’s perverse notion of ending the armed conflict without resolving its roots and merely pushing for the surrender and military defeat of the revolutionary movement.

Appallingly, despite the determination of the NDFP in pursuing peace talks, the GRP has been pushing it again to the brink of collapse with the continued attacks on NDFP peace consultants and violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

A statement last October 28 signed by NDFP Peace Panel chairperson Julieta De Lima, strongly denounced the recent arrests and killing by the GRP of NDFP peace consultants, who are protected by JASIG, as deliberately creating hostile conditions for peace talks.

Among those recently arrested were Simeon Naogsan, Porferio Tuna, and Wigberto Villarico in November 2024. The most recent case of a peace consultant’s murder was Ariel Arbitrario, killed alongside two other hors de combat in Cagayan, northern Philippines, on September 11, 2024. Another ailing peace consultant, Tomas Dominado, from Panay Island has been arrested and detained last December 10, while seeking urgent medical treatment.

Many other revolutionaries and NPA Red Fighters who have become “hors de combat” (unable to fight, which under the 1949 Geneva Conventions are protected persons) were summarily executed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in grave violation of such Convention to which the GRP and the NPA have both subscribed to. The Rules of War (or IHL) prescribes what can and cannot be done during an armed conflict.

Demonstrating no respect for IHL, the GRP continues to commit war crimes unabated with its brutal rampage of fascism and militarization in the countryside victimizing peasants and civilians, despite its supposed declaration to a “peaceful resolution” of the armed conflict.

De Lima stressed that the repeated arrests, torture, and killings of NDFP consultants under Marcos Jr. in the past years, despite their protected status under JASIG, represent a deliberate act of bad faith by the GRP. The GRP’s actions, she emphasized, undermine the peace process and violates the basic principles of mutual respect and accountability. “These consultants have dedicated their lives to representing the Filipino people’s interests and are integral in the resumption of peace negotiations. Their unlawful arrests serve only to foster growing distrust and heightened tensions at a time when space for dialogue is critical,” De Lima said.

“JASIG explicitly guarantees safety and immunity for both GRP and NDFP consultants, resource persons, and staff involved in the peace negotiations, protecting them from arrest and persecution. By repeatedly violating these protections, the GRP has disregarded its own commitments and continues to push the ongoing talks to the brink of collapse. It is unacceptable that while the GRP claims to pursue peace, it simultaneously targets and imprisons

those working to achieve it,” the NDFP Peace Panel stressed.

Several NDFP peace consultants who have previously been arrested and who remains imprisoned are Vicente Ladlad, Adelberto Silva, Loida Magpatoc, Renante Gamara and Frank Fernandez.

In August 2022, the Marcos Jr. regime with the help and participation of US operatives, abducted, tortured and murdered key NDFP Peace Panel member Benito Tiamzon and consultant Wilma Austria together with eight other revolutionaries. Earlier, NDFP peace consultants Randy Malayao, Randall Echanis, Rogelio Posadas, Ericson Acosta and Pedro Codaste have been tortured and murdered by fascist state forces.


These grave violations by the GRP of peace agreements, JASIG in particular, and of IHL, demonstrate the GRP's complete lack of respect for the lives and freedoms of those working for a just resolution to the armed conflict.

De Lima emphasized that, despite the violations and attacks by the GRP, the NDFP is firmly committed to pursue the realization of the main content of the

national democratic revolution, which is agrarian revolution. The revolutionary movement conducts campaigns for the minimum demand of land rent reduction to the maximum of confiscation of land for free distribution to the landless tenants in a particular area.

In the midst of the grave economic and social suffering of the people as a result of neoliberal policies and the onslaught of natural and imperialist-instigated disasters, the continuation of the peace talks becomes even more urgent. Tackling urgent social and economic issues and coming up with a common comprehensive agreement on these issues have thus, become imperative.

“It is our goal that the peace negotiations would result in comprehensive agreements on social, economic, political and constitutional reforms and provide the solution to problems which have long burdened the Filipino people,” De Lima reiterated.

It is therefore up to the GRP, notwithstanding its war crimes, to put on track the peace negotiations by either respecting and restoring “the very foundation of trust and dialogue”, or create more hostile conditions that can lead to the collapse of the negotiations. 





US-MARCOS REGIME GUILTY OF UNSPEAKABLE ATROCITIES

By Ana Rosario

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), NTF-ELCAC and paramilitary forces under the command of US-Marcos Jr. regime are guilty of unspeakable brutality, cruelty and extreme violence against the Filipino people especially against the peasant masses in the countryside. Bombings, murder, torture, eviction, military occupation, arson, landgrabbing, displacements, abduction, rape and illegal arrest and detention are standard military procedures to implement the enemy's state terrorism. And the list goes on and on. State fascism continues unabated.

60 bombings and shelling under the US-Marcos II regime

AFP's aerial bombings do not distinguish between military and civilian targets and constitute a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.

Currently, the AFP reportedly has 224 fighter jets being used in indiscriminate bombings of forests and civilian communities in the AFP's obsession to "crush" the revolutionary movement.

Ang Bayan recorded at least 60 cases of bombing, shelling and strafing from July 2022 to June 2024.

Thirty-two of these were aerial bombings including at least four large bombs using FA-50s, Super Tucanos and attack helicopters.

The highest number of bombings and strafings were recorded in Bukidnon, followed by Northern Samar, Abra, Kalinga, Cagayan and Aurora. There were also bombings in Oriental Mindoro, Western Samar, Misamis Oriental, Apayao, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Quezon and Camarines Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, Agusan del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Negros Oriental, Masbate and Samar.

In all cases, bombings were accompanied by shelling and extensive and prolonged military combat operations that are marked by widespread abuses and violations of rights of civilians.

Majority of the bombs dropped by the AFP missed their targets and instead hit farms, mountain communities and fields near civilian population.

Landgrabbing main cause of attacks on farmers and indigenous peoples

Most often the atrocities committed by the reactionary forces are done to satisfy the greed of

big landowners and big businesses for the peasants and indigenous peoples' land. The compradors and big landlords use the AFP, PNP and paramilitary thugs to evict the masses and grab their lands.

The terrorist campaign of repression by the US-Marcos Jr. regime in collusion with corporate and big landlords against the rural peasant masses continues to intensify. In recent weeks, cases of killings of farmers in Masbate, arrests in Palawan, and land grabbing and eviction in Bataan, Cavite, Laguna, Cebu, and Iloilo have been recorded.

It is ironic that even during the observation last October of farmers and indigenous people's month, attacks upon their rights continued unabated. An organizer was also abducted in Laguna and presented as a "surrenderee." The reactionary forces of the AFP and PNP act as defenders and enforcers of the landgrabbing scheme of the Almedas, Gamboas, Villars and Yulos - among the country's big compradors and landlords.

In Occidental Mindoro, police and military forces arrested 29 Mangyan Iraya residents of Hacienda Almeda in Abra de Ilog last October 18, including 17 elderly and 12 minors. Colluding with Pieceland Corporation, the Almeda family has been trying to seize the hacienda. This is not the first time that the indigenous people are violently driven away from their land.

In Laguna, the AFP's 203rd IB abducted peasant organizer Fhobie Matias of the Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan, on September 28 in Calamba City. Matias was meeting with Laguna farmers when abducted. After nearly two weeks, the 203rd IB announced that they have taken custody of Matias, claiming that she had surrendered.

State forces and private guards harassed and again attempted to evict residents and farmers in Barangay Viga, Angadanan, Isabela. The Gamboa family is grabbing 23.6 hectares of land that for 50 years has been tilled and inhabited by farmers who are members of the Panagkaykaysa ti Mannalon a Maag-agawan a Daga (Pumalag). The town police chief and administrator of Angadanan protecting the Gamboas interest ordered the private guards to confiscate and burn the farmers' placards and streamers during a protest. A clash ensued and three farmers were arrested. The private guards threatened to destroy the farmers' crops.

Thugs of Hacienda Borromeo repeatedly fired at the farmers of Barangay Pandacan, Pinamungahan, Cebu on September 23 during a protest. The members of Baybay II Farmers Association are opposing their eviction. They have been tilling the land for several generations.

In Iloilo, nine farming families in Barangay San Jose, San Miguel were forcibly evicted from their homes on October 2 by Communities Iloilo Inc, a subsidiary of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc, owned by the Villar family. The Villars are notorious for grabbing agricultural lands and converting them into subdivisions, which exempts the land from the the reactionary land reform program.

In Laguna, peasant residents of Barangay Casile, Cabuyao protested against the fencing of the 24-hectare land in the barangay on September 23 by the Emirates Security Agency and Santa Rosa Realty Development Corporation, owned by the Yulos. The fencing and threats from the guards prevented the farmers from tending to their crops. The Yulo family is one of the largest landowners in the province.

In Cavite, over 100 police and military personnel under the Task Force Ugnay of the 202nd IB-AFP again attacked and attempted to enter Lupang Ramos in Dasmariñas, Cavite on September 26. One month prior to this, state forces have repeatedly attacked the farm to break the unity of the farmers.

Brutality against women

Soldiers of the 16th IB-AFP raped at least three women in the province of Camarines Norte in recent months. Last September a woman was raped by a soldier of the 16th IB while two others served as lookouts. They also robbed the woman of PHP2,000 after committing their dastardly crime. In October, elements of the same battalion raped a student from Barangay Daguit while she was on the way to school. Forces of the 16th IB have a history of committing rape against women since it was first deployed in the province.

Soldiers stationed in different areas also engage in decadent activities such as drinking and public disturbance when they get drunk. They "befriend" and flirt with residents, even married women and minors. A girl was threatened when she refused courtship. Some who became pregnant, including minors, are simply abandoned when the involved soldiers are transferred to another detachment.

They target the children of recognized leaders of indigenous communities.

Terrorism financing is the name of their game

Charges of "terrorism financing" have been filed against indigenous small business owner Marcylyn Pilala, a resident of Barangay Gueday, Besao, Mountain Province. Pilala, a store owner, is being charged for providing food, medicine, and other supplies to the New People's Army. A similar case was filed against Alaiza Lemita, sister of an activist killed by the military during the March 7, 2021 Bloody Sunday. Lenville Salvador, former chairperson of the development organization Ilocos Center for Research, Empowerment and Development, was also charged with "terrorism financing."

In Barangay Mapalacsiao, Tarlac City, four suspected military agents stormed the residence of Francisco Dizon, chairperson of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita, on

October 18. Police and the 31st MIB also blocked one of the vehicles used by farmers from Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac City on October 18. The farmers were on their way to a gathering to commemorate the national peasant month. Leaders of mass organization, Mimi Doringo, Manibela's Mar Valbuena and Regie Manlapig, Piston's Mody Floranda and Ruben Baylon, were charged with violating BP 880 or Public Assembly for organizing a strike and protest.

Killings, harassments and sowing terror

Soldiers of the 2nd IB killed two farmers in Purok 3, Barangay Simawa, Uson in Masbate on September 26. The victims, Roger Clores and Ronnel Abril, were the 34th and 35th victims of the 2nd IB's killing spree in the province. The village-folk refuted the military's report that the two victims were killed in an encounter.

Meanwhile, the 62nd IB's series of human rights abuses in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental was



recorded. On November 5, 16 soldiers entered the home of Loring Geronimo in Sityo Ponong, Barangay Trinidad. They asked for her husband and child, pointed high-caliber guns at her and her grandson, and subjected the whole family to brutal interrogation.

On the same day, soldiers also illegally entered the home of Helen Bardok in Barangay Binobohan without permission while she was at work. On November 8, 62nd IB soldiers mauled 38-year-old farmer Boyet Ospar in Sityo Manlibod, Barangay Trinidad.

The AFP's Illegal occupation and encampment in schools in barangays in Guihulngan City, Vallehermoso, and Canlaon were also reported. Military encampment in civilian schools is a serious violation of international humanitarian law.

On September 9, state forces set up checkpoints at the entry to the Lupang Ramos in Dasmariñas City. The following day, 50 military and police elements forcibly entered the community on the pretext of inspecting cases of "African Swine Fever". The community was again raided on September 17. On September 9, four police cars parked for several hours before Lupang Tartaria. It was accompanied by a 6x6 truck of soldiers with three roof-mounted guns, and three V150 military tanks.

Fascist military, police and paramilitary forces relentlessly sow terror and violate the rights of

minorities and the downtrodden masses in the barangays and communities of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur. Since 2018, the 3rd Special Forces Battalion (SFB) and their lackey CAFGU units forcibly established an additional 15 detachments in Andap Valley Complex (AVC) communities in Surigao del Sur. Four of these communities are in Barangay Diatagon in Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

Meanwhile, the 75th IB established a total of 11 detachments-- three in Barangay Mahaba in Marihatag, two each in the barangays of Buhisan and Hanipaan in San Agustin town, two in Barangay Bolhoon, one in Barangay Libas in San Miguel, and one in Barangay Carasan in Tago. The 3rd SFB built four detachments at the border of Surigao del Sur and Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. Two of these are in Barangay Mabuhay, and one each in the barangays of Libertad and San Lorenzo.

The atrocities and grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated by the reactionary forces of the US-Marcos II regime continue unabated. But the Filipino masses, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army are courageous and resolute in their fight against the horrible atrocities of the state and the ruling classes. They are determined to persevere in advancing people's war to free them from the oppression and exploitation of the present social system. And they will be victorious! [Source: Ang Bayan] 🚫





Ka Joma and the legacy of Kabataang Makabayan

By Ricardo Lozano

As the Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth, KM) marks its 60th anniversary this year, its enduring legacy to the Philippine national democratic revolution stands as a testament to the historic role of the Filipino youth in social change. Founded on November 30, 1964, on the birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio (a foremost proletarian hero who led the revolution against Spanish colonialism), by Prof. Jose Maria Sison, KM became a pivotal force in uniting the youth and other sectors and classes in the fight against the Marcos fascist dictatorship in the 1970s.

In his founding speech for the KM, Ka Joma, then a young and fiery activist, declared, “it is the chief task of the Filipino youth to resume and complete the unfinished revolution under the banner of national democracy, to expose and oppose the national and social iniquities caused by US imperialism and its local reactionary allies.” This challenge continues to reverberate across generations of activists and revolutionaries, inspiring countless youth to take up the

struggle against oppression and exploitation. Today, Ka Joma’s teachings to the youth continue to ignite the fervor of a new generation committed to carrying forward the movement for national and social liberation.

KM was born during a period of political turbulence and widespread social unrest. Ka Joma reminds us that “KM did not drop from the sky. It emerged in response to the extreme reaction and rabid anti-communism that followed the defeat of the old people’s army and the armed revolutionary movement of the people in the early 1950s. It arose from the concrete conditions of sharpening oppression and exploitation of the Filipino youth and people from the early 1960s onwards.”

Under Ka Joma’s leadership, KM became the first comprehensive youth organization to articulate the call for national democracy and link it to the broader anti-imperialist, anti-fascist and anti-feudal struggles. By mobilizing students, workers, peasants and young

professionals, KM solidified its role as the militant vanguard of the Filipino youth.

From the First Quarter Storm of the 1970s to its resistance against martial law and successive reactionary regimes in subsequent decades, KM has consistently demonstrated courage and resolve. Despite repression, its spirit has never been extinguished. It remains a symbol of resilience, illustrating the capacity of the youth to shape history.

The conditions today are ripe for the youth to continue their vital task in arousing, organizing, and mobilizing the Filipino masses. Economic inequality, political repression, and widespread landlessness provide fertile ground for mass resistance. These conditions empower the youth to invigorate the national democratic struggle and bring more sectors into the struggle for genuine change.

Further, the youth must actively engage in cultural revolution to rectify errors and advance boldly their struggle. The youth must engage in a profound study movement to revisit the lessons of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Equally important is the need for the youth to link up with the toiling masses of workers and peasants, who remain the backbone of the revolutionary movement. By integrating with these exploited classes, the youth can help amplify their struggles and channel their collective power toward genuine social liberation.

By immersing themselves in the struggles of workers, peasants and other exploited classes, the revolutionary youth can overcome the petty-bourgeois tendencies that often surface within their ranks. Integration with the toiling masses fosters humility and revolutionary discipline ensuring that the revolutionary movement remains rooted in the masses' collective power and wisdom to



KALAYAAN

Kabataang Makabayan Founded

Tañada Exhorts Youth To Continue Revolution

KM National Council Elects Officers

The First National Congress of Kabataang Makabayan ratified its Constitution and elected its leadership.

...ish a periodical to be called Kalayaan, after the official organ of the Katiwunan, in order to crystallize discussion.

...ing speech, Jose Ma...

The KM National Council unanimously elected as chairman Jose Ma. Sison who garnered the highest number of votes among the fifteen members of the Council elected in the First National Congress.

The other executive officers elected in the National Council were Ricardo ... vice-chairman; R...

transform society. It also serves as a means to repudiate reactionary and individualistic influences, advancing a culture of selflessness, while steeling their commitment and collective action.

Ka Joma in one of his many messages to the youth emphasized, “for the youth to know so much is for them to act more effectively and cooperate more thoroughly on the side of progress in the historical process of change.” This call to action remains a guiding light for young activists and revolutionaries to dismantle systems of oppression and build a better future.

As the Filipino masses continue to grapple with chronic crises and systemic inequalities, landlessness and low wages, KM’s mission resonates more than ever to the Filipino youth today. The youth, armed with the lessons of the past and the determination to shape the future, are poised to fulfill their historic role in the revolutionary struggle against imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism and feudalism.

The 60th anniversary of Kabataang Makabayan is not merely a celebration of its past but a reaffirmation of its commitment to the Filipino people’s aspirations. It reminds us that the fight for genuine democracy and liberation is far from over and that the youth’s energy, creativity, and courage will always play a crucial role in the victory of the revolution. As Ka Joma’s enduring words remind us: “Dare to struggle, dare to win.” 🚩



over \$2 billion in 1970 to over \$87 billion, affirming its dependence on foreign loans to sustain the backward import-dependent and export-oriented economy.

By all indications, the reactionary ruling class rigs every election to preserve its power. It controls the reactionary armed forces, the Commission on Elections (Comelec), and the private company in charge of the electronic vote count. In the 2022 elections, for example, IT communications experts monitoring how election results are transmitted just a few minutes after the election closed spotted a transmission of millions of votes for a single candidate coming from a local IP address and not through the designated telcos. A local IP address indicates that the transmitter is in the same network, a clear indication of electronic cheating.

In a semicolonial and semifeudal society, it is impossible for a truly democratic and fair elections to happen. No reactionary election in the history of Philippine society has ever been democratic and fair contrary to the narrative of “free and fair elections” perpetuated by the ruling classes and their representatives in the reactionary state. They immediately and systematically exclude electoral candidates who are genuine representatives of the workers and peasants; those who do not have the resources to compete with massively funded campaigns of the elite class enriched by their “guns, goons and gold.” Through the ruling class control of the Comelec, they make it difficult for progressive partylists to participate while partylists sponsored by political dynasties are allowed free rein.

During reactionary elections, the local ruling class refines its fraudulent machinery, with the Comelec

playing a key role. This manipulation ensures the dominance of the ruling political party, minimizes the influence of political opposition candidates, and marginalizes or renders insignificant the voices of progressive candidates. The introduction of computerized and automated vote counting has further intensified, expanded, and worsened these fraudulent practices. This system lacks the essential principles of checks and balances, leaving no transparent mechanisms to trace or verify manipulated votes. As a result, it becomes nearly impossible to detect and prove the occurrence of electoral fraud, leaving a trail devoid of evidence.

The Party, the people's army, and the underground organizations allied with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) do not participate in reactionary elections. This is not merely because the ruling state has outlawed the Party and its revolutionary organizations, but primarily because revolution is the only solution to the fundamental problems of Philippine society.

The repeated failure of elections to bring about a radical change in the Philippines highlights the need for a fundamental overhaul of the rotting socioeconomic and political system. Radical change requires addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality, including land reform and national industrialization. It also necessitates dismantling the structures of elite domination and ensuring that political power is genuinely representative of and accountable to the people. Without these changes, elections will remain useless, offering the illusion of democracy while perpetuating the same oppressive and reactionary rule. 🚩



Liberation will not come from the ballot box

By Ricardo Lozano

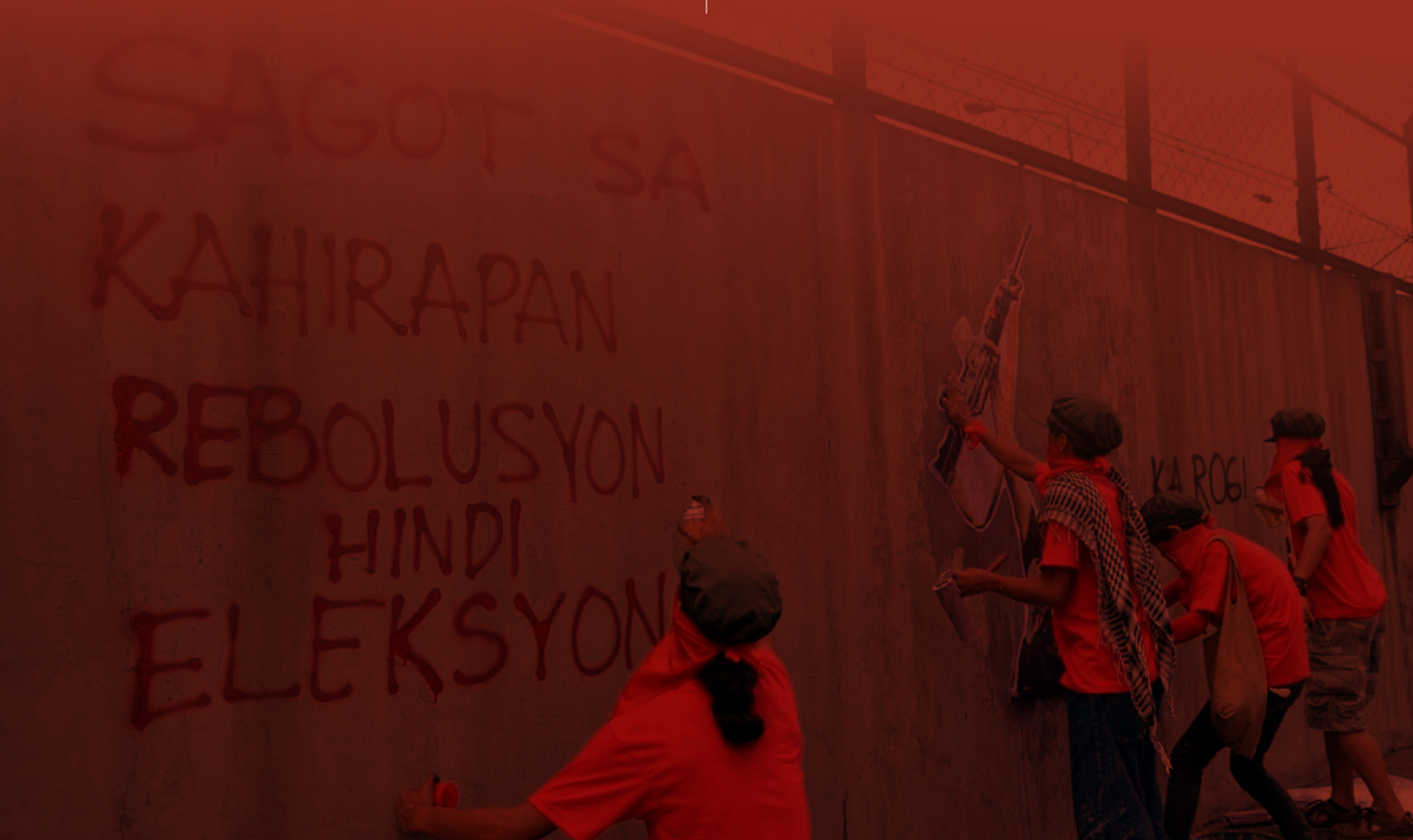
The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) of the reactionary Philippine state has recently introduced the Full Automation System with Transparency Count/Audit (FASTRAC), claiming it will modernize the electoral process in the country for the upcoming 2025 mid-term elections. A closer examination reveals that this system is less about transparency and more about perpetuating foreign and elite control over the country's election results.

The FASTRAC system permits foreign and private corporations to intervene in and control critical aspects of the electoral process. By outsourcing election management to entities with no accountability to the Filipino people, the reactionary state has opened the door for intensified electoral cheating. History has shown that when corporations hold the reins, their technology is prone to manipulation, serving the interests of their clients rather than the voting population.

Since being enacted in 1998, the Automated Election System (AES) law has cemented US imperialist influence over the Philippine elections. Since its implementation,

the US has controlled the supply, administration and oversight of the technology used in the elections.

The FASTRAC system is riddled with potential vulnerabilities to fraud at every stage of the process, starting with the proprietary nature of the codes used, which prevents public scrutiny, to the transmission of results, where tampering can occur through hacking, interception, or manipulation, compounded by the lack of transparency and auditable paper trails that make it nearly impossible to verify the integrity of the final count. For instance, the US-Marcos regime has chosen Miru Systems Co. Ltd., a South Korean company with known ties to US imperialism, to supply the technology for the 2025 elections under a Php18 billion (about 307 million USD) contract. Adding to this, the COMELEC has engaged i-One Resources with a Php1.4 billion (about 23 million USD) contract to manage the electronic transmission of electoral results using technology used by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other US military institutions.





This partnership raises red flags. In 2018, Miru Systems played a controversial role in Iraq's national elections, where 70% of its machines experienced technical failures, leading to widespread public distrust. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Miru's systems were involved in numerous irregularities, further eroding confidence in the electoral process. These precedents expose Miru's vulnerabilities and the potential for such flaws to be exploited in the Philippines, further manipulating the results of the upcoming elections.

The introduction of FASTrAC does little to alleviate the persistent commission of electoral fraud. Despite its promises of transparency, the technology and methodology remain opaque, replicating the same flaws as seen in previous automated elections. The secrecy surrounding the proprietary systems ensures that the electoral counting system remains a black box, inaccessible for independent audits or scrutiny.

The rise of widespread disinformation further exacerbates the situation. Traditional politicians and political dynasties have weaponized fake news and online trolls to spread disinformation, discredit the progressive opposition and manipulate public opinion. By spreading lies and half-truths, they bolster their position in the polls while undermining the credibility of their opponents and of progressive candidates.

It is evident that the Philippine electoral system cannot serve as a vehicle neither for regime nor social change.

Indeed, no genuinely democratic elections can ever take place in a semicolonial and semifeudal society. So long as US imperialism and its local feudal and comprador agents control the political and economic system, they ensure that elections remain tools for the ruling classes to maintain their power. For the Filipino masses, revolution remains the only viable recourse to genuine change.

The organs of political power established by the revolutionary movement in the countryside offer a stark contrast to the corrupt and violent practices of reactionary elections. Guided by the policy of three-thirds (3/3) – one third representation each from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the basic masses, and other progressive sectors – this system of representation ensures democratic participation and accountability. Elections within these revolutionary structures are peaceful, orderly, and devoid of fraud or intimidation. Leaders are chosen based on their commitment to serve the people, not through wealth or coercion.

As the 2025 mid-term elections approach, the Filipino people must remain vigilant against the machinations of the US-Marcos regime. Beyond resistance to electoral fraud, the revolutionary movement must continue building organs of political power in the countryside in recognition of the fact that liberation will not come from the ballot box but from the collective strength of the masses.





FFPS: Full speed ahead in support of the Filipino people's revolutionary struggle

Since its founding on April 24, 2021, the 48th anniversary of the founding of the NDFP (National Democratic Front of the Philippines), the Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) has significantly forged ahead in their solidarity for the Filipino people.

Waging the banner of revolutionary solidarity, the FFPS has since conducted countless global-wide solidarity actions, activities and information meetings to highlight support for the Filipino people's struggle for liberation and the building of a true people's democratic government and promote and uphold the social welfare of the oppressed and exploited classes.

It has organized and mobilized grassroots solidarity groups and formations across the globe and coordinated campaigns on crucial issues in the Philippine such as US domination of the politics and economy, feudal oppression, fascism by state forces especially among Filipino peasants and bureaucratic corruption. FFPS has strongly linked and coordinated with other anti-imperialist, anti-war, climate activists and Palestinian solidarity groups.

Apart from its determined campaign on human rights in the Philippines and strong support for the peace negotiations, its other important campaign includes the delisting of the CPP, NPA, NDFP and NDFP chief international representative Luis Jalandoni from the so-called terrorist list of the US, Europe and Australia.

Education work among the grassroots organizations has deeply explained the justness of the revolution and resistance to an oppressive system as a fundamental right to self-determination.

In May 2024, the FFPS co-convened in Brussels, Belgium the International People's Tribunal, whose judges handed a unanimous guilty verdict against GRP President Marcos Jr., former GRP President Rodrigo Duterte, the government of the Republic of the Philippines, US President Biden, and the government of the United States guilty of war crimes and violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Member organizations have been established in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and several countries in Europe such as in the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, France, Germany, and the UK.

On December 10, International Human Rights Day, the FFPS called for the broadening and deepening of international solidarity with the NDFP against fascist attacks on their peace consultants and the Filipino people by the US-Marcos Jr. regime.

For over 50 years the NDFP has united the Filipino people in their revolutionary struggle for a just and lasting peace by resolving the basic problems of the Philippine society – US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. In a desperate attempt to instill fear and crush all forms of dissent, the Marcos Jr. regime has unleashed a brutal war against the Filipino people and continuously undermines the peace negotiations by illegally arresting, abducting, torturing and killing NDFP peace consultants.

FFPS said: The Filipino people's demands are clear: genuine agrarian reform, social change, the abolition of unjust treaties with foreign powers, the expulsion of US military bases, and a program for national industrialization and genuine development. It is precisely the refusal of the US-backed Marcos Jr. regime – and those before it – to

sincerely address these demands that has driven the Filipino people to revolution.

In November, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Filipino proletarian revolutionary Andres Bonifacio and the 60th founding anniversary of the Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth, KM), the FFPS launched globally coordinated activities in support of the NDFP.

Protest demonstrations, rallies, cultural programs, and study sessions were conducted to condemn the US-Marcos regime, and US imperialist domination of and repression in the Philippines highlighted these actions to put further spotlight on the ongoing just revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people for genuine freedom, democracy, social justice and peace, and called for a more vigorous campaign against fascist attacks on the Filipino people.

The solidarity activities took place in the United States, Canada, Netherlands, and Hong Kong.

Robert Reid, chairperson of the FFPS stressed that the continuous attacks perpetrated by the GRP on the NDFP and the people are futile against a people driven by the

profound injustices perpetrated by US foreign domination, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, and a longing for justice and liberation.

“The revolutionary resolve of the Filipino people remains firm and our solidarity for their struggle also remains firm,” emphasized Reid.

“Despite the violent crimes of the US-Marcos regime, the Filipino people are fighting back! The NDFP continues to unite the Filipino people to fight for genuine national liberation and democracy, and has demonstrated to the international community not only the necessity and justness of the national democratic revolution in the Philippines, but that armed struggle is a legitimate exertion of the Filipino people’s inherent right to self-determination, as recognized through International Law,” said Dana from People Organizing for Philippines Solidarity (POPS) in the United States.

The militant and determined solidarity actions of the FFPS follow the long history of warm support and solidarity that the NDFP has been winning through its revolutionary struggle in the Philippines and solidarity work overseas. 🇵🇭

FFPS fights terrorist labelling

The reactionary Philippine state, backed by US imperialism, has sought to delegitimize this struggle through its terrorist labeling of the CPP, NPA and the NDFP. This designation, pushed aggressively by the US and its allies, is a political weapon meant to isolate and suppress the revolutionary movement. It paints a distorted picture of the revolutionary movement as criminals rather than as the organized resistance of a people fighting for liberation.

The implications of terrorist labeling are severe. It provides justification for heightened state repression, including red tagging of legal democratic organizations supportive of national democracy, extrajudicial killings, illegal arrests, and harassment. It intensifies military attacks in rural areas, leading to displacement, destruction of livelihoods, and human rights violations against communities.

The assassination of consultants such as Randall Echanis, Randy Malayao, Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, are stark reminders of how terrorist labeling is weaponized to eliminate voices advocating for just and lasting peace. These attacks not only violate human rights but also undermine the prospects of meaningful dialogue to address the root causes of the armed conflict.

The Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) stands with the Filipino masses in rejecting the unjust terrorist listing of the CPP and the NPA by the US, the EU and others, as well as the terrorist labelling of the NDFP by the Philippine reactionary government. To label them as “terrorists” essentially is to deny the Filipino people of their right to self-determination, a right that is enshrined in International Law and has been won through centuries of struggle.

The revolutionary movement is not the enemy; it is a necessary force for change in a society where the ruling system has failed to serve the majority. The justness of the people’s war lies in its ultimate goal: to end oppression and build a society where every Filipino can live with dignity and equality.



Trump and the decline of the US empire

By Freedom Road Socialist Organization

The election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the US is symptomatic of a monopoly capitalist power in decline. His return to power reflects a failure of the other party of monopoly capitalism (the Democratic Party of Biden/Harris) and its inability to address the needs and aspirations of the working class. Drawing from a toxic brew of national chauvinism and reactionary currents of all kinds, Trump's return to the White House will signal the sharpening of a host of contradictions domestically and internationally.

After World War II, the United States constructed a web of economic intuitions where Wall Street and Washington DC occupied center place. That world is gone, and it has been replaced by a fragmenting world economy, where the decline of US imperialism is picking up speed. Trump will accelerate the process.

The role of the US in the world economy is shrinking. In 1960, the US had about 40% of the world GDP. Today it is about half that. There was a day when US imperialism championed free trade. For the past decade-plus, Washington DC has moved away from the neoliberal trade model, erecting a growing tariff blockade. The abandonment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and paralysis of the World Trade Organization are signs of things to come.

Trump has referred to himself as "Tariff Man," promising to slap 20% tariffs on all imports and substantially more - 100 or 200% - on things like electric vehicles from China. The people around him, like some of the Biden crowd, look towards "delinking" the US economy from the People's Republic of China.

One of the features of US imperialism - of decaying monopoly capitalism, is that big capital finds it increasingly difficult to utilize science and holds back advances in the productive forces. This phenomenon is on full display in the US, where someone like "vaccine skeptic" RFK Jr. will be put in charge of public health, and where industrial policy is turning against technologies that cause less harm to the environment, such as electric vehicles.

The policies of the Trump government will lead to a sharpening of inter-imperialist contradictions, which will have political and military dimensions. For example, Trump's view of the Ukraine is that it is mainly a concern of Europe and that too much US time and treasure has been wasted on it. If implemented as policy, this shift on the Ukraine will force the European imperialist powers, especially Germany, to carry out a military buildup while putting new stress on NATO.

Monopoly capitalism is a law-governed system where the drive to seek the highest rate of profit is basic. While capitalism is always incapable of genuine long-range planning, imperialism in decline is animated by the shortest of short-term gain and contingency. One of the things that makes the Trump administration dangerous is precisely a reactionary pragmatism that is reshaping the US empire. It is a recipe for more wars and intervention, particularly in Latin America and the Pacific. We can expect increased US intervention in the Philippines.

Within the US, major attacks are coming. The labor movement will come under fire and there will be attempts to erode our standard of living. The bigots in DC will do what they can to promote inequality and there will be attacks on oppressed nationalities, including Black people, Chicano and Latinos, Asian Americans, Arab Americans, indigenous peoples and others. The rights of immigrants are going to be a special target. There is a crude women-hating misogyny in Trump-world and we can expect further moves to restrict reproductive rights. Likewise, we can expect moves against LGBTQ people. And the genocide in Palestine will continue under Trump.

The good news is that this war on the people is not going to be a one-sided one. It is entirely possible and necessary to build strong popular movements that are capable of serious resistance. This is not the time to keep our heads down. It's time to unite all who can be united to defeat Trump's reactionary agenda. 🚩

I am Determined to Rise

by Jose Maria Sison

The demons are laughing,
They say I have fallen
But the people's movement
in the whole country is advancing.

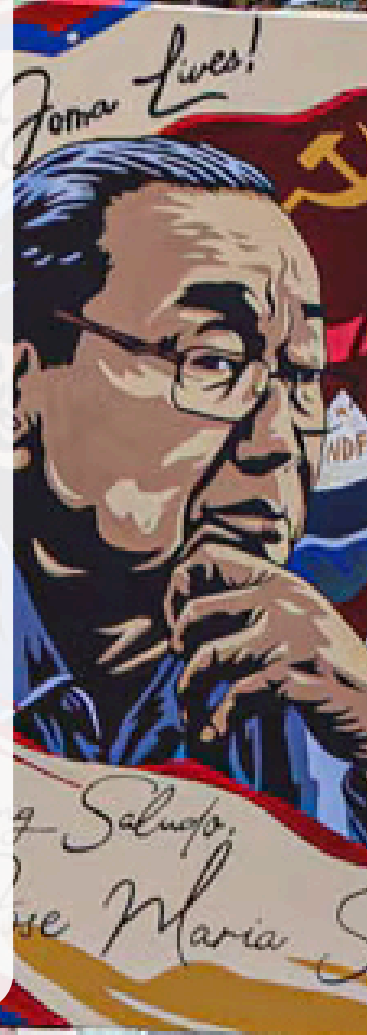
The red flag flies high
Wafted by a powerful wind –
The thought that broadcasts
The seeds of the revolution.

The seeds grow so fast
In the soil made fertile
By the sweat and blood of heroes
Here victory is certain to be reaped.

It is as if I did not stumble
So long as the cadres and fighters
Continue to arise from the masses
I am determined to rise.

The devil himself shall weep
Over a kingdom of ash heaps.

8 December 1977



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