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Editorial

The Aquino regime must immediately take Arroyo to account

The Filipino people were gladdened at the resignation of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez on May 6. With Gutierrez's resignation, a huge obstacle has been removed from filing charges against Gloria Arroyo and her partners in crime. Now, demands have become more urgent to hold Arroyo accountable at the soonest possible time for plunder and stealing from the public coffers as well as for more than a thousand counts of extrajudicial killing and other crimes against humanity.

Gutierrez's resignation came amid widespread calls from the people to oust her as Ombudsman. Her resignation has preempted the Senate's constitution as an impeachment court that will try her on the charges that have been filed against her.

The people have been angered no end with Gutierrez's use of her power to block cases against Gloria Arroyo who appointed her to her position. The Office of the Ombudsman is the reactionary government's agency tasked with investigating and filing charges against government officials involved in corruption and abuse of power. Contrary to this, however, Gutierrez turned a blind eye to her friend Arroyo's direct involvement in various cases of corruption such as the NBN-ZTE deal, the Fertilizer Fund scam and many others.

Gutierrez's resignation as Ombudsman fires up the Filipino people's desire to see the legal process unfold immediately against Gloria Arroyo, her husband Mike, her sons and other key officials of

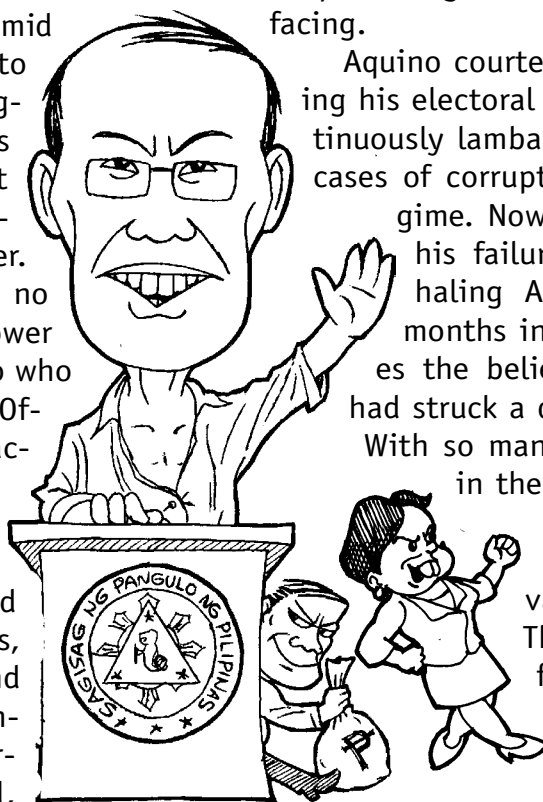
the past regime involved in various anomalies. They would also like to see the legal process unfold against Arroyo and her military and security officials for their responsibility for various fascist crimes.

The people are thus deeply disappointed with Benigno Aquino III for his failure to undertake even a single step to hold Arroyo and her cohorts responsible for plunder and fascist crimes. They seethe in anger seeing Arroyo flaunting her power despite the grave criminal cases she should be facing.

Aquino courted the people's support during his electoral campaign last year by continuously lambasting Arroyo and the major cases of corruption under the previous regime. Now he is courting their ire in his failure to begin the process of haling Arroyo to court even after months in power. This only buttresses the belief that Aquino and Arroyo had struck a deal during the elections.

With so many investigations conducted in the previous years, enough information has been disclosed to nail Arroyo for various criminal cases. Thus, many deem Aquino's formation of a Truth Commission in his first days in Malacañang ostensibly to investigate Arroyo's cases as a huge waste of government resources. Malacañang eventually failed to justify the rationale behind the Truth Commission's formation in the face of questions raised against it before the Supreme Court.

Aquino dilly-dallied in the face of calls to



This issue's highlights...

Arroyo charged with plunder PAGE 2

13 firearms seized in Bukidnon PAGE 5

Ka Soly: Woman, mother, revolutionary PAGE 10

oust Gutierrez. He began to take heed of, and ride, on the public's clamor only in April when moves to remove Gutierrez began taking off within and outside Congress. He suddenly took on the issue in an attempt to recover lost ground after the latest surveys revealed a nosedive in his popularity ratings.

Gutierrez's resignation now strengthens the pressure on the Aquino regime to file cases against Arroyo and her ilk and put them on trial. The Aquino regime can no longer justify any delay in taking the necessary steps in this regard, The Filipino people must step up their demands to hold Arroyo accountable in order to preempt any deals that may be struck and to push the process of attaining justice.

Without the people's struggle against corruption, the various camps within the ruling classes will merely take turns in abusing political power in order to commit plunder and amass wealth. History has proven that if the people do not take action, justice can never be attained from those who hold the reins of power in the reactionary state.

In the final analysis, lasting justice can only be attained with ending the ruling reactionary system that engenders corruption and fascism and allows them to fester. True justice can only be attained with the overthrow of the bureaucrat capitalists through revolutionary struggle and the establishment of a new ruling system of people's democracy. **AB**

Arroyo charged with plunder

Former Pres, Gloria Arroyo is set to face several cases of plunder and violations of human rights.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's unexpected resignation has set the stage for this scenario. Gutierrez's resignation took effect May 6, or three days before the Senate was set to try her on impeachment charges.

When she announced her resignation, Gutierrez still stubbornly denied being Arroyo's protector. This is despite being known to be close to the former president's family. She sat on cases involving her boss and the latter's most zealous minions. On the other hand, she brutally went after the Arroyo regime's political enemies.

With her resignation, there is one less obstacle in accelerating the criminal proceedings against Arroyo. In this regard, Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said that they would pursue the plunder case they had earlier filed against Arroyo for her involvement in the \$329-million NBN-ZTE project. Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima has promised to revive the case and form a panel for this under her department.

Bayan Muna filed the case against Arroyo on July 1, 2010, a day after she stepped down from power. The DOJ endorsed the case to the Truth Commission formed by Aquino. The case was relegated to the backburner when the Supreme Court declared the Truth Commission unconstitutional.

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez had earlier filed plunder charges against Arroyo for her illegal use of funds from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Also charged were former OWWA administrator Virgilio Angelo, former Health Secretary Francisco Duque II and former Executive Secretary and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Chavez said Arroyo illegally transferred OWWA funds to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). She used P554 million in OWWA funds to purchase PhilHealth cards from March 2003 to February

2004 for distribution during her reelection campaign. Romulo also illegally used P5 million from OWWA to support US Pres. George W. Bush's terrorist war in Iraq and \$293,500 to defray expenses of the Philippine mission in Kuwait and buy cars for Philippine embassies in Lebanon, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt and Iran.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson is also reportedly preparing a corruption case against Arroyo. So is Danilo Lihay-lihay, a private citizen from Iloilo, said Secretary de Lima. Lihay-lihay's charges stem from Arroyo's anomalous



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Contents

Editorial: Arroyo must be taken to account	1
Arroyo charged with plunder	2
CHR slammed for clearing AFP	3
Dispersal at Laperal Compound	3
Calamity, hunger in Panay	4
13 firearms seized in Bukidnon	5
6 soldiers killed in Rizal	5
POWs in Cotabato	6
Killing, militarization in Leyte	6
Scout Ranger in Negros killed	7
NDFP 38th anniversary	8
Cordillera Day	9
Ka Soly, revolutionary martyr	10
News	12

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sale of the Iloilo Airport's equipment in 2007.

Despite positive indications that Arroyo will finally be nailed for plunder and her other crimes against the people, there are other obstacles that must now be hurdled by anticorruption crusaders.

The Office of the Ombudsman is already maneuvering to clear Arroyo, with Assistant Om-

budsman Evelyn Baliton claiming that Arroyo's transfer of OWWA funds was legal and free of irregularities. Added to this is Benigno Aquino III's reluctance to prosecute the former president. On May 1, he admitted that filing plunder charges against Arroyo is not among his regime's priorities and said he was more focused on finding a new Ombudsman. **AB**

CHR slammed for clearing military

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) was lambasted for clearing the military in the abduction and torture of Filipino-American activist Melissa Roxas and her two companions.

CHR Chairperson Loretta Ann "Etta" Rosales cleared elements of the Philippine Army 7th Infantry Division and even maliciously insinuated that the New People's Army (NPA) was behind Roxas' abduction and torture.

In a statement, the Communist Party of the Philippines decried the CHR decision as favorable to former Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who used to head the 7th ID in its brutal campaign of terrorism and human rights violations. Among Palparan and the 7th ID's other crimes are the abduction of University of the Philippines students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, the torture of brothers Reynaldo and Raymond Manalo, the abduction of activist Jonas Burgos and worker-leader Rogelio Concepcion.

Fidel Agcaoili, shair of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) assailed Rosales' accusations against the NPA. Agcaoili said Rosales' statements may derail the ongoing peace talks between the Government of the Philippines and the NDFP. On the other hand, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) expressed its disappointment with the CHR reports. BAYAN said despite Roxas' cooperation with the CHR's investigation, the government rights body still let the military off the hook.

Roxas was abducted along with her companions Eduardo Jandoc and Juanito Carabeo on May 19, 2009 in La Paz, Tarlac. They were subjected to physical and psychological torture for six days and brought to various military camps in Central Luzon.

Meanwhile, the mothers of Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan filed several cases against Palparan before the Department of Justice. Palparan was accused of violating the Anti-Rape Law under the Revised Penal Code and the rights of detainees and arrested persons under international antitorture covenants. They were assisted by their lawyer Atty. Edre Olalia of the National Union of People's Lawyers. **AB**

Violent demolition at Laperal Compound

The Confederation of Unity for the Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) condemned the violent demolition at Laperal Compound in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City on April 29.

More than 1,000 police forces, elements from the Special Weapons and Tactics unit, goons, personnel from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Makati Public Safety (MAPSA) forced their way into the community to evict the residents. They used bulldozers to destroy the houses and trained water cannons and lobbed teargas grenades against residents who were forced to defend their homes.

COURAGE-Laperal chapter chair William Balderas said a child lost consciousness after inhaling teargas fumes and two men sustained bullet wounds. Several youths were arrested and beaten up by the police.

Balderas strongly belied Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Jun-jun" Binay Jr.'s claims that the community was a "danger zone" because of rampant drug use and crime. He said Binay was just deflecting the people's attention from the real reason behind the demolition: to evict the residents. Balderas assailed their transfer to farflung relocation sites where they have no assurance of livelihood. He added that they believed the fire that engulfed the community on April 19 was arson and part of the scheme to boot them out of the area.

On, the other hand, COURAGE national chair Ferdinand Gaité blamed the government for the proliferation of homeless people. He said many people flock to the cities but do not have jobs waiting for them or decent housing and social services. He added that since the government was exploiting the people, the latter must unite and struggle to defend their right to live. **AB**

Calamity, poverty and hunger in Panay

In 2010, a series of calamities hit Panay. In the last quarter of 2009 and the first half of 2010, the island suffered a severe drought due to El Niño, followed by typhoons and floods in the succeeding months. This wrought havoc on the island's agricultural economy, worsening hunger among the peasantry and other impoverished sectors.

Government inutility

Despite such serious devastation, the government did nothing but give out aid in trickles to the victims of calamities. Social services were of no help when a dengue epidemic struck the island in mid-2010. Up to 5,147 people fell ill and 27 died in the province of Iloilo alone. Mass organizations had to confront and demand help from the Iloilo City local government before the latter issued ₱1 million in calamity funds.

The government declared a state of calamity in the face of severe flooding in September and December 2010, but did nothing except distribute canned goods and instant noodles. It even required farmers to pay ₱600 for each sack of certified seeds from the Department of Agriculture and the National Food Authority which it allegedly sold at a discount. This was supposedly done to enable farmers to use the seeds for their second cropping. At this point, the prices of LPG and almost all goods and services shot up. Even the price of NFA rice rose from ₱25 to ₱27 per kilo. The price of white sugar came to ₱60 per kilo in December and ₱70 to ₱72 in town centers this February.

The government also demonstrated its inutility during the onslaught of El Niño. Almost half of irrigated ricelands had gone dry. Nonetheless, cloud-seeding was done too infrequently. Services that were normally provided by the De-

partment of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine National Red Cross were coursed through the 4Ps program—which had its own budgetary allocation. The government claimed that the 4Ps beneficiaries enjoyed priority, even if they numbered only 5,000 in the provinces of Iloilo and Capiz. But they received no food or medical assistance despite demands from farmers especially in Iloilo during the lean months.

Worse, organizations and institutions that were doing their best to fill up the vacuum left by the reactionary government's inutility were constantly being targeted for repression. Innocent civilians were being killed and democratic organizations and progressive non-government organizations (NGO) harassed.

Even amid the most serious calamities, like typhoon Frank, the AFP extended only token assistance and use of a few of its helicopters. The AFP and the US used the disasters as opportunities to send in interventionist American troops. They had their pictures taken handing out relief goods but were unable to extend any significant assistance. The US military even exploited the

situation to conduct counterinsurgency operations.

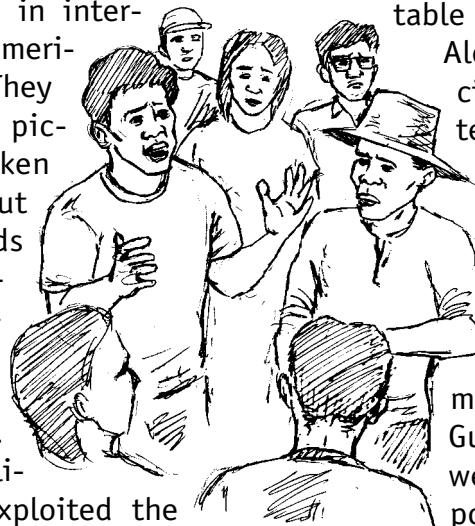
Until now, scarcely 40% of the infrastructure damaged by typhoon Frank has been repaired. Not a single centavo from the total ₱8 billion meant for the rehabilitation of the region's calamity victims has reached the intended beneficiaries.

Mass movement to address disasters

In the face of all this, democratic organizations as well as progressive NGOs were still able to respond quickly through rescue and relief efforts in the most severely affected communities, especially in Kalibo, Aklan and Capiz. Their early response to the needs of impoverished and calamity-stricken people is the product of continuing education and training on disaster preparedness, disaster management and community drills in barangays affected by disasters.

By forming alliances with other sectors, mass organizations and progressive NGOs were also able to sustain their disaster-management activities and campaigns. They conducted trainings on emergency response management, early warning systems, counter-disaster planning, disaster information and advocacy, hazard mapping and sustainable agriculture. They also dispersed vegetable and fruit tree seeds.

Along with local officials, they drew attention to the people's conditions through fact-finding missions, congressional inquiries and struggling against destructive mining operations in Guimaras and Capiz, as well as the coal-fired power plant in La Paz,





Iloilo.

With the onslaught of El Niño, mass organizations launched campaigns against hunger and raised the issue of rotten social services. They demanded that government deliver on its responsibilities to assist farmers and develop agriculture. This is because the only assistance they had received came in the form of a little rice which was distributed by politicians during the electoral campaign.

Revolutionary response to calamities

In areas covered by Red political power, the peasant masses continued to launch campaigns on organized efforts to develop production and set up cooperatives in addition to other efforts for the welfare of the people in the barrios.

The campaigns included the defense of land which is the source of the peasants' livelihood. The peasants struggled against the 3rd ID's seizure of the Tumanduk minorities' ancestral lands as well as schemes to evict farmers to give way to tourism projects and destructive mining operations.

Rules on environmental protection are implemented as well as on the preservation of the remaining forests and the planting of durable crops like coconuts and coffee. Ricefields are developed and the use of poison in rivers, streams and other sources of water is banned. The revolutionary forces explain to the people that these campaigns are related to the defense of the national patrimony and natural resources against imperialist and landlord-comprador interests and for national industrialization.

During disasters, the Party and the New People's Army in the island are focused on helping the people by providing guidance to their actions and coordinating the distribution of relief goods within their limited resources. The NPA Regional Command also declared a temporary ceasefire in 2008 after the devastation of typhoon Frank. Likewise, the NPA Napoleon Tumagtang Command in Southern Panay declared a temporary ceasefire after massive landslides struck Tubungan, Iloilo in 2009. This is to give NPA and Party units and the mass organizations an opportunity to help the calamity-stricken people in the localities. **AB**

NPA seizes 13 firearms in Bukidnon

The New People's Army confiscated 13 firearms in a successful raid on the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters and municipal hall of Malitbog, Bukidnon on the morning of May 3. Seized were eight M16s, three 9 mm pistols, a cal .38 revolver, a cal .22 pistol and rounds of ammunition.

The NPA also seized two radio transceivers, two computers and other military equipment.

Ignacio "Eking" Balacuit Command (Front 4-B) spokesperson Ka Emiliano Libertad said the Red fighters were able to take control of the police station in 30 minutes despite the proximity of the headquarters of the 58th IB and the Misamis Oriental Provincial PNP. The attack was conducted so swiftly that the three policemen who were then at the station were unable to fire back and instead surrendered their weapons.

The Red guerrillas brought the three captured policemen as they retreated but released them some 300 meters away from the police station.

The NPA has once more demonstrated and proven that it is capable of launching successful tactical offensives in the face of bigger and stronger enemy forces and intense military operations. This raid is going to raise and strengthen further the determination of the Red fighters to thwart the US-Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan and advance the people's war to a higher level, added Libertad. **AB**

6 soldiers wounded in Rizal ambush

Six soldiers, including their commanding officer were seriously wounded in an ambush by Red fighters in Barangay Mamuyao, Tanay, Rizal on May 5.

In a statement, the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the New People's Army in Rizal reported using a command-detonated explosive on a section of operating troops from the 16th IB Bravo Coy. The 16th IB is known as the "butcher battalion" for its many human rights violations, especially against Dumagat and Remontado minorities.

After a 15-minute exchange of fire, six soldiers lay wounded, including a Lieutenant Partoza who was leading the operating troops, There were no casualties on the NPA side. **AB**

Local official's killing, militarization in Leyte assailed

The Arnulfo Ortiz Command (AOC) of the New People's Army in Samar province strongly condemned the murder of Calbayog City mayor Reynaldo Uy. Uy was gunned down by hired killers sent by his political rivals.

In a statement, the AOC said Uy's killing underscores the worsening crisis and rottenness of the reactionary ruling system. "The contradictions between reactionary politicians are turning even more bitter and bloodier because there is no more room for mutual accommodation over the dwindling spoils of power."

The AOC called Uy a true friend of the people and a politician who knew how to listen to the people's grievances. He joined the anti-Marcos dictatorship movement in the 1980s. After the dictatorship's downfall in 1986, he was appointed OIC vice mayor of Calbayog City. He eventually won in the elections under the progressive Partido ng Bayan and became the city's mayor and congressman.

In 2005, he played a major role in exposing and opposing within Congress the human rights violations of the fascist butcher Gen. Jovito Palparan. Palparan then headed the 8th Infantry Division. Uy led all the region's congressmen in demanding Palparan's expulsion from Eastern Visayas. He also actively opposed large-scale mining in Samar and the entire region.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Front in Eastern Visayas (NDF-EV) roundly condemned the influx of troops from the 82nd Civil Military Operations Company in all barangays of Tunga, Leyte. "The claim of Lt. Rey Halina, commander of the 82nd CMO Company, that these troops are "peace and development workers" is plain rubbish." The NDF-EV said that the 82nd CMO Company is a combat-

ready unit foisted on the civilian populace, and engaged in acts of war sugarcoated as "peace and security operations" under Oplan Bayanihan.

The NDF-EV said that the 8th ID was putting the civilians' lives in danger, which is violative of

the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. The NDF-EV also expressed its concern regarding more human rights violations to come as a result of the militarization of the entire town of Tunga. It cited the 8th ID's responsibility for the deaths of scientist Leonardo Co and two members of his team, and the massacres of peasants in Kananga and Palo. The 8th ID is likewise accountable for extrajudicial killings, bombings of civilian communities and economic and food blockades. **AB**

SR officer killed in Negros Oriental

The New People's Army (NPA) thwarted an attempt by the 2nd Scout Ranger Company on May 3 to attack a platoon of Red fighters in Sitio Avocado, Barangay Talalak, Santa Catalina, Negros Oriental. According to initial reports, a military officer was killed and a soldier who was part of the reinforcement troops was wounded.

The officer was identified as Capt. Wilson Montenegro, commander of the 2nd Scout Ranger Coy (SRC) of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion.

The NPA unit was temporarily posted in the area when the 2nd Scout Ranger Coy encircled it at around 9 a.m. Nonetheless, the Red guerrillas got wind of the plan and seized the initiative in the gunbattle. After 30 minutes, the 2nd Scout Ranger Coy's commanding officer lay dead and a soldier from the reinforcing 1st SRC lay wounded.

In a statement, the NPA thanked its friends from the police who warned them of the impending attack. The warning enabled the Red fighters to prepare for and meet the reactionary state's "elite troops" head-on.

In Compostela Valley, a soldier was killed and two others wounded in an NPA ambush on operating troops of the 71st IB in Barangay Tibagon, Pantukan at noon of May 4. According to initial reports, the NPA used a command-detonated explosive on the soldiers before opening fire.

Meanwhile, Red fighters of the Edgardo Dagli Command (NPA-Batangas) punished an element of a death squad being run by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the PNP-CIDG. The element who was known by his aliases "Dennis" and "Allen" was directly responsible for killing two mass leaders in Batangas.

"Dennis" was part of a team of armed men handled by the AFP-PNP who killed Kenneth Reyes, 28, barangay captain of Maguihan, Lemery. Reyes, who was shot to death on April 11 also chaired the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Batangas. "Dennis" also killed Ireneo "Rene" Rodriguez in Pook ng Balaayan, Calaca, Batangas on November 7. Rodriguez was an officer of the Samahan ng Magbubukid ng Batangas (SAMBAT). **AB**

NDFP celebrates 38th founding anniversary

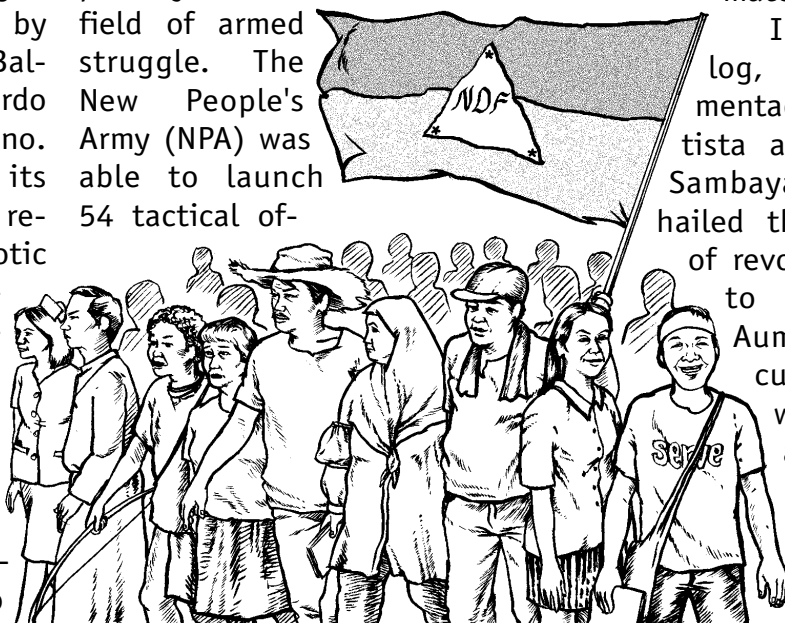
Various revolutionary forces allied with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) celebrated the latter's 38th founding anniversary on April 24.

From their jail cells at the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City, five NDFP consultants hailed the revolutionary alliance and expressed their continued support for it and the Filipino people's determined revolutionary struggle. The statement was signed by Prospero Agudo, Jovencio Balweg, Alan Jazmines, Edgardo Sarmiento and Eduardo Serrano.

They said that since its founding, the NDFP has remained the leading patriotic and progressive people's alliance against foreign imperialism, domestic feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. The Filipino people, especially the most exploited and oppressed are determined to pursue the national-democratic revolution to

conclusion and establish a free, democratic, propeople, just and progressive socio-economic and political order in the country.

From Eastern Visayas (EV), NDFP spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas reported EV's victories, especially in the field of armed struggle. The New People's Army (NPA) was able to launch 54 tactical of-



fensives from 2010 to 2011, seizing 35 firearms, killing 105 and wounding 35 of the 8th ID's forces. Salas said that from these experiences in guerrilla warfare, the NPA in the region is now in the process of developing annihilative attacks in order to seize more weapons and arm more recruits. Added Salas, the NPA in Eastern Visayas is determined to contribute to the effort to advance the people's war from the strategic defensive to the strategic stalemate.

In Southern Tagalog, the Raquel Aumentado chapter of Artistista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan (ARMAS) hailed the contributions of revolutionary artists to the revolution. Aumentado was a cultural activist who was killed in a firefight in Mulanay, Quezon in 2006.

Said ARMAS-TK, many

NPA captures 2 soldiers in North Cotabato

Two elements of the Philippine Army 57th IB were arrested by Red fighters on April 14 while undertaking an intelligence mission in Sitio Dalinding, Barangay Datu Inda, President Roxas, North Cotabato. The two soldiers were identified as Cpl. Del-fin Largo Saracom and Pfc. Jayson Burgos Valenzuela.

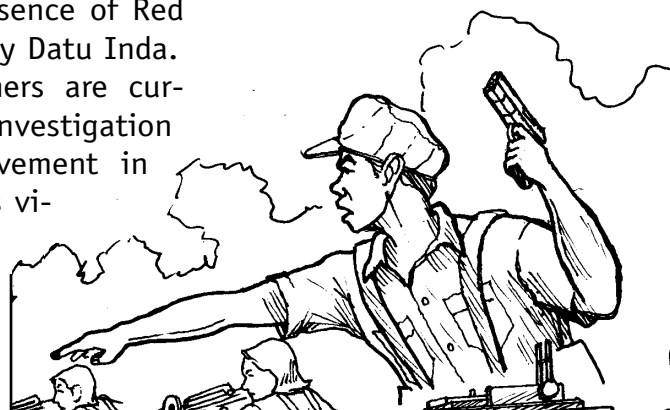
Red fighters under the Herminio Alfonso Command (HAC-NPA) seized two cal .45 pistols from them, said Ka Isabel Santiago, spokesperson of the HAC-NPA (Front 53 of the Southern Mindanao Region).

Saracom and Valenzuela were arrested for being members of a Special Operations Team (SOT) implementing the US-Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan in North Cotabato. Using the monicker "peace and development

team" as cover, the two soldiers were engaged in an intelligence operation, particularly the verification of the presence of Red fighters in Barangay Datu Inda.

The two prisoners are currently undergoing investigation for possible involvement in grave human rights violations and other crimes against the revolutionary movement in the course of imple-

menting the US-Aquino regime's brutal counterrevolutionary war. Nonetheless, the soldiers' families were assured that the NPA was respecting their rights in accordance with the protocols of war and provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.



revolutionary artists have offered their lives in the people's service. They inspire other cultural workers to tread the path of struggle.

ARMAS-TK particularly assailed the colonial and feudal culture that rules the fields of education, the mass media, the arts, religion and others. ARMAS-TK's determination to further advance the national-democratic cultural revolution grows stronger in the face of this situation. Said ARMAS-TK, for as long as radio and television programs, the teachings of the conservative churches, the system of education and other cultural avenues continue to peddle ignorance, backward thinking, reliance on fate and luck and the worship of things foreign, the revolutionary movement will go all out in arousing the broad masses to make them aware of their innate power and capability to blaze their own path towards

genuine social change.

A statement by the Christians for National Liberation (CNL-TK) cited the life and death struggle where hundreds of revolutionary martyrs have sacrificed their lives. But with their deaths, said the CNL-TK, they are resurrected in the hundreds and thousands of people struggling to attain victory for the people's democratic revolution and establish a society that will banish exploitation.

As a revolutionary organization among church people and the religious, the CNL firmly believes that only through a democratic revolution can the people achieve their long-desired change.

Meantime, members of the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan launched a lightning rally in Manila and called on women to join the people's war. AB

CPDF hails 27th Cordillera Day

Cordillerans bravely asserted their right to celebrate the 27th Cordillera Day despite sinister efforts by the local reactionary government and the 41st IB to stop them. The celebration which was held in Lacub, Abra carried the theme "Live Out our Glorious History of Struggle! Fight for Land, Life and Honor!"

In a statement, Simon "Ka Filiw" Naogsan, spokesperson of the Cordillera Peoples Democratic Front (CPDF) hailed the significance of Lacub as the site of the celebration. Lacub is currently threatened by the large-scale operations of three mining

companies—Total Mineral Exploration, the Philex-owned Golden Lake Mineral Resources and Titan Mining and Energy Corporation. The celebration was held amid intense struggles by the people of Abra to defend their ancestral lands, livelihoods and natural resources.

The CPDF likewise praised the Cordillerans' steadfastness in the face of the huge number of military troops that have been poured into the region to suppress their struggles. AB

The CPDF assured the people of the continued support of the revolutionary forces for the Cordillerans' struggle to defend their lands, livelihood and natural resources. Even amid the brutality of Oplan Bantay Laya 1 and 2, the New People's Army (NPA) dealt blows on the enemy as its contribution to the effort to punish the military troops that are being used by foreign and local exploiters to suppress the people. In OBL2's final year up to the first quarter of 2011, the NPA was able to inflict 104 casualties on the AFP. Fifty-eight of these casualties were killed in action in 20 gunbattles in the entire region. The NPA was also able to seize a good number of weapons and military equipment.

The CPDF called on the people in the region to continue resisting the presence of the reactionary military in their communities and the entry of foreign corporations out to seize and destroy their ancestral lands. It called for the forging of militant unity and struggle among all Cordillerans and the Filipino people in order to establish a genuinely free, progressive, peaceful, just and democratic society. AB



Danding Cojuangco cornering FSMR and Cordilleran resources

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. has been paid back more than amply for his hefty contribution to his nephew Benigno Aquino III's campaign kitty. Aside from a Supreme Court decision affirming his claim over significant shares of stock at the San Miguel Corporation (SMC), Cojuangco is now having a heyday seizing large tracts of land for his large-scale mining and energy projects. His is now the face of greed of the Kamag-anak Inc. in various parts of the Philippines.

In Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR), the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has exposed Cojuangco's ownership of 10% of the gigantic and destructive Xstrata-SMI that mines gold and copper. He has also purchased three coal mines in the Daguma mountains located along the Sarangani-Sultan Kudarat-South Cotabato tri-boundary. SMC has also announced its intention of setting up coal-fired power plants in the cities of General Santos, Sultan Kudarat and Davao.

Their greed for riches and power makes Aquino and his uncle Danding Cojuangco turn a deaf ear to the grievances of people who have suffered the devastation caused by large-scale mining operations. Landslides, air and water pollution and the destruction of rivers and seas are now rampant in areas hosting large-scale mining.

Mining interests also use the AFP to brutalize and silence people waging resistance. Through Oplan Bayanihan, large-scale mining and plantations are passed off and protected as "peace and development projects."

The NDFP in FSMR firmly declared that it would never allow foreign monopoly capitalists and their local cohorts among the big comprador bourgeoisie to wantonly destroy the envi-

ronment and the people's welfare. It will fight until a rational, pro-people and environmentally friendly economic policy is in place.

In the Cordillera, the people timed their exposé and condemnation of Kamag-anak Inc.'s onslaught in the region during the 27th Cordillera Day celebration. The participants assailed the national policy of viewing the Cordillera as a resource base that foreign and local exploiters could freely plunder. They cited mining contracts signed by the Arroyo regime shortly before the end of its term, among them with Cordillera Exploration Inc. (CEXI) that covers at least 1,872 hectares in 12 villages of three municipalities in Mountain Province (MP). On the other hand, Horizons Resources Corp. will cover almost 60,000 hectares in Benguet and 43

barangays in four towns of MP. In September 2010, Mt. Franz Mining Corp. applied for a mining permit for 54,800 hectares in 11 villages of MP and 42 barangays of Kalinga.

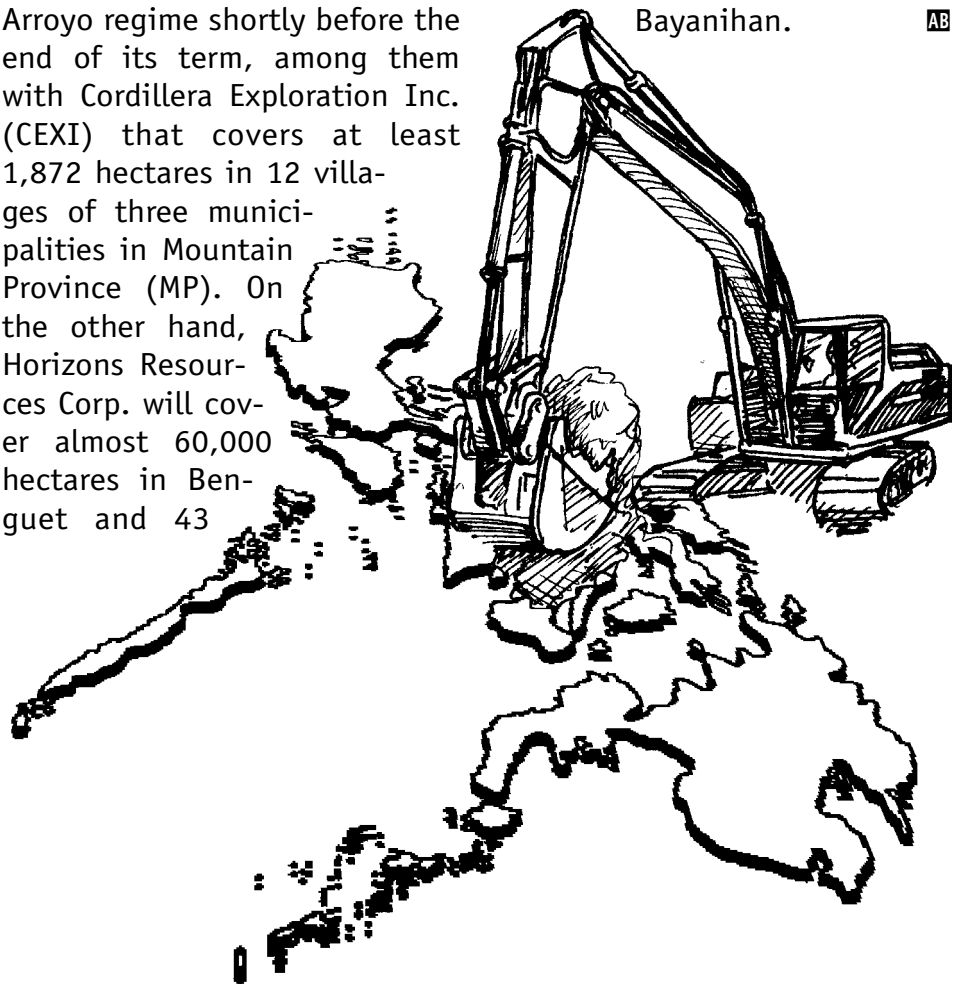
All financial and technical assistance agreements, exploration agreements and mining production sharing agreements taken together would currently cover a million hectares or more than 51% of Cordillera's entire land area.

Even the Ilocos shorelines are being mined for magnetite. There are 30 new hydropower generation plant contracts on top of the 21 existing mini-hydropower plants and the Magat, San Roque, Ambuklao and Binga mega dams.

Many of these contracts are owned by Kamag-anak Inc.'s SMC or the Ayala family, another Aquino ally.

Although the contracts were signed under the previous regime, these mines and energy plants are zealously being protected by the military under the

Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan. **AB**





Ka Soly: Woman, mother, revolutionary

I understand clearly what I am sworn to do, I know that hardship, sacrifice and even death can befall anyone and I believe that all these efforts will not be in vain.-- Ka Soly

**Statement by the Secretariat
of the Southern Tagalog Regional Committee
Communist Party of the Philippines
February 2011**

Coming from a peasant family with roots in Albay province, Comrade Rosemarie Dumanais (better known as Ka Soly/Ensa) was born on October 31, 1959 in Camarines Sur. Ka Soly knew early on the meaning of poverty and social crisis. As the eldest of three daughters, she helped her mother eke a living by hauling abaca even at a tender age. These circumstances piqued her interest in politics and she became active in youth organizations in her locality. It is this interest and consciousness that opened the doors to Ka Soly's unhesitating embrace of the revolutionary movement.

Her being a woman did not prove to be a barrier in fulfilling her revolutionary tasks. In January 1979, comrades from the revolutionary movement came in contact with Ka Soly and recruited her. In the first phase of her political involvement, she led the establishment and expansion of youth groups in other barangays of their town and became an instructor of various mass courses. From time to time, she would guide comrades

as they transferred to other sub-villages and helped gather supplies for the NPA. Ka Soly showed courage and determination in whatever task she fulfilled. Due to her intense desire to contribute more to the revolution and be of deeper service to the people, she joined the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (NPA) in the Quezon-Bicol Zone in March 1980 at the age of 21. She chose to tread the

path of armed struggle. At first, she worked among students as a member of a semilegal team.

In November 1981, Ka Soly began working in a guerrilla zone in South Quezon with her husband. She was assigned to an Armed Propaganda Unit (APU) of the NPA that had three towns of Batangas as its area of operations. When she became pregnant, she worked for a year as a member of an urban-based medical staff. After giving birth, she was assigned to a guerrilla zone in Quezon in November 1984 and joined an APU operating in three municipalities. From being an ordinary Red fighter, she became the logistics officer (S4) in 1985 and the vice squad leader of a newly formed consolidation team operating in Central Quezon. Before the year ended, Ka Soly was assigned Secretary of a newly established Party branch within a military sector (Sangay sa Militari Sektor or SMS) operating in three towns. In May 1986, she became the deputy secretary of a Guerrilla Front Committee covering Laguna and Central Quezon. Not long after, she became a regular member of the District Committee in Central Quezon. In 1987, Ka Soly also became a regular member of the Front Committee and the District Executive Committee and continued serving as the Secretary of the SMS in four towns in Quezon. She also worked in Laguna in 1991, serving as the Secretary of a platoon-size Sub-District Committee. From 1993 to 1994, she became the Deputy Secretary of the District Committee. In 1996, Ka Soly was assigned Secretary of the guerrilla front in Central Quezon. She fulfilled all her duties with a renewed firmness and faith in the Party.

Due to her exemplary performance, she was appointed member of the Southern Tagalog





Regional Committee in 1994 and elected a regular member during the Third Regional Party Conference in 1997. She later became a member of the Executive Committee during the Regional Party Committee plenum in 2000.

Ka Soly displayed admirable fortitude in the face of adversity and firmly held fast to revolutionary theory. She constantly deepened her knowledge of theory and its application in order to fulfill her tasks better. She refused to be swayed by tendencies that would affect her service to the people. Instead, she continued to break against such waves and successfully overcame various contradictions.

She knew how to accept her errors and listen to criticism, using this in her remoulding as a revolutionary communist. Ka Soly was the image of simple living and hard struggle. She was loved and embraced by every mother, sister and daughter she met.

It was in the movement that she met her husband, the father of her children and her partner in struggle—Comrade Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, the spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Together, they built a revolutionary family and supported each other in further honing their revolutionary standpoint and improving their revolutionary practice. Ka Soly's family inspired her to persevere in pursuing the revolution's goals. At the same time, the revolutionary couple inspired other comrades desiring to build their own families. As a mother, she raised and moulded her daughters to know both the sweetness and bitterness of war. She chose to take on the sacrifice of being separated from them in order to pursue a deeper goal, and that was to be

mother to many other children brutalized by poverty and exploitation. The depth of her love for her family was equalled by the depth of her love of country—she was a neverending, unsurpassed wellspring of love.

It was in a gunbattle in Mauban, Quezon on February 7, 2011 that Ka Soly died while courageously fighting the mercenary military. She is a martyr of the revolution whose life and struggle were exemplars of faithful service to the exploited and oppressed masses.

Ka Soly did not show any fear in the face of death in the hands of the enemy. Her bravery and steadfastness as she maneuvered through steep trails to protect their ranks was unequalled. She did not waver amid the smoke and exchange of gunfire during battles. It was clear to Ka Soly that life would someday end, but that what really mattered was how one spent this life and to whom it was dedicated. Up to the last moment, Ka Soly lived in struggle and died a hero and martyr of the revolution.

Her death is as heavy as the Sierra Madre and Banahaw mountains. The revolutionary people, the Party and people's army mourn her death and remember her life full of heroism. They remember her as a model comrade, revolutionary, woman and mother.

Like many other sons and daughters of the people, Ka Soly never turned her back on her duties. She spent 32 years of her life in loyal service to the revolution's interests, to the people and the country. The bullets that ended her life failed to stop her blazing desire to be free of the chains of bondage. Her heart has stopped beating but the memories of the comrade, woman, mother and revo-

lutionary that she was live on.

Her contributions to the revolution's continuing strength and advance are her legacy to the next generation of revolutionaries—the younger generation who will follow in her footsteps and wield the weapon that had fallen from her grasp.

Long may you live, Ka Soly!

Your memory will stay alive and afire in the hearts and minds of the people you served. It is a flame that will never die.

2-day transport strike shakes Panay

PROGRESSIVE drivers and other democratic groups successfully waged a two-day transport strike all over Panay island. Led by the Kahublagan Kontra Kartel (KKK) and PISTON, almost 100% of public transportation in Iloilo, Capiz and Aklan joined the strike from 10 a.m. of May 2 to May 3. Drivers of public transport between cities and towards Antique also stopped plying their routes.

The drivers protested to demand the junking of the 12% value-added tax on petroleum products and the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Law. They also called on the regime to investigate the oil companies' overpricing of their products by up to ₱7.50 per liter. They said it would be more relevant for the regime to remove the VAT on oil instead of giving away "pantawid pasada" cards. This band-aid solution by the regime is futile especially in the face of relentless hikes in the prices of petroleum products.

May 1: Day of Rage

THOUSANDS of workers marched in various parts of the country to assail the antiworker US-Aquino regime and demand hikes in wages and salaries.

Led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), thousands massed up at the Liwasang Bonifacio before marching to Mendiola. They lambasted Benigno Aquino III's decision to relegate the issue of a wage increase to the Regional Wage Boards which have never granted sufficient or significant wage hikes. The small wage hikes they have approved have been quickly rendered useless in the face of spikes in the prices of goods and services.

Similar mass actions were likewise held in various urban centers throughout the country.

The KMU also assailed Malacañang for announcing that it would merely be granting "nonwage benefits" from Pag-ibig and PhilHealth just to avoid raising the issue of a wage increase.

On May 2, KMU members marched in front of the DOLE office where the Regional Wage Board was conducting a hearing on a possible wage increase for Metro Manila. The RWB refused to face the rallying workers and instead talked only with the yellow leaders of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP). The TUCP was content with asking for a mere ₱40-75 wage increase. In other parts of the country, yellow unions petitioned for a measly ₱13-25 wage hike.

The regime did not even bother to raise the issue of a ₱6,000 across-the-board salary hike demanded by government employees.

The KMU said the latest significant wage increase took place way back in 1990. This real value of this wage hike has been greatly eroded since it was granted 20 years ago.



Shell, Exxon show rapidly growing profits in 2011

PROFITS of two giant oil companies rose dramatically in the first quarter of 2011. The American-owned Exxon registered a \$10.5 billion profit or a whopping 69% hike in profits while the Dutch-owned Royal Dutch Shell saw \$6.5 billion or a 41% rise in income. The two companies' ballooning profits were due to hikes in the price of crude oil.

Meanwhile, Ibon Foundation reported that the three biggest oil companies in the Philippines raked in ₱141.7 billion in profits. Ibon pointed out that this was bigger than the ₱114.3 combined income of 2.36 million of the Philippines' poorest families.

The prices of petroleum products have been rising relentlessly in the past few months. Shell and its subsidiaries claim that they will lose if they do not raise the prices of their products. In fact, they and their mother company have been earning gargantuan profits.

Possible return of US military bases opposed

THE revolutionary movement and democratic forces strongly opposed the possible reestablishment of US military bases in the Philippines.

The possibility loomed with the visit to the Subic Naval Bay Port of American senators Daniel Inouye and Thad Cochran on April 26. There had been earlier news that the US was looking for an alternative location in the face of recent disasters and growing calls for the removal of their base in Okinawa, Japan.

Subic Naval Base was a former US military base. The US was forced to abandon it in September 1991 after the Philippine Senate voted against the treaty that would have extended the US bases' stay in the country.

Unemployment in Spain worsens

SPAIN reported in May that its unemployment rate had breached 21% this May. Almost five million Spaniards have been jobless since the first quarter of the year. Thus, more and more of the Spanish people have been forced to look for temporary employment or jobs in the "underground economy."

Spain is the fifth biggest economy in the European Union (EU). Its situation is not far off from that of Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Iceland—countries that the EU has had to rescue before their economies moved on to inexorable collapse. But unlike these countries, Spain will be needing a much bigger rescue package in order to salvage its economy.

On the whole, the average unemployment rate in the entire Eurozone is 10%. This encompasses almost 16 million Europeans. This situation has caused continuing protests in various parts of Europe.

Bin Laden, Gaddafi's son killed in US operations

US Pres. Barack Obama announced on May 1 the death of Osama bin Laden, known to be al-Qaeda's leader, in an interventionist operation by US Special Forces inside Pakistan. US intelligence agents had pinpointed his location in a mansion in Abbotabad, a town near the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. The US immediately sent helicopters to bomb the mansion. Aside from Bin

Laden, five others, including a woman were also killed in the attack.

At first, the US claimed that Bin Laden had been

killed in a firefight. But after questions had been raised about this, the US later admitted that Bin Laden was unarmed when he was shot. After the assault on the mansion, helicopters bombarded the house to raze it to the ground.

The operation was undertaken without the knowledge or permission of the Pakistani government.

Al-Qaeda, which Bin Laden had led has been accused by the US of bombing the World Trade Center in New York in 2001. The then Bush regime invoked the bombing to attack and occupy Afghanistan and Iraq in the next few years. The US and its allies have stepped up security measures in anticipation of retaliatory attacks by al-Qaeda

followers.

Meanwhile, US allied forces also killed Moammar Gaddafi's son Saif al-Arab, 29 and his three young grandchildren in a bombing raid by NATO airplanes on Saif's house on April 30 simply on the suspicion that Gaddafi was in the house.

The death of civilians has earned criticism, even from those who had initially supported the bombings. As a result, opposition has grown against attacks by the US and its allies on Libya. The US' critics say that the US' use of excessive force against the Gaddafi family has resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians and must be stopped immediately. The US and NATO have been conducting the bombings despite Gaddafi's call for a ceasefire and negotiations with local forces whose rebellion has been instigated by the US.

