



ANG

Bayan

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

English Edition
Vol. XLI No. 14
July 21, 2010

www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

No amount of deceit and violence from the US-Aquino regime can crush the revolution

Despite pronouncements by the US-Aquino regime that it is willing to talk peace with the revolutionary forces, it has already laid various obstacles even before the talks could begin.

First among these are Benigno Aquino III's orders to the AFP to decimate the revolutionary movement. His regime aims to accomplish this by relying mainly on the fascist military forces which he plans to expand, modernize and equip with more weapons, equipment and benefits for its officers and men.

To that end, his regime is scrambling to raise hundreds of billions of pesos in the face of a crushing deficit and an enormous public debt.

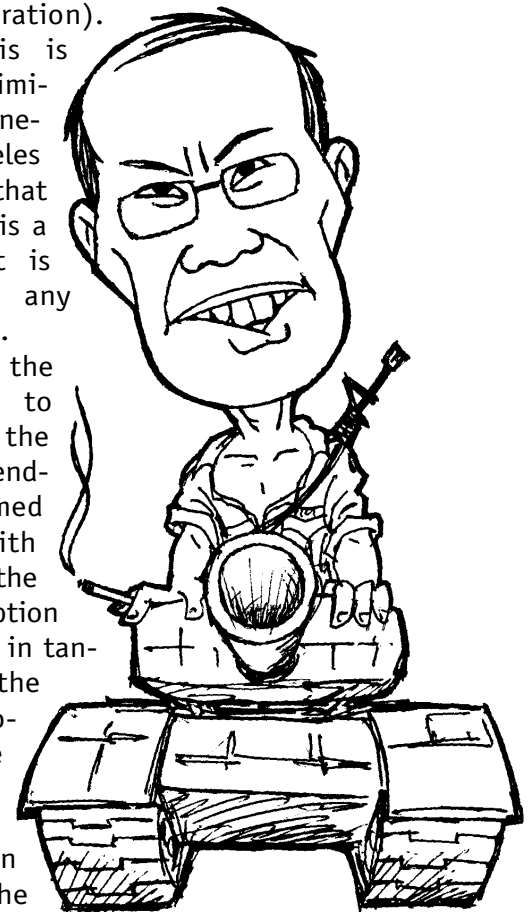
In line with their master's orders, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and AFP Chief of Staff Ricardo David quickly laid out the Aquino regime's militarist line. David boasted that the AFP is prepared to enforce Aquino's order to destroy the revolutionary movement in a matter of three years. Gazmin declared that the NPA has to surrender its weapons first before peace talks could resume. The declaration is ridiculous as the revolutionary movement will never lay down its arms and it has been repeatedly proven in the past that all deadlines set by the puppet regime and the AFP to destroy the revolutionary movement have been nothing but bluster.

Teresita Deles who heads the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) espouses an approach that is little removed from Gazmin and

David's blatantly fascist line. Deles has unreservedly concurred with the Arroyo regime's line of DDR (disarmament, demobilization and reintegration).

Although this is outrightly inimical to peace negotiations, Deles even argues that the DDR line is a doctrine that is integral to any peace process.

It is the OPAPP's role to implement the objective of ending the armed conflict with emphasis on the use of deception and treachery in tandem with the fascist violence of the reactionary military. Deles has been mouthing the



This issue's highlights...

**Rights advocates
assail plans to
appoint Etta Rosales
to CHR**
PAGE 4

**Enemy suffers 20 dead,
loses 8 firearms to NPA**
PAGE 5

**The PEACE Bonds in
review**

PAGE 6

US-Aquino regime's so-called "four pillars" to attain peace—economic reconstruction and development, improvement of basic services, good governance and security sector reform—which was lifted from the new US Counterinsurgency Guide. In this frame, the peace negotiations will only be used to trick or deceive, not as a venue to discuss and address the roots of the conflict.

The formula does not make any sense. Any "reform" and cosmetic scheme done along that formula will go nowhere as the entire system upon which it is based is replete with rottenness and corruption. Behind all these conciliatory posturing, the puppet reactionary state continues to employ fascist violence as its main weapon against the struggling people.

With the anticommunist Deles leading the OPAPP, it is her clique of pseudo-progressives that will be dominating the government's conduct as regards the peace process. Through them, the social democrats' pseudo-progressive framework will merge with the fascist framework of the AFP and other state security forces. The social

democrats' shallow and deceptive program for human rights, land reform and the like will be laid out as the solution to the people's basic problems and a foil to the national democratic program of the revolutionary movement.

Deles has schemes to make the peace talks appear democratic but they are, in fact, only ways to toy with and downplay the importance of the process. Before proceeding with the formal talks, she has announced that the government will first broaden consultations with various sectors in the localities and that it is still in the process of choosing which areas to focus on. This is nothing but a plot to revive efforts for "localized peace talks" which previous puppet reactionary regimes had tried to use to undermine the talks at the national level.

Previous regimes have tried the same scheme. The OPAPP pretends to consult with a wide range of social sectors but in truth, the government is only talking to itself. Such a scheme is only intended to create confusion. For peace negotiations to be genuine, they have to be conducted between the leader-


ships of two parties at the national level and focus on the basic issues.

There is in fact no need for the supposed broad consultations and dialogues being concocted by the OPAPP. The principles, framework, basic talking points and their sequence in the peace negotiations have already been clarified and agreed upon in The Hague Joint Declaration of 1992. Deles' concoction of bogus consultations and dialogues is a way to dispense with previous agreements, mess up the agenda and gloss over the substantive issues.

With regard to the the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Aquino's spokesman and the newly appointed head of the government panel have declared that they will never agree to the dismemberment of the republic and to any scheme that would "violate" the constitution. This means that the government will be maintaining the position of the US-Arroyo regime against the institution of real autonomy for the Bangsamoro. This is at once contrary to the MILF's foremost demand.

The peace talks will again come to naught if the government fools around with it, lays down obstacles, misleads and uses it only to deceive and tie down the revolutionary forces in futile talks while the US-Aquino regime steps up its attempts to destroy them with a bigger and stronger AFP. Whatever scheme the new puppet reactionary regime resorts to for this objective will fail.

Whether or not peace talks are held, and however intense the counterrevolutionary offensives of the puppet reactionary regime, the revolutionary forces and the people will never be distracted in their pursuit of the revolutionary struggle until total victory. **AB**

 <p>Vol. XLI No. 14 July 21, 2010</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray at English editions.</p> <p>It is available for <i>downloading</i> at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:</p> <p>www.philippinerevolution.net</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:</p> <p>angbayan@yahoo.com</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <hr/> <p>Editorial</p> <p>No amount of deceit and violence from the Aquino regime can crush the revolution 1</p> <p>Fascist state on a rampage</p> <p>No end to political killings 3</p> <p>Panay military officers indicted 3</p> <p>Etta Rosales appointment 4</p> <p>Free the Morong 43! 5</p> <p>Victorious tactical offensives</p> <p>20 soldiers killed, 10 firearms seized 5</p> <p>NPA releases POW 5</p> <p>The PEACe Bonds in review 6</p> <p>Developments overseas</p> <p>Volatile situation in Nepal 7</p> <p>26 paramilitary forces killed in India 8</p> <p>Nationwide strike in India 8</p> <p>News 8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

No end to political killings

Five members and supporters of progressive groups were slain in the first two weeks of Benigno Aquino III's regime. As in the previous regime, the perpetrators were masked, motorcycle-riding armed men employed by the reactionary military.

July 16. Three days before the funeral of Fernando Baldomero, 61, the first victim of political killing under the new regime, his cousin Zosimo Ingeniero, 57, was gunned down. Ingeniero, a village watchman, was found dead near his house in Barangay San Ramon, Malinao, Aklan. Five 9 mm shells were found near his body. He was an activist in the 1980s up to the 1990s.

July 9. Armed men ambushed and killed Mark B. Francisco, 27, and Edgar Fernandez, 44, both members of the ACT Teachers Party. Francisco, a teacher at the San Isidro Elementary School in Palanas, Masbate was on his way home along with four colleagues when the assailants opened fire in Barangay Malibas. His companions survived. Fernandez, a teacher at the Roco C. Pahis Sr. Central School in Masbate City was also on his way home when unidentified men started firing at him.

July 9. Peasant leader Pascual Guevarra, 78, was shot at close range. He was the president of the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association in Laur, Nueva Ecija and one of the most senior leaders of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid na Nagkakaisa 3100 (Alamana), which is affiliated with the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. Members of Alamana are struggling to reclaim 3,100 hectares of land in Laur which lies within the Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation. Guevarra was cooking dinner in his residence in Barangay San Isidro, Laur at around 4:45 in

the afternoon when he was killed. A grandson tried to help him but was also fired upon by the assailant. The killer managed to escape with the help of an accomplice on a motorcycle waiting outside the victim's property.

Military officers indicted before people's court

A number of high-ranking military officers in Western Visayas involved in the murder of MAKABAYAN-Aklan provincial coordinator Fernando Baldomero were indicted before a people's court in Panay. Baldomero was also a member of the Lezo town council. In a statement on June 14, National Democratic Front-Panay spokesperson Concha Araneta said that filing a case before the people's court is merely an initial step in the quest to attain justice for Baldomero's death.

Baldomero was shot by two bonnet-clad men on July 5 in his home in Kalibo, Aklan. He was preparing to bring his 12-year old son to school. He was the first activist victim of extrajudicial killing under Benigno Aquino III's regime.

The NDF-Panay has prima facie evidence to file a case against Philippine Army 3rd Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Vicente Porto; 301st Infantry Brigade chief Brig. Gen. Gerardo Layug; and elements of the Civil Relations Service (CRS) under their commands.

The NDF-Panay said that months before Baldomero was killed, he received a letter warning him against continuing his political activities. On March 19, two grenades were lobbed at his ancestral home in Lezo. Two weeks before his death, elements of the 3ID-PA branded Baldomero a "communist terrorist front personality" and MAKABAYAN a "terrorist front organization" in their "Army Hour Program."

Such public accusations are the equivalent of ordering all state agents to kill the target activists, said the NDF-Panay. It said that CRS elements were also accountable for launching an anti-Baldomero program.

These actions by the 3ID and 301st Bde-PA are big indications that the military planned Baldomero's killing. They further incriminated themselves when the AFP spokesperson spewed the mendacious line that the crime was allegedly the result of a purge among the revolutionary forces. Araneta said that no one believes this lie by the military. The public and even the reactionary military and police know that it was intelligence agents and their minions who killed Baldomero. The military's hands are dripping with blood, added the NDF-Panay.

Revolutionary authorities continue to gather evidence concerning the crime and the people's court will issue an arrest warrant as soon as the requisites are completed.

AB



July 9. An unidentified assailant ambushed Miguel Belen, a reporter for dwEB-FM of the Filipinas Broadcasting Network in Nabua, Camarines Sur while he was on his way home to Barangay San Jose Pagaraon. Belen sustained gunshot wounds in his neck and body and is now in critical condition at a hospital in Iriga City.

July 6. Five men donning ski masks and military

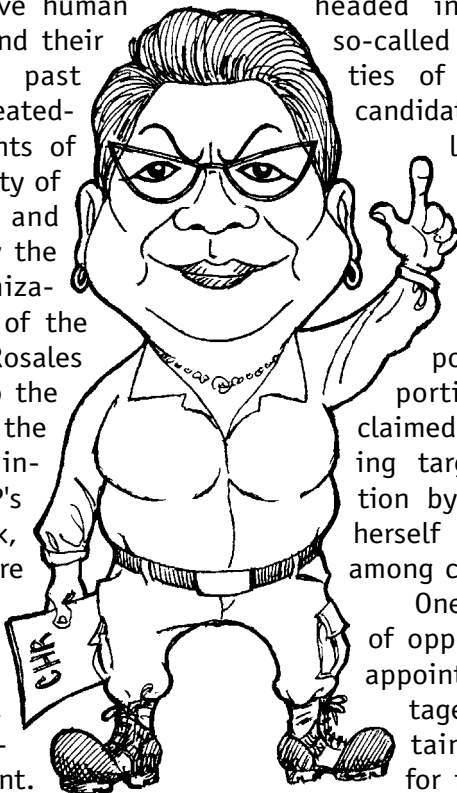
uniforms ambushed Dexter Legaspi, 36, a teacher and member of ACT Teachers Party in Masbate City. Legaspi and his wife were aboard a tricycle when they were ambushed but they survived the attack.

June 27. Peasant activist Fernando Bejino, 45, was gunned down in Siaton, Negros Oriental. An agent of the 79th had been identified as a suspect, according to KARAPATAN-Central Visayas. **AB**

Human rights groups assail plan to appoint Etta Rosales to CHR

Human rights groups are vehemently opposing the imminent appointment of Loretta Ann Rosales as chair of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). Rosales is a member of the pseudo-progressive Akbayan party and served as its representative in Congress in 1998-2007.

Appointing Rosales will be a huge insult and is completely unacceptable to the families of victims, to human rights advocates and even employees of the CHR. Rosales is known for her contempt for victims of grave human rights violations and their families. In the past years, she has repeatedly branded as fronts of the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army the progressive organizations where most of the victims belong. Rosales is not oblivious to the fact that this is the same justification invoked by the AFP's butchers to attack, murder and torture activists and civilians tagged as supporters, if not outright members, of the armed revolutionary movement.



It is this tack that Rosales took throughout the nine-year killing spree of the US-Arroyo regime.

In chorus with the AFP, Rosales vilifies the CPP and the NPA especially during elections. She spearheaded investigations into so-called extortion activities of the NPA against candidates through the alleged collection of fees for permits to campaign, among others. Rosales even blew her perceived importance out of proportion when she claimed that she was being targeted for liquidation by the NPA, making herself a laughing stock among comrades.

One of the main bases of opposition to Rosales' appointment is her sabotage of efforts to obtain indemnification for the victims of fas-

cist violence under the Marcos regime. Led by the organization SELDA (Samahan ng mga ex-Detainee Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya), close to 10,000 martial law victims filed a class suit with a Hawaii court in 1986 to demand damages from the Marcoses. The court ruled after six years in favor of the victims and ordered the payment of \$2 billion in damages to be coursed through SELDA.

In 1993, the Ramos regime, through the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), entered into a compromise agreement with the Marcoses for a sharing scheme where the government would get control of 75% (and use a big portion of it) instead of directly awarding it to the victims, and the Marcoses would retain 25%. Amid all this, a number of personalities like Rosales and the opportunist renegade Ramon Casiple formed a rival group called Claimants 1081 to cash in on SELDA's victory and that of the 10,000 victims it represents. Claimants 1081 concurred with the proposal to course the indemnity through the reactionary government, and to the compromise agreement between the government and the Marcoses.

SELDA said Rosales' looming appointment is despicable due to her actions that divided the ranks of the victims of human rights violations and her having entered into a compromise with the Marcoses. **AB**



Release the Morong 43!

Release the Morong 43! This was the message of an open letter from Civicus: World Alliance for Concern Participation to the new administration of Benigno Aquino III. The Morong 43 were arrested while conducting a medical training in Morong, Rizal in February based on the allegation that they are members of the New People's Army. Civicus is a South Africa-based international alliance of civic organizations.

Civicus called on Aquino to demonstrate to the families of victims of human rights violations his regard for the rule of law and to show that such abuses have no place in the "new Philippines." It urged Aquino to investigate the conduct of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the arrest, detention and interrogation of the Morong 43.

Civicus also called on Aquino to put an end to human rights violations by pursuing the perpetrators of torture and other abuses in accordance with Philippine laws and international humanitarian law.

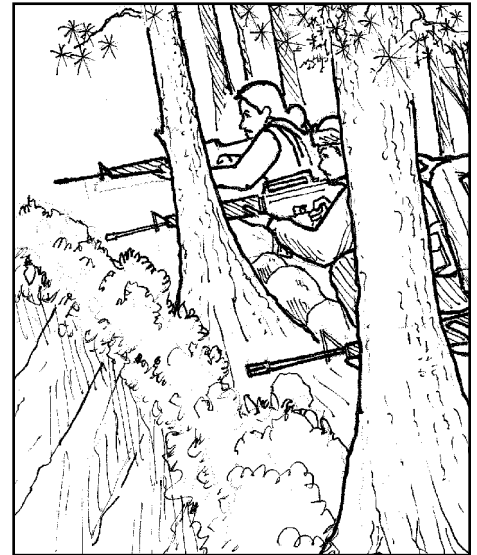
The Morong 43 include two doctors, a nurse and health workers. Two of the detainees are due to give birth in detention at Camp Bagong Diwa—Carina Oliveros, 26, in July and Mercy Castro, 27, in October. Many local and international groups have demanded the immediate release of the pregnant detainees. AB

Enemy suffers 20 dead, loses 8 firearms to NPA

At least 20 soldiers were killed and 20 were wounded in tactical offensives by the New People's Army (NPA) in various parts of the archipelago from May to July. Among the firearms seized by the guerrillas were a machine gun and five M203 grenade launchers.

July 16. Sr. Insp. Alfonso Deraco, police chief of Benito Soliven town in Isabela was killed and five others were wounded in an NPA ambush in Barangay Danipa of the same town. Aside from the policemen, a sergeant assigned to the Military Intelligence Battalion (MIB) was also among those seriously wounded. The policemen were responding to reports that the NPA had burned down a tractor owned by a despotic landlord in Barangay Villa Luz when they were ambushed.

July 9. The NPA wiped out a seven-man strike force under the 52nd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) in an ambush in Sitio Chawer, Samoki, Bontoc, Mountain Province. The guerrillas



seized four M203s, an M14, an M4 carbine and other military equipment. Among those killed was the strike force commander 1Lt. Lito

NPA releases POW

The New People's Army (NPA) released on humanitarian grounds Sgt. Bienvenido Arguelles Jr. of the 25th IB in a remote area in Monkayo, Compostela Valley on July 20. Arguelles was turned over to the custody of the Monkayo parish priest and local officials. He was reunited with his family just a few hours after his release.

A CAFGU element who was a minor had earlier been released.

Arguelles was arrested at a checkpoint set up by the NPA on June 19 in Sitio Mabatás, Barangay Upper Ulip, Mt. Diwalwal in Monkayo.

Arguelles' arrest serves as a warning to military and police elements who operate within guerrilla bases, especially those who spy on Red fighters and the masses, said Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the NPA Merardo Arce Command of Southern Mindanao Region. He said this should be a warning to those who protect foreign and local enterprises engaged in large-scale operations that exploit the masses and destroy the environment. AB

Punio. There were no casualties on the NPA side.

The fascist unit was waylaid near the 501st Brigade tactical command post in Barangay Talubin, where the soldiers had just come from. They were in Barangay Samoki to reinforce other 5th ID troops conducting military operations against the NPA.

To cover up their shameful defeat, the military claimed that the ambushed soldiers were on their way to a medical mission.

July 9. Eight elements of the Marines Battalion Landing Team 8 (MBLT8), including an officer were wounded when NPA Red fighters detonated a bomb on the truck they were riding in Sitio Itiabiak, Barangay Agutaya, San Vicente, Palawan. The ambushed troop was part of the MBLT8's Special Operations Platoon. Second Lieutenant Willy Pait and his seven wounded men were brought to the Western Command hospital in Puerto Princesa City.

June 23. Two soldiers were killed and two others were wounded after three gunbattles between the NPA and the military that were fought in pitch darkness in Barangay Poponton, Las Navas, Northern Samar.

May 31. Red fighters seized a K3 light machine gun and an M203 grenade launcher after they ambushed soldiers along the boundary of Barangays GM Osias and Bangon in Gamay, Northern Samar. Seven soldiers of the AFP and three others were wounded in this ambush. A Red fighter was martyred.

May 3. Three AFP troopers were killed and two others were wounded in an encounter with NPA guerrillas along the boundary of Barangay Nagbubtac in Palapag town and Barangay Lanubi ni Laoang town, both in Northern Samar. AB

The PEACe Bonds in review

No amount of self-absolution by the officials of the previous US-Arroyo regime can cover up their involvement in anomalous activities.

Among the former Arroyo officials with the biggest accountabilities are Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, who was reappointed by Pres. Benigno Aquino III as DSWD Secretary, and Teresita Deles, who has been reinstated as Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. Both were involved in the sale of the PEACe Bonds and the questionable ways by which the proceeds were spent. Bonds are instruments that enable governments to borrow from the public or from various banks and institutions. Like other debts, they are paid with interest upon maturity.

The idea of issuing the PEACe (Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificate) Bonds was pushed by Code NGO (Caucus of Development NGOs) under Soliman and Deles. Code NGO claims that the bonds were floated to raise funds for their antipoverty projects.

Code NGO is an alliance of bogus NGOs run by cronies and close friends of Gloria Arroyo who are now with the Aquino camp and administration. Not only are Soliman and her husband Hector involved in it. They lead it, along with Deles and Marissa Camachoreyes, sister of then finance sec-

retary Jose Camacho.

In October 2001, the Bureau of Treasury issued PEACe Bonds worth more than P35 billion (P10.17 billion in principal and P25 billion in interest payable upon maturity after ten years). The bidding was rigged to enable fellow conspirator Rizal Commercial

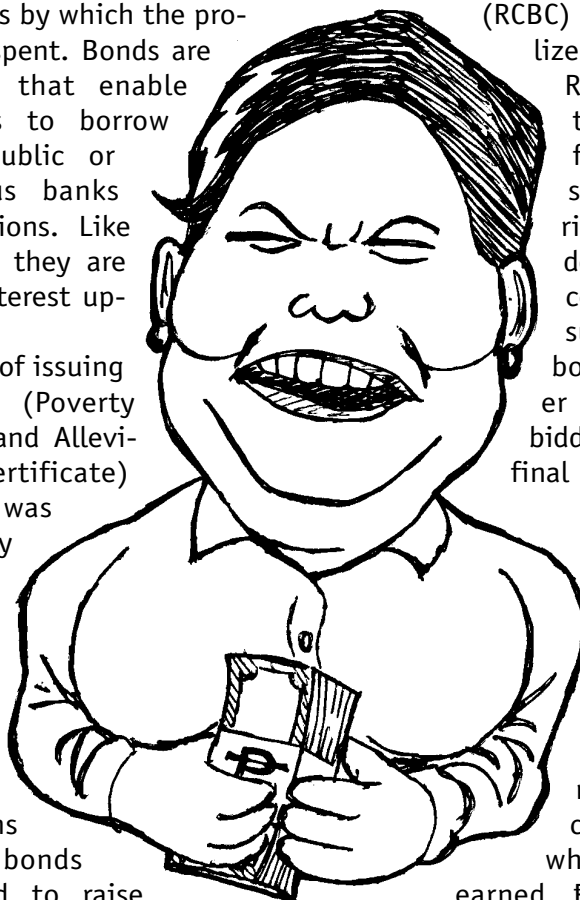
Banking Corporation (RCBC) to monopolize the purchase.

RCBC was then the conduit for Code NGO's scheme. The rigging was done by concealing the issuance of the bonds from other banks and bidders until the final week.

Out of a total P10 billion worth of bonds sold, Code NGO reaped up to P1.48 billion or almost 15% in commissions while RCBC

earned P200 million and another P100 million went to two persons who brokered the deal. They also let the Bureau of Internal Revenue in on the deal to make the earnings from the PEACe Bonds tax-exempt.

When the Senate called their attention to the anomalous transaction, Code NGO officials insisted that they were left with only 10% from the proceeds of the PEACe



Bonds' sale, which they said was used for operational expenses. The remaining 90% or P1.318 billion was channeled to the Peace Equity Access for Community Empowerment Foundation (PEF). It was through the PEF that projects in line with the Arroyo regime's anti-poverty program were allegedly implemented. But it was revealed in the Senate hearings that the Soliman couple was behind the PEF.

Where did the money go? Soliman says she is still asking this same question from those who took charge of Code NGO after she "left." She gives the lame excuse that the money was used for pro-people projects such as potable water systems and micro-financing. But there is no proof that the proceeds from the PEACe Bonds were indeed used for such projects or were otherwise beneficial to the people.

An even bigger problem lies in the fact that the government is obliged to fork out P35 billion once the bonds mature in 2011.

Not only did the people gain nothing from Code NGO and the Arroyo regime's bogus projects, they now bear the burden of having to pay off the money earned by these fake NGOs from the sale of the PEACe Bonds.

Soliman's bigger responsibility as former DSWD secretary under the Arroyo regime lies in accounting for the P8 billion in proceeds from the PEACe Bonds that were supposedly used for anti-poverty projects of the Arroyo government. No one knows who gained from these funds and what projects or which agencies or local government units became the end-users of these monies. No one from Code NGO admits to anything and Soliman has done nothing but deny that she had anything to do with all this. AB

Volatile situation in Nepal

Nepali prime minister Madhav Kumar Nepal resigned from his post on June 30 due to demands from Maoist oppositionists within parliament and massive street protests.

Kumar Nepal was installed by the revisionist Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (UML) and the conservative Nepali Congress Party (NC) after Maoist prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's resignation in May 2009.

Dahal was compelled to resign when the country's UML-affiliated president countermanded his decision to fire the army chief, Gen. Rookmangud Katawal for refusing to comply with his instructions to respect the supremacy of the civilian government, refrain from recruiting new soldiers into the old army inherited from the ousted king and accelerate the integration of the Red army and the old army in accordance with the provisions of the ceasefire agreement and guidelines on setting up the new government.

After more than a year in power, Kumar Nepal failed to consolidate Nepal's peace process and draft a new constitution, one of the requisites of forming the new government. The NC and the UML blame the CPN-M for the country's inability to move forward in drafting a new constitution, but it is the two parties that have in fact been blocking fundamental reforms and imposing many new conditions on the CPN-M in the process of forming a new charter.

On April 30, up to 125,000 people led by the CPN-M rallied in Kathmandu to demand the resignation of the prime minister and his government to give the majority CPN-M the right to lead a government of national unity. The day

after, the Nepali people also launched a general strike that paralyzed the entire country for a week. Riot police tried but failed to suppress the strike due to the people's militancy.

In an effort to achieve a consensus and speed up the process of the CPN-M's return to power, the party called for talks with the NC and UML. But the two parties imposed new conditions on the integration of the old and revolutionary armies in their latest talks on July 11. Aside from a new inventory of Red army forces and a new selection process, the NC and UML demanded the abolition of the Young Communist League which serves as the CPN-M's paramilitary arm and the restoration of all properties confiscated by the CPN-M and Red army from the ruling classes and enemy elements in ten years of people's war. The NC and UML said that for as long as the CPN-M does not become a civilian party and restore all confiscated property, the two parties will never allow it to resume power even if has the majority representation in parliament.

In a bid to propel the process, the CPN-M agreed to these conditions and adopt a three-month timetable for their implementation.

The political situation in Nepal remains volatile, with no prime minister having been chosen yet to replace Kumar Nepal. Parliament is set to meet again on July 21 in a renewed attempt to elect a new prime minister. AB

Youth launch National Day of Action for Education

YOUTH and students launched a successful mass action on July 16 to raise their sector's grievances before the newly installed Aquino regime.

More than a thousand students from various universities, colleges and high schools aside from out of school youth joined the mass action. The National Day of Action for Education was led by progressive youth organizations. The participants marched from the University of Sto. Tomas in España, Manila towards Mendiola. Filipino-American youth activists also joined the demonstration.

Similar protest actions were likewise held in the cities of Angeles and Cebu by youth who picketed the regional offices of the Commission on Higher Education in their respective areas. March-rallies were also held inside the regional campuses of the University of the Philippines in the cities of Iloilo, Tacloban and Davao.

The youth and students' main demand is for government to provide a sufficient budget for education. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has set 6% of the Gross Domestic Product as the standard for education budgets worldwide.

The protesters also demanded that Aquino put a stop to successive hikes in tuition and other school fees. They likewise called for the abrogation of anti-student policies such as those outlined in the Education Act of 1982 and the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, the recognition of the rights of teachers and school employees and the advancement of autonomy for student councils and publications.

Drivers launch protest caravan

MEMBERS of Pinagkaisang Samahang mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (PISTON) launched a protest caravan from Quezon City to Mendiola in Manila on July 15 as part of the buildup for the upcoming State of the Nation Address of Benigno Aquino III.

The mass action aimed to raise the transportation sector's demands before Aquino, said PISTON. Its main demand is the junking of the oil deregulation law which is one of the motorists' biggest woes. Second is the cancellation of toll fees at the South Luzon Expressway

and the removal of the value-added tax on petroleum products. Third is the review of anomalous projects of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and Stradcom Corp. such as the suspended Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) scheme. Fourth is punishment for Gloria Arroyo for her involvement in grave corruption during her nine years in power.

PISTON said Aquino must address all these demands to avoid damaging his image and being repudiated by drivers and the broad masses.

26 Indian paramilitary elements die in ambush

TWENTY-SIX paramilitary elements were killed and two others were wounded in an ambush by revolutionary forces in Chhattisgarh, India on June 29.

The casualties were elements of the Central Reserve Police Force who were on their way back from a clearing operation. The targets, who were on foot were attacked by Maoist forces upon reaching Dhodai, which is 300 kilometers away from Chhattisgarh's capital Dhodai. The firefight stretched for three hours, with the enemy unable to escape until the arrival of reinforcements.

India rocked by nationwide strike

A nationwide strike called to protest a government decision to withdraw oil price subsidies rocked India on July 5. The subsidies were withdrawn in an effort to alleviate India's growing budgetary deficit. The strike was led by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) and the Communist Party of India (CPI).

India is expected to suffer a budget deficit equivalent to up to 5.5% of its Gross Domestic Product for 2010-2011.

The removal of the subsidies, which caused the prices not only of petroleum products but of other commodities to skyrocket has fu-

eled intense anger among the Indian people. For instance, the price of kerosene which is used by millions of impoverished Indians rose by 33% or 3 rupees per liter. Gasoline prices rose by 6.7% or 3.5 rupees per liter while that of liquefied petroleum gas shot up by 35 rupees per cylinder. The inflation rate has also grown by more than 12% since oil prices were deregulated.

Most affected by the 12-hour strike were the opposition-led states of Bihar, Punjab, Karnataka, West Bengal, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajahmundry, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Har- yana.