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Editorial

## Gain strength and expand to advance the people's war

The current call to raise the level of people's war in the coming years to the stage of strategic stalemate is a huge inspiration to the Party, the people's army and the revolutionary movement. They are determined to meet the new challenges, fulfill the new tasks, invigorate and raise the quality of mass struggles and further advance the people's war in an all-sided way.

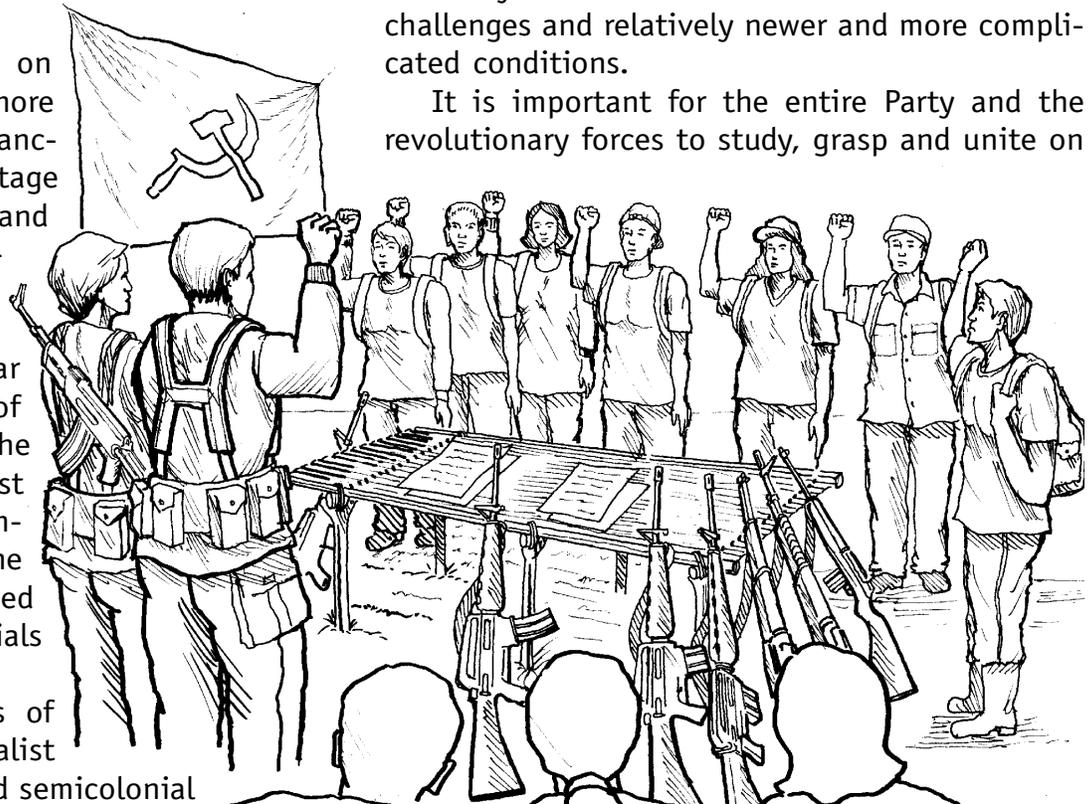
The call is founded on the gains achieved in more than four decades of advancing people's war in the stage of strategic defensive, and on the successes in overcoming the enemy's vicious campaigns of suppression. Of particular note is the defeat of Oplan Bantay Laya, the most brutal and bloodiest counterrevolutionary campaign unleashed by the fascist state that caused many hardships and trials in the past decade.

The worsening crisis of the international capitalist system and the moribund semicolonial

and semifeudal system in the country that has inflicted more suffering on the people is pushing them to fight for their patriotic and democratic interests and advance the revolution.

In order to raise revolutionary warfare to a higher the stage, we need to be more daring and persevering in the fulfillment of the tasks that the Party has underscored in the face of the new challenges and relatively newer and more complicated conditions.

It is important for the entire Party and the revolutionary forces to study, grasp and unite on



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the bases, correctness, requisites and tasks in advancing people's war towards the stage of strategic stalemate within the first half of the decade.

Most important of all is to all-sidedly strengthen the Party in the ideological, organizational, political and military fields.

This will mean further stepping up recruitment into the Party, ensuring its expansion in factories, schools, offices, villages, communities, organizations and wherever we operate in the countryside and cities. The deepest wellsprings for the recruitment and development of cadres and members of the Party are the mass organizations and mass movement, both open and underground. These organizations and movements must be further expanded, invigorated and strengthened through assiduous and tireless propaganda work, arousing, recruiting and mobilizing the masses.

Daringly win over and mobilize the various sectors of the

people, especially the toiling masses and the urban petty bourgeoisie in mass struggles to fight for their immediate and basic interests. Raise the level of their political consciousness and militancy through vigorous propaganda and painstakingly explaining the burning issues of the day in accordance with Marxist-Leninist and national-democratic analyses. This can be effectively done by addressing their problems and issues that demonstrate the rottenness of the prevailing system and push them to wage resistance. Make sure that they are promptly given political education particular to their sector or organization and general national-democratic courses. We must make sure that those qualified to be recruited into the Party are provided basic Party education.

We must ensure that the Party is deeply rooted among the masses. We must rapidly and continuously expand, develop and harvest new recruits into

the Party. In order for the people's war to make the leap towards the stage of strategic stalemate, we must be able to generate thousands more cadres and more than 200,000 additional Party members. We must be good at deploying Party members and cadres where they are most needed.

The fields that need the most number of additional Party cadres and forces, mass activists and good national-democratic revolutionary elements are the people's army and the armed struggle, agrarian struggles and revolutionary base building. These cadres, activists and elements are the key to further advancing people's war throughout the country. We must establish various formations of the New People's Army en masse and advance armed struggle nationwide. Guerrilla fronts must encompass the more than 170 rural congressional districts. Each municipality in most areas of the countryside must have an NPA platoon. Bigger revolutionary bases must be established.

Tens of thousands of Party and NPA cadres and forces must be developed and trained. We must raise their ability to lead guerrilla forces at various levels, people's militia and self-defense corps and partisan units in cities within guerrilla fronts. We must raise their ability to lead higher vertical formations and combinations thereof from time to time for big military actions. We need people who can lead small to big tactical offensives against enemy military forces and build and consolidate sec-

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tions and guerrilla fronts, sub-regional military areas as well as other military work.

Aside from deploying Party cadres, activists and forces of the national-democratic movement to advance the mass movement and armed struggle, we must also deploy forces to advance alliance and united front work. This enables us to expand greatly in various revolutionary endeavors such as armed struggle and the mass movements. It broadens our unity, divides the enemy and helps accelerate and facilitate the attainment of revolutionary victory in the various arenas of struggle.

Especially in a situation where the current clique in power is severely dominated by imperialist, comprador and landlord interests and is thoroughly servile to them, we must give priority to, and persevere in, the all-out advance of the broadest and most vigorous anti-imperialist and antifeudal mass movement and alliance. This can contribute a lot to the advance of the revolutionary movement and people's struggles.

These are but some of the requirements for preparing, raising the capability and fulfilling the requisites and tasks of raising the people's war to a higher level.

The Party will continue to identify and disseminate the many other requirements while preparing for, and advancing, the various tasks and meeting the requisites for accomplishing these. AB



## NPA seizes 24 firearms

The New People's Army (NPA) seized twenty-four firearms in five military actions launched in Samar, Negros Occidental, Compostela Valley, Davao City and Capiz from the last week of November to December 14, according to correspondence reports received by *Ang Bayan*. Fourteen soldiers were killed and five others were wounded in these firefights.

**Northern Samar, December 14.** A 12-man team from the 63rd IB was wiped out in an ambush by NPA guerrillas in Barangay Santa Fe, Las Navas town. Ten soldiers were killed and two other troopers were seriously wounded. The NPA said it was still investigating the circumstances behind the death of a teenage boy who was hit in the crossfire during the firefight, and added that it was willing to give compensation to the victim's family.

The ambush took place at around 3 p.m. while the government soldiers were on the way back from their military operation. Five kilometers away from their camp in the adjacent town of Catubig, however, they were hit by command-detonated explosives. The Red fighters were able to confiscate at least 11 high-powered firearms.

**Capiz, December 14.** The NPA raided a mountain resort in Sitio Marugo, Barangay San Antonio, Tapaz before twilight and disarmed the lone guard and a policeman from the Tapaz PNP who were having a drinking session. The Red fighters left them unharmed.

According to initial reports, the NPA seized an M16, a Ga-

rand, a cal .45 pistol, a 9 mm pistol and a grenade. Also seized were six communication radios, two pairs of telescopes and other military equipment.

**Davao City, December 9.** Red fighters under the NPA 1st Pulang Bagani Command under the Merardo Arce Command (1st PBC-MAC) seized eight firearms in a raid on the Bahani Long Range Platoon (BLRP) patrol base. The daring raid was launched in Sitio Damilag, Barangay Mapula, Paquibato District.

The NPA overran the patrol base without firing a single shot. Eight elements of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) assigned to the base abandoned their posts and escaped when the NPA raid began. The base commander, Cpl. Fresilo C. Dosel and an underage CAFGU element had no choice but to surrender.

The Red fighters immediately released them after they turned in their weapons.

Seized were four Garands, two carbines, an M16 and a 12-gauge shotgun. The NPA also confiscated a Harris radio, ammunition of various caliber, other military equipment and documents.



Said Leoncio “Ka Parago” Pitao of the 1st PBC-NPA, this tactical offensive once again belied claims of the Philippine Army 10th ID that the NPA arbitrarily kills its enemies, particularly the Lumad. There was also proof that the military continues to recruit minors as combatants in the CAFGU.

**Rizal, December 1.** Three troopers from the 16th IB were confirmed killed and three others were wounded after an encounter with an NPA unit under the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NAAC) in Barangay Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal. There were no casualties on the NPA side.

NAAC spokesperson Macario “Ka Karyo” Liwanag said that the 16th IB led by a Lieutenant Lopez was conducting military operations at around 2:30 p.m. when it encountered the NPA.

The 16th IB has earned notoriety for its many violations of human rights. Its latest crimes involved the killing of three farmers and two woodsmen in August and September this year.

The victims were all residents of Barangay Puray, Rodriguez.

**Negros Occidental, November 28.** The NPA Roselyn “Jean” Pelle Command (RPC) in Northern Negros meted punishment on PO2 Johnny Urbano, an abusive policeman from Escalante City. The punitive measure also served as a warning to other abusive elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police. Seized from Urbano was a cal .45 pistol.

RPC spokesperson Ka Esper Estrella said that Urbano was a major figure in various underworld activities in Northern Negros. A security escort of former Escalante Vice Mayor Santiago Barcelona, he was tagged as the perpetrator in the killing of a businessman and a civilian and the wounding of another civilian in Bacolod City in 2008.

He also actively engaged in counterrevolutionary activities as a member of the police intelligence community. He ran a small business that served as cover for his illegal activities. **AB**

## Revolutionary gains in FSMR

**T**he New People's Army (NPA) in Far South Mindanao has maintained the initiative in guerrilla warfare against troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

In a report published in *As-dang*, the revolutionary mass newspaper in the region, 35 out of 39 military actions in FSMR from January to November were initiated by the NPA. The Red fighters were able to inflict 44 casualties on the enemy consisting of 21 killed and 23 wounded. Fifty high-powered firearms were confiscated in these gunbattles, aside from ammunition and other military equipment. In the four defensive actions involving the NPA, its lone casualty was a guerrilla who was slightly wounded.

One of the most daring tacti-

cal offensives in the region was the raid on a Civilian Armed Auxiliary detachment in Barangay Luz Village, Mlang, North Cotabato on March 26, where 35 high-powered firearms were seized.

Other notable NPA military actions were the punitive measures taken against agribusiness companies guilty of landgrabbing. One such action was burning a boom spray owned by Dole-Stanfilco on April 6 in Barangay Malabuan, Makilala, North Cotabato. Another was a disarming operation on September 15 against guards of a ba-

nana plantation owned by North Cotabato Vice Gov. Manny Piñol and AMS-Stanfilco.

The NPA also launched attritive actions against operating troops of the 27th IB that serve as security forces of the giant Xstrata-SMI mining company. The latest tactical offensive against the 27th IB was launched on August 11 in Barangay Datal Blao, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat where seven mercenary troops of the AFP were killed and four were wounded.

Not a single NPA unit was crushed and no guerrilla front was dismantled despite months of battalion- and brigade-size military operations. This is also despite sustained strike operations by small AFP units and relentless base-denial operations against the NPA such as “com-



munity-based operations," food blockades and RSOT.

AFP military operations end up punching the air because NPA forces are able to effectively avoid them. Instead, it is the weak and vulnerable parts of the reactionary troops that are hit during firefights. The decisive factor in the NPA's predominance is the support it enjoys from the broad masses of the people, its familiarity with the terrain and its creative use of tactics and techniques in guerrilla warfare in various kinds of military situations.

Because of the AFP's failure to crush the NPA through its combat operations, it vents its ire on civilians. The worst hit were villages in Tulunan and Makilala in North Cotabato; a

number of villages in Magsaysay, Matan-ao, Kiblawan, Malita and Don Marcelino in Davao del Sur; Columbio in Sultan Kudarat; and Koronadal, Tampakan, Malapatan, Alabel and Glan in Sarangani. Troops of the 27th, 39th, 73rd, 57th and 68th IB have been staying in these communities, deploying a squad or an oversize squad in every village suspected of being an NPA base. They conduct psywar operations and spread black propaganda against the revolutionary movement. They impose food blockades, set up Barrio Defense Systems (BDS) and intelligence networks. The AFP is laboring under the illusion that it can drive away or cripple the NPA through such operations.

On the whole, the AFP's goal

of destroying the revolutionary movement in FSMR has been proven inutile and a failure. The NPA is able to continue conducting mass work in the region's guerrilla zones. The number of organized masses grew by more than 20% despite the AFP's intense attacks against the guerrilla zones. The NPA continues to hold the areas under enemy attack and has even been able to expand. The number of villages where the NPA operates grew by 10% in 2009, with the Red fighters having reached almost all of the region's strategic areas.

The terrain is favorable and big enough to provide the NPA ample room for maneuver. Most of all, the people ardently support their army. **AB**

## The truth behind the Las Navas ambush

**T**he truth has come out. The 63rd IB troops who were wiped out in a New People's Army (NPA) ambush on December 14 in Sta. Fe, Las Navas, Northern Samar were not on the way back to barracks when they were attacked but were in the middle of a military operation to pursue and crush the NPA in the area.

The Efren Martires Command (EMC) of the NPA in Eastern Visayas said in a statement that the military unit was part of a massive operation in the adjacent towns of Las Navas and Matuginao, Northern Samar which began in the last week of November and continues within the ceasefire period declared by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

The military operation involves 150-200 troops com-

posed of elements from the 63rd and 87th IB, Scout Rangers and other units under the 803rd Brigade of the 8th ID, aside from CAFGU forces. Reports from the front say the soldiers have not gone back to barracks.

The disposition of the military troops is as follows:

► A Philippine Army (PA) column was seen maneuvering from Barangay Ligaya, Matugi-

nao to Barangay Cuenco, Las Navas on December 15. The soldiers were guided by "Lido," a CAFGU element, and member of the "Hapa-hapa" criminal gang from Matuginao.

► Another PA column began maneuvering on December 14 in Barangay San Isidro, Las Navas and Barangay Ligayan, Matuginao. They had "Hapa-hapa" members Serbin and Darwing as guides.

► Around 60 soldiers from the military camp in Las Navas are operating in the mountains of Barangay Bago of the town.

► A column of 60 soldiers



was found to be in an ambush position in the area of Hapili River, Las Navas.

► There are also troops based in Barangay Poponton, Las Navas dispersed among civilian houses, a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law.

Even before the December 14 ambush, the troops involved in the operation had been sowing terror in different parts of Las Navas:

**November 28.** An MG-520 attack helicopter strafed the farms between Barangay Cuenco and Barangay Capootan.

**First week of December.** One hundred sixty-four (164) soldiers began occupying Barangay Poponton and mingling with civilians.

**December 4.** Elements of the Bravo Coy of the 87th IB killed Torib de la Cruz, a mentally-handicapped civilian. The soldiers engaged the victim in a drinking spree before the killing. His body which bore three stab wounds to the chest and a gunshot wound was found floating in the river the following day.

**December 8.** Soldiers from the 87th IB Bravo Coy fired at 18-year old peasant Aido Yanay while he was working in his farm in Barangay Paco. Yanay managed to escape but the soldiers razed his produce of 40 kilos of abaca worth ₱1,600.00.

**December.** Soldiers illegally arrested a certain "Inggo" of Barangay Osmeña and tortured him in their camp. The victim is mentally handicapped. **AB**

## NPA warns against AFP ceasefire violations

The New People's Army (NPA) in Rizal, Southern Mindanao and Mountain Province warned units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against actual or impending violations of the ceasefire between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). The ceasefire began 12:01 a.m. of December 16 and will end midnight of January 3, 2011.

In Rizal, the NPA Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NAAC) roundly condemned troops of the 16th and 56th IB and SAF-PNP elements for scouring Sitio Ricafort, Barangay Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte City and Barangay Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal and terrorizing the residents in these areas. Two platoons of AFP troops clandestinely entered the border area between Rizal and Bulacan provinces on the eve of the ceasefire period to conduct offensive military operations.

In a statement, NAAC spokesperson Macario "Ka Karayo" Liwanag called on the soldiers to return to their barracks. He said that the NPA in Rizal has been making an effort to uphold the ceasefire, but is ready to defend itself once AFP troops forcibly enter the former's territories. The NPA in Rizal re-

minded the military troops of the unfortunate incident on December 1 when they penetrated NPA territory and suffered six casualties—three killed and three wounded (*see related article*).

In Southern Mindanao Region (SMR), the NPA Regional Political Department likewise warned the public against clandestine maneuvers of 10th ID troops. The NPA said the 1003rd Brigade under the 10th ID has been moving men and materiel for days in Paquibato District, Davao City.

As early as December 10, enemy troops arrived aboard



two six-by-six trucks in the interior barangay of Mapula. On December 14, three truckloads of soldiers arrived in Barangay Pandaitan. On December 15, three attack helicopters lent support from noon to 3 p.m. to reinforcement troops in Sitio Ranso, Barangay Pandaitan; Sitio Manipis, Barangay Paquibato Proper; Purok 6, Barangay Salapawan; and Sitio Nursery, Barangay Malabog. These areas are all interior barrios of Paquibato.

SMR Regional Political Department spokesperson Ka Simon Santiago warned against the military's armed provocations. He urgently called on the AFP to stop its offensive maneuvers because they only heighten the risk of an armed encounter taking place.

In Mountain Province, the NPA Leonardo Pacci Command (LPC) called on the people to be vigilant of the AFP's ceasefire violations. The LPC said that the AFP's RSOT and combat troops are on war footing in the entire province, ready to conduct psywar, intelligence and strike operations. The LPC also called to mind the case of five NPA guerrillas who were treacherously attacked and killed by AFP troops in Sitio Kumyaas, Dao-angan, Balbalan, Kalinga despite a declared ceasefire in New Year of 1997. The AFP also usually conducts massive combat operations in the last week of December to disrupt celebrations of the Communist Party of the Philippines anniversary despite existing ceasefires. AB

## No change under the Aquino regime

Thousands of activists in different parts of the Philippines observed International Human Rights Day on December 10. Initial reports say major gatherings were held in the cities of Manila, Davao and Tagbilaran.

The people took the occasion to highlight particular human rights issues confronting their sectors.

Members of ALNAPEDKU, the alliance of *kuliglig* drivers who were violently dispersed for asserting their right to earn a living joined the rally in Manila. Scientists also marched with them to demand justice for slain botanist Leonardo Co and his companions.

Progressive lawyers expressed their call for justice for the victims of the Hacienda Luisita

massacre and other violations of human rights.

In Tagbilaran City, Bohol, some 1,000 people took to the streets. BAYAN-Bohol called the Aquino regime a "syndicate government" for tagging as "rebels" people who were merely airing their grievances.

In Davao City, thousands marched and rallied to the call "Foil terrorism, fight for human rights!" Three activists were killed in the region in the first five months of the Aquino regime. The peasants who took part in the rally also demanded a stop to the harassment of their ranks. They particularly

demand the withdrawal of RSOT operations that have long been ravaging the towns of Maco, Mawab and Nabunturan in Compostela Valley.

More of the same. This was how Karapatan summed up





the true state of the Philippines under the new regime. Social injustice persists. Civil and political rights are still violated. The regime perpetuates state violence and repression with its refusal to release 374 political prisoners.

The new regime says it will employ a new strategy to counter insurgency which will consider human rights. However, false charges are still being filed against leaders and members of progressive organizations to justify their arrest and raids on their offices. Harassment of, and surveillance on, human rights advocates continue.

At least 25 persons fell victim to political killings in the first five months of Aquino's term, an average of one victim every week. This is worse than 18 victims of extrajudicial killing or an average of one victim every 10 days in the last six months of the Arroyo regime. Several civilians were also claimed to have been killed in the crossfire in encounters between the NPA and the AFP but

were in fact victims of indiscriminate firing by soldiers.

While Karapatan appreciates the positive measures taken by

the regime on the peace negotiations, it said Aquino should stand by his promise to respect human rights. **AB**

### Oplan Bayanihan bound to fail—CPP

**T**he Communist Party of the Philippines belittled Oplan Bayanihan, the new counterinsurgency program of the US-Aquino regime. Benigno Aquino III is set to formally announce the new oplan on the anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on December 21.

The Aquino regime claims that Oplan Bayanihan, which will run from 2011 to 2016 will respect human rights and adopt the so-called "whole nation approach." It says the new oplan will differ from the previous Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) which took on a negative image because of accusations of human rights violations against the AFP.

The CPP assailed the AFP for its disregard of its thousands of human rights violations and its view that the only thing plaguing OBL is an image problem. The CPP said that as long as the AFP refuses to admit and even intensifies such violations, its new slogans will only be good for sound bytes.

The CPP further said that Oplan Bayanihan is no different from previous oplans as it still conforms to the brutal and militarist doctrine and prescriptions of all the old US-designed counterinsurgency plans. It is bound to fail in defeating the people's revolutionary armed resistance. Instead, it will further engender revolution until the entire reactionary system is overthrown and replaced with a revolutionary and progressive system. **AB**

### 5 civilians illegally arrested in Sarangani

**F**ive civilians were illegally arrested by elements of the 73rd IB in Barangay Upper Susan, Malapatan, Sarangani on December 14.

Arrested were Tuning Mungkil, Joel Mungkil, Benito Balbino, Ricky Mungkil and Anthony Salway. Tuning Mungkil was accused of being a high-ranking officer of the New People's Army (NPA) and his companions as NPA guerrillas.

The Valentin Palamine Command (VPC) of the NPA in Far South Mindanao denied the AFP's accusations. VPC spokesman Ka Dencio Madrigal said the victims are ordinary villagers who have

never been members of the NPA or the underground revolutionary movement.

He added that it just so happened that they live within the scope of the 73rd IB's RSOT operation, making them constant targets of harassment, psywar and human rights violations. It also just so happened that they live in the area where San Miguel Corporation plans to establish Looc Mining. Madrigal said the 10th ID is paving the way for Looc Mining by suppressing all opposition to the entry of big businesses in the Blaen ancestral domain. **AB**

# Military abuses in the Cordillera

**M**ilitary abuses are now rampant in the Cordillera, particularly the soldiers' use and defilement of schools and village halls.

In September, 21st IB troops occupied schools and other public buildings in the towns of Natonin and Paracelis in Mountain Province. They destroyed rice crops which were about to be harvested. In Barangay Lias, Barlig town, soldiers attempted to rape two high school students. In the middle of November, military troops also occupied the barangay halls of Banao, Tonglayan, Pudo, Alonugan, Buta, Saliok and Maducayan in Natonin.

The soldiers intend to use the civilians as shields against New People's Army attacks. They have set up fortifications right in the middle of densely populated areas. The AFP digs trenches right inside the villages, one in front of the public high school in Sacasacan, Sandanga, Mountain Province. They also have trenches in Tonglayan, Butac and Alunugan in Natonin.

The soldiers are keeping residents in constant terror. In Mainit, Bontoc, two platoons that have been deployed conduct daily patrols.

Mountain Province is now the most militarized area in the Cordillera. It is being ravaged by four battalions mostly in the eastern part where every village is occupied by the military.

In the adjacent province of Ifugao, soldiers forcibly opened

the faculty room in the public elementary school in Barangay Bunag, Aginaldo town on November 10 and occupied it for several days.

Soldiers are not just forcibly using the schools. In Barangay Cawayan and Namal in Asipulo town, the 86th IB scandalized the village when soldiers used up the residents' firewood and even the wooden walls of the local school because they were either too lazy or afraid to gath-

er firewood in the forest.

The soldiers even littered the school's surroundings with their feces wrapped in plastic bags, shocking parents who joined the Brigada Eskwela cleanup drive to prepare the school for the opening of classes.

Soldiers also stole chickens and rice from the residents of Barangay Namal. In Barangay Baguinge, soldiers never paid for items they took from stores. In Barangay Bamandag, soldiers posed as NPA guerrillas and extorted from the villagers but were unable to fool anyone. **AB**

## Workers win Honda Cars CBA negotiation

WORKERS of Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. in Laguna successfully reached a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with management on November 22. Led by the Lakas Manggagawang Nagkakaisa sa Honda-Olalia-KMU-(LMNH-OLALIA-KMU), the workers achieved their demand for higher wages, benefits and respect for their rights in the workplace.

Negotiations began on August 1, 2010. The workers prepared and diligently gathered the necessary data and other requirements including a realistic study of the company's financial standing. The union also prepared its members by educating them on the rights of workers.

The union said that the wages and benefits stipulated by their old CBA no longer sufficed in the face of rising prices of goods and services. Although they earned more than workers in other companies, they could no longer meet their daily needs.

The workers' espousal of the genuine, militant and patriotic unionism embodied by the OLALIA-KMU and PAMANTIK-KMU federations was a decisive factor in forging their strength. The leadership of the Alyansa ng Manggagawa sa Engklabo which upholds the rights of workers at Laguna Technopark also played an important role in their success. **AB**



## 38 of Morong 43 freed

The release of the Morong 43 was achieved due to the strong and widespread demand of various sectors and organizations in the country and abroad. Different groups also strongly denounced the trumped-up charges filed against the detainees and the violation of their rights while in detention.

The strength and courage of the health workers despite the torture they suffered in jail was also notable. The strongest pressure to the Aquino government came from the detainees' hunger strike which they intended to continue as long as they were kept in detention.

The persistent call of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines for the release of the 43 detainees as a goodwill measure for the resumption of the peace talks was also a fac-

tor.

All these compelled Pres. Benigno Aquino III to order the Department of Justice on December 10 to withdraw the cases of illegal possession of firearms and explosives and violation of the election gun ban against the Morong 43.

It was around midnight of December 17 when the detainees, who were processed one by one were finally released from Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City. They were happily

welcomed by their kin and members of different progressive organizations.

Five of the Morong 43 are still detained in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal on various criminal charges. National Union of Peoples' Lawyers secretary general Atty. Edre Olalia said the cases filed against them such as violation of the anti-"bouncing checks" law, among others are preposterous.

The military continues to harass the five remaining detainees who, the AFP alleges, admitted that they are members of the New People's Army.

Now that they are free, the Morong 43 are ready to hold the AFP and the previous regime accountable for violating their rights. **AB**

## 5-day protest camp held in Bukidnon

Some 500 peasants and their supporters set up camp around the Bukidnon provincial capitol in Malaybalay City from December 5-9 to fight for land, wages and benefits against exploitative merchants and cartels.

The mass action was led by the Kahugpungan sa mga Mag-uuma-Bukidnon (KASAMA-Bukidnon), Organisasyon sa mga Yanong Obrerong Nagkahiusa (OGYON) and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas-Northern Mindanao Region.

The peasant leaders said nearly 80% of peasants in Bukidnon suffer systematic feudal and semifeudal exploitation in the form of high land rent, usury and low prices of agricultural produce. They are also victims of intensifying militarization in the countryside. They said that land in Bukidnon is controlled by a few individuals—wealthy and powerful landlords oppress-

ing and exploiting small farmers and farmworkers.

Landlords do not comply with the minimum wage law, including the rates set by the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Board. Farmworkers in plantations usually earn between ₱80 and ₱120 daily. Sugar plantation workers are paid only ₱120 daily or ₱100 per ton (₱0.10-0.12 per kilo) of sugar cane cut and hauled.

OGYON and KASAMA-Bukidnon are now campaigning for a 20% share of the harvest from the present 15%, a ₱252 daily minimum wage, the payment of Social Amelioration Bonus to all sugar plantation workers, ₱1.50 per kilo increase in the farmgate price of bananas, ₱1 per kilo increase in the farmgate price of abaca and the cessation of military operations in the countryside. **AB**

# AFP violence and deceit in FSMR

Some of the fiercest enemy troops are currently deployed in the Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR). These troops are responsible for a long list of human rights violations.

The most notorious are the 39th IB in Davao del Sur and the 73rd IB in Sarangani. These two battalions had beaten at least 20 individuals in villages in Matan-ao, Malita, Alabel and Malapatan towns in Davao del Sur from January to August 2010. They raped four women in Barangay Little Baguio, Malita.

Meanwhile, a platoon of the 73rd IB used a farmer they had captured in the forest as a "bridge" on a muddy path between Barangay Little Baguio in Malita and Barangay Pag-asa in Alabel last June.

The 27th, 68th and 57th IB are using the "soft" approach in areas covered by their RSOT such as Columbio, Sultan Kudarat and Tulunan, Makilala and Tampakan in South Cotabato.

For instance, they launched a Peace and Development Outreach Program (PDOP) to strengthen the established Barrio Defense System. They organize livelihood programs and seminars like the Peaceful, Orderly and

Godfearing Individuals (POGI).

But whatever mask they put on, the people refuse to be deceived.

The 27th IB is responsible for the heinous killing of ordinary civilians like Janjan Casamorin in Barangay Sinapulan, Columbio in February 2010; and Tuliano Dalumatan in Barangay Asbang, Matan-ao in September 2009. They abducted peasant Dodoy Amualla in Barangay Banayal, Tulunan. He remains missing.

In villages along their routes, AFP soldiers maul, torture and steal from many residents. Many are displaced from their homes due to shelling and artillery fire.

Restrictions are imposed on residents of villages under the RSOT. Farmers are only allowed to work in the field from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are allowed to pack only a little amount of food. They are not allowed to spend the night in their farms. They

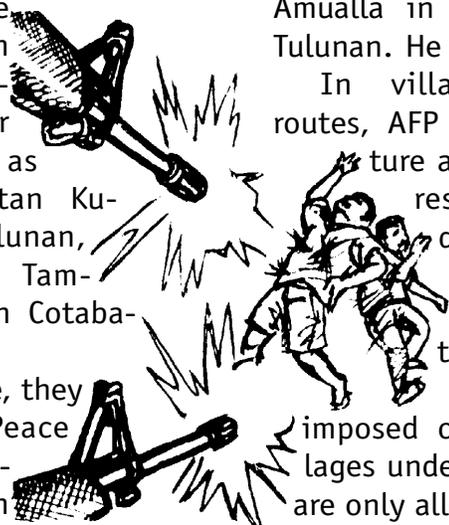
are required to report to the military's "office" twice a week. They are forced to secure residence certificates and those who do not have one are subjected to intense investigation. Those who are suspected of being activists or NPA supporters are subjected to surveillance, interrogation and illegal

detention. Quite a number of women have been sexually molested and raped. Civilians are used as shields and public facilities are used as camps.

Reengineered Special Operations Team (RSOT) also conduct operations in town and city centers where the open mass movement is strong. Mass leaders are subjected to surveillance in order to intimidate them. Military officers harass them by "inviting" them for "dialogue," which is actually a form of interrogation and is intended to terrify them into giving up their legitimate and just cause.

Among the AFP's psywar ploys is the "mass surrender" of supposed NPA fighters to make the people believe that the revolutionary forces in the region are crumbling.

Many of the supposed surrenderees are former NPA guerrillas who have long left the revolutionary movement. Some of them have been made to surrender two or three times. **AB**





# Stop the attacks on Wikileaks!—ILPS

The International League of People’s Struggle (ILPS) strongly condemned the unjust arrest and detention of Julian Assange in the United Kingdom (UK) and the relentless attacks on Wikileaks by the governments of the US, UK and Australia, big finance corporations and powerful and conservative US politicians.

Assange is the founder of Wikileaks, a website exposing secret documents about the evil deeds of governments and corporations, mainly in the US, other imperialist countries and their allies. He was arrested in the UK on December 8 on a false rape charge. At the same time, Wikileaks is being attacked with various acts of harassment and sabotage. Assange was allowed to post bail on December 17.

This turn of events stemmed from what is now known as “Cablegate” or Wikileaks’ disclosure of over 250,000 cables from US embassies in more than 150 countries. Wikileaks began revealing the cables on November 29. The cables were first published by three major newspapers in the US, UK and Germany.

The cable messages reveal the plots, taunts, slander, double-dealing and other cunning and dirty tricks of US imperialism against oppressed countries, rival capitalist countries and even long-time allies. They also expose the utter corruption and money-laundering operations of reactionary and puppet officials. Even before these latest revelations, Wikileaks had exposed thousands of classified documents and videos sent by US military forces. Many of

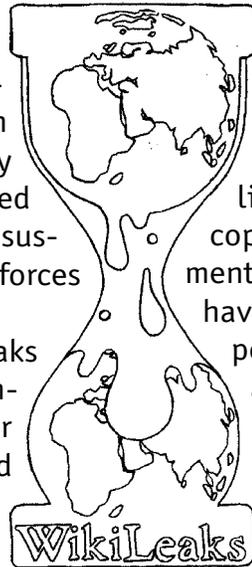
these revealed the bloody, dirty and criminal deeds of US occupation forces in Iraq and Afghanistan which victimized mostly civilians, including children and the elderly. Many documents also revealed failures and setbacks sustained by US military forces in battle.

“In targeting Wikileaks and Assange, the US imperialists and their acolytes have attacked the people’s right to freedom of expression and to the free flow of information; and freedom of the press. They have shown their utter disdain for transparency in governance and for holding pub-

lic officials accountable,” the ILPS pointed out.

“The vicious attacks against Wikileaks form part of a broader US objective to foil the internet as a potent tool of the peoples of the world against imperialist designs,” added the ILPS.

The ILPS lauded the corps of Wikileaks supporters for their on-line dissemination of copies of the exposed documents. It called on all who have the capability to expose the crimes, deceit and evil designs of the imperialists through Wikileaks and other means at the people’s disposal. It called on all member organization of the ILPS and friends to launch different forms of protest in front of the embassies of the US, UK and Australia. **AB**



**5 comrades illegally arrested in Agusan del Sur**  
Five members of the revolutionary movement in the North-eastern Mindanao Region were arrested in Barangay Pili, Bayugan, Agusan del Sur on December 17. Pedro Codaste and four of his companions were apprehended at a checkpoint.  
Trumped-up charges of murder and attempted murder were filed against Codaste. NDF-Mindanao spokesman Jorge “Ka Oris” Madlos strongly condemned Codaste’s arrest, saying it is a brazen violation of the NDF-GRP ceasefire agreement and shows the government’s fascist character. The NDFP-Mindanao plans to file a formal complaint with NDF-GRP joint monitoring committee and demand the release of Codaste et al as the charges against them are false. **AB**