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Declaration of National Sovereignty and Patrimony Week

In the face of heightening US intervention, increasing presence of US and allied foreign troops, intensifying foreign economic plunder and the worsening puppetry of the Aquino regime to the US government, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) calls on the Filipino people and all their patriotic, democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces to launch a widespread campaign to banner the call for national freedom.

Let us declare April 22-30 as National Sovereignty and Patrimony Week to jumpstart this intensified propaganda and education campaign and drum up the patriotic demands of the Filipino people.

Let us recall the Filipino people's heroes in their struggle for national independence, from Andres

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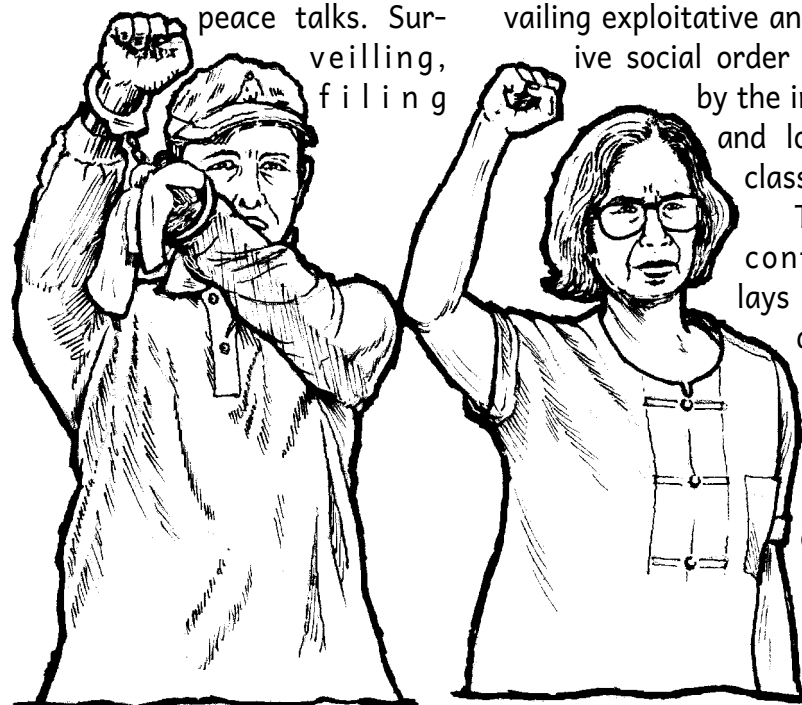
Editorial

The Tiamzons' arrest is a blow to the peace talks

The arrest of Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria, both leading cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines and peace talks consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is a gross violation of the peace process.

They were arrested with five others in Aloguinsan, Cebu on March 22. To justify their prolonged detention, the arresting police and military operatives planted firearms and arrested them on a trumped-up case of multiple murder.

The Aquino regime has once more demonstrated in this incident its wanton disregard for the



peace talks. Surveillance, filing trumped-up criminal charges and arresting the negotiators, consultants and staff of either party are strictly prohibited by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG).

Aquino and his officials portray the arrest of Comrades Benito and Wilma as a step that moves the country closer to peace, exposing anew their narrow-minded view on peace. For Aquino, peace will be achieved if he could effect either the surrender or arrest of the people's revolutionary forces struggling for national liberation and democracy. For the revolutionaries, this would be tantamount to meekly subjecting themselves to the prevailing exploitative and oppressive social order dominated by the imperialists and local ruling classes.

The NDFP continuously lays the foundations of genuine, just and lasting peace by empowering the Filipino people in stages and

attaining their national and democratic aspirations, whether or not it engages in negotiations.

In the NDFP's view, once popular unrest is dispelled because the people are no longer hungry and receive just wages, enjoy decent housing, education, health care and other social services, the firm foundation for peace shall have been laid down. On the other hand, poverty, hunger and injustice are fertile grounds for social unrest and people's uprisings.

In a message from his prison cell, Comrade Benito explained the real meaning of peace. He said that contrary to being a mere sentiment, as the regime and its drumbeaters claim, peace is a socio-political construct that will resolve the basic ills of society. It is the real foundation and substance of any peace negotiation and agreement.

This is the basis for The Hague Joint Declaration, which provides the proper order for agreements on the substantive agenda of human rights, social and economic reforms and po-

litical and constitutional reforms before proceeding to the resolution of the armed conflict and the disposition of the armed forces involved in the current civil war.

Since it took power in 2010, the Aquino regime has denigrated The Hague Joint Declaration as a "document of perpetual division" in its desire to disregard needed social changes and go straight to the last item in the agenda and achieve a contrived peace.

As revolutionaries deeply rooted in the exploited and oppresses masses, Comrades Benito and Wilma both have a sharp grasp of what any agreement aimed at resolving the roots of the raging civil war in the Philippines should contain. They have therefore been providing highly significant inputs to the peace process.

Whether seated at the negotiation table or not, they are part of the great and historic process of building peace. By waging revolution, they are not only peace advocates but ardent creators of


people's democracy, social justice, national liberation and lasting peace.

It is not the genuine peace workers like Comrades Benito and Wilma, Alan Jazmines and other detained NDFP consultants who should be imprisoned and deprived of the right to be with the masses whom they cherish and serve.

The Aquino regime, however, is more interested in utilizing precious time and resources to capture revolutionary leaders instead of seriously sitting at the negotiating table to decisively discuss and resolve the roots of the civil war. In its narrow-minded and shallow view, it could put a stop to the people's revolutionary struggle in this manner and dispense with the necessity of negotiating in order to entrap and pacify it.

The Aquino regime has already meted a series of blows on the peace negotiations because of its non-compliance with, and violations of, existing agreements with the NDFP, especially its long-term incarceration of JASIG-protected consultants.

Talking with a regime that not only has a narrow-minded and shallow concept of peace but reneges on signed agreements is indeed fraught with difficulties and danger. The only way for the Aquino regime to escape going down in history as the killer of the peace talks is for it to respect its agreements with the NDFP, notably The Hague Joint Declaration and JASIG and release the detained NDFP consultants. It must also comply with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and release all political prisoners detained on trumped-up criminal charges. **AB**

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Bonifacio to Macli-ing Dulag, from Amado V. Hernandez to Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran, from Ka Bert Olalia to Ka Roger, from Teresa Magbanua to Juvy Capi-on, and all those who have died fighting for the Filipino people's aspirations for genuine independence.

The National Sovereignty and Patrimony Week will cover the scheduled swing-by visit of US imperialist chieftain Barack Obama. It will also cover the upcoming anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). It covers as well as the death anniversary of Macli-ing Dulag and the celebrations of International Earth Day which underscore the issue of increasing foreign plunder of the country's non-renewable resources and the resulting environmental destruction.

The struggle to uphold national sovereignty and patrimony is set to become one of the Filipino people's central points of resistance in the rest of the year and in succeeding years as they amplify their demand for the ouster of the current puppet Aquino regime.

This struggle currently involves:

(1) opposing the planned signing of the Agreement for Enhanced Defense Cooperation which will allow the US to carve military enclaves and maintain permanent military presence in the Philippines of several thousand US troops in the guise of "joint exercises," "humanitarian assistance and disaster response;" and demanding the abrogation of the Mutual Defense Treaty (1956), the Visiting Forces Agreement (1998) and the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (2002).

(2) opposing increasing US military interventionism in providing the puppet regime with military funding and arms support, conducting surveillance operations, providing logistical support and direct participation during combat operations and in conducting bombing runs;

(3) opposing the planned amendment of the 1987 constitution ("chacha" or charter change) which seeks to remove restrictions against foreign ownership of land and business operations in the Philippines in order to fulfill the conditions set by the US government to facilitate the Aquino regime's application to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

(4) opposing the Aquino regime's campaign to open up wider tracts of land for rubber, oil palm, pineapple and banana plantations and entice more mining operations to extract black sand, gold, zinc, coal and other mineral resources.

(5) opposing the neoliberal policies of privatization, deregulation, liberalization and denationalization, especially the Aquino regime's crony-controlled Public-Private Partnership projects;

(6) opposing the Aquino regime's refusal to heed the people's demand for genuine land reform and national industrialization and instead generating an empty economic bubble of office space, mall and condominium construction.

In the economic field, we must set the spotlight on the prevailing grave socio-economic conditions that are a result of US-imposed neoliberal policies which have brought about unprecedented hardships on the people, including the deregula-

tion of the oil industry, the further liberalization of the power industry, the privatization of water services, the use of public funds to augment crony investments in tollways and other infrastructure projects and so on.

We must develop strong national criticism of the Aquino regime and all previous puppet regimes over the past seven decades for their failure to develop a national industrial base and independent economy capable of producing the needs for domestic consumption and production and sustaining employment. We must expose the import-dependent, export-oriented and debt-financed production that oppresses the workers with low wages and the peasants with widespread landgrabbing.

We must condemn the reactionary puppet state for subjecting the country's national patrimony to foreign plunder, allowing foreign big capitalists to siphon out non-renewable mineral resources; and grab tens of thousands of hectares of land and carve out large tracts into chemical-fed plantations which cause massive soil erosion and widespread public health problems including air pollution and the poisoning of rivers and streams.

We must expose how foreign-owned mines and big logging and plantation operations, like foreign-owned semi-manufacturing plants in the so-called "economic zones" do not serve to develop local production and fail to generate a substantial number of jobs correspondent to the extent of its super-profits and how these are interested only in exploiting the cheap labor and cheap raw materials in the Philippines.

We must expose Aquino's

"rapid economic growth" as "ampaw" or having a hollow core and nothing but an illusion conjured by the influx of the oversupply of money in US and China banks and which is set to explode the moment the US and Chinese financial systems make adjustments causing the massive withdrawal of portfolio investments.

We must aim to reinvigorate the Filipino people's sense of patriotism and national dignity by carrying out, among others, a sustained campaign to review Philippine history from the nationalist point of view. We must revive the Filipino people's historic resistance against US military bases.

We must expose how the US has been involved in surveillance, joining trainings, bombing runs, logistical support and other combat operations through its Zamboanga-based Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P). We must expose the public relations campaign being conducted by the US military to make US basing and interventionism more palatable, making use of loose change from the overflowing funds of the US military in token school construction and village electrification projects.

We must expose how the Aquino regime is serving to justify the "US pivot" towards Asia involving the deployment of 60% of US overseas naval troops and 50% of its land-based troops in the Asia-Pacific. We must expose, debunk and oppose the claim of the Aquino regime that it is defending Philippine national sovereignty in allowing the US military to maintain its presence in Philippine seas and have unrestricted access to Philippine facilities in order to confront

China's aggressive assertion of its claim over the South China Sea land formations.

We must show how Aquino's assertion is no different from the justification of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo who welcomed US colonial troops to supposedly fight the Spanish colonialists. The result will not be different: foreign military, political and economic dominance. We must assert and prove that upholding and defending national sovereignty and national patrimony can only be carried out as an independent act of a country. To claim that one's country can assert its sovereignty with the help of a superpower is to beg to become a protectorate of that power.

We must relentlessly oppose US interventionism in the internal affairs of the Philippines. We must expose how the US

embassy operates as the center of political power of the reactionary state in the Philippines where policies, laws and programs emanate and Filipino politicians kowtow to the US ambassador and seek his stamp of approval. We must expose how the US military directs the Philippine military in the conduct of the counterrevolutionary war Oplan Bayanihan, which was patterned after the US Counterinsurgency Guide of 2009.

We must shatter the illusion of a "globalized" world being promoted by the imperialists' ideological and cultural agencies which seeks to break down the national boundaries of third world countries and subject these to military intervention and economic plunder while the imperialist countries race to erect high protectionist walls in their home economic. We must assert the necessity of achieving national sovereignty and defending the country's patrimony as key factors for securing the country's future as a modern and progressive state amid the prolonged and continuing crisis of global capitalism. **AB**



BAYAN assails 7th US-GPH meet

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) rallied in front of Gate 2 of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on March 25 to assail the seventh meeting between military and security officials of the US and Aquino governments under the so-called Strategic Defense Dialogue.

The meetings are being held to draft the Agreement on Enhanced Defense Cooperation, a new pact that will grant the US permission to establish military bases and facilities in the Philippines.

BAYAN challenged the Aquino government to provide the public with the draft agreement as well as the details of the talks between the two regimes. BAYAN said it was ready to launch protests, especially in view of US Pres. Barack Obama's visit to the country this month. **AB**

CPP-NDFP leaders' arrest spurs widespread condemnation

Various revolutionary organizations both here and abroad, as well as progressive groups and patriotic individuals condemned the illegal arrest of Comrades Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria, both well-known senior leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

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

In successive statements, the CPP, Ka Luis Jalandoni of the NDFP Negotiating Panel, NDFP chief political consultant Jose Ma. Sison and Ka Oris (Jorge Madlos) of NDFP-Mindanao assailed Tiamzon and Austria's arrest. The arrest was likewise condemned by the CPP-Southern Tagalog, NDFP-Bicol, Kabataang Makabayan (KM), Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM), Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU), MAKIBAKA, Compatriots, NDFP-Cavite, KM-Manila, BHB-Southern Mindanao, BHB-Quezon, RCTU-Southern Tagalog and many others.

Revolutionary forces launched several rallies calling for Ka Benito and Ka Wilma's release. MAKIBAKA rallied along busy Carriedo Street in Quiapo, Manila on March 24. A similar rally was launched by NDFP allied organizations on March 28 in Mendiola, near Malacañang Palace on March 28. On March

29, NDFP-Cavite members rallied right in front of Camp Crame where the two leaders were being held.

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

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

The CPP disclosed that upon their arrest, the two leaders were busy performing

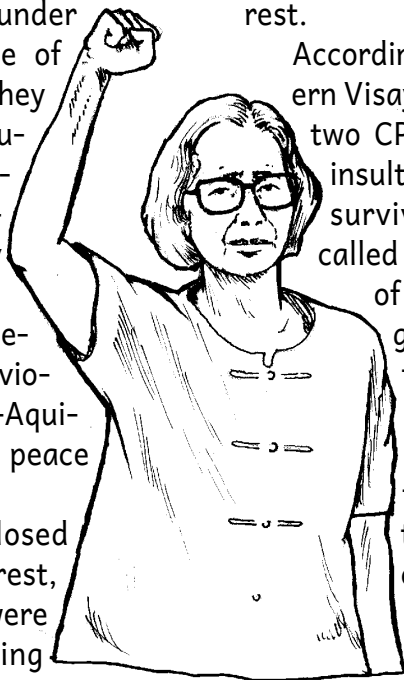
tasks assigned to them by the CPP and NDFP. In particular, they were investigating the conditions of the toiling masses in the Visayas devastated by super typhoon Yolanda and victimized by the Aquino regime's negligence. They were closely monitoring the rehabilitation work being conducted by the New People's Army (NPA) in the devastated areas.

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the CPP belied claims that the arrest of the two leading CPP cadres spells the end for the armed revolution. Although the



role of individual leaders is important, the collective leadership of Party committees at various levels is more crucial.

Whatever the setbacks resulting from Ka Benito and Ka Wilma's arrest, these are temporary, said Ka Oris. Ka Joma Sison added that the advance of the revolutionary movement did not stop with his arrest in 1977 when he chaired the Central Committee. In fact, within 24 hours from his arrest, another comrade immediately stepped in to assume his duties, and the entire revolutionary movement continued to gain strength.

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

In another statement, the KM extolled Ka Benito and Ka Wilma as models to be emulated by the youth. They said that KM chapters are open to the growing numbers of youth who want to follow in their footsteps. MAKIBAKA, in particular, hailed Comrade Wilma as a revolutionary woman and cadre who should be emulated and not put behind bars like a common criminal.

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

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

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

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

Activities on the NPA's 45th year

Various activities were held before and on the day of the 45th anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA). Red commander and fighters and revolutionary forces in various areas led mass actions, programs and cultural presentations to celebrate the victories achieved by the NPA.

Various NPA units celebrated days before the actual anniversary on March 29. In Mindanao, several NPA platoons gathered to render a 21-gun salute to hail the NPA and all martyrs and heroes of the armed struggle. Similar gatherings are set to be held by other NPA units in the next several days and weeks.

Spokespersons and leadership bodies of the NPA and the National Democratic Front (NDF) in Southern Tagalog, Bi-

col, Panay, Negros, Eastern Visayas, Southern and Far South Mindanao sent greetings. They hailed the victories achieved by the NPA in the armed struggle, mass base building and agrarian revolution. They likewise pledged to redouble their efforts to fulfill their duties in order to attain the strategic stalemate of the people's war. They held celebrations attended by hundreds of members of mass organizations, friends and allies.



Several lightning rallies were launched by NDF revolutionary allied organizations to hail to the genuine army of the people. The lightning rallies were led by the Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions, Kabataang Makabayan (KM), Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan, KASAMA and Compatriots. At Philcoa, Quezon City, members of NDF-Southern Tagalog as well as the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid held a program for several minutes on March 29. Members of KM and KASAMA likewise held cultural nights in selected areas of Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, revolutionaries from various countries sent greetings and expressed solidarity with the

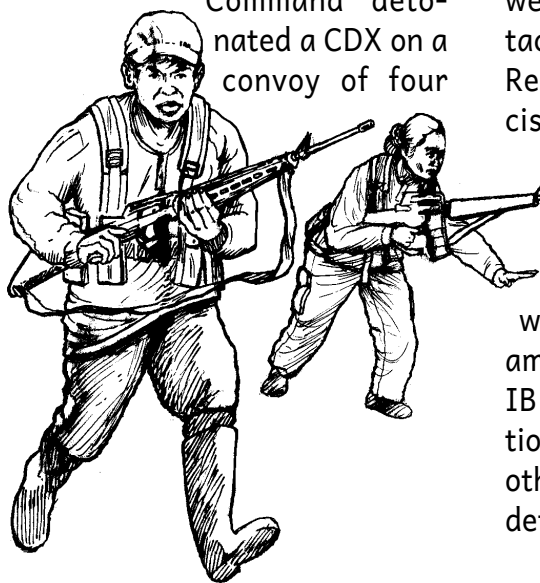
NPA. Communist and socialist movements like the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Turkey/North Kurdistan, the Marxistisch-Leninistische Partei Deutschlands (MLPD) of Germany, the Partido Comunista de Mexico (Marxista-Leninista), the Partido Comunista Revolucionario del Uruguay, the Central Committee of Revolutionary Initiative (Canada), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Kommunistiska Partiet (Sweden), the International Anti-imperialist Coordinating Committee (IACC), the Initiative for the Construction of a Revolutionary Communist Party of Austria, the Peoples Revolutionary Movement of Brazil and the Maoist Communist Party of Manipur sent statements. **AB**

Victorious military actions

Red fighters launched eight victorious military actions in various parts of the country to welcome the 45th anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA).

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

Agusan del Sur. An NPA team under the Western Agusan Norte-Agusan Sur Subregional Command detonated a CDX on a convoy of four



six-by-six trucks bearing 26th IB and Scout Ranger troops at Km. 22, Side 2, Don Alejandro, San Luis at around 12:30 a.m. of March 20, killing two soldiers and wounding 15 others. One of the trucks was destroyed.

Misamis Oriental. A team under the Eastern Misamis Oriental-Northeast Bukidnon Subregional Command harassed 58th IB troops on patrol in Libertad, Gingoog City, at around 4 p.m. of March 15, killing two enemy soldiers.

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

Seven soldiers were wounded when an NAAC squad ambushed elements of the 16th IB conducting military operations on March 7. Earlier, another NAAC squad harassed a detachment of the 59th IB in

Sitio Apya of the same barangay on March 3, wounding a soldier. There were no casualties among the Red guerrillas in these two firefights.

Ifugao. Two 54th IB troopers were wounded in a sniping operation by a unit under the Nona del Rosario Command (NPA-Ifugao) on March 21. The military unit was then conducting patrols in Barangay Camandag in Asipulo town. The Red fighters made a safe retreat.

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

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

Interview with Ka Oris

In the first week of March, *Ang Bayan* interviewed NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Comrade Jorge Madlos, or Ka Oris on the 45th anniversary of the New People's Army, the strengthening of the armed struggle in Mindanao and the challenges it faces, as well as the current tasks of the revolutionary movement in the island.

"The 45th anniversary of the New People's Army is a major victory because we have overcome so many enemy attacks, the many problems we have encountered, and the challenges we face... So I congratulate the Communist Party of the Philippines because due to its absolute leadership, the revolutionary armed struggle continues to advance and gain strength all over the country."

Particularly in Mindanao, the the main factors for the continued advance of the NPA is first, its observance of the Communist Party of the Philippines' absolute leadership. With its adoption of an offensive posture, it has never lost the initiative amid the brutal internal security plans (ISP) of successive reactionary governments. Under the latest ISP, Oplan Bayanihan, not a single guerrilla front was dismantled. Instead, from 40 guerrilla fronts, we now have 46 guerrilla fronts throughout the island.

Another factor is that the NPA has expanded and taken deep roots among the people in the island. So, no matter what the enemy does to isolate the New People's Army from its mass support, it is the people who voluntarily support their army because it is their only hope to achieve land reform and national industrialization. The NPA now operates in more than 200 towns and more than 2,000 barangays.

In the past several years, hundreds of thousands of people have benefited from agrarian revolution which has raised the wages of farm workers and reduced land rent and rentals of agricultural equipment like rice mills.

The benefits gained by the people from the agrarian revolution being launched by all the revolutionary forces in the uplands are also a factor in the growth, deepening and expansion of mass support in the entire island. From this, we have

also been able to establish barrio revolutionary committees, or organs of political power where the people themselves run their government with the legal reactionary government seemingly still existing. Some organs are at the municipal level.

Aside from this, the NPA has also established many units of the people's militia to support it in its military work. At present, there are at least 30 to 40 battalions all over Mindanao when concentrated. They are present in the island's five regions: the Southern Mindanao Region; the Northcentral Mindanao Region; the Northeastern Mindanao Region; the Far South Mindanao Region; and the Western Mindanao Region. They directly support the more than ten battalions of NPA regular forces.

The advance of armed struggle in the entire island can be measured by the number of tactical offensives launched by the NPA in the last four years. In 2010, there were only about 250 plus tactical offensives in the entire island. This grew to more than 300 in 2011, to 400 in 2012 and more than 400 in 2013. These offensives were launched despite the successive attacks under Oplan Bayanihan. In 2014, the NPA will definitely be able to launch more than 500 tactical offensives all over Mindanao.

Consequent to these tactical offensives, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, PNP and CAFGU have been suffering at least a battalion of casualties annually in the last four years. On



the other hand, the NPA's casualties average about a platoon. Thus, although the enemy enjoys a strategic advantage in terms of strength and numbers—there are ten soldiers for every Red fighter—the NPA has demonstrated its superiority over the enemy in gunbattles where the casualty ratio is one Red fighter for every ten enemy elements.

Since the beginning of 2014, the US-Aquino regime has been stepping up its counterrevolutionary war in Mindanao in a desperate attempt to crush the NPA in the island. More than 60% of the AFP's entire combat force has now been deployed to Mindanao. This deployment is in line with the reactionary state's objective of defending foreign mining and agro-industrial corporations in the island. The imperialists and comprador bourgeoisie have already invested huge sums of money in these companies. Besides, US imperialism is also keenly interested in building military bases in Mindanao for its troops, planes and ships.

With the influx of AFP combat forces in the island, the US-Aquino government is sure to inflict more human rights violations and other gross injustices on the people. But the people of Mindanao will go on resisting, and the NPA, CPP and NDF in the island will go on fighting whatever grave scheme the brutal US-Aquino regime has in store for Mindanao. The Aquino regime will not succeed, and will in fact have an even bigger problem in its hands because having concentrated its forces and resources in the island, they will have given a big advantage to the revolutionary forces in all of Luzon and the Visayas to advance further. AB

CPP to MILF: The Aquino government is duplicitous

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) admonished the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) anew that the Aquino regime has no other objective for negotiating and forging an agreement but to disarm the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF, the MILF's armed force). All the US-Aquino regime wants is the capitulation, pacification and division of the revolutionary forces in Mindanao.

The CPP aired its warning to the MILF regarding the Aquino regime in the Central Committee's message on the NPA anniversary on March 29, two days after the MILF and the Government of the Philippines (GPH) signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). The CAB formally terminates the MILF's close to 15 years of armed upheaval.

The signing of the CAB was the culmination of the MILF's three-year negotiation with the Aquino regime. It provided substance to the previously signed Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro signed in October 2012. The CPP noted the extremely short period left for the Aquino regime to fulfill its promises to the MILF.

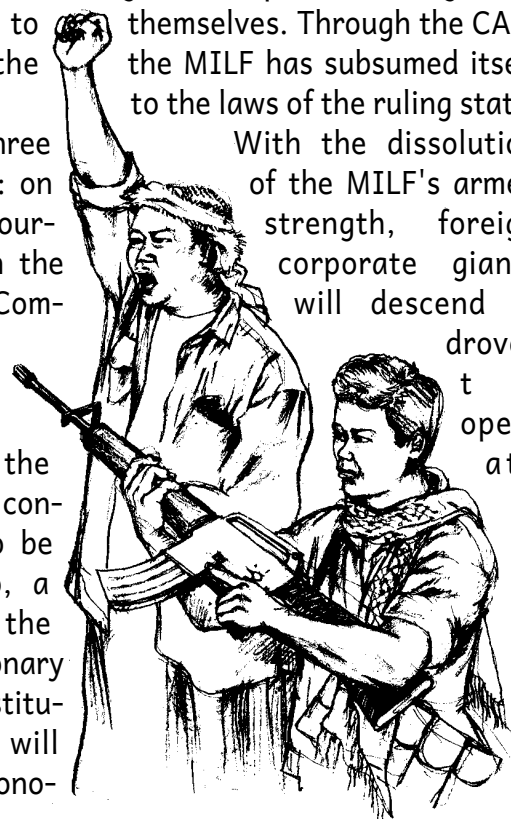
The CAB comprises three agreements (or annexes): on sharing of income and resources; on power sharing in the Bangsamoro Transitory Committee (BTC); and on "normalization" or demobilizing the BIAF.

In accordance with the CAB, the BTC will draft a constitution for the soon to be established Bangsamoro, a state-like entity under the jurisdiction of the reactionary government and its constitution. The Bangsamoro will take the place of the Autono-

mous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). A bill creating the Bangsamoro will be filed in Congress and eventually ratified in a plebiscite to be held in the areas to be covered. Only then can the Bangsamoro Transition Authority be formed, which is the committee that will take charge of electing its officials. The entire process is fraught with problems, and its completion is uncertain.

On the other hand, NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Ka Oris pointedly said that the signing of the CAB is deleterious to the Moro people. The CAB has no intention of providing the Moro people with genuine power to govern themselves. Through the CAB, the MILF has subsumed itself to the laws of the ruling state.

With the dissolution of the MILF's armed strength, foreign corporate giants will descend in droves to operate



vast plantations and mines that will deprive the Moro people of the land and its resources. Ka Oris cited the recent sale of thousands of hectares of land in Maguindanao and Cotabato to multinational agribusiness companies.

He added that the signing of the CAB merely formalized the long-term neutralization by the reactionary government of the Moro people's armed struggle. In the past decade, the MILF had entered into a long-term ceasefire of indefinite duration, despite repeated violations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. For ten years, there has been no real armed resistance by the MILF.

Even with the MILF out of the picture, said Ka Oris, the Moro struggle will continue. He called on the Moro people to draw lessons from the history of the Moro struggle. Their struggle must include campaigns against feudalism and should implement various forms of agrarian revolution among their ranks.

Meanwhile, a number of government officials have assailed the CAB. One of its foremost critics is Sen. Miriam Santiago, who said that the CAB violates the 1987 constitution. She said that neither the president nor the executive branch has the authority to enter agreements that would limit the country's territorial sovereignty or limit the GPH's authority. Santiago added that the provisions of the CAB are no different from those of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) signed by the MILF and the US-Arroyo regime and already declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2009.

Other Moro groups are also against the CAB, including former BIAF commander Umbra Kato. He now leads the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Force (BIFF) which was formed in 2012 to continue the struggle for genuine autonomy. **AB**

Andrea Rosal's arrest is fascist payback

Combined elements of the National Bureau of Investigation, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police arrested Andrea Rosal and her husband Rafael de Guzman on March 27 in Baraga 169, Caloocan City. Also arrested was Barangay Chairman Ruben Gatchalian, the owner of the house they were staying in. Andrea is nine months pregnant and preparing for her child's delivery.

Andrea, 31, is the elder daughter of Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal. Ka Roger died in June 2011 while Andrea's mother Rosemarie was martyred in an encounter with fascist troops in Quezon in the same year.

Andrea's arrest is clearly a form of "fascist payback" after the reactionary enemy's failure to capture her father Ka Roger. The military was angered no end at the late CPP spokesperson because he effectively advanced the revolution's aspirations and exposed AFP abuses. In addition, despite the AFP leadership's never-ending braggadocio, the military was never able to capture Ka Roger until his death from illness.

It is also a bitter irony for Andrea to be charged by a reactionary court with trumped-up criminal cases like kidnapping an officer of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM). In 1989, when she was merely five years old, Andrea was abducted by soldiers while she was under the care of her grandmother in Ragay, Camarines Sur, in a bid to force Ka Roger's surrender. The military was eventually compelled to release Andrea due to strong protests from the media. **AB**

Minority leader slain in Ifugao

Minority leader William Bugatti, 43, was shot to death at around 7 p.m. of March 25 by suspected military agents along the highway in Bolog, Kiangan, Ifugao. Bugatti, who hailed from the Tawali-Ifugao tribe, was a council member of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA) and the Cordillera People's Alliance. He was also the provincial coordinator of Bayan Muna. Simultaneously, he belonged to the Ifugao Peasant Movement (IPM), an alliance of progressive organizations in Ifugao communities. He was aboard his motorcycle when he was waylaid.

Bugatti was 21st on the military's list of targeted personalities in Ifugao. In February, KARAPATAN got hold of the list drawn up by the 86th IB Charlie Coy based in Tinoc, Ifugao. The roster names 28 leaders of various progressive groups in the province. Since the list's existence became public, the military has brazenly surveilled and harassed Bugatti, whom they accused of being a member of the New People's Army. **AB**

Infant boy dies during evacuation

A 12-day old boy died as more than a thousand Ata-Manobo minorities fled fierce military operations in Davao del Norte. Another boy was abducted by the military in North Cotabato and presented to the media as a "child warrior" of the New People's Army (NPA). Meanwhile, in Compostela Valley, Philippine Army troops are on a rampage to protect the expanding operations of foreign mining companies in the province.

Davao del Norte. Twelve-day old Biboy Manayad died at around 1 p.m. of April 2 while on the road with some 1,500 evacuees from Sitio Igang, Barangay Sto. Niño, Talaingod. Biboy was already coughing and running a fever when he was brought to the care of health volunteers who were helping the evacuees, more than half of whom are children.

On the same day, an evacuee, Amlita Balite delivered an infant girl while she and fellow villagers hurriedly left their upland communities. The evacuees hardly had any provisions except for some cassava because of the intense militarization of Ata-Manobo communities in Sitio Tibucag and Pangaan in Barangay Dagohoy; and Sitio Nalubas and Bagag in Barangay Palma Gil, all in Talaingod town.

Since March 4, soldiers belonging to the 60th IB and 4th Special Forces under the 10th Infantry Division have been ravaging the area. On March 20, four AFP airplanes and two helicopters

dropped
bombs
from 3



p.m. to past 4 p.m., according to Datu Dolon Dausay, spokesperson of the Salugpongan Ta 'Tanu Igkanugon.

The day before, 14 military troopers accosted local area leader Tungig Mansimuy-at and community teacher Roylan Licayan, along with 13 students while they were walking towards Sitio Palungan, Barangay Palma Gil to get the chickens and cassava prepared by the community for their school's graduation. They were separately subjected to interrogation by the soldiers, who also took pictures of them.

They were forced to return to Sitio Nalubas, escorted by seven soldiers. In the middle of their hike, they met 30 other soldiers who subjected them again to interrogation. They were released after an hour. The military, meanwhile, destroyed the rice fields in Sitio Pangaan.

Soldiers also illegally arrested Ubonoy Butod Manlaon while she was hiking towards Sitio Bagasan with seeds to be used for planting rice. The victim, a tribal woman elder from Sitio Bagang, Barangay Palma Gil, was in military custody for a week and forced to serve as a guide in the soldiers' operations. She was eventually able to escape from the fascists.

North Cotabato. Soldiers under the 57th IB abducted a 14-year old boy in Magpet town and later presented him to the media as an alleged NPA child soldier. "Balong" (not his real name) was seized in a forested area of

Barangay Bantak, Magpet on March 24. A Grade 6 pupil, he was scheduled to graduate from the Bangkal Elementary School in Bukidnon on March 27 and has complete class records, thus rendering the military's accusation impossible. The military officials' sole basis for their accusation is the child's ability to sing so-called NPA songs.

Instead of returning him to his parents, the military has instead ordered the boy's detention at the Magpet Social Welfare and Development Office.

Compostela Valley. Elements of the 9th IB abducted and killed Wilmar Bargas, a 21-year old resident of Sitio Tinago, Barangay Elizalde, Maco. Bargas was beaten and strangled to death by the soldiers near their camp in Tinago. The grim murder was witnessed by Bargas' companion, who was later able to escape from enemy hands.

As the 9th IB wreaked havoc in Maco, the 71st IB has also been sowing terror in the towns of Pantukan, Mabini and Mawab, which are being targeted for expansion by US-owned mining giant St. Augustine Gold and Copper Ltd.

The 71st IB is currently concentrating on Pantukan, where it serves as the protector of St. Augustine's 4,000-hectare Mineral Production Sharing Agreement concession.

Bukidnon and Davao City. The 4th ID conducted a surrender ceremony on March 29 in its camp in Cagayan de Oro, where 72 individual, including a number of children, allegedly swore allegiance to the reactionary government. In Paquibato District, Davao City, the 69th IB forced a number of locals to sign documents portraying them as surrenderees. AB

Relentless harassment in Hacienda Luisita

The arrest of three members of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA) in Barangay Cutcut, Tarlac City on the afternoon of March 28 by elements of the Tarlac City Police forms part of the relentless harassment of struggling peasants at Hacienda Luisita.

The renewed fascist attack occurred when the peasants blocked elements of the Tarlac City Police and guards of the Tarlac Development Corporation (TADECO) from fencing a 104-hectare agricultural plot in Barangay Cutcut. Arrested were Romeo Corpuz, Marcelino Lugay and Pia Hernandez.

TADECO, which is owned by Benigno Aquino III's family is forcefully claiming more than a thousand hectares of prime agricultural land in Hacienda Luisita despite a Supreme Court decision in April 2012 ordering

their distribution to the peasants. Like a 258-hectare plot earlier fenced off by TADECO in Barangay Balete, the plot in Barangay Cutcut is covered by agrarian reform.

AMBALA reported that the peasants were hit with hammers and shovels brought by 20 armed guards of TADECO. Twenty-three policemen from the Tarlac City PNP as well as elements of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) and ten soldiers from the 3rd Mechanized Battalion of the Philippine Army who were standing nearby

merely watched while the assault was being perpetrated.

One of the peasants, Jerry Mesa, was hit in the head by a hammer and brought to the provincial hospital, while farmer leader Renato Mendoza was wounded in his right shoulder and the left side of his body.

On March 25, another peasant, Rudy Corpuz, 59, a brother of one of arrestees, was also hit in the head with a hammer by Faustino Corpuz (no relation to Rudy), a worker under contract with TADECO.

Prior to this, AMBALA chair Floria Sibayan and another peasant, Julius Loveland, were also arrested on March 19. Sibayan was charged with malicious mischief, direct assault and grave coercion. It was Sibayan's third arrest in her struggle for land at Hacienda Luisita. She and her companion were released the next day after posting bail. AB

6,000 attend Romeo Capalla's burial

More than 6,000 Panayanon attended a necrological mass and joined the funeral cortege for slain businessman Romeo Capalla on March 23 in Leon town, Iloilo despite a strong downpour. Most of those who came hailed all the way from the provinces of Antique, Aklan and Capiz.

Capalla, 65, was chairperson of the board of directors of the Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC) and served as PFTC's general manager for 12 years. He was the younger brother of Davao Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla.

The victim was killed by suspected death squad elements under the Philippine Army 3rd ID on March 15 right in front of the police headquarters in Oton, Iloilo. Almost simultaneously, two small sugar mills in Janiuay town serviced by the PFTC were burned down.

The PFTC helps small farmers sell their products like organic muscovado at high prices.

In his homily, Archbishop Capalla, former presi-

dents of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines strongly condemned the heinous crime and demanded justice for his brother and for the many other victims of extrajudicial killing in the country.

KARAPATAN, PFTC, Bayan Muna (BM) and the Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainee Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA) also condemned Capalla's murder. Reps. Neri Colmenares and Carlos Zarate of BM filed a resolution at the House Committee on Human Rights to investigate the case.

International fair trade groups likewise assailed Capalla's killing. They expressed their sympathies to his relatives and friends and called for justice for his slaying.

The World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), of which the PFTC is a member, had earlier issued a statement condemning the murder. The WFTO is an international organization of more than 200 groups of producers, marketers, exporters, importers, wholesalers and retailers. AB

General strike paralyzes Paraguay

Paraguay was paralyzed on March 26 when unions and organizations in various cities and regions waged a day-long strike against the Cartes administration's massive privatization plans.

The general strike was the country's first in 20 years. Transportation and business ground to a halt and schools and hospitals closed down. It was the culmination of a series of protest actions launched by various sectors since the latter part of 2013. The protests were joined by the toiling masses, small businessmen and other sectors.

The demonstrators demanded the junking of a law allowing private companies to invest in government infrastructure projects in exchange for being granted concessions and the right to charge fees.

They also demanded a 25% hike in workers' and teachers' wages and a rescheduling of debts incurred by the poor. They pushed for agrarian reform, free and quality education, price controls in basic commodities and an end to violence against poor peasants.

Pres. Horacio Cartes is a corrupt and millionaire businessman who won under the Colorado Party against Efraim Alegre in fraud-ridden polls in April 2013. He has twice been imprisoned (1989 and 2000) for fraud involving government loans from which he raked in millions of dollars. He has also been implicated in drug smuggling and money laundering.

In 2011, the US hatched plans to install Cartes in place of Pres. Fernando Lugo

through a parliamentary coup launched by pro-US politicians. The US and the local ruling classes vented their ire on Lugo for his stance favoring social justice and national independence against the US' neoliberal policies.

Lugo was the first Paraguayan president to break the Colorado Party's 65-year rule. Lugo had opposed the controversial Private-Public Partnership Law that allows government to cede to the private sector any state-owned property or service with guaranteed profits.

Paraguay is a country at the heart of South America bounded by Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. It has a land area of 406,752 square kilometers and had a population of more than 6.5 million in 2013. It was a Spanish colony for almost 200 years and became a US neocolony

in 1947.

Paraguay is a crisis-ridden country. It is considered the second poorest country in South America, next only to Bolivia. There is a huge gap between the rich and poor, with close to 90% of land controlled by a mere 2% of the population. More than a third of the population is impoverished, with unemployment and underemployment rates hitting up to 40%.

The countryside is ruled by despotic landlords and comprador bourgeoisie in cahoots with US multinational companies like Monsanto, Pioneer, Syngenta, Dupont, Cargill, Archer Daniels Midland and Bunge. Drug cartels are also a powerful force in Paraguay.

Reactionary politics in Paraguay is ridden with corruption, violence, criminality and nepotism. Since the country became a neocolony, the Colorado Party, a gathering of US puppet politicians, has ruled Paraguay. From 1954 to 1989, the puppet dictator Alfredo Stroessner ruled the country until his ouster in 1989, but this failed to break the rule of puppet reactionaries from the Colorado Party. AB

