

ANG

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

Bayan

English Edition
Vol. XLVIII No. 17
September 7, 2017
www.philippinerevolution.info

4 firearms seized in Nueva Vizcaya

RED FIGHTERS of the New People's Army (NPA)-Cagayan (Venerando Villacillo Command) seized four high powered firearms from a successful ambush against soldiers of the 84th IB.

The ambush was staged in Sitio Maglan, Barangay Dine, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya around 7:30 a.m. last September 1 wherein a K3 light machinegun and three R4 rifles were confiscated. Six were killed from the 84th IB including SSgt. Dexter John Tagacay, Cpl. Jayson Sabado and Cpl. Rusty Galan.

The 84th IB is active in suppressing the struggle of the residents in the mountainous portions of Kasibu. The people, including the Bugkalot and Igorot tribes, protest the widespread destructive mining operations in the area. Notorious among these are the large companies OceanaGold and Royalco, both from Australia.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command or CMC) meted out punishment on SPO1 Nestor Austero, an element of the PNP-Bulan who is active in counterinsurgency operations.

According to Ka Samuel Guerrero of the CMC, Austero is active in organizing a net-



EDITORIAL

Isolate and resist the US-Duterte regime

The Filipino people's outrage is rapidly accumulating against Rodrigo Duterte over the blood being spilt under his repressive tyrannical rule.

They indict Duterte for the successive killings of several youths these past days by his armed minions: Kian delos Santos, 17 years old, Carl Angelo Arnaiz, 19 and Reynaldo de Guzman, 14, who were all tortured and killed by stabbing and shooting by the police in the "war against drugs;" and Obillio Bay-ao, 19, Lumad youth in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, who was shot and killed by paramilitary forces.

The people indict Duterte for the thousands upon thousands of lives

snuffed by the three wars he has launched: the Oplan Tokhang "war against drugs," the Oplan Kapayapaan war of suppression and martial law in Mindanao and the anti-Moro war and destruction of Marawi. The people detest Duterte for repeatedly ensuring protection and giving incentives to police and soldiers for blindly following his kill orders.

Duterte's hands drip with blood in his wars of death and destruction. His soldiers and police run amok.

Over the past two weeks, almost 20 were killed under Oplan Kapayapaan. Oplan Tokhang killings are relentless. The AFP's war in Marawi continues relentlessly after more than 100 days of siege.

The people are fed up with Duterte's repetitious, scornful and self-conceited speeches. His pretensions, spectacles and false images are rapidly losing efficacy in the face of actual measures, policies and programs which harm the interests of the people and oppress the downtrodden.

Duterte is turning a deaf ear to the calls of the people. He does not heed the cries of Marawi and the Moro people, the anguish of the fathers and mothers of the youth murdered by the police, the clamor of the national minorities and peasants against militarization and repression, the outcry against aerial bombings, and the grievances of the urban poor, the workers, the youth and other classes and sectors

against oppression and exploitation.

The people increasingly loathe the Duterte regime and its repressive policies such as its plan for a National ID system, the recently enacted law to suppress the freedom of expression and its push for charter change to give him further monopoly of political power. Workers are bound to suffer greater oppression in the plan to abolish the 8-hour workday.

The national democratic forces must act vigorously to expand and consolidate the ranks of mass organizations and build the people's broadest unity in order to isolate and resist the US-Duterte regime, its triple wars and various pro-imperialist, anti-people and anti-democratic policies and programs.

Every issue the people face under the Duterte regime compel them to unite in different forms of broad alliances. These alliances can involve various forces and Duterte's political rivals. More importantly,







these should reach out, mobilize and unite various organizations and associations in schools, communities, parishes, barangays, offices and so on.

Duterte's "war against drugs" is now rousing widespread resistance over police abuses and killings. Various personalities, sectors, organizations and institutions are standing up. Youth organizations in communities and schools are waiting to be brought together in a broad front against Oplan Tokhang and police abuses and to demand a comprehensive socio-economic solution to the drug problem.

There is also basis to build a broad alliance against Oplan Kapayapaan and the anti-Moro war as well as against repressive measures such as the National ID system. The people must unite as well to resist the suppression of the freedom of expression under the guise of fighting "fake news." The mass of workers must be united to defend the 8-hour working day and fight for regularization and wage increases.

Various forces can also unite against Duterte's measures to suppress his political rivals (through detention, impeachment and murder) and to monopolize political power through charter change under its supposed pursuit of "federalism."

The climate of awe and fear imposed by Duterte is now slowly being overcome and repudiated by the people. Amid the people's widespread aversion of the US-Duterte regime, millions upon millions are awaiting the opportunity to join and act in order to demonstrate their stand against the fascist, anti-people and anti-democratic regime. AB

 <p>Vol. XLVIII No. 17 September 7, 2017</p> <hr/> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, 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> instagram.com/prwcinfo</p> <p> youtube.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral</p> <p> @prwc_info</p> <p> fb.com/philrevwebcentral</p> <p> cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2 style="text-decoration: underline;">Contents</h2> <p>Editorial: Isolate and resist the US-Duterte regime 1</p> <p>4 firearms seized in N. Vizcaya 1</p> <p>The Nat'l ID is a fascist scheme 3</p> <p>A longer workday 4</p> <p>Workers' protests and struggle 5</p> <p>BBL not Duterte's priority 6</p> <p>SMC behind demolition 7</p> <p>Manilakbayan 2017 arrives in M. Manila 8</p> <p>Repression and killing of Lumads 8</p> <p>EJKs intensify 9</p> <p>Mariano's confirmation rejected 10</p> <p>25 years of The Hague Declaration 10</p>
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

"4 firearms...", continued from page 1

work of intelligence informers in the barangays of Bulan which have resulted in many cases of human rights violations in the area.

Advances of the NPA in EV

Meanwhile, the NPA-Eastern Visayas (Efren Martinez Command or EMC) reported the renewed vigor and strength of the NPA in the region amidst the US-Duterte regime's counter-insurgency campaign Oplan Kapayapaan.

According to Ka Karlos Manuel, EMC spokesperson, Oplan Kapayapaan's attacks are intense in at least 152 barangays in the region. The 8th ID also put up 41 additional camps. Likewise, the 8th ID targets 32 towns and cities in Eastern Visayas for its counter-insurgency offensives.

The NPA in the region militantly confronted this campaign. From March to August, 65 various types of armed actions were launched by the NPA in the region against soldiers of the 8th ID and the PNP. These have resulted in 61 killed and 39 wounded on the part of the reactionary forces. Ten high powered firearms, including an M60 machinegun, and six other types of firearms, have been confiscated from these offensives.

Within the same period, membership of the NPA grew by 24% and four new platoons and four new squads were built. As a result, NPA-Northern Samar's two guerrilla fronts have each grown to company formations, and a new guerrilla front has been set up. In Leyte, a new guerrilla front was established in a strategic area covering five towns and 14 barangays. AB

The National ID is a fascist scheme

The GRP Congress hurriedly ratified last August 30 HB 6221 or the Filipino Identification System (FilSys) which proposes to establish a national identification system (national ID system). The Duterte regime has also allotted P2 billion for its implementation starting 2018, to swell in 2019.

Under the FilSys, every Filipino citizen 18 years old and above, whether inside the country or abroad, is required to register with the Philippine Statistics Authority not only his or her basic information (name, date of birth, height, weight, others) and biometrics (digital recording of fingerprints, iris, voice and facial image exception code), but also the individual's private information. Data collected by various government agencies will also be used for the FilSys, including biometrics stored with the Commission on Elections, Philhealth, National Bureau of Investigation, 4Ps, and others.

Included in the FilSys are genetic records, DNA, medical and educational records, as well as records on one's religious, ideological and philosophical beliefs. Also to be contained are records on charges filed against the individual, whether proven or otherwise. These data are currently private and protected by privileges enjoyed by doctor-patient, attorney-client and other codes of practice. Utilization of these against an individual by whichever state agency requires court permission.

In the hands of a repressive and oppressive state, such system of data collection will surely be used as a weapon for mass surveillance and population control. This will be employed to profile "suspicious" groups or individuals which will result in widespread stigmat-

izing of social, religious and political groups and false accusations against individuals.

One can expect terrible consequences if such tool will be in the hands of a repressive and oppressive dictator such as Duterte who is obsessed in mass murder as a "solution" to social ills, and as an instrument to silence his political rivals and suppress the people's struggle. The national ID system forms part of his machinations to establish a fascist state.

Meanwhile, ACT Teachers Partylist Rep. Antonio Tinio said that the FilSys brings the country a step closer to being a police state.

Such is also the position of the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), which underscored the possibility that the state will make use of the ID system as a means of mass surveillance. According to the FMA, this empowers the government to monitor not only transactions, but also other activities and events in an individual's life.

To conceal its insidious aims and deceive the people, the Duterte regime makes false claims that the national ID system will serve to expedite the delivery of government service. This is clearly farcical most especially since the regime continues to cut budgets for social services. In Norway, where there is no such national ID system as FilSys, everyone has access to advanced public health service.

It is likewise false that this ID

system will stamp out the widespread corruption in the bureaucracy. This is starkly demonstrated by continuing widespread corruption in government agencies despite their computerized record-keeping and processing. Also, manipulation of election results in the Philippines has become more widespread. Automation has only made efficient, albeit less obvious, the fraud in counting votes.

Anti-people program

These pretences are in accordance with the recommendations of US counter-insurgency advisers. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the US attached censuses and a national ID system to food subsidies in exchange for information regarding those whom the US considers as enemies. Also, the US regards as effective its design in Vietnam during the war which combines census-taking with intelligence gathering, alongside a purported collection of grievances from the residents.

In the case of FilSys, it has prioritized for 2018 the inclusion in the national ID system 5.2 million households in the countryside and urban poor communities purportedly for 4Ps subsidies. The US' system of population control may also be comparable to the ID system imposed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines upon the villages they occupy. In these areas, residents are required to sign onto logbooks and present an ID or a residence certificate in order for the soldiers to monitor their activities, and be spared from being tagged as rebels and undergo harassment or physical harm.

AB

A longer workday is an attack against workers

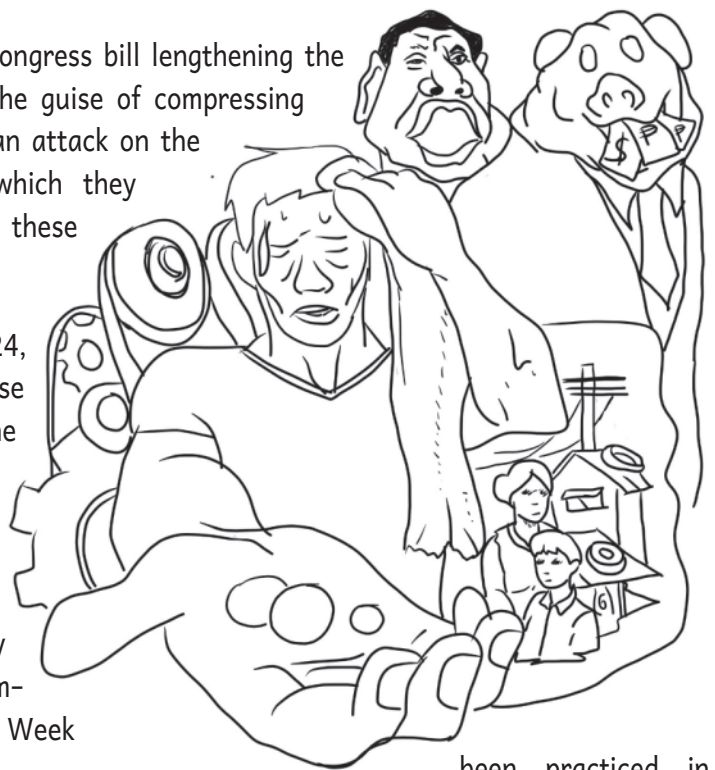
The enacted congress bill lengthening the workday in the guise of compressing the workweek is an attack on the workers' rights which they have fought for these past centuries.

On August 24, the lower house railroaded the slave-like House Bill 6152 or Increasing the Normal Work Hours per day under the Compressed Work Week Scheme.

The anti-worker fangs of the Duterte regime has shown itself in its plan to institutionalize the 10-12 hour workday. Congress and the Department of Labor and Employment hypocritically portray this as a pro-worker scheme that will reduce the workweek from 5-6 days to 4-5 days. Only big bourgeois compradors will benefit from this scheme as they squeeze more profits from the labor of their workers and employees.

The compressed workweek was first implemented under the first Aquino regime in 1990 through a DOLE order. This was in accordance to the implementation of the Herrera Law which became the basis for the legalization of contractualization. The Arroyo regime amended the order in 2005 and allowed capitalists and compradors to extend the workday beyond eight hours without overtime pay.

The anti-worker Duterte regime's removal of legal obstacles in lengthening the workday is worse. The HB 6152 formalizes what has



been practiced in many businesses in export processing zones where workers are made to work for 10-12 hours from Monday to Saturday and eight hours on Sunday. This is compounded by inhuman working conditions such as the lack of proper ventilation and protection from poisonous chemicals.

Allowing a minimum wage earner to work for 12 hours equals to P1,227.42/week or almost P5,000/month lost overtime pay. For big businesses engaged in widespread contractualization and extended working hours, this translates to millions of added annual profits.

The regime's excuse for passing the bill to allow workers more rest hours is perverse. A hungry family cannot rest as wages are kept low and job insecurity is worsening. The average wages in manufacturing is pegged at P358.71/day and in services at P314.34/day. Wages in Southern Tagalog are lowest, at only P235/day. This is a far cry from the estimated P1,130/day living wage.

Destroying victories

In lengthening the workday, the Duterte regime is destroying the more than two centuries-old victory workers of the world have won in pushing for an eight-hour workday. It was in the 19th century when workers won in cutting down the workday from 12-16 hours to eight hours.

In Southern Europe then, workers were forced to work as long as the sun shone during the summer solstice when the sun could shine up to 10 p.m. The workers organized into unions and called for humane working conditions, higher wages and an eight-hour workday. The workers' movement spread all over the world.

In Australia, workers united in 1856 to organize a one-day work stoppage to call for an 8-hour work-

day. In the US, May 1, 1886 became historic when 200,000 workers stopped working and gathered in Haymarket Square in Chicago in a general strike to call for an 8-hour workday. The call spread to Europe. In 1889, this became one of the key issues of the International Workingmen's Association, an organization founded by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels who later issued the Communist Manifesto.

Many unions in various factories triumphed in pushing for an 8-hour workday. Russia became the first state to declare an 8-hour workday as a national policy, together with declaring May 1 as an official holiday after the October Revolution in 1917. Mexico followed on the same day, Australia on 1920, and the US on 1938. The Philippines enacted it as a law on

1974.

In lengthening the workday, the Duterte regime once again proved that it is not different from previous pro-foreign and neoliberal regimes. He not only failed to deliver his promise to end contractualization, he is making the situation of millions of workers more miserable. Under his fascist rule, his regime is sure to push for worse anti-worker policies and programs.

In this light, workers should expand and strengthen their unions and organizations to resist the regime's schemes to destroy what they have already won through their struggles. The struggle for an 8-hour workday should be carried alongside the call to raise wages, end contractualization, ensure job security and improved working conditions. AB

Workers' protest and struggle

WHILE THE Duterte regime repeatedly attacks worker's rights, the workers continuously defend and fight for these through their organized strength and collective action.

Members of Kilos Na! Manggagawa immediately protested at the Welcome Rotonda, Quezon City to condemn the passage of HB 6152 in congress. They vowed to expand and consolidate their ranks to block the bill's approval in Senate.

Meanwhile, 378 contractual workers of Harbour Centre Port Terminal in Manila succeeded in their struggle for regularization last August 24, a year since they started the strike. They will get all the benefits of regular workers since they started working in Harbour Centre and they will be recognized as part of the company's work force.

Contractual workers in Southern Tagalog are continuously advancing their struggle. On August 29, members under the Liga ng Manggagawang Kontraktwal picketed in front of the DOLE. Among those who participated were workers from Takata, ABI, Alaska, Coca-Cola, Clarmil, Nexperia, Gardenia, Aichi, MCC-MSI and SIDC. The said workers had already won initial victories.

The Alaska Milk Workers' Union successfully fought for their Collective Bargaining Agreement to demand benefits for their members. Meanwhile, Gardenia workers won the regularization of 744 contractual workers last July. But the capitalist did not follow DOLE's order and illegally retrenched 70 workers.

This is the same situation the workers of Nexperia is facing. Fourteen workers including the president of the local organization, Workers' Alliance for Labor Rights, were illegally terminated even though there is an existing DOLE decision to regularize the workers.

Six hundred seventy-five Coca-Cola workers were also to be regularized but 200 workers who were included on the DOLE's decision were illegally dismissed.

Last August 18, workers of SM Manila with GABRIELA and KMU picketed to call for regularization of SM workers. AB

BBL, not a priority for the Duterte regime

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) recently reproved the US-Duterte regime's noncompliance of its obligation to prioritize the Bangsamoro Basic Law in the lower and upper houses of Congress. This was after the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council dropped the said bill from its list of priority bills submitted to the congress on August 29. Like the past regimes, Duterte is taking his time in passing the bill to squeeze more concessions from the Moros and pressure them into following his wishes.

In the past years, the MILF has hoped to achieve its right to self-determination through the BBL. The BBL is a proposed law that will create the Bangsamoro, a political entity to replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and will be under the Government of the Philippines, as provided by the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). The CAB is an agreement crafted through the peace negotiations between the GRP and the MILF and was signed in 2014. The MILF believes that the BBL will put an end to “extremist violence” of various Moro groups in Mindanao, including its own splinter groups.

Since Duterte came into power, he has repeatedly promised that his regime will prioritize the BBL. But it still took him eight months to expand the Bangsamoro Transition Council (BTC), the body tasked to draft the proposed law. The national government did not allocate funds for it. Nevertheless, the BTC managed to submit to Duterte a revised draft on July 17. Contrary to his bluster, Duterte did not immediately submit this to either houses of the congress. Up to this writing, none of his factotums in the congress have offered to sponsor the bill. According to Malacanang's spokesperson, it is “up to the congress” what to do with it.

Worse, Duterte's congressional ally Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo filed a counter-version on August 3. Titled the Basic Act for the Bangsamoro

Autonomous Region (BABAR), it contained provisions worse than the ARMM that the MILF had previously rejected. It did not differ from the proposed Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BLBAR) which the then senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. filed under the US-Aquino regime. The BLBAR did not pass despite Marcos' efforts to weaken the bill to make it more acceptable to the Philippine reactionary class. The MILF called Arroyo's bill insulting and disgusting. Despite this, the regime ordered congress to “consolidate” the Arroyo and BTC versions.

In the past, the reactionary state used the BBL to placate the Moro people and encourage them to fully reject armed struggle and place themselves under its reactionary constitution. But this was proven wanting in proving the renewed spread of armed resistance of armed groups. Many have emerged to continue the armed struggle.

When the fighting flared up in Marawi, Duterte did not heed the call to pass the BBL to douse it. Instead, he ran amok in attacking civilians. Bombings, artillery fire and strafing which destroyed their lives and livelihoods have been brutal and indiscriminate. Contrary to his talk of “avoiding” earning the ire of



the Moros, his troops did not spare mosques and madrasahs, alongside hospitals and private establishments, in their destruction. He insulted their leaders and scholars, and blamed the residents for the violence. These leaders have repeatedly offered to mediate between the AFP and the Moro groups in Marawi but he arrogantly brushed aside their attempts. The regime's troops did not even respect the humanitarian pauses the groups requested to save civilians caught in the fighting.

In the midst of this, the sufferings of the Moro people continue, especially of the evacuees in Lanao del Sur. This August, the Suara Bangsamoro firmly countered the AFP's claim that there is no humanitarian crisis in the province as the regime has provided the civilians' needs. Aside from this crisis, thousands remain missing, the organization said.

In the end, the BBL or even Duterte's genocide-like war against the Moro failed to stop their struggle for self-determination but instead, intensified their armed resistance.

AB

SMC responsible for Manggahan demolition

Business interests of big comprador bourgeoisie Ramon Ang and Eduardo “Danding” Cojuangco of San Miguel Corporation (SMC) are behind the failed demolition of around 1,000 homes beside the Manggahan Floodway in Pasig last August 31. This aimed to drive away residents to facilitate SMC’s use of the area for business.

The Manggahan Floodway was built in 1977 to prevent flooding in Metro Manila. The land along the floodway was declared public which gave residents the right to live and build their homes in the area.

This right was revoked by the US-Arroyo regime and the residents were driven away. Demolitions continued under Benigno Aquino Jr.’s Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program which resulted in the expulsion of hundreds of families to relocation sites and loss of their livelihood.

Under the Duterte regime’s “Build, build, build” program, funds of more than P2 billion are set to be allocated by SMC for the Manggahan Floodway in exchange for the company’s free use of the waste materials and water coming from the floodway for SMC’s businesses in power generation and irrigation.

Around 10,000 families from Pasig to Taytay, Rizal are set to be displaced.

The demolition in Sta. Lucia, Pasig is part of some 75 priority infrastructure projects which Duterte plans to build in connivance with his local cronies and his finance secretary under the “Dutertenomics” banner. These projects, including the cleaning out of Manggahan Floodway, were former projects under Aquino’s PPP.

Like the PPP, these large and widescale infrastructure projects are tied to neoliberal interests of big compradors and foreign corporations. They are funded by large debts passed off in the name

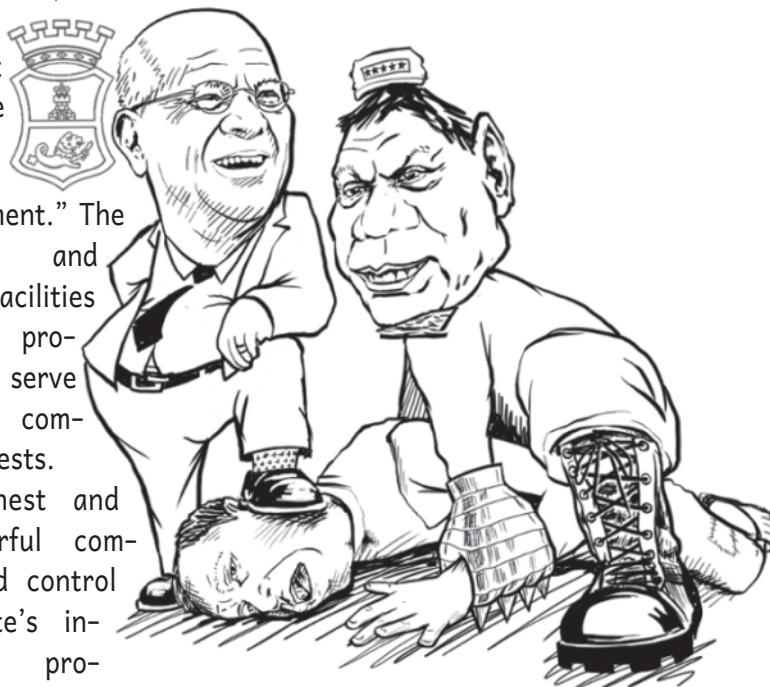
of “development.” The construction and control of facilities under this program will serve only their commercial interests.

The richest and most powerful compradors hold control over Duterte’s infrastructure projects. These are led by SMC which funds 45.9 % of the total cost of ongoing or completed PPP projects.

Residents’ struggle and frustrating the demolition

The police and the forces of the local government of Pasig failed to demolish the urban poor communities’ residences along the portion of Manggahan Floodway in Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Pasig. This, despite the violent destruction of the barricade put up by the residents, physical harm and arbitrary arrest. The residents were resolute in the defense of their homes and livelihood.

In a report by Balikwas Kadamay, a local branch of Kadamay (Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap), residents are forcibly being displaced from their communities under the pretext that their homes lie on a “danger zone.” In return, they are offered relocation to Calauan, Laguna. But due to high amortization fees and lack of social services and livelihood, majority of the residents chose to stay and fight for their rights to decent dwelling within the city. The residents have lived along



Manggahan Floodway for four decades.

The police arrested 29 residents in the attempted demolition. Not contented, they went back to the community the following day and arbitrarily arrested whoever they came across with. Up to 41 were imprisoned, including ten minors. They were charged with illegal assembly, direct assault and resisting arrest, and disobedience.

Kadamay strongly condemned the violent destruction of the barricade. According to the organization’s president Gloria Arellano, the Duterte regime brings demolitions and evictions to the urban poor, alongside killings under the “war against drugs.” Although relocations are provided, fees collected are extremely high and residents are forced away from their livelihood.

The following day, members of Balikwas Kadamay, together with relatives of the arrested, staged a rally. Bayan Muna Rep. Karlos Zarate joined the residents. He likewise visited the residents detained at Pasig City Police Station. The residents condemned the arrests made by the PNP and

called for an end to the demolition of their community. According to the rallyists, the government should grant the land to the poor, instead of enforcing demolition.

Last September 3 and 4, DSWD Undersecretary Malou Turalde, along with Rep. Arlene Brosas from Gabriela Women's Party, Liza Maza of the National Anti-Poverty Com-

mission and Kabataan Partylist Rep. Sarah Elago, visited Bahay Aruga where the arrested youth were brought. The group wanted to check on the condition of the minors but they were barred from entering. Neither were the youth returned to their parents despite the parents' attempt to claim them. Some of the arrested had nothing to do with the

barricade and were coincidentally in the area when accosted by the police.

Six days after the demolition, two of the youth were released while eight remain at Bahay Aruga. Meanwhile, Balikwas-Kadamay asserts that they will continue to stand up for their rights to their homes. AB

Manilakbayan 2017 arrives in Metro Manila

ON SEPTEMBER 1, Manilakbayan 2017 delegations from Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Visayas and Mindanao arrived in Metro Manila. They were met in a "Salubungan" by members of national democratic organizations at the Bonifacio Shrine in Manila City where they held a program against martial law and the US-Duterte's fascist attacks against the people.

Afterwhich, they marched to Mendiola in front of Malacanang with various democratic sectors, where they met with Caraga peasants and fisher folk who have been encamped in the place since August 23. That night, they proceeded to the University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman where more than a hundred students from the Save Our Schools Network have been staying since July.

On Septembr 4-6, they held the second assembly of Sandugo, the broadest alliance of Moros and other national minorities in the Philippines. More than 2,500 Moros, Lumads and other indigenous peoples have travelled to the national capital to share their stories of struggle. They will remain in Metro Manila up to September 21 to launch activities to further their struggles. These includes pickets against mining companies and government agencies.

Before arriving in Metro Manila, the Mindanao delegation stopped by

UP-Los Banos where they were warmly welcomed by the university administration and students.

Meanwhile, the Kahugpungan sa Lumadnong Organisasyon (KASALO-Caraga) held its second regional conference in Butuan City on August 31, and celebrated the Eydow Tu Pakigsantuya Tu Tumindok Kane't Caraga or Day of Protests of the Caraga Lumads. The conference was held in concurrence with the organization's growing membership. From 2009, membership has doubled and now includes five tribes.

It was also an occasion to pay tribute to the Lumad leader-heroes whom the state have persecuted and killed because they fought for their ancestral lands. At the end of the day, the delegates marched to Emerito Samarca's grave in the city. ALCADDEV director Samarca was killed by military forces on September 1, 2015.

On August 28, progressive groups, together with various personalities, launched the Movement Against Tyranny, an alliance against the US-Duterte regime's rising fascism. Prior to this, progressive organizations joined in the funeral march for Kian de Los Santos, the 17-year old victim of extrajudicial killings of the regimes "war against drugs." AB



Repression and killings of Lumads

THE REGIME'S killings and repression of Mindanao Lumads continue unabated. While the Sandugo conference was being held in Quezon City, a 19-year old student of the Salugpongong Ta Tanu Igkano-gon Community Learning Center was being shot by a military agent in Sitio Dulyan, Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte on September 5. Obillo Bay-ao died in the hospital after a CAFGU element named Ben Salangani shot him.

Prior to this, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-2 filed trumped up charges against volunteer teachers of the Center for Lumad Advocacy, Networking and Services, Inc (CLANS) Community School and members of its Parent-Teacher Community Association (PTCA). A warrant of arrest was issued against six volunteer teachers and seven PTCA members for murder and attempted murder, CLANS said.

Even the Manilakbayan delegates encamped in Quezon City are not spared. They are continually under surveillance from police and other intelligence operatives. Lumad children from the "bakwit schools" are being investigated to force them to return to their militarized communities.

Extrajudicial killings intensify

The number of civilians killed being killed by the tyrant Duterte's soldiers and police continue to rise, while various human rights violations are relentless. Prominent in Duterte's latest crimes are the successive killings in Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Davao City and Compostela Valley. Since taking power, the regime has already committed 92 politically-motivated extrajudicial killings.

Bicol. In Sorsogon, successive killings of civilians were carried out by elements of the 31st IB and the 509th Public Safety Company of the Philippine National Police. According to Ka Maria Roja Banua of the NDF-Bicol, from July until August, 11 cases of killings done by the soldiers and police were recorded.

Among the latest is the killing of Jerry Jenga last August 29 at noon in Barangay Aquino, Bulan. An element of the 509th PSC was identified as the assailant who fled aboard a motorcycle towards the police camp in the same barangay. That afternoon, the 31st IB killed Ronald Abion, a resident of Sitio Calaay, Barangay Tinampo, Irosin. The 31st IB has accused Abion as a supporter of the NPA.

It was also reported that 12 of the province's 16 towns have AFP-CAFGU encampments. Likewise, 37 barangays are currently being occupied by soldiers of the AFP in the name of Oplan Kapayapaan. Records from June to August also show 55 cases of mass harassment, intimidation and forced evacuations.

Negros. The NPA-Central Negros (Leonardo Panaligan Command or LPC) strongly condemned the consecutive civilian killings in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental following the LPC ambush on the PNP Guihulngan last July 21. According to Ka JB Regalado of the LPC, police officers Fermin Jacobe, Megin Bulandres and Ricky Taub lead the series of killings in connivance with hired killers RPA-ABB. Furthermore, Regalado also exposed the participation of some Guihulngan City local officials led by Councilor Pipo Passigna, Petyong Mi-

jares, and others.

Among the civilians killed were Glen Abseng who was slain last July 22, Alberto Ticson who was killed last July 24, and a pedicab driver named "Danny" who was killed last July 28. On August 26, Remie Faburada was also shot and killed in Barangay Malusay. Meanwhile, Barangay Hinakpan Capt. Junjun Benero was killed on the same day while drinking coffee at a beach resort. Two of Benero's companions were wounded in the shooting.

Latest victim of the killings is Oscar Asildo Jr., an organizer of Bayan Muna. Asildo Jr. was shot last August 30 at around 11 a.m. after coming out of his office at the DepEd in Barangay Poblacion. He was shot at close-range while about to board his car. People nearby attempted to seek help from the PNP Guihulngan but they did not respond.

Davao City. Jezreel Arrabis, 40, and his wife Dalia, 38, residents of Barangay Tamayong, Calinan District, were shot by armed men believed to be soldiers of the 84th IB and 3rd IB. The Arrabis couple were both farmers and active members of the Farmers Association in Davao City. They were shot in front of their residence last September 2, at around 6:40 p.m. after returning from market. The couple's seven-year-old son survived the shooting.

Compostela Valley. Lomer Gerodias, a small-scale miner, was shot and killed by suspected members of the 66th IB last August 27, around 7 p.m. Gerodias was at Barangay Poblacion, Marasugan on his way to Barangay Magkagong when he was killed.

Gerodias was a member of Abante, a local organization of small-scale miners in Barangay Poblacion, and an active supporter of peasant struggles in the community. Abante is an affiliate organization of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog, Compostela (HUMAWAC).

Prior to this, unknown suspects shot and killed farmer Roger Timboco last August 23. Timboco is a member of the organization Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Maco ComVal.

Misamis Oriental. Soldiers of the 58th IB attempted to kill Lumad leader Roy Ibarat of the organization Pangalasag, which is based in Opol.

According to Ibarat, he has long been accused by the 58th IB as having connections to the revolutionary movement and is being forced to surrender. On August 20, four soldiers went to his residence, duped him towards a woody area, and fired upon him twice.

The 58th IB targeted Ibarat because of the successful "bungkalan" (collective farming) undertaken by members of Pangalasag last August 18 in their ancestral land which the Lumads are reclaiming from A. Brown Company. The Lumads' ancestral land extends to 520 hectares covering barangays Bagoceboc and Tingalan in Opol.

Palawan. Elements of the AFP Western Command (WESCOM) last July 23 illegally arrested and detained civilians Romy Labajo and his wife in Araceli, Palawan. After being captured, the Labajo couple was presented to the public purportedly as members of the NPA.

According to PAMALAKAYA-Palawan, the couple was arrested in response to the intense struggle put up by the residents in the Northern part of Palawan for their livelihood in the fishing grounds which are

being destroyed by Palawan local government's Administrative Order 05.

Also, under the guise of tracking the Maute group, consecutive raids and illegal searches were conducted in the towns of Taytay, Coron, Araceli and the towns' neighboring islands supposedly because the Maute Group had entered Palawan. WESCOM's attacks target the communities where the residents' fight against the said AO are

intense.

Meanwhile, on August 11, four Tagbanua minorities were illegally captured, tortured and filed with trumped-up charges by the PNP-Palawan.

Relatives Elesar Buenasalbas, Noel and Reden Peñaredondo, all residents of Barangay Alacalian, Taytay were herding their carabaos when accosted by operating troops of the PNP-Regional Public Safety Battalion. The three were investig-

ated, blindfolded, beaten and forced to admit being members of the NPA. Despite the appeals and declarations by neighbours that the three are civilians, the farmers were nonetheless brought to the police station in Taytay. The following day, Ely Peñaredondo was arrested on false charges of safe-keeping improvised explosives. The four were later on brought to the provincial jail and remain to be detained. AB

25 years of The Hague Declaration

PROGRESSIVE GROUPS, together with key personalities of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the GRP peace negotiations marked the 25th year anniversary of The Hague Joint Declaration which was signed on September 1, 1992. Around 500 gathered at the University of the Philippines in Dili-man, Quezon City last September 2 to celebrate the agreement which has served as the framework of the arduous efforts to achieve a just and historical peace in the country.

The declaration remains as the framework for the negotiations up to now, Jose Ma. Sison, Chief Political Consultant to NDFP negotiating panel, said. This is despite efforts of consecutive reactionary regimes to junk the agreement. Among these was the denouncement of the then US-Aquino regime of the agreement as a "document of perpetual division" in an attempt to weaken the basis of the talks and hasten the capitulation of the revolutionary movement.

Personalities previously involved in the talks, such as Sen. Loren Legarda, bishops and other church leaders attended the event. AB

CA rejects Mariano's confirmation

THE COMMISSION on Appointments ultimately rejected the appointment of Rafael Mariano (Ka Paeng) as secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform this September 6.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) criticized the decision, saying this once again proved Duterte's fealty to the country's landlords and oligarchs. The order to reject Ka Paeng directly came from Duterte. Among those who blocked his appointment were Duterte's daughter Sara Duterte and her husband Manases Carpio who lawyers for Lapanday Foods Corporation. Paid pseudo-farmers sent by the Aquino-Cojuangco family also blocked his appointment.

Before this, the CA also rejected the appointment of Judy Taguiwalo as secretary of the Department of Social Work and Welfare.