

LIBERATION

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AGRARIAN REVOLUTION

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Thousands of poor peasant families improved their economic situation in the past twelve months, owing to agrarian reform campaigns launched by revolutionary peasant associations within the territories of the people's democratic government.

Peasant associations were able to launch victorious campaigns to reduce agricultural land rent, raise farm workers wages, raise the price of peasants' agricultural products, increase production, and encourage various forms of cooperation among the peasants themselves. These resulted in significant increases in the productivity and income of thousands of peasant families, as well as in raising the revolutionary spirit of the general population.

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COMRADES ALEX, ADRIAN AND ERREL

Youth for the revolution

Comrades Alex, Adrian and Errel are typical countryside youth. Even at a young age, they have been helping their parents and participate in production. Like growing numbers of other youth, they are politically conscious, working for and honing themselves to contribute to the revolution.

They are among the best sons and daughters of the peasantry who have joined the New People's Army (NPA) to defend and further advance their gains in agrarian revolution and other programs of the people's democratic government.

Ka Alex

"I am determined to join the NPA when I turn 18." This is Ka** Alex's firm commitment. He will be reaching his 18th year on November 30.

Alex is the fifth of six siblings. His parents usually eke out a living by planting coconut and rice. His uncle is a former Red fighter and their barrio is often visited by comrades.

Ka Alex was just a Fourth Grader when he first decided to become a Red fighter. He liked joining the guerrillas in their tasks and treks, but he was too young. The guerrillas encouraged him to help in various revolutionary tasks in the village. He joined a children's group that often staged cultural presentations and participated in other children's programs.

His elder brother became a Red fighter in 2010 and was transferred to another area. Ka Alex then tried again to join the NPA. But he was just 16 then and was not allowed into the people's army. He was advised to continue working in the barrio and help in various ways.

Ka Alex was not discouraged and continued working with the village youth group as the team leader. Part of his duties is to report on enemy movements in their barrio to the comrades. He is also asked by comrades to purchase

supplies in nearby towns. From time to time, he attends educational discussions in the barrio and even with the Red fighters.

Ka Alex was inspired to become a Red fighter because of the good example shown to him by the guerrillas.

Meanwhile, the comrades have asked Ka Alex's parents to tell him to be careful because the youth is on the enemy's watchlist. Ka Alex has stopped going to school and is awaiting his 18th birthday so he could finally become a fullfledged Red fighter.

Ka Adrian and Ka Errel

Ka Adrian and Ka Errel are brother revolutionaries. Ka Adrian is the eldest and Ka Errel is his younger sibling. Their parents are both active members of the Party branch in their barrio.

It was not difficult for the two brothers to decide on taking the path of revolution. Growing up in the countryside, poverty was not a stranger to them.

They became aware of the revolution because their father and uncle were former Red fighters. Ka Adrian was only six years old when he started mingling with the Red fighters operating in their area, while Ka Errel joined the children's group in their barrio early on. They both attend discussions at the National-Democratic School and join cultural presentations in their barrio and other areas.

The brothers have a typical relationship. They often tease each other and play, and sometimes get peeved with each other and quarrel.

Ka Adrian is more outgoing while Ka Errel is the serious and shy type.

When Ka Adrian turned 18, he decided to join the NPA while Ka Errel continued his tasks in the barrio.

Ka Adrian was assigned to their barrio for a while but was eventually transferred. It was in the NPA that he took up other Party courses and became a full member of the CPP. He undertakes various tasks in the people's army –

from security to kitchen duty to ensuring that their platoon has enough food supplies.

Ka Adrian misses his family but his homesickness is alleviated by daily organizing work among the masses. Sometimes, Ka Errel is able to visit him and join in some of the unit's activities. Through Ka Errel, Ka Adrian is able to send his regards to his parents and two younger siblings. The two brothers have been able to talk more often since

Ka Errel became the leader of the youth group in the barrio and has been active in reporting on the enemy's movements in their area.

More than being brothers, however, they have underscored their relationship as comrades serving the revolution in different capacities.

Even now, Ka Errel is already preparing to join the NPA when the right time comes. ■

PATRIOTIC YOUTH

Serve the people, set ablaze the fire and daringness of the Kabataang Makabayan



By Jorge Madlos, Spokesperson, NDFP-Mindanao

With great joy, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines - Mindanao congratulates all leading cadres and members of the Kabataang Makabayan (KM, Patriotic Youth) who, upon its 48th founding anniversary today, have vowed to carry forward the blazing torch of the militant and revolutionary youth movement in the Philippines towards the victory of the people's war. With great pride, we salute all members of the KM who, since the dark days of the Marcos dictatorship, have heroically offered their lives for the revolution, as well as to all those who persevere until now.

Like a spark that began a prairie fire, KM's inception in the 1960s led to the rise of the militant youth and students' movement that took upon itself the task of reinvestigating Philippine society and openly oppose the ills of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism.

When Martial Law was declared and KM pronounced illegal, most members of KM opted to struggle beyond the boundaries of the legal arena, and took to the mountains to plant the seed of armed revolutionary struggle. Armed only with the ideology and zeal of the re-established Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP-MLM), they set the revolutionary fire anew, but this time in the countryside across the archipelago, organizing among poor peasants in order to build the proletarian army and establish Red bases.

KM activists did not lose sight of the vision to carry forward Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan's revolution. They kept this in their hearts and minds, and practiced it by arousing and organizing the people on how to wage their war, even to the point of laying down their own lives so that the revolution may advance.

Today, the KM continues to organize among the cross-section of the Filipino youth, which accounts for almost half of country's populace. The country's youth and students are one of the most oppressed and exploited sectors, submerged

under the most heinous of social conditions, which are further heightened by the rapacity of imperialism and of the local ruling classes and its reactionary state.

The Aquino government brags that it has allocated 2.8% for education in the 2013 budget. In truth, there is nothing to crow about because, apart from being far lower than the UN allowable minimum of 6%, Aquino is only making sure that its highly pro-monopoly capitalist schema for education, such as the K-12 program and the privatization of state colleges and universities (SCUs), remain unhampered.

The K-12 is excruciatingly burdensome to teachers, students and the people. Not only does it pose additional expenses, but the new curricula only satisfy the need of foreign monopoly capitalists for the continued generation of cheap, docile and skilled Filipino laborers with the end in view of acquiring superprofit. While the approved Php 37 Billion allocation for SCUs for 2013 is nothing but Aquino's feeble attempt to trick students and parents into believing the government "cares" for the Filipino youth. Unfortunately, Aquino does not care for the youth nor for education because the hefty budget is no more than a pumped-up "capital outlay" for SCUs to turn "self-reliant," or to begin running as a private business starting next year, and eventually be dependent on private funds. SCUs compete with private colleges and universities in tuition fee hikes and other exorbitant fees, which make the title "Iskolar ng Bayan" (people's scholar) shamefully a thing of the past.

Apart from having poor or no access at all to quality education, the majority peasant youth are exploited and oppressed with ferocity by semi-feudalism in the countryside. They have no land to till and are forced to sell their labor power as agricultural workers in exchange for subhuman wages.

After a few years in primary education, most, if not all, are forced to work at a very young age to help augment their parents' measly income. They also fall victim to the brutal military operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the countryside, and are often rendered helpless in the face of grizzly human rights violations.

Worker youths suffer similarly because they are exposed to inhuman working conditions and receive highly unjust pay. Apart from these inequities, the youth are also forced into prostitution and are victimized by drug and gambling syndicates.

The Moro and Lumad youth in Mindanao are also severely oppressed, not only due to poverty but also because

of their identity as national minorities. The severity of national oppression and chauvinism has intensified, and has blatantly impinged on their right to self-determination. They are under constant attack by security forces of the reactionary state. With regard to the Moro struggle, it frustrates the Moro youth that, despite the recent signing of the Framework on the Bangsamoro between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH), the attainment of genuine self-determination remains elusive. As it is, the AFP has not moved an inch away from Moro areas and remains a grievous threat to the Moro people.

In light of this objective condition, it is therefore incumbent upon the present leaders and members of the Kabataang Makabayan to further arouse, organize and mobilize the Filipino youth by the hundreds of thousands in order to advance the people's national-democratic revolution. The KM must help extricate the Filipino youth from docility and aim for the all-round resurgence of militancy, as was felt during the First Quarter Storm.

It should be creative in its methods and, if necessary, use all available popular avenues to reach out to a greater number of youth and students, including the internet, social networking, texting and other forms of technological advancement. Bring back the fire and daringness of the KM, enliven the unrelenting spirit – the true spirit of serving the people! Strive to emulate the indefatigable fervor and bravery shown by the initiators of KM in spreading the essence of the

national-democratic struggle among the youth in particular and the people in general. Why be content with a handful few, when you have the power to mobilize the youth in their millions against the basic problems of Philippine society?

With your deep grasp of the objective condition, it is within your power to make them understand the necessity to rise up and serve the people. With this, we challenge KM leaders and members to answer the call of the people's war for more cadres and political officers and instructors in the New People's Army. As we brace to meet the requirement of the people's war, you are ever more needed to serve the people through your Red army!

Long live the Kabataang Makabayan!
Long live the Filipino Youth!



Rural population reaps economic and political gains from agrarian revolution

page 1

By Roselle Valerio

The revolutionary organizations have been stepping up their efforts in advancing the anti-feudal struggle in the countryside, in accordance with the call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) to advance the people's war to the next stage of the strategic stalemate. Cadres of the CPP, New People's Army, and the peasant associations conducted social investigation in their areas of responsibility in order to determine the concrete conditions of the peasant masses. They then drafted the appropriate campaign plans on how to advance land reform struggles on ever broader scales from the village, to inter-village, and upwards to the town level.

Reporting on the pace of agrarian reform in Eastern Visayas, in central Philippines, *Ang Bayan* (The People), CPP's official publication, says that peasant families were able to benefit from the reduction of land rent in coconut and abaca plantations, reduction of the interests on loans, increase in the selling price of palay (unhusked rice), abolition of cheating in weighing scales, and reduction in the prices of consumer goods. The report says that up to 2,391 families in 32 villages benefited economically from these anti-feudal campaigns.

Land rent in coconut lands, for example, was reduced from 50% of the net income from production, to a range of 40-33%. In abaca plantations, the anti-feudal campaigns reduced the land rent from 33.3% to 25%. This means an increase of 8-17% in the peasants' income from coconut and abaca production.

Ang Bayan reports that in two villages, the peasants even won the right to postpone the payment of rent on a 20-hectare landholding. This campaign directly benefited some 20 families. In another guerrilla front, richer peasants and a number of petty bourgeois families voluntarily extended financial and material assistance to plantation workers, in recognition of the value of the peasants' labor. In yet another area, farm workers achieved better job security after demanding that any decision to evict them from the land should first go through a review by the revolutionary peasant association.

Exorbitant interests on loans contracted by the poor peasants were also reduced. In one guerrilla front, *Ang Bayan* reports that negotiations between the peasant associations and usurers were successful in reducing the interest rates from 20% monthly (140% per year) to 10% per quarter, and even to 20% per year.

In another guerrilla front, the campaign succeeded in pegging the price of a sack of palay at PhP600.00 (a sack of palay is equivalent to 75 liters dry measure, PhP600 is cur-



rently US\$14.60). Additionally, payment for palay loans was reduced from 100% to only three liters dry measure for every sack of palay.

It was also reported that farm workers of almost all categories won from 25 up to 50% increases in their wages.

Ang Bayan reports that the anti-feudal campaigns in Eastern Visayas were led by the peasant association Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM, National Peasants League) in one guerrilla front, while a special "Task Force Agreb" was formed by the regional leadership of the CPP to lead the campaigns in two other guerrilla fronts.

The campaigns first started in the middle of 2011 in one village, and expanded wave upon wave to adjoining villages. Peasant leaders conducted negotiations with a total of 41 landlords, 47 merchant-usurers, and two big businessmen in the course of over twelve months.

The peasants asserted recognition for their associations and laid down their just demands. At the end of every negotiation, village assemblies were held to inform their members of the results and in order to achieve firmer unity on the course of the campaigns.

Other mass organizations were also formed to support the anti-feudal campaigns. A sustained propaganda-education campaign, assemblies and conferences of mass organizations were conducted to strengthen the unity of the people on the goals of the campaigns.

Of equal importance to the economic gains achieved in the anti-feudal campaigns were the political advances attained among the peasantry. In the areas of Eastern Visayas where the anti-feudal struggles gained victories, membership in the peasant associations increased by 45%, that of the women's associations increased by 48%, and that of the youth association by 39%.

All Party branches reported an average increase of 17%. The number of Red fighters of the New People's Army also increased by more than 50%.

The economic victories strengthened the democratic power of the peasant masses. These victories also demonstrated the superiority of the new social system being built within the territories of the people's democratic government. ■

NDFP sets up Special Office for the Protection of Children



By Ed Ladera

In a major step to build the structures of the people's democratic government, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) announced on October 2 the setting up of a Special Office for the Protection of Children, and named Coni K. Ledesma to head the office.

The announcement was made by Ledesma herself in a speech she delivered before the National Conference on Children's Rights held on 2 October at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

The Special Office, according to Ledesma (photo), was defined in the provisions of the NDFP Program of Action for the Rights, Protection and Welfare of Children, which was approved by the NDFP National Council on April 24, 2012.

Aside from Ledesma, the Special Office is composed of Margarita Ocampo, Nancy de Guia, and Sandra Vidal as members. A fifth member will be named shortly, according to Le-

desma. It is directly under the NDFP Human Rights Committee headed by Fidel V. Agcaoili.

The tasks and functions of the Special Office are:

Oversee the implementation by all NDFP organizations and instrumentalities of this Program of Action and the conformity of all actions taken by the New People's Army and all allied organizations of the NDFP.

Report widely the achievements of the aforementioned forces in upholding the rights of the children, protecting them and promoting their welfare.

Receive complaints about violations of children's rights and refer the complaints to the organs concerned for the appropriate action.

Assist all allied organizations and instrumentalities of the NDFP with advice on all matters related to the protection of children in the armed conflict.

Organize educational programs within all allied organizations of the NDFP on children's rights and encourage the formation of child protection units under the auspices of the organs of political power and mass or-

ganizations, especially of children, youth and women.

Establish and maintain contacts and relations with all relevant international bodies and non-government organizations.

Issue an annual report on the situation of children in the Philippines in relation to the armed conflict, and on the activities to uphold, defend and promote the rights of children.

"The Special Office has been set up," Ledesma said, "slightly before the six months deadline stipulated by the Declaration. We have already begun our work, and we hope that after a year's time, we will issue our first yearly report on the situation of children in the Philippines." ■



LUIS JALANDONI:

Framework Agreement biased against the Moro people

Interview with Luis G. Jalandoni by Alexander Lopez, Davao Today

By Alexander Lopez

Luis G. Jalandoni is the Chief International Representative of the NDFP and the Chairperson of the NDFP Negotiating Panel holding peace talks with the government of the Republic of the Philippines

1. What is your opinion regarding the newly forged framework agreement?

Luis Jalandoni (LJ): It is a result of the persistent major striving of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to attain the Moro people's right to national self-determination. However, there are still major points to be negotiated, namely Power Sharing, Wealth Sharing, Transitional Arrangements and Modalities, and Normalization. These have to be negotiated in detail and put down in four annexes which will form part of the Framework Agreement.



The current draft contains certain dangers. There is a lot of dependence on the executive and legislative branches of the government of the Republic of the Philippines (also known as GPH or government of the Philippines). For example, “the draft Bangsa Moro Basic Law submitted by the Transition Commission shall be certified as an urgent bill by the President.” Furthermore, “There shall be

created a Transition Commission through an Executive Order and supported by Congressional Resolutions.”

While there is no express requirement of adhering to GPH Constitutional and Legal Processes (as in the Tripoli Agreement of 1976) there are, in essence, such requirements, and GPH Panel Head Prof. Marvic Leonen has declared that everything in the Framework Agreement must be in accord with the GPH Constitution and legal processes.

A major point is also the stress on “decommissioning”. In no. 5 under Normalization, “The MILF shall undertake a graduated program for decommissioning of its forces so that they are put beyond use.”

In no. 7 of the same section, “...until the full decommissioning of the MILF forces.” and under no. 9 of the same section, “The details of the normalization process and timetables for decommissioning shall be in an



Annex on Normalization and shall form part of this Agreement.”

Even financially, it is the GPH that plays the key role. In VII Transition and Implementation, no. 6 states: “The GPH shall allocate funds and provide other resources for its (Transition Commission) effective operation.”

2. Some sectors say it is still a framework. Do you think vital issues that affect the lives of ordinary Moro will be included in the framework?

LJ: Most certainly, the issue regarding revenue and wealth sharing has still to be negotiated in detail. The statement, “The Bangsamoro shall have a just and equitable share in the revenues generated through the exploration, development or utilization of natural resources obtaining in all the areas/territories, land or water, covered by and within the jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro, in accordance with the formula agreed upon by the Parties.” is still very general.

The issue of ancestral domain and the concessions given to multinationals will affect the lives of the Moro people and the Lumad communities, and other parts of the population in Mindanao. The issue of foreign mining corporations destroying the livelihood of the people and the environment will affect the ordinary Moro and others in Mindanao.

3. Would there be a new perspective in governing the Bangsamoro homeland under the proposed Bangsamoro that will replace the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)?

LJ: It remains to be seen how the Bangsamoro, the new autonomous political entity, will be formed. The



present GPH-MILF Framework Agreement to be signed next week (on 15 October – ed.) is heavily tilted towards the Aquino government, and lessens the independence and autonomy of the Bangsamoro.

4. What is your reading on the posture of the Aquino regime regarding the forged framework? Some sectors say this will be used in Mindanao to gather more votes for liberal candidates.

LJ: The Aquino regime is blowing this out of proportion and making big propaganda for itself to cover up the basic problems of the Filipino people, such as the series of oil price hikes, soaring prices of basic commodities, demolitions of urban poor communities, lack of genuine land reform and national industrialization, and violation of national sovereignty in allowing US military intervention in the country.

He also hopes to use the targeted signing of the definitive Framework Agreement with the four annexes by the end of this year to benefit his candidates in the next elections.

5. Charter change is another thing. House Speaker Belmonte

said Constitutional amendment is needed to materialize Bangsamoro.

LJ: That is a clear requirement, which makes the Bangsamoro (the new autonomous political entity) dependent on the Constitutional and legal processes (including a plebiscite) of the GPH.

Amending the Constitution will also be used to take away remaining provisions protecting our national patrimony, and open the way for full foreign ownership of lands, mineral resources, utilities and services.

6. How will the forged framework affect the NDFP-GPH peace negotiations?

LJ: The propaganda of the Aquino government on the signing of this Framework Agreement next week (on 15 October) is to pressure the NDFP to agree on a

ceasefire, and resume formal GPH-NDFP peace negotiations, without the Aquino government complying with basic binding bilateral agreements, such as the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

The JASIG requires the Aquino government to release 13 NDFP Consultants held in GRP/GPH prisons.

The CARHRIHL requires the release of political prisoners who have been charged, detained or convicted for common crimes in violation of the Hernandez political offense doctrine. There are some 385 political prisoners, 107 of them arrested and detained under the current Aquino regime.

But as stated above, it remains to be seen what will happen in the coming period of admittedly tough and challenging negotiations on the details of the current draft framework agreement. ■

REVOLUTIONARY LAWYER

NDFP mourns the passing away of Atty. Romeo T. Capulong

The entire National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) deeply mourns the passing away of Atty. Romeo T. Capulong, its Chief Legal Counsel and champion of the exploited and oppressed. The leadership of the NDFP, all its allied organizations, and the NDFP Negotiating Panel, its consultants and staff, express our deepest gratitude for the invaluable service he rendered through so many years, in the peace negotiations and other fields of the people's struggles.

We express our sincerest condolences to his life partner Sofia Culanay; former wife Adoracion Cajucom; children Alexander Romeo and Sony, Eduardo Romeo and Rebecca, and Roma Pia and Richard; and grandchildren Adam, Leslie Eden, Gabrielle, Renzo Romeo, Elijah, Isabelle, Sean Romeo and Sebastian.

Romy, as he was called by his friends and colleagues, was the NDFP Chief Legal Counsel par excellence. In the peace negotiations, he played a key role in the formulation and negotiation of The Hague Joint Declaration, The Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), The Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and other bilateral agreements. He made full use of his legal expertise and persuasive powers to bring about consensus even on the most difficult points. Every document in the GRP/GPH-NDFP peace negotiations was checked and reviewed by him.

He was already a legal counsel to the NDFP peace negotiators in 1986-1987. In 1989, he accompanied several peace advocates to the Netherlands. In 1990, he came with Congressman Jose V. Yap for extensive discussions on peace negotiations.

From 1992 until 2008, despite his heavy schedule of defending political prisoners, peasants, workers and others subjected to political repression, he came to assist in peace negotiations. All 12 bilateral agreements from 1992 to 2004 were forged with the invaluable help of his legal expertise and firm stand for the revolutionary movement.

In January 2000, Romy formulated the Updated NDFP Position on the Issue of Prisoners of War and the GRP-NDFP Peace Negotiations, in which the NDFP "respects and ac-



ords its POWs their right to fair trial before a duly constituted people's tribunal or court martial and all the guarantees of due process."

On 15 March 2004 he wrote the important paper, "The Meaning, Scope and Implications of the Oslo Joint Statement on the "Terrorist" Listing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People's Army (NPA) and the Chief Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)". This was adopted in toto by the NDFP Negotiating Panel as its position and presented to the GRP Negotiating Panel at the formal talks in Oslo on 30 March 2004.

Even after then President Gloria Arroyo suspended formal talks in July 2005, Romy came for informal talks in

Oslo in August 2005. He also joined informal talks in May 2008. Thereafter, he remained very active in efforts to move the GRP/GPH peace negotiations forward. As late as April 2012, even when he was already quite ill, he still said he "would be on board" in working for the releases of NDFP Consultants, Alan Jazmines, Tirso Alcantara and other consultants and JASIG-protected personnel.

In addition to all the work he did for the NDFP Negotiating Panel and for Prof. Jose Maria Sison, the NDFP Chief Political Consultant, Romy was

the champion of so many exploited and oppressed people. He took on the cases of political prisoners, unjustly charged, detained or convicted of common crimes in violation of the Hernandez political offense doctrine. He championed the cause of the 10,000 peasants in Hacienda Looc. He integrated with them, stood up with them before the threats of those who wanted to drive them away from

their land. So loved was he by the people of Hacienda Looc, they lovingly referred to him as "Hulog ng Langit".

He joined the farmers and workers of Hacienda Luisita in their struggle for their land. His firm stand brought upon him the ire of the military, which perpetrated the massacre of November 2004. The threats of the military did not stop him from militantly fighting for the workers' and farmers' rights, even after the assassination of Bishop Alberto Ramento, Councilor Abel Ladera, Fr. Tadena and several labor leaders.

Internationally, Romy's legal expertise was also widely recognized. He was elected by the United Nations General Assembly as a UN Judge ad litem in the UN International Tribu-

nal on Former Yugoslavia. Among the 24 international judges elected, he had the third highest number of votes. He also served as one of the lawyers in the international team that defended Prof. Sison in the European Court starting in April 2003 until their victory in September 2009. The international team consisted of Romy and very able lawyers from Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Threats to his life and several assassination attempts did not stop him from fighting for the rights of the exploited and oppressed. He took practical and effective steps as precautionary measures but he was resolute in his decision to persevere in his work for the people.

While we are deeply saddened by Romy's passing away, we know his

spirit and inspiration will live on in the hearts of the people he served.

Mabuhay si Atty. Romeo T. Capulong, abogado ng bayan, bayani ng sambayanan! ■

**National Council
National Democratic Front of
the Philippines
September 17, 2012**

STATE TERRORISM

CPP condemns Israeli air strikes in Gaza

**By the Communist Party
of the Philippines**

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) joins the peoples of the world in condemning in the strongest possible terms the Israeli government's indiscriminate aerial bombing of heavily-populated Palestinian communities in Gaza. This despicable crime of the Israeli Zionists against humanity has wrought unprecedented destruction. Israeli airstrikes have ravaged homes, university buildings, refugee camps and other civilian structures and killed close to 400 Palestinians, many of them children, women and the elderly. The Israeli government is blinded by its Zionist expansionist policy of refusing to concede Palestinian independence, maintaining a policy of continuous war against Palestine and seeking to wipe out the Palestinian nation. In expressing support to the Israeli bombardment of Gaza, the US imperialists have made themselves equally responsible for their puppet Israeli regime's brutal crimes against humanity. The US is Israel's foremost criminal instigator and No. 1 supplier of arms in exchange for serving as the extension of US hegemonism and terrorism in the Middle East. The Palestinian people are fully justified in waging armed resistance to defend their territory and their right to self-determination against the subjugation, fascism and genocide being



An anti-Israeli protest in Manila

inflicted on their country by the Israeli Zionists. They have won big and small victories in the past through armed struggle in conjunction with international diplomacy, political work and mass actions.

It is hypocritical for the United Nations leadership as well as pro-US, pro-Israeli and some other governments to condemn Palestine's Hamas and Israel on equal terms. The Israeli bombing spree is clearly the most indiscriminate and brutal ever launched by Israel in past decades in its genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people. Even as defensive acts of ground rocket-firing by Hamas forces targeting Israeli centers may also be violative of international rules of war, they are not at par with the criminal and genocidal Israeli aerial strikes. The CPP urges the peoples of the world to unite in condemning the Is-

raeli Zionist regime and demanding a stop to its criminal air strikes. The revolutionary movement in the Philippines extends its hands of solidarity to the Palestinian people and urges them to rise up in unity against Israel's brutal crimes against humanity in Palestine.

The Philippine revolutionary forces also call on the Israeli people to act in solidarity with the Palestinian people and to overthrow the Zionist Israeli government that has been perpetrating the policy of subjugating, attacking and eliminating Palestine. Peace can only be achieved in Gaza and between Palestine and Israel by putting an end to the Israeli government's Zionist policy and giving way to full Palestinian independence and to peaceful co-existence, mutual respect and solidarity between the Israeli and Palestinian people. ■

AFGHAN STRUGGLE

Afghanistan support group holds first meeting in the Netherlands

By Roselle Valerio

The newly-formed Solidarity Committee for the People of Afghanistan held a successful first meeting on 21 October in Utrecht, The Netherlands, attended by activ-

ists and sympathizers from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tamil, and Turkey.

Leading the meeting were activists Zafar Nader of Afghanistan and Anne Verzijl of the Netherlands.

The meeting highlighted the continuing horror of war, disorder and turmoil in Afghanistan under the aegis of the NATO occupying forces. Innocent people perish everyday through bombardments by bomber planes and jet fighters, and in these days, by drones, carried out by remote control.

It was pointed out that only through the deep-rooted patriotism of the Afghan people, their most determined and heroic resistance, together with the solidarity of peace-loving people worldwide, has led to the announcement that US and NATO

armed forces intend to withdraw by the end of 2014.

Invited to speak in the meeting was Prof. Jose Maria Sison, founding Chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines and currently Chairperson of the anti-imperialist International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS).

In his speech, Prof. Sison declared his solidarity with the people of Afghanistan "in their revolutionary struggle for national liberation and democracy against US imperialism, the NATO, and the reactionary puppets represented by Karzai and other warlords."

He declared, "The people of Afghanistan are victims of imperialist powers which covet and seek to dominate Afghanistan as a source of cheap labor and raw materials, as a market for industrial manufactures, as a field of superprofit-yielding investments and as a strategic area for economic, political and military control over Central Asia and the adjoining regions."

"We commiserate with the people of Afghanistan over their long suffering from the scourge of imperialism,

assisted by the worst reactionaries as puppets. Afghanistan has been turned into a war front by rival imperialist powers since 1979, resulting in the death of more than three million people and the devastation of the lives and homes of the people, their economy and social infrastructure."

Prof. Sison stated that, "the people of Afghanistan can achieve national and social liberation only by having a revolutionary party of the proletariat, a people's army and a broad united front of anti-imperialist and democratic forces. While they take their destiny into their own hands, the people of Afghanistan need the support of the world proletariat and people against imperialism, their common enemy."

The participants had ample opportunity during the meeting to exchange information about the situation in Afghanistan, as well as express their continuing commitment to support the struggle of the people of Afghanistan. The Committee would be meeting again soon to plan for future activities. ■



Professor Sison (photo, center): "The people of Afghanistan are victims of imperialist powers which covet and seek to dominate Afghanistan as a source of cheap labor and raw materials, as a market for industrial manufactures, as a field of superprofit-yielding investments and as a strategic area for economic, political and military control over Central Asia and the adjoining regions."

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

NDFP joins 16th seminar on the problems of the revolution in Latin America

By Bagani Dong-Ilay

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) participated in the 16th edition of the International Seminar on the Problems of the Revolution in Latin America with the Theme “Populist Caudillismo and the Revolutionary Struggle in Latin America”, held on 16-20 July 2012 in Quito, Ecuador. The Seminar was organized by the Communist Party of Ecuador Marxist-Leninist (PCMLE).

Among the foreign parties that sent representatives to the seminar were the Communist Party of Peru Marxist-Leninist, Frente Popular Revolucionario, Partido Comunista de Mexico Marxista-Leninista, Communist Party of Venezuela Marxist-Leninist, Revolutionary Communist Party of Brazil (PCR Brazil), Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany (MLPD), Coordinadora Caribeña y Latinoamericana of Puerto Rico, Communist Party of Palestine, Communist Party Bolshevik of the Soviet Union, Revolutionary Communist Party of Argentina (PCRA), Colombian Communist Party, and the Communist Workers Party of the Dominican Republic.

In its contribution to the seminar, the NDFP through its Chief International Representative

Luis G. Jalandoni, pointed to the populist rhetoric being used by Manila President Benigno Aquino III to cover up his anti-people and pro-imperialist policies.

Jalandoni said: “Assuming office on 30 June 2010, he declared that the ordinary people would be his 'bosses'. He proclaimed that he would take 'the righteous path' and prosecute former President Gloria Arroyo and other human rights violators for perpetrating more than a thousand extrajudicial killings and two hundred enforced disappearances, and the displacement of over a million internal refugees. He promised that he would undertake reforms for the benefit of the workers, peasants and the rest of the people. He declared that his new counterinsurgency plan, Oplan Bayanihan (Operation Plan Cooperation) would win the peace through peace and development operations.

“All these, after two years in office, have turned out to be purely empty promises.

“Since 1 July 2010 there have been 79 extrajudicial killings of unarmed social activists such as anti-mining indigenous leaders, workers, peasants, urban poor, youth and students, women and teachers. He has favored huge open pit mining projects of foreign corporations and their local cohorts. These projects are displacing the indigenous peoples and devastating the environment. Aquino's government has allowed repeated oil price increases by the giant oil corporations, thus causing the spiraling of the prices of food, transportation, water, and other basic commodities and



services. All these have worsened the already widespread hunger and poverty.”

Jalandoni went on to say that “the intolerable exploitation and oppression under the Aquino regime is driving the masses to increased organized and militant resistance.”

He cited the growing gains of the revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines in advancing the armed struggle, in building the organs of political power and carrying out programs of land reform, literacy, health and other social and economic projects that benefit the people.

Addressing all the foreign and local participants, he said: “Comrades! We are carrying out similar revolutionary struggles. We fight against the same enemy, US imperialism and the local reactionaries subservient to it. We defend the rights of the workers, peasants, urban poor, youth and students, teachers, women and other oppressed sectors. We uphold and defend the rights of indigenous peoples against destructive open pit mining by foreign corporations. We strive for genuine freedom, national independence, and democracy for our countries. Let us build strong solidarity ties among us, so that we can achieve victory and build socialism.” ■



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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