

AFP-PNP incurs 48 casualties

THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY has dealt at least 48 casualties against the regime's armed forces from its successful military action launched in different provinces of the archipelago for the past few weeks.

Negros Occidental. At least five soldiers were killed and 10 got wounded among the operating troops of the 62nd IB when one of its columns was ambushed by the NPA-Central Negros (Mt. Canseron Command or MCC) last May 12 at around 5:00 a.m. in Sityo Bonsad, Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. The MCC confiscated an M203 grenade launcher.

The 62nd IB is part of the 303rd Brigade's continuous and widespread military operations in barangays covering the cities of Himamaylan, Binalbagan and Kabankalan in Negros Occidental, and in the towns of Tayasan and Ayungon in Negros Oriental. These operations are aimed at suppressing the residents' struggle against the construction of a dam under the Ilog-Hilabangan River Basin Project (IHRBP) which will displace farmers living along the banks of Hilabangan River. The project, as well as quarry operations in Hilabangan River, also destroys the environment. (See related article in page 6.)

The NPA-MCC paid tribute to "Ka Bebe," the Red fighter martyred in the ambush.

In La Castellana, the NPA-Central Negros Guerrilla Front (Leonardo Panaligan Command or LPC) meted out death penalty

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EDITORIAL

End martial law! Overthrow the US-Duterte regime!

Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in Mindanao to mount his war of destruction in Marawi, intensify and extend Oplan Kapayapaan and impose his tyrannical and terrorist rule across the country.

In the name of "fighting terrorism," Duterte bombed Marawi with utter disregard for the lives, property and livelihood of the Meranaws and the city's other inhabitants. Hundreds of thousands evacuated, more than 1,200 have been killed and not less than 800 are still missing. This is Duterte's biggest crime against the people under martial law. But this is not his only crime.

Wielding military power, Duterte and his armed minions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines

(AFP) have committed a great number of crimes against the Filipino people. Everyday under martial law and Oplan Kapayapaan, hundreds of barangays, especially in the Mindanao hinterlands, are under AFP occupation, surveillance, restriction and oppression; pounded by bombs and artillery and threatened to become the next Marawi.

Mindanao martial law is a war against the toiling masses; an armed oppression of the unarmed people. Hundreds are persecuted

and slapped with trumped up charges. Every three days, a new victim is added to the growing list of extrajudicial killings by AFP and its armed minions. Daily the people suffer the intimidation, threats and assaults by the AFP's fascist troops.

The imposition of Mindanao martial law is a key component of the US-designed Oplan Kapayapaan war of suppression across the country. The US plays a central role in supporting martial law. In Marawi, US officials, advisers and military troops openly in-



tervened by flying drones and dropping bombs.

With US support, the AFP employs its unrestrained powers in Mindanao to push its anti-people war across the country. By extending Mindanao martial law, the Duterte regime wishes to "normalize" the reactionary state's use of terrorism and make its miscreance acceptable.

Duterte employs martial law tactics across the entire country.

Today, millions live under military rule across the archipelago. Because of Mindanao martial law, AFP troops and officials are emboldened to abuse their power, exploit human rights and suppress the democratic mass struggles.

Duterte uses Mindanao martial law to intimidate the Filipino people and show that nothing

can impede his power. It is a key part of his tyrannical and terrorist rule across the country.

Recently, Duterte ousted the chief justice of the Supreme Court who he declared his enemy. Duterte used a questionable legal maneuver (quo warranto instead of impeachment), although the real force behind it was his tyrannical power. This is also the force behind efforts to fully control the Senate in order to make it acquiesce to his charter change scheme to perpetuate himself in power in the form of a transition to a federal form of government.

The Filipino people must advance their struggles to end Mindanao martial law, end Oplan Kapayapaan and end Duterte's rule.

The revolutionary armed struggle must be assiduously waged as the main form of resistance against fascist rule. Because of Duterte's armed suppression, the necessity of taking up arms to defend against fascism and advance the people's revolutionary cause becomes ever clearer.

With tyrannical and terrorist measures, Duterte is running roughshod over and aggravating a growing number of people. The people's anger is ever seething. The basic sectors' resistance against the fascist Duterte and AFP as they advance their democratic cause is growing. The ranks of organizations, parties, institutions and personalities calling for his ouster from power is swelling.

The anti-Duterte united front must be further expanded nationwide and strengthened. This mainly rests on the breadth and strength of the basic democratic sectors. Thus, it should give all-out support to the anti-fascist struggles of the toiling masses in order to clamor for justice against all of the AFP's fascist crimes, expose and oppose the abuses of human rights and support the widespread uprising against Duterte's terrorism and tyranny. **AB**

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against Roland Manalo Gonzales in Barangay Puso last May 11. Gonzales is one of the four armed men who shot and killed peasant leader Jerry Turga last April 28 in Moises Padilla. Investigation by the NPA-LPC revealed that after Turga's murder, Gonzales and his companions, onboard two motorcycles, proceeded to Hacienda San Benito owned by Moises Padilla Mayor Magsie Peña. Gonzales is one of Peña's armed goons which the 303rd Brigade likewise employs in its psywar operations against the NPA and in assassinating activists, added the NPA-LPC.

Sorsogon. At least four troopers from the 31st IB and the 508th PNP Public Safety Company were wounded during a harassment operation launched by the NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command or CMC) in Barangay San Francisco, Bulan last May 10 at around 8:30 p.m. Since their arrival in the morning, the operating soldiers and police occupied San Francisco's barangay hall and day care center.

Zamboanga del Norte. A 6x6 military truck carrying 14 troopers of the 42nd IB was hit by a command-detonated explosive set off by the NPA-Zamboanga del Norte on May 8, at around 10 a.m. in Sityo Gumutoc, Barangay Poblacion, Kalawit. According to the NPA-Zamboanga del Norte, the truck was completely destroyed, and the soldiers onboard were not able to fire back. Preliminary reports indicate that the unit aboard the truck was wiped out.

The targeted enemy unit was part of a two-truck convoy on the way to respond to a raid conducted by the Red fighters against an intelligence asset of the 42nd IB in neighboring Barangay Palalian.

Earlier, a unit of the NPA-Zamboanga del Norte attacked a security outpost of Dacon in Sityo Tulaksaw, Barangay Sas, Gutalac on May 4 at 5:10 in the morning. Dacon is an agri-business company owned by the landgrabber Consunji (also

notorious in arrogating Lumad ancestral lands in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat). Dacon occupies large tracts of agricultural lands in the towns of Titay, Gutalac, Baliguan, Siraway and Tungawan. The Red fighters were able to seize ammunition and other military equipment.

Misamis Occidental. An NPA unit launched a harassment operation using a combination of rifles and command-detonated explosives against an operating column of the 10th IB in Barangay Roxas, Aloran, Misamis Occidental on May 18, 10:00 in the morning. Four soldiers were killed while seven others were wounded during the 10-minute fire-fight.

Agusan del Norte. Caraga PNP incurred six casualties from consecutive attacks launched by the NPA in Butuan City on May 15. The NPA first harassed operating police elements in Sityo Lamusig, Barangay Tungao. A police officer was wounded. This was followed by an attack on the PNP station in Barangay San Mateo where five policemen were killed.

Agusan del Sur. Red fighters attacked a CAFGU detachment in Barangay Sinakungan, Esperanza at 3:00 a.m. of May 14. In this battle, two comrades, "Ka Bagani" and "Ka Marjon," were martyred.

Bukidnon. Four Scout Rangers were killed in consecutive counter-attacks by the NPA-Bukidnon from May 7-10. The enemy unit engaged by the Red fighters were dropped by

helicopters in the boundaries of the towns of Cabanglasan and San Fernando.

In Kitaotao, the 3rd IB incurred at least eight casualties in an active defense staged by the 1st Pulang Bagani Company on May 10 at 1:30 p.m. in Barangay Kipilas. In the two-hour battle, the enemy launched airstrikes and fired artillery at the Red fighters' position.

On the part of the NPA, Zaldy Cañete (Ka Jinggoy) was critically wounded in the head and body. After 24 hours of treatment by NPA medics, Cañete was brought to a hospital in Don Carlos and underwent an 11-hour brain surgery.

On May 12, soldiers and intelligence operatives of the PNP and AFP arrived at the hospital and arrested Cañete who was under critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit. Cañete's family and paralegals were prohibited to visit him.

The CPP demanded that the AFP accord humane treatment to Cañete and expeditiously release him just as the NPA humanely treats and immediately releases its prisoners of war.

Cañete's expeditious release is an obligation of the Duterte regime under the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law which stipulates that persons deprived of their liberty for reasons related to the armed conflict shall be considered for safe release on humanitarian or other reasonable ground. AB

Moro and Lumad groups protest against martial law

ALMOST A WEEK BEFORE the first year of Martial law in Mindanao, Moro and Lumad groups trooped in front of Camp Aguinaldo, headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Quezon City to lambaste the intensified militarization and violation of human rights in the island and demand an end to martial law.

Lumad leaders performed a ritual that symbolized the violation of human rights and the destruction of their communities caused by martial law.

According to human rights organization Barug Katungod, under martial law in Mindanao, 70% of AFP troops in Mindanao were deployed in Eastmincom and Wesmincom. This means that 56 battalions are currently focused on areas which the AFP considers as NPA areas.

There was also a significant number of forced surrenders in Lumad communities. The group added that in just two municipalities in Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte, some 517 individuals were coerced to surrender as NPA fighters.

Meanwhile Katribu and Save our Schools (SOS) Mindanao along

with families and victims of human rights abuses filed a complaint in the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, through a video conference in the Commission on Human Rights.

Cited in their complaint are cases of massacre, killings and mil-

itary attacks on schools.

According to Katribu, not less than 41 killings of national minorities, 37 of whom are Lumads, have been documented. SOS Mindanao also reported that 19 schools have been destroyed, 56 forcibly closed and 30 encamped by military forces. AB

On the first year of martial law

Military attacks and abuses intensify

Under continuing martial law in Mindanao, attacks of the AFP against the civil liberties and democratic rights of the people are widespread and intense.

Based on the initial tally of *Ang Bayan*, there have been at least 59 incidents of bombing, 18 strafing, 81 forcible evacuation of 583,041 individuals from 144 communities, 488 illegal arrests and arbitrary detention, and 708 cases of threat, harassment and intimidation. Moreover, Barug Katungod (Stand for Rights Mindanao) reported some 130 victims of killings and 404 people slapped with trumped-up criminal charges..

The destruction of Marawi

In the name of the “war against terror”, Marawi City was brutally besieged and pounded by US-directed bombings and indiscriminate shellings. As a result, about 1,200 people died, while hundreds remain missing and feared to have died during the AFP’s indiscriminate airstrikes. As much as 523,734 residents from Marawi and its neighboring towns were forced to evacuate. Properties and infrastructures worth billions of pesos were pulverized.

Under the pretext of a grandiose rehabilitation, majority of those evicted, including some 8,000 remaining in evacuation centers, are still prohibited from returning to their homes. Despite Malacañang’s announcement last October 23 that the city has already been “liber-

ated” from purported terror threats of the Maute group, it extended martial law until the last day of 2018.

Seven months after the destruction of Marawi, residents have yet to rise from the rubble. Aside from the recent three-day “visit” in their shattered homes, residents will not be allowed to return to their homes for two more years. The entire city is still occupied and controlled by the AFP and US military. For Duterte, the “rise of Marawi” is the construction of AFP and US military camps in a major part of the city, and the establishment of billions of dollars of businesses of big foreign capitalists for tourism, plantations, and infrastructures among others.

Killings and attempted killings

At present, there have been at least 188 civilian victims of killings in Mindanao under the Duterte regime. One hundred thirty one of these killings (70%) have been committed under martial law. Thirty of victims are Lumads.

The latest victim of killing is Ariel Maquiran, 33, a banana plantation worker who was shot last May 17 on his way home to Barangay Maduaw, Panabo City, Davao del Norte. Earlier, he was

accused by the military of involvement in the attacks of the New People’s Army (NPA) in Lapanday last 2017. Maquiran was an active member of Bayan Muna.

Among the starkest cases of killings is the massacre by the 33rd IB and the 27th IB in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato on December 3, 2017 that killed Datu Victor Danyan Sr., Victor Danyan Jr., Artemio Danyan, Pato Celardo, To Diamante, Bobot Lagase and Mateng Bantal.

Obillo Bay-ao and Jhun Mark Acto, students who were both accused of NPA membership, are also among the victims of killings. Obillo, a 19-year old Lumad student was shot dead by CAFGU trooper Ben Salangani in Sityo Dulyan, Barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao del Norte on September 5, 2017. Acto, a 15-year old student was shot dead by operating elements of the 39th IB and 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion in Astorga, Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur last April 21.

On top of this, there were also 247 documented cases of attempted killings committed under the Duterte regime. Of these, 78 are Lumads (53 of them are volunteer teachers in alternative schools). Among the grossest cases is the nine-day torture and the attempted killing by burning of Janry Mensis, 22, and “Jerry”, 16 in Maco, Compostela Valley on December 6, 2017 by elements of the 71st IB.

Bombing, strafing and forcible evacuation

Not less than 59 incidents of bombing and 18 strafing have been committed under martial law. Excluding Marawi, the most number of bombings (19 incidents) happened in the Southern Mindanao Region (SMR), followed by Soccsargen (13 incidents). On the other hand, cases of strafing are highest (13 incidents) in the Northern Mindanao Region (NMR). Unrelenting military operations and these military actions compelled at least 43,480 individuals in civilian communities in SMR, 8,862 in NMR and 6,835 in Soccsargen to evacuate within only one year.

These include the recent bombing of three sitios in Barangay Kematu, T'boli, South Cotabato by the 27th IB last May 8 which traumatized residents and compelled more than 650 individuals to evacuate. These also include the indiscriminate shelling by the 28th IB of populous communities in Barangay San Isidro and Likop in neighboring city of Mati last April 26 which devastated several houses and farmlands and resulted in the forcible evacuation of more than 600 residents.

Illegal arrest and arbitrary detention

There are now at least 488 victims of illegal arrest and arbitrary detention under martial law. Majority of the victims were illegally arrested and detained (362 victims) in SMR, including 260 civilians who were arrested in Davao City just because they could not present identification cards.

This is followed by NMR where at least 76 have been arrested. The victims include "Lisa", 16, and couple Jason and Giselle Cahangan, 22 and 19, who were arrested by the 8th IB at their residence in Malay-

balay, Bukidnon. They were detained in the Special Civilian Active Auxiliary (SCAA) camp, tortured and threatened to be killed if they would not admit being NPA members.

The latest victims of illegal arrest are Clarito Suarez, 70, and Ricmic Budta, 17. They were arrested by operating troops of the 25th IB last May 9 in Barangay Salvacion, Trento, Agusan del Sur.

Threat, harassment and intimidation

At least 708 individuals have been threatened, harassed and intimidated under martial law. Most of the victims (645) are from SMR. Among the victims are around 600 Manobo from several sitios in Catagbakan and Panlalaisan in Barangay Pichon who were threatened by the 67th IB and MANADU paramilitaries to be bombed and massacred last February. AB

NDF-Bohol assails widespread militarization

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC Front (NDF)-Bohol in a statement said that the encounter between the New People's Army (NPA)-Bohol and soldiers of the 47th IB in Sityo Ilawod, Barangay Campagao, Bilar in the early morning of May 15 was inevitable.

According to the statement, armed struggle in the island will continue until the root causes of poverty are resolved. The NDF-Bohol likewise belied the local government and the AFP's bluster that the province is "peaceful." The island had been occupied by the military for two decades and militarization is intense in its countryside, it added. This proves that the root causes of poverty prevail and spur the revolution to intensify.

The NDF-Bohol added that Oplan Kapayapaan ("Operation: Peace") is the opposite of peace because it intensifies the widespread militarization in the mountains as well as the shorelines to justify attacks on human rights and sow intrigue against legitimate organizations of peasants, fisherfolks and women and break up their unity. The government and the AFP, however, failed to destroy the solidarity long established by the people in the province.

"The NPA and NDF in Bohol, under the leadership of the CPP, call on the people to remain critical of societal events so as not to be deceived by promises made by those in the rotten government. On the other hand, we must rely on our own strength, on the unity of the masses in bringing the national democratic revolution to closer victory, as the only solution," concluded the NDF-Bohol. AB

NPA stops anti-people project in Negros

THE NPA-CENTRAL Negros demobilized a backhoe, a generator set and other equipment used in the construction of a dam by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Sityo Tagbak, Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental last May 7. According to NPA-Central Negros, this symbolizes the people's strong resistance to the said project.

The dam being constructed in Hilabangan River in the said barangay is only one of the projects under the Ilog-Hilabangan River Basin Project (IHRBP). The IHRBP covers 15 cities and towns in the two provinces of Negros. Directly affected by this project are more than 480,000 residents in 156 barangays.

Under the IHRBP, two more big dams are set to be constructed in Negros. Also, this further opens the island to foreign corporations and private businesses in quarrying, mining, tourism and commercial reforestation. At least 10 quarries are currently operating in the town of Ilog and along Hilabangan River. Residents of two barangays in Himamaylan City are also facing threats of displacement because of the Watershed Project.

The dam being constructed in Barangay Tan-awan is expected to bring grave damage to the

farmers. The area where the dam is being built is the main route of transportation and commerce of the villagers to the market, to Kabankalan City proper and to Hima-maylan City. Because of the dam construction and quarry operations, the river now frequently overflows when it rains, endangering even the houses on its banks.

Farmers evicted from their lands are paid only P15,000-30,000 in exchange for a few hectares of farmland. The local government also turned the project into a milking cow as it shaves off P50 from the daily salaries of the workers in the dam construction.

What the NIA touts as a dam to provide irrigation will only serve the haciendas and big businesses, particularly those of the Zayco family in Kabankalan and the big bourgeois comprador Gokongwei family. Poor peasants will not benefit from this because they are in fact being robbed of land titles under the land reform program of the reactionary government.

In 2017, the IHRBP was pushed forward under the Duterte government's "Build, Build, Build" program. The local ruling classes in the island now drool over the project which amounts to ₱2.7 billion. AB

CPP condemns non-action on China and US intervention

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines strongly condemns GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte's public indifference to the US and China's saber-rattling in the South China Sea and the dangers that this pose to the country.

Duterte has openly surrendered the Philippines' sovereignty in two ways. First, he allowed the Balikatan Exercises in Luzon, one of the biggest of its kind in its history. US soldiers numbering 3,000, with their war planes and ships, drones and other military equipment, conducted exercises on Philippine soil. This Balikatan, one of the 261 US military activities and exercises in the country slated in 2018, directly violates Philippine sovereignty. In the name of "interoperability," the US makes use of its puppet army, the AFP, to project military power in Asia, stoking the rising tension with China in the region, particularly in the South China Sea. Duterte fears the US will stop providing military aid and funds. Thus, he has shamelessly upheld unequal treaties such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) which allowed the basing of US troops in the country.

Duterte has also surrendered the country's sovereignty in keeping his silence on China's deployment of jetfighters and launching of war games around the Spratly Islands and nearby islands. Aside from his ridiculous pledges, such as his announcement to jetski to the Benham Rise (which he did not do anyway), he has not raised a whimper to stop China's construction of military installations and facilities in Philippine sovereign territories and seas. He is mortally afraid of losing all the imaginary billions of dollars of promised China investments for his family, friends, cronies and favored bourgeois compradors to corrupt.

The CPP reiterates its protests against US and China militarization and saber-rattling over the South China Sea and the Philippines. American troops should be driven out and their facilities shut down. China's military build-up in Philippine territories should be condemned. The CPP and the revolutionary movement condemns the US' hypocritical objection to China's militarization of the country's seas. In truth, US deploys its war ships and jet fighters more frequently and widely inside and around the country. Moreover, it directly intervenes in the country's domestic affairs through controlling and directing the AFP's operations. AB

Increasing crimes of Duterte's armed forces

Duterte's all-out war against the revolutionary movement and the people in civilian communities continues to sow terror. This past two weeks, cases of militarization resulting in various forms of human rights abuses were reported. Among the starkest cases are the killing of a peasant leader by armed minions of the reactionary state, the illegal arrest of two peasant indigenous peoples, and the attempted killing of a child.

Sorsogon. Last May 10, elements of 31st IB and 508th PNP Public Safety Company held Teodoro Dogillo, barangay captain of San Francisco, Bulan, at gunpoint following an NPA harassment operation. They accused Dogillo of being a contact of the NPA unit which harassed them.

In an interview by a local radio

in their barangay last May 10.

The said elements have been sowing terror in several barangays in Bulan since April 30. They forcibly entered and ransacked three houses a day before the international labor day rally.

Last May 6, three houses in Barangay Recto were also forcibly entered and ransacked by police elements. They robbed the bolos used by the residents in farming. On May 10, police elements also strafed a civilian residence. Two children caught fever because of the incident. On May 7, around 70 soldiers of the 31st IB occupied

Sityo Gabud in Barangay Taromata. Six residences were forcibly entered and ransacked.

Iloilo. A child was wounded during the strafing of a civilian residence in Sitio Anoy, Barangay Cabalaunan, Miag-ao by 61st IB soldiers last May 5. The Napoleon Tumagtang Command belied the fabricated claim of Col. Diñoso of the 301st Brigade and Col. Magbalot of the 61st IB that the NPA is responsible for the wounding of the child. Comrades were actually outside and defending the house, it said. Two Red fighters were martyred during the firefight.

In Calinog, several days before the reactionary Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, the Commission on Elections ordered the disqualification of Remia Castor, a member of progressive organization Tumandok who ran as councilor in Barangay Alibunan.

Negros Occidental. Four men aboard two motorcycles shot dead Jerry Turga, a peasant leader, in

Barangay Guinpana-an, Moises Padilla, last April 28, at around 4:00 in the afternoon. The victim sustained a total of ten bullet wounds in the chest and stomach which instantly killed him.

Turga was the vice chairperson of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas in Moises Padilla and led the campaign for the right to land in their area. Turga was also known for his helpfulness to farmers especially with problems concerning land and livelihood. Turga was also active in the struggles for the implementation of genuine agrarian reform, increase in wages and benefits, and national industrialization.

In a statement issued last April 29, the NPA-Central Negros implicated Mayor Magsie Peña of Moises Padilla and the AFP as the masterminds in the killing of Turga. Before the crime, the said perpetrators circulated photos of progressive organization leaders in public places in Moises Padilla. Turga was among

those the regime branded a “terrorist”.

Last May 12, some 236 residents were evicted from their homes in Kabankalan City due to the militarization of their community by 303rd Brigade troopers after an ambush launched by the BHB.

Quezon. Two Dumagat farmers identified as Rockey Torres, 30, and Dandoy Abellanida, 44, were illegally arrested on their way home by operating soldiers of the 80th IB in Sityo Dadiangao, Barangay Umiray, General Nakar last May 14.

The residents testified that they last saw the victims hog-tied and with marks of beating and torture. In the same afternoon, the victims were made to ride a helicopter and have not been surfaced until today.

Not less than 160 Dumagat residents were also evicted from their homes because of the military operations in the area. Those who evacuated are short of food and are forced to sleep in sacks along the riverbank. AB

Workers stage protest against "endo"

For the past few weeks since Duterte signed EO 51 which supposedly terminates contractualization, workers mounted unrelenting protests to condemn the bogus order and demand their right to security of tenure.

Middleby. In Biñan, Laguna, inside Laguna Technopark Industrial Enclave, more than 100 workers of Middleby Philippines Corporation (MPC) launched a sit-down strike and picket line outside the factory to protest the company’s refusal to regularize its workers last May 10. Middleby is a company which manufactures and supplies cooking and food preparation equipment to restaurant and fast food chains.

Pinag-isang Lakas ng mga Manggagawa sa MPC (PIGLAS-Independent) led the strike. According to PIGLAS, of Middleby’s 300 workers, 191 are contractuels and only 82 are regular. Most of them have been working in the company for 2 to 20 years. Workers also added that they are being paid only P378

daily which forces them to work for more than 12 hours to increase their meager pay.

SLORD. Last May 11, 44 workers of SLORD Development Corporation, a company in Manila manufacturing Uni-pak branded canned goods trooped to the main office of DOLE to protest the company’s harassment. On the same day, members of the Samahang Manggagawa sa SLORD Development Corp. were informed by the management that their work will be compressed to only three days from six. According to the workers, the management’s decision came after they actively campaigned for DOLE inspection and demanded their right to be regularized.

Workers walked-out after they

were forced to sign a waiver stating that they have agreed to the compressed work arrangement. They immediately left work and headed to DOLE to protest and file complaint against SLORD. The company dismissed the workers for failing to go to work last Friday.

Health workers' protest

Last May 7, health workers marched from the Department of Health’s main office to Mendiola while carrying their call to “struggle for just wage.” The protest also commemorates the National Health Workers’ Day.

According to the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW), the last time they had a wage increase was in 2016. Under the Duterte regime, the real value of their meager salaries eroded further due to the Tax Reform for Acceleration and

Inclusion (TRAIN) law. The group noted that with the TRAIN law, their buying capacity has decreased by 23 percent.

AHW also slammed widespread contractualization among the public health sector. Based on their data, there are more than 13,000 contractual health workers. Among these are 180 contractuales in the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and 600 in various public hospitals.

Another threat to health workers is the directive transferring the recruitment of job orders and contracts of service workers to private manpower agencies under the Joint Circular No. 1. The order which was signed by the Civil Service Commission, Commission on Audit and Department of Budget and Management will take effect after Dec. 31, 2018.

Save Lives, Save Guihulngan Movement

About 3,000 people from Cebu, Negros Oriental and Negros Occi-

dental attended the peace caravan launched by the Save Lives, Save Guihulngan Movement to demand an end to killings among activists, farmers and human rights advocates in Visayas. Religious groups and progressives also attended the activity.

"This peace caravan aims to raise awareness on the series of human rights violations, condemn the injustice and culture of impunity in the country," said Cenona Estrada, chairperson of Kaugmaon-KMP Negros Oriental.

Delegates assembled at Hibaiyon, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental and together went to the front of the Guihulngan Public Market.

Protest against haciendas

To commemorate the first year of the successful land occupation since they launched the land cultivation (bungkalan) in Sangalang Estate in Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija, peasants under the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon-

Nueva Ecija marched in front of the Sto. Domingo municipal hall last May 17.

The land was already awarded to farmers since 2002 but they were only able to till the lands last 2017 (see *Ang Bayan*, December 7, 2017 for details).

"Mula nang hindi na kami makapagsaka sa aming lupa, nawalan na kami ng kabuhayan. Nakikibilad na lang kami ng palay, nakikitanim at nakikilaba," said Lita Corpuz a local leader from Samahan ng Magsasaka ng Baloc.

Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women also recognized the militance and determination of the farmers to struggle for justice and claim their lands despite threats, intimidation and harassment by the despotic landlord Sangalang.

Last April 25, Sangalang's armed goons fired at protesting farmers in Sitio Saranay, Baloc, a part of Sangalang Estate. Virginia Guiang, 65 and Maria Fe Magbanua, 46, were wounded during the shooting. AB

Groups mount #WeDissent campaign

Various groups condemned the decision of Supreme Court officials favoring the quo warranto filed by Solicitor General Jose Calida against Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno.

Last May 11, the Supreme court voted 8-6 officially removing Sereno from her office due to her failure to submit correct Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth.

Hundreds protested in front of Supreme Court in Manila to oppose the decision. Separate protests were also mounted by students of the University of the Philippines-Manila, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, Ateneo de Manila University and University of the Philippines-Diliman.

National Union of People's Lawyers led the protest of lawyers and students to express their disapproval of the decision last May 15.

Youth groups led by Anakbayan and In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDefend) also held a #BlackFriday protest. Groups assembled in University of Sto. Tomas, Padre Faura, Vito Cruz, Palma Hall in UP Diliman and Katipunan Ave., Quezon City.

Sectors under BAYAN-Central Visayas and Movement Against Tyranny-Cebu also held a program in Colon St., Cebu City, in the City Hall of Naga City and activists and members of Cordillera People's Alliance in Malcolm Square, Baguio City.

Meanwhile, 14 senators signed a resolution demanding the Supreme Court to review their decision impeaching Sereno as Chief Justice. AB

US intervention in Venezuela criticized

ON MAY 21, re-elected Nicolas Maduro was declared as the president of Venezuela in the recently-concluded elections. According to the National Electoral Council, Maduro garnered 67.7% of the votes, while his closest opponent fetched only 21.2%

The US said that it will not recognize the results of the elections which gives Maduro another six years in office. Before this, the Lima Group of nations organized by the US to harass Venezuela, arrogantly demanded on May 14 that the scheduled elections be suspended because it supposedly "lacks credibility" and is "illegitimate."

The Trump government had ordered in 2017 to stop conducting business with the Venezuelan government and its officials be prohibited from entering the US.

The Venezuelan people strongly condemned the intervention by the imperialist US, the economic sanctions imposed by the Trump government, and its threats of military

intervention. These schemes by the US are aimed at coercing the Venezuelan people to oust the Maduro government in order to install a puppet regime.

In this regard, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) expressed solidarity with the Venezuelan people in the elections. According to the NDFP, the presidential elections is another

powerful example of the Venezuelan people's exercise of their inalienable right to choose their rightful leader.

The NDFP added that the Venezuelan people are deeply aware of the many programs initiated and implemented by former president Hugo Chavez Frias and firmly executed by Presidente Maduro for the benefit of the

Venezuelan people.

The Venezuelan government has built more than two million homes for the poor. It has an effective program to provide food at low cost. It provides free education and medical care. These and other benefits are deeply appreciated by the Venezuelan people who give their enthusiastic support for Maduro. AB

Party condemns Israel massacre of Palestinians

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), together with the whole world, expressed its condemnation and outrage against the massacre of Palestinian protesters by Israeli Forces last May 14 in Gaza Strip. On this day alone, 62 were killed and 2,831 wounded, including 235 minors, 18 health workers and 12 journalists.

Since March 30, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have protested almost everyday on the Gazan border during the more than month-long commemoration of their forcible eviction from their land in 1948. Dubbed as "The Great March of Return", the campaign was set to peak on May 15, the day called the 'Al Nakba' (the Catastrophe). Israel has been continuously attacking these peaceful demonstration. Since March 30, 111 unarmed Palestinian civilians have been killed, while more than 12,844 others were wounded by Israeli Forces' attacks. The Al Nakba marks the day of the establishment of the state of Israel on May 15, 1948 after more than 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly driven out from and robbed of their lands by Zionist paramilitaries.

On May 14, a day before the 70th anniversary of Al Nakba, the US transferred its embassy to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a Palestinian territory illegally occupied by Israel. According to international resolutions, it is prohibited to construct permanent structures in occupied territories and under dispute. In complete disregard, the US opened its new embassy and had US president Trump's daughter

Ivanka and her husband, Trump Senior Adviser Jared Kushner, themselves, lead the inauguration.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians gathered on the fenced-off border to express deep anger with this measure. They demanded for the return of Palestinians, the original inhabitants of Jerusalem who are now living as refugees in their own land.

In response, Israel employed one of its most brutal measures in repressing the protest mounted by Palestinians on that day. Using advanced technology, a swarm of drones advanced and dropped teargas on the protesters. It has also been reported that Israeli snipers used high-velocity fragmentation bullets, a type of bullet banned by international laws due to severe damage it may cause to bones and tissues.

Among those who were killed during the firefight was Fadi Abu Salah, 29, a resident of Gaza who was riding a wheelchair. Salah previously lost his feet in separate encounters with the Israeli Security Forces. Layla Ghandour, an 8-month old baby also died due to teargas suffocation. She was being carried by her grandmother at the farthest end of the demonstration

area. A Canadian doctor in the area was also sniped in the legs.

Those who died and suffered bullet wounds were mostly hit in the back, chest, head, and limbs. On the part of the Israeli soldiers', only one was slightly wounded by a rock.

After the massacre, minister of Strategic Affairs Gilad Erdan insulted Palestinians saying, "the number of Palestinians killed at Monday's protest doesn't indicate anything" and even compared their deaths to those of the Nazis. Amid all these, Netanyahu and Trump even declared May 14 as the "Great day of Peace".

The CPP holds the US-Netanyahu fascist regime criminally accountable for the massacre. According to CPP, "The Trump government is equally accountable for endorsing the Israeli regime's terrorist attacks against the Palestinian people." The US even blocked international investigations on the massacre. Last May 18, 29 countries voted for the investigation of the massacre. Unsurprisingly, this was opposed by the US.

The Israeli government has been condemned by many leaders including famed personalities and have called for justice and the freedom of Palestine.

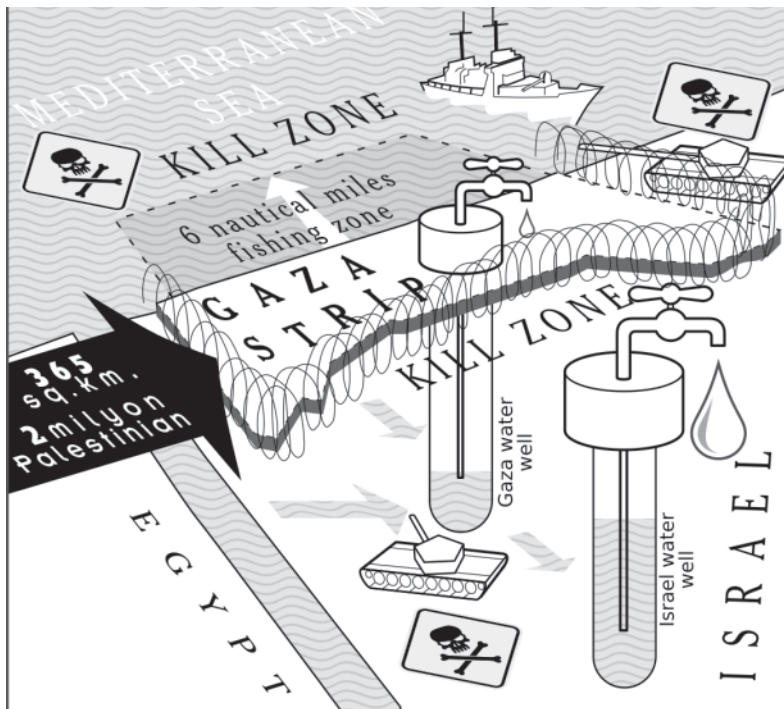
The Filipino revolutionary forces and people join the Palestinian people in grieving the loss of their loved ones and recognizing the martyrdom of those who fell in the massacre. The CPP salutes the

Palestinian people in their indefatigable struggle to return to their homeland.

Last May 17, Sandugo protested in front of the US embassy in Manila to condemn the US' role in the massacre of the Palestinian people.

They also condemned the torture of Moro activist Jerome Succor Aba in the San Francisco Airport last April 19.

According to Aba, the US government remains to be the number one terrorist. It supports the Israeli government, its illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory and its massacre of activists and the Palestinian people for its economic and political



interest. This is comparable with how the US supported and directed the war in Marawi for its interest in the resources of the region and the further positioning their military troops in Mindanao.

Anakbayan, the International League of People's Struggle and the Kilusang Mayo Uno also expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Gaza Strip

THE GAZA STRIP is a Palestinian territory besieged by Israel, Egypt, and the Mediterranean Sea. It measures 365 sq. km. (smaller than Metro Manila) with 2 million population. Food, water, electricity, medical services and other necessities are very scarce due to Israel's blockade. Palestinians in Gaza are literally being gradually killed by the fascist US-Netanyahu regime by controlling the entry of everything. They can only fish within 6 nautical miles, or they'll be shot by Israeli Defense Forces. Palestinians coming in or out are being surveilled. Israel constructed water wells parallel to Palestine's, thus depriving them of drinking water. Gaza water is 98% contaminated, and many young deaths are attributed to this. Almost 60% of the residents are jobless.

Ulos 2018, now accepting contributions

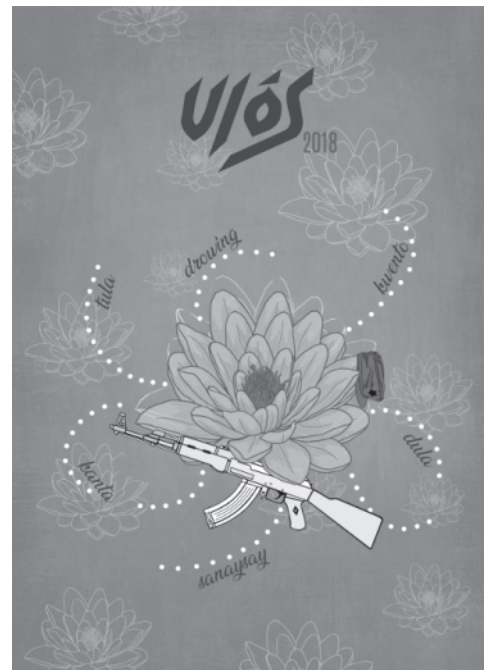
This year's issue of Ulos will be published in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Ulos is the cultural journal of the Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan. The editorial board is calling on all revolutionary poets, fictionists, illustrators, painters, musicians, playwrights and all comrades to submit their original and unpublished works for the said project.

Unlike past issues which were published in printed form, Ulos 2018 will be in multimedia format. This aims to feature various forms of artworks, and also to reach the broadest number of revolutionary culture advocates. In addition to literary pieces such as poems, short stories, vignettes, essays, reportage, play and radio scripts, it will also feature visual artworks (graphic arts and paintings), revolutionary music, audio art (podcasts, speeches, spoken poetics and etc.), videos (short films, animation) and other media.

Submissions must delve on the

celebration of the golden anniversary of the Party and the victories it gained in advancing the people's democratic revolution: victories against oppression and exploitation, in fighting one oppressive regime after another, in advancing the armed struggle in the archipelagic country and in building the people's democratic government, and the prospect of total victory of the democratic revolution and the bright future of socialist revolution and construction.

We will also be publishing "The best of Ulos" or the best works published in Ulos since it started its



first issue in 1973. In line with this, all are requested to submit their nomination for the said anthology.

You may send in your contributions through official communication lines, or at <http://facebook.com.ulos.arms>.