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Editorial

Take advantage of the disarray and widespread demoralization in the AFP



It is imperative for the revolutionary movement to take advantage of the intensifying and expanding disarray and demoralization within the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) due to the successive losses suffered by its soldiers this past month.

In Basilan and Sulu, AFP units are suffering major losses in the hands of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro people. Elsewhere in the country, the New People's Army (NPA) has likewise been inflicting heavy casualties on the AFP.

The rank and file and junior officers of the AFP are indignant at how their high command has been using them as cannon fodder in the Arroyo regime's all-out war. They are doubly disgusted at the fact that the AFP is led by corrupt officials who line their pockets at the expense of the lives and welfare of foot soldiers.

The AFP's successive losses were bound to happen and are bound to worsen in the course of the unjust, fascist war being carried out by the Arroyo regime and the AFP against the Bangsamoro and the rest of the Filipino people. More than a testimony to the skill and superior tactics of the guerrilla forces and their mastery of the terrain in their armed revolutionary resistance, their successive, consistent victories show the validity, justness and broad mass support enjoyed by their wars for self-determination and social liberation.

The ongoing all-out offensive operations of the AFP in Basilan and Sulu are being directed not so much against the minuscule Abu Sayyaf bandit group, as the regime and its military would have the public believe, but actually against the MILF and the MNLF. Despite the ongoing peace process between the reactionary government and the MILF and MNLF, the US-Arroyo regime is carrying out attacks against the Bangsamoro to weaken their resolve in the struggle for self-determination and assertion of their ancestral domain, sabotage the peace talks and peace agreement and force the revolutionary Moro forces to capitulate. The regime wishes to take away the victories of the Bangsamoro which they have won through several decades of revolutionary armed struggle.

More and more soldiers and their families as well as the invaded Moro communities are acutely aware of the fact that the operations being carried out by the AFP in Basilan and Sulu are jeopardizing standing peace agreements with the Moro revolutionary forces and leading to the exacerbation of an all-out war against the Bangsamoro. More and more soldiers and their families, progressive and democratic forces, human rights proponents, peace advocates, civic and church sectors are one in demanding that the Arroyo regime revoke its all-out offensive against the MILF and MNLF.

The Arroyo regime remains adamant in carrying out its all-out offensive against the Moro people despite the major defeats its armed forces have suffered and the massive dislocation and hardships its war has caused to tens of thousands of families in Basilan and Sulu. Even as it goes through the motions of maintaining interest in the peace talks, it refuses to heed the clamor to actually put an end to the offensive, and has even deployed more than 5,000 additional troops to Basilan and Sulu.

In the face of the Arroyo regime's vile treachery and all-out belligerence, there is no other recourse for the Moro revolutionary forces but to strengthen their resolve and intensify their revolutionary armed resistance against the Arroyo regime. Even as they seek to salvage the peace negotiations that have been violated no end and preserve the gains they earned in the peace process, they must hold fast to their weapons in order to effectively carry out both defensive and offensive actions and repel the fascist onslaughts of the terrorist regime and its armed forces.

The revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) express full support to the armed resistance of the Moro revolutionary forces of both the MILF and MNLF.

The CPP has issued instructions to all units of the New People's Army in Mindanao and across the country to launch tactical offensives to take advantage of the current disarray within the AFP and to cooperate with and extend support to the Moro people's armed resistance.

The deployment of thousands of troops from other regions to Basilan and Jolo leaves other Philippine Army units more thinly spread in NPA areas. The NPA can take advantage of this and launch tactical offensives against the weakened and isolated units of the AFP.

Tactical offensives must be carried out vigorously in all parts of the country in order to cause greater disarray within the AFP, further weaken and isolate the rotten, brutal, puppet regime,

strengthen the people's army and revolutionary forces, and advance the people's war to a new and higher level.

In areas where operations of the NPA, MNLF and MILF share common areas, the revolutionary forces may carry out parallel or joint offensive operations against the AFP. It is important for the various revolutionary forces to unite, mutually support and assist each other to thoroughly resist and defeat the all-out offensive of the terrorist Arroyo regime.

At the same time, the CPP directs the NPA and all revolutionary forces under its leadership to take advantage of the heightened and widespread disarray and disenchantment within the AFP by intensifying organizing efforts among the rank and file and junior officers of the AFP. They are increasingly disgruntled with the leadership of the AFP and the Arroyo regime for their rottenness, corruption, brutality and puppetry.

The rank and file and junior officers of the AFP have become all the more disgusted with the Arroyo regime and its top generals in the face of the reckless and all-out offensive being carried out presently in Basilan and Sulu and the extrajudicial killings, abductions, torture, forced evacuations, food blockades and other inhuman and criminal acts of the AFP carried out in line with the Arroyo regime's Oplan Bantay Laya 2.

The revolutionary forces must directly and indirectly reach out to the rank and file and junior officers of the armed forces where they can to enlighten them on the basic problems of the Filipino people, encourage them to take a stand against the Arroyo regime and win them over to the side of the people's resistance and help the revolutionary cause. AB

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