



NPA seizes 12 firearms

SEVEN FIREARMS WERE seized by the New People's Army (NPA)-Bulacan during its raid against armed guards of the Monte Grande Development Corporation (MGDC) last June 13, at around 11 a.m. at Barangay Ciudad Real, San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan. Seized firearms include five high-powered rifles, two .9mm pistols and ammunition. The raid lasted for an hour.

MGDC is owned by big bourgeois-comprador Lucio Tan. His company is notorious for grabbing 77 hectares of farmlands in the area. Tan employed MGDC's armed goons to drive farmers away from their lands.

Ka Jose del Pilar, spokesperson of NPA-Bulacan, said that the raid is a punitive action against Tan to give justice against the abuse of MGDC to the farmers and residents.

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EDITORIAL

Defeat Duterte's fascist motives for cancelling talks

With flagrant impudence, Rodrigo Duterte shred the agreement to resume formal peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) this June 28. He scrapped as well the stand down agreement to halt offensive actions from both sides a week before the formal talks.

Duterte's claim saying he is "not ready" and that he needs more time to "consult the public" are mere excuses. Such brazen lies! Further sabotaging the talks, Duterte is again insisting on holding the peace negotiations in the Philippines, directly contradicting the guidelines set by The Hague Joint Declaration. If Duterte insists on this demand, it will spell nothing but the termination of the peace talks.

Duterte has once again revealed complete lack of interest in seriously negotiating with the NDFP to discuss and solve the root causes of the civil war in the Philippines. Duterte is

running over the fervent demand of the Filipino people for genuine land reform and national industrialization, genuine democracy and ending US imperialist control of and intervention in the nation and government.

Instead of talking to the NDFP, Duterte seeks to intensify the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) war against the NDFP, the Party, and the New People's Army (NPA), and use this to justify the imposition of martial law in the whole country and establish his dream of a fascist dictatorship.

By cancelling the talks, Duterte intends to remove all impediments

against the campaign for large-scale offensives of the AFP under Oplan Kapayapaan and martial law in Mindanao. Ultimately, Duterte seeks to cripple or halve the forces of the NPA using the full military force of the AFP before the end of 2018, vainly thinking that by doing so, the NDFP will be induced to negotiate surrender to the GRP.

Duterte is pouring funds to the AFP and the police to fully accomplish this year the plan to add 15,000 troops which began rolling in 2017. Duterte is using almost 100 battalions to cover large areas in the countryside, including areas of the Bangsamoro in Mindanao; lay siege, overwhelm, and occupy barrios suspected of supporting the revolutionary movement; force citizens to surrender as members of the NPA; cut the NPA off from its mass base; and launch fierce combat operations in the mountains. The enemy is focusing its operations mainly on vast expanses of land that Duterte targets to turn into plantations and mines that will be controlled by big capitalists.

In many places, the AFP is employing Marawi-style tactics of dropping bombs and bombarding civilian communities to sow terror and use fear to force the people to submit to them. The people's resistance is met with brutal violence. Tokhang-style killings targeting peasant leaders and tribal leaders have become more rampant.

In the cities, the people's mounting resistance amid crisis and fascism of the Duterte regime has been met with intensified repression. The toiling masses, especially workers and the poor, are the main targets of surveillance and incarceration. A widespread crackdown looms as Duterte exercises the full force of his autocratic powers as prelude to the enforcement of nationwide martial law.

There is a need to valiantly fight fascism, tyranny, and Duterte's attacks against the people, both in the cities and the countryside.

In the countryside, there is an urgent need to face, fight, and defeat the plan to intensify the AFP's military offensives against the NPA

and the broad struggling masses.






The NPA must launch widespread and intensive guerilla warfare on the basis of an ever-widening and deepening mass base. There is a need to intently study, pinpoint, and exploit the many vulnerabilities of the enemy's operating troops. Militarily, the AFP is vulnerable for overstretching its forces as it aims to cover large areas all at the same time. Politically, the AFP's greatest weakness springs from their total isolation from the masses and the people's seething anger against the troops because of their fascist abuses, scare tactics, the forcible recruitment of spies, forcing people to "surrender", and ordering civilians around.

The AFP's military offensive should be met with tactical offensives of the NPA throughout the country. Make the NPA's solid victories in many parts of the country reverberate. Combine this with the widespread attritive military actions of the NPA to counter the enemy's massive swarm tactics. NPA commands at various levels should maximize the scope and strength of the NPA in their respective ranges to ensure coordination and cooperation.

The NPA is speedily recovering from the wounds it sustained in the past six months and has overcome some of its weaknesses by adapting to the perils wrought by the AFP's massive troop concentration, widespread civil-military operations, and other tactics employed by the enemy. The NPA is utilizing guerrilla tactics and techniques and quick movements while the the enemy is left blind and deaf, encircled and made to punch the air.

Adeptness at guerrilla warfare is based on how deep and wide the people's support is and participation in the people's war. Continue rousing and mobilizing the peasants and national minorities in their numbers in advancing their anti-feudal struggles and the defense of their ancestral lands.

In the urban areas, the democratic struggle of the toiling

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masses, the youth and students, and other democratic sectors and classes, is steadily advancing. Strengthen the Filipino people's unity by widening and strengthening the united front against fascism, tyranny, and dictatorship scheme of the Duterte regime. We must intensively arouse and mobilize all democratic forces throughout the country to overthrow the fascist, puppet, rotten, and criminal Duterte regime. AB

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Negros Oriental. NPA-Negros Oriental successfully raided the residence of Mike Jacosalem last June 12, 4:30 a.m. in Barangay Humay-humay, Guihulngan City. Jacosalem is a notorious druglord in Negros Oriental and Cebu.

Jacosalem eventually died in a hospital while one of his men died in the encounter. Seized firearms from the raid include four .45 calibre pistols, a Browning shotgun, eight ra-

dio handsets, magazines and ammunition.

On the same day, at around 7 p.m., units of NPA-Negros simultaneously harassed two CAFGU detachments on Barangay Imelda, Guihulngan and Barangay Guba, Vallehermoso. At the same time, three other military actions were conducted separately by the NPA in Guihulngan, Magallon, and La Castellana, Negros Occidental. AB

Duterte cancels talks anew

For the third time, Pres. Rodrigo Duterte of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) cancelled the resumption of formal peace negotiations between them and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) last June 14. This came following four rounds of informal meetings between the panels of both sides. This also developed despite the signing of the two panels of three agreements which sought to hasten the talks. After the cancellation, the NDFP publicized the following agreements: (1) guidelines and procedures towards an interim peace agreement and resumption of formal talks; (2) agreement for a stand down; and (3) timetable for resumption of peace negotiations.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) castigated the Duterte regime for unilaterally cancelling the talks. Jose Maria Sison, Chief Political Consultant of the NDFP, dismissed as "bullshit" Duterte's explanation that more time is needed to consult the public regarding the agreements.

According to the CPP, the cancellation of the formal peace talks seeks to give way for the military to intensify its offensive attacks against the NPA in guerrilla fronts throughout the country.

The CPP explained that the Duterte regime aims to give the AFP more time to complete its mil-

itary campaign plan for 2018 of mounting bigger offensives under Oplan Kapayapaan in the hope of crippling the New People's Army and inducing the NDFP to negotiate a surrender in three to six months.

Proof of this motive is Duterte's recent meeting with officials of the AFP to determine the status of Oplan Kapayapaan, the CPP said.

In fact, the AFP is already mounting large-scale offensives in guerrilla zones nationwide across the country and is adding more soldiers including the recent recruitment of 5,000 and planned recruitment of 10,000 more troops until the end of the year. AB

CPP releases historic documents

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) recently released historic documents including the *Constitution of the Communist Party of the Philippines* and the *Program for the People's Democratic Revolution* (PPDR). The two documents were produced by the Second Congress of the CPP that took place during the second half of 2016.

The Constitution is divided into 13 parts, including the Preamble and other important articles. The CPP explicated on its primary task of applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to concrete conditions of the country and combining it with the concrete practice of Philippine revolution. The CPP is confident that it will succeed in the people's democratic revolution because the revolutionary forces are growing in strength amid continuing and unrelenting local social crisis, while US imperialism is weakening strategically.

Meanwhile, the PPDR lays down the task of every revolutionary: Accomplish National Liberation and Democracy and Pave the Way for a Bright Socialist Future. In this light, the PPDR identified the particular tasks in the fields of politics, economics, military, culture, and international relations. The document also discussed the victories of the CPP, its relationship with the armed revolution and the united front, and self-reliance and international support. The document also discussed the essential critique on the semicolonial and semifeudal society.

The documents may be downloaded from www.philippinerevolution.info. AB

Siege and military attacks in civilian communities

Duterte's armed minions continue to sow terror throughout the country. Using massive swarm tactics, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deployed battalions upon battalions of troops in target communities and areas where projects favoring foreigners are to be built, in an effort to subjugate the people and drive them away from their farmlands and ancestral lands. This is most prevalent in Mindanao, where 75% of the Philippine Army's combat battalions are deployed.

Initial data from *Ang Bayan* show that eight battalions of the AFP are deployed in Caraga, six are focused in Marawi, while three battalions are deployed in the three barangays of Talaingod, Davao del Norte. In Maguindanao, Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and in the whole Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), there are as many as 27 battalions focused on Moro communities.

Outside Mindanao, troops have also occupied many barangays in Quezon province, Southern Tagalog. Military and police forces are also pouring into Boracay Island after it was closed to the public to give way to the construction of casinos, hotels and other tourism infrastructures that will be built by Duterte's favored foreign businessmen.

In cities, violence is also Duterte's response to striking workers and urban poor who are asserting their right to affordable housing.

Talaingod attack

The AFP is currently employing Marawi-style tactics to forcibly displace farmers and Lumad people. In the small town of Talaingod, Davao del Norte, which has a population of only around 30,000, three AFP battalions are deployed—56th IB, 72nd IB and 88th IB, besides the paramilitary group Alamara. Already, hundreds have become victims of human rights violations, with the troops camping on Lumad schools and forbidding these schools to

open. Due to the military's strict control of the residents' movements, the life and livelihood of the communities have been adversely affected.

Leaders and residents are also being harassed and intimidated by the AFP, and many are being forced to surrender as members of the NPA. One of the starkest cases recorded involves the forcible surrender of Lumad leader Datu Guibang Apoga, who is now frail and sickly. He was made to appear in a public assembly and was portrayed as a surrenderee.

The datus of Salupungan Ta 'Tanu Igkanugon strongly condemned the public assembly organized by the military in Sitio Nasilaban, Batangay Palma Gil, explaining that even in Apoga's remarks during the assembly, the leader called for the continued campaign to protect Lumad schools. Apoga even apologized for his limitations as leader of their tribe largely due to his ailments and advanced age. The datus also emphasized that there was no mention whatsoever in Apoga's

short speech about giving up their struggle.

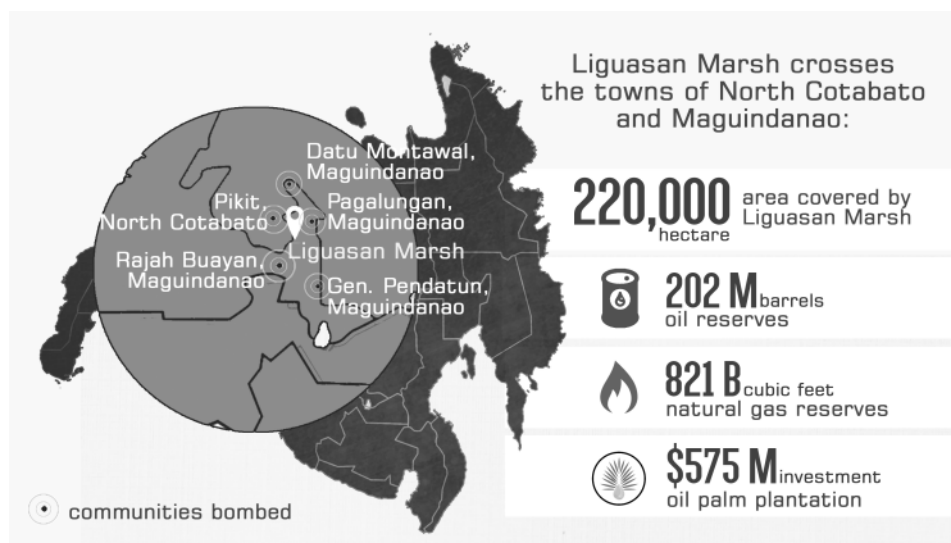
Widespread bombing in Maguindanao

After the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in both chambers of Congress, the military launched clearing operations through airstrikes and combat operations in towns of Maguindanao and Cotabato to force residents to flee and leave areas within and near Liguasan Marsh.

Last June 10, the AFP Joint Task Force Central launched an offensive at the southern part of Liguasan Marsh, which includes the towns of Pagalungan, Gen. Salipada K. Pendatun, Datu Montawal, and Rajah Buayan, even reaching some communities in Pikit, North Cotabato. The attacks happened during the period of Eid'l Fitr, the conclusion of Ramadan. These offensives pave the way for foreign capitalists and local bourgeois compradors of the regime to freely plunder the riches of Liguasan Marsh.

Forcible eviction in Lanao del Sur

Under the guise of running after remaining members of the Maute group, troops of Joint Task Force Ranao viciously rained bullets and bombs last June 14-17 in the towns of Tubaran, Pagayawan and Bini-



dayan in Lanao del Sur. This prompted the mass evacuation of some 11,000 individuals. Meanwhile, some families residing in Barangay Padas and Diampaca in the town of Pagayawan were caught in the middle of the bombing as they were prevented by soldiers to evacuate.

The AFP is making it appear that the Maute-ISIS group has already reached the farthest parts of Tubaran and Pagayawan, even claiming that an encounter occurred between their troops and Maute. Such claims disguise their ultimate goal of tightening control over Lake Lanao and allowing foreign businesses to further exploit the natural resources of the region.

After besieging Marawi, the AFP next targeted the communities south of Lake Lanao. This lake is the main source of electricity in Mindanao through the Agus Hydro-Electric Power Plant Complex. In 2017, the regime offered the power plants to Chinese businesses who allegedly pledged P20.35 billion for their rehabilitation.

Militarization in Quezon

Since January, the 80th IB has been conducting intensive combat operations in Barangay Umiray, General Nakar and along its coast. Each sitio was covered by a platoon of soldiers. Residents, primarily indigenous Dumagat and Remontados, are being harassed and intimidated. One of Umiray's sitios—Sitio Dadiangao—has been completely abandoned by residents out of fear from militarization.

Some 18 barangays in three towns in South Quezon-Bondoc Peninsula are also being militarized in an effort to undermine the peasants' struggle for genuine land reform and campaign against the low price of *copra*.

South Quezon is being targeted for widescale land use conversion to give way to the construction of power plants, mega dam, and

ports. Some 475 farm workers of Hacienda Uy, San Andres, South Quezon are currently experiencing extreme hunger ever since their landlords and their hired goons enforced a four-year prohibition preventing them from tilling the land. Meanwhile, General Nakar is also the planned location of the New Centennial Dam Project, and will also be part of the areas that will be developed under the Pacific Coast City Project—a reclamation project that spans Marikina, Manila and will run up to Infanta, Quezon.

Treachery in Boracay

In the name of rehabilitating Boracay island, Duterte poured no less than 700 elements of the PNP and the AFP to supposedly maintain security in the island. Last April 24, two days before the island's closure, Joint Task Force Boracay

launched exercises on how to handle protests, terrorist attacks, and hostage-taking situations. While this was happening, the media was forbidden from entering the island and even residents of the island were required to show identification. Martial law is virtually being enforced by the regime in the island.

In the six months that Boracay will be closed, no less than 36,000 workers will be retrenched and will be left without livelihood, including thousands of residents who depend on the island's tourism. Demolition of houses is also rampant presently.

Duterte boasts of his plan to "distribute" land to the indigenous Ati of the island but only to attach titles to their land to make it easier for big business to legally grab land in the island. Two foreign-owned casinos are expected to be built on the island. AB

Pangayaw in Talaingod

IN 1993, TWENTY-FIVE Lumad datos of Talaingod gathered to form Salupungan Ta 'Tanu Igkanugon (Solidarity in Defense of the Ancestral Land) to fight the ALSONS's land grabbing of 19,000 hectares which form part of the Lumad's ancestral lands and which would have evicted 40 communities. The datos selected Datu Guibang Apoga to lead Salupungan.

They earned the support of organizations who stand in solidarity with the Lumad's struggle, and compelled ALSONS to sign an agreement that set the boundaries of the company's operations and the scope of the ancestral lands of the Ata-Manobo.

ALSONS violated the agreement and encroached on their ancestral lands, formed armed guards and incited other Lumads to fight against their kin. Crops were poisoned, ancestral cemeteries of communities were bulldozed, and the culture and identity of the Lumads were violated. Meanwhile, the AFP deployed additional detachments within the ancestral lands.

After the October 1995 harvest, Datu Guibang and his fellow Lumad leaders declared a *pangayaw* (tribal war) against ALSONS. Using traditional weapons, up to 400 *bagani* (Lumad warriors) grouped in three areas—Duryan, Nasilaban, and Tambuko—and proceeded to ambush the soldiers and guards employed by ALSONS.

At the areas they set for the *pangayaw*, arrows and *bangkaw* (spear) silently rained, catching the soldiers of the 64th IB and the ALSONS guards by surprise, resulting in six deaths and four injuries. The *bagani* were able to retreat safely.

Since then, ALSONS halted their operations and the 64th IB and the hired guards retreated from the ancestral lands of the Ata-Manobo in Talaingod. AB

Onslaught of Duterte's fascism

The Duterte regime has once again released a barrage of violent attacks against activists and common civilians these past two weeks. Glaring cases include the killing of three farmers in just one day, violence against workers, and militarization of communities. Over 30,000 residents were forced to evacuate from their communities due to Duterte's all-out war that mainly victimized civilians.

Killings. Three farmers were killed on June 6 in separate incidents. In Compostela Valley, elements of the 46th IB shot and killed Lando Perdicos while he was resting in the balcony of their home in Barangay Cabuyo-an, Mabini. According to the victim's wife, she was inside their house, along with their two children, when she suddenly heard shots successively fired. Perdicos was already dead when his wife went out to look for him.

Perdicos is a member of Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa Mabini-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Humabin-KMP). He actively joined mobilizations against militarization and the campaign to support fellow farmers who pushed for the reclamation of lands seized by Lapan-day Foods Corporation in Tagum City.

On the same day, Humabin-KMP also reported the killing of another member in Montevista. The victim was identified as Jovie Jose.

In Agusan del Norte, another farmer was shot and killed on the same day at around 8:30 p.m. in Sitio Tagbakon, Barangay Culit, Nasipit. The victim, Jose Unahan, a Lumad Higaonon who was an active member of Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Norte-KMP. He was involved in defending their ancestral land against the entry of big mining companies and other destructive industries.

On June 10, at around 5:20 p.m. in Davao Oriental, agents of the 67th IB killed Nestor Dagatan Sacote, 29, a resident of Purok San Vicente Lambajon, Baganga.

Sacote was riding his motorcy-

cle on the way home when blocked by two men riding another motorcycle. One of the men alighted and shot Sacote to death. The victim was an active member of the Alyansa sa mga Mag-uuma sa Sidlakang Davao. Before his death, Sacote bravely criticized the intensifying militarization in many communities of Lumads and farmers in their area.

In North Cotabato, three residents were killed, including a minor, while three others were injured when operating troops of the 34th IB fired successive shots at houses in Sitio Makantal, Barangay Olandang, Midsayap, at around 3:40 a.m. The victims were identified as Pinindiya Tumagantang, 68, migrant worker Aida Datumama, and student Norman Zainal Mangakop. After the incident, the soldiers took Datumama's cash savings.

On June 16, a bomb killed five-month pregnant farmer Naano Mangintas while she was in her farm in Lower Idtig, General Salipada K. Pendatun, Maguindanao. A kid accompanying Mangintas was also injured from the said incident. (See *related article on page 4.*)

In Nueva Ecija, two unidentified men shot and killed Fr. Richmond Nilo, a priest serving Saint Vincent Ferrer Parish in Zaragoza, last June 10, around 5 p.m.. Fr. Nilo was killed in front of his parishioners while he was preparing for mass. His death sparked condemnation from various groups, including the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Holy Angel University (HAU) in Pampanga, the Diocese of Cabanatuan, and San Carlos Seminary, where Fr. Nilo graduated.

According to Karapatan, Fr. Nilo's death heavily confirms the prevailing impunity in the country, where the government itself has normalized killings, and rarely do suspects face prosecution. Fr. Nilo was an ardent critic of Duterte, according to HAU.

On June 8, five residents of Barangay Nabongsoran, Aroroy, Masbate, were massacred. Suspected CAFGU members who were assigned in Barangay Cabangcalan, Aroroy and under the command of the 2nd IB fired fatal shots at Ariel Madrilejos, John Paul Cristobal, and Dijie Cabarles. Two other residents, Jeo Cabarles and Ricky Alejo, were also shot, and later died in the hospital. A barangay tanod, Jury Cabarles, was also injured from the incident.

Militarization. Arriving in three military trucks, soldiers from the 1st IB occupied the camp-out organized by farmers of Sitio Balabacan, Barangay Laiya Aplaya, San Juan, Batangas at around midnight of June 4. The soldiers destroyed the fence surrounding the camp-out and rammed their trucks into the farms of the residents. On June 9, the soldiers attempted to build a structure for their headquarters right beside the camp-out's kitchen. Elements of the PNP also arrived.

Residents, who organized under Habagat-Laiya, have long been defending their farmlands from the land-grabbing attempts of Federico Campos III.

In Hindang, Leyte, militarization has plagued Barangay Mahilom since March. Some 80 soldiers of the 78th IB under Capt. Bard Caesar P. Mazo occupied the houses near the barangay hall and prohibited residents from spending the night in their farms, even if they have to walk five hours home. The soldiers are also

strictly monitoring the residents' every move by having them sign a logbook. A curfew and strict control on the quantity of rice that can be bought were also imposed. The residents who are resisting the entry of troops are also being accused of being supporters of the NPA.

In Quezon, 18 barangays in South Quezon-Bondoc Peninsula have been militarized beginning the second week of June. The 85th IB and other troops of the 2nd ID occupied three barangays in General Luna, six in Macalelon and nine in Lopez.

Residents of Km 9 Semowao, Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur reported that in the morning of June 14, some 100 soldiers suddenly appeared in their community.

In Batangas, farmers of Barangay Coral ni Lopez, Calaca confronted a unit of combined forces of the PNP, Air Force and Philippine Army who camped out in their community starting June 17. This sparked fear and unease among residents.

Evacuation. In Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte, 72 Lumad Mamanwa families and 50 peasant families from Sitio Zapanta Valley, Barangay Bangayan were forced to evacuate. Up to 500 individuals were forced to evacuate their homes due to the occupation of their community by the 29th IB. They said that they were still being closely monitored by the soldiers even if they were already staying in the barangay hall. The soldiers did not allow anyone to come near the evacuees, and at one point in June 14, the soldiers also prohibited church people from distributing relief goods to the evacuees.

On June 17, soldiers loaded and transported evacuees to Little Baguio, Barangay San Roque, with the promise that they will be given food. When they arrived in the area, they were displayed to the

public and made to appear as NPA surrenderees. They were then detained by the soldiers for one whole day.

Harassment. In Capiz, seven farmers were threatened and harassed by troops from the 61st IB under the command of Lt. Col. Sisenando Magbalot Jr. last June 9 in Sitio Sap-ong Tigpaka Daku, Barangay San Antonio, Cuartero.

Carlito delos Santos, along with four other companions, went to his hut to find out that it was ransacked by the soldiers. He was accused of safekeeping the NPA's backpacks and explosives, and was forced to surrender. The soldiers tried to forcibly take him but they were impeded by his companions. The soldiers held delos Santos and company in custody for about four hours. After the incident, two other residents—JC and JR delos Santos were strangled and held at gunpoint by the soldiers and were accused as Carlito's accomplices.

In Bohol, the regime launched subsequent repressive attacks against farmers' organizations. On June 13, at around 1:40 p.m., agents of the state open-fired at the training center of La Swerte Farmers Association (LASFA) in Barangay La Swerte, Pilar. Saniel Pilegro and his two minor children were then inside the building. After the shoot-out, armed men searched the premises. The next day, in the town of Mabini, while the PNP Regional Mobile Group was operating in Barangay San Jose, police were at the same time distributing leaflets containing black propaganda against the Nagkahiusang Maguuma sa San Jose and Humabol-KMP.

Meanwhile, the fact-finding mission (FFM) headed by Karapatan Central Visayas last June 6 in Barangay Campagao, Bilar was also harassed and intimidated by soldiers of the 47th IB. The FFM aimed to document the human rights violations perpetrated against resi-

dents following the encounter between the NPA and AFP last May 15.

The group just arrived at the barangay when they were blocked by the military and the police. The soldiers insisted on joining the FFM in going around the community. When the group declined, the soldiers still followed them around. The soldiers were also accompanied by personnel from the provincial government.

On June 12, while the "Hindipendence" Day protest was ongoing in Cebu City, the military distributed flyers containing black propaganda against progressive organizations. Meanwhile, members of Kabataan Partylist who were protesting in Magay Public Market in Zamboanga City were forcibly driven away by the police and were threatened to be handcuffed if they will not leave.

In Quezon, police harassed farmers and their supporters who were conducting mobile propaganda in Barangay San Jose, Gen. Luna. The police took photos and videos of activists, and even grabbed the cellphone of one of the protesters.

Illegal arrest. Maria Theresa Cabales, 61, was charged with trumped-up rebellion cases after she was illegally arrested by intelligence agents of the PNP and AFP for supposedly joining an NPA offensive back in 2017. She was arrested in Molo, Iloilo last June 8. Cabales was an organizer and staff of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Western Visayas. She was arrested in Tanza-Timawa Village in Iloilo City.

In Bohol, Pedro Lumantas, 54, was illegally arrested on June 17 while he was being treated in Ramiro Memorial Hospital in Tagbilaran City. Lumantas, who was a former political prisoner, was charged with a trumped-up case of attempted murder and is now under tight supervision of the elements of PNP-Bohol. AB

Workers' protests continue

Workers' protests continue to break out to collectively demand security of tenure and just wages among other labor rights. In the past few weeks, various unions and associations mounted successive protest actions which gained the support of workers from other establishments.

In Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa, contractual workers staged a protest action in front of the factory gates of Pepsi Cola Philippines, Products, Inc. (PCPPI) last June 14. More than 1,000 workers have been illegally dismissed by the PCPPI management immediately after the shutdown of its six deep-well pumps inside the factory on June 11.

The Pepsi Cola Workers Association (a group of contractual Pepsi workers) and Kilusang Mayo Uno-Metro Manila led the protest and demanded the reinstatement of dismissed workers.

Defend Job Philippines and the Solidarity of Labor for Rights and Welfare (SOLAR) cast doubts on the "deep-well mess" that is being used by the PCPPI as pretext for the lay-off. The labor groups bemoaned the move as part of "Project Genesis" or the long-standing plan of the PCPPI to close its Muntinlupa plant and abolish the existing workers union in the company, the Pepsi Cola Labor Union (PCLU).

In Laguna, workers from Monde Nissin Corporation launched a picket-protest last June 12 to ex-

pose and oppose the company's blatant implementation of labor-only contracting.

On June 15, contractual workers from Aichi Forging Co. also mounted a protest action to demand the implementation of the regularization order issued by the DOLE Region 4A. The workers said that their protest actions will carry on until these lead to a strike.

#Hindipendence Day. On the anniversary of the false declaration of Philippine independence, more than 1,000 people attended protest activities organized by progressive organizations in various parts of the country. Most notable of these are the protests mounted in front of the US embassy, Chinese Consulate and Bonifacio Shrine in Manila.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) led the protest in front of the Chinese Consulate in Makati to condemn China's increasing incursions into Philippine territory, the harassment of the Chinese Coast Guard against Filipino fishermen in Scarborough

Shoal, and the inaction of the Duterte administration. They also condemned the statement of Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque that the Chinese Coast Guards' giving of noodles and water to Filipino fishermen in exchange for fish they confiscated within the Philippine marine territory is a sign of "goodwill."

The protesters subsequently marched towards the US Embassy and Bonifacio Shrine in Manila. They slammed continuing US military intervention and the construction of new US military bases in the Philippines. They also condemned the continuance of unequal military agreements such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

On the same day, BAYAN-Southern Tagalog launched a lightning rally in Kawit, Cavite. The protesters shouted "Hunyo a dose, huwad na kalayaan!" ("June 12, false freedom!") and "Duterte traydor!" ("Duterte traitor!") while Rodrigo Duterte was delivering his speech at the Aguinaldo Shrine. Francis Rafael, one of the protesters, was arrested and charged with interrupting public order.

Protest actions were also launched in Zamboanga City, Cebu City and Davao City. AB

PNP disperses two pickets

POLICE OFFICERS VIOLENTLY dispersed the picket line of striking NutriAsia workers in Marilao, Bulacan last June 14. At around 6 a.m., PNP Bulacan Provincial Director Chito Bersaluna (former PNP Caloocan chief who was involved in numerous cases of *tokhang*-style killings, including that of Kian delos Santos) started deploying some 200 police officers from Marilao and Meycauayan, including SWAT elements and firetrucks.

Police officers started to disperse the striking workers at around 1 p.m.. The workers attempted to defend their picket line by lying face down, but were

beaten with truncheons and handcuffed by police officers. One of them was dragged to a sidewalk, beaten and held at knifepoint



and gunpoint by police and security officers.

Five workers suffered grave head injuries while a dozen others were hurt due to the violent dispersal. Moreover, 23 others, including the striking workers' supporters, were arrested and falsely charged with direct assault. They were not allowed visits. Students documenting the harassment were also subjected to intimidation.

In Laguna, the PNP Biñan under the command of a certain Col. Maclang, and security guards of the Laguna Technopark demolished the huts put up by workers belonging to the Pinag-isang Lakas ng Manggagawa (Piglas-Ind) sa Middleby Philippines Corporation who have been on sit-down strike for more than a month now. The police and security officers dismantled the chained factory gates and electrocuted the workers with tasers. They also arrested Rodel Moruta and Mia Antonio, the chairperson and secretary of Piglas, respectively. The harassment was the PNP's response to the workers' successful attempt to prevent the company guards from blocking the gate to obstruct the entry of food support from other unions and associations in nearby factories.

AB

Duterte fast-tracks anti-people project in CGC

The Duterte regime is rushing the construction of the multi-million Philippine Olympic City in the Clark Special Economic Zone for the country's hosting of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games. The said sports facility is part of the 207-hectare National Government Administrative Center (NGAC) being built under the Clark Green City (CGC) project. The CGC, formerly under the Public-Private-Partnership program of the Aquino regime, was carried over by the Duterte regime under its Build, Build, Build infrastructure program.

The Philippine Olympic City, as well as the CGC, dubbed as a "development project" spanning approximately 10,000 hectares of land in the former US military base in Pampanga, plague the life and livelihood of farmers, Aetas, and residents. The project will displace not less than 20,000 Aetas and approximately 30,000 peasants from their ancestral and farm lands. Among those to be covered by CGC are barangays Maruglu, Aranguren, Bueno, O'Donnell, Sta. Lucia, Sta. Juliana, Lawy and Cutcut 2 in Capas, and Sto. Niño, San Vicente, San Nicolas, Anupul, and the Sacobia Area in Bamban.

The state has long subjected the farmers and Aetas to violence to compel them to leave their communities. On November 2014, elements of the 56th IB barred the residents from cultivating their lands, from transporting their yield, and from bringing in construction materials for their houses. This prompted residents from 13 sitios to appeal to progressive lawmakers to scrap the then proposed land use conversion.

Subsequently, an International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) spearheaded by the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Asian Peasant Coalition was conducted to probe into the situation of the residents in the said barangays.

The IFFM belied the claim of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the agency tasked to administer

the use-conversion of lands covered by the CGC, that the project purportedly aims to make remote areas within the Clark Air Base teem with opportunities. According to the report, the project will cover thousands of hectares of ancestral and farm lands that are legally owned by the residents. Aetas and farmers in the area were awarded by the government with a certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) and certificates of land ownership award (CLOA) under its bogus land reform program. The communities subsisted without the support from the reactionary government and lacking much-needed social service infrastructures like farm-to-market roads, public schools, public health centers, and transportation systems.

Despite state neglect, the residents kept their lands productive. The residents mainly relied on their lands for their livelihood. Here the primary sources of income are rice, corn, sugarcane farming; fruit-bearing trees such as mango, banana, santol, guava, guyabano, avocado, coconut; and root crops such as cassava and purple yam. They also engage in charcoal-making and hunting.

Some of the said lands have already been converted into two access roads for the CGC—the seven kilometer MacArthur Access Road and the 16 kilometer Bamban-Capas Access Road. Among the areas that were covered by the road construction is Barangay Aranguren in Capas. In 2015, BCDA officials and elements of the CAFGU and the 70th IB entered the community, threatened to demolish their commu-



nity and coerced them to sign contracts that waive their rights over their lands in exchange for compensation. The residents denied the offer and vehemently opposed the land-grabbing measures of the state. Despite this, the Lead Way Company, under the order of the BCDA and Capas Mayor Gideon Salak, forcibly entered and bulldozed around 1,000 square meters of rice-lands in 2016.

The residents claimed that the continuing harassment and destruction of their crops and livelihood are desperate measures to suppress their struggle against the anti-people project.

Clark continues to serve foreign interests

For decades, foreigners in connivance with the reactionary state have benefited from the lands grabbed by the BCDA. In 1903, the US constructed a military base in the area which it used to house its troops and store their equipment and weapons for 88 years. When the military base was shut-down in 1991, their lands were integrated into the 36,000-hectare special economic zone for foreign capitalists. The residents' lands will now be used again for the construction

of state infrastructures, including the NGAC where the sports facilities for the upcoming 2019 Southeast Asian Games is currently being built.

The Aeta Tribal Association, the broadest alliance of indigenous peoples in Tarlac, said that "only foreign corporations and not the people benefit from the CGC. It is a monster that will destroy the livelihood, homes, and culture of the indigenous peoples."

To entice more investments and hasten the completion of the project, public contracts are being awarded under a joint venture scheme where private investors are given a higher share (or percentage of ownership and control over the land and project) than the government. Investors are also given various fiscal and non-fiscal incentives such as lower taxes or even tax exemption, and 100% ownership of foreign companies. As a result, foreign corporations and their subsidiaries are salivating and are racing to submit their project proposals for CGC.

The contract for the NGAC was awarded by the regime to MTD Capital Berhad, a Malaysian company, under a joint venture agreement (JVA) with a 90-10 shares, in

favor of the capitalist. A contract was also signed on May 23 where the government guaranteed the loan request of AlloyMTD Philippines Inc., its local subsidiary, amounting to Php9.5 billion of the total Php13 billion budget needed to rush the construction of the NGAC.

Three big-ticket infrastructure projects under the Build, Build, Build that will complement the CGC are simultaneously being fast-tracked by the regime—the privatization and expansion of the Clark International Airport, the construction of PNR North 2 (Malolos-Clark Airport-Clark Green City Rail) and the Subic-Clark Railway Project that will be funded by hundreds of billion peso loans from Japan and China.

In 2016, the Aquino regime awarded 288 hectares of land in CGC to Filinvest Land, Inc under a JVA with a 55-45 shares, in favor of the capitalist.

As before, it is expected that the CGC will be used as a place for rest and recreation of US troops who will stay in the neighboring Clark Air Base and Crow Valley Gunnery Range (Col. Ernesto Rabina Air Base) under the continuing Balikatan Exercises. AB

Victory against the Jalaur Megadam Project

THE CONSTRUCTION OF the Jalaur Megadam Project in Barangay Agcalaga, Calinog, Iloilo has been temporarily halted. The decision of the Korea Export-Import Bank (EXXIM) and its contractor, Daewoo Engineering and Construction to suspend the dam construction this June is a victory of the Tumandok people and their supporters.

On April, the organization TUMANDUK sent a delegation to South Korea to discuss with EXXIM and Daewoo officials the complaints and demand of the indigenous peoples from at least 16 barangays in Calinog to stop the megadam project. Their complaints include the failure of the said companies to obtain signed contracts authorizing their operation of EXXIM to pay

compensation for destroying the environment, and the violation of the Tumandok's rights by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

NIA and the local government of Calinog retaliated by resorting to desperate measures. On May 8, the local government issued a resolution declaring the three delegates of the Jalaur River for the People

Movement (JRPM) including Remia Castor "persona non grata," meaning they can no longer reside in Calinog. On May 10, a NIA official visited the barangay captain of Alibunan and showed a document explaining that Castor should not win as councilor of their barangay.

The people's resistance against the P11-billion Jalaur River Megadam Project intensified, especially after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government prohibited *kaingin* (slash-and-burn farming) without providing any alternative livelihood for the people.

As a result, the DENR and the local government were compelled to revoke their policy.

Pan-ay River Megadam. While the people of Calinog are celebrating, people residing in barrios near the Pan-ay River in Tapaz, Capiz are currently facing threats of being submerged under water due to the planned construction of another megadam. Agencies involved in this project include the provincial government of Capiz, NIA, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

(NCIP) and DENR.

Recently, Regional Director Jose Roberto Nuñez of the Office of Civil Defense announced that the project has already been awarded with an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), which means that the planned blueprint can be prepared next. TUMANDUK, however, questioned this stating that the study for the plan has not yet been completed, and that proponents have not yet obtained free, prior and independent consent (FPIC-1 and FPIC-2) permits from the national minorities.

The people of Capiz are apprehensive about the potential consequences of the project. Bayan-Capiz said that the planned megadam and eco-tourism projects will displace residents and shatter their livelihood. This planned megadam will possibly lead to serious flooding, similar to the experience in Manila and in Ormoc, Leyte.

The Pan-ay River Basin Integrated Interdevelopment Project is a component of Duterte's P22-25 billion Build, Build, Build infrastructure program. AB

US-DPRK holds summit

US President Donald Trump and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Chairman Kim Jong-un met for the first time in a historic summit last June 12 in Singapore. The meeting came after US' decades-long warmongering against Korea and the whole of Asia.

The meeting resulted in a joint statement containing the commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in exchange for US security commitments. Both leaders agreed to jumpstart the "new era" of US-DPRK relations and committed to hold subsequent summits. Right during the summit, Trump committed to end widespread military exercises between the US and South Korea as an initial step.

Subsequently, Trump ordered the suspension of the Ulchi Freedom Guardian, one of the most extensive military exercises between the US and South Korea, which is set to be by the end of July.

Trump was compelled to negotiate with the DPRK due to the strong resolve of the Korean people for reunification and peace despite the relentless aggression and economic sanctions imposed by the imperialist superpower. Prior to this, Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea (ROK or South Korea) also held a landmark meeting at the border of the two countries which resulted in the Panmunjeom Declaration containing the denucle-

arization program of the two Koreas.

Kim Jong-un also met with Chinese President Xi Jinping before and after meeting Trump to fortify commerce and trade relations between the two countries.

The DPRK advances the aspirations of the Korean people to end the US-instigated war, which has resulted in the deaths of 600,000 civilians and 400,000 soldiers when it occupied the DPRK in 1951.

Since then, the US tightly controlled the South Korean armed forces while maintaining a large portion of its troops at the Korean border. It has continuously mounted extensive and aggressive military exercises. In 2017, the US launched the Ulchi Freedom Guardian wherein 17,500 American troops and 50,000 Korean soldiers participated. The Foal Eagle and Max Thunder Drill were also launched. There are 28,500 American troops currently based in South Korea, a small portion of the total deployment in the Asian region.

In the face of continuing threats of aggression, the DPRK created and developed nuclear arms and equip-

ment for self-defense. The DPRK knows that the US controls the biggest arsenal of nuclear arms in the whole world. The US has 9,200 nuclear arms, not including the 2,126 active nuclear arms positioned in various parts of the world. The US uses these arms to trumpet its military superiority across the globe.

Kim Jong-un's meeting with US President Trump, despite the US military domination in Asia, is proof of the undeniable strength and resolve of the Korean people to defend their sovereignty, and resist military and economic aggression.

The successful summit held by the DPRK and the US will gradually abate the conflict in the Peninsula. This will also end the economic blockade imposed by US imperialism on the DPRK since 2008. This will also possibly restore good relations of Japan to the DPRK, another boost for advancing the DPRK's sovereignty.

The Filipino people and all revolutionary forces in the Philippines support the continuing struggle of the Korean people for the reunification of the Korean Peninsula and lasting peace.

This will contribute to the gradual weakening of US imperialist domination in the whole Asia-Pacific and the attainment of lasting peace for the peoples of the world. AB