

ANG

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

# Bayan

English Edition  
Vol. XLIII No. 9  
May 7, 2012

[www.philippinerevolution.net](http://www.philippinerevolution.net)

Editorial

## Rise up against the sufferings and oppression wrought by the Aquino regime

**B**enigno Aquino III clearly demonstrated who his real bosses are when his police forces perpetrated the bloody demolition of the urban poor community at the Silverio Compound in Parañaque City. The Aquino regime openly used guns and truncheons against residents who were defending their homes and livelihoods. Aquino has shed the blood of the poor at Silverio and other communities, and driven them away in order to seize the land in favor of the infrastructure projects of big comprador bourgeoisie and foreign big capitalists.

Last May 1, Aquino outrightly blocked the longstanding demand for a much-needed P125 increase in the minimum daily wage of workers. He justified his stand by claiming that a wage increase for workers would turn

off foreign big capitalists from investing in the Philippines. To Aquino, it would be best for Filipinos to be paid wages lower than that received by workers in other countries—even if the prevailing wage is not even half of

the amount needed by workers' families to live decently.

In addition, despite the decision of the reactionary court to distribute the Hacienda Luisita lands, the Cojuangco and Aquino clans have relentlessly been maneuvering to deprive the estate's farm workers of this land. The hacienda farmers face many big battles ahead as Aquino uses the power of the bureaucracy and the provisions of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) to keep the land in his clan's possession.

In contrast to the utter contempt he has shown for the toiling masses, Aquino has given a grandiose welcome to the leaders and officials of foreign big



### *In this issue...*

May 1 celebration 3

Silverio Compound  
demolition 5

66 firearms  
seized in Butuan  
City 9

banks attending the meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Manila. Dancing, singing and lavish feasts are just some of

weeks have brought to the fore its unbridled attacks against the toiling masses. For two years, Aquino has done nothing in favor of the interests of



the oppressed and exploited classes and sectors and has demonstrated his class character as a big landlord and an ally of foreign big capitalists and the local big comprador bourgeoisie.

Under Aquino's rule, the prices of oil, food, medicines, water, electricity and

the treats Aquino has prepared for the foreign tourists to make it appear that "it's more fun in the Philippines." Like Imelda Marcos, Aquino ordered fences erected along entire stretches of road in Pasay to keep poor families living under the bridge and beside a polluted river out of sight of the tourists who would be traveling along this route.

The actions taken by the Aquino regime in the past few

other basic goods and services have continually skyrocketed. Not only has Aquino feigned helplessness in the name of "deregulation" he has been feeding on the people's misery by levying taxes on oil prices. In accordance with directives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), additional taxes will also be imposed on road usage and train fares. There are also plans to levy taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks. If

the IMF had its way, taxes would also be imposed even on texting.


Levying heavier taxes on an extremely impoverished people is among Aquino's gravest crimes. Granting tax holidays to foreign big capitalists even as they amass huge profits from exploiting the workers and extracting gold and other natural resources from the country constitutes an even bigger crime.

Impoverished Filipinos are angered no end that even as they are burdened with more taxes, they are the least of the reactionary government's priorities. Already grossly inadequate education and health budgets are being reduced further while schools and hospitals become big business.

The poor are indignant at the fact that despite the lack of decent and regular employment, the government has been systematically attacking their sources of livelihood. They are irate because they do not have enough to eat, have nothing to spend for the treatment of their ailing kin, are unable to send their children to school, are losing their shanties to demolition crews and being evicted to places bereft of employment opportunities.

The workers, the urban poor, the hungry and unemployed are up in arms. They are rising against exploitation and oppression. They have ranged themselves against the Aquino regime for serving the foreign big capitalists, compradors and big landlords. They are taking action against the policies that have condemned them to further hunger and poverty.

They are launching their struggles in factories, urban poor communities, schools and offices in the cities. Their cries for higher wage, for the right to

 Vol. XLIII No. 9 May 7, 2012	
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: <a href="http://www.philippinerevolution.net">www.philippinerevolution.net</a> 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: <a href="mailto:angbayan@yahoo.com">angbayan@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>Contents</b>	
<b>Editorial:</b> Rise up against sufferings wrought by Aquino regime	<b>1</b>
May 1 celebration	<b>3</b>
Silverio compound demolition	<b>4</b>
More demolitions loom	<b>5</b>
Free land distribution in HLI demanded	<b>6</b>
Cordillera day celebrated	<b>7</b>
66 firearms seized in Butuan City	<b>8</b>
86th IB punished in Ifugao	<b>8</b>
Series of harassment in Abra	<b>9</b>
Offensives in SMR and NEMR	<b>9</b>
Detachment raided in Cam Norte	<b>10</b>
Human rights violations	<b>11</b>
Issues regarding SChina Sea	<b>12</b>
Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines	

regular work, to unionize and to strike are resounding nationwide. The sound of their feet as they march in unison against demolitions and the suppression of their economic rights is reverberating across narrow paths, bridges and vast thoroughfares. Their clenched fists strike against relentless hikes in the prices of oil and other commodities and for free education, medicines and health services.

The red banner of the peasant masses' agrarian revolution waves high in the countryside. From clusters of villages to entire districts, towns, provinces and regions, the peasantry is uniting and struggling against various forms of feudal exploitation by big landlords, merchants, usurers and foreign-owned plantations. They are determined to advance their rights for a just share in the harvest, for higher wages for farm workers and for correct prices for agricultural products. The revolutionary masses are giving their all in advancing agrarian revolution so that millions of peasants could benefit from and celebrate its victories.

Their determination to protect the national patrimony and stop foreign big companies from seizing agricultural lands and ancestral domains for plantations, mining and logging enterprises stands like a steel fortress as they courageously confront the violent onslaughts and deceptions of the fascist military which has been going on a rampage and lording it over their barrios.

Benigno Aquino III's repressiveness, brutality and the contempt with which he views the toiling masses and oppressed people will be met by widespread, valiant and determined struggle. A tempest of rage will rise from the people in the fac-

## Protest actions mark International Workers' Day



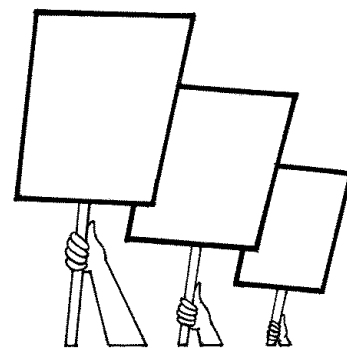
Up to 100,000 workers and supporters from various sectors joined protest actions launched in various parts of the country on May 1 to celebrate International Workers' Day.

In Metro Manila, some 30,000 workers led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) marched to Plaza Miranda in Quiapo and later towards Mendiola Bridge despite the sweltering heat and the downpour later that day. They persisted in demanding a living wage despite the Aquino regime's denial of the proposed P125 hike in the daily minimum wage. Aquino's refusal is proof of his role as the defender of big corporations, said KMU chair Elmer Labog.

The only thing Aquino approved was a measly P713 hike in the minimum basic salary of government employees. But according to the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), this will have a very minimal impact on their lives. They continue to demand a P6,000 raise in their monthly salaries.

Meanwhile, up to 5,000 people trooped to Aquino's house on Times Street in Quezon City to condemn his silence on the frenzy of demolitions of urban poor communities, the latest of which was the bloody incident at the Silverio Compound. (See related article) Another group from the KMU and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) also protested in front of the US Embassy at noon.

Various forms of protest actions were likewise held by workers and their allies in the cities of Angeles, Calamba, Cavite, Legazpi, Tacloban, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Davao and other urban centers in Mindanao; and in the town of Kalibo, Aklan. AB



tories, communities, schools and countryside villages and the streets will be awash with their battles.

The fury of mass struggles will further raise the storm of armed revolution. Hundreds of thousands desire to join the armed struggle as members of the people's militia or as full-time Red fighters of the New People's Army. NPA tactical offensives are becoming bigger, more frequent and more wide-

spread in order to weaken the enemy, seize thousands of weapons and build the people's Red political power.

Uprisings, demonstrations and armed offensives will shake not only Aquino's rule but that of US imperialism in the Philippines. It will erode the very foundations of the semicolonial and semifeudal system and advance people's war and bring it closer to the threshold of the strategic stalemate. AB

# Violent demolition at Silverio Compound



One person was killed, 30 others were seriously injured and 33 arrested in the violent demolition at the Silverio Compound in Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City on April 23.

Combined elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and its Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit tore down the barricade set up by residents of the compound's Purok 4 at around 10 a.m. The residents had already begun building the barricade the night before along Sucat Road in an attempt to stop the entry of the police and demolition team.

There were negotiations at 8 a.m. among community leaders, local city officials and the PNP, but Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe stubbornly ordered the demolition to push through despite appeals from the residents.

The violence began when the police forced their way into the area, prompting the residents to defend themselves by throwing rocks and empty bottles. The police and SWAT teams retaliated with gunfire, tear gas and water cannons. A resident, 19-year old Arnel Leonor was shot in the head by the police. He died on the spot. Several others sustained injuries from truncheon blows, including some community leaders. Two women and eight minors were arrested. Some of the wounded were unable to receive prompt medical attention when they were turned away by hospitals for lack of money. The injured crowded at the community's covered court and chapel and had to make do with first aid applied by fellow residents and medicine donated by a sympathetic neighborhood pharmacy.

Not content with the brutality they

had unleashed along Sucat Road, policemen fired their weapons as they went from house to house inside the Silverio Compound in search of protesters.

The violent demolition earned widespread condemnation and anger. Several sectors, including the church, demanded that Mayor Bernabe, the local police and the Aquino regime be held accountable for their brutality towards the residents of Silverio Compound. The residents have long been fighting for their right to live in the compound, but all this will come to nought in the name of the regime's Public-Private Partnership project in connivance with big bourgeois comprador Henry Sy.

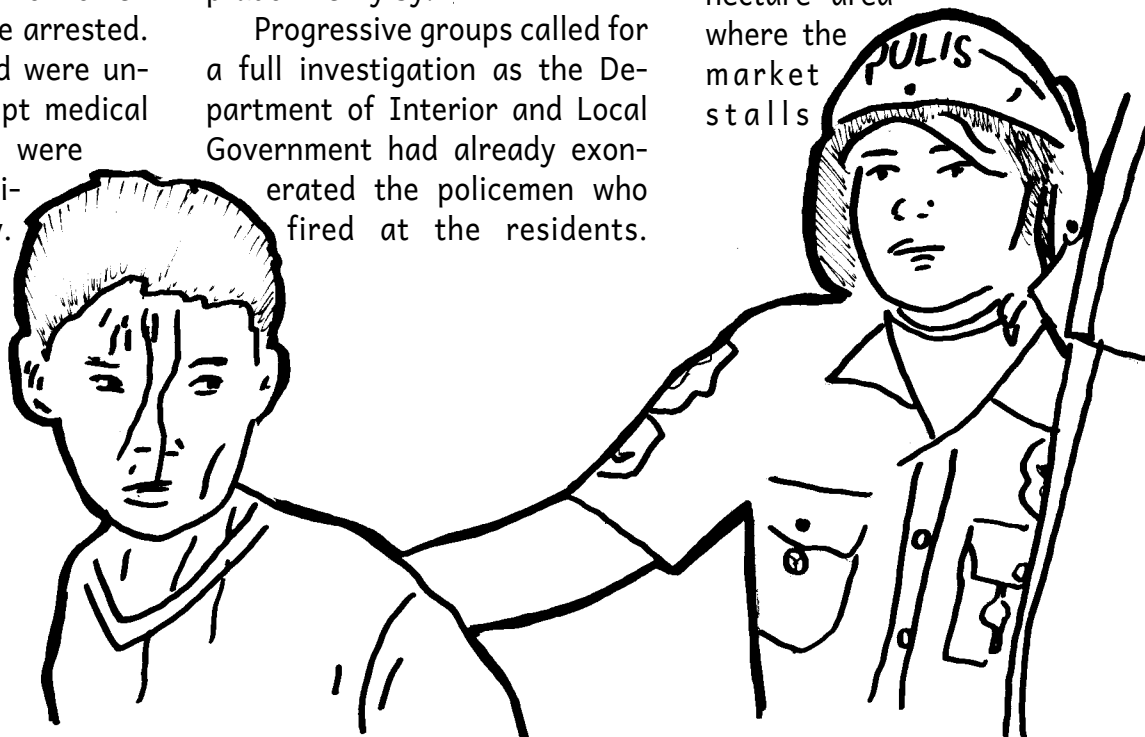
Progressive groups called for a full investigation as the Department of Interior and Local Government had already exonerated the policemen who fired at the residents.

They held an indignation rally at Mendiola and in front of Aquino's house at Times St. in Quezon City on April 24 to condemn the incident.

The Silverio Compound's residents have lived there for decades. Most of them are workers and semiproletariat such as vendors.

Up to 28,000 families live on the more than 9.7-hectare lot in Silverio. According to Shella Bernal, spokesperson of Mamamayan sa Silverio Compound, former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez had started proceedings to expropriate the Silverio land from its former owner Magdiwang Realty Corporation as far back as 2003. In 2004, the city passed an ordinance granting the land to the compound residents. The local government made an initial payment of P10 million for the land, with the balance to be paid by the residents.

The ordinance has been set aside by the current mayor Bernabe. On March 7, the first demolition was conducted on the small market stalls near the highway where several stores were torn down. Bernabe claimed that only the three-hectare area where the market stalls



stand are being targeted for demolition in order to give way to the construction of a socialized housing complex for the residents and part of the Metro Rail Transit extension project. But documents discovered by the residents dated February 22 say that it was the local government in collaboration with the National Housing Authority and the Sy-owned SM Development Corporation that would be using the property for its projects. Sy plans to put up commercial buildings while constructing condominiums on the remaining 6.7 hectares of the compound. Sy had already constructed a supermarket right in front of Silverio. Before the demolition, the residents had asked several times for a dialogue with Mayor Bernabe, to no avail.

### Struggle for decent housing continues

Bernal declared their indignation at the reactionary government and the police. She denounced the local government for obliterating the residents' livelihood to favor the interests of big businesses instead of uplifting the people's conditions. She condemned the government's use

of the police and other armed agents to brutalize and harass the urban poor. Television footages and newspaper photographs clearly showed that it was the police that instigated the violence, contrary to the PNP's claims that it came from the residents' ranks.

The demolitions have been suspended for now, but the residents will persist in struggling for their rights. The Silverio residents are ready to raise their barricades anew should the demolitions resume. They have gone to the Department of Justice to demand an investigation of the violent demolition, and have filed a complaint with the United Nations against the regime. They call on the people to support the struggle of the urban poor for decent housing and livelihood. They have likewise asked the National Democratic Front and the Government of the Philippines (GPH) to resume formal negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms (CASER) to discuss the people's basic issues such as job layoffs, deprivation of housing and livelihood and other human rights issues. AB

## More demolitions loom

Even after the violent demolition at the Silverio Compound, the urban poor continue to be threatened with the destruction of their homes and livelihoods. According to the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY), demolitions are scheduled this year at the Doña Nicasia Subdivision along Commonwealth Avenue and North Triangle, Quezon City; in Pangarap Village, Caloocan City; in Tondo, Manila; in Welfareville, Mandaluyong City; and in Freedom Island, Parañaque City, among others.

Since the Aquino regime took power, it has relentlessly and systematically attacked the urban poor. Among the most notoriously violent demolitions were those at Sitio San Roque and BIR Road in Quezon City; Barangay Corazon de Jesus in San Juan City; Laperal Compound in Makati City; and Pangarap Village in Caloocan City. The latest was at the Silverio Compound in Parañaque City.

It is estimated that up to 500,000 families will be affected by the demolitions, according to a study by Bayan Muna. The demolitions have already resulted in widespread violations of human rights. According to the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, two residents—Soliman Gomez and Rommel Fortade—were killed in the demolition in Pangarap Village last year. Two urban poor leaders—Antonio "Ka Nono" Homo of Kadiwa, Navotas City and Simeon Bayogbog of San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal—became victims of extrajudicial killing.

These incidents point to the regime's rabidly antipeople character as it implements its Public-Private Partnership program. It continues to worship local and foreign big capitalists while depriving the poor of decent housing, jobs and other rights. AB



# Peasants demand free distribution of Hacienda Luisita lands



The Supreme Court ruled with finality on April 24 to uphold its earlier decision to distribute the 4,915-hectare landholdings of Hacienda Luisita Incorporated (HLI). The court dismissed the Cojuangco family's petition to receive a P5 billion compensation for the estate.

The court ruled that the compensation would be based on the P196 million land valuation in 1989 instead of in 2006, as the Cojuangcos had demanded. The court also ruled that the farm workers of the hacienda should amortize the land in the amount of P40,000 per hectare for the next 30 years.

The peasants were pleased with the Supreme Court's recognition that the Hacienda Luisita lands should be distributed. Nonetheless, the decision falls short of genuine land reform. Land distribution with compensation is still in accordance with the provisions of the reactionary government's bogus land reform program, the

forms or CARPER. These provisions are being exploited by landlords to maintain possession or regain control over the land.

The Hacienda Luisita farm workers demand the free distribution of the lands in the vast estate. The Cojuangcos do not have the right to demand compensation or payment after they had seized the land and lived on the peasants' blood and sweat for six decades.

Despite the Supreme Court decision, the farm workers still do not have any assurance that the land will be theirs. The Cojuangcos will definitely wield state power to perpetrate all sorts of maneuvers to eventually maintain their control over the land.

In spite of their statements that they would respect the decision, the Cojuangcos have been maneuvering to delay its implementation and circumvent the ruling. In connivance with the Department of Agrarian Reform, they hope to have the processing of the distribution last for six months to a year. This gives them enough

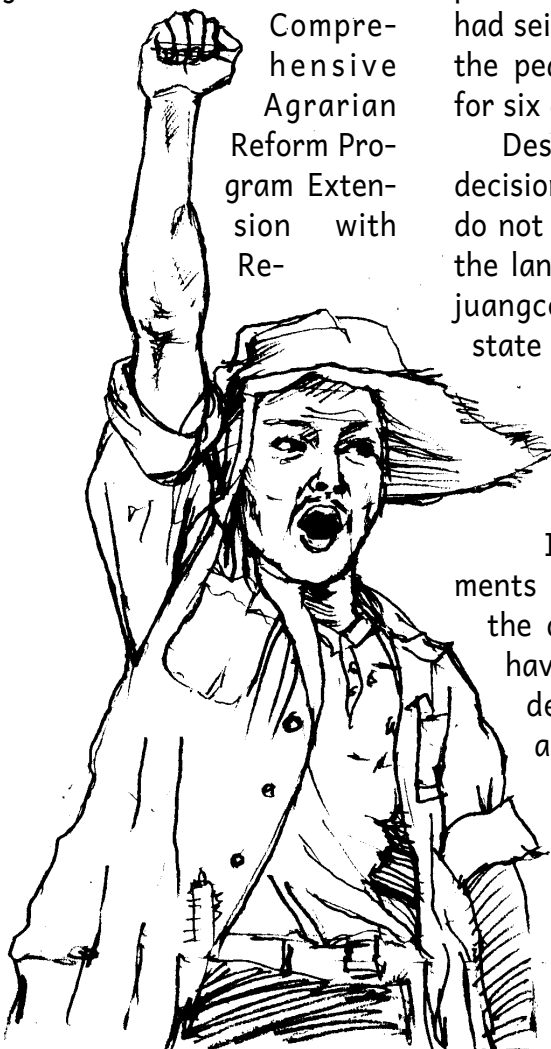
time to sabotage the process.

The Cojuangcos and the DAR have been concocting trouble regarding the final list of legitimate beneficiaries. The Cojuangcos had bloated the number to more than 6,000 from the original 4,500 in order to reduce the number of hectares each beneficiary would receive. This would make it more difficult for the peasants to make the land productive, forcing them to resort to usurious loans and to pawn or sell their land. Many of those who have been added to the list are farm workers from other areas. The Cojuangcos also claim that many of the original beneficiaries have died and that it was necessary to determine who their legitimate replacements should be, which points to another lengthy process. These tactics have been resorted to in other haciendas for the past 25 years or so.

The Cojuangcos also insist that the land should be distributed to individuals and not to an association, contrary to the farm workers' demands.

The Cojuangcos likewise demand the exemption from distribution of the 3,000 hectares that they claim to have leased out to HLI's creditors. This way, they hope to retain control over part of what rightfully belongs to the farm workers.

The farm workers of Hacienda Luisita know that their struggle is far from over. They know that they must strengthen their unity, sustain their militancy and be even more vigilant in the face of the Cojuangcos' maneuvers. History has shown that genuine agrarian reform can only be achieved through a consistently high level of antifederal struggle linked to the national democratic struggle of the entire people. AB



Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Re-

# Cordillera Day celebrated; caravan launched in Panay

**C**ordillerans celebrated the 26th Cordillera Day amid intensifying attacks on their rights to their ancestral lands and livelihoods. The celebrations, which were held in Apayao, Abra, Benguet, Kalinga, Ifugao, Mountain Province and Baguio City began on April 22 and ended on April 29. Up to 6,000 people joined the activities held in the seven provinces.

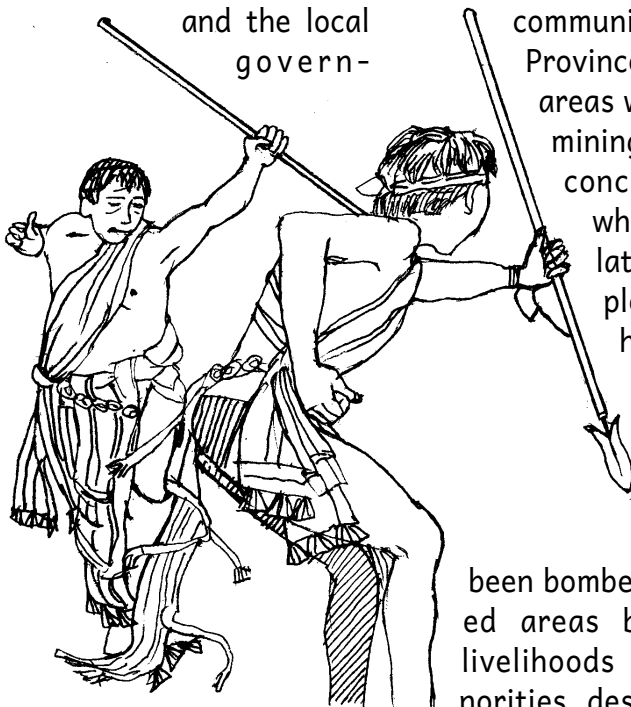


Under the banner of “Struggle for Land, Life and Rights” the participants discussed in the weeklong celebration the struggles of the region's national minorities against the continued plunder of the people's natural resources through large-scale mining, megadam projects and militarization. Also tackled were “developmental” projects such as geothermal plants, among others. In particular, they discussed the expansion of big businesses in Baguio, SM's arbitrary cutting down of pine trees and other forms of environmental destruction in the city.

The participants also hailed last year's sustained and tireless struggle against foreign mining. In Bakun, Benguet, residents were able to delay the exploration activities of Royalco for the Gambang Copper-Gold Project. In Mankayan, also in Benguet, the townsfolk were able to stop Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMC) and Gold Fields Mining Company from conducting exploration drilling for the Far Southeast Gold Project. In Kalinga, the Salegseg tribe and the local govern-

ment of Tabuk were able to prevent the entry of LCMC to their area. In Abra, resistance from the people and the church also stopped LCMC from penetrating the province.

The people have also been actively resisting brutal militarization which always accompanies large-scale mining. Three regular and two special AFP battalions are currently defending big mining companies and suppressing the people's resistance. Militarization is most intense in Abra and nearby communities in Mountain Province and Ilocos Sur, areas where large-scale mining operations are concentrated and where soldiers' violations of the people's human rights have been rampant and caused widespread indignation. Civilian communities have been bombed, nearby forested areas burned and the livelihoods of national minorities destroyed in these



areas.

Of late, the military's systematic abuse of Cordilleran youth and women has earned widespread condemnation. The people have demanded punishment for the guilty, including an AFP captain who raped a 16-year old girl and abused another. They also demanded the immediate pullout of military detachments from their communities.

Cordillera Day commemorates the killing on April 24, 1984 by soldiers of the 4th IB of Macliing Dulag, a famous minority leader. Dulag led the struggle against the World Bank-funded Chico River Basin Hydroelectric Dam project.

Meanwhile, a three-day anti-mining caravan was launched by environmental activists in Panay who traveled westward on April 21 to the towns of Antique, Aklan and Capiz provinces and returned to Iloilo City on April 22. Members of Dafend Patrimony, Kalikasan Partylist, Madia-as Ecological Movement (MEM), Visayan Coalition for Ecology and allied organizations under BAYAN-Panay joined the protest action.

The protesters explained to the people during the three-day island-wide caravan the victories they have achieved against commercial mining. They exposed the schemes and maneuvers of big mining companies and called for determined struggles against their destructive operations.

The people of Panay and Guimaras are in danger because out of the total 1,220,704-hectare land area, up to 172,764.26 hectares have already been covered by approved and pending mining applications at the Mines and Geosciences Bureau as of January 2012.

AB

# NPA seizes 66 firearms in Butuan City



Red fighters of the Cesar Cayon Command of the New People's Army in Agusan del Norte successfully raided the Earth Saver Security Agency in Arujville Subdivision, Butuan City on April 23 at around 8 p.m.

The NPA seized 66 firearms of various caliber, consisting of 46 AK-47 rifles, three M14 sniper rifles, ten automatic shotguns, seven 9 mm pistols, magazines, rounds of ammunition and other military equipment.

The Julito Tiro Command of North Central Mindanao Region hailed the Cesar Cayon Command for the successful raid, which resulted in the biggest weapons haul in recent years.

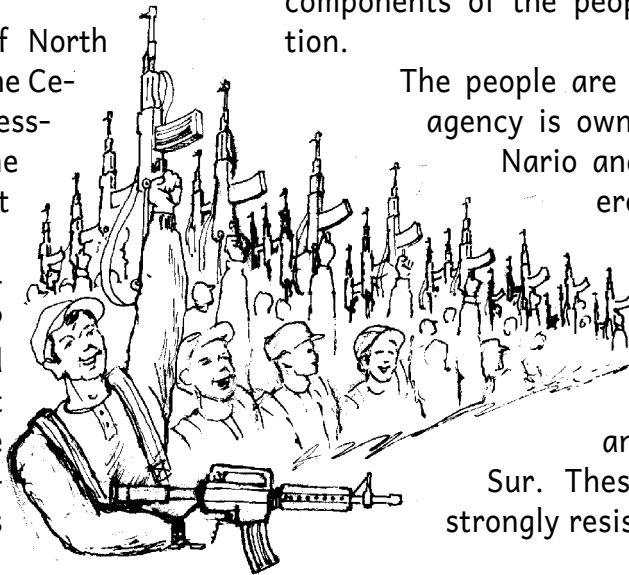
The security agency was located near the Caraga Regional PNP Headquarters and the AFP 402nd Brigade Advance Command Post in Bancasi, Butuan City. In spite of this, the raid was quickly accomplished. The Red fighters

posed as National Bureau of Investigation agents as a ruse to easily overpower the four security guards of Earth Saver.

The raid, which lasted a mere ten minutes, was successful because of the strong mass support enjoyed by the NPA, efficient intelligence work and good military tactics.

The number of weapons seized is enough to arm a new company of Red fighters, strengthen their ability to annihilate armed reaction and advance agrarian revolution which are the major components of the people's democratic revolution.

The people are aware that the security agency is owned by a retired general Nario and armed with high-powered weapons used to suppress communities to ensure the entry and operations of destructive mining companies in Sta. Maria, Trento and Rosario, Agusan del Sur. These companies are being strongly resisted by the people. **AB**



# NPA punishes 86th IB in Ifugao



The Nona del Rosario Command (New People's Army-Ifugao) punished the notorious 86th IB for its many crimes against the people of Ifugao.

Eleven soldiers from the criminal battalion's Bravo Company were wiped out in an ambush launched by Red fighters in the morning of April 25 in Sitio Dontogto, Binablayan, Tinoc town. Two other soldiers were wounded, while there were no casualties on the NPA side.

One of those killed was the 86th IB battalion operations officer Capt. Siegfred Kafilas. The ambush was also a big slap in the face of the AFP because as recently as December 2011, the military had declared Ifugao "liberated" from the influence of

the revolutionary movement.

The 14-strong NPA unit was able to withdraw safely after a 30-minute firefight. The guerrillas were able to seize five firearms—four M16 rifles and a K3 SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon), a Harris VHF radio, eight magazines and 150 rounds of M16 ammunition.

The strong mass support enjoyed by the NPA was a major factor in the ambush's success. Such support was manifested when the locals kept the Red fighters' presence by the roadside a secret. The people are so

angry at the armed forces of the reactionary government due to the long history of abuses they have suffered in the hands of the military. Thus, despite the intense military operations of the 86th IB and Philippine National Police, the residents still managed to conceal the presence of their people's army.

Since the 86th IB and the PNP Public Safety Battalion (PNP-PSB formerly known as the Regional Mobile Group) were deployed to Tinoc and other parts of the province, the people of Ifugao have been subjected to a constant stream of military abuses.

The latest case involves the



rape of two 16-year old girls from Mankayan, Benguet in December 2011 and February 2012. They were both raped by Capt. Danilo Lalin inside the 86th IB headquarters.

Soldiers also shot to death civilian Ama Bahiwag Puguon on September 12, 2011 in his swidden farm in Barangay Binablayan even if he was far away from an ongoing clash between the AFP and NPA. The military likewise forcibly entered and ransacked the houses of civilians in Sitio Bagnet, Barangay Amduntog during hot pursuit operations against the NPA and stole valuable items from the masses.

Earlier, in July 2011, four persons were killed when a drunken element of the PNP-PSB 2nd Coy opened fire during a birthday party. One other person was wounded in this incident.

Even before this shooting incident, the people have long been complaining about how the PNP-PSB has been extorting money from them by unjustly confiscating their chainsaws and motorcycles and demanding huge amounts of money to return them.

Meanwhile, the Nona del Rosario Command sincerely extended its apologies to the relatives of a civilian who was killed and another one who was wounded.

The NPA renewed its call to civilians to refrain from hitching rides in military vehicles to avoid being caught in the crossfire during gunbattles. **AB**

## Series of harassment operations in Abra



Six soldiers were killed and another one wounded in back to back harassment operations by armed units under the Agustin Bernalen Command (New People's Army-Abra) against soldiers of the 41st IB in the last week of April.

Three soldiers of the 41st IB Charlie Company were killed and another one wounded during a harassment operation launched by a unit of the Procopio Tauro Front on April 26 in Sitio Bantogo, Poblacion, Lacub, Abra. The fascist troops were positioned beside the Poblacion Lacub Elementary School. The soldiers also used as a shield 15 houses of civilians living around the school and several ricefields.

But due to the people's ardent support, a team from the PTF was able to close in on the Charlie Company detachment and open fire at exactly 5:20 a.m., killing three soldiers on the spot.

The soldiers led by a Lieutenant Totoy scampered away to hide in the Poblacion. Residents laughed when they saw the fascist troopers running barefoot.

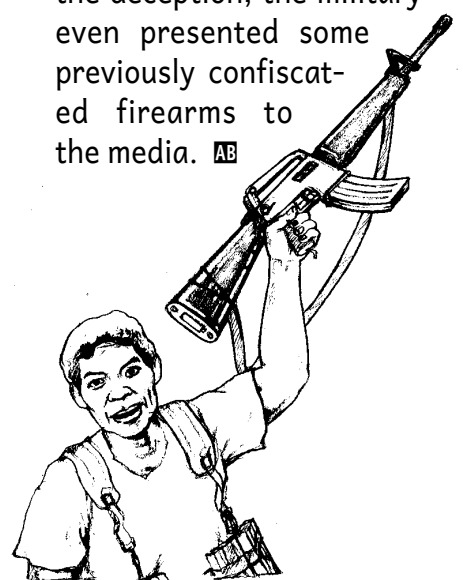
The NPA closely monitored the enemy's reaction to the harassment operation. A platoon arrived from Mt. Inumin, Poblacion, Lacub to reinforce the 41st IB. The soldiers were in civilian clothes and posed as NPA members. At around 10 a.m. of April 27, a PTF unit sniped them, killing another three soldiers on the spot.

This enemy unit was punished for continuing to serve as a security force to big mining companies, threatening people opposed to large-scale mining, abusing women and children and committing other crimes against the people, said Agustin Bernalen Command spokesperson Ka Diego Wadagan.

Meanwhile, in Mountain Province, a unit under the Leonardo Pacci Command thwarted on April 21 an attempt by the 54th IB to encircle it as it was temporarily based in Sitio Tappo, Banawel, Natonin town.

Even if the enemy was numerically superior to the NPA and fired the first shot, the Red fighters bravely fought back. They broke through the 54th IB's line of encirclement despite the support the soldiers received from two helicopters and their use of dogs to pursue the guerrillas. The Red fighters were able to retreat without suffering a single casualty.

To cover up their failure to rout the NPA, military propagandists boasted of having killed six guerrillas and even claimed that the bodies had been brought to Alfonso Lista town and then to a funeral parlor in Santiago, Isabela. To complete the deception, the military even presented some previously confiscated firearms to the media. **AB**



## 3 killed, 14 wounded in Mindanao offensives



Three soldiers were killed and 14 others wounded in two tactical offensives launched by Red fighters in Bukidnon and Compostela Valley.

In Bukidnon, two soldiers of the 8th IB were killed and seven others were wounded in an ambush by a team from the Rexan Perez Command. The soldiers were conducting Community Organizing for Peace and Development operations when they were ambushed on May 2 in Purok 7, Barangay Songco, Lantapan town. The 8th IB's objective was to clear the area for the expansion of big plantations such as Dole, Del Monte and Sumifru which have been seizing lands in Lantapan, Malaybalay and other areas of Bukidnon.

In Compostela Valley, a soldier of the 71st IB was killed and seven others were wounded in an ambush by a unit from the Crucifino Uballas Command on April 28. The soldiers were then conducting operations in Sitio Linaw, Barangay Panamin, Mabini town.

This attritive action against the 71st IB was undertaken as a punitive measure on the military unit for its operations against small-scale miners in Mabini and Pantukan towns. The people have been complaining about the hamletting and interrogations and the series of harassments and other psywar operations being conducted by the military in the course of the Oplan Bayanihan campaign.

Soldiers of the 71st IB have also been serving as goons of Russell Mining and St. Augustine as well as One Asia Resources Ltd. which has been conducting open-pit gold mining operations in the mountainous barangays of Mabini. AB

## NPA raids military detachment in Camarines Norte



Red fighters under the Armando Capatapia Command (ACC-NPA) raided the barangay hall in Maot, Labo, Camarines Norte where the murderous 49th IB troops were stationed on April 29. Four soldiers were killed in the attack while another was wounded.

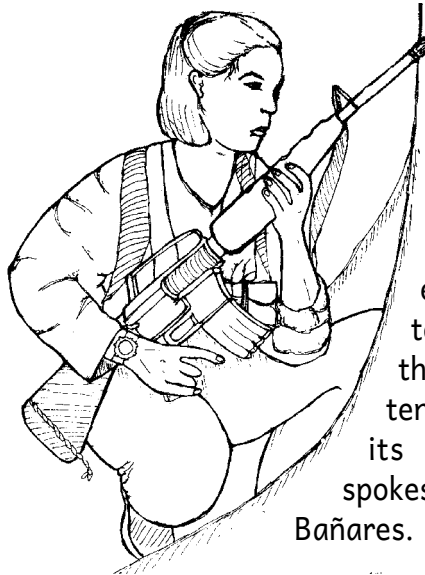
The Red fighters were able to seize eight firearms consisting of six M16 rifles, a K3-SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) and a cal .45 pistol, as well as other military equipment and a laptop computer.

The successful tactical offensive belies claims by the AFP 9th ID that the NPA in the region no longer has the capability to launch victorious offensives against the fascist troops.

The 49th IB troops were conducting counterrevolutionary operations when they were attacked by the NPA. The Red fighters timed the raid before noontime, when nine soldiers left for the adjacent Barangay Calabasa to join a cockfight, leaving only ten soldiers behind, including their commanding officer 2Lt. Eric Estravelio.

The 49th IB has a bloody record of human rights violations. It is responsible for the massacre of the Mancera family in Barangay Malaya, Labo town last February. Farmer Benjamin Mancera and his two minor children were killed in the massacre and one of his daughters was wounded when soldiers arbitrarily opened fire on the Mancera family's house.

The soldiers have been using public facilities such as barangay halls, daycare centers, schools, churches and houses of civilians as detachments during their military operations. They threaten and harass civilians in the villages and extract forced confessions that they are either



NPA members or supporters.

The revolutionary movement regrets the death of a civilian and the wounding of another in this battle. The ACC is exerting efforts to get in touch with the families of the affected civilians and extend assistance to the best of its ability, said NDF-Bicol spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Greg" Bañares. AB

## 2 death squad elements ambushed in Sorsogon

Two soldier operatives of a death squad under the 9th ID were wounded in an ambush by a team from the Celso Miguez Command (New People's Army-Sorsogon) in the early morning of April 29 in Barangay Bulacao, Gubat, Sorsogon. The two operatives are Pfc Jordan Enconado and Pfc William Acunia.

Enconado has been proven by the people's court to have been directly involved in and guilty of a series of extrajudicial killings in Sorsogon province from the time of Oplan Bantay Laya 1 up to the present. Aside from being death squad elements, they are also actively engaged in organizing intelligence networks against the revolutionary movement.

Among Enconado's victims are civilians Edmundo Villareo (2004); Danilo Hagosojos (2006); Ruben Ermino and Raul Ferando (2007); and Raul Vihiro (2012).

They also shot and wounded on April 15 two youth named Joshua and Budoy Ferreras in Sitio Cogon, Barangay Tabi, Gubat, Sorsogon.

Meanwhile, Salvador Estrada, a resident of Barangay Bulacao was shot in the foot when Pfc Enconado and Pfc Acunia went berserk and indiscriminately opened fire after the NPA unit had retreated from the ambush area. The military, however, falsely claimed that it was the NPA that had shot Estrada.

After the incident, 9th ID forces killed farmer and Bulacao resident Jovic Estrellado at 7 p.m. of April 29. The 9th ID maliciously accused the NPA of the crime. **AB**

## Police rearrest NDFP consultant

The police slapped another trumped-up murder charge against Jaime Soledad, 63, a peace talks consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). He was arrested on May 2 in his house in Inopacan, Leyte, Soledad was accused of killing two policemen in 2004, a charge he has vehemently denied.

Soledad was released in July 2011 after being detained for three years. He was one of several NDFP consultants whose release was demanded by the NDFP as part of the Aquino government's compliance with its obligations under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). **AB**

## Military victimizes civilians in Bicol



Three civilians in Bicol became victims of military abuse on April 30. The first was killed by soldiers in Albay, the second was a minor falsely accused of being a guerrilla of the New People's Army (NPA) and the third was abducted and tortured in Sorsogon.

In Albay, elements of the 2nd IB opened fire on two youth from Barangay Tibabo, Pioduran. They were on their way to a dance in Basicao Interyor, also in Pioduran when they met the 2nd IB troops along a feeder road. Twenty-four-year old farmer Alvin Moratalla was killed. His companion, 15-year old high school student Charlie Bartolome has been traumatized by the incident.

To evade responsibility for their crime, 901st Bde spokesperson Maj. Narzan Oboyes claimed that an encounter had taken place and the two victims were NPA guerrillas.

The Santos Binamera Command (NPA-Albay) denied that Moratalla and Bartolome were NPA members. There was likewise no encounter anywhere in Albay on April 30.

In Sorsogon, on the same day, AFP and PNP elements in ski masks abducted Jay-jay Abache, 26, a construction worker and resident of Taisan, Legazpi City. Abache was taken at around 12 o'clock noon while he was buying food at a canteen in Taisan. He was ordered to lie flat on the ground, handcuffed at gunpoint and seized. No warrant of arrest was presented to him.

Abache was threatened and beaten up. He was forced to confess to a murder he did not commit and to being an NPA member. He was also forced to confess that he was armed.

Abache was abducted to force him to identify the whereabouts of his brother who is an NPA guerrilla. Other members of their family have also been harassed by the military.

Abache was turned over to the PNP-Legazpi at 11 p.m. He had bruises on his face and body, marks of the torture he suffered in the hands of his abductors. **AB**

# The withdrawal of US troops is the key to peace in the South China Sea

Tensions have flared between the Aquino government and China since April 10 when Chinese patrol boats blocked the Philippine Coast Guard from arresting Chinese fishermen at Panatag Shoal. Panatag is a triangular collection of island sand and stone 220 kilometers off the coast of Paulig, Zambales. It is being claimed both by China and the Philippines.

Ships from the two countries claiming sovereignty over the territory have been engaged in a standoff for weeks. This occurred as 4,500 American troops conducted military exercises in the South China Sea and various parts of the Philippines.

On April 21, the Communist Party of the Philippines called for an assertion of Philippine national sovereignty and territorial integrity and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Panatag. The CPP identified three important elements:

1) For China to withdraw its warships from Panatag and other disputed territories, respect existing international protocols and put a stop to its aggressive posturing towards the Philippines.

2) For US imperialism to pull out all of its troops stationed in the Philippines, especially those conducting military exercises in

disputed territories in the South China Sea and put a stop to its power-projection activities in the Asia-Pacific.

3) For the Aquino regime to stop insisting on US interference in the country and the Asia-Pacific and getting it to support the Philippine claim against China.

Of these, the key element is the demand for the US to put a stop to its interventionism in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific. It is the US' growing presence in the South China Sea that is the biggest factor provoking China's aggressive posturing. If the US persists in intervening in matters involving countries in Asia, it would be impossible to achieve a peaceful resolution.

The Filipino people must resist China's aggressive posture even as they urge a peaceful resolution. China may be called to account regarding the 2002 Code of Conduct it signed with

the ASEAN where it agreed to a multilateral dialogue towards a peaceful resolution of the conflicting claims over Panatag and Spratly Islands.

China must be convinced to unite with the Filipino people. It must also be recognized that China's stance is in line with defending its sovereignty and efforts to counter US encirclement. Although China has imperialist ambitions as a powerful capitalist country, it has not threatened the Philippines with military intervention or aggression. Against US imperialism, it may be encouraged to cooperate in helping build Philippine industrialization.

The US has purposely been whipping up tensions in the South China Sea in part to promote the so-called "American Pacific Century." Since 2010, the US has been using the Aquino regime to assail China's "arm-twisting" and request US "assistance" to "defend Philippine sovereignty".

It is not the Philippines' interest against China that the US is defending. The US is more interested in maintaining China as a compliant US ally. It has merely been using the Philippines as a launching base for actions to encircle and pressure China and intervene in its affairs,

Aquino claims that through the US-RP Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), the US is sure to come to the rescue should armed conflict erupt between China and the Philippines. In fact, the MDT has no provision for automatic retaliation. Historically, the US takes action against a foreign country only if this is in accordance with its national interest. The US only created the MDT to legalize the maintenance of its military troops in the Philippines. **AB**

