



ANG

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

# Bayan

English Edition  
Vol. XLVII No. 20  
October 21, 2016  
www.cpp.ph

## Brutal dispersal



THE COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines (CPP) strongly condemned the successive violent dispersals of the two consecutive demonstrations led by progressive organizations last October 18 and 19.

In a statement, the CPP holds the leadership of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and officials of the Duterte government responsible for the violent affront against the people's democratic rights to demonstrate and seek redress. That the successive dispersals were carried out with such viciousness reveals the deep-seated hostility against the people and patriotic forces of police and military officers who ordered the dispersals. These officers must be immediately identified, investigated and put to task.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) negotiating panel also slammed the brutal dispersal, particularly the protest in front of the US embassy. Most likely, there are elements within the military and police who are against the new policy direction of their commander-in-chief and are out to sabotage the ongoing peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the NDFP, it said.

*follow on page 3*

## EDITORIAL



## Oplan Bayanihan tramples on the ceasefire

**T**he Duterte regime must immediately put an end to the repressive and bellicose military operations under the US-directed Oplan Bayanihan. It must order the immediate pull-out of all troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from civilian communities in the countryside.

Duterte must ensure that all his troops in the AFP and police follow his policy of friendship with the revolutionary forces. He must repudiate the policy of suppression against the patriotic and democratic forces.

Only such measures will encourage the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and New People's Army (NPA) to further extend the unilateral ceasefire declaration. The revolutionary forces are discouraged from entering a ceasefire agreement in the face of the GRP's failure to implement some points of agreement.

Last Wednesday, the GRP's

chief negotiator himself and the defense secretary asserted that no amnesty proclamation will be signed until the end of peace negotiations. This goes against the spirit of the August agreement that such a proclamation will be issued to pave the way for the release of 434 more political detainees. After having suffered injustice, they will now be made to go through the eye of the needle to attain their aspired freedom.

It is disheartening to know that the GRP will not carry out this measure. It does not help strengthen the NDFP's trust in the negotiations.

Over the past 60 days since the CPP and GRP issued unilateral ceasefire declarations, NPA units have firmly carried out orders to hold off all offensives against the uniformed personnel of the AFP and PNP. This is despite the very difficult situation arising from continuing provocative operations of enemy armed units under Oplan Bayanihan.

The US-directed Oplan Bayanihan is the six-year counter-revolutionary war program of the AFP launched in 2011. It aims to defeat the NPA, destroy the CPP and the democratic and anti-imperialist mass organizations and suppress their struggles. The AFP committed left and right violations of human rights in "peace and development" operations mostly directed against civilians.

The AFP's perpetuation of the Oplan Bayanihan is an outright affront to, and tramples on, the spirit of the simultaneous ceasefires of the CPP and GRP. It completely disregards the order of GRP President Duterte to be friendly with the re-

volutionary forces and the revolutionary government.

Contrary to "friendship", armed soldiers continue to be deployed at the midst of civilian communities in the countryside. Using various pretexts ("visits", "anti-drugs", "delivery of service"), fully-armed soldiers enter the communities to taunt and instil fear on the people. They carry out psywar and intelligence operations. One by one, activists and their families are summoned. Local residents are compelled to join village meetings organized by soldiers for fear of being accused as NPA sympathizers.

Contrary to prevailing laws and the CARHRIHL, they use barangay halls, schools, day care centers and other civilian infrastructures as barracks. They disturb the lives and livelihood of the peasants.

The demand to end the Oplan Bayanihan was among the principal demands of the protesting peasants, minority people and other patriotic and democratic forces in front of Camp Aguinaldo and the US em-

bassy during the past days. The successive vicious dispersal of their demonstrations clearly show the perpetuation of Oplan Bayanihan, the policy of suppressing the patriotic and democratic forces and treating them as enemies of the state.







The persecution of activists continues. There are continuing cases of arrests in Southern Mindanao, Bicol, Central Luzon and other parts of the county. Two peasant leaders were successively killed in Compostela Valley by armed troops of the AFP. There is relentless suppression of peasant struggles across the country such as in Nueva Ecija and Palawan.

To the Filipino people, the continuing repressive and bellicose operations of the AFP under Oplan Bayanihan despite the ceasefire reveals that the old situation remains under the Duterte regime in spite of his talk of peace and change.

The prevailing ceasefire while the AFP continues with Oplan Bayanihan is greatly disadvantageous to the Filipino people, especially for the peasant masses in the countryside and their people's army. To them, it would be better to not have the ceasefire if the soldiers will not be removed anyway from their communities and they would not be allowed to fight on equal grounds.

The revolutionary forces remain open to forging a bilateral ceasefire agreement that will specify clear guidelines. Towards this, the CPP hopes that Duterte officials will take back their earlier statements which contravene the agreed upon amnesty proclamation to release political detainees.

In order to extend the ceasefire, the CPP and revolutionary forces expect the Duterte regime to carry out decisive action to make the AFP and PNP follow its policy of friendship and negotiations with the revolutionary forces and its independent foreign policy. **AB**

 <p>Vol. XLVII No. 20   October 21, 2016</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloco, Hiligaynon, Waray and English.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p> <p> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/prwc_info">instagram.com/prwc_info</a></p> <p> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral">youtube.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral</a></p> <p> <a href="https://twitter.com/prwc_info">@prwc_info</a></p> <p> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral">fb.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral</a></p> <p> <a href="mailto:cppinformationbureau@gmail.com">cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</a></p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <p><b>Editorial:</b> Oplan Bayanihan tramples on the ceasefire 1</p> <p>Brutal dispersal at the US embassy 1</p> <p>2 anti-mining Lumads killed 3</p> <p>Fabella equipment pulled out 4</p> <p>Lakbayan launched 5</p> <p>Panels agree on CASER outline 6</p> <p>Duterte's program for the economy 7</p> <p>Workers against contractualization 8</p> <p>Aspects of friendship with China 9</p> <p>Factionalism sharpens 10</p> <p>Unequal trade relations with US 11</p> <p>US presidential elections 13</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

## 2 anti-mining Lumads killed

TWO LUMADS were consecutively killed by military agents in Compostela Valley this October. At the same time, illegal arrests of progressives using the anti-drugs war and Oplan Tokhang are on the rise.

Last October 13, Joselito "Anoy" Pasaporte was shot dead by elements of the 46th IB on his way home to Mabini town. Pasaporte was a member of Panalipdan Youth in Compostela Valley.

The military attempted to cover up the crime by saying that it was in line with Duterte's anti-drug war. Compostela Valley police chief Senior Supt. Armando de Leon even reported that Pasaporte was 6th in the Mabini list of suspected drug pushers.

Panalipdan and progressive organizations slammed the police statement. According to the groups, Pasaporte was a member of the youth and students' organization which aims to protect the environment. His organization led struggles of indigenous peoples against multinational and foreign mining operations in their community.

Three days earlier, Jimmy Saypan, secretary general of the Compostela Farmers' Association (CFA) was also

shot by an unidentified motorcycle-riding gunman. He was immediately rushed to Montevista District Hospital and later transferred to the Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City. He died the next day.

A week before the incident, Saypan confronted elements

of the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion in a dialogue and demanded the pullout of soldiers, Karapatan said. Saypan was listed in the military's publicized order of battle.

CFA and the local government of Compostela had been vocal against the operations of Agusan Petroleum and Minerals Corporation (AGPET), a mining subsidiary owned by Eduardo Cojuangco.

Soldiers have been deployed in the community to secure AGPET's mining area.

*follow on page 4*

*from page 1*

Last October 19, police forces from the Manila Police District violently dispersed a rally by national minorities and patriotic organizations in front of the US embassy in Manila. The protest is part of the series of activities of the Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya (Journey of the National Minorities) which calls to end military presence in their communities and US troops in the country. Police fired tear gas canisters while a police patrol mobile rammed into a row of protesters. The mobile repeatedly hit several rallyists. More than 50 were injured, and three were ran over by the police vehicle and were brought to the hospital. Based on reports, 42 were arrested but were released later in the afternoon.

According to SANDUGO, the program was down to its last speaker when police began their rampage. Ground commander Col. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr. was even caught on video ordering his men to disperse the rally.

Before this, a similar incident happened last October 18, when members of the AFP blasted water cannons at indigenous people and Moro groups who were staging a protest in front of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, the AFP's national headquarters.

Jerome Succor Aba, national spokesperson of Suara Bangsamoro, said that the protest serves to highlight the imperialist plunder, abuses, and continued domination of the US in the country.

"Today, we witnessed how even our local security forces are keen on employing violent tactics to quell the

dissent of the marginalized and the oppressed," said Aba.

The incident at the US embassy generated criticism from various organizations and personalities.

Aiza Seguerra, National Youth Commission head,, tagged as "heartless" the police dispersal of the protesting organizations whose calls were legitimate.

After the violent attack, minorities and organizations trooped to Manila Police District and held an indignation rally.

Simultaneously, a candle lighting and noise barrage were held by the University of the Philippines (UP) community at Palma Hall to express their anger. According to UP Chancellor Michael Tan, "The police disrespected the national minorities. It is as if they have mocked UP because they (national minorities) are our visitors."

The next day, October 19, employees of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and National Anti-Poverty Commission visited their campout.

Here, DSWD Sec. Judy Taguiwalo called upon police officers to obey their commander-in-chief and to respect the rights of the indigenous people

On the same day, SANDUGO held a press conference to hold the PNP accountable, primarily Col. Pedrozo, and condemn state brutality.

Meanwhile, students of UP Cebu and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Cebu held an indignation rally in solidarity with the minority groups and denounced state fascism.

AB

According to Karapatan, they have documented at least eight political killings, including the case of Pasaporte, since the Duterte regime declared a unilateral ceasefire in August.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) pointed to the 10th ID as the primary suspect for the murder and for terrorizing the entire Compostela Valley since 2008.

Antonio Flores, KMP's secretary-general, added that Pasaporte's killing adds to the increasing number of farmers illegally arrested and harassed using the Duterte administration's anti-drug war campaign.

### Illegal arrests, Tokhang-style

In Bulacan, Rowel Reola, Al-

fredo Ravel, Lito Natoral, Segunda Gaitero, her daughter Mel Grace, Valentin Salceso and Blas Gaitero were illegally arrested in a police raid on several houses in Sitio Karahume, Barangay San Isidro last October 4. They were members of Karahume Farmers' Association who oppose Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' attempts to grab more than 1,000 hectares of land in their province.

According to the KMP, police forces did not even present a warrant of arrest.

Four farmers were released without charges after the illegal detention. However, Reola, Ravel and Natural were accused of being members of the New People's Army and charged with possession of il-

legal drugs.

KMP and Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan also called the attention of the Department of Agrarian Reform to investigate their case. Groups also said it could set a precedent in the rampant criminalization of agrarian disputes, citing other instances where farmers have been charged with trumped up cases such as theft, murder and other criminal offenses.

Meanwhile, police troops illegally arrested Edwin Dematera, an alleged NPA leader and his companion, Den dela Cruz in Magalanes, Sorsogon last October 4. Both were on board a tricycle when they were stopped by a checkpoint for Oplan Tokhang. **AB**

## Soldiers sneak out Fabella equipment

IN CONNIVANCE with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the management of Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital attempted to pull out equipment last October 13. According the Save Fabella Hospital Movement (SFHM), soldiers from the 51st Engineering Brigade armed with high powered rifles took the hospital equipment and loaded these into a truck.

The AFP could not present any copy of an order when asked by workers and staff of Fabella. Residents near the hospital as well as Fabella Hospital employees and members of the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) and SFHM prevented the pull-out. In an interview with officers of the AFP, orders came directly from the hospital director, Dr. Esmaldo Ilem and Paulyn Ubial, secretary of the Department of Health.

This is contrary to Ubial's statement during the budget hearing in the House of Representatives that Fabella Hospital would not be transferred.

Elvira Mendoza, Fabella staffer and spokesperson of SFHM, said Ilem warned one of her colleagues that a legal action would be taken against them if the transfer did not push through.

Due to protests, the transfer did not push through. However, Mendoza said that some equipment were sneaked out of the hospital without their knowledge.

The AHW is now preparing to file a complaint at the Commission on Human Rights against the hospital's administration and Sec. Ubial for grave abuse of authority

for mobilizing soldiers to transfer hospital equipment without proper authorization or a hospital order.

The SFHM obtained a letter dated Aug. 10, signed by Secretary Ubial and addressed to Fabella hospital director Dr. Esmaldo Ilem, approving proposals to downsize the bed capacity from 700 to 200.

The letter also gave an order to utilize the three-storey out-patient department building at the Lung Center of the Philippines compound as a facility of Fabella hospital and delay hiring for vacant positions until completion of the new Fabella hospital.

Rodel Aala, Fabella hospital employee said Dr. Ilem has told them in previous dialogues that the problem stems from the land issue.

The AHW condemned military presence in the hospital. They further added that such action serves as a threat to silence employees who are vocal about their opposition against the hospital's transfer.

But Aala said that they will not back down in their struggle, as they are fighting not only for their rights as employees of the hospital but also for free health services. **AB**



# Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya launched

"WE WOULD LIKE to advance calls of Cordillera people and national minorities in the entire country for genuine regional autonomy and to end control and plunder of our natural resources and militarization in our communities," said Abigail Anongos, secretary general of Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA).

CPA members were part of more than 3,000 minorities who marched to Manila to express solidarity in the historic gathering dubbed as "Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya para sa Sariling Pagpapasya at Makatarungang Kapayapaan" (Journey of National Minorities for Self-determination and Just Peace). The Lakbayan began last October 8 and culminated this October 21, National Peasants' Day.

The entire delegation was comprised of Aggays, Kalinga tribes and organizations from Northern Luzon; Aeta from Central Luzon; Dumagat, Mangyan and Palaw'an from Southern Luzon; Tumandok and Ati from Panay Island and Moro and Lumad people from Mindanao.

According to Piya Macliing Malayao, secretary general of Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (Katribu), the combined groups of indigenous peoples from various parts of the country, along with Moros from Mindanao, expressed support for a foreign independent policy and the peace negotiations. They also condemned the continuing Oplan Bayanihan counter-insurgency program in their communities.

On October 13, the streets of Metro Manila echoed with the sound of *gangsa* and *agong* (indigenous gongs) while thousands of indigenous people marched to Mendiola. Progressive organizations marched with them carrying thousands of torches.

As part of the series of protest



actions, 400 members of indigenous people's groups from Northern Luzon trooped to the main offices of multinational mining companies Lepanto and Oceania last October 13. While carrying their demands, delegates symbolically closed building entrances.

Minorities also picketed the Department of Justice (DoJ) office last October 17, to demand to Sec. Vitaliano Aguirre the scrapping of all false charges against 200 activists from national minority groups.

Instead, they said the DoJ should prosecute soldiers and paramilitary men who perpetrated—and continue to perpetrate—the killings, harassment and other attacks on schools and communities. They also commemorated Fr. Fausto "Pops" Tentorio's 6th death anniversary.

## Oplan Bayanihan and the struggle for ancestral lands

During the program, Kerlan Fanagel, chairperson of Pasaka Confederation of Lumad Organizations, asked the crowd to raise their fists in a minute of silence for two peasant leaders in Compostela Valley who were killed last October 10 and 15—Jimmy Saypan, secretary general of Compostela Farmers' Association and Joselito Pasaporte, member of Panalipdan Youth.

Fanagel condemned the ongoing militarization by the Armed Forces of the Philippines of civilian communities under the Oplan Bayani-

han counter-insurgency campaign.

Groups also lamented that indigenous people are still discriminated in access to social services. Many of their relatives also fall victim to land grabbing.

For instance, the Aeta in Capas, Tarlac are being kept out of their farms by soldiers in the military reservation.

"Our ancestral lands are claimed by the military," declared Lito dela Cruz of Central Luzon Ayta Association.

## Sandugo

National minority members went to the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City where Chancellor Michael Tan led the UP community in welcoming them.

At this gathering, Sandugo, the Movement of Moro and Indigenous Peoples for Self-determination, was launched.

"From the scattered struggle of the indigenous peoples, to the regional level, we have now taken our struggle for self-determination to a national level," declared Dulphing Ogan, from B'laan tribe and secretary general of Kalumaran, a Mindanao-wide alliance of Lumads.

"As part of the Philippine nation, we are part of the Filipino people's struggle for genuine freedom and democracy and assert self-determination against imperialism," said Joanna Cariño from Ibaloi tribe in Cordillera.

AB

# Panels agree on CASER outline

The second round of talks between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) concluded in Oslo, Norway last October 9.

Here, both panels agreed to the draft outline and framework of the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms, the second substantive agenda of the talks. Negotiations took a difficult turn due mainly to the differing views of both sides on the Philippine economy and solutions to its problems.

There were twists during the negotiations, which extended even later after Hernani Braganza told the media that there were "snags" because the NDFP refused to incorporate the GRP draft outline. Braganza heads the GRP's Reciprocal Working Committee on Socio-Economic Reforms (RWC-SER).

Unlike the NDFP's prepared comprehensive draft, the GRP pushed for a nine-point set of "outcomes." This includes poverty eradication, environment and climate justice, globally competitive economy, adequate and quality social services, reduced inequalities, peaceful rural communities, food security, living incomes, and gender equality and representation. Juliet de Lima, NDFP's RWC-SER chairperson, stated that the GRP's draft outline is merely an enumeration and is actually lifted from the NDFP draft. (*Read in Ang Bayan, August 7, 2016 issue.*) It would appear that the GRP did not prepare sufficiently, had no elaborations and did not set expectations. The GRP would appear that it expected the NDFP to fall in with its outline because this was supposedly according to the Philippine government's laws. This stance did not depart from the previous position of subsuming the negotiations under GRP legalities and its constitution.



To break the deadlock, the NDFP suggested the incorporation of the GRP outline into the NDFP prepared outline. After a series of small-group discussions, the GRP acceded to several edits and a final draft was reached. This draft will serve as the basis for more substantial talks in the next few months. The two panels will meet again on the third week of January 2017.

The NDFP also managed to assert the inclusion of a resolution for the immediate release of the remaining detained NDFP consultants and 434 political prisoners during the second round. However, on October 12, the NDFP expressed "uneasiness" on the GRP's delay to do so.

The GRP's large delegation on the third and fourth agenda—on political and constitutional reforms and end of hostilities and disposition of forces—was conspicuous. In the face of its lukewarm preparation for the talks on CASER, the GRP made it plain that it was more interested in reducing the level of violence by coming up with a document for a bilateral ceasefire. This stems from the timeworn excuse

that the armed struggle is the cause of poverty and underdevelopment. This kind of thinking distorts the essence of the talks.

This morning, Silvestre Bello, GRP panel chairperson, announced that the political prisoners will be released by batches.

But prior to this, in a Senate hearing last October 19, Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana insisted that there will be no amnesty "without a ceasefire" as relayed to him by Jesus Dureza, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. An "amnesty ceasefire" will only be given at the last part of the negotiations, he said. His department and the armed forces (of the GRP) will not agree to the release of the prisoners prior to this, he added.

Contrary to this, Angela Librado-Trinidad, GRP panel member, announced that the GRP is already reconstituting the Presidential Committee on Bail, Recognizance and Pardon which has been signed by the DND, Department of Justice and Department of Interior and Local Government secretaries as preparations to the release of NDFP prisoners.

AB

# Contradictions within the Duterte regime's economic policies

This past week, clashes within the Duterte regime's cabinet erupted between representatives of the democratic movement and champions of bourgeois comprador interests.

Officials from the Department of Finance (DoF), National Economic Development Agency (NEDA) and Vice-president Leni Robredo openly contested the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) recommendation to impose a two-year moratorium on the conversion of agricultural lands. At the same time, Department of Labor and Employment Sec. Silvestre Bello withdrew his support for the P125 across-the-board wage hike after the president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines confronted him. The NEDA also repeated the old excuse that small enterprises will lose if labor groups insist on a wage hike.

With regards to the peace talks, the expected conflicts have already started to emerge in negotiations on the outline on socio-economic reforms. Differences in the revolutionary program and that of the reactionary state's take on the economy is apparent in the GRP panel positions, Duterte's technocrats and Duterte himself.

## Foreign-dependent industrialization

In Duterte's speech in front of big banana planters last October 7, he said that the industrial sector is already "too cramped." "Within the span of the next thirty years, I don't see any new industrial sector rising," he said. "The resources are already committed and besides we lag behind in the money business."

In truth, the regime does not have a concrete plan for an independent industrial sector. Like the previous regimes, it places emphasis



on raising foreign capital and wooing foreign business, particularly for its public infrastructure program.

Duterte's technocrats criticized the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) of the US-Aquino regime's as slow, expensive and contrary to the interests of the public. But like the PPP, this grand infrastructure plan (rails, roads, seaports and airports) depends on foreign loans and investment, especially from China, and also from Japan and South Korea.

Within six years, the regime is estimated to need \$8 trillion. To achieve this, the regime is seeking membership to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, China's answer to the World Bank.

In Duterte's visit to China this October (*read related article in page 9*), China promised him around \$9 billion worth of loans for his projects and programs. In recognition of Duterte's separation from the Philippines' US imperialist masters, China promised not only to help him in infrastructure projects but also in the country's agriculture and finance.

Nevertheless, it would appear that the regime did not do away with projects under the PPP program of the US-Aquino regime. During his visit to China, 400 businessmen accompanied him, including the country's biggest compradors. Agree-

ments between them and large corporations controlled by China's monopoly bureaucrat capitalists were quickly reached. These include agreements pushing for the establishment of the Clark Green City Industrial Park and the Cavite reclamation project, both of which are objects of the people's ire.

As in the past regimes, Duterte is pushing for the establishment of additional export processing zones (EPZ). These will add to the current EPZs which produce low-value added products for export. These EPZs are part of the so-called Factory Asia—a network of factories which make up a production line controlled by China. These ties are bound to tighten when China's Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership come to fruition.

## Land reform and counter-reform

Ever since peasant leader Ka Paeng Mariano headed the DAR, notable land disputes have been resolved in favor of the peasants. These include positive decisions regarding Hacienda Luisita and other vast holdings in Mindoro, Zamboanga, Sorsogon, Negros and Iloilo. But clashes are bound to arise when landlords decide to contest the DAR.

The DAR's decision to impose a two-year moratorium on conversion



of agricultural lands have been countermanded by technocrats and real estate compradors.

In different occasions, Duterte has made plain his readiness to distribute public lands. In concurrence, he asserted that the Philippines can make it big through agricultural development compared to industries. Industry will only have value if it comes from agriculture, he said. But the agricultural production he was referring to is agriculture based on large commercial plantations owned by foreign capitalists and oriented towards foreign markets.

This is no different from what big foreign companies call Philippine agricultural "modernization" through laying down appropriate infrastructure. Big compradors would like to maximize agricultural lands, especially in Mindanao, for export production and put up the needed transportation infrastructure for swift transport of products for the international market.

It is under this framework that the regime is pushing for laying down a modern train system in Mindanao. This will facilitate and simplify the transport of products from plantations to airports and seaports.

This October, Duterte signed with China the Agricultural Cooperation Action Plan 2017-2019 to facilitate the export of Philippine products such as mangoes and bananas to China. The agreement covers coming up with export regulations, research for major projects and cooperation for increased production and investment.

### **AmBisyon Natin 2040**

In the face of such grand plans, the Duterte regime has no immediate plans to increase wages and ensure job security for workers and government employees. Instead, it came up with an "anti-poverty" program that will bring about a "simple and comfortable life." But this "ambition" will

only be realized in 2040.

Duterte signed Executive Order No. 5 containing the the AmBisyon Natin 2040 (Our Ambition 2040) last October 12. It aims to create a "middle class" Philippines with the majority of Filipinos owning a house and vehicle, with sufficient funds to tide them over the day, college fund for their children and some savings. Duterte gave the NEDA the responsibility of crafting four "five-year program" from 2016 to 2040.

AmBisyon Natin 2040 is nothing but an empty promise. For now, it is merely a slogan which is no different from the US-Ramos regime's "Philippines 2000." It only serves to keep the people's hopes up to take their attention off their current problems. In truth, it does not offer fundamental changes in the economic structure. If NEDA's previous programs are to go by, AmBisyon will not veer away from the old and bankrupt neoliberal policies.

Worse, the regime is poised to set the heavy burden of financing its schemes by increasing taxes to raise revenue. The DoF is pushing to increase value-added taxes from 12% to 15%. It also plans to impose other taxes on petroleum products and sweet drinks (softdrinks, juices, others). It boasts of lowering income, property and transaction taxes but these will only benefit the largest companies and wealthiest families. Income taxes for millions of ordinary workers and employees may be lowered, but additional funds will go straight to state coffers through high prices of commodities and services.

The regime continues to offer palliative measures to raise the people from poverty. These include continuing the 4Ps program, distribution of one sack of rice to some families and other superficial measures that have long been proven ineffective. **AB**

### **Labor Summit opposes contractualization**

AT THE LABOR Summit held on October 17 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City, workers and labor unions once again reached a consensus to end contractualization.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) called for the said summit supposedly for the labor sector to come up with a unified stand regarding the issue. But according to the workers, as early as October 3 at the Labor Sector Dialogue, 95% of the labor unions have already declared clearly their opposition to all forms of contractualization.

The labor unions criticized DOLE's indecisiveness against contractualization, despite Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's clear order to end the practice. The unions demanded the repeal of the agency's DO 18-A and the issuance of an order in its stead which strictly prohibits contractualization.

Presented in the summit were examples of contractual workers' struggles at Tanduy in Laguna, AGC Flat Glass in Manila, at ports in Negros, in small factories, up to major companies like the Philippine Airlines, PLDT and large banks.

At the same assembly, DOLE Sec. Silvestre Bello rejected the call for a P125 wage increase. This, after he had ordered the regional wage boards last September to conduct a study on the said increase. Wage increase is beyond DOLE's jurisdiction, Bello said.

Outside the venue, labor unions together with progressive organizations and labor institutions staged a protest action. **AB**



# The two aspects of friendship with China

**G**RP President Duterte is currently in China to forge economic and security agreements. He was welcomed by China as a firm ally and friend.

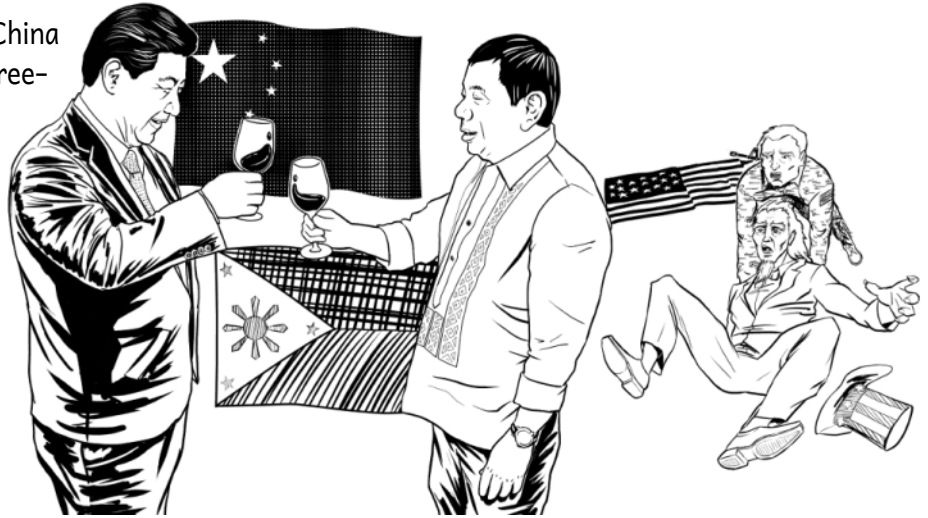
The visit is expected to pave the way for the large inflow of monopoly capitalist investments from China.

The Party and revolutionary movement have a critical view of the Duterte regime's policy of amity and friendship with China. On the one hand, the revolutionary movement is aware that China has its imperialist self-interest in forging friendship with the Philippines. On the other hand, they also see the opportunities for positive changes in the economy and people's livelihood which were long closed because of US domination and Philippine dependence.

China is one of the biggest capitalist countries and a burgeoning imperialist power. It was once a modern socialist country (1949-1976) before the new bourgeoisie which emerged from the bureaucracy wrested state power and destroyed the Communist Party of China and the socialist system.

China is currently confronting a capitalist crisis in finance and over-production. Its inventory of surplus goods (steel, cellphones and other electronic products and parts) is growing as well as uninvestible surplus capital. It seeks areas to dump its surplus goods and bigger sources of cheap labor-power and raw materials to run its so-called Factory Asia—the network of tightly linked factories in different countries that engage in semi-processing.

China has imperialist ambitions. Along with the expansion of China's economic empire, there is also its strategic deployment of military forces in various parts of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa.



China's geopolitical interests are increasing and its challenge to US hegemony is growing.

Duterte's friendship with China can help the Filipino people in their struggle to break free from US control and domination and end reliance on US imperialism. But this will happen only if the Filipino people's national democratic struggle will continue to advance and if the Duterte regime will forge with them a patriotic alliance.

Several billion dollars of investments and loans from China are bound to build factories and plantations that are geared to supply the factories and market of China. In the name of unity with the Filipino people against US imperialism, China must be called upon to allot a substantial amount of investments to support national industrialization and genuine land reform to get the local economy to stand on its own feet. The protection of the welfare of millions of people must be ensured in every infrastructure project.

The struggle for genuine land reform must be advanced vigorously. The Filipino people must challenge Duterte to smash the economic power of the big landlords who long have served as power base of US imperialism in the Philippines and are among the principal factors for the backward economy.

It is China's plan to build large plantations for export production. This contravenes the interests of the peasant masses and the minority peoples and is destructive to the environment. This must not be allowed to become a dominant aspect in the rural economy.

Duterte must train principal attention to distributing land to peasant tillers as a means of correcting a historic injustice, and to pave the way for modernization of local agriculture geared towards the production of food and other needs for local processing.

In his earlier declaration, Duterte has been busy attracting foreign investments, in particular, investments from state-private firms of China. This corresponds with China's plans to build infrastructure for production and transportation in accordance with its plan to reach out to the farthest corners of the world to draw in hundreds of millions of people into its wide ocean of labor-power.

The Filipino people must insist that establishing steel and other basic industries must be given priority. Duterte must insist on China that its investments in export-oriented production should have a counterpart investment or assistance to more basic industries needed by the country.

To ensure that the people are

not completely disadvantaged, Duterte must ensure that such policies will have a corresponding policy of protecting national interests. It must be insisted that a portion of investments be allotted to basic industries and that there should be technology transfer. There must also be clear-cut policy for protecting the environment and the national patrimony.

The people must challenge Duterte to protect the interests of the working class against very low wages and to repudiate the policy of privatization and commercialization of public services. The Duterte regime must take immediate steps to control prices of food, medicine, fuel and other basic commodities.

If Duterte will not uphold the democratic interests of the people, Philippine ties with China will only lead to replacing the giant that dominates and plunders the country and the perpetuation of foreign monopoly capitalist plunder of the country.

If the people's interests are not prioritized, the promised new roads, bridges, rails and ports will be for naught. The economy will be glittery outside but underdeveloped inside. There will be factories but no industrialization; there will be plantations but the people will lack food and be condemned to hunger.

It is in the geopolitical interest of China to turn the Philippines into a bastion of anti-US imperialism. This is consistent with the aspirations of the Filipino people. To

forge cooperation, China must recognize and respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines.

As a friendly overture, China must stop its exclusive claims of the fishing area around Bajo de Masinloc. It can support the clamor for demilitarization of the South China Sea and avoid taking steps that contravene other country's claims.

China can build long-lasting friendship with the Filipino people if it will support genuine land reform and the establishment of various basic industries. This is comparable to efforts of the US and Japan to support land reform and building basic industries in Taiwan (from the 1950s) and South Korea (from the 1960s) with the aim of turning these into capitalist bases in the struggle then against the promotion of anti-imperialism and socialism in China and North Korea.

US imperialism is closely watching the forging of China-Philippine friendship under Duterte. Its agents in the AFP and other state agencies are mobilizing to prepare for measures to prevent the strategic weakening of US control and influence in the Philippines.

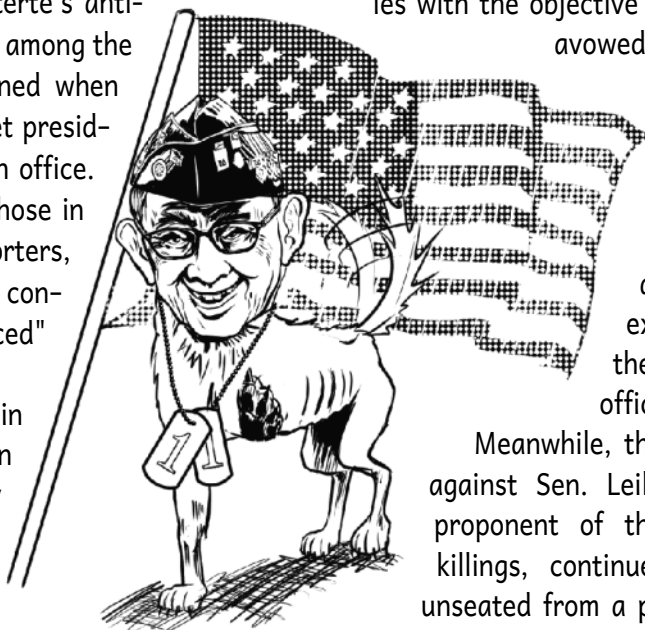
In promoting friendship with China, Duterte must also seek to weaken US imperialist influence and control of the AFP which has been dependent on US military aid and oppose the policy of suppression against the anti-imperialist, progressive and revolutionary forces. **AB**

## Pro and anti-US factionalism emerges

AS EXPECTED, GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's anti-US tirades have deepened factionalism among the ruling classes. This was sharply defined when Fidel Ramos, among GRP's most puppet presidents, attacked him on his 100th day in office. Reactionaries out of power, such as those in the Liberal Party and their supporters, quickly joined in the chorus. Duterte considers Ramos as the one who "convinced" him to run for president.

Ramos damned the current regime in a column he wrote for a newspaper. In the main, he parroted lines used by US, UN and EU officials in relation to extrajudicial killings in the regime's anti-drug war. He directly mocked Duterte's statements and threats against the presence of US troops, war planes and ships. The Philippines is "losing badly," he said, and Duterte's leadership is a "huge disappointment." The "Philippine ship is sinking," he added, due to Duterte's "willy-nilly" navigation.

Through his tirades, Ramos has exposed himself as the US' main puppet inside the Duterte administration. He is set to lead the pro-US camp among the reactionar-



ies with the objective of pushing back Duterte's avowed independent foreign policy. It is apparent that the ex-president has ties with US military agents to counter the strong currents against US presence and exercises. He also serves as the center for AFP pro-US officials.

Meanwhile, the Duterte camp's attacks against Sen. Leila de Lima, number one proponent of the US line on anti-drug killings, continue unabated. After being unseated from a powerful committee in the senate, she is now besieged with cases filed against her to shame her to silence. The committee which succeeded her exonerated the Philippine National Police from all the extra-judicial killings and completely absolved the Duterte regime by stating that there was no Davao Death Squad when Duterte was the city's mayor. In the meantime, the number of those killed, both by police and so-called vigilantes continues to rise. **AB**

# Unequal RP-US economic relations

Decades of control have shackled the Philippine economy to the US. For a long time, the country was without economic sovereignty as a result of being confined to supplying cheap raw materials and labor force for the US, and as dumping ground for surplus manufactures and other imports, as well as its surplus capital.

Since the 1940s, American capitalists have been the biggest source of foreign direct investments (FDI) to the Philippines. Most of these are invested into the manufacturing sector, finance and securities, real estate, wholesale and retail trade, and construction. American capitalists live off the Philippines' cheap labor force and abundant resources. They repatriate huge profits.

Economic laws since the Treaty of General Relations of 1946, the Investment Incentives Act of 1967, up to the Foreign Investment Act of 1991, distinctively favour American investors.

From 1999-2012, the net FDI from the US amounted to \$4.52 billion. This comprises almost 20% of the entire FDI during that period. In 2013, despite placing second (to Japan), FDI from the US still amounted \$1.3 billion. In 2015, the US' FDI was \$732.5 million (39.72% of all FDIs).

During the same period, 19.4% of Philippine exports went to the US, while 15.8% of the country's imports were sourced from the US. Also, a fraction of Philippine trade to ASEAN and other countries in East Asia go to the US.

Despite being primarily agricultural, the Philippines is flooded by American agricultural products. Under the US-Aquino regime, agricultural products imported by the Philippines from the US ballooned to 123%. The country is the US' ninth largest market for its agricultural products, with profits reaching \$2.8 billion in 2014.

The Philippines ranks second in

the US' market for its soybean meal (soya residue after oil has been extracted) at \$589M; fourth in dairy products (\$345M); sixth in wheat (\$569M) and eighth in pork and pork products (\$116M).

Meanwhile, the Philippines remained a supplier of cheap raw materials to the US. The country is the US main supplier of coconut oil (\$454M) and copra (\$55M). Also, the Philippines places eighth in the US' source of processed fruits and vegetables (\$197M); fruit and vegetable juice (\$62M) and sugar (\$23M). Likewise, the Philippines is the 11th largest supplier of seafoods to the US (\$264M).

The US also benefits considerably from the Filipino people's cheap labor force. Among the biggest American companies having investments in the Philippines are Citigroup, General Electric, Procter & Gamble, JP Morgan, Coca Cola and Chevron.

The American economy leads in exploiting the Filipino working people's talents, skills and labor—as workers in mines and plantations during the 1920s and as soldiers and navy men after the Second World War. Today, almost four million migrant Filipinos are in the US. They comprise the largest number (15.7%) of migrant health workers (mostly nurses), and are second most populous (13.7%) migrant workers in services.

Under decades of being tied to the US, Philippine economy has re-



mained backward: geared towards exporting raw materials or semi-processed parts and dependent on importing finished products. This explains the chronic deficit in Philippine foreign trade. In 1957, from a deficit of \$14 million (\$58.5 million imports and \$44.5 million exports), this swelled to \$97.3 million in 1987 (\$463 million imports and \$365 million exports). In August 2016, Philippine trade deficit already amounts to \$2.02 billion.

Because of the continuing trade deficit, the Philippines is compelled to incur strings of loans from financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (IMF-WB) which the US also controls. Fifty-one percent of the World Bank's funds is sourced from the US, while the country also holds the biggest voting power share in the IMF at 17%.

From \$360 million in 1962, the Philippines' external debt has shrunk to \$77.47 billion in 2015. All loans are conditionalities. At present, the Philippines has 70 different loans and credits with the World Bank. Each of these loans entails four to five conditionalities.

In a rundown, almost half (49%) of the conditionalities im-

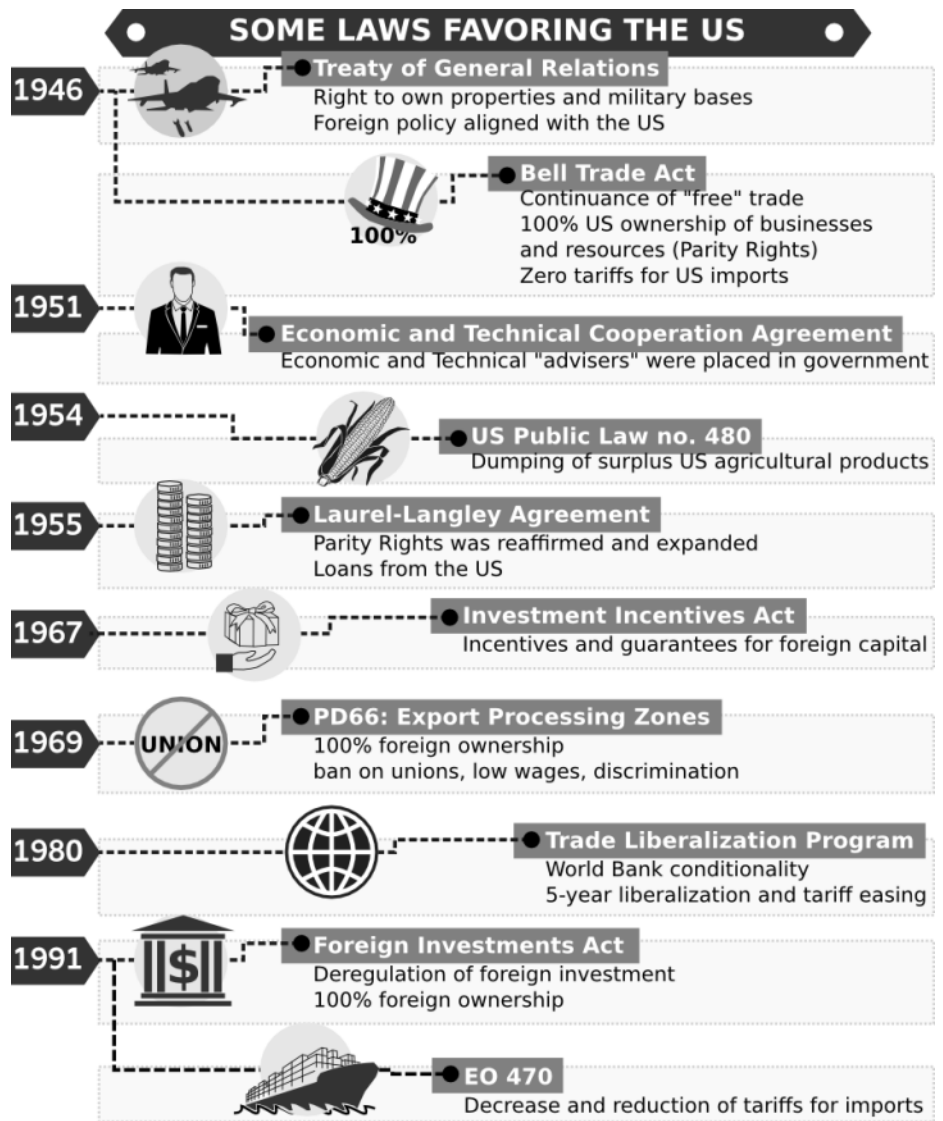
posed by the WB relate to the development of private and finance sectors (this comprises 32% of IMF conditionalities). Meanwhile, 39% of these are geared towards privatization (52% in IMF conditionalities).

Apart from gaining control of the country's economy through loan conditionalities, the US likewise exploits its "aid" in order to impose economic policies. The Partnership for Growth (PFG) signed between the Philippines and the US in 2011 is an example of how the US tightens its command over the country's economy.

Through the Joint Country Action Plan as determined by the PFG, reforms in the economy that favour the US are identified. These include trade and investment liberalization, deregulation, effective implementation of private business contracts such as Public-Private Partnership deals, as well as reforms in the financial system and the judiciary.

For example, under the PFG, \$434 million was allocated by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in exchange for "economic freedom" in the Philippines. At any time, the MCC may suspend dispensing "aid" if the Philippines does not enforce trade liberalization along with relaxing tariffs and removal of barriers on foreign investments. A substantial amount of MCC funds touches on counterinsurgency such as funding the Kalahi-CIDSS (\$120 million) and road projects (\$214.4M) in Samar communities. The funds also finance projects in increasing tax revenue collection (\$54.3 million).

Also part of the PFG is the Arangkada Project which is spearheaded by the USAID and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham). Through this project, AmCham and USAID push the Philippines' implementation of 471 "recommendations" that promote the



interests of foreign corporations in the country. Every year since 2011, the Arangkada Project monitors and rates the application of its "recommendations" by the Philippines.

Along with AmCham are 17 other big foreign and local business groups that push for further liberalization, deregulation, privatization and denationalization. Among Arangkada's "recommendations" are the enactment of laws, intensification of infrastructure projects, and even the composition of government bureaucracy. The Arangkada Project also regards land reform as an impediment to agribusiness corporations.

Also, the US-Philippine Society (USPS) was established to lobby for PFG within the Philippine government. Members of the lobby group include former US ambassador to the Philippines John Negroponte and top executives of US corpora-

tions in the country, as well as big bourgeois-compradors such as Pangilinan, Sycip, Ayala, Razon and many others. The USPS aims to influence officials and lawmakers in the Philippines.

The USPS is much like the lobby group AGILE (Accelerating Growth, Investment, and Liberalization with Equity) which the USAID funded during the Estrada and Macapagal-Arroyo regimes. AGILE blatantly wrote draft bills and campaigned in Congress for the enactment of Philippine laws that safeguard US intellectual property rights.

These laws, including those economic agreements passed at the onset of US domination of the country, have continuously hindered development and destroyed local industries and livelihood, and have perpetuated chronic poverty and persistent crisis of the Philippine economy. **AB**

# American people have no choice in the US presidential elections

Come November 8, the American people will again vote in their presidential elections. But as in all bourgeois elections, the people have no viable choice among candidates who are as bad as each other.

The presidential elections come at a time when the US is at the trough of an almost two decades-long recession that still has no solution in sight. Its influence in international trade formations is declining. It is projected to be already insolvent in its trade deficits and public debt. In the face of new emerging imperialist countries, the American ruling classes are falling over themselves to wage war or instigate war to regain their position as number one imperialist power and maintain world hegemony.

The two leading contenders, Democratic Party's Hillary Clinton and Republican Party's Donald Trump are both candidates of the ruling class. They both promise that they will lift the people from the mire of economic crisis, though in truth they will be busy enabling the big capitalists to continue raking in wealth.

They are zealous promoters of neoliberal economic policies that give US monopoly capitalists free rein to rob the fruits of workers' labor in their own country and plunder the wealth of underdeveloped countries. On the other hand, they adopt protectionist measures against rival countries' competition in trade and other economic interests, though these may necessitate military action.

They both consider the Philippines as launching pad for their so-called "defense" against China and North Korea, and for maintaining their military might in the South



China Sea. Both of them present campaign platforms to continue the proxy war in Syria, Yemen and other countries in Africa and continue the war of aggression in Afghanistan to ascertain their investments and military positions against Russia and China. This growing rightist trend is also consistent with their approval of the Patriot Act, strengthening the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, and increasing sanctions against North Korea.

Thus, the American people can expect no substantial change from either leadership. People in US colonies and neocolonies can also expect continued plunder, arm-twisting, bullying from "the world's police" and intensifying military actions to defend their dwindling territory for trade.

Before running for presidency, Clinton was US Secretary of State. In this post, she initiated the ouster of Libyan president Moammar Qaddafi, supported the bombing of Syria, instigated war in Yemen and Turkey, continued drone warfare in

Afghanistan, and built-up military troops in the Asian pivot. It was also recently exposed that Clinton intentionally held back information about funding support for the ISIS through their Saudi Arabian allies. In the US, she faced the issue of neglecting security for their embassy in Libya which resulted in the death of four American diplomats in 2012. Despite this, Clinton sponsored continued US military presence in the country.

Clinton initially pushed for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the neoliberal agreement that will further abet imperialist plunder of underdeveloped countries' resources. She later distanced herself from the TPP to garner popularity from the broad masses of American people who oppose it and the ultra-rightists who advocate ultranationalism.

However, she remains a strong supporter of "free trade", plunder of other countries' resources, limiting their own workers' minimum wages, and reducing social services for the people. She still upholds the neoliberal dogma to favor big cap-

italists supposedly to stimulate business and create jobs.

For his part, Trump campaigns for continued military action against the ISIS although the real victims are the Syrian civilian population, racist measures against people of color and migrants as in his proposal of barriers against Mexicans and Muslims, and tax cuts for the wealthy. He flaunts his contempt of women, Muslims and minority people in the US.

They both have skeletons in their closets. William and Hillary Clinton were involved in the Iran-Contra scandal or secret arms deals to Iran and the Nicaraguan Contras where Arkansas, which then had Mr. Clinton as governor, was allegedly used as launching pad. This scandal was related to drug smuggling from Central America using CIA personnel and money laundering in

Mena, Arkansas, through the Arkansas Development Finance Authority. All these were strictly kept under wraps by the government and investigations have come to naught up to now.

Trump is a big businessman who accumulated wealth in real estate and casinos through fraud in his tax declarations and other dirty means. He was implicated in the investigations for racketeering cases against the Salerno and Gambino families, the two biggest US Mafia groups at that time, but he was able to extricate himself through his money.

Trump's numerous and frequent offensive remarks against women, together with his slurs against blacks and other minorities within the US, have become issues in his campaign.

AB