

ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

Bayan

English Edition
Vol. XLIV No. 14
July 21, 2013

www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

Aquino's barrage of lies

The country will definitely be awash with lies when Benigno Aquino III delivers his speech upon the opening of the 16th session of the reactionary congress. Among these are the following:

"The economy is enjoying rapid growth." This is contrary to the reality of the intensified crisis and the sharp decline of the people's quality of life as a result of the Aquino regime's insistence on pursuing the neo-liberal policies of liberalization, deregulation, privatization and denationalization.

"The economy is progressing through Public-Private Partnership programs." The opposite is seen in the rising costs of health, education, public utilities, transportation and communication services as a result of tightened private control of vital

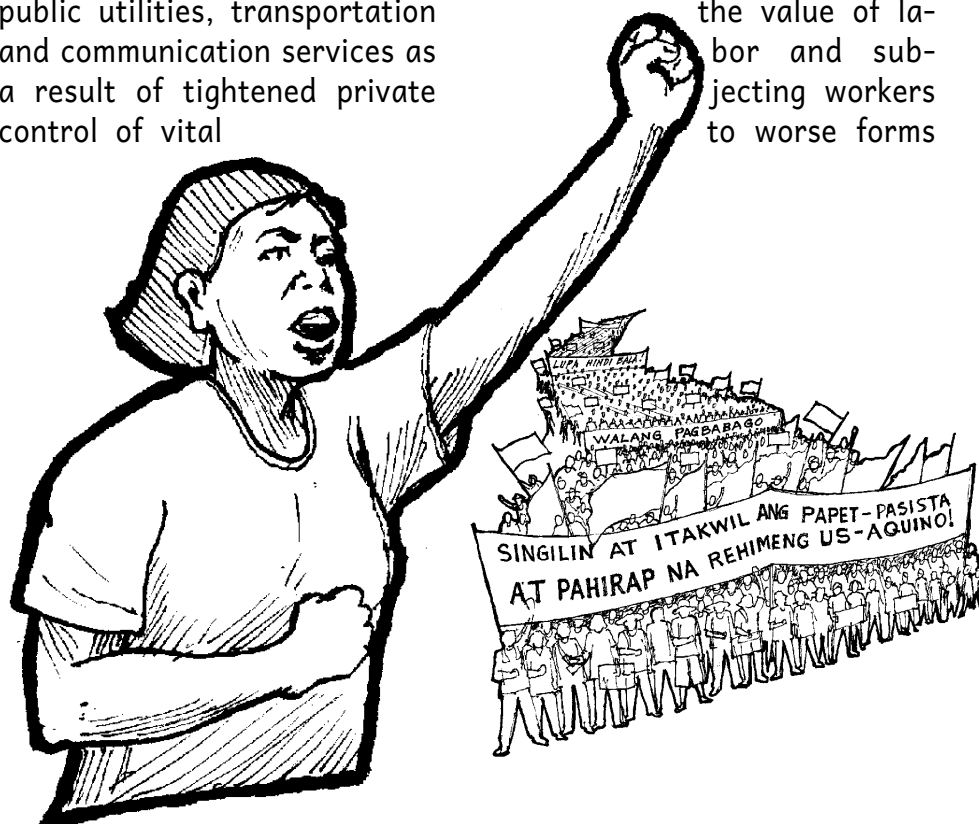
aspects of the economy.

"The unemployment problem is due to a 'job-skills mismatch'—there are widespread job opportunities but workers lack the skills for them." The truth is that there is a grave scarcity of jobs, with the Aquino government attempting to resolve it through its persistent labor export policy. There are no quality jobs due to the unindustrialized state of the economy. Flexible labor practices are prevalent, further pulling down the value of labor and subjecting workers to worse forms

of exploitation.

"Only remnants of old corruption remain." This is contrary to disclosures of big-time corruption involving Aquino's sisters, relatives and cronies in the form of taking kickbacks and bribes for public-private infrastructure contracts.

"Peace in Mindanao is around the corner." This is countered by continued armed offensives of the AFP and campaigns of suppression against the Moro people, widespread violations of the human rights of the Moro peasantry and people and constant efforts by the Aquino regime to dupe the MILF into surrendering the cause of Moro self-determination.



In this issue...

Pre-SONA protests 3

Oplan Bayanihan misses target 4

A salute to the Bicol 8

"The 25 years of CARP/er have been a success." In fact, the Aquino regime continues to hinder and prevent the free distribution of land in Hacienda Luisita and other vast estates. The cancellation of CLO-As, CLTs and EPs is widespread.

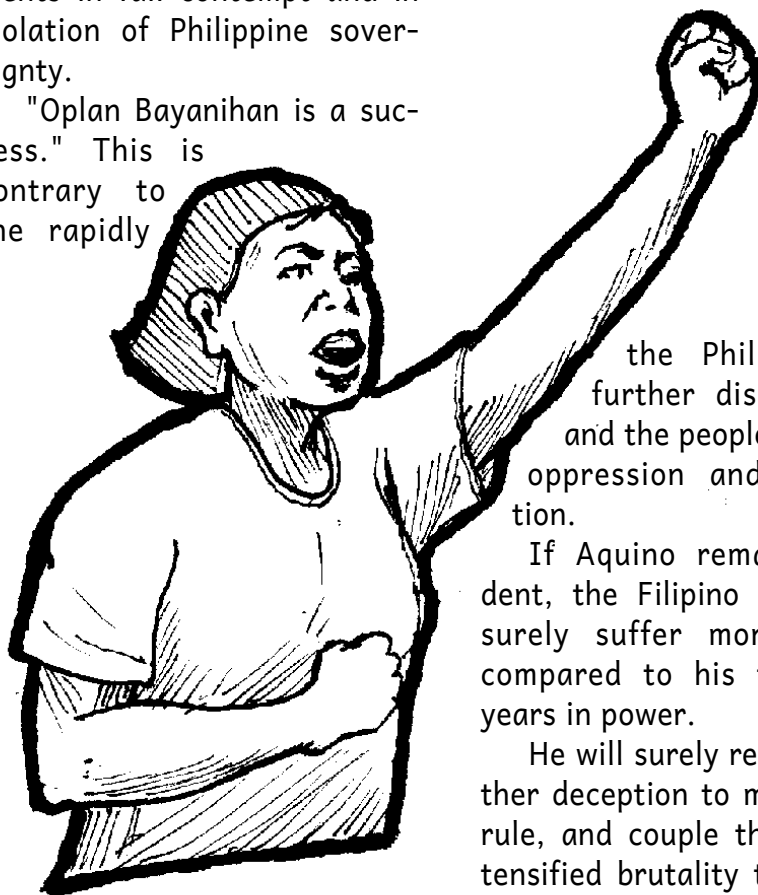
"The military and police respect human rights." This is countered by rampant abuses and growing cases of extrajudicial killings, torture, illegal arrests, militarization of communities and the violation of the rights of children, women and elders.

"Rural peace and development have been achieved through the 'conditional cash transfer program.'" This is contrary to the widespread reality of landlessness, land grabbing and the encroachment of foreign mining companies, plantations and other agribusinesses in the countryside to plunder natural resources and engage in other environmentally destructive activities.

"The Aquino regime defends

Philippine sovereignty against China." In fact, in the name of asserting the country's claim to the Spratly Islands, the Aquino regime justifies allowing the US military to maintain a permanent presence in the Philippines through the Visiting Forces Agreement and other arrangements in full contempt and in violation of Philippine sovereignty.

"Oplan Bayanihan is a success." This is contrary to the rapidly



growing number of Red fighters of the New People's Army, who are set to reach the 10,000 level and beyond in the next few years.

Through this address, Aquino begins the second half of his six-year rule.

Aquino's insistence on kowtowing to the dictates of foreign banks and companies condemns the ruling system in the Philippines to further disintegration and the people to further oppression and exploitation.

If Aquino remains president, the Filipino people will surely suffer more poverty compared to his first three years in power.

He will surely resort to further deception to maintain his rule, and couple this with intensified brutality to stop the people's mass struggles and revolutionary resistance from further expanding and gaining strength.

The Filipino people must reject the Aquino regime's lies and expose the continuing crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system dominated by the US imperialists and local big comprador bourgeoisie and big landlords.

They must advance the cause of national democracy and socialism to put an end to the oppressive and exploitative system and build the people's democratic government under proletarian class leadership in order to implement land reform, national industrialization and socialist transformation and modernization. **AB**

	
Vol. XLIV No. 14 July 21, 2013	
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.</p> <p>It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.philippinerevolution.org.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">angbayan@yahoo.com</p>	
Contents	
Editorial: Aquino's barrage of lies	1
Pre-SONA protests launched	3
Oppression of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia	4
Oplan Bayanihan misses 3-year target	4
Local peace talks are a trap	5
Urban poor resist demolitions	6
8 soldiers killed in Sorsogon	7
2 soldiers die in Negros ambush	7
Intimidation and deception in HLI	7
Guard killed in picket line dispersal	8
Red salute to Bicol 8	8
Worsening human rights situation	10
Political detainee on hunger strike	11
News	12
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

Pre-SONA protests launched

Residents of barangays around the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City launched a noise barrage led by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY) and Alyansa Kontra Demolisyon on July 20.

The coordinated protest action was conducted despite a police ban on rallyists from going any closer than two kilometers from the Batasang Pambansa—the site of Benigno Aquino III's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22. Those who joined the noise barrage came from Barangays Commonwealth, Payatas, Batasan, Bagong Silangan and Holy Spirit. Protest actions were likewise launched in Manila, Caloocan, Mandaluyong and San Juan, and even among urban poor residents forcibly evacuated to Kasiglahan Village, Rodriguez, Rizal.

Meantime, residents of North Triangle gathered outside the Trinoma mall in North Avenue, Quezon City to light candles in protest. They were joined by seminarians and other church people from the Church-Urban Poor Solidarity.

These organized and coordinated mass actions began nationwide on July 16 to prepare for the SONA. The series of protests were dubbed "Protesta ng Bayan laban sa nagtataasang presyo, demolisyon at pribatisasyon." (People's Protest against rising prices, demolitions and privatization)

The people's protest will also be joined by some 250 foreign delegates of the International Conference on Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines (ICHRPP) held at the Great Eastern Conference, Quezon City on July 19 to 21. The delegates, who came from the US, Canada, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark and various countries in Latin America are determined to raise the level of international solidarity and struggle in defending

human rights and peace in the Philippines. They had been conducting a fact-finding mission since July 15 in Tarlac, Pampanga and Aurora where cases of human rights violations have been rampant.

On July 16, GABRIELA led a women's rally in front of the Department of Health, where the rallyists assailed plans to privatize government hospitals under the Public-Private Partnership Program. Youth and student activists, on the other hand, condemned tuition fee hikes in some 400 public and private universities and colleges nationwide.

Meantime, the StrikeTheHike group trooped to the Pandacan Oil Depot in Manila to protest continuing hikes in the prices of petroleum products by the oil giants Chevron/Caltex, Shell and Petron. Drivers and operators affiliated with PISTON in Bacolod City and Iloilo City complained that their incomes had been reduced by ₱1,002 per month due to relentless oil price hikes.

In Davao City, mass actions led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN-Southern Mindanao) began as early as July 15 and will end on July 22.

Meanwhile, even small businessmen are being fed up with the heavy taxes being imposed by the government. On July 18, some 50 container trucks from the Aduana Business Club Inc. blocked Roxas Boulevard in Manila, near the office of the Department of Public Works and Highways. They also protested new laws against overloading and other new fees, saying that this would result in higher freight, handling and storage fees and therefore result in an additional ₱1 to ₱3 in the price per kilo of rice and other commodities.



Grave oppression of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia

No less than Philippine embassy officials ordered the arrest of 18 undocumented Filipino workers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on July 9. They were among 40 workers who were conducting a peaceful demonstration inside the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) to demand that the embassy immediately and seriously arrange their repatriation to the Philippines. Saudi Arabian policemen dragged, mauled and tasered the protesters who included women and children, upon the instigation of Philippine ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ezzedin Tago; labor attaché Adam Musa; and welfare officer Abdullah Umpa.

On July 2, a gathering of about a hundred undocumented Filipino workers in Riyadh had also been dispersed, with three of the leaders arrested and tortured. So far, three of the unre-patriated Filipinos (two of them children) have already died. They had nowhere else to turn to except the tents they had put up outside the Philippine embassy in Riyadh. Two pregnant women have been rushed to hospital.

The Philippine embassy and POLO should serve as sanctuaries for overseas Filipino workers. Instead, they serve as in-

struments to bring further harm to workers in distress. MIGRANTE has condemned the violent dispersal of the demonstration. It likewise called on international human rights advocacy groups to condemn the embassy officials' merciless actions.

There are some 17,500 Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia who are either undocumented or have problems with documentation. For months, they have been seeking help from Philippine government officials. But only 883 (or 5%) have been repatriated to the

Philippines.

In a related development, the International Coordinating Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICCHRP) condemned the Aquino regime for its silence regarding the demonstration's violent dispersal. The ICCHRP is an international network of human rights advocates.

Meanwhile, a crackdown has also ensued against Filipino workers in the United Arab Emirates, where "emiritization" is now being implemented, much like Saudization where foreign workers are being terminated and replaced with their own citizens. "Omanization" has also been scheduled in the Arabian sultanate. There are about 700,000 Filipino workers in the UAE and 12,000 in Oman.

Even in Japan, a crackdown has begun on undocumented overseas Filipino workers, with 75 Filipinos already deported to the Philippines. In South Korea, an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 Filipino workers are in danger of being deported due to more restrictive policies against migrants from Southeast Asia. **AB**

AFP fails to meet Oplan Bayanihan's 3-year target

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) failed to meet its three-year deadline to decisively defeat the New People's Army (NPA). AFP chief Gen. Emmanuel Bautista was forced to admit this in a command conference held in Camp Aguinaldo on July 11.

Despite this failure, the AFP nonetheless declared that it would succeed in its grand plan patterned after the US Counterinsurgency Guide of 2009. The

military likewise said that it would be transferring the task of counterinsurgency to the Philippine National Police in 2014 so that it could concen-



trate on dealing with "external threats."

To cover up its failure, the AFP resorted to weaving fairy tales once again. It repeated its favorite laughable line that the NPA in 1986 had an armed strength of 25,000 that had plummeted to 6,000 and later dropped further to 4,000 upon Benigno Aquino III's term.

The AFP's statements are baseless. According to official documents of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the NPA had 6,100 personnel armed with high-powered rifles in 1986.

But due to internal weaknesses and errors, NPA membership dwindled until the CPP decisively launched the Second Great Rectification Movement in 1992. By 1998, the NPA's armed strength was back to its 1980s level. The people's army has advanced all-sidedly since then.

The military's psywar experts have been unable to obscure the fact that the NPA continues to grow and gain strength and people's war continues to advance nationwide. Neither could the AFP conceal its losses in the battlefield as well as the loss of the people's political support for the ruling reactionary state.

The NPA has surpassed its 1980s peak and is now on the way to achieving the 10,000 mark or more. It is assisted by hundreds of thousands of people's militias and self-defense corps. NPA commands are currently targeting the establishment of 180 guerrilla fronts in the coming years from the current number of 110.

NPA commands nationwide continue to strive for the completion of the requisites for the conduct of extensive and in-

tensive guerrilla warfare. In the countryside, revolutionary land reform is being implemented on a wide scale, and the infrastructure of the people's democratic government is being built on an increasingly higher level.

The advance of revolutionary armed struggle on a nationwide scale is clearly demonstrated by the fact that

NPA tactical offensives are now bigger and launched more frequently.

Meanwhile, the AFP has been further pushing the oppressed people to join the armed and unarmed resistance due to the violent and deceptive character of Oplan Bayanihan in the guise of "peace and development teams." AB

'Local peace talks' are a trap—NPA-Sorsogon

The Celso Minguez Command (CMC) of the New People's Army in Sorsogon roundly condemned offers of "localized peace talks," saying this is a trap being laid by the reactionary Philippine government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The statement was made by CMC spokesperson Ka Samuel Guerrero in reaction to offers by Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee for "localized peace talks" to take place in the province. Guerrero said in no uncertain terms that such talks will not resolve the roots of the armed conflict in Sorsogon or in any other province or region in the Philippines.

This is merely an attempt to divide the revolutionary movement, added the CMC. Such talks also serve the narrow interests of the local ruling class in Sorsogon to appropriate the province's resources unimpededly.

Meanwhile, NDFP Negotiating Panel chair Ka Luis Jalandoni said that Lee's proposal formed part of intelligence efforts, psychological warfare and combat tactics under Oplan Bayanihan.

Said Jalandoni, contrary to being a "new method," launching localized peace talks is an old and useless exercise by the reactionary forces. He reiterated that the NDFP Negotiating Panel is the only entity authorized by the revolutionary movement to engage in peace negotiations with the Government of the Philippines. All units of the revolutionary movement strictly abide by this policy. AB



Urban poor communities mount growing resistance

Militant acts of resistance continue to erupt among the urban poor in the defense of their communities and livelihoods. On July 11, residents of North Triangle, Quezon City and Bignay, Valenzuela City trooped to the DILG office and Benigno Aquino's house in Times Street, Quezon City to assail the Aquino regime for the widespread dislocation of the urban poor and its failure to fulfill its promise of decent in-city relocation. They demanded justice for victims of violent demolitions.

Anti-demolition barricades have been erected in various communities in the past week: in North Triangle, QC on July 1; in Bignay, Valenzuela City on July 4; and in Carmina Compound, Cupang, Muntinlupa City, also on July 4. In Cupang, the barricades were able to prevent the police from advancing. They were put up once again at dawn of July 8 and dismantled the day after when the residents ascertained that the demolition would be deferred. But the demolition pushed through violently on July 18, with the residents valiantly resisting their eviction. While a few of them have been forced to leave the area out of fear, many more are ready to fight for their homes and livelihoods.

Meanwhile, 26,000 fisher-

folk families (or 156,000 individuals) living around Manila Bay are in danger of being evicted. Their livelihoods will be lost and their communities destroyed due to the construction of the Aquino-Sangley International Airport and the Aguinaldo-Sangley International Seaport in the reclamation area. These are multi-billion peso projects of All-Asia Resources & Reclamation Corp. (ARRC). Each family is being offered ₱15,000 to voluntarily leave.

During the 2010 electoral campaign, Aquino promised to put a stop to forcible evictions of the urban poor and implement in-city relocation. But these promises were immediately broken in Aquino's first month in power. Violent demolitions were enforced forthwith in urban poor communities like Barangay Marianas, Quezon City on August 11-13, 2010 and Barangay North Triangle on September 23, 2010.

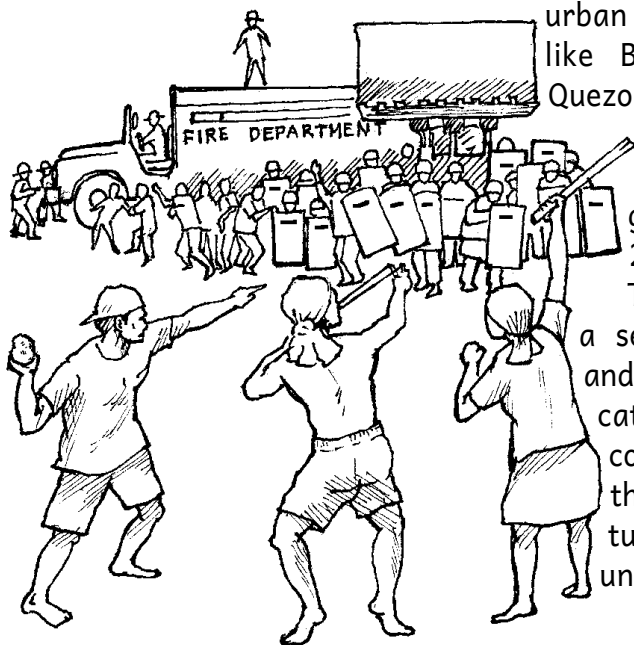
This was followed by a series of demolitions and the impending dislocation of many other communities for pave the way for infrastructure projects lined up under the regime's

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program.

The Aquino regime has been using various schemes to destroy the unity and organized resistance of the urban poor. One of these is the implementation of pocket demolitions, such as those that have been conducted in North Triangle and Corazon de Jesus, San Juan City. In the case of North Triangle, 8,000 out of the original 10,000 families living in the area have already been evicted since the series of demolitions began in 2010.

Just as brutal as the violent demolitions is the practice of razing urban poor communities through arson. This tactic is continually being used to rapidly evict the urban poor and make it easier to convince them to transfer to farflung relocation sites. The latest incident of this kind was a fire that destroyed 300 houses in a community near the Makati Medical Center on July 11. The government has announced its plans of evacuating the entire community, including residents not affected by the fire.

Experience has taught the urban poor that only through organizing and mobilizing themselves can they defend their livelihoods and homes. They also know that the widespread violations of their rights committed by the regime and the rampant neglect of their welfare will spur the urban poor and the rest of the people to take action and demand the overthrow of the system responsible for their poverty. AB



NPA fells 8 soldiers in Sorsogon

Eight troopers of the 31st IB, including a sergeant, were killed and several others wounded after being hit by command-detonated explosives (CDX) and rifle fire from Red fighters of the Celso Minguez Command-New People's Army (NPA) in Sitio Madagusong, Barangay Macawayan, Irosin, Sorsogon on the morning of July 6.

The soldiers tried to encircle the guerrillas but the latter were able to mount an active defense and outmaneuver the military. Pinky "Ka Gerald" Boticario, a woman Red fighter from the village was martyred in the firefight. The NPA accorded her the highest honors.

That afternoon, several elements of the 508th PNP-Public Safety Management Battalion (PSMB) were likewise wounded after their vehicle was hit by a CDX as it traversed the Maharlika Hi-Way in Barangay Ponong, Casiguran, Sorsogon. The guerrillas were able to make a safe retreat. AB

2 killed, 10 wounded in NPA ambush in Negros

Two soldiers were killed and ten wounded in an ambush by a platoon of Red fighters under the Leonardo Panaligan Command of the NPA-Central Negros Front on combined forces of the 32nd Division Reconnaissance Company (32nd DRC) and 11th IB of the Philippine Army in Sitio Binubuhan Gamay, Barangay Binubuhan, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental on the morning of July 9.

Before the gunbattle, the NPA unit had already monitored the repeated presence of two military trucks and two AFP Hummer jeeps in Barangay Tacpao on the night of July 8. The NPA also found out that up to 150 soldiers had been deployed to the area near the guerrilla encampment. The soldiers were divided into four columns. The first three were positioned in Sitio Kansuhi, Barangay Tacpao; Sitio Walog, Barangay Binubuhan; and Sitio Bantayan, Barangay Tacpao. The fourth crossed the river near the NPA camp.

An NPA unit positioned itself on favorable terrain to ambush the noisy military troops. Because they were huddled close to each other and were unaware of the NPA's presence, they were easy targets for the Red fighters, who immediately opened fire. Two soldiers were hit on the spot from the first volley, while the rest of the troopers ran away. It took five minutes before the military was able to return fire.

The fascist troops vented their ire on the locals, arresting eight civilians including a mentally challenged minor. AB

DAR's intimidation and deception in HLI

The so-called land distribution conducted in Hacienda Luisita on July 18 was fraught with intimidation and fraud.

More than 200 troops from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Special Weapons and Tactics Teams (SWAT) were sent to Barangay Cutcut, Tarlac City while the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) conducted a raffle of the beneficiaries' names. The method was purportedly fair, but the DAR in connivance with the Cojuangco-Aquinos had in fact already made arrangements on which parcels of land would go to specific beneficiaries.

On top of this, farm workers of Hacienda Luisi-

ta are also being forced to sign promissory notes—or the Application Purchase and Farmers Understanding (APFU) which calls for strict requisites in exchange for receiving land. The beneficiaries are being required to swear in court that they agree to paying the amortization and real estate taxes. Once they neglect to do so, they will be stripped of their right to be HLI beneficiaries.

One-hundred and ninety-seven out of the total 645 farm worker-beneficiaries of Barangay Cutcut vehemently refused to sign the APFU. They insisted on the immediate distribution of the land without compensation. The DAR decided on July 20 to put a stop to its "tambiollo land reform." AB

Farmers demand distribution of land seized by Zobel

Distribute the land illegally acquired by the Zobel and Ayala families! Thus demanded more than a hundred farmers and fisherfolk who launched a picket-rally at the office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on July 11.

Members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and Samahang Magbubukid sa Batangas (SAMBAT) questioned the government for its failure to distribute the land. Fifteen years have passed since a court decision declared more than 2,000 hectares seized by the Zobel and Ayala y Cia families in Calatagan, Batangas as public land. The decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court in April 2010.

The farmers and fisherfolk fear that the land, including Hacienda Zobel, would be auctioned off and bought by foreign capitalists should plans to amend the 1987 constitution push through. One of the proposed constitutional amendments calls for the removal of a prohibition on foreigners from owning real estate. Once this happens, the farmers and fisherfolk will surely be deprived of their right to the land. AB

1 killed, 3 injured in picket line dispersal

A security guard was killed and three workers were injured in violent attacks on the picket line of striking workers of Pentagon Steel Corporation on July 13. The company is located along Samson Road, Quezon City.

The violence occurred when the company's hired goons and elements of the Quezon City Police forcibly dismantled the picket line manned by 150 workers. The strikers were demanding their reinstatement after their unjust dismissal by management.

When the workers tried to block the company from bringing its products out of the factory, the owner Mariano Chan ordered his truck driver to run over the strikers. This resulted in the death of the company's security guard Carlos Yanez and injuries to a worker. Before this bloody incident, hired goons stoned workers at the picket line and threw muriatic acid at them.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) strongly condemned the attacks on the Pentagon workers. Policemen and goons have been attempting to dismantle their picket line almost on a weekly basis. The KMU also assailed Chan and Human Resources Department head Pablito Alcover, who are behind the brutal attacks on the workers. AB

A salute to the Bicol 8

Various revolutionary forces here and abroad hailed the eight revolutionaries killed by fascist troops on July 4 in Juban, Sorsogon.

Various statements, articles, poems and recollections were issued and published in newspapers and different websites. They all recognized the heroism of the eight revolutionaries led by Comrade Greg Bañares, who was then the spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Bicol and assailed the men of the 31st Infantry Battalion of the AFP for their brutal slay of the comrades who had been besieged in

the fighting.

The NPA Regional Command in Bicol, the NPA provincial commands in Sorsogon and Albay and the NDFP-Bicol hailed the eight martyrs. The Party, the NDFP National Executive Committee, the Kabataang Makabayan and Comrades Patnubay de Guia (NDF-Southern Tagalog) and Santiago Salas (NDF-Eastern Visayas) also rendered them a Red salute. Revolutionary forces from Italy and



France likewise issued statements commending the martyrs.

Let us acquaint ourselves with the revolutionary martyrs who offered their skills and talents in the service of the people's revolutionary aspirations:

Frankie Joe Soriano (Ka Ems) and Christine Puche (Ka Nel)

Ka Ems and Ka Nel, who were husband and wife, both hailed from Bicol. Ka Ems, who was from Libmanan, Camarines Sur took up AB Philosophy at the Ateneo de Naga in 1989. Ka Nel, who was from Legazpi City, took up Journalism at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. They both became campus activists who eventually worked in the countryside.

Ka Ems joined the peasant movement in 1993. In 1995, he was assigned to conduct revolutionary work in the town centers of Camarines Norte. He was also tasked with organizing Bicolano youth in Metro Manila in support of the armed struggle in the region. It was at this time that he met Ka Nel, who then already had plans to work in the countryside.

In 1998, Ka Ems and Ka Nel both joined the NPA. Ka Ems was assigned to the Regional Instruction Bureau while Ka Nel's assignment was with the Instructors' Staff in Albay province. In 2001, Ka Nel was transferred to the Regional Propaganda Staff. Among her duties was to come out with the regional revolutionary newspaper *Silyab*, the cultural magazine *Punla* and the mass magazine *Ang Gerilya*, the radio program *Dagundong ng Bikol*, and video productions under *Isnapp*.

Imbued with the vitality and assiduousness of youth and the sharpness and firm adherence

to principle of a cadre, Ka Ems was seen as the appropriate choice to serve as the NDF-Bicol spokesperson in 2003, assuming the nom de guerre Ka Greg Bañares. Not long after, he was appointed as member of the Party Regional Committee in Bicol.

Ka Ems and Ka Nel worked well together in performing their duties. They were tireless as propagandists and educators and constantly looked for ways by which comrades and the masses could effectively grasp the Party's basic principles and analyses on important issues. They likewise succeeded in giving a balanced response to the challenges they faced as husband and wife, as parents and as responsible Party cadres.

Pehing "Ka Miloy" Hipa

Ka Miloy rapidly advanced from being a member of a revolutionary youth organization in Barangay Butag, Bulan, Sorsogon. He joined the NPA in 1998, and in his more than 15 years of service, he showed firm solidarity with the masses and comrades. He always had time for comrades. He was also always conscious of military regulations. This characteristic was a major factor for his advance as one of the Celso Minguez Command's best Red commanders and the Party Provincial Committee's best members. Ka Miloy was once captured by the enemy. But he immediately returned to the NPA upon his release.

Ted "Ka Gary" Palacio

When he graduated from a BS Computer Science course at the Ateneo de Naga University, Ka Gary taught Computer Sci-

ence at the same university in 1995. He organized students and fellow teachers in 1996. He later turned his back on the promise of a more comfortable life and decided to work full-time for the revolution. In 1998, he was tasked with organizing workers. Soon after, he decided to join the armed revolution in the countryside. Ka Gary contributed significantly to helping comrades who were beginners in the use of computers in 1998. The revolutionary movement also profited immensely from his skills in terms of more systematic administration, especially in the fields of communication, security and education and propaganda work. He was captured by the enemy in 2008 but immediately resumed his revolutionary activities after his release.

David "Ka Rey" Llunar, Romero "Ka Nene" Añonuevo and William "Ka Jay" Villanueva Jr.

Ka Rey, Ka Nene and Ka Jay were all fine squad leaders of the Celso Minguez Command who hailed from the peasant class. Being humble and mild-mannered but courageous in battle were traits they all held in common. On not a few occasions, Ka Rey and Ka Nene did well in leading their squads in tactical offensives launched by the CMC, and in defensive battles as well. Ka Jay, on the other hand, was known by comrades in Camarines Sur as a leader in sniping and harassment operations against the enemy in the Rinconada Area (comprising Iriga City and the towns of Baa, Balatan, Bato, Buhi and Nabua). He also joined a number of successful sparrow operations.

Ka Rey was a product of the peasant organization in Gabao,

Irosin. He eventually became a member of the Party branch in their barrio. Ka Nene and Ka Jay, on the other hand, were diligent members of the youth organizations in their respective villages. Ka Nene was from Gumapia, Irosin while Ka Jay was born and raised in Macad, Pasacao, Camarines Sur. Like many other peasant youth who grew up in hardship, they decided to join the NPA to effectively mobilize their fellow peasants to resolve the roots of poverty.

Ailyn "Ka Kevin" Calma

Ka Kevin was from Padre Diaz, Bulan, Sorsogon. She was recruited amid the vigorous protest movement against the Balikatan exercises in Bicol in 2009. Joining the NPA that same year, she steadily advanced as she participated in mass work, and made significant contributions in organizing and consolidating youth and cultural groups and in building full-fledged mass organizations. She was also an efficient supply officer of the people's army. **AB**

Ka Renan and Ka Libre of the ICR

The Cordillera People's Democratic Front ardently paid tribute to Ronelson Balatines (Ka Renan) and Artus Talastas (Ka Libre) as revolutionary martyrs of the Cordillera. They were both killed in a raid by the 54th IB in Mountain Province on June 6.

Ka Renan was hit first and told Ka Libre to leave him behind. But Ka Libre risked his life and tried to drag him to safety. They both died when soldiers lobbed grenades and indiscriminately opened fire at the house where they were staying.

Ka Libre was a cultural worker. He dedicated his songs and drawings to advancing people's war. Among the most popular songs in the Cordillera is his composition *Salidumay* which he adapted to the conditions of the national minorities. He led in the invigoration of propaganda and cultural work in the NPA alongside military work. **AB**

Worsening human rights situation in the country

The human rights situation worsened in the past three years under the US-Aquino regime. According to KARAPATAN, there were 142 extrajudicial killings, 164 attempted extrajudicial killings, 16 forced disappearances and 76 cases of torture from July 2010 to April 2013. There are currently 430 political prisoners, 136 of whom were arrested under the Aquino regime. Also killed were 16 children between the ages of 4 and 15. Following are new cases of human rights violations:

July 16. Elements of the 2nd IB killed two Red fighters identified as Louie "Ka Dennis" Olorsa and Alvin "Ka Peter" Retuirma in Barangay Badbad, Oas, Albay.

In a statement, Ka Florante Orobia, spokesperson of the Santos Binamera Command (NPA-Albay) said Ka Peter was then visiting his family with Ka Dennis as his buddy. Both Red fighters were hors de combat when they were attacked by

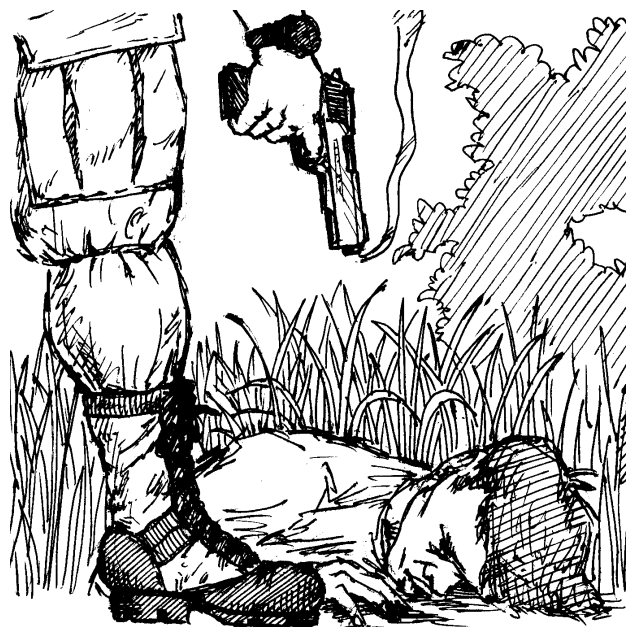
troops under Lt. Col. Andrew Costelo.

Nonetheless, they were mercilessly killed by the fascist soldiers.

July 15. A composite force of police and military elements arrested peasant leader Aristedes Sarmiento in Lucban, Quezon on trumped-up murder charges. He was on

leave due to a spinal disorder when he was arrested.

Sarmiento had already been arrested in 1985 at the height of the struggle against the coco levy fund. He was arrested for the second time in April 2006 along with four other peasant activists. Together, they were known as the "Tagaytay 5." They were then charged with re-



bellion by the Arroyo regime. After a number of years, the court dismissed the charges and the five activists were released.

July 11. Elements of the 703rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army arrested peasants Josue Ortiz, 23 and Manuel Pagkaera, 40 in Barangay Liyang, Pilar, Bataan. Also arrested with them was a tricycle driver.

According to Pagkaera's relatives, the soldiers brought the three men to a camp near Mt. Arayat in Pampanga but returned them to Camp Tolentino in Balanga, Bataan in the afternoon. An officer from the 24th IB confirmed that the three were in their custody but claimed that they surrendered. Col. Henry Sabarre, 703rd IBde chief said that they were Red fighters and had hidden their firearms. Pagkaera's relatives firmly denied the accusation. He is now detained at Camp Tolentino. It was not certain, however, where the military brought the two other captives.

July 8. The military arrested eight civilians, including a mentally challenged minor named "Calixto" in Sitio Binubuhan Gamay, Barangay Binubuhan, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental.

In a report to the media by the 302nd Brigade, the military accused the civilians of being Red fighters captured after a clash between combined forces

of the 32nd Division Reconnaissance Company (32nd DRC) and 11th IB and an NPA platoon encamped near a river. Two soldiers were killed and eight other troopers were wounded in the firefight.

Residents said that the detainees were peasants and motorcycle drivers from Barangay Tacpao, Guihulngan City.

July 6. Soldiers under the 2nd Mechanized Brigade, 45th IB and 7th IB bombed Moro communities in Barangay Ganta, Shariff Saidona, Mustafah in Maguindanao. Seven civilians were injured, including two children and a village councilor.

According to KAWAGIB-Moro Human Rights Alliance, the wounded were Barangay Kagawad Omar Kalimbang, Fatima Balilid, Nasser Kamid, Alimundo and Donna Alon, a 2-year old girl and a 4-year old boy. Soldiers entered Barangay Damballas, Datu Piang on the morning of July 6 ostensibly to look for members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters that they had clashed with. By afternoon, the military fired mortars and 105 mm howitzers at a school where more than 100 families had evacuated.

KAWAGIB roundly condemned the military's bombardment of Moro civilian communities especially since Muslims are currently observing the month of Ramadan. AB

Political prisoner on hunger strike in Central Visayas

Political prisoner Ramon Patriarca who is currently detained at the headquarters of the AFP Central Command in Camp Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City is on hunger strike. According to the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA), Patriarca is protesting his incarceration and that of more than 400 other political detainees nationwide.

His hunger strike began on July 11 and will end on July 22, the day Benigno Aquino III will deliver his State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Patriarca was arrested by military agents in Cebu City in 2010 on suspicion of being one of the main leaders of the revolutionary movement in Central Visayas.

In a statement, Patriarca recalled a declaration by Malacañang in December 2010 that Aquino would be reviewing the cases of the more than 200 political prisoners then, most of whom were illegally arrested for resisting the Arroyo regime's nine-year rule.

Nonetheless, not a single case has been re-

viewed. Instead, illegal arrests, torture and the detention of political activists and suspected communist revolutionaries have been stepped up. As a result, the number of political prisoners has practically doubled nationwide.

Meanwhile, SELDA and human rights defenders are demanding that Aquino order the release of Oscar Belleza, a 56-year old peasant leader from Samar, who is now in critical condition at the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMMC) in Manila after suffering a stroke.

Belleza had been detained for three years at the Manila City Jail because of a trumped-up case of multiple murder stemming from the alleged discovery of "mass graves" in Leyte in 2008. Among the other persons charged in the same case are former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison.

Belleza was transferred to the JRMMC only on July 15, three days after he lost consciousness. Before his transfer, he was confined at the jail's infirmary. AB

NDFP condemns murder of Indian mass leader

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines strongly condemned the brutal slaying on July 5 of Ganti Prasadam by paid goons of the reactionary state of Andra Pradesh in India.

Prasadam was vice president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front and a member of the Committee for the Relatives and Friends of Martyrs in India. He was in Nellore, Andra Pradesh to attend the annual gathering for the martyrs and was visiting an ailing relative when he and his companions were ambushed by a group of goons armed with pistols and sickles. The brutal murder was committed in the fashion of intelligence agents of the Andra Pradesh government.

NDFP hails Syriza's first congress

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) expressed solidarity with Syriza on the occasion of its first congress on July 10. Syriza is an alliance of Leftist groups in Greece. It first joined elections in the country in 2004.

The NDFP congratulated Syriza for succeeding in uniting several progressive forces of the Left and the majority of the people in the face of the intensifying capitalist crisis that has been worsened by the austerity measures dictated by the Troika (the European Union-World Bank-big banks combine) on the puppet Greek government.

The NDFP added that Syriza's leading role in the action of the masses in the streets has been rewarded with victories in the parliamentary elections that have made it the second largest party in the Greek parliament and the main opposition party.