



ANG

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

Bayan

Special Issue

June 1, 2015

www.philippinerevolution.net

On Ang Bayan's resumption

Ang Bayan's regular publication was temporarily disrupted from March to May 2015. Only the March 29, 2015 issue was published during this time.

Ang Bayan suffered setbacks after it was targeted by repressive operations of the US-Aquino regime. The attack against the newspaper is part of the regime's desperate attempt to stifle the revolutionary people and silence the people's call for Aquino's ouster.

The Party's central leadership immediately revamped the machinery of AB so that it can resume publication at the soonest. Cadres and members of the Party, NPA commanders and fighters, activists and the mass base have been awaiting its return.

They are eager to read, hear and watch news of the advances of the mass movement and armed struggle across the country. They want to read again the timely analyses of pressing issues in the face of the worsening crisis of the local semifeudal and semicolonial system, as well as that of the international capitalist system. They look forward to reading the Party's calls so that the entire people can march in unison in advancing their national-democratic struggles.

Ang Bayan's resumption is

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Persevere in ousting the US-Aquino regime

The 2016 elections is still at a distance but the reactionaries are already creating a lot of noise with party maneuverings and ceaseless attention-grabbing by wannabee candidates.

Benigno Aquino III is beside himself with glee with the electoral racket. His clique is using the premature noise to produce political dramas to entertain and engage the public, and divert the people's attention from important issues confronting his regime.

The electoral noise is lullaby to Aquino's ears. It is drowning out his Mamasapano nightmare of the bungled PNP operations which exposed US military intervention and his treachery and criminal responsibility and sparked widespread anger and calls for his ouster.

US imperialism likewise prefers that rival politicians busy themselves with the elections rather than join calls to oust Aquino. It is aware that a regime change brought about by a powerful mass movement and broad united front under the Party's leadership will weaken the ruling system and help strengthen the progressive and revolutionary forces.

The Filipino people and progressive and democratic forces must act firmly to counter Aquino's use of the electoral racket to drown out their grievances.

They should challenge the loud politicians to end their silence on important people's issues such as heightening US military intervention in the country, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and Visiting Forces Agreement, the demand for the restoration and raising of the national minimum wage, against all forms of contractualization, landgrabbing, for genuine land reform, national industrialization and the resumption of the NDFP peace negotiations for a just and lasting peace.

Party is determined to overcome and defeat the enemy's repressive campaign.

This June 1, 2015 special issue will serve as a transition towards the resumption of Ang Bayan's fortnightly publication. Its editors call for the strengthening the system of submission of articles, news and other information for publication.

Concerned leading Party committees are putting up AB bureaus in regions, sectors and other lines of work to strengthen the national machinery. Party branches and members are expected to contribute to this endeavor by regularly and promptly reporting their daily experiences in waging revolution.

Upon AB's resumption, leading Party organs should ensure that sufficient copies are reproduced and circulated so that all Party members, NPA units and the mass base are able to read its issues. Aside from the centralized methods of reproduction in place, there must be plans to mobilize the sections and branches, as well as revolutionary mass organizations, in the reproduction and distribution work of AB. Everyone should be taught how to download the latest AB issue and video from the internet through cellphones.

The use of AB as an instrument for consolidation, expansion and mobilization of the Party's entire membership should be strengthened. All organs are tasked to ensure that its issues are reproduced fortnightly and collectively discussed by Party branches and mass organizations.

AB

a blow to the reactionary state. The

The Filipino people should guard against Aquino's attempts to extend his power by installing his political allies who will defend him against the myriad cases the people are sure to file against him.

The people should remain focused on advancing their struggles in the face of the toiling masses' worsening suffering and oppression. They should continue to call for Aquino's ouster and make him pay for his all out puppetry, negligence, corruption, repression and deception. There should be no let up in this regard.

The occasion of Aquino's state of the nation address (SONA) at the opening of Congress in July should be met with the largest demonstration under his term. It should serve as a day of judgment to demonstrate how his regime's five-year rule has been one big tragedy for the people.

The interests of different democratic sectors should be promoted in the face of Aquino's unrestrained implementation of neoliberal policies and obedience to the US and other big foreign capitalists' dictates. Carry out nationally coordinated struggles of peasants, workers, employees, urban poor, students and youth.

Accelerate efforts to unite the Filipino people to fight for the restoration and raising of the national minimum wage. With the youth and students at the helm, they should fight against tuition and other school fee increases, against the anti-people and pro-imperialist K-12 program and the commercialized system of education.

They should denounce the planned APEC meeting

in November which will serve to push further neoliberal policies. They should guard against the push for "cha-cha" (charter or constitutional change) which will do away with the few provisions that protect local capital and national patrimony and ban foreign military facilities in the country.

They should continue to fight and completely defeat the anti-people Oplan Bayanihan and intensify tactical offensives of the New People's Army.

They should continue to persevere in ousting Aquino from power even if the entire reactionary political system is already preoccupied with the elections. As long as Aquino sits in Malacañang, they should persevere in the movement to oust him even up to election day itself.

AB



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Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.

It can be downloaded from the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at

www.philippinerevolution.net

Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items.

Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for the betterment of our newspaper.

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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

Tanduay contractual workers go on strike

Workers of Tanduay Distillers Inc. in Cabuyao, Laguna went on strike starting May 18. The strike is led by the Tanggulan Ugnayang Daluyang Lakas ng Anakpawis sa Tanduay Distillers Inc (TUDLA), an association of 397 contractual workers who makes up 90% of the plant's labor force.

TUDLA's main demand is for the regularization of all Tanduay contractual workers, especially those who have been working in the plant for five to 11 years. TUDLA asserts that contractualization of core and essential workers is against the law. Workers often work for 12, even 15

hours at times.

They receive below-

minimum wages.

The company declared the workers as self-employed making them receive lower SSS and Phil-health benefits compared to other wage earners. When TUDLA brought their case to the Department of Labor and Employment, it declared Tanduay's contractualization as "legal."

On the first day of the strike, the workers were assaulted with water cannons and pelted with broken bottles and large rocks. The

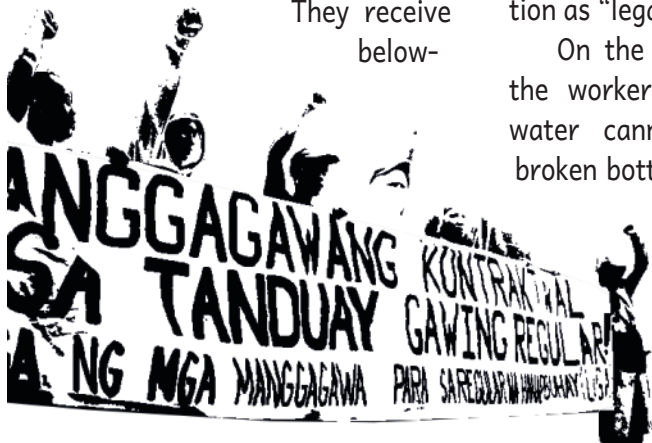
management likewise sneaked into the plant three truckloads of scabs through the South Expressway gate of

the adjacent Asia Brewery plant. Meanwhile, workers from nearby plants gave support including those from Coca-cola, who succeeded in their 2013 strike to fight for the regularization of contractual workers.

Tanduay Distillers Inc is one of the companies owned by Lucio Tan. Its factories produce alcoholic beverages such as Tanduay Rhum, Gin Kapitan and Compañero. Tan, the second wealthiest Philippine billionaire listed in the Forbes magazine, also owns Asia Brewery. He also owns Philippine Airlines, Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank.

It is estimated that Tanduay's net sales in 2013 reached P12.8 billion. At P314 daily, wages paid to 400 workers constitute only a third of every centavo (or P0.0033) the company makes.

The Liga ng mga Manggagawa Para sa Regular na Hanapbuhay (League of Workers for Regular Work) estimates that 70% to 80% of workers in Southern Tagalog are contractuales. AB



May 1 call

Struggle for a national minimum wage!

Thousands of workers took to the streets last May 1 to call for the restoration and increase of the national minimum wage and for the ouster of Benigno Aquino III. May 1 is celebrated yearly as International Workers Day.

"Tuta ng Kano, Pahamak sa Pilipino, Pahirap sa Obrero: Patalsikin ang rehimeng US-Arroyo" (An American puppet, A bane to the Filipino, A burden to the Workers: Oust the US-Aquino regime!) was the theme of the protests across the country. In Manila, about 20,000 workers gathered at Liwasang Bonifacio and marched to Mendiola.

Among those who led the protests is the alliance Sobra na! Sigaw ng Obrero: Resign Aquino Now!, (We've had enough! Workers Call: Resign Aquino Now!) composed of workers' organizations including the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Federation of Freedom Workers, National Labor Union, Philippine Association of Labor Unions, Alliance of Filipino Workers and Young Christian Workers.

The protests was marked by the participation of Celia Veloso, mother of migrant worker Mary Jane. A victim of a criminal syndicate, the imprisoned Mary Jane was then scheduled to be executed in Indonesia. Veloso criticized the Aquino regime's worthlessness and thanked Migrante International for seeking out the Indonesian president and securing a temporary stay on the execution.

Also participating in the protests is the All Workers Unity, an alliance of groups from the public sector and private enterprises who banded together to call for the restoration of the national minimum wage and raising it to P16,000/month. The amount is estimated to be half of the family living wage needed to support an average-sized family with four children.

Compared to the current P466 daily minimum wage in Metro Manila, the P16,000 monthly wage is equivalent to a P150/day increase. It amounts to a P7,000 increase from the current P9,000 minimum monthly wage for government employees in the National Capital Region.

The workers denounced the system under the Wage Rationalization Law of 1989 which has resulted in 1,000 different wage levels in different regions. Despite very low rates, many workers receive wages below the minimum. According to the National Statistics Office survey in 2011, 48% or 9.8 million workers receive below-minimum wages. Most of them are contractuales.

Negligence at Kentex

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) extended its sympathies to the families of the 72 workers who died at Kentex, a factory which produces rubber slippers in Valenzuela that was razed to the ground last May 13. The CPP supports the workers' call for justice, especially over the criminal negligence of the factory's capitalist owner and state agencies which resulted in the tragedy.

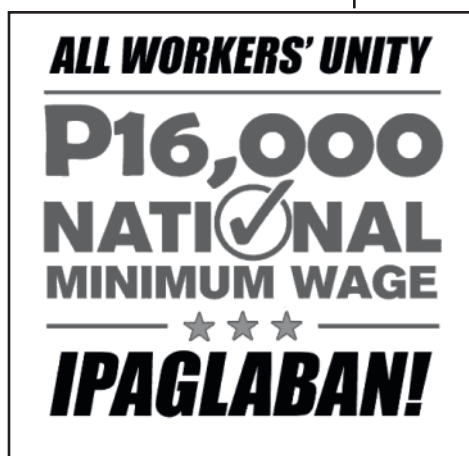
The CPP likewise condemned the factory's exploitative and oppressive system which includes contractualization and the piecemeal wage system. Most Kentex workers receive only P275-P300 a day, way below the P466 minimum defined by law and the P1,100 considered as decent daily wage. This system is made worse by Aquino regime's "one-stop-shop" program and other neoliberal policies which deregulated safety requirements which favor big capitalists and put workers lives in danger.

Workers' victory at Sumifru

Workers at Sumifru Corporation in Compostela Valley successfully put an end to the implementation of the company's piecemeal wage system. The system reduced wages from P4,380 to P2,700 for a ten-day work period. Workers are often forced to work overtime for four to eight hours to meet their quotas.

The struggle was led by the Nagkahi-usang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farm (United Workers of Suyapa Farm.) A 2-day strike and rally was staged by 5,000 workers in Davao City on April 10-11.

Sumifru is a Japanese company and subsidiary of Sumitomo Fruit Corporation. It exports bananas to China, Japan, Korea, Middle East, New Zealand and Russia. AB



Health wokers condemn privatization of medical services

Members of the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) marched to the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City on April 17 in support of the struggle of Philippine Orthopedic Centre (POC) employees who are set to be laid off due to privatization. In 2014, the US-Aquino regime awarded ownership of the POC to big comprador Henry Sy under its Public-Private Partnership program in the guise of the "modernization" of hospital facilities.

The AHW called for continuing the fight against privatization of medical services. It pointed to how protests stopped the privatization of the West Visayas State University Medical Centre in 2011. The proposal was put forward by then congresswoman and now Health Secretary Janet Garin.

The AHW likewise drew attention to the problem of contractualization and the "volunteer" system in Quirino Provincial Medical Centre. Only around 30 are regular employees. The rest have been working as contractuales in the last half decade. Worse, employees must first work for two years as "volunteers" before becoming contractuales. "Volunteers" do not receive wages even though they do the same work as regular employees. Contractuales receive only P6,000/month.

The AHW is pushing for a P25,000 entry wage level for nurses both in private and public hospitals. AB

Movement against tuition and OSF advances

Successive rallies were held from March to May in different schools and on streets by the alliance Rise for Education! (R4E) against the new round of increases of tuition and other fees. More than 313 private schools were allowed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to raise tuition by an average of 7% or P67-135 per unit starting June.

Over the past five years, annual tuition increases averaged 10-15% in private schools. Thus, tuition rose by around P18,000 per semester under the US-Aquino regime.

At the same time, students denounced increases of the OSF or "other school fees"—the various fees imposed by private and public schools that do not benefit the students. Examples of these are "cultural fee", "athletic fee", "internet fee" and in one school "lifelong relations fee" (a fee supposedly to give the students the privilege of "claiming" the school).

In many cases, OSF are bigger than tuition. An example is that of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), one of the country's biggest public uni-

versities. For several decades, tuition in PUP has remained at P12/unit while OSF have constantly increased. In 2010-2013, the PUP has accumulated P710 million in OSF while collecting P459 million in tuition. It is estimated that schools have collected P13.5 billion annually in OSF. There is no regulation for the entire OSF system giving schools free rein to impose whatever fees.

Also last March, students trooped to the CHED office to vent their anger against education policies after the suicide of Rossana Sanfuego, a student of the Cagayan State University (CSU). Sanfuego, 16, took her life last February 27 after she was prohibited from taking exams because of her failure to pay her OSF. CSU charges around P4,000 OSF per student.

Violations of students rights

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) filed a complaint before the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) demanding an end to the violation of press freedom and other student rights in various campuses. From May 2014 to February 2015, CEGP recorded 500 cases of violations of press freedom, mostly against publications that are actively denouncing and opposing tuition and OSF increases.

Among those presented by CEGP is the case of student journalists of the UP Vista, the student paper in the University of the Philippines-Tacloban, who were branded by the AFP as being members of the New People's Army (NPA). The CEGP also filed cases of violations of students' right to peaceably assemble and air their opinion on national issues. One such case is that of the students of the National Teachers College who were threatened of being kicked-out of the college because they launched a protest action against tuition increases last February. **AB**

NDFP commemorates 42nd anniversary

Representatives, members and supporters of revolutionary organizations comprising the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) assembled to commemorate the 42nd anniversary of its establishment last April 25 at the Bahay Alumni in the University of the Philippines-Diliman. The NDFP was founded on April 24, 1973.

The activity started with a parade of flags of NDFP organizations. This was followed by the reading of the message from Ka Mariano Orosa, chairman of the NDFP National Council, who greeted the participants of the said gathering.

Ka Luis Jalandoni also spoke on the formation of the NDFP, and its present composition and situation. He stressed the belligerency status of the NDFP and the existence of two governments in the Philippines. He also announced the formal membership of the group Compatriots—the underground organization of migrant Filipinos—as an allied organization of the NDFP. Before the start of the program, a new book on the life and struggles of Ka Louie, titled “Louie Jalandoni, Revolutionary: An Illustrated Biography” was also launched.

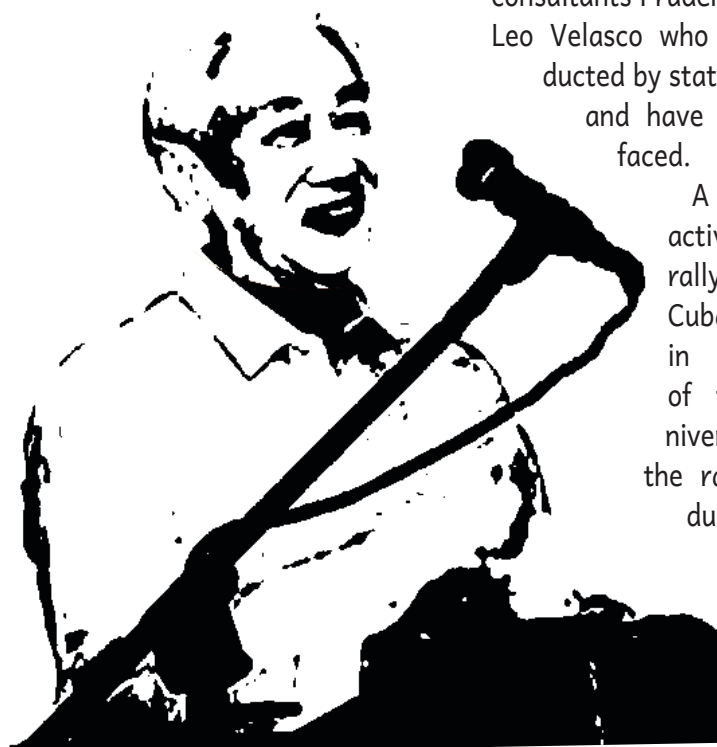
Ka Coni Ledesma, a member of the NDFP

Peace Negotiating Panel and international spokesperson of MAKIBAKA, laid down the present situation of peace talks between the NDFP and the Government of the Philippines (GPH).

Aside from the said speeches, messages from Ka Benito Tiamzon and Ka Wilma Austria-Tiamzon were also read during the program along with messages from Ka Alan Jazmines and Ka Tirso Alcanta, NDFP consultants illegally detained in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig. Ka Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NDFP Political Consultant, along with Ka Oris, spokesman of the NDF-Mindanao, also sent video messages.

Performances were staged by cultural groups as Musikang Bayan, Artist Inc., Sinagbayan and the People's Chorale. A song-skit was also performed by Nuki Calubid and Aya Santo, children of consultants Prudencio Calubid and Leo Velasco who were both abducted by state forces in 2007 and have yet to be surfaced.

A day before the activity, a lightning rally was held in Cubao, Quezon City in commemoration of the NDFP anniversary. A video of the rally was shown during the program and was applauded by the participants. **AB**



Aquino lacks sincerity in peace talks—JMS

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) denounced Benigno Aquino II for "seeking to impose on the NDFP his one-sided views," upsetting efforts to resume the GPH-NDFP peace negotiations.

"It is Aquino who lacks sincerity in peace negotiations," said Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, the NDFP chief political consultant in peace negotiations.

"He is out of his mind if he thinks that he can get an agreement on indefinite ceasefire without complying with the aforesaid existing agreements (Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees and The Hague Declaration) and without a Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms at the same time.

Sison criticized Aquino for allowing the issuance of warrants of arrest against NDFP consultants in connection with the baseless and false Hilogos charge.

"He (Aquino) seems to be obsessed with going down in history with a legacy of cruelty comparable to that of Marcos and Arroyo in collecting political prisoners and allowing the military, police and paramilitary in perpetrating forced disappearances, torture, mass displacement, demolition of homes and land-grabbing..."

AB

Oplan Bayanihan, a failure in Mindanao

The New People's Army and the revolutionary people of Mindanao continue to frustrate the counter-revolutionary Oplan Bayanihan war of the US-Aquino regime.

The NPA in the island steadfastly faced and frustrated the AFP's intensified offensive since the early part of 2014. Along with the advance of the agrarian revolution and the growing strength of the mass base, the NPA continues to gain strength and expand throughout the island.

The AFP's intensified offensive and brutality in 2014

The AFP and the reactionary state is desperate to destroy the NPA in Mindanao, specifically in the three regions of Northeast Mindanao, North Central Mindanao and Southern Mindanao. The AFP claims that if it can wipe out the NPA in these regions, it can force the NPA to retreat throughout the country.

Since the early part of 2014, the AFP has increased the number of its forces deployed in Mindanao. From the 50 battalions at the end of Oplan Bantay Laya in 2010, more than 70 combat battalions have now been deployed in the island, including maneuver and territorial bat-

talions under the 1st ID, 4th ID, 6th ID and 10th ID supplemented by six battalions from the divisions based in Luzon and Visayas; and the battalions under the Scout Rangers, Special Forces, Light Reaction Forces and Marines.

"Encirclement and Suppression" campaigns and strike operations are now bigger, focused on regional, sub-regional and inter-front borders. The Eastern Mindanao Command primarily leads and coordinates the equivalent of three divisions deployed in military campaigns and operations. These operations are actively supported by the US military, including the frequent use of surveillance drones.

These enlarged military operations have brought widespread disaster to the people. Psy-war operations in the name of "community organizing for peace and development" have brought great harm on the masses. Violations of human rights and international rules of war have become widespread.

Community peace and order has been disrupted with the use of schools, day-care centers, barangay halls and other civilian structures by fascist soldiers as barracks. The AFP has armed and used paramilitary groups such as the Bagani Force, Alamara, Lumadnong Pakig-bisog sa CARAGA (Lupaca), San Fernando Matigsalug Tribal Datus (Sanmatidra), Bungkatol Liberation Front (BULIF), New Indigenous People's Army for Reform (NIPAR), Salakawan (Wild Dogs) and others to sow fear and disorder.

The AFP has used heavy cannons and aerial bom-



bardment against civilian communities. In 2014, farmers from more than 40 communities have been forced to evacuate due to intensified militarization.

The NPA and the masses frustrate Oplan Bayanihan under Party leadership

According to Ka Oris, National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindanao spokesperson, the NPA has maintained the intensity of guerrilla warfare through the launching of more than 400 tactical offensives against units of the AFP, PNP and their paramilitary groups. This approximates the number of NPA offensives in Mindanao in 2013. There is an increase in the number of tactical offensives by units of the people's militias and by self-defense corps, simultaneously or independent of offensives of the regular NPA units.

Ka Oris pointed out the continuing expansion of the NPA in Mindanao. In some advanced regions, the NPA has been able to recruit more than 500 new full-time Red fighters per year. In other regions, the NPA has been able to recruit up to 200 yearly.

Politico-military trainings have been continuous to enhance the capabilities of NPA units in combat and political work. Political education and propaganda on the achievements of the revolution and the current national situation are regularly conducted. Military cadre conferences have been held to sharpen the leadership knowledge and skills of the commanding officers. The morale among the comrades is high making them ever ready to face hardship and sacrifice.

Scores of guerrilla platoons operate in 200 towns and cities inside 47 districts located in 19 provinces. In some advanced regions, some units are company-sized formations. Thousands of NPA militia forces are organized into squads and platoons.

The NPA in various regions have repeatedly shown its capability to detain enemy officials and rank-and-file and treat them fairly in accordance with humanitarian laws related to the conduct of prisoners-of-war (POW). All POWs have been safely released to independent forces or local officials of the reactionary government, enhancing the status of the NPA as a belligerent force.

Millions comprise the NPA mass base in Mindanao. It operates in some 2,300 barrios. Half of these are consolidated, while the rest are influenced or are in guerrilla zones. Solid mass organizations are well-developed. Some have been formed at the municipal or section levels. There are organs of political governance at the barrio and municipal levels.

Hundreds of thousands of peasants have benefited from the agrarian revolution. Anti-feudal struggles to lower the rent of land and farm implements have been sustained. Campaigns to increase production have been launched.

The people sustain their mobilizations and the conduct of their revolutionary organizations and people's government. They fight for their rights to free and peaceful living, defend the health and education services which they have established, and assert their cooperatives and the various cooperations and projects for the people's welfare.

The protest actions in Mindanao against the attacks of Oplan Bayanihan are vigorous and determined. When fascist troops prolong their stay in the barrios, the peasant and Lumad masses stage organized evacuations from the vicinity of military camps and even in entire barrios in protest of continued military presence and against their being used as human shields, to vent their demands against deceptive projects of the reactionary government and to defend their ancestral domain.

Protests have intensified against the killings by the military and paramilitary, the all-out offensives against the Moro people, the filing of trumped-up charges against activists, the EDCA and US military interventionism such as in Mamasapano.

The Communist Party determinedly leads the armed struggle and the mass movement throughout the island. Party organizations from the local branch up to the region have been formed. All NPA commands are led by corresponding Party organs while there are platoon branches in each platoon. There are thousands of Party members inside the local branches leading and participating in the people's government and mass organizations. They also lead the people's militia and the self-defense units.

Continue to strengthen the guerrilla war in Mindanao

Ka Oris called for further advancing guerrilla warfare by launching widespread and intensive tactical offensives. He added that the NPA must make sure to concentrate a superior force to annihilate weak sections of the enemy.

It must ensure the seizure of high caliber firearms. While annihilation remains the chief objective, the enemy must not be allowed a minute's rest through harassment or attritive actions to weaken it and to expose its vulnerability to annihilative attacks.

Ka Oris also called for improving the capacity to launch attacks against police stations in towns and cities with weak defenses. The NPA units must take positions along highways used daily by enemy troops.

Simultaneously, NPA units throughout the whole country must hasten and intensify tactical offensives to pin down the enemy wherever they are and prevent or make difficult their deployment of additional forces to Mindanao. **AB**

500 youths join the NPA in Northeast Mindanao

In just over a year, some 500 youths joined the New People's Army as Red fighters in the Northeast Mindanao Region (NEMR). According to Ka Ariel Montero, spokesperson of the NPA's regional command in the NEMR, the increase in the number of young people who wish to join the NPA reflects the correct implementation of the NPA's mass work and the firm unity of the masses and their army.

NEMR is one of the regions being concentrated on by offensives of the AFP and the entire reactionary state. Up to seven battalions of the AFP, two battalions of the PNP, 90 detachments of the CAFGU/SCAA, as well as some AFP-formed armed bandit groups (such as the Kalpit Egwa and Marcos Bocales), are in the region.

The AFP launched no less than 10 battalion-sized operations and many more company-sized strike operations against the NPA. Majority of these attacks were launched in places with big businesses of the imperialists and big comprador-bourgeoisie. These were coupled with psy-war operations in the name of "peace and development".

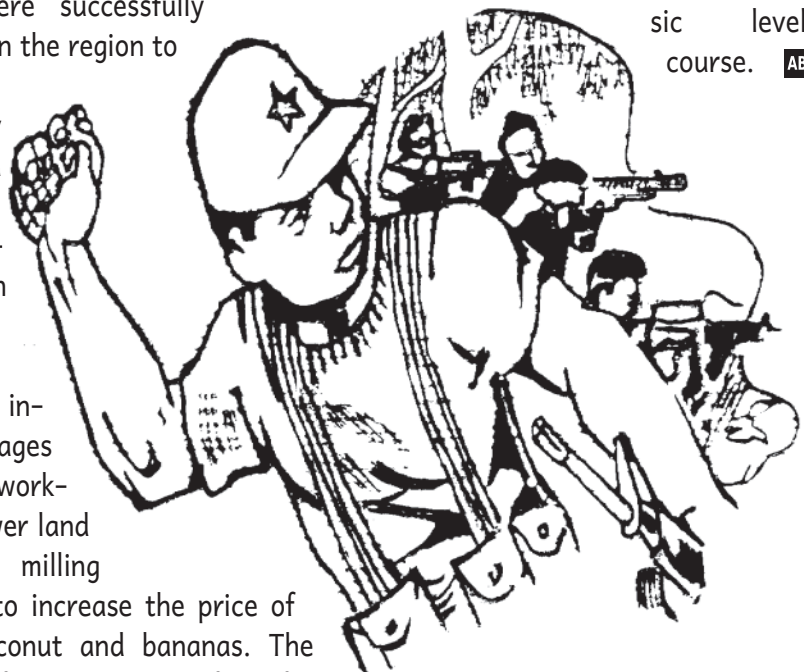
These operations brought about widespread military abuses and violations of human rights. Eleven civilians were killed, 150 accused of trumped-up charges and hundreds threatened with death or arrest. There were numerous cases of civilians forced to evacuate to escape from the abuses of the AFP.

As much as it can, the NPA in the NEMR maintains tactical initiative in warfare. Enemy operations are not allowed to be wreak havoc. From January 2014 up to March 2014, the NPA in NEMR launched 135 tactical offensives. In nine of the offensives, the NPA captured 27 high-powered firearms and 50 pistols. Some 190 enemy troops were killed and no less than 120 wounded. The NPA was able to punish some 20 capitalist companies.

Some 28 Red fighters laid down their lives. Their names are now enshrined in the gallery of the people's heroes.

Along with the advance of the armed struggle, agrarian revolution and the strengthening of the mass base is continuously pursued. Campaigns were successfully launched in the region to reduce

usury by banks and institutions engaged in micro-lending, to increase wages of farmworkers, to lower land rent and milling fees and to increase the price of copra, coconut and bananas. The issues confronted by small fisherfolk



were also addressed.

At present, up to 30% of the barrios in four provinces of the Caraga region have Party branches, revolutionary mass organizations and people's militia units, the majority of which are oversized platoons.

An achievement in the past year is the continuing campaign for revolutionary education to consolidate the Party branches and mass base and further strengthen their revolutionary standpoint. The Basic Party Course books in the Visayan language that were distributed in large numbers are always in use by the local Party branches. Majority of the Party members have been able

to finish the basic level course. **AB**

Surigao del Sur

NPA releases 2 BJMP officials

The New People's Army-SMR released two officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) last May 22, after one month of being in the custody of the Red fighters. Juan Salazar and Felician Polan were handed over to the care of the Surigao del Sur governor, the mayors of Tago, Marihatag and San Miguel and the parish of Tandag in turnover ceremonies between local officials and the NPA command in Brgy. Libados, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

Salazar and Polan were detained since April 27 after Red fighters ambushed their vehicle to free two political prisoners in Brgy. Amontay, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur. The prisoners were being transferred from Liranga to Tandag City to attend a hearing of their case. **AB**

NPA seizes 88 firearms in SMR

Not less than 88 firearms, tens of thousands of ammunition and military equipment were seized by Red fighters in successive tactical offensives launched by units of the NPA-Southern Mindanano Region between April and May. These are just some of the the biggest in the series of NPA offensives launched in response to the concentration of AFP forces in Mindanao.

Davao Oriental. Two ambushes were launched by Red fighters one after another under a joint tactical command of the NPA-3rd Pulang Bagani Command (PBC), NPA-Front 15 Operations Command and the NPA-8th Pulang Bagani Command, in Davao Oriental last May 22.

The 3rd PBC and the Front 15 Operations Command first raided the patrol base of the PNP's Public Safety Company-3rd Platoon in Barangay Banol, Tarragona between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. One police trooper was killed and five wounded. Seized from the raid were two M203s, three M16s, two M14s and four 9MM pistols; and backpacks. The said PNP unit served as the corrupt provincial governor's collector and protector of a big mining company undertaking destructive operation in nearby areas.

At 8 a.m., the 8th PBC raided a 14-man unit of the 67th IB in Brgy. Kasununngan, Baganga. The said

AFP unit was then conducting a "peace and development outreach program." Three soldiers were killed and one wounded. One M16 was seized. Residents of Kasunungan have long complained of the abuses and threats of the said military unit against them. These include the eviction of peasants from their fields and the destruction of their harvests and seeds to prevent them from planting again.

Baganga is three towns away from Tarragona.

Davao City. One M203 grenade launcher, one automatic rifle, one M16, 400 rounds of M60 and 200 rounds of K3 ammunition along with 34 magazines were seized after the 1st Pulang Bagani Battallion (PBB) attacked platoon-sized troops of the 69th IB, 84th IB and 71st IB in Sitio Isled, Dalagdag in Calinan District last May 6. The fighters also seized army packs, boots, army vests, documents, operational maps, tablets and cellphones. Four

soldiers were killed and eight wounded.

The combined enemy forces were part of 15 columns of the AFP operating in the Calinan, Buhangin and Paquibato districts of Davao City. The said unit has a long list of human rights violations. Among these are aerial bombings last March 23 and 26 and again in April at the Paquibato District.

According to Ka Parago Sandoval, spokesperson of the PBB, it is but right to attack the AFP troops especially since they serve to pave the way for the widespread expropriation of land in the hilly parts of Davao City. After suffering losses, the soldiers vented their ire on civilians. Residents were hit with rifle butts while peasant organization leaders and members in Paquibato were charged with trumped-up cases.

Monkayo. Red fighters seized 74 firearms, more than 42,000 rounds of ammunition and various military equipment after raiding the armory of Mayor Joselito Brillantes' private army in Olaycon, Monkayo last April 14. The armory was part of the so-called JB Palace or JB Malacanang of the mayor. A firefight also ensued between the Red fighters and the military forces serving as blocking force in Barangay Banlag. The raid lasted two and a half hours. The raid was



ITEMS SIEZED FROM BRILLIANTES' ARMORY

FIREARMS

3 M60 machine gun | 7 M14 | 13 M16 | 9 Garand | 3 M16 baby armalite | 1 Carbine | 2 AR-15 Bushmaster | 1 Ultimax machine gun | 1 M203 | 1 RPG | 1 Galil rifle | 1 AK200 | 11 shotgun | 2 9mm pistol | 8 .45 pistol | 1 .38 pistol | 9 KG rifle

AMMUNITION

36 pcs. rifle grenade | 52 pcs. 40mm ammunition | 800 K3 ammunition | 500 AK ammunition | 5000 M60 ammunition | 400 Ultimax ammunition | 14,000 assorted ammunition

conducted by NPA units under the Compostela Valley-North Davao-South Agusan subregion.

The raid was carried out in accordance with policies of the revolutionary movement against goons and private armies that have long been lording over Monkayo. This was a response to the clamor of the Monkayo residents that have long been oppressed by Brillantes. According to Rigoberto Sanchez, NPA-SMR spokesman, the seized firearms is a big boost for the de-

ployment of more NPA platoons in the region.

On April 23 and 27, a unit of the NPA ambushed combined troops of the 25th IB, Scout Rangers, 66th IB, 28th IB and the task force formed by Brillantes and the 10th ID to recover the seized firearms. A soldier was killed and two wounded. Widespread and intense military operations were conducted by the fascist troops in Monkayo, Laak and Montevista resulting in numerous violations of civilian human rights. **AB**

F21 defeats 4th ID's largest offensive



New People's Army units under Front 21 in the Northeast Mindanao Region daringly and courageously repulsed and defeated a coordinated offensive of the 4th Infantry Division (4th ID) in the areas bordering Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur starting February 18, resulting in 17 soldiers of the AFP killed and many more injured.

The 4th ID deployed some 400 troops in company-sized units under the 23rd IB, 26th IB, 29th IB, 36th IB 75th IB, 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Battalion and 401st Reconnaissance Company. Several helicopters and howitzers were also used by the enemy. This was the largest offensive ever by the AFP in the area.

The 4th ID is under the Eastern Mindanao Command of the AFP. It is the main unit deployed against the NPA forces of the Northeastern Mindanao Region.

The enemy started the attack of its columns from the direction of

Butuan City, Sibagat and San Miguel. This offensive dealt heavy blows on the livelihood of the local residents, especially in the sitios where peasants were banned from tending to their fields.

On February 11, NPA snipers ambushed operating troops of the 36th IB with one soldier killed and one wounded. As a reprisal, the fascist troops killed Hagay Alimbuyong while he was hunting in Sitio Lamesa, Carumata, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

On February 23, an NPA team fired three times at operating troops operating in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. At 1:30 p.m., an NPA team sniped a column of soldiers in "Gravelling," Km. 27, in Barangay Padiay. One soldier was wounded.

At 3:30 p.m., another NPA sniper team detonated a command-detonated explosive (CDX) at the largest leading column of soldiers at the peak of Mt. Tugdok, which is a part of the barangays in Padiay, Kulambugan and Sinaka.

On February 24, an NPA sniper team encountered the same column while they were re-

treating from the peak of Mt. Tugdok. The enemy suffered an undetermined number of casualties while there were none on the side of the NPA.

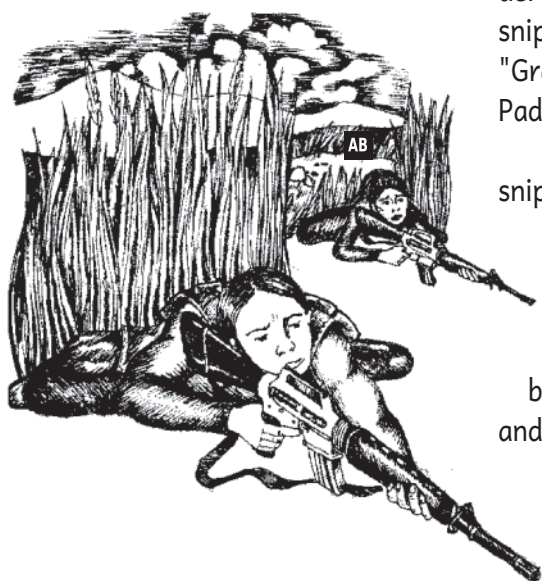
On February 25, the NPA again launched two attacks against the enemy. At 10:00 a.m., a CDX was detonated on a column of the AFP from Mt. Tugdok. Four soldiers were killed while the wounded were recovered using a helicopter.

At 1:50 p.m., another NPA team attacked a column of the 75th ID in Malitbog, Sityo Barubwan, Carumata, San Miguel. Three soldiers were killed. A Red fighter, Ka Marjab, was martyred in this battle.

At 8:00 in the evening of February 28, a convoy of five vehicles carrying enemy troops arriving from an operation was ambushed by the NPA along a zigzag road in Barangay Anticala, Butuan City. Initial reports indicated that seven soldiers were immediately killed while an undetermined number were wounded. At 9:00 p.m. that night, an NPA team ambushed an AFP column coming from the operation in Barangay Magruyong, San Miguel. A soldier was killed while another was wounded.

On March 1, an NPA team ambushed patrolling troops of the 36th IB guarding a plantation in Sitio Ibo, Anahaw-Daan, Tago, Surigao del Sur. One soldier was killed and another wounded.

The active defense of the NPA in Front 21 yielded resonant victories. These were achieved with the steadfast support of the masses. **AB**



5 military actions in 3 days

Five coordinated armed actions within three days were carried out by Front 6 under the NPA-North Central Mindanao Region (NCMR) and Front 52 under the NPA-Southern Mindanao Region in Bukidnon province last March.

According to NPA-NEMR spokesperson Allan Juanito, this is in response to the call of the Communist Party of the Philippines to intensify offensives in support of the Moro people who then were being subjected to all-out military operations.

March 8. At around 5 a.m., a platoon-sized unit of the NPA flagged down and disabled seven trucks carrying products of multinational corporations in Barangay Palacapao, Quezon. Among the products were those owned by Nestle, Asia Brewery and Purefoods which are exploitative and anti-workers companies of big compradors.

Another unit of the NPA blocked and fired at a responding unit of the 84th IB and CAFGU from a nearby detachment in Sitio Kipulot, Palacapao.

At around 7 a.m., Red fighters blew up a truck carrying responding elements of the 103rd Regional Public Safety Battalion from the same barangay. Another police officer was killed while seven others were wounded.

March 10. The firefight which erupted at around 2 a.m. between a platoon-sized force of the NPA and troopers of the 84th IB lasted three hours in Upper Minalong, Barangay Kahusayan, Kitaotao. Two soldiers were killed while two NPA fighters were martyred.

At around 6 a.m., another NPA unit used explosives against responding soldiers in Log Deck, Barangay Linabo, Quezon. Two soldiers were killed. **AB**

NPA continues to reap victories in Eastern Visayas

The New People's Army (NPA) continues to reap victories in Eastern Visayas (EV). This was the declaration of Fr. Santiago Salas (Ka Sanny), spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-EV on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the NPA last March 29. On that day, various commands of the NPA-EV launched large celebrations together with several hundred peasants and other sectors in their areas.

Ka Sanny enumerated the victories of the NPA over the past two years. According to initial reports, the tactical offensives carried out by the NPA in the re-

gion resulted in no less than 123 enemy casualties, including 93 killed in action, from January 2014 to February 2015. Not one fighter was killed while only a few were wounded.

In Western Samar, fighters of the Arnulfo Ortiz Command (AOC) ambushed motorcycle-riding elements of the 87th ID between Barangays Concepcion and Ronio, Paranas last May 15. Two soldiers were killed and two were wounded.

On February 16, fighters harassed elements of the 87th IB in Barangay Manlilinab, Basey. (See the February 21, 2015 issue of *Ang Bayan*.) On November 16, a team of NPA fighters harassed 20 soldiers of the 87th IB operating in Barangay Caulayawan, Motiong. From March to September 2014,

units of the AOC carried out six more harassment operations against elements of the 87th IB, 43rd IB, CAFGU under the 52nd IB and police elements in Motiong, Matuguinao and Gandara. No less than eight soldiers were killed and 14 were wounded in the harassment operations of the NPA.

Meanwhile, the special operations group under the Efren Martires Command meted out capital punishment to Adrian Abuingona, a leader of the local death squad, of Barangay Mambog, Pinabacdao last May 1. It was proven in the people's court that Abuingona served as trigger-man in the murder of Rodolfo Dacumay Basada last July 24, 2014. Basada was a leader of the People's Surge, an organization of Typhoon Yolanda victims in Eastern Visayas. Abuingona was positively identified by witnesses as among the elements of the 87th IB that killed Basada. Having a long list of crimes, Abuingona has since 2006 been identified as an asset of the 8th ID.

In Northern Samar, more than



50 soldiers were killed and many others wounded in various armed actions carried out by the Rodante Urtal Command (RUC or Northern Samar Command) from July 2014 to February 2015. These include the counter-offensive carried out by a unit of the RUC against a 100-strong force of the 34th IB in Barangay Imelda, Las Navas, last February 9. Seven soldiers were killed, including the unit's commander 2nd Lt. Raphael Cubillan, while 13 others were wounded.

Prior to this, successive armed actions were carried out by the RUC in the province. Within October-December 2014, no less than 23 soldiers were killed and 13 others wounded in separate offensives in barangays Cuenco and Sag-od in Las Navas; and in Santander, Bobon and other areas.

Offensives were also carried out last November. Last November 11, Red fighters harassed elements of the 34th IB in Catoto-ogan, Last Navas.

On November 5, five coordinated military actions were launched by Red fighters against the detachments of the 34th IB and 52nd IB CAA in the towns of Las Navas, Gamay, Mapanas and Palapag. These include the ambush by NPA fighters of a truck carrying elements of the 34th IB in Barangay Cabatoan, Palapag. Six soldiers were killed instantly.

Another NPA team simultaneously harassed the detachment of the 52nd IB in the town center of Las Navas where the military operates a radio station. Residents of Catubig and Las Navas have long been raising complaints against abuses by soldiers and their encampments in the middle of the communities.

From July to September 2014, no less than four harassment operations were carried out by fighters against the PDT ("peace and development team") operations of the 34th IB in Osang, San Miguel, Imelda and Cuenca, all in Las Navas. On September 28, the fighters twice harassed the PDT of the 34th IB in Barangay Paguite, Lope de Vega. Nine soldiers were killed while three others were wounded. AB

NPA attacks PDT in Masbate

Without firing a single shot, a unit of the NPA-Masbate or Jose Rapsing Command (NPA-JRC) raided the camp of the 9th IB in Barangay Cantorna, Montreal last May 3, around 10 a.m.

The NPA seized more than 2,500 M16 bullets, two chains of M60 ammunition and other military items as well as medicines and dental set.

Before this, the combined forces of the 9th IB, the Division Reconnaissance Company of the 9th ID and the Public Safety Battalion (PSB) of the PNP suffered sleepless nights after their units and detachments were subjected to successive and coordinated military actions by the NPA-JRC in Ticao last March. These include:

- two sniping operations against one of ten columns of operating troops in Barangay Cantorna, Monreal last March 22 and 26
- the blowing-up of the main headquarters of the PSB in Burgos, San Jacinto last March 26
- secretly entering and blowing-up the PSB detachment in Sitio Lucban, San Rafael, San Pascual last March 31.

In the nearby island of Claveria, the NPA twice harassed the detachment of soldiers and PSB in Sitio Anapog, Benas.

The forces of the 9th IB arrived in Ticao island last March 19. Together with some American soldiers, they paid a visit to the mayor to supposedly inform him of the start of their operations in the area. The following day, the 9th IB deployed peace and development teams (PDTs) in four barangays in the town of Monreal and six barangays in San Jacinto. They also deployed a PDT in a barangay in Talisay in San Fernando. AB

Ilocos-Cordillera

NPA raids Ilocos Sur mining company

Fighters of the New People's Army-Antonio Licawen Command (NPA-ALC) carried out a raid and an ambush against a big mining company and its military protectors in Quirino, Ilocos Sur last February. The ALC operates in the Abra-Mountain Province-Ilocos Sur (AMPIS) border area.

On February 19, the fighters razed the facilities and equipment of the South Ocean Mining Corporation (SOMC), one of the companies which the people in the area have long been opposing. According to the Save Quirino Movement (SQM), a broad anti-mining alliance, the operations of the SOMC damage the environment and provide no benefit to the people in the area.

Last February 26, the ALC ambushed the troopers of the 81st IB in Barangay Legleg. The soldiers were on their way back from military operations conducted with the Regional Public Safety Battalion in the barrios of Quirino. Five soldiers were killed and six others wounded. The 81st IB was deployed by the Aquino regime in place of the 50th IB that once served as protectors of big mining companies in the area.

After suffering defeats last February, the 81st IB further intensified its repression against the people of Ilocos Sur. Soldiers are setting up camps in civilian communities and homes in Legleg, Lamag, Madapoy, Namitpit and Patungkalew. They are also subjecting anti-mining activists of the SQM in the area to surveillance, harassments and threats. AB

NPA attacks PDTs in Camarines Sur and Sorsogon

THE NPA simultaneously launched offensives in the provinces of Camarines Sur and Sorsogon against operations of "peace and development team" and forces of the PNP last March 13.

Two successive encounters broke out between the Norben Gruta Command and forces of the PNP in Barangay Pag-oring Viejo and between Red fighters and police personnel serving as security forces of the military detachment in Sitio Dinumplila, Malinao, Libmanan, Camarines Sur. Four enemy troopers were wounded.

The NPA-Sorsogon or Celso Minguez Command (CMC) attacked the 24-man PDT of the 31st IB then operating in Barangay Dolos, Juban, Sorsogon. One soldier was killed.

According to the NDF-Bicol, the said police and military units are implementors of such counterrevolutionary programs as KALAHI, PAMANA, 4Ps and others in the two provinces. These also include the road project of the World Bank that will serve as the initial infrastructure for foreign mining companies in Barangay Tangkong Vaca.

5 firearms seized in NPA-Bulacan raid

RED fighters of the NPA-Bulacan raided a detachment of the Royal City guard in Barangka, Paradise 3 in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan last May 1, 2015.

Seized from the raid were a high caliber firearm and four pistols, bullets, radio and other communication equipment. The Royal City Guard is headed by Marino Reyes, a former official of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) who has long been subject of complaints for using his armed goons to drive farmers away from their homes and grab their land.

Later, the NPA stopped the operations of two rubber-melting factories that have damaged the environment and the people's health. The factories owned by a Mr. Co and Mr. Pio Go in San Isidro, San Jose del Monte were raided on May 1 and 2 as the owners continue to refuse to abide by the rules of the democratic people's government regarding the protection of the environment and respect for the people's rights.



AFP-PNP arrests another NDFP consultant

Repression and human rights violations by the US-Aquino regime continue to worsen as it approaches the end of its term. This include illegal arrests and torture, killings of civilians and other crimes against the people.

This is starkly demonstrated by the arrest of NDFP consultants who are protected by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). This is in the face of the regime's pretensions for peace talks which it claims it wants to "fast track".

The most recent victim of illegal arrest is Ruben Saluta, holder of JASIG ID No. ND978240 under the assumed name Lirio Magtibay. Saluta was arrested together with his wife Presentacion and 11 others, last March 4 in simultaneous raids in three houses in Quezon City and Caloocan City. The

continued at page 14

Six soldiers wounded in Quezon

SIX elements from the 21st DRC were wounded after two encounters with Red fighters of the NPA-Mt. Sierra Madre Southern Tagalog Subregional Command or the Rosario Lodronio Rosal Command (SLRC) in Barangay Mahabang Lalim, General Nakar, Quezon on April 28.

The NPA first encountered the AFP troopers around 7 a.m., and again at around 10 a.m. The second encounter lasted two hours. The soldiers have been conducting operations for the past month in the mountainous areas of General Nakar, Real and Infanta, all in northern Quezon.

According to Armando Jacinto, spokesperson of the NPA-SLRC, the military operations aim to drive away the Dumagat and Remontado minority peoples from the area in order to allow the construction of the Sierra Madre dam. This project is firmly being opposed by the revolutionary movement together with the minority people.

raid was conducted jointly by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Special Action Forces of the PNP and intelligence agencies of the AFP. Saluta is being accused of being an NPA commander together with Emmanuel Baccarra, who was also arrested in the raids. Trumped-up charges of murder in Panay and Mindoro have been filed against them.

There are now 16 arrested NDFP consultants who are currently detained while 13 have been abducted and are yet to be located.

The following are also stark cases of rights violations from March to April:

Southern Tagalog. An organizer of workers and provincial coordinator of the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers' Rights was abducted and killed last March 7 in Lipa City. Florencio "Bong" Romano was last seen boarding a tricycle to ride to his office. The following day, his body was seen on a sidewalk of Soro-soro Village, Batangas City. His entire body was riddled with bullets.

Romano served as a leader of RFM Swift workers in Laguna in 1984. He was among those who founded the Institute of Workers' Leadership and Development and is an organizer of contractual workers in Batangas. It is believed that Air Force elements from the Fernando Air Base in Batangas City are behind the murder. Romano is the 18th victim of extrajudicial killings in the region under Aquino.

Isabela. Virgilio Leotorco died from bullet wounds in Matusalem, Roxas, Isabela last March 16. He went out on the evening of March 15 to catch frogs. The following day, he was alive when found by another peasant but died before receiving first aid.

Leotorco, 55, is among the 66 farmers fighting for ownership of their land resettlement being claimed by the Isabela State Uni-

versity. Before this, another member of the Agbiag Matusalem Association Roxas-Isabela, Romulo Cruz, became a victim of enforced disappearance and has not been seen since February 28, 2014.

Bicol. Elmer Bandol, a reporter of Bicol Today, was arrested in Daraga, Albay last April 15 after he was charged with libel under the Cyber Crime Prevention Law. He was charged with libel by the former General Manager of the Masbate Electrical Cooperative (MASELCO) because of an article he wrote around four years ago. In that article, Bandol denounced the loss of P314 million from MASELCO because of corruption in the company.

Compostela Valley. The 66th and 67th IB are subjecting Lumad communities in Compostela Valley and New Bataan to widespread militarization in order to drive them away from the areas to allow the exploration activities of the Agusan Petroleum and Mineral Corporation (Agpet).

The number of cases of human rights violations in Barangay Ngan and Barangay Panansalan have reached 36. These include using public infrastructure and buildings as detachments, setting up camps near communities, threats, harassments, destruction of property, Red tagging, physical abuse and beatings, torture and indiscriminate firing.

The Agpet is a subsidiary of the San Miguel Corporation of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, uncle of Benigno Aquino III. This was granted by the US-Aquino regime with the right to explore 12,416 hectares of ancestral land in the borders of Compostela and New Bataan.

Sultan Kudarat. John Calaba, a Lumad leader, was abducted and presumed killed by guards of the David M. Consunji Inc. (DMCI), last April 30, in Sabanay, Kalamansig. Calaba, 28, is the public information officer of the Kisasabanay Dulangan Manobo (Kiduma). According to his tribe-mates, Calaba was invited by guards in the outpost to

have breakfast. After 20 minutes, they heard gunshots at the outpost. When they investigated the matter, they were driven away by the guards and told not to interfere or they might get caught in the "crossfire". After 10 minutes, they saw guards loading onto a truck something large wrapped in canvas which left a trail of blood.

Kiduma is active in the fight against DCMI's mining and logging in their communities. The company guards were trained by the 38th IB.

Bukidnon. Guards employed by landlord Pablo Lorenzo shot Tata Baito, a member of the Tribal Indigenous Oppressed Group Association (TINDOGA) last March 24. Baito, together with 200 others, was on his way to their collective plot when they were shot at by Lorenzo's men. Baito was killed instantly while Japsem Bagna and Ricky Tumbaga were wounded.

TINDOGA members are recognized as legitimate owners of the Montalvan ranch. They collectively farm a part of the ranch, which they consider as belonging to their ancestral land as part of their assertion of rights over the land being claimed by Lorenzo.

In related news, a Lumad leader was charged with trumped-up cases in Bukidnon. Jomorito Goaynon was charged with the killing of a leader of a paramilitary group punished by the NPA last March 28 in Malaybalay City. On that day, Goaynon was in a meeting in Cagayan de Oro. Goaynon is active in the campaign against militarization in Mindanao. Before this, he had a heated discussion with soldiers over the evacuation of 1,000 residents from 14 communities in Balit, Agusan del Sur. Goaynon is chairman of Kalumbay, an organization of Lumads.

Across Mindanao, more than 508 indigenous people have been charged with trumped-up cases of common crimes. This is considered by human rights groups as "criminalization of political offenses." **AB**

Worsening military abuses against families and communities

Militarization and abuses by AFP soldiers in Bukidnon and Samar continue to worsen after suffering successive battle losses with the NPA.

Last April 5, two families from Sil-ipon, Libona were illegally arrested on trumped-up charges after being subjected to threats by elements of the 1st Special Forces Battalion (SFB).

Arrested were spouses Jovito Anlagan Sr. and Emily, together with their children Jovito Jr. and five others with ages ranging from six to 17; and Charito Eslao and relatives Charlito and Crisabel Eslao; and Arden Jay Valendez and Daniel Ped-Ac.

They were on board a van when flagged down by elements of the 104th Maneuver Battalion of the PNP on the evening of April 5. The Anlagans were on their way to Cagayan de Oro City accompanied by the Eslaos in order to avoid the military who earlier issued threats at their home. To justify the arrests, the soldiers planted a .45 caliber pistol, a KG-9 submachine gun and issues of *Ang Bayan* in their vehicle.

Earlier, Anlagan Jr. attended a barangay meeting called by Lt. Col. Nasser Lidasan, commander of the 1st SFB. In this meeting, Lidasan threatened members of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente who he accused of being "NPA supporters" and referred to the organization Kalumbay Lumad as "an

NPA front". He also offered reward money to those who will surrender firearms to the AFP. Lidasan warned that cases have already been filed against some residents and that arrest warrants have been issued against them.

On his way home, Anlagan Jr. noticed that six soldiers in civilian clothes were following him. Upon reaching their house, he was confronted by the soldiers, accused of being a member of the NPA and pressed to surrender. Anlagan Jr. denied the accusation. His father Anlagan Sr. stood up before the soldiers and engaged them in a heated argument. A soldier punched the elder Anlagan in the midsection. That night, the entire family decided to leave for Cagayan de Oro to escape the military abuses.

The eight individuals are currently in jail for cases of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. The minors were put under the custody of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development after two days in detention.

In Kitaotao, Bukidnon, three farmers were tortured and arrested by military troopers in Sitio Minalong, Kahusayan last March

14. Henry Omandam, 19, Vergil Pitogo, 23

and Johnrey Flores, 18, were resting when chanced upon by soldiers led by a Cpl. Maynard Silvestre at a Cpl. Louis. Omandam and Flores were bound and made to lie face down under the heat of the sun. Pitogo was kicked in the midsection, slapped and also ordered to lie face down. The three were accused by the soldiers of involvement in the NPA ambush last March 10. (See the related article "5 military actions in 3 days" on page 11.)

The three were brought to the Kipolot Army Patrol Base and later to the police station in Quezon town. They were transferred to the Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Malaybalay City last March 16 and charged with illegal possession of firearms and illegal possession of explosives.

Meanwhile, soldiers of the 34th IB arrested and detained Alejandro Pigar and Rolando Tapong Jr., both village watchmen of Barangay Catoto-ogan, Las Navas, Northern Samar. The two were arrested on the morning of February 3 in nearby Barangay Imelda where soldiers were positioned to attack an NPA unit in the area. (See the related article "NPA continues to reap victories in Eastern Visayas" on page 11.)

After their bungled operation, the 34th IB accused the two peasants as NPA fighters and filed trumped-up charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. According to their families, the faces and bodies of Pigar and Tapong bore marks of torture while under military custody. They are currently detained at Laoang.

On the same day, soldiers prohibited the peasants of Imelda from tending to their farms. Not less than four huts with abaca products were razed or destroyed by the soldiers. A helicopter landed near the barrio to collect their casualties destroying the rice fields. AB



International People's Tribunal convenes on July

The International People's Tribunal (IPT) is set to convene on July 6-8 in Washington, DC, to investigate violations of human rights under the Aquino regime. Among those to form the panel of judges are former US congressman Cynthia McKinney and human rights defender Azadeh Shahshahani.

Among the organizers of the IPT are the International Coalition on Human Rights in the Philippines, the US National Lawyers Guild (NLG), the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) and Ibon International.

Among the cases to be heard before the IPT is the killing of Romeo Capalla, brother of Iloilo Archbishop Fernando Capalla and head of the Panay Trade Fair Center, who was gunned down on March 15, 2014 in Oton, Iloilo by a member of the paramilitary group RPA-ABB.

Capalla was in the Order of Battle of the AFP, together with murder victim Aklan councilor Fernando Baldomero. Baldomero was killed on July 1, 2010, the day after Aquino took oath as president.

The IPT will also hear numerous other cases of violations of economic, political and cultural rights of the

Filipino people, including the pork barrel scandal of the Congress and Aquino, the unequal agreements entered into by the regime including the Public-Private Partnership, and the widespread demolition of houses and forcible driving away of urban poor families from their homes.

The IPT will take a look into the growing political, economic and military intervention of the US. Also to be heard is the case of the killing of Filipina transgender Jennifer Laude by US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton last October 2014.

The IPT was publicly launched last March 12 in the University of the Philippines. Rev. Canon Barry Naylor, chair of the International Coalition for Human Rights and one of the convenors of the IPT, gave a message through the internet. Another IPT convenor Jeannie Mirer, head of the IADL, spoke via video call about the big impact of other people's tribunals such as the Bertrand Russel Tribunal that investigated the US abuses during the Vietnam War in 1966 and 1967.

The verdict and evidence that will be collected by the tribunal will be presented before various global agencies such as the UN. AB