

ANG

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Editorial

Achieve great victories in 2012

The continually worsening crisis of the semi-colonial and semifeudal system under the US-Aquino regime and the social and national oppression, exploitation and suffering of the Filipino people are pushing them towards the path of revolutionary resistance. This year, let us set our sights on the big struggles that confront the people. Let us achieve great advances and victories in mass struggles and the armed revolution.

Let us forge the people's broad unity against the US-Aquino regime and its pro-imperialist and antipeople measures and policies.

The Filipino people must be ready for big struggles against new tax burdens, higher electricity and water rates and gasoline prices, among others. Workers and urban poor will face huge battles against demolitions. The masses of workers must intensify their struggles against mass layoffs and for higher wages. They must step up their struggle for national industrialization and fight for policies that will develop the factors of the local economy.

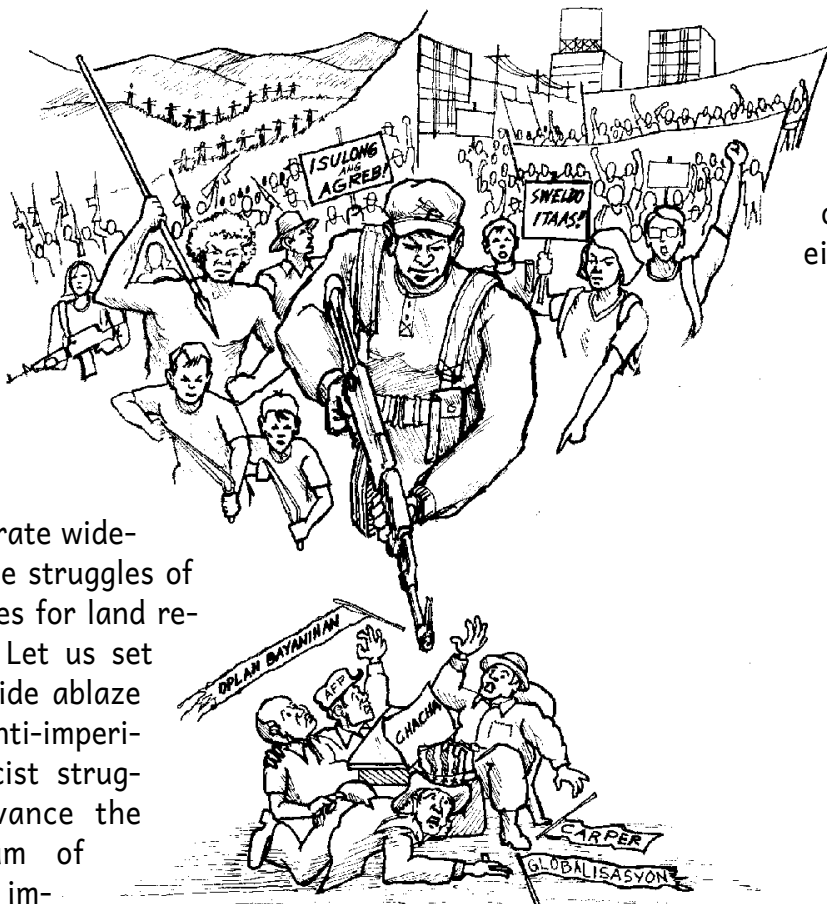
We must generate widespread and intense struggles of the peasant masses for land reform nationwide. Let us set the vast countryside ablaze with antifeudal, anti-imperialist and antifascist struggles. Let us advance the minimum program of land reform and im-

plement the maximum program of land distribution wherever possible. We must forge the people's broad unity in support of the antifeudal struggles in the countryside.

The minority peoples must stand in unity with the entire people to defend their ancestral lands and intensify their struggle against land grabbing and plunder perpetrated by foreign mining and logging companies and gigantic plantations.

Let us expose Aquino's grandiose lie regarding his so-called "road to righteousness" and the deceptions he has been foisting on the people. Let us expose the real state of the people, the widespread poverty and unemployment, the low wages, the skyrocketing prices of gasoline, food, services and other basic needs.

Let us go all out in exposing and resisting bureaucrat capitalism under the US-Aquino regime, especially its use of state power to favor big businessman-friends of Aquino and their foreign corporate cohorts. Ex-



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pose the corruption behind the drafting of new contracts favoring Aquino's friends and relatives.

Let us prepare to struggle against growing US military intervention. Let us demand an end to unequal military treaties. Let us assail the docking of nuclear-capable US warships in Philippine ports. Let us make US imperialism pay for the hundreds of thousands of Filipinos killed in its conquest of the Philippines, the clandestine stationing of nuclear weapons in the country and the many other crimes it has been committing against the Filipino people for more than a century.

The people must fire up their courage in order to thoroughly resist Oplan Bayanihan, the brutalities and terrorism perpetrated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) this year and in the future. Let us raise the people's consciousness about their human rights and international humanitarian law which protect the welfare of civilians in times of war. Let us propa-

gate the study of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) among mass organizations, especially in the countryside.

Because the AFP stresses its so-called civil-military operations, we must prepare the people's minds and determination to fight for their rights in the face of the soldiers' establishment of encampments in civilian communities, especially beside schools and in village centers, the harassment, curfews, illegal searches and arrests, abductions and killings. The people must stand in unison against the AFP's terrorism.

Let us forge the people's broad unity against the US-Aquino regime's "cha-cha" plans. This scheme to amend the 1987 reactionary constitution is aimed at completely ceding to foreign interests the Philippines' economic sovereignty and patrimony. This is one of the biggest measures that Aquino and his ilk would like to take, in accordance


with the commands of their imperialist masters. This is also one of the biggest battles confronting the Filipino people now and in the years to come. Let us forge the people's patriotic unity against the cha-cha scheme.

Two years after the Party Central Committee issued the call to advance the people's war towards the strategic stalemate, the New People's Army and the revolutionary forces are in a position to achieve great strides this year. Let us attain the goal of recruiting NPA Red fighters and seizing weapons in numbers bigger than ever before.

Because of continuingly vigorous antifeudal struggles, more and more peasants, especially among the youth in the countryside are joining the NPA. Let us form, train and mobilize people's militia units in their numbers. The expansion and advance of people's war in the coming years will be marked by the launching of tactical offensives extensively by the people's militia acting on its own initiative or under the NPA's command, and the active participation of the masses in the armed revolution.

The cry of people's war reverberates up to the cities. Let us urge the thousands of communists and activists among the youth, workers and other sectors in the cities to join the NPA or be of service to the antifeudal movement in the countryside.

The Red fighters and all NPA units and commands are determinedly gaining strength and raising their capability to launch more and bigger tactical offensives this year. Let us not give AFP units entering guerrilla zones the opportunity to rest. Let us not allow them to wreak havoc or give them leave to commit atrocities and terrorize

 <p>Vol. XLIII No. 1 January 7, 2012</p> <hr/> <p>Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions. It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at: www.philippinerevolution.net Ang Bayan 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: angbayan@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Contents</p> <p>Editorial: Achieve great victories in 2012 1</p> <p>Victories in 2011 3</p> <p>Offensives in NEMR and CagVal 4</p> <p>Regime's ceasefire violations 5</p> <p>Manhunt for Palparan 6</p> <p>Ex-woman leader rearrested 7</p> <p>Destruction by Sendong 7</p> <p>Lesser case filed against Arroyo 9</p> <p>Repressive US law 10</p> <p>Attack on West Papua 11</p> <p>CPP condoles with DPRK 11</p> <p>Atty. Claver honored 12</p>
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the people. The NPA must seize all opportunities to mete blows on AFP units. Let us coordinate the conduct of tactical offensives in every area within the guerrilla fronts. Tactical offensives coordinated at the inter-front to inter-regional levels must be launched. Let us shake the foundations of the US-Aquino regime with ever bigger tactical offensives, and with body and head blows on its fascist machinery.

Let us commemorate the 20th year of launching the Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM) this year by consummately studying and propagating Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, the history and the basic principles of our Party and its struggle against modern revisionism.

Let us propagate the study of Marxist-Leninist analysis of the roots of the capitalist crisis and the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines. Let us expose and struggle against deceptive anti-communist, modern revisionist, counterrevolutionary, pro-imperialist

and petty bourgeois reformist thinking that steer the people away from the path of revolutionary struggle. Let us reaffirm our analysis on the need to advance the people's democratic revolution in order to put an end to the oppression and exploitation of the Filipino people and create the conditions for socialist revolution and national development.

Let us strengthen our Party ideologically, politically and organizationally. There is utmost need for a Party that is strong at all levels and in every arena in order for it to lead and serve as the invincible core of mass struggles, tactical offensives, strengthening the mass organizations, advancing agrarian revolution, setting up the people's government and other revolutionary tasks.

Let us thoroughly take on all the tasks need to advance the people's war. The major victories that we will be achieving will jumpstart our efforts to bring the people's war to a new and higher level in the near future. AB

Victories in 2011

The entire Party and all revolutionary forces celebrated the 43rd anniversary of the reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on December 26. The CPP hailed the many victories achieved in the previous year as the Filipino people endeavored to advance their people's war to the new stage of strategic stalemate. Following are initial reports from a number of regions issued on the occasion of the recent anniversary.

In Mindanao. National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos joyfully shared reports on the advances made last year by the revolutionary movement in the island. The New People's Army (NPA) was able to launch 350 tactical offensives in Mindanao and undertake agrarian revolution over wide areas. The number of Red fighters and their firepower rose by 15%. Party membership grew by as much as 30% while the number of mass organizations expanded by 20%.

On the other hand, the NDF-Mindanao expressed sympathy with the families and friends of those who lost their lives as a result of typhoon Sendong. The

island-wide revolutionary alliance promised to do all it could to punish the destructive foreign companies and violators of the policies and laws of the revolutionary government on environmental protection and against the plunder of the country's natural resources in order to attain justice for the victims. *(see related article)*

In Cagayan Valley. Party membership enjoyed a 50% growth last year. There was also an increase in the number of Party branches and Party groups within mass organizations. Party committees at various levels grew stronger, with section committees playing bigger roles in various activities.

Although the enemy was able to strike against part of one of the region's guerrilla fronts, it was also this front that registered a marked increase in the number of cadres and notable advances in various areas of revolutionary work. Party committees, cadres and members were consolidated through their studies of basic and special courses. Propaganda work grew vibrant with the regular publication of the regional mass newspaper and the issuance of press statement on burning issues.

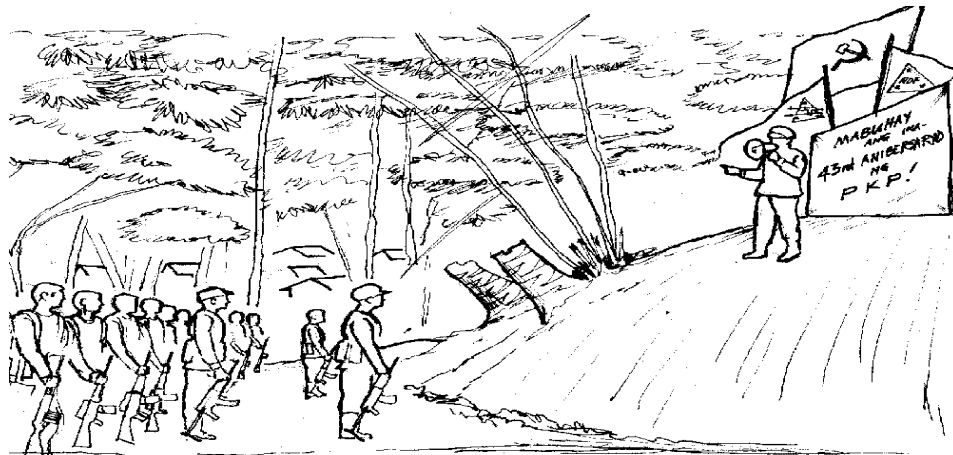
Also among the region's significant gains is the resurgence of antifeudal struggles such as campaigns to reduce interest rates on loans. The region likewise has a strong campaign against foreign mining activities. The seizure of farmers' lands by merchants, usurers and other land grabbers has also been thwarted. Several coordinated mass movements at the municipal and provincial levels were launched. New organizations were set up and the number of activists and organized

masses expanded.

In the field of armed struggle, the number of Red fighters and people's militia grew and their areas of operation widened to include a number of highly populated places. The NPA was also able to undertake punitive operations against rabidly notorious enemy elements and despotic big businessmen.

In Rizal. A celebration of the 43rd Party anniversary was held on December 26 in this Southern Tagalog province adjacent to Metro Manila despite military operations by the AFP and PNP. A selected audience of some 200 people joined the Party celebration. The Southern Tagalog chapters of the Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU) and the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (MAKIBAKA) sent greetings to the CPP.

In Panay. The regional Party organization was able to raise the level of its ideological, political and organizational work. It established the necessary machinery and systems to quickly consolidate the membership of the Party, the people's army and mass organizations. The number of Red fighters grew by 20% and the people's militia by 18%. The NPA launched 28 tactical offen-



sives, including the notable ambushes in Capiz and Antique that caused disruptions in the enemy's concentration.

The region saw a continually energized protest movement, with students launching a series of protest walkouts, drivers conducting a two-day island-wide transport strike joined by up to 10,000 vehicles and Tumanduk minorities holding a caravan to fight for their ancestral lands and oppose militarization.

Progressive media leaders also assailed the military for launching a smear campaign against them and putting women and children in harm's way through their so-called peace and development teams and rolling stations.

In Ilocos-Cordillera. The NPA was able to launch victorious tactical offensives espe-

cially at the onset of Oplan Bayanihan. On the overall, the Red fighters were able to kill 58 military troopers and wound 22 others in these gunbattles, and seize 11 firearms. On the other hand, AFP military operations dealt severe blows on the provinces of Abra and Ilocos Sur, brutally killing several Red fighters and desecrating their bodies. Nonetheless, the masses and comrades have overcome these AFP onslaughts and strongly condemned the enemy for violating the rules of war.

Mass struggles against the seizure of ancestral lands by destructive mining, megadam and geothermal plant projects gained momentum throughout the region, along with mass campaigns against militarization. AB

Tactical offensives in Northeastern Mindanao and Cagayan Valley

Units of the New People's Army (NPA) in Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) and Cagayan Valley launched five tactical offensives on January 3 and in the month of December, seizing 15 firearms, including a light machine gun. The enemy suffered 11 casualties (six dead and five wounded).

January 3. Red fighters from Front 21 of the Pulang Diwata Command (NPA-NEMR) raided the patrol base of the Philippine Army 23rd IB and the Civilian Armed Auxiliary in Barangay San Antonio, Remedios T. Trinidad town in Agusan del Norte at 4 a.m. A paramilitary el-

ement and a soldier from the 23rd IB Echo Company were killed in the firefight. The Red fighters seized an M14 and razed the detachment. A Red fighter was martyred.

In a statement, the National Democratic Front-NEMR apologized to the civilians wounded in the crossfire during the raid and promised to shoulder all their medical expenses.

December 16. Red fighters attacked a Community Organizing for Peace and Development (COPD) team under the 36th IB,

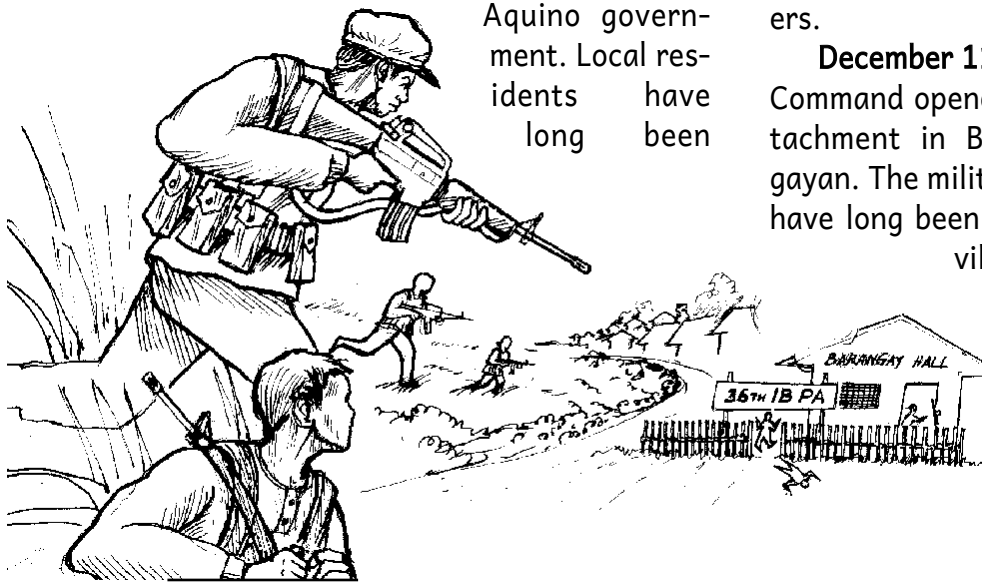
killing five soldiers and wounded two others.

The nine-man COPD team was staying at the Mabuhay barangay hall in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur when they were attacked by the Red fighters at around 5:30 a.m. The NPA seized nine high-powered weapons—five M14 rifles with 37 magazines and 500 rounds; two M16 rifles with 20 magazines and 400 rounds; an M203 grenade launcher with 12 grenades; a K3 light machine gun with 300 rounds; and a cal .45 pistol.

Also seized were six backpacks full of marijuana leaves.

The COPD team had been encamped at the barangay since September. The soldiers maintained their position and continued their military operations despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the

Aquino government. Local residents have long been



complaining about the COPD team's many human rights violations in their barangay.

December 15. Red fighters raided the provincial jail in Lianga, Surigao del Sur without firing a single shot, seizing an AK-47 rifle, a shotgun, three pistols and rounds of ammunition.

On the same day, in Cagayan Valley, Red fighters under the Reynaldo Piñon Command ambushed a 40-man troop under the 51st Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) of the 5th Infantry Division. The ambush was conducted at exactly 3:30 p.m. in Barangay San Jose, San Mariano, Isabela. Two soldiers were wounded in the gunbattle.

The troopers were engaged in combat operations when they were ambushed by the Red fighters.

December 11. Guerrillas under the Danilo Ben Command opened fire at the 77th IB-CAFGU detachment in Barangay Gagabutan, Rizal, Cagayan. The military troopers detailed at the camp have long been the subject of complaints by the village masses because they indiscriminately fire their weapons, engage in drunken binges and gambling and steal the barrio-folks' chickens. The CAFGU elements at the detachment also join military operations of the 17th IB. AB

Aquino regime's violations of unilateral ceasefire

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) condemned the Aquino government's violations of its own 18-day ceasefire covering December 16, 2011 to January 2, 2012. The CPP said that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) continued to launch military operations under Oplan Bayanihan during this period.

The Aquino regime's empty ceasefire declaration served only to cover up its military forces' relentless terroristic activities, added the CPP. On the other hand, the Red fighters of the New People's Army strictly abided by the six-day unilateral ceasefire declared by the CPP on December 24-26 and December 31-January 2, 2012.

Initial reports from the NPA

cited military operations in the provinces of Abra, Surigao del Sur, Isabela and Rizal. These troop movements showed the Aquino and AFP's hypocrisy as soldiers positioned themselves in population centers in violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and the Geneva Conventions.

In Abra. Two six-by-six trucks fully loaded with 50th IB troopers occupied Sitio Sagsagod, Barangay Saccaang, Sallapadan town on December 21. Meanwhile, a Philippine Army platoon positioned itself in Barangays Palaquio and Tabiog in Bucay town. A number of soldiers stayed in populated centers and even at the Tabiog Elementary School while other troops scoured the upland areas. The soldiers told the locals that they intended to stay in their village until the end of 2011.

In the same period, two six-by-six truckloads and a van full of soldiers stationed themselves at the Gangal barangay hall, just a few meters away from the Gangal Elementary School. An

AFP platoon also created a disturbance in Barangay Naguillan, Sallapadan when the armed troops suddenly descended on the village after their operations. Another set of soldiers from the 50th IB also camped inside the barangay hall and plaza of Bila-bila village in Sallapadan.

In Surigao del Sur. Residents of Tandag City complained on December 16 about the continued presence of a COPD team under the 36th IB at the Barangay Mabuhay village hall. These troops have been responsible for many cases of human rights violations since they began staying in the area in September. Despite the Aquino government's unilateral cease-fire declaration, the military troops did not leave the area.

In Isabela. Troops from the 5th Infantry Division launched search-and-pursuit operations

in San Mariano town on December 16. A section of the 17th IB was transferred to San Mariano from its previous assignment in neighboring Cagayan province.

In Rizal. Troops from the Philippine Army 16th, 59th and 76th IB continued their operations in Jala-jala, Pililia, Tanay, Baras, Montalban, San Mateo and Rodriguez towns and in Antipolo City. These operations, which were closely coordinated with the PNP Special Action Force Maneuver Battalion began on December 16 and ended on January 3 and used alleged civilian operations under the COPD as cover. Not a single AFP unit was ordered back to return to barracks during the Aquino government's so-called cease-fire period,

On Christmas day, a PNP-SAF platoon led by C/Insp. Mark Green Lagura arrested three

civilians in Sitio Payagwan, Kaysakat, San Jose, Antipolo City. The three victims were identified as Emmanuel Quioyo, 20, single, of Mayamot, Antipolo and two 16-year old girls who were also residents of the same area. They were arrested on suspicion of being members of the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NPA-Rizal).

Quioyo was tortured, interrogated without benefit of counsel and coerced into admitting that he was an NPA member. He was also forced to guide operatives of the PNP-SAF and 16th IB in looking for an alleged NPA camp. He was released after two days on the condition that he becomes a "deep penetration agent" for the enemy.

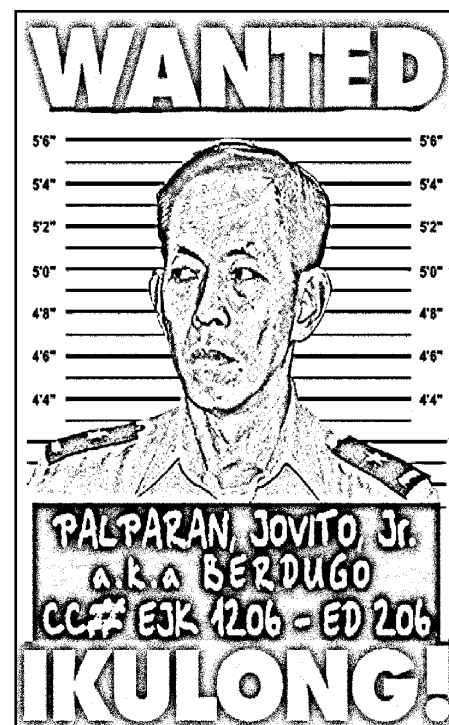
Meanwhile, the two girls were freed after a five-hour interrogation also conducted without the presence of a lawyer. **AB**

Intensified manhunt for Palparan

Various sectors have intensified the manhunt for retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. so he could face the criminal complaints filed at the Malolos Regional Trial Court Branch 14. The RTC issued arrest warrants on December 20 for Palparan and three co-accused in the kidnapping and serious illegal detention of Sherlyn Cadapan, Karen Empeño and Manuel Meriño. Cadapan and Empeño were students of the University of the Philippines while Meriño was a peasant activist. They were abducted by Palparan's men in Hagonoy, Bulacan in June 2006.

Palparan attempted to flee the country on December 19 but was stopped at the airport by agents from the Bureau of Immigration. His co-accused Lt. Col. Felipe Anotado and S/Sgt. Edgardo Osorio immediately surrendered while Palparan and his right-hand man M/Sgt. Rizal Hilario have since gone into hiding.

On December 27, members of KARAPATAN, relatives of the victims as well as other progressive organizations plastered posters stating "Wanted: Jovito Palparan Jr., aka 'Berdugo'" in various areas of Metro Manila. The posters which can now be found along the metropolis' major thoroughfares were put up to call on the people to get in touch



with KARAPATAN about any information on Palparan's whereabouts. The posters listed KARAPATAN's office telephone number (435-5146).

The wanted posters are part

of the People's Manhunt launched on December 21. The campaign is being led by Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño, mothers of the two missing women activists. They are supported by friends and members of Families of Desaparecidos for Justice (Desaparecidos), Victims United for Justice (Hustisya), Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Aresto at Detensyon (SELDA) and KARAPATAN. Their coordinated efforts have also spread to the internet. The Department of Justice has likewise raised the bounty for Palparan's capture to P1 mil-

lion.

Various sectors have meanwhile assailed the PNP's failure to arrest Palparan and suspect that he is being harbored by active and retired AFP officers who were with him in implementing the Arroyo regime's brutal Oplan Bantay Laya and conspired with him in the commission of grave human rights violations. KARAPATAN has demanded that Malacañang order the expansion of the manhunt for Palparan to include military camps. **AB**

Military rearrests ex-women's group leader

The Philippine National Police played a cruel joke on Gloria Floresca who they released on December 9 only to rearrest her an hour later.

Floresca, a former leader of a women's group was first arrested by the PNP on June 21 at her house in Naguilian, La Union and charged with rebellion. She was detained for five months.

The PNP accused Floresca of being a leading official of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the region. She allegedly ranks third in the

military and police's Order of Battle in the Ilocos region.

GABRIELA-Ilocos spokesperson Linda Caluza said that the charges against Floresca are all manufactured. She added that the AFP and PNP desperately want to defeat the revolutionary movement in the region that they resort to Red-baiting, illegal arrests and other violations of the rights of democratic organizations and personalities. **AB**

Massive flooding caused by environmental destruction

Filipinos are used to typhoons and rains. The Philippines is the third country most often visited by typhoons worldwide. Every year, more than 20 typhoons pound the country.

But the breadth and intensity of the destruction wrought by the massive flooding caused by typhoons have decidedly worsened in the past 20 years. This is due to the widespread denudation of the forests, the destruction of watersheds and the massive siltation of rivers. Areas at the foot of mountains, especially those that are near rivers are in danger of being buried in mud and logs from the uplands. Most of the victims of such flooding are the toiling masses who live on river banks, at the foot of

mountainous areas and in cramped shantytowns.

These conditions have been worsened by an inutile government devoid of any plans on how to confront such potential disasters. Despite repeated massive flooding, the reactionary government has failed to prepare measures to prevent the deaths of large numbers of people.

In December, torrential rains brought by typhoon Sendong poured into various parts of Mindanao and the Visayas, including the Bukidnon

plateau and the denuded mountains of Lanao. Decades of logging and plantation operations had already destroyed the Bukidnon watershed. After days of rain, the rivers of Bukidnon overflowed into Cagayan de Oro City. At about the same time, the rivers of Lanao del Norte swelled and flowed towards Iligal City. These caused massive, widespread destruction, killing close to 2,000 people. Hundreds more were swept away by rampaging mud water as they slept in the early morning of December 17.

Faced with strong condemnation over its inutility and antipathy, the Aquino regime had the gall to blame the residents for not evacuating from the areas along the typhoon's path. In fact, the Aquino regime and the local governments failed to take

the typhoon's threat seriously. There was not enough warning and no steps taken to evacuate residents living near rivers and in areas that would likely serve as catchbasins for floodwaters that would be flowing down the mountainsides. There was no infrastructure and support in place for the evacuees.

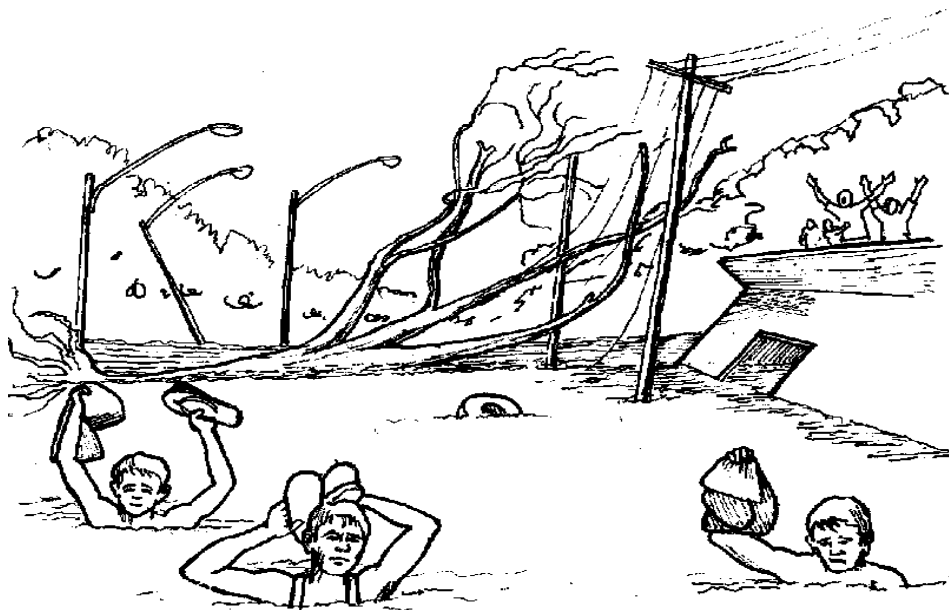
The regime does not have a comprehensive plan to save the remaining watersheds, a failure that had long been cited as a condition that would lead to massive flooding. It has no competent plans in place to create decent housing for the thousands of residents living along river banks and other endangered areas.

Criminal negligence

Since the Aquino regime came to power in 2010, the Climate Change Congress of the Philippines (CCCP) has warned it thrice about the dangers resulting from the massive siltation of the Rio Grande de Cagayan. In particular, it cited the possibility of widespread flooding in Cagayan de Oro on the same scale as the inundation of Metro Manila due to typhoon Ondoy in 2009.

More frequent rains had led the CCCP to conclude that more severe floods and landslides were in store for the country. More than 20 million hectares would be affected or 67% of the Philippines' land area. The 69 provinces that lie along the country's eastern side would be affected by massive rains brought by La Niña and would therefore be most vulnerable to flooding and landslides the whole year round.

The Aquino government ignored the CCCP's warnings, with Malacañang claiming that it had more urgent things to attend to. Thus, the regime did



nothing to put the people out of harm's way. Aquino even reduced funds allotted for disaster preparedness in 2011. Instead of laying out plans to avert the loss of lives, the government merely ordered the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council to prepare for the effects of disasters, including purchasing coffins for the victims.

The Aquino regime's worst crime lies in its perpetuation of the policies that have caused widespread environmental destruction—decades of large-scale mining and logging; the clearing of thousands of hectares of forest land to give way to the operations of multinational plantations, real estate companies and other businesses; and indiscriminate quarrying and mining activities in rivers that have aggravated siltation.

Despite the tragedy wrought by typhoon Sendong, the regime has not revoked the mining permits it has granted to foreign mining companies. Most of these companies have also been granted logging permits as an incentive for them to invest in the country.

Neither have the logging permits in Bukidnon and most of Lanao del Norte been revoked.

The forests in these areas have largely been denuded by the large-scale logging operations of foreign companies and their local big bourgeois comprador partners, as well as by illegal loggers.

The unmitigated expansion of plantations has worsened the denudation of the forests. In Bukidnon, in particular, only 25% remains of its original forest land due to the expansion of sugar cane, corn, pineapple and banana plantations.

The denudation of forest lands in Bukidnon, which serve as watersheds to neighboring provinces has long been known to cause massive flooding.

Misamis Oriental's six major rivers flow not only within the province but towards Northeastern Mindanao and Davao. These are the Upper and Lower Pulangi River, Tagaloan River, the Rio Grande de Cagayan, the Maridugao River, the Agusan-Cugman River and the Davao-Salug River. On December 23, a few days after typhoon Sendong, the waters of the Lumbayao Dam in Valencia City, Bukidnon swelled due to continuous rains. Up to 300 people had to be evacuated from their houses along the Pulangi River. **AB**

In sympathy with the victims of typhoon Sendong

The Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the entire revolutionary movement expressed great sadness and extended their sympathies to the residents of Cagayan de Oro City, Iligan City and other areas of Mindanao and the Visayas that had been hit by typhoon Sendong.

To assist the victims, they have ordered Red fighters to join relief and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas. Northcentral Mindanao declared a ceasefire. In Northeastern Mindanao, the revolutionary movement raised financial and material support from its own members, allies and friends. It obliged mining companies, plantations and other businesses to contribute funds as immediate assistance to the victims and as retribution for their destruction of the environment.

The revolutionary movement condemned the Aquino regime's criminal negligence, saying that the government must be held accountable for its lack of disaster preparedness and its failure to provide immediate relief to the people and reha-

bilitate the affected areas.

The regime must be taken to task for perpetuating policies that cause widespread flooding and destruction. Multinational corporations must also be held responsible for their role in destroying the environment. More than this, the expansion of these companies must be put to a stop. Instead, there must be genuine land reform. The system of monocropping over thousands of hectares must be ended and the practice of planting basic food crops in these plantations revived.

Big agro-corporations must also stop the practice of using pesticides, fertilizer and other chemicals that damage the soil and cause diseases and other deleterious effects on the people.

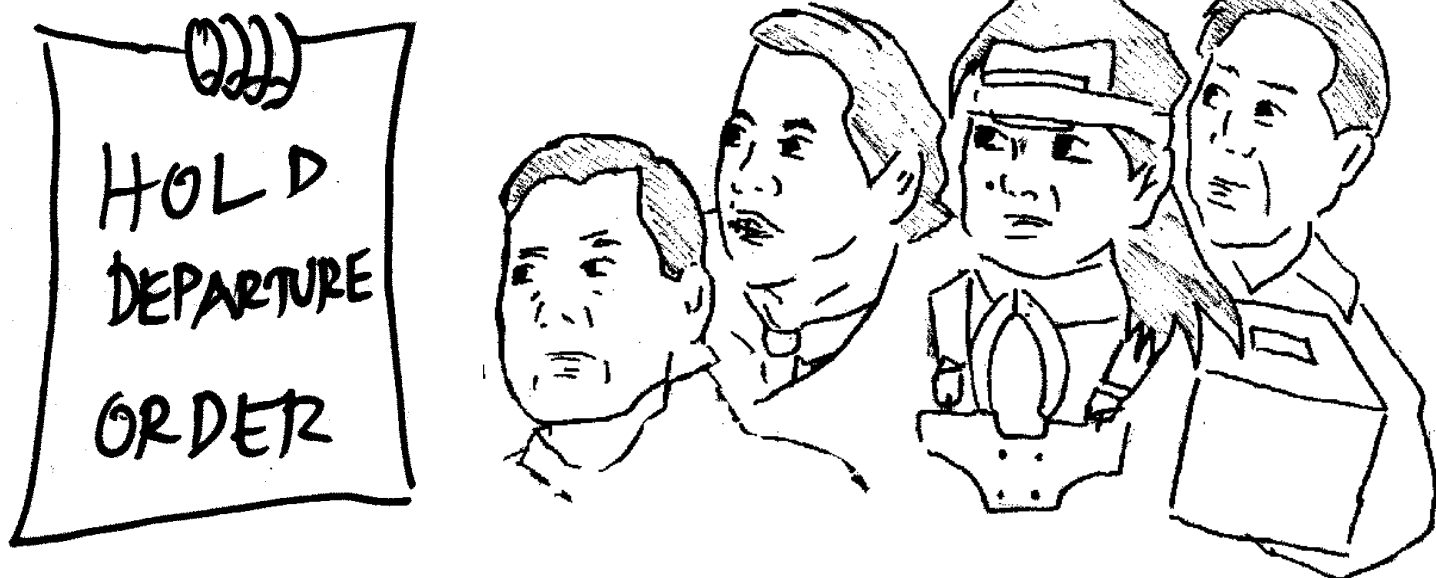
All plunderous companies that have seized lands from and driven away millions of people from their farms and ancestral lands must be punished and held accountable for their crimes in accordance with the policies of the people's revolutionary government. **AB**

Arroyo charged with lesser offense

Various democratic organizations and individuals expressed disappointment when the Office of the Ombudsman charged Gloria Arroyo with the lesser crime of corruption instead of the more serious crime of plunder in connection with the anomalous contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) entered into by her government with China's ZTE Corporation.

Bayan Muna and the Makabayan alliance had filed the plunder case at the Office of the Ombudsman last year. Arroyo and her cronies are believed to have received up to \$329 million in bribes from ZTE.

Among those charged with corruption by the Ombudsman are Gloria Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, for-



mer Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and former Transportation and Communications secretary Leandro Mendoza. The case was filed on December 29.

Corruption carries a lighter penalty and is a bailable offense. A person charged with plunder, on the other hand, will not be allowed to post bail pending trial and may be sentenced to life imprisonment if found guilty.

Bayan Muna has thus decided to beef up the information submitted to court on the Arroyo couple's involvement in the NBN-ZTE anomaly in order to be able to refile the plunder case against them.

The Ombudsman's move has raised suspicions of a deal between the two camps to accommodate Arroyo. These suspicions were further stoked when Aquino said in an interview before the end of 2011 that a presidential pardon for Arroyo may be considered if she shows remorse for her crimes. Arroyo has yet to be tried, but already, the Aquino camp appears to be paving the way for her exoneration, with only a specious apology in return.

Meanwhile, the Sandiganbayan has issued a

hold departure order against Arroyo and her co-accused in the corruption case.

Former National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) consultant Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada has also expressed readiness to testify in court. Lozada was the first whistleblower of the NBN-ZTE scandal. He has likewise called on his friend, former NEDA commissioner Romulo Neri to disclose everything he knows about the anomaly. Neri was stopped from testifying at the Senate and Lower House by virtue of EO 464 which prohibits high-ranking officials of the executive branch from disclosing information without Gloria Arroyo's permission.

Two Chinese executives from the ZTE Corporation have also agreed to testify. As of the latest development, former House Speaker Jose de Venecia has added his name to the list of persons willing to serve as witnesses for the prosecution. De Venecia's son Joey had appeared at a Senate investigation after Lozada's testimony, saying that he had been ordered by Mike Arroyo to back off from involvement in the NBN-ZTE issue. **AB**

ILPS condemns new repressive US law

The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) condemned the passage in the US of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA, which was signed into law on December 31, allows the US military to arrest and detain US citizens indefinitely without due process.

Said the ILPS, this reprehensible anti-democratic law is a further step in the fascization of the US ruling system. It further develops the legal infrastructure for fascism, as earlier laid down by the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001. The US monopoly bourgeoisie and its chief political agents, from Bush to Obama, have generated the anti-terrorist hysteria to justify imperialist plunder and war and the suppression of civil liberties in the US and abroad.

The ILPS added that the US has been stifling the basic rights and freedoms of the American people in order to suppress their

growing protests against the escalating rapacity and cruelty of the capitalist system in crisis and to allow imperialist plunder and wars of aggression to run rampant with impunity.

The US has maliciously used the nearly 3,000 killed in the 9/11 attacks as pretext for the imperialist wars of aggression since 2001. In the process, it has caused the violent death of thousands of its own troops and hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths in Afghanistan, at least 1.5 million in Iraq and more than 100,000 in Libya.

The NDAA provides US\$662 billion for the US military. It al-

so pushes strong sanctions against Iran and its Central Bank, particularly for impeding oil exports and payments, under the pretext of hampering the nuclear research program of Iran. In fact, the sanctions aim to make war provocations as part of a US-Israel scheme to overthrow regimes, like Syria and Iran, which are staunch supporters of the just cause of the Palestinian people.

In view of the relentless worsening crisis of the US and world capitalist system and the fascisation of the US ruling system, the ILPS anticipates greater troubles ahead in terms of imperialist plunder and war and the further rise of state terrorism on a global scale.

The ILPS urged the peoples of the world to raise the level of their anti-imperialist and democratic struggles for greater freedom, democracy, development, social justice and world peace. **AB**

Attack on West Papua

The International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) strongly condemned the brutal attacks by Indonesian police and soldiers on the people of West Papua that began on December 13.

Tens of thousands of West Papuan residents were killed and wounded when Indonesian police and soldiers burned 17 communities. More than 20,000 people who were forced to evacuate from 130 communities are now suffering from hunger and disease.

Four combat battalions of the Indonesian Army (TNI) Konstrand Commandos launched the attack, using helicopter gunships. The troops are armed, trained and funded by the Australian and US governments. One of the attacking forces, Detachment 88, is likewise in-

involved in the abduction, torture and killing of West Papuan civilians.

The Australian government has mainly come to the defense of Paniai Gold which is set to mine West Papua's natural resources. The ongoing military operation involves the direct use by the Indonesian military and police of helicopters owned by Derewo River Gold (DRG), a subsidiary of Paniai Gold which is owned by West Wits Mining, a gold mining company based in Melbourne, Australia.

Since April 2011, the reactionary Indonesian government has deployed its troops to encircle what it suspects to be the headquarters of the Paniai Free Papua National Liberation Army (TPN-OPM) under the command of Gen. Jhon Yogi. AB

CPP condoles with DPRK on death of Kim Jong Il

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) conveyed its condolences to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the death of Kim Jong Il, leader of the Korean Worker's Party and commander of the Korean People's Army.

Kim Jong Il died on December 19 at the age of 69. An official DPRK statement said that he died of a heart attack due to physical and mental exhaustion brought about by months of overwork.

The people of the DPRK were saddened by the news and deeply mourned their leader's death. Despite the severe winter, millions poured out into the streets to express their mourning. Kim was buried on December 28.

Kim Jong Il left behind a brilliant tradition of patriotism and anti-imperialism. During his 17-year rule, he stood for national freedom in the face of US imperialist aggression and diplomatic pressure.

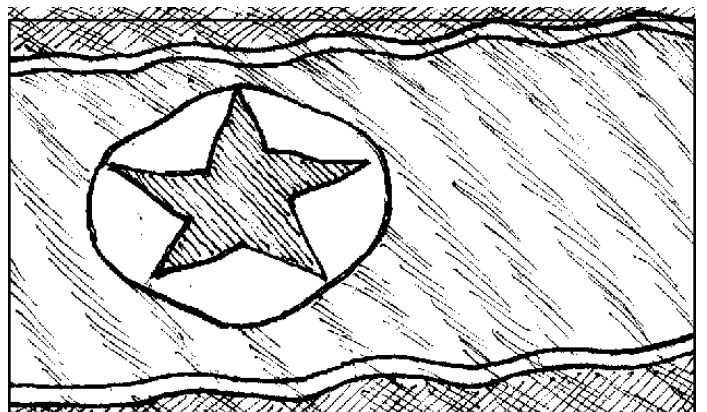
The CPP added that like his

father Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il inspired patriotism among his countrymen to steel their determination to resist imperialist aggression and suppression. US imperialism has been angered no end by the determination and collective will of the working class and people of the DPRK to defend their country's sovereignty and persevere in advancing socialism and their refusal to buckle down to the neoliberal policies of "free market" globalization.

Despite an economic blockade imposed by the imperialists that has been

running for more than six decades, the DPRK has succeeded not only in defending its national freedom but in making big strides in various fields. Under Kim Jong Il's leadership, the DPRK forged alliances with other countries that likewise defended their national freedom and resisted imperialist intervention and suppression.

Kim Jong Il's death is a big loss to the Korean people. But under the leadership of the Korean Worker's Party, they will surely persevere along the path of national liberation and in consolidating Korea as a modern, progressive and democratic system under the banner of socialism. AB



Revolutionary tribute to Atty. William “Billy” Claver

The Cordillera People’s Democratic Front (CPDF) expressed its deepest condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and *kakailians* (townmates) of Atty. William “Billy” Claver who passed away last December 15.

CPDF spokesperson Simon “Ka Filiw” Naog-san hailed Claver as an activist defender of national minorities, a progressive legislator and a lawyer worthy of emulation.

Claver was a founding member of, and chaired, the Cordillera People’s Alliance (CPA), a federation of Cordilleran indigenous peoples formed in 1984. He advocated the right to self-determination and the defense of the lives, ancestral lands and natural resources of national minorities in the Cordillera.

During martial law, he served as lawyer for

many people persecuted by the Marcos dictatorship. In the 1980s, he became known for his resistance to the Chico River Dam project and for handling the cases of Ama Macliing Dulag who was murdered by the military and Pedro Dungoc who escaped an attempt on his life by the AFP. He was also active in defending victims of illegal arrest and detention under the Marcos dictatorship.

Claver won a seat in Congress in the 1987 elections under the banner of Partido ng Bayan. He used Congress as a venue to continue advocating for the democratic rights that the reactionary government denied the national minorities. He belonged to the ranks of progressive leaders who stood up against all forms of oppression and exploitation. AB