

# LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

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March - April 2007

## CPP salutes NPA for victories, advances in People's War

By Bagani Dong-ilay

On the occasion of the 38th founding anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) on 29 March 2007, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) commended the NPA for its exemplary and shining achievements in advancing the people's war.

In its statement entitled *Why the New People's Army is invincible and victorious and how the people's war can rise to a new and higher level*, the CPP expressed admiration and gratitude to the Red commanders and fighters of the NPA for their firm commitment, hard work, sacrifices and achievements in the revolutionary struggle. The CPP fittingly bestowed the highest honors to the revolutionary martyrs and to all comrades who have dedicated their lives in serving the Filipino people.

The NPA has indeed come a long way since its founding on 29 March 1969, from the initial 60 Red fighters with only nine automatic rifles and some 26 inferior firearms in the second district of Tarlac province in northern Philippines, to so many thousands of men and women with automatic rifles and other high-powered weapons spread throughout the archipelago.

These are equivalent to a few divisions and regiments or to tens of battalions, scores of companies, a few hundreds of platoons or many hundreds of squads nationwide. They are deployed in more than 120 guerrilla fronts covering significant portions of 70 provinces, 800 towns or 10,000 of the more than 40,000 barrios (villages) of the country.

According to the CPP, "The NPA has stood as the largest and strongest army of the Filipino people in their entire history. It has surpassed the level of strength of the Philippine revolutionary

to page 2, CPP salutes NPA...



Revolutionary masses and cadres gather in a village north of Manila to celebrate the victories of People's War in the Philippines. prwc photo.

## NPA offensives destroy enemy units, net 120 firearms in 4 months

Responding to the call of the Communist Party of the Philippines to counter the fascist atrocities of the US-Arroyo regime by intensifying tactical offensives, the New People's Army (NPA) launched several military actions across the country in the last four months which resulted in the annihilation of enemy units and the confiscation of more than 120 high-powered firearms and other war materiel.

The most spectacular among these successful military actions was the 7 April raid on the armory of the Davao Penal Colony in Barangay Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte in southern Philippines, by the Red fighters of the Medardo Arce Command (MAC).

Without firing a single shot, the NPA was able to seize 105 rifles, 3 pistols, 2 hand-held radio transceivers and various types of ammunition. It is one

of the biggest NPA arms hauls from the enemy in recent years.

The raid started at 1:30 early morning of 7 April when the Red fighters, clad in Philippine Army uniforms, arrived on board five vans. They approached the two guards manning the gates, and pretended that they were having engine trouble with one of the vans. As two guards approached, they were immediately disarmed while a platoon of

to page 3, col 1, NPA offensives...

### INSIDE

NDFP files complaint  
against Arroyo at UN  
body on disappearances

page 4

Arroyo & Bush,  
guilty as charged

page 5

... CPP salutes NPA, from page 1

army in the old democratic revolution against Spanish colonialism and in the war of resistance against US imperialism at the start of the 20th century. The NPA has also surpassed by far the scope and level of strength attained by the People's Army Against Japan (Hukbalahap) during World War II and the subsequent People's Liberation Army, whose backbone was broken by the enemy in the early 1950s."

Based on its current spread and strength, the Party expressed confidence that the NPA, with the ardent support of the masses, can defeat the counterrevolutionary Oplan Bantay Laya II (Operation Plan Freedom Watch II) as it did the previous Oplan Bantay Laya thrown against it by the current US puppet regime of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The CPP reminded the current regime that the NPA was able to survive and grow even stronger when the US' puppet dictator Marcos deployed more than 200,000 of its military, police and paramilitary forces against the then fledgling revolutionary movement, in the hope of nipping the revolution in the bud. The movement turned the tables on Marcos when the dictatorship fell in 1986 upon the combined blows of the people's army, the legal mass movement and the broad legal opposition.

It asserted that the Arroyo regime faces a far larger and stronger NPA and a comprehensive revolutionary mass movement with much richer experience and sharper skills in various forms of struggle.

### Favorable conditions in advancing the revolution

The CPP also cited objective factors in the Philippine and world situation which are unfavorable for the Arroyo regime and favorable for the advance of the Philippine revolutionary forces. It asserted that the revolutionary forces are invincible and victorious because the semicolonial and semifeudal conditions in the Philippines provide the fertile ground for the growth in strength and advance of the people's army and people's war.

The Filipino people, it continued, need the NPA so long as the three monsters of foreign monopoly capitalism, domestic feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism oppress and exploit them. On the basis of the objective conditions that are intolerable to the people, the

organized forces of the revolution thrive and march forward.

To secure the continuing and increasing support of the Filipino people necessary to raise the armed revolution to a higher level, the CPP enumerated the important tasks that can and should be carried out.

- ◆ Steps should be taken to stop or limit the exploitative and oppressive activities of foreign monopoly corporations. Export-oriented mining, logging and agricultural operations of the multinational firms and the big compradors take out the natural wealth of the country and ruin the environment and the entire economic and social future of the people.
- ◆ Large tracts of land owned or controlled by foreign and big comprador agro-corporations producing for export must be broken up to make way for land reform for the benefit of the poor peasants and farm workers. Steps should also be taken to allow Filipino entrepreneurs to have greater participation in agriculture.
- ◆ Agrarian revolution should be advanced from the present level of the minimum program consisting of reducing land rent, raising the wages of farm workers, raising the farm-gate prices of peasant produce and eradicating usury to confiscation of big landlord property and distributing land to the landless tillers.
- ◆ The revolutionary movement should study ways on how to curtail the highly exploitative practices of the US and other foreign oil giants and to cause the nationalization of the oil industry.
- ◆ The revolutionary movement and the people should push for the take over of US and other foreign-owned enterprises by Filipino entrepreneurs in

the spirit of promoting the nationalization of the economy and fighting for national liberation against foreign domination.

- ◆ The cry for justice of the broad masses of the people and the families of the victims of human rights violations must be satisfied by punishing the Arroyo ruling clique and its retinue of traitors, murderers and torturers, plunderers, racketeers and election-riggers.

In the face of the Arroyo regime's heightened total war and fascist aggression, the CPP defined the following central tasks: intensification of guerrilla warfare to frustrate and defeat Oplan Bantay-Laya II; fight to oust the Arroyo regime; and further strengthen and advance the armed revolution.

The first is the most important urgent task. The NPA is called upon to launch more frequent tactical offensives in each region, province and guerilla front.

As the NPA seizes more arms from these tactical offensives, more platoons and companies can be formed and higher levels of command can be set up, developing further the capability of the people's army. Additionally, the formation of the people's militia and self-defense units of the revolutionary mass organizations should be accelerated.

The pipe dream of the Arroyo regime to destroy the revolutionary forces especially the NPA before 2010 will not come true. Instead, the NPA will prove the inability of the regime to rule and has a good chance of causing its downfall. The NPA and the revolutionary forces have shown this in the ouster of the US-Marcos dictatorship in 1986 and the US-Estrada regime in 2001. The same fate awaits the brutal, corrupt and illegitimate Arroyo regime. ■

## IN THIS ISSUE:

*LIBERATIONINTERNATIONAL*

March - April 2007

CPP salutes NPA for victories, advances in People's War . . . . .	1
NPA offensives destroy enemy units, net 120 firearms in four months . . . . .	1
International groups denounce Arroyo rights abuses . . . . .	3
NDFP files complaint against Arroyo at UN body on disappearances . . . . .	4
Gloria Arroyo and George Bush guilty as charged - PPT . . . . .	5
Protests and resistance pushing US out of Iraq . . . . .	6
CPP salutes Indian Maoists for victorious March raid . . . . .	7
From their homes into the streets: In commemoration of International Women's Day . . . . .	8

... NPA offensives, from page 1

the NPA entered the compound and emptied the armory. Two other guards in the administration building and the armory were also neutralized. The whole operation was over in 25 minutes.

Other tactical offensives of the NPA in various parts of the country in the last four months included:

- ◆ On 4 January 2007, NPA guerrillas seized four rifles and an M79 grenade launcher when they attacked a Philippine National Police precinct in Maria Aurora, Aurora province, in northern Philippines. The guerrillas were able to swiftly control the precinct because the two policemen on guard duty were sleeping.
- ◆ On 20 January, one soldier was killed and four others were wounded in two separate armed encounters between the NPA and operating troops of the Philippine Army in Pilar town, Sorsogon, in central Philippines. One soldier was also killed, 25 January, when the NPA attacked an encamped unit of the 42<sup>nd</sup> IB in Barangay Bonga, Castilla, also in Sorsogon.
- ◆ Two soldiers were killed after Red fighters ambushed a unit of the 73<sup>rd</sup> IB in Barangay Eden, Toril, Davao City, in southern Philippines, last 28 February. Both soldiers were killed early on in the firefight.
- ◆ At least eight enemy troopers were killed in separate ambushes launched by the NPA in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Samar, Northern Samar and Bohol, all in central Philippines, in the month of February.
- ◆ On February 15, also in central Philippines, the Napoleon Tumagtang Command was able to render justice against Jose Cabunagan, a provincial commander of the notorious Revolutionary Proletarian Army - Alex Boncayao Brigade in Iloilo province. The RPA-ABB acts as a death squad for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Cabunagan was involved in the extrajudicial killing of a village official and a number of peasants, and members of progressive organizations.
- ◆ In Masbate province, the chief of police of Pio V. Corpuz town, Senior Superintendent Alberto Montecalvo, was killed in a punitive action by the NPA on 1 March. The Red fighters also confiscated his pistol. On 2 March in Bulan town, Sorsogon, former deputy police chief Cipriano

*Red fighters of the NPA rush in to assault an enemy position. The people's army is intensifying tactical offensives across the archipelago to frustrate the all-out war policy of the US puppet Arroyo regime. prwc video capture.*



Lachica was killed in another punitive action by the NPA. The police officials had been involved in intelligence operations against the revolutionary movement and in the extrajudicial killings of activists in their locality.

- ◆ In Lingig town, Surigao del Sur, 7 high-powered rifles, 7 VHF radios and a laptop computer were seized by the NPA in a raid of a logging company on 20 March. The logging firm has incurred the ire of the masses in the area for its oppressive practices.
- ◆ In the province of Abra in northern Philippines, Red fighters of the Agustin Begnalen Command ambushed the joint forces of the 41st IB and the police Regional Mobile Group on 29 March and 6 April in the

town of Lacub. A total of nine RMG and eight 41st IB elements, including a 2nd Lieutenant, were killed in the two ambushes.

- ◆ In Masbate, 3 members of the PNP Special Action Force were killed when they were ambushed by the NPA in the village of Lahong, Baleno town on 3 April. The police force was part of reinforcements sent against the NPA that had disarmed the guards of a foreign-owned mining firm Filminera Resources Corp. in the nearby town of Aroroy.
- ◆ Two soldiers from the "C" Company of the 2nd IB were killed and two others were wounded when they were ambushed by the NPA on 18 April in the village of Villanueva, Gubat, Sorsogon. ■

## International groups denounce Arroyo rights abuses

The saying "when it rains it pours" has never been so true for the regime of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. After the damaging reports of two UN special rapporteurs in February 2007, the hearings of the US Senate on the Philippines, and the guilty verdict of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal, come now the InterParliamentary Union (IPU) and the Human Rights Now of Japan also holding the regime responsible for grave violations of the people's rights and demanding an immediate stop to extrajudicial killings.

The IPU delegation was composed of Senator Sharon Carstairs (Canada), vice president of the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians; IPU Secretary General Anders Johnsson; and Committee secretary Ingeborg Schwarz. They demanded the immediate release of Representative Crispin Beltran from detention, and looked into the continuing repression of six members of

the Philippine Congress. Popularly known as the Batasan 6, Reps. Beltran, Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Teddy Casiño were earlier served warrants of arrest based on trumped up charges.

What is happening to the Batasan 6 and other leaders and members of progressive and militant people's organizations is reminiscent of the 1950s witchhunting by US senator Joseph McCarthy. Only in the case of the Philippines, extra-judicial killings by death squads of the regime is the order of the day.

The Human Rights Now (HRN) of Japan, which held a fact-finding mission on the human rights situation in the Philippines in March 2007, put the responsibility of the killings on the military and the police. HRN is now seeking the suspension of the Yen Loan

*International groups, to page 4 ...*

# NDFP files complaint against Arroyo at UN body on disappearances

By Ed Ladera

The Negotiating Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) filed formal complaints against Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) before the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in Geneva. Mrs. Arroyo and the generals are held accountable by the NDFP Negotiating Panel for the enforced disappearance of NDFP Consultant Rogelio Calubad and his son Gabriel and of NDFP staff member, Leopoldo Ancheta.

The NDFP Panel filed the formal complaints on 27 April 2007. It cited as responsible for this gross violation of human rights Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, under the universally recognized and applicable principle of command responsibility, as the commander-in-chief of the AFP and the PNP.

Likewise charged are General Hermogenes Esperon, Chief of Staff of the AFP and PNP Chief, Director General Oscar Calderon. Included in the charges are Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan (ret.), Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, AFP Commander

of the Southern Luzon Command, Chief Superintendent Jesus Verzosa, Director of the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Commodore Leonardo Calderon, Jr. chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP), and Senior Superintendent Romeo Ricardo, chief of the PNP Intelligence Group.

The NDFP Panel gave details of the enforced disappearance of Rogelio Calubad and his son Gabriel on 17 June 2006 at about 7:00 a.m. at Barangay Bangkuruhan, Calauag, province of Quezon in northern Philippines. It likewise described the involuntary disappearance of Leopoldo Ancheta on 24 June 2006, in front of the supermarket at Barangay Tuktukan, Guiguinto, Bulacan province, also in northern Philippines.

Besides going to various police and army camps where they were issued denials by the police and army personnel, the Calubad and Ancheta families also filed complaints with the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), through the JMC Joint Secretariat in Quezon City, Philippines. They likewise filed a petition for habeas corpus before the Philippine Supreme Court on 2 August 2006.

The NDFP Panel presented documents to substantiate its charges against Gloria Arroyo and the generals, namely:

- ◆ The verdict of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) Second Session on the Philippines, 25 March 2007, which found Mrs. Arroyo guilty of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and other gross violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Filipino people and their right to national self-determination and to liberation, declaring that these qualify as crimes against humanity.

The PPT likewise asserted that it "has found unequivocal evidences that the militaries have a central role in the greatest majority of the scenarios of human rights violations in the Philippines" and that "the perpetrators of the killings and abductions are often uniformed men with no nametags,

*next page, UN complaints...*

*Luis G. Jalandoni, NDFP International Representative and Chairperson of the NDFP Negotiating Panel filed formal complaints on 27 April before the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances against the US-Arroyo regime. ndfp-ii photo.*



... *International groups, from page 3*

Agreement between Japan and the Philippines and will raise the issue before the UN Human Rights Council.

Also adding his concern to the killings is leading US presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama who called for the close monitoring of the situation in the Philippines in connection with the unabated extra-judicial killings of journalists, political activists and clergy members. Another member of the US Congress, Rep. Adam Smith, also called for the release of Rep. Beltran.

The Arroyo regime is going to face another downpour with the arrival of the International Observers Mission. The

IOM will observe the May 2007 election in the Philippines. The election is crucial for the survival of the fascist and corrupt Arroyo regime. It wants to retain a clear majority in both houses of Congress to stop any further investigation of its criminal acts and its impeachment. The regime is already resorting to massive cheating, harassment and vote-buying. The intensification of the killings of leaders and members of progressive and militant political parties and organizations is part of the regime's strategy for the elections.

Whatever the outcome of the elections, the Arroyo regime will continue to face the thunderous rage of the people until it is booted out of power. ■

# Gloria Arroyo and George Bush guilty as charged – PPT

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Adding to the increasing political isolation of the Arroyo regime, the prestigious Rome-based Permanent Peoples' Tribunal has declared the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and its President Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the Government of the United States of America and its President Mr. George Walker Bush, guilty as charged of committing crimes against humanity.

The PPT's second session on the Philippines (the first was in 1980 during the time of the Marcos dictatorship) held last March 21-25 in The Hague, The Netherlands, handed down the guilty verdict, on the following counts:

- ◆ Gross and systematic violations of civil and political rights: extra-judicial killings, abduction and disappearances, massacre, torture;
- ◆ Gross and systematic violation of economic, social and cultural rights;
- ◆ Gross and systematic violations of the rights to national self-determination and liberation.

The verdict was read during the last day of the session, which was attended by hundreds of Filipino migrants and



Members of the Jury applaud after reading the verdict on 25 March 2007. From left, Lilia Solano (Columbia), Øystein Tveter (Norway), Ties Prakken (The Netherlands), Jury President François Houtart (Belgium), Irene Fernandez (Malaysia), Oda Makoto (Japan) and Secretary General Gianni Tognoni of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal. ppt2 photo.

friends of the Filipino people from all over the world, and covered by the local and international media.

The call to indict and charge the Arroyo regime for its crimes gathered the support of many prestigious international institutions worldwide and prominent individuals among them Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, and Hon. Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia.

The PPT verdict comes after several international missions and inquiries were conducted to probe the political killings of leaders and members of progressive people's organizations. Notable among these international missions which point at the murderous Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as behind the killings, were those

*to page 6 col 2, Arroyo guilty...*

... UN complaints, from page 4

wearing bonnets or ski-masks and riding on motorcycles or vehicles with no plate numbers.”

- ◆ The press statement of Prof. Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, 21 February 2007, which declared among others that “the AFP remains in a state of almost total denial of its need to respond effectively and authentically to the significant number of killings which have been convincingly attributed to them.” In a follow-up report to the UN Human Rights Council in March, Prof. Alston denounced the AFP's use of an “Order of Battle” to label and target unarmed civilians for assassination.
- ◆ The NDFP Panel also provided the UN Working Group with documentation gathered by DESAPARECIDOS

showing the pattern of enforced disappearances perpetrated by the AFP and PNP since January 2007, in particular the case of Lourdes “Nay Ude” Rubrico, 63, who was abducted on 3 April 2007 by armed men and detained illegally for seven days.

She has filed charges before the Ombudsman against Capt. Angelo Cuaresma, Ruben Alfaro, Jimmy Santana and a certain Jonathan of the Philippine Air Force intelligence, and Major Darwin Sy of the Philippine Army whose vehicle was used in her abduction. Cuaresma belongs to the 301<sup>st</sup> Air Intelligence and Security Squadron based in Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas, where Lourdes Rubrico was detained. After days of mental torture, Rubrico was released only after she agreed to sign a document that she would be an “asset” of the military intelligence officers.

The NDFP Negotiating Panel filed the complaints with the direct and explicit consent of the families of the involuntarily disappeared.

The Panel is likewise preparing to file complaints for the enforced disappearance of its other consultants and staff and their immediate families, including Prudencio Calubid, his wife Celine Palma, and their companions Gloria Soco and Ariel Beloy, who were abducted on 26 June 2006; and Leo Velasco, who was abducted on 19 February 2007.

According to Panel Chair Luis G. Jalandoni, the complaints are being filed to further highlight the gross violations of human rights by the Arroyo regime, hold Mrs. Gloria Arroyo and her generals responsible on the basis of command responsibility, and intensify the international pressure on her regime to surface the involuntarily disappeared.

## Protests and resistance pushing US out of Iraq

*Youth from the Encampment to Stop the War enter a building of the US Senate to protest against the supplemental war budget. They shouted "Money for Jobs, Not for War!" and "Cut off the funds; end the war; bring the troops home!". Photo from encampmenttostopthewar.blogspot.*

**H**undreds of thousands of people in the US and in other parts of the world joined the global days of action 17-18 March to press for the end of the US-led war of aggression and occupation of Iraq. More than a thousand protest actions in various cities across the US were launched beginning 12 March, the biggest of which were the rallies at the Pentagon, in Washington, DC on 17 March; and in San Francisco and Los Angeles, in California on 17 and 18 March.

An estimated 100,000 people joined the march in Madrid, Spain, chanting "No to war!" and "The people of Madrid with the people of Iraq!" Protest actions were also reported in Thessaloniki and Athens, in Greece; in Istanbul, Prague, and Copenhagen.

The protest actions were launched to commemorate the fourth year of the US-led war of aggression and occupation of Iraq. Since March 2003, at least 665,000 Iraqi civilians have died and countless others wounded; and an estimated 2 million Iraqis has fled the country. US military deaths have reached 3,500 on top of more than 23,000 wounded, some seriously. The US government has been spending about US\$200 million a day, totaling now to about US\$2 trillion.

According to the ANSWER Coalition (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), one of the organizers of the protest actions, the US war budget "is a dagger in the heart of programs that meet peoples' needs". Bush and the US Congress slashed the budget for education, food aid and veterans' benefits, while the Senate voted for the new "war budget" of US\$590 billion in 2006.

Falling short on the demands of the American people to end the occupation of Iraq and to bring American troops home, the US Congress on 23 April finalized an additional US\$100 billion to fund the war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Touted in the mainstream mass media as an "anti-war vote", the supplemental budget bill sets a timetable for the eventual withdrawal of US troops sometime in 2008.

"The 'withdrawal from Iraq' plan that Democratic Party leaders in Congress have just announced is nothing more than a cover for them to approve Bush's

request for \$100 billion to fund the war," asserted the anti-war International Action Center in a press statement, adding that, "these new proposals amount to nothing more than political posturing by Democratic leaders in order to get some of the antiwar heat off of them while they continue to fund the war."

The major anti-war coalitions in the US vowed to step up protests and resistance to end the war. Already, there have been reports of student walkouts, sit-in protests and disruptions of Congressional offices across the US.

Meanwhile, the armed resistance of the Iraqi people continues to strengthen and inflict casualties on the armed



aggressors on a daily basis, despite the barbarities committed by the US-led forces of occupation and the Iraqi puppet security forces. The resistance of the Iraqi people inspires other oppressed peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America who are waging their own struggle against imperialism and local puppet regimes. ■

### *...Arroyo guilty, from page 5*

spearheaded by church organizations, trade unions and solidarity activists and culminated in the visit in February of Prof. Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. The assassinations are reminiscent of the same dirty US scheme employed in Vietnam during the 1960s called "Operation Phoenix", to terrorize the advancing militant people's movement and supposedly destroy the armed revolutionary movement.

In the 13-page verdict, the seven-member jury of the Tribunal said: "The wealth and consistency of the oral and written documentation made available through witnesses and expert reports has convinced the PPT that each and all of the three charges presented against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her Government, and against George Walker Bush and his Government are substantiated."

While the PPT denounced the human rights abuses as crimes against humanity and pointed to the Arroyo government and its armed forces as directly responsible, it also said that the Philippine government and the Bush administration "have knowingly and willingly colluded with each other in implementing the US' so-called "war on

terror" in Southeast Asia and in the Philippines, in violation of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of the Philippine Constitution which bans the presence of foreign troops and nuclear weapons on Philippine soil."

Furthermore, the PPT denounced as unacceptable the inclusion of the Government of the Philippines in the UN Human Rights Council, because "it undermines the credibility of the UN in this field, and it is an intolerable offense to the victims".

HUSTISYA, an organization of victims and families of human rights abuses under Arroyo, expressed happiness over the PPT verdict. They said: "We are very much elated with the verdict, even if we know that it will not directly result in the arrest of Arroyo and her supporters. But as she is condemned by the world as a criminal and as perpetrator of these human rights violations, for us victims, we are given hope, a glimmer of the light of justice. Like Marcos, she has sown terror and fear among the people, and now she will reap the condemnation of the Filipino people and the world. This is the beginning of her regime's end."

The killings, indeed, have not stopped, but as the victims and their families have emphasized, this is the beginning of the end for the Arroyo regime. ■

## INTERNATIONAL FRONT

*Palestinian women scuffle with Israeli border police during a women's demonstration at the Kalandia checkpoint on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Ramallah, 8 March, on the occasion of the International Women's Day.*  
AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti



... *Women's Day, from page 8*

women who were charged with staging activities against Iran's laws that discriminate against women. The police action was also seen as a measure to preempt any actions for IWD.

In its statement marking International Women's Day, Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (MAKIBAKA, Patriotic Movement of New Women), the revolutionary organization of Filipino women exhorted more women, "especially from the working class and middle class to break their chains of oppression. To truly liberate women is to free them and their families from the clutches of feudal exploitation and imperialist oppression.

"More than a century has passed since women workers took the militant path

so that they can have reduced working hours and increased wages. Currently, about half of the revolutionary fighters, organizers and leaders in the countryside and cities are women. And more and more women are joining the ranks of New People's Army combatants, defying bourgeois norms and traditions."

Indeed, while the imperialists and the bourgeoisie pay lip service to the issues

of women in an attempt to coopt the women's movement, progressive, militant and socialist women are continuing the struggle against imperialism, feudalism and gender oppression and domination. More and more women are organizing themselves in formations genuinely fighting for women's rights. They are active participants in the different arenas of struggle both in the legal mass movements in the cities and in the revolutionary armed struggle in the countryside where they are launching bigger and more militant actions to achieve genuine women's liberation. ■

## CPP salutes Indian Maoists for victorious March raid

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) recently congratulated and saluted the Communist Party of India-Maoist and the Red fighters of India for carrying out a successful tactical offensive on 14 March against the reactionary and fascist state forces of India. The Indian Maoist revolutionary fighters successfully overran a security outpost of the fascist police in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh.

Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson of the CPP, congratulated the CPI-Maoist and its Red fighters in behalf of the CPP, the New People's Army, the Philippine revolutionary movement and the Filipino people. He said that the victorious tactical offensive "is truly inspiring... as we wage our own people's war to end imperialist, feudal and fascist rule and oppression in the Philippines".

Scores of Red fighters under the leadership of the CPI-M launched the early morning raid against a police outpost in a forested area of the Rani Bodli village in Raipur town of the Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district. They easily took control of the outpost manned by at least 75 policemen and

seized a large cache of rifles and war materiel. More than 50 policemen were killed in the firefight, including 16 state police personnel and 37 special police officers.

Rosal said that the large cache of weapons seized "will help arm many more Indian masses anxious to become Red fighters and join the people's war".

He added that, "the broad masses of the Indian people celebrate these victories as they struggle to smash the prevailing backward and reactionary semifeudal rule, end the centuries-long system of exploitation and oppression of the people, and build a bright, revolutionary future in India".

Dedicatedly fighting for the rights and welfare of poor and landless farmers, neglected tribes and other impoverished Indian masses, the CPI-Maoist and its Red army have now gained control of 10 of Chhattisgarh's 16 impoverished districts and are also present in 14 of India's 29 states, covering huge swathes of the subcontinent's central, eastern and southern regions. ■



The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace. It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

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# From their homes into the streets: In commemoration of International Women's Day

By Isah Antonio

In the winter of 8 March 1857 women workers from a garment factory in New York City marched, picketed, and demanded better wages and working conditions, and equal rights for women. Fifty-one years later, on 8 March 1908, women workers in the needle trade industry also in New York marched to demand the right to vote and the end of sweatshops and child labor. Both protest actions were brutally suppressed by the capitalists, their hired goons and the police.

To honor the heroism of these women and other working class women the world over, 8 March was proclaimed International Women's Day.

This year, millions of women all over the world commemorated International Women's Day. They held protest actions, demonstrations, mass meetings, conferences, forums and cultural festivals to celebrate the contribution of women in the struggle against exploitation and oppression. The day was also an occasion to pay homage to the courageous women who trailblazed the path to raise the flag of women's struggle for democracy, liberation and gender equality.

*Liberation International* gathered the following initial reports of worldwide activities in celebration of International Women's Day.

- ◆ In the Philippines, thousands of women marched to commemorate IWD nationwide. They denounced the US-Arroyo regime's recently passed Anti-Terror Law, and its economic and political policies. They demanded justice for the victims of extrajudicial killings perpetrated by the regime's military, police and paramilitary forces. More than 80 women have fallen victim to the regime's assassins. They also demanded higher wages and better working conditions for women, and protection of overseas Filipino workers comprised mostly of women.
- ◆ In Sri Lanka, women participated in protest actions demanding the government to end the ongoing abduc-



*Riot police block thousands of Filipino women who marched through the streets of Manila 8 March 2007 to commemorate International Women's Day. The militant women denounced Gloria Arroyo's Anti-Terror Law, saying this will further justify and aggravate the culture of impunity in the country. AP Photo/Bullit Marquez*

- tions and arbitrary killings and called for an end to violence against women and girls.
- ◆ Indian women took part in a protest demanding up to 33 percent reservation for women in parliament and the upliftment and protection of women's rights.
- ◆ Women marched and protested against unpunished sexual assaults in the City of Goma in Congo.
- ◆ In Mexico, thousands of women workers, peasants, teachers and other professionals joined hands and marched on the streets for genuine women's rights, fight against state repression and to demand genuine women's liberation.
- ◆ In Lima, Peru, women demonstrators shouted slogans calling for equal rights for women and a stop to violence against women.
- ◆ In Pakistan, thousands of women demonstrated in nationwide rallies demanding freedom, equal rights and an end to discriminatory laws against women.
- ◆ In the United States, thousands of women protested against the US-led wars of aggression and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 160,000 US female soldiers are cannon fodder for imperialist wars of aggression in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the globe since 2003. More than 500 women soldiers have been wounded in Iraq alone and 71 have died.
- And once again, imperialism and the local reactionary ruling classes reared their ugly head when they brutally suppressed the actions of women fighting for the same demands of their predecessors 150 years ago: better wages and working conditions, end to sweatshops and child labor, and equal rights for women.
- ◆ In Montreal, Canada, police assaulted the march of women commemorating IWD. Several protesters were injured and police arrested a male supporter of the marchers.
- ◆ In Palestine, a demonstration on the outskirts of West Bank in Ramallah organized by Palestinian and Israeli women was harassed by Israeli border police.
- ◆ Croatian women celebrating IWD were manhandled and stopped from marching by the state police.
- ◆ In Tehran, Iran, a group of Iranian women activists were arrested a day before IWD. They were protesting the arrest and detention of four

*to page 7 col 1, Women's Day...*