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Editorial

Seize the initiative in the impending political crisis

An eruption of the crisis of the ruling political system is in the offing. Gloria Arroyo's plan to commit fraud and derail the coming elections will further inflame the people's outrage and the contradictions among rival reactionary factions. In the face of the widespread and deepgoing disarray among the reactionaries, the people and the revolutionary forces must seize the political initiative and further advance the Philippine revolution.

Indications abound that the current efforts of Arroyo and her gang are centered on effecting the failure of the "automated" elections as it is difficult to make her cellar-dwelling presidential bet win. Malacañang officials themselves warned of a 30% possibility of the failure of the computerized counting of votes. Wherever this happens, they say the COMELEC can shift to manual counting.

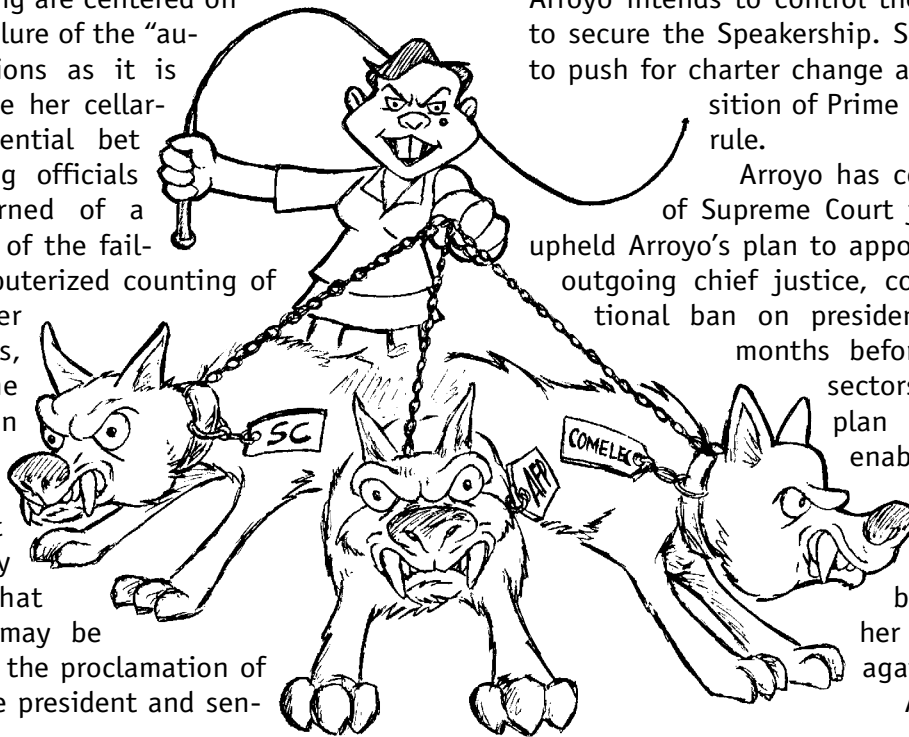
But what worries many observers is that the confusion may be used to prevent the proclamation of a president, vice president and sen-

ators up to June 30, whereby Arroyo will certainly assert the extension of her rule as a "transition president."

Arroyo is channeling more attention and resources to the congressional elections, her own congressional campaign in Pampanga, and her maneuvers after the polls. She has abandoned and deprived of campaign funds her party's candidates for national and local positions, causing widespread discontent within, and defections from, the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party. Arroyo intends to control the new Congress in order to secure the Speakership. She will use the position to push for charter change and later assume the position of Prime Minister and prolong her rule.

Arroyo has control over the majority of Supreme Court justices. The court thus upheld Arroyo's plan to appoint the successor of the outgoing chief justice, contrary to the constitutional ban on presidential appointments two months before an election. Various sectors are against Arroyo's plan because it would only enable her to further use the Supreme Court to obtain "legal" approval for her maneuvers and block moves to prosecute her for her grave crimes against the people.

Arroyo's actual moves



This issue's highlights...

Farmers from Hacienda Luisita protest PAGE 4

Agrarian revolution advances PAGE 6

India's Operation Green Hunt PAGE 8

will unfold starting election day. Whatever course they take, they will further inflame the people's anger and intensify the opposition of her reactionary rivals. For this reason, Arroyo has prepared the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) by systematically placing her trusted officials at the top as well as in its key commands. When the need arises, Arroyo can mobilize them to support her maneuvers and quell resistance.

This early, the AFP is already threatening to declare martial law in "election hot spots". But the AFP is currently so mired in an unprecedentedly bitter and deepgoing discontent and rebellion among its rank and file and junior officers that can only be worsened by any attempt to use the AFP to prolong Arroyo's rule.

US imperialism, as well as big compradors and businessmen in the Philippines are extremely worried about Arroyo's desperate measures. They know that such measures will only cause more disorder and further destabilize the puppet regime beyond Arroyo's control. Credible elections are now more important for the US than ex-

tending Arroyo's rule. Despite assurances from the Arroyo clique that it will not derail the elections, US imperialism is prepared to intervene to ensure the stability of the neocolonial system and secure its strategic interests in the country.

Arroyo's maneuvers will ignite the people's anger and resistance. Even now, different parties, progressive movements, religious organizations and the people are expressing their readiness to take to the streets in order to thwart the schemes of the Arroyo clique.

It is crucial for the people to ensure that the hated US-Arroyo regime is put to an end and punished for its corruption, brutality and treason. The revolutionary and democratic forces are firm in this position as they confront the different schemes and maneuvers of the ruling clique.

They must seize the political initiative in order to muster the people's strength, frustrate the schemes of the Arroyo clique and advance their democratic power and the people's interests.

They must swiftly arouse the people, expand and strengthen the mass organizations and prepare

them for necessary mobilizations amidst the volatile situation. They must build the broadest possible united front to gather the strength of all anti-Arroyo forces. They must quickly seize on the possibility of the situation leading to widespread uprisings, especially against Gloria Arroyo's brazen attempts to stay in power beyond June 30.

The revolutionary forces must take advantage of the extensive disarray of the reactionary political system in order to further advance people's war nationwide. Mobilize the revolutionary mass organizations in the countryside to advance agrarian struggle and other mass movements, actively cover new areas and expand our scope, and conscientiously strengthen Red political power.

Expand and strengthen the revolutionary forces, the democratic movement and the protest movement in the cities and town centers. Seize upon this opportunity to invigorate and further advance the revolutionary movement on a wide scale.

In the military field, the New People's Army (NPA) must avail of the extraordinary situation and seize the initiative in launching tactical offensives nationwide, including heavy blows on the worst elements among the enemy, especially as disorder spreads in the days and weeks after May 10.

The volatile situation can further widen the rifts within the AFP if it confronts numerous NPA tactical offensives. On the one hand, the NPA's tactical offensives will tie it up, weakening its capacity to suppress the massive protest actions of the people. On the other hand, its preoccupation with supporting Arroyo's maneuvers and confronting the counter-maneuvers of her reactionary rivals will free up areas in the countryside for the wave of NPA tactical offensives. **AB**

	
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<h2>Contents</h2>	
Editorial	
Seize the initiative in the impending crisis	1
Protest of farmers from Hda. Luisita	3
NPA enforces strict rules	3
TOs in Mindanao	4
Agrarian revolution advances	5
Morong 43 launch hunger strike	7
On the Ampatuan case	7
Developments overseas	
Operation Green Hunt in India	8
ILPS news	9
European workers go on strike	9
News	11
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Peasants from Hacienda Luisita wage protest action

From April 19 to 24, Hacienda Luisita peasants will march from Tarlac to the National Capital Region to demand the immediate and unconditional distribution of the hacienda lands. They are also demanding justice for the 17 victims of the 2004 massacre and others who were killed in the course of the hacienda peasants' struggle these past years. It is important to recall this injustice as Benigno "Noy" Aquino III seeks the presidency this year. The march is among several activities agreed upon by the peasants and their supporters at the Hacienda Luisita Summit held on April 10-11.

In a statement of solidarity, Jose Maria Sison hailed the perseverance and determination of the peasants. He said it has come to his knowledge that a big portion of Aquino's campaign funds comes from big comprador-landlords and from US and other foreign enterprises. Sison said that if elected, Aquino would use his position to completely deprive the peasants of the land. This early, he is downplaying the peasant struggle in the hacienda. His sisters and his men themselves approve of the plan to convert and reclassify the hacienda lands which would render useless the hacienda shares of stock supposedly owned by the farmworkers.

Thus, Sison urged the farmworkers and the entire people to expose and oppose the deception, violence and corruption of Noy Aquino and his family in frustrating land reform and continuing treacherously to usurp and control Hacienda Luisita.

On April 14, peasants from the Hacienda Luisita trooped to the residence of Noy Aquino and the Aquino family in Quezon City to demand justice for the victims of the hacienda massacre and denounce the continuing exploitation and oppression of farmers and farmworkers and the exclusion of the hacienda from land reform. They assailed Noy's false promise that if he gets elected, he would distribute the hacienda in 2014 after settling its debts.

According to the protesters, this has been denied by Fernando Cojuangco, chief operating officer of Jose Cojuangco & Sons (the holding company that owns Hacienda Luisita), who said that the family has no intentions of relinquishing control of the hacienda and the sugar business based on it.

ANG BAYAN April 21, 2010

NPA strictly enforces campaign rules

The New People's Army (NPA) is strictly enforcing the policies of the People's Democratic Government regarding candidates in the coming May elections and their followers who campaign within guerrilla bases and zones.

Iloilo. A unit under the Jose Percival Estocada Jr. Command (JPEC) of the NPA-Panay Central Front blocked and disarmed the group of Salvador "Badong" Divinagracia campaigning in Barangay Agcalaga, Calinog, Iloilo. Divinagracia was an AFP lieutenant colonel before he retired and joined in reactionary politics.

The guerrillas seized four M16 rifles, two .45 caliber pistols, two 9 mm Berretta pistols and a .38 caliber revolver from Divinagracia, his police bodyguards and criminal elements.

Capiz. NPA Red fighters under the Nonito Aguirre Sr. Command of Panay's Eastern Front intercepted a group of politicians on April 16 between Barangays Manayupit and Quinabunlan in Maayon, Capiz. The NPA unit ordered them to go back and barred them from campaigning in the area without first talking to the local organ of the people's revolutionary government. A .45 caliber pistol was confiscated from one of the politicians.

Davao Oriental. Red fighters under the NPA Wilfredo Zapanta Command in the Southern Mindanao Region (SMR) arrested despotic politician Arfran "Boy" Quiñones in Sitio Kalatagan, Barangay Calapagan, Lupon, Davao Oriental on April 11. Quiñones is facing cases of murder, violence and maintaining a private army.

The guerrillas disarmed Quiñones' party before sending them home. Quiñones was released on humanitarian grounds on April 14.

Davao City. The NPA Armando Dumandan Operations Command arrested and disarmed four members of the anti-communist groups Bantay and Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (ANAD) in Barangay Tibuloy, Toril District, Davao City on April 11. The group was campaigning inside the guerrilla zone without the permission of local revolutionary authorities.

A 9 mm pistol and a .38 caliber revolver were confiscated from the group.

Bantay is led by the fascist general Jovito Palparan while ANAD is led by rabid anti-communist Pastor "Jun" Alcover.

Meanwhile, the NPA's Re-



gional Political Department in SMR denied any involvement in the abduction and killing of two ANAD-Bantay campaigners.

The two were abducted in Calinan District on March 24 and found dead in separate locations more than a week later. The NPA said the heinous crime was the handiwork of Palparan's death squad and was done for the purpose of blaming the NPA.

Surigao del Sur. The NPA arrested and disarmed Tagbina, Surigao del Sur mayoralty candidate Jessie Callano in Sitio Kilayan, Barangay Malixi on April 10. A .45 caliber pistol was seized from his bodyguard. Callano was released after a 30-minute negotiation and lecture.

Surigao del Norte. Two .45 caliber pistols and a KG9 machine pistol were confiscated from Mayor Carlos Egay Sr. and his bodyguards in Barangay Lahi, Gigaquit on April 15. They entered the area without coordinating with local revolutionary authorities, according to Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos of the NDF-Mindanao. The NPA advised the mayor's two police escorts not to join campaign sorties.

Meanwhile, the NPA Sergio Lobina Command in Eastern Samar revealed that Urbano "Pater" Barbo is using the name of the revolutionary movement to extort from candidates. Barbo, a municipal councilor of Balangkayan town, is an agent of the Intelligence Service of the AFP. According to Ka Rubio Mangubat, SLC spokesman, the 8th ID keeps on criticizing the NPA for its supposed collection of "permit to win fees" but the real extortionist is the military agent Barbo and his criminal gang. Barbo's group operates in the towns of Balangiga, Salcedo at Giporlos. He works with Doding Valbuena, who has long been impersonating the NPA for extortion, and a certain "Mappy." AB



Tactical offensives in Mindanao

The armed forces of the US-Arroyo regime suffered heavy blows from units of the New People's Army (NPA) in the second week of April.

Davao del Sur. The NPA ambushed a patrol car of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Sitio Mandawe, Barangay Sibulan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur at around 10 a.m. on April 13. The policemen were ambushed on their way back after replying to reports about an NPA harassment operation. The vehicle was destroyed by explosives detonated by the guerrillas. Wounded in the ambush was P/Insp. Rodrigo Tajos.

Agusan del Norte. Soldiers at the 23rd IB Patrol Base in Barangay Pianing, Butuan City were startled when Red fighters opened fire to harass them at 10:25 a.m. of April 12. The guerrillas withdrew after a five-minute firefight.

North Cotabato. Seven soldiers of the the 57th IB's Bravo Company were wounded in an attack by NPA guerrillas in Barangay Binay, Magpet town at 10:45 a.m. on April 12. The soldiers were en route to the town proper when the guerrillas opened fire on their vehicle.

That same day, an NPA unit destroyed and razed a spray truck owned by the foreign-owned Dole Stanfilco in Barangay Balatucan, Makilala.

Also in Makilala on April 11, guerrillas detonated explosives on a vehicle carrying elements of the Scout Ranger Company based in Barangay Batasan of the same town

Davao City. Five soldiers were killed and an undetermined num-

ber were wounded when they were ambushed by the 1st Pulang Bagani Company (1st PBC) of the NPA Merardo Arce Command on April 11 in Sitio San Isidro, Barangay Lumiad, Paquibato District. The soldiers were on patrol when they were ambushed at around 7:00 a.m.

Two MG-520 helicopters arrived at the scene while the gunbattle was going on, according to Ka Simon Santiago, political director of the NPA Regional Political Department in Southern Mindanao. They were, however, forced to withdraw when guerrilla sniper fire hit one of the helicopters, leaving the dead and wounded soldiers on the site.

The NPA seized an M16 rifle and an M203 grenade launcher and caught a bomb sniffing dog which they later released.

Compostela Valley. Sgt. Marlon Salva of the 72nd IB was killed when he defied an NPA team ordered by the people's court to arrest him in Sitio Sambayanon, Barangay Kamantangan, Montevista on April 10.

Salva was a 72nd IB detachment commander and active intelligence operative of the 3rd Special Forces Battalion of the AFP's Eastern Mindanao Command.

Seized from the sergeant were two .45 caliber pistols and the mission order from the 10th Military Intelligence Battalion signed by Capt. Glenn Loreto T. Caballero of the 103rd MIG-AFP. AB

Agrarian revolution advances alongside armed struggle

Agrarian revolution advanced alongside the armed struggle nationwide even as the Party, the New People's Army (NPA) and the revolutionary forces confronted Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL 1 and 2), the most brutal and longest-running counterrevolutionary campaign to date.

In NEMR. The successful implementation of agrarian revolution has enabled the armed revolutionary forces and the people in the Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) to withstand the relentless attacks of five battalions of the Philippine Army's 10th ID in the past three years. The revolutionary

forces wielded the three components of people's war (building the people's army, building the mass base and carrying out agrarian revolution) and successfully defeated OBL in the region.

The Pulang Diwata Command of the NPA in NEMR reported that the implementation of genuine land re-

form has benefited 43,394 peasant families in 247 barrios of different municipalities within guerrilla fronts. Eighteen thousand fifty-six (18,056) peasant families can now freely farm inside logging concessions that previously deprived them of land to till.

In the course of the antifeudal struggle, rent for land and agricultural implements have been reduced, benefiting 10,998 peasant families. Up to 6,250 families gained from higher prices of copra, abaca, bananas, rattan and falcatta logs. Credit interest rates have also been cut, benefiting 1,321 peasant families.

The revolutionary movement in

Notorious hitman meted death penalty

THE Pulang Limbaong Platoon of the NPA Jose Percival Estocada, Jr. Command in the NPA-Panay's Central Front arrested and imposed the death penalty on Leyne Leysa, 52, a bodyguard of military-officer-turned-politician Salvador "Badong" Divinagracia. He was with a group accosted by the NPA on April 14 for campaigning without coordinating with local revolutionary authorities in Barangay Agcalaga, Calinog, Iloilo.

Leysa was once a hitman of the Regional Special Action Force's Task Force Iron Eagle which was led by Maj. Rolando Maclang in Metro Iloilo City in the mid-1980s. Among his offenses were the killing of activist Rodolfo Laporga (Ka Sonny); his involvement in the kidnapping and murder of businesswoman Roberta Cokin in Bacolod City in 1995; the brutal killing of Johnny Tugado, Court Sheriff of Oton, Iloilo; and the killing of a tricycle driver in Jaro District.

He was meted the death penalty in accordance with a longstanding order of the people's court. **AB**

NPA seizes 11 firearms in Antipolo ambush

Four police troopers were killed and five others were seriously wounded when Red fighters under the NPA Narciso Antazo Aramil Command ambushed a nine-man team of the 34th Special Action Company of the PNP Special Action Force's 3rd Battalion at around 6 a.m. in Sitio Kaysakat, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

The guerrillas seized seven M16 rifles, an M203 grenade launcher, a sniper rifle and two .45 caliber pistols. They also confiscated volumes of documents with high intelligence value.

The five wounded soldiers surrendered after a 15-minute firefight and were given first aid by NPA medics. The guerrillas also talked to them about the revolutionary cause.

Meanwhile, *Ang Bayan* correspondents reported five NPA military actions in Iloilo and Capiz in the month of March. A soldier from the 82nd IB was wounded in a sniping operation launched by the NPA in Barangay Juna, Tubungan, Iloilo on Marso 13.

Earlier, Red fighters under the NPA Napoleon Tumagtang

Command-Southern Front-Panay launched three harassment operations against a detachment of the 82nd IB Reengineered Special Operations Team in Igcabugao, Igaras on Marso 10. The operations were carried out at 4:20, 10:40 and after 11 in the morning. Humiliated, the RSOT turned on the local residents, firing 81 mm rockets from an MG-520 helicopter and strafing Sitio Bais with a .50 caliber machine gun.

An undersized squad under the Jose Percival Estocada, Jr. Command of the NPA-Panay's Central Front also harassed the detachment of the 47th IB's RSOT in Barangay Tacayan, Tapaz on March 24, not long after the Alpha Company finished its clearing operations. **AB**

the region can achieve greater victories more rapidly if it completely overcomes its conservatism in the advancement of agrarian revolution and mass base building. In doing so, it can achieve the target of doubling the number of its guerrilla platoons in the next five years until they have a platoon for every one or two municipalities.

In Eastern Visayas. National Democratic Front-Eastern Visayas (NDF-EV) spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas reported the steady advance of agrarian revolution in consonance with victories in the field of armed struggle.

The program for agrarian revolution includes the management and improvement of confiscated and abandoned lands; the sustained campaign for the reduction of land rent as well as other anti-feudal struggles;

raising production and providing livelihood for the benefit of the mass base and the war economy.

To strengthen the antifeudal struggle, the revolutionary movement must

expand towards the plains, within plantations and other landholdings of big landlords in the region as well as along transportation and communication lines. This will play a big role in the region's current campaign against hunger, poverty and militarization.

The advancement of agrarian revolution goes hand in hand with the intensification of armed struggle. From 2008 to 2009, the NPA in the region launched 143 tactical offensives, inflicting 180 casualties on the enemy and seizing 63 firearms.

This can be intensified further in the coming years. The regional NPA command projects at least 100 tactical offensives every year to build 16-23 new guerrilla fronts.

In Negros. The ruling classes of big landlords and bureaucrats failed to impede the advance of the revolutionary movement in the region. The scope of agrarian revolution continues to expand along with various mass campaigns while guerrilla warfare rages in most of the congressional districts in the island. The foundations of feudal rule in the countryside are shaken by the growing strength of the mass movement, especially the implementation of the minimum program of agrarian revolution.

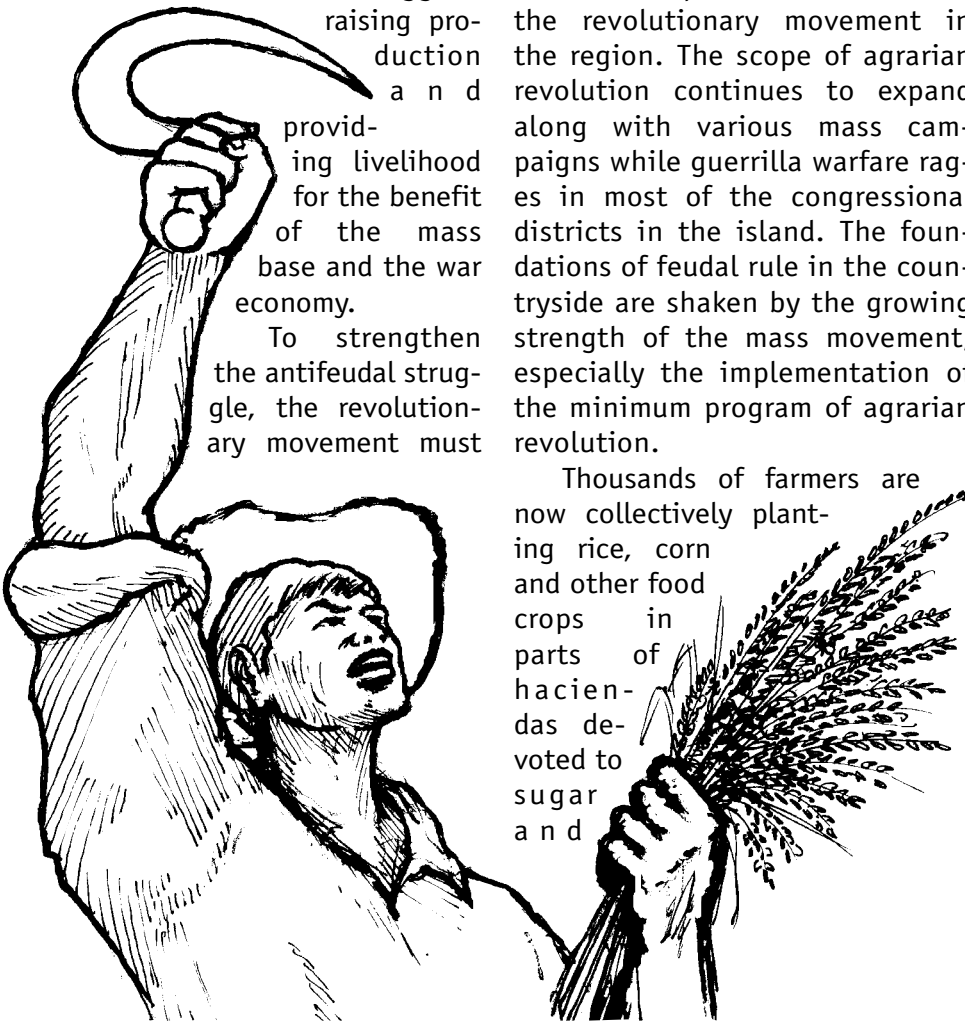
Thousands of farmers are now collectively planting rice, corn and other food crops in parts of haciendas devoted to sugar and

other export products which were previously controlled by landlords. Thousands of peasants are also launching mass actions and campaigns against the exploration and operation of big mining companies.

Big landlords and warlords like Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Alfredo Marañon Jr., Magdaleno Peña, Herminio Teves, Jocelyn Limkaichong and the Zayco family of Kabankalan City have reacted to the mass actions with unprecedented brutality. Since 2008, fifteen farmers and farmworkers have been killed by the military and its partner, the bandit group Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA). More than 100 farmers have been slapped with trumped-up criminal charges in courts under landlord control. More than 50 farmers have been detained and many more have been illegally arrested, tortured and threatened with death. Military and paramilitary troops relentlessly disrupt the peasants' food production activities and livestock raising projects.

The brutal response of the enemy has, however, further strengthened the people's desire for land reform. Some 100,000 individuals now enjoy concrete benefits from agrarian revolution. Many people have also benefited from projects to promote production, health, education, arbitration of problems among the people, keeping peace and order in the community, building systems for potable water and irrigation and other socio-economic projects.

Despite the concentration of nearly ten battalions of the Arroyo regime's military and paramilitary forces, the NPA was able to carry out ten tactical offensives every quarter from 2008 to the first quarter of 2010. The revolutionary forces in the island are now planning



to double their current armed strength and strengthen partisan warfare in the urban centers of all the congressional districts of Negros.

Cagayan Valley. Over 400,000 farmers reaped the gains of agrarian revolution, according to NDF-Cagayan Valley spokesperson Salvador del Pueblo. Rent for land and agricultural equipment as well as usury rates have been reduced by an average of 50% in 11 towns in Cagayan and Isabela. The farmgate

prices of rice, corn and bananas as well as the daily wages of farmworkers have been raised.

Due to these successes, people's war in the region has likewise achieved more victories. Earlier this decade, the NPA in the region built platoon formations and will now proceed with the building of company-size guerrilla fronts.

The revolutionary movement in the region is confident that it will achieve even more victories and that the people's war will advance

further as a result of the successes in agrarian revolution. Although the revolutionary movement in the region is still relatively weak, it is sure of contributing to the intensification of the armed struggle nationwide. Del Pueblo says this is guaranteed by the region's essential grasp of important lessons in advancing the revolution such as carrying out agrarian revolution, building people's militias and self-defense corps and intensifying tactical offensives. **AB**

Morong 43 launch hunger strike

The Morong 43 detainees started fasting on April 13 to protest the delay of their transfer to the custody of the Philippine National Police (PNP). Various progressive organizations showed their support for the detainees in a march in Manila the following day.

Relatives of the 43 also staged a hunger strike at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City.

Relatives and friends of the detainees likewise launched a noise barrage on April 15 to demand the Morong 43's immediate transfer to Camp Crame, the headquarters of the PNP.

It will be recalled that the Morong Regional Trial Court ordered the transfer of the detainees but the police refused to admit them at Camp Crame for lack of space at the camp's detention facilities. The Philippine Army thus brought the detainees back to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal. **AB**

Condemnation mounts against dropping of charges vs Ampatuan clan members

Strong and widespread condemnation met Acting Secretary of Justice Alberto Agra's decision to clear and release two leading members of the Ampatuan clan who are accused of killing 57 persons on November 23 in Maguindanao province. Former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) governor Zaldy "Puti" Ampatuan and his cousin former Mamasapano, Maguindanao vice mayor Akmad "Tato" Ampatuan Sr. were cleared of the murder charges on April 16 for supposed lack of evidence. Charges of rebellion against them were dismissed earlier on March 29.

According to Manuel Reblando, brother of slain *Manila Bulletin* reporter Alejandro Reblando, Agra is a puppet of Arroyo and that the president herself ordered the junking of the cases as payback for the Ampatuans' help in securing the victory of her candidates in the 2004 and 2007 elections. The families of the victims believe Agra received bribes from the Ampatuans. The acting justice secretary is known as a troubleshooter for Arroyo and also served as election lawyer to the Ampatuans. The Arroyo clique hastened the clearing of the Ampatuans to secure anew the clan's support in the coming elections.

The families and supporters of the massacre victims launched a series of protest actions and started a petition for the postponement of the hearings until after the elections.

The public prosecutors themselves expressed their vehement condemnation of Agra's order. Chief State Prosecutor Claro Arellano denied Agra's claim that no witness came forward against Zaldy and Akmad Ampatuan. He said there is plenty of evidence pointing to the guilt of the two Ampatuans and a witness has positively identified them as among those who planned the massacre. **AB**



Operation Green Hunt and the revolution in India

Genocidal war against the people's revolutionary movement

The Communist Party of the Philippines, the Filipino people and the revolutionary movement worldwide condemn "Operation Green Hunt", a counterrevolutionary war launched by the reactionary government of India against the armed revolutionary movement and the national minorities within the country. This conflict is part of the terrorist war led by the US in various parts of the world, mostly in areas where the people are waging courageous resistance.

Operation Green Hunt's principal target are mineral-rich areas like West Bengal, Jharkland, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. These places are also known as the "Red Corridor", because it is here that the broad and advancing revolutionary war led by the Communist Party of India (CPI)-Maoist can be found.

In the past couple of years, numerous projects and operations in mining and other industries were delayed, if not outrightly cancelled due to the staunch people's resistance in the area supported by the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army and CPI-Maoist.

In these locations, iron, coal, gold, diamond, bauxite and uranium deposits can be found. These areas have also been cited as ideal sites for setting up special economic zones. Several mining agreements with local and foreign capitalists have been approved by the reactionary Indian regime for these sites.

Many more areas already have companies operating there such as Vedanta, Rio Tinto and Posco, companies that have long been plundering the country's natural resources.

In the past five years alone, the governments of Chhattisgarh, Jharkland, Orissa and West Bengal

have secretly made deals with local and foreign companies for billions of dollars worth of contracts to construct steel, iron and aluminum facto-

ries, power plants, dams and mines. In order to clear the way for these projects, the people who are largely national minorities, are being driven out and their organizations destroyed.

Operation Green Hunt

To counter the guerrillas' strength, India's central reactionary government has begun the massive deployment of military forces to extensive areas in the states of West Bengal and Odisha where it has been conducting widespread aerial bombings and using high-tech military equipment from the US and Israel. The collusion between the reactionary regime in India and US imperialism in Operation Green Hunt is crystal clear.

Under Operation Green Hunt, there have been worsening attacks on the livelihoods and rights of the people in the affected areas. Already as many as 20 million peasants have been driven from their farms as a result of hamletting and zoning. Abuses such as torture and rape are rampant. Many communities have been razed to the ground in order to banish residents accused of being CPI-Maoist members or supporters. A large number of the residents have been forced to live in guarded communities called "security camps" where their mobility is restricted. They are also prohibited from going to their farms and fields. Those who violate these rules are automatically shot.

The victims are denied access to all legal means including the courts. The media are also banned from entering and reporting what is transpiring in the area. Organizations, media people, intellectuals, writers, cultural workers and other progressive forces opposed to Operation Green Hunt and sup-



portive of the people's resistance are persecuted and threatened.

In response, the CPI-Maoist is helping the people to organize and strengthen themselves. They launch literacy and education campaigns by establishing schools. They provide much-needed medical services. They set up self-defense units and core forces to fight and overcome the attacks and brutality of the state's military and paramilitary forces being deployed to their communities.

Inspiration to the CPP and whole world

Revolutionaries and the CPP closely follow and laud the guerrilla war and revolutionary movement in India. They hail their victories. Each of their successes is a contri-

bution to the of the international proletariat and the CPP recognizes their complementary role in the development of armed struggle in the Philippines and other communist and revolutionary movements worldwide.

The armed movement in India inspires the people throughout the world to stand up and fight. The CPP is ready to extend any help and support to the Indian revolutionaries in order to further advance their struggle. This is a part of the proletarian internationalist duty of Filipino communists.

From the CPP's standpoint, the revolutionaries and communists in India will likely be a major force in the advancement of the international proletarian struggle due to the country's size and the intensity

that their people's war has already achieved. Chiefly, it is significant because it is under the correct proletarian revolutionary guidance of a genuine communist party.

It has the potential to bring the international communist movement to a new and higher level, as Russia did after World War I until the 1950s and China after World War II until 1970.

The CPP considers the CPI-Maoist a fraternal party. There is a high level of ideological unity between the two parties. These past few years, they have had many opportunities to share ideas and practical experiences. Also, they have attended many conferences where they both carried out important tasks for the promotion of Marxism, Leninism and Maoism. **AB**

JMS condemns persecution of ILPS

Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, chair of the International League of People's Struggle (ILPS) strongly condemned the Arroyo regime's accusation that the Communist Party of the Philippines is using the ILPS to export cadres to India.

The CPP also condemned this defamation against the ILPS which is clearly being fomented by the CIA in order to persecute Professor Sison.

Professor Sison said the lie constitutes the regime's latest attempt to spread disinformation against the ILPS, a broad anti-imperialist alliance which he chairs. The regime is only using this story to negate Sison's status as a political refugee, return him to the terrorist blacklist, arrest and once again detain him in The Netherlands. **AB**

Airline workers in Europe go on strike

Flights in Europe have been cancelled several times due to continuous strikes launched this year by pilot and employee unions against the three biggest airlines in Europe.

The unions are staunchly opposing steps taken by the companies to cut costs such as job retrenchment and freezing wages and bonuses. The strikes are also a result of various European governments' implementation of privatization and deregulation policies in the aviation industry.

A walkout was held by 13,400 cabin crew members of British Airways (BA) from March 27 to March 30. Their union Unite is opposing plans to cut costs in the company's operations. The most striking features of BA's cost-cutting schemes involve

freezing salaries starting this year, shifting 3,000 regular staff members to being part-time employees and reducing the cabin crew size from 15 to 14 for long flights.

Heathrow, Britain's main airport and one of the world's busiest in terms of passenger traffic was paralyzed. As many as 1,100 flights were cancelled, with BA losing £72 million (P14.9 billion).

After the strike, the company was forced to negotiate with the workers' unions. By April 4, both sides had come to significant

agreements on the issue of the wage freeze and changes to the number of staff on each flight. Thus, the union decided to end the strike.

This is its second action since the three-day strike launched from March 20-22. BA refused to budge from its position, prompting the workers to launch the second strike.

BA is the sixth largest airline worldwide and the third largest in Europe. It was formerly government-owned but has been privatized. When the international recession struck, it suffered heavy losses that amounted to £400 million in 2009.

Simultaneous strikes

The BA strike was closely followed by unions in the aviation industry and various parts of the world including the US, Australia, Germany and Spain.

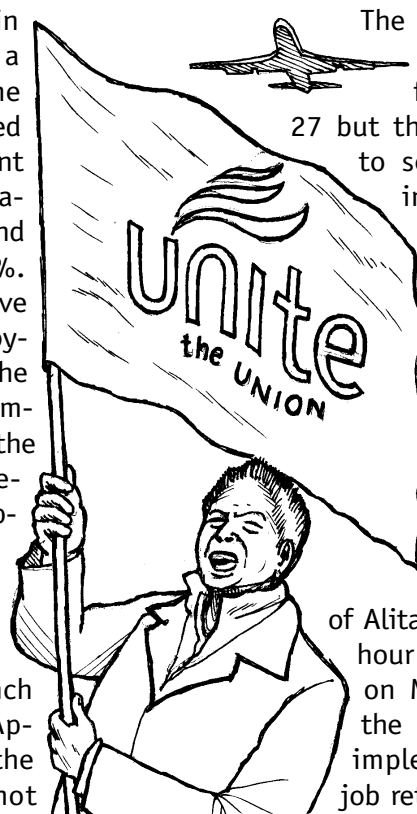
In solidarity, Air France cabin crews threatened to simultaneously launch a four-day strike from March 28 to 31. Like the BA employees, they are also fighting against the company's cost-cutting moves. The strike did not proceed as Air France relented and has been forced to put off its cost-cutting plans for another year.

TAP Portugal Airlines pilots also threatened to strike for six days

from March 26 to 31 in order to demand a 5.6% pay hike. The strike was discontinued when the government agreed to raise the salaries of the pilots and employees by 1.8%. The company also gave the pilots and employees shares worth the equivalent of the company's savings from the extensive job re-trenchment it was supposed to carry out.

Also, 4,000 pilots of Germany's Lufthansa threatened to once again launch a four-day strike on April 13 until 16 if the management did not agree to their demand for a 6.4% pay raise. They are fighting the company's plan to freeze their wages as a cost-cutting measure. The pilots expressed readiness to accept this as long as the company guarantees their job security.

On April 8, due to the company's fear of taking another huge loss, it was forced to make a deal with workers to reopen contract negotiations, thus averting the strike.



The pilots launched a four-day walkout from February 24 to 27 but the company refused to settle. This resulted in the cancellation of hundreds of flights to various parts of the world. Lufthansa's losses amounted to 25 million euros per day.

Meanwhile, in Italy, pilots, flight attendants and baggage handlers of Alitalia launched a four-hour nationwide strike on March 26 to protest the company's plans to implement widespread job re-trenchment. This resulted in the cancellation of 146 flights as well as rescheduling and delays of flights at the Fiumicino airport in Rome and Linate airport in Milan.

Prior to this, they launched a four-hour strike in January 2009 against contract and employment policies implemented by the recently privatized Alitalia's new management. Alitalia now has only 12,700 employees compared to the previous 23,500 as a result of privatization. AB

UP-PGH doctors and government employees broaden protests

AS many as 104 doctors, nurses and government employees of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) have filed leaves of absence to protest the regime's interference in the hospital's affairs and its plans to privatize the facility. They launched their first protest action on March 29.

Their main demand is the reinstatement of Dr. Jose Gonzales as PGH director and the ouster of Dr. Enrique Domingo who was illegally

appointed by the UP Board of Regents to head the hospital. At the same time, the doctors and government employees are also deman-

ding that the health budget be increased so they could enjoy higher wages and improve PGH's services to the people.

The doctors and employees continued their mass leave despite the Civil Service Commission's threat to suspend them if they continue. The All-UP Workers Union and the Student Council at UP Manila and Diliman are in support of their mass leave.

Progressive candidates condemn soldiers' electioneering

SENATORIAL candidates Rep. Satur Ocampo (Bayan Muna) and Rep. Liza Maza (Gabriela Women's Party) staunchly condemned the defamation campaign that soldiers are carrying out against them and progressive parties.

The soldiers have been launching the "Zero Campaign" against the candidates and groups, especially in Mindanao. The soldiers are even going house to house in order to distribute posters and fliers slandering them. In Central Luzon, Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) soldiers are marking Maza and Ocampo's posters with "NPA,

Huwag Iboto!"

On April 6, the 69th IB (better known as the Palparan Battalion) launched a forum at the Philippine College of Technology (PCT) in Bajada, Davao City. The soldiers called on the students not to vote for Bayan Muna and Makabayan. The soldiers also said that the progressive parties in Congress

have been embezzling their pork barrel funds to give them to the revolutionary movement and New People's Army.

Meanwhile, a policeman abused Kabataan Partylist members in Cebu City. On April 10, Supt. Ariel Paculto, son of Cebu City vice mayorality candidate Rico Paculto, punched Remil Oliva, 4th nominee of the party and volunteer Bryan Laguna. Kabataan Partylist Rep. Raymond Palatino lambasted the abuse committed and filed a case against Paculto. The Pacultos are rabid supporters of the anti-communist group ANAD.