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Editorial

Andres Bonifacio's armed revolution continues

On November 30, the people will be commemorating the birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, *supremo* of the Katipunan. This occasion is significant not only because it forms part of the preparations for marking his 150th birth anniversary next year, but because it will be observed in the face of the worsening stranglehold of US imperialism over the Philippines and the utter treachery of the new ilustrados controlling the puppet government.

As in the past, the ruling classes will use this day to feign praises on Bonifacio, even as they dismiss his relevance to the present. They will avoid mentioning his distinct contribution as the leader of the working class and the **f i r s t a r m e d**

movement in Asia. For them, these concepts advocated by Bonifacio are dangerous and have no place in the present.

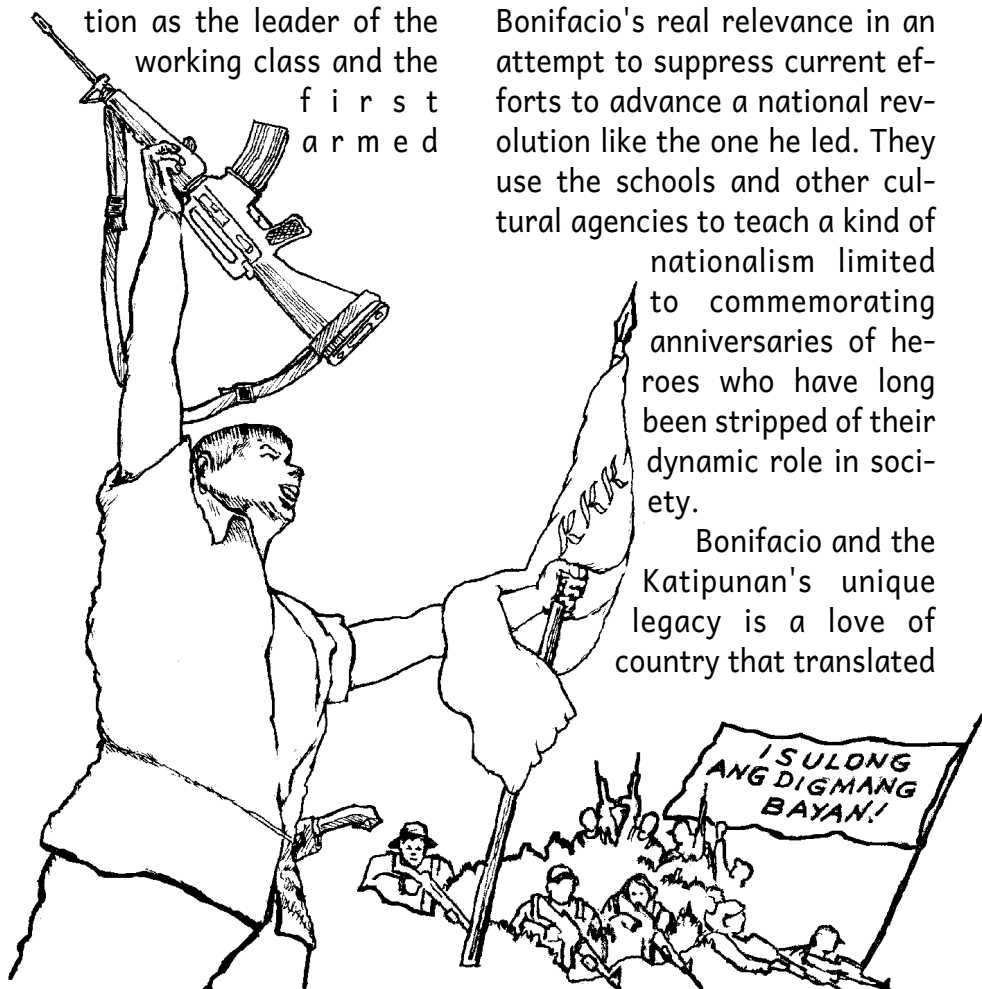
They insist on banishing from the people's consciousness Bonifacio's real relevance in an attempt to suppress current efforts to advance a national revolution like the one he led. They use the schools and other cultural agencies to teach a kind of nationalism limited to commemorating anniversaries of heroes who have long been stripped of their dynamic role in society.

Bonifacio and the Katipunan's unique legacy is a love of country that translated

to unstintingly devoting one's life to the struggle for national liberation. It is this spirit that guided them as they trod the path of armed resistance to foreign occupation.

Through a correct reading of Bonifacio and the movement he led, it would not be difficult at all to connect prevailing conditions to those of the past. Contemporary Philippine society continues to suffer foreign domination. There is an unbroken thread of treachery by the ilustrados. Under the yoke of US imperialism, the country remains semicolonial and semifeudal.

The local economy is controlled by US imperialism and its partners the big comprador



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bourgeoisie. They are the main obstacles to industrialization and the improvement of the people's socio-economic conditions. They exploit the country's cheap labor and plunder the Philippines' mineral resources and other raw materials to the detriment of the people.

The US overarches Philippine politics through puppet reactionary politicians. Since the establishment of the puppet republic in 1946, the country's leaders have kowtowed to US imperialism. The laws passed and treaties signed by them all consolidate the neocolonial relationship between the Philippines and US imperialism.

US imperialism directly intervenes militarily in the country. Its troops which are permanently stationed in an exclusive facility within an AFP military camp in Mindanao are embroiled in the civil war, directing counterrevolutionary programs, funding the AFP and launching combat operations.

Local culture and education are dominated by imperialism.

Colonial consciousness and taste are propagated through the media, the internet and the educational system. "Improvements" in the educational system are always geared towards the needs of big foreign capitalists and measures to "raise the quality of education" are mere coverups for the real objective of molding the Filipino youth in accordance with imperialist interests.

It is therefore the duty of all the patriotic and revolutionary forces to explain Bonifacio's role and accord him his proper place not only in history, but more important, in the continuing armed movement for national liberation.


It was evident in Bonifacio and the Katipunan's experience that armed revolution is the main form of struggle for national liberation. Through their efforts then to painstakingly arouse and organize the people, they were able to win over the workers, peasants and intellectuals to wage armed revolution. They did not hesitate or flinch in

the face of the Spanish colonialists' brutal campaign of suppression. Though guided by bourgeois liberal ideology, they succeeded in rousing the people's latent national consciousness.

But without a comprehensive and all-sidedly scientific ideology, Bonifacio and his fellow workers failed to thwart the ilustrados from seizing the leadership of the revolution. It would be decades before the Filipino people would be guided by proletarian ideology, make correct analyses and take correct action. It is this ideology that currently guides the people's movement for national liberation and explains that history is created by the masses and not by a few leaders.

It is but fitting to devote time and resources to the commemoration of Bonifacio's approaching birth anniversary and use the coming months to prepare for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of his birth in 2013. It is important to use this time to underscore the need to revisit history in order to define its links to the present. This must be a dynamic endeavor that will resist the trend among the reactionaries to break the connection between past and present and conduct shallow commemoratives of historical events.

The Philippines has never been truly free and the people's armed resistance continues. This is currently led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) along with the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. The CPP is launching a protracted people's war being advanced in more than a hundred guerrilla fronts by thousands of Red fighters and millions of people. **AB**

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NPA seizes 4 machine guns, 4 M16s in Isabela

Red fighters under the Benito Tesorio Command of the New People's Army (NPA) seized eight high-powered firearms in an ambush on soldiers of the US-Aquino regime in a remote area of Barangay Mabbayad, Echague town, Isabela in the early morning of November 17. The NPA confiscated three machine guns, four M16s and a K3 submachine gun.

According to initial reports, the ambush against forces of the 5th ID 502nd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) began at around 5 a.m. Seven soldiers were killed on the spot, including 2Lt. Jimnah Torrepalma, Sgt. Eduardo Arguero and Cpl. Jondy Lar Ebersole. Eight were wounded.

The 5th ID command admitted that the ambush was the worst defeat suffered by the military in Northern Luzon since the NPA waylaid a platoon under the 85th IB conducting patrols in Tinoc, Ifugao in April. Eleven soldiers were killed in this ambush.

Aside from the victorious ambush in Isabela, the NPA was able to launch successful offensives in Bukidnon, Davao City and Rizal in the first half of November.

An NPA platoon was able to

confiscate four firearms in a raid on the house of notorious criminal and active AFP asset Conrado Zulita in Sitio Kibalaog, Barangay Lilingayon, Valencia City in Bukidnon on November 15. Zulita was killed when he resisted.

The Red fighters seized a Garand, a carbine, a .45 cal pistol and a .38 cal revolver from Zulita aside from three rifle grenades, ammunition and magazines.

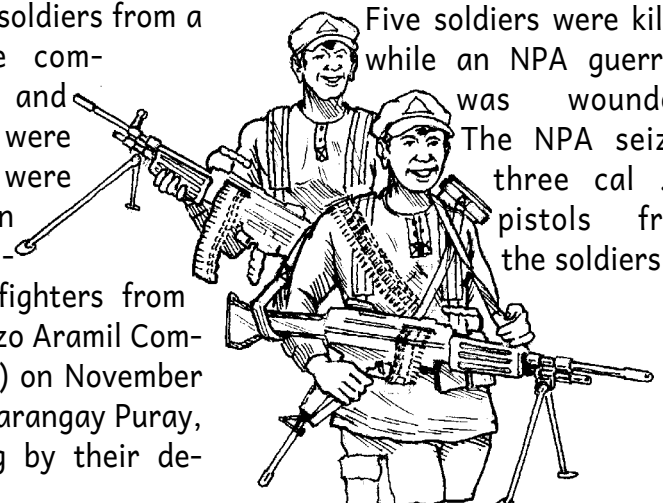
In Rizal, two soldiers from a composite force composed of 16th and 59th IB troops were killed and four were wounded when they were ambushed by Red fighters from the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NPA-Rizal) on November 7 in Sitio Uron, Barangay Puray, Rodriguez. Stung by their de-

feat, the angry soldiers vented their ire on the locals after the ambush and illegally arrested six civilians, including a teacher. (See related article on p. 6)

In Davao City, two 72nd IB troopers and six paramilitaries from the Alamara and Black-fighter groups were wounded when the 1st Pulang Bagani Company detonated an explosive on November 7 in Km. 24, Barangay Malabog, Paquibato District. The ambush formed part of the NPA's punitive operations against the AFP for the latter's exploitation and abuse of Manobo tribespeople from Paquibato to sow terror among the Lumad masses.

Earlier, on November 4, the 1st PBC clashed with the 69th IB Special Operations Team at an NPA checkpoint in Purok 5, Barko-Barko, Barangay Mapula.

Five soldiers were killed while an NPA guerrilla was wounded. The NPA seized three cal .45 pistols from the soldiers. ■



Hacienda Luisita Massacre: A commemoration

“We mark this day to warn Aquino and the Cojuangco-Aquino family against their schemes of getting back Hacienda Luisita. Justice may not be served during this Aquino regime but their names in history as a family that persists on massacre and rights abuses would never be erased and the day of retribution would definitely come.”

Thus declared Joseph Canlas, who chairs the Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) and the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA), during a pro-

test launched by various progressive organizations led by AMGL and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the Hacienda Luisita Massacre which took place on November 16, 2004.

The activity began with a mass in Baclaran, Parañaque for the martyrs of Hacienda Luisita Incorporated (HLI). It was attended by members of the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) and Luisita Peasant and People's Alliance, church people and other supporters. They called on the people to support their struggle for justice.

The next day, on November 15, up to 300 peasants protested in front of Aquino's house at Times St., Quezon City, joined by other members of KMP and UMA, PAMA-LAKAYA and Partidong Anakpawis. They burned huge portraits of Aquino and his uncles Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

They later marched to Mendiola, where they were met by members of other organizations. In the afternoon, they launched a caravan towards Hacienda Luisita where they were met by more than a thousand farm workers from AMBALA and the United Luisita Worker's Union. They protested at Barangay San Roque, where a violent demolition took place in October, and in front of the Northern Luzon Command camp. By nightfall, they held a program and vigil at Barangay Balite, inside HLI.

On November 16, they launched another caravan in the ten barangays of Tarlac City covered by Hacienda Luisita before holding a program at Gate 1 of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, the actual site of the massacre that claimed the lives of seven farm workers.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) strongly supports the peasants and farm workers of HLI in commemorating the bloody massacre. The CPP supports their cry for justice and recog-

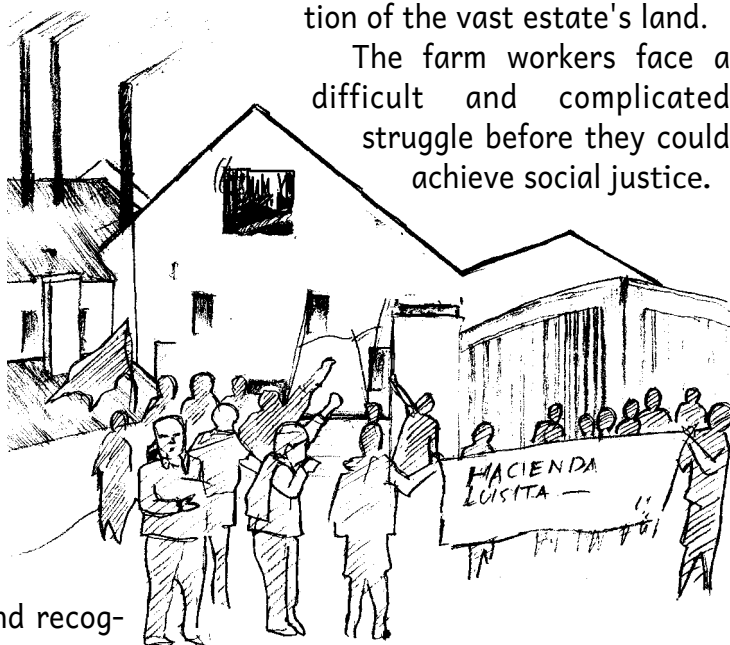
nizes the deep significance of this commemoration in the peasantry's struggle for genuine land reform.

Progressive organizations within HLI have won a number of solid gains. They have been able to assert their right to collectively till a portion of the hacienda lands to support themselves economically. They have been doing so, conscious of the limitations posed by such a form of struggle. They have maintained their strong solidarity and are aware of the need to sustain their efforts to consolidate their ranks in order to continue overcoming the various maneuvers of the reactionaries to destroy their strength and fighting spirit.

The Cojuangco-Aquino clan has held the hacienda for close to six decades. They have persistently maneuvered and used state power to deprive the peasants and farm workers of the land that used to be theirs.

Utilizing its control over the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Cojuangco-Aquino clan has surreptitiously included its house servants and stable hands in the list of beneficiaries. The farm workers have also been saddled with so many documentary requirements in order to sabotage the distribution of the vast estate's land.

The farm workers face a difficult and complicated struggle before they could achieve social justice.



US dumps toxic waste in Subic

US Navy ships and submarines were found to have ordered the dumping of toxic waste near the coastline of the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales in October. The US Navy has been contracting the Malaysian-owned Glen Defense Marine Asia Inc.-Philippines or GDM to collect the waste and dispose of it in Philippine waters.

An inspection conducted by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Ecology Center on October 15 revealed that the volume of chemicals GDM had dumped some 20 kilometers off the coast of Zambales was more than 700% above the allowable limit. Official records state that 189,000 liters of human domestic waste and 760 liters of bilge water (a combination of water, oil and grease) had been collected by the MT Glenn Guardian from the US Navy ship Emory Land.

The GDM claims that the waste had already been "treated" or rendered unhazardous by the US Navy before it was passed on to it. But GDM also admitted that it does not conduct its own inspections or analysis of the waste it receives. Thus, there is no assurance that the waste had really been treated or that there was no nuclear waste or other hazardous material mixed in.

After the US Navy's use of the Philippine seas as a dump site was exposed, everyone involved played the blame game. The GDM immediately hid behind the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) to avoid criminal prosecution. The US Embassy

and the US Navy, on the other hand, quickly said that the American side could not be held accountable because it was a private contractor that did the actual dumping, and as such, it was a matter outside the purview of the VFA. The most detestable declarations came from the Aquino regime, which hurriedly absolved both GDM and the US Navy and upheld the VFA. It has come to the defense of those who destroy the environment and trample on the country's sovereignty instead of holding them to account.

The volume of waste material the US Navy has ordered thrown in Philippine waters is mind boggling, since this year alone, GDM has already serviced 37 US naval ships and submarines.

There have been renewed calls for the abrogation of the VFA because the latter has been invoked as a justification by the US military to use the country's seas as a dumping area for toxic chemicals.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) launched a protest action near the US Embassy on November 14 to demand the junking of the VFA.

B A Y A N
and other
progressive
organiza-



tions likewise supported proposals by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to abrogate the VFA and calls by Sens. Francis Escudero, Aquilino Pimente III and Loren Legarda to investigate the dumping of toxic waste by the US Navy.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño also supported these moves. In fact, there have been resolutions filed at the Lower House since 2011 calling for the junking of the VFA and a ban on American soldiers returning to their former military bases at Subic and Clark.

More than the issue of the US dumping chemicals in Philippine waters is the use of the VFA to justify the presence of American troops in the country who have been intervening in the counterrevolutionary war being launched by the puppet regime. The US has also been using the Philippines as a launching area for its interventionist operations in the Asia-Pacific. Such activities are expected to intensify especially as the Obama regime has given priority to strengthening US military power in the region. Up to 60% of US Navy ships will be deployed in the Asia-Pacific by 2020.

Particularly in the Philippines, said the US Department of Defense, more than 100 airplanes have been landing at Clark every month. More than 70 US naval vessels have docked at Subic this year, compared to 51 in 2010 and 55 in 2011.

Aquino is a hypocrite on the issue of human rights

Benigno Aquino III pulled a big swindle on the international community when he supported the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration during the 21st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 20. He acted as if his regime had great concern for human rights, when serious human rights violations committed by its security forces go on unabated.

Juvy Capion and her two children who were massacred by the military in Tampak, South Cotabato in October have yet to be given justice. On top of this, the military beheaded a barangay official in Albay this November and abducted a tribal teacher and five other civilians in Rizal.

Albay. Elements of the 2nd IB murdered Ely Oguis, a village councilor of Barangay Cabaluaon, Guinobatan on the night of November 11. Oguis was tortured first before being killed. He had his ears cut off, was decapitated and his head buried in the mud.

To cover up the barangay official's brutal and inhuman death, the military immediately put the blame for the crime on the NPA. Said NDF-Bicol spokesperson Ka Greg Bañares, 2nd IB Civil-Military Operations chief Maj. Narzan Obuyes is good at manufacturing lies.

Before the killing, Oguis was in a drinking spree with soldiers of the 2nd IB.

Bañares said there was no encounter on the night Oguis was killed and the shots heard by the villagers were those fired by the military at the victim. No NPA unit attacked the military troops, contrary to the claims made by the 2nd IB official.

Since August 2011, 2nd IB officers have been confronting Oguis several times and accusing him of supporting the revolutionary movement.

Meanwhile, on November 1, soldiers of the 2nd IB shot and killed Dante Osma in Barangay Sinungtan, Guinobatan. The soldiers killed Osma at around 6 p.m. in front of his house, some 300 meters away from the barracks of the 2nd IB Peace and Development Team.

Samar. Five peasants were arrested by combined elements of the 43rd IB and the Philippine National Police in Barangay Camhumawid, Gandara town. They were accused by the military of owning five pistols, a grenade, explosive devices and backpacks. The five civilians are now being held at the Gandara Municipal Police Station.

Rizal. Troops from the 16th and 59th IB abducted Lanie Latura, a teacher of Dumagat children and five others. They were taken at Sitio Uron, Puray, Rodriguez town after an NPA ambush on the military in the area.

Since the teacher and her five companions were abducted, they have not been surfaced by the military. They were captured on suspicion of being NPA supporters.

Compostela Valley. Soldiers and CAFGU elements under the 66th IB beat up a 19-year old youth.

At around 6 a.m. on November 5, the victim was approached in their house in San Isidro town by 11 soldiers from the 66th IB who accused him of being an NPA member. The military beat him up when he denied the accusation. He was also forced to eat raw fish and drink water that tasted like rust.

The victim was able to escape after crying out for help from his mother.

Cordillera. The 86th IB included in its "hit-list" 28 civilians, all residents of Tinoc and Asipulo towns in Ifugao province.

This was disclosed by the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance (CHRA) during a news conference it called on November 8. The CHRA was able to obtain a photocopy of an AFP document and circulated it during the news conference. It bore the 86th IB and 5th ID logos and listed the names of 28 individuals with their complete addresses, organizational affiliations and alleged relationship with the NPA.

The CHRA said that the civilians on the list have in fact been implementing programs on human rights, sustainable agriculture and socio-economic projects in the communities.

Beside the civilians' names were allegations that they are supporters of the NPA, give food to the NPA, give shelter to the NPA and stored the NPA's guns. CHRA chair Jude Baggo who was 22nd on the list was alleged to be the "brains of the NPA." **AB**

Bigger bounties lead to worse abuses

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) roundly condemned DND-DILG Joint Order No. 14-2012, which raised the bounties for the arrest of 235 alleged leaders of the armed revolutionary movement. The total amount of the reward monies in the order which was issued November 13 is ₱466.88 million.

The CPP said the bounty system will merely be used by military and police officials to step up arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and other violations of the human rights of revolutionary forces, activists and civilians. Military and police officials will also be using it to pocket millions of pesos.

The CPP cited the case of Rolly Panesa, 48, who was arrested in Quezon City on October 5. The 2nd ID claimed that he was "Benjamin Mendoza," allegedly the CPP's 61-year old leading cadre in Southern Tagalog. Panesa underwent severe torture while he was being forced to admit that he was "Mendoza." It turned out that Southern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Alan Luga merely want-

ed some "send-off money" with his impending retirement. "Benjamin Mendoza" carries a ₱5-million bounty for his capture.

On November 5, the military arrested Grayson Naogsan, the eldest son of Simon "Ka Filiw" Naogsan, spokesperson of the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF). Grayson was on his way to the wake of his grandfather Pablo Naogsan in Butigue, Paracelis, Mountain Province when he was arrested. He was interrogated without the presence of the counsel of his choice, blindfolded and held incommunicado.

The CPDF strongly condemned Grayson's arrest. His capture is obviously a project to collect the bounty on his head, which has been raised from ₱500,000 to ₱3.2 million. The CPDF said Naogsan's arrest was the brainchild of 54th IB chief Lt. Col. Donald Hongitan who is also slated to retire.

NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos likewise assailed the issuance of DND-DILG Joint Order No. 14-2012, saying that the Aquino government's resort to huge amounts of

bounty money is a sign of desperation and shows the failure of Oplan Bayanihan to stop the revolutionary movement. It has completely shed its mask of negotiating for peace because it now openly treats as common criminals the leaders and members of the revolutionary movement.

NDFP peace panel chair Luis Jalandoni also slammed the Aquino regime's order that criminalizes the revolutionary movement. He said the real criminals are those that kill activists, demolish urban poor communities and force the evacuation of tens of thousands of people. **AB**

Military camps in Davao City told to pull out

THE Davao City Council has ordered the military to pull out its camps from civilian communities within the city. The order was contained in a resolution passed during a special session on November 9.

The resolution aims to prevent civilians from being caught in the crossfire during clashes between government soldiers and the New People's Army (NPA). A city councilor himself saw how the military was using the second storey of a barangay hall as a detachment while the ground floor served as a daycare center.

The council said the situation was disturbing as civilians might be hit any time during clashes.

The resolution was a response to longstanding demands by human rights advocacy groups and other entities for the immediate pullout of the military from the city, particularly from Paquibato District, where the AFP has committed many crimes and human rights violations.

The city council also called on the military to transfer its detachments and not to use civilian structures such as daycare centers and health centers for military purposes. It warned the military not to add any more detachments or any military structures near schools and population centers. **AB**

Obama's new round of hardships for the American people

Barack Obama is set to begin his second four-year term by enforcing a new round of major austerity measures and taxes.

In contrast to 2008, there are no "new hopes" accompanying Obama's reelection as US president last November 6. The tight race between Obama and the Republican party candidate showed that neither side was able to gain the support of the vast majority of the American people.

Obama's plans are expected to plunge the US economy deeper into crisis and prolong the recession that has been running for the past five years. It will definitely worsen the socio-economic conditions of the American working masses and spark renewed resistance in various parts of the United States.

Obama's new measures are contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA), which raises the ceiling on the internal debt that the US government is allowed to incur.

In exchange are measures designed to reduce the US' huge budget deficit such as slashes in US government spending and the imposition of more taxes. The US currently owes more than \$16 trillion, equivalent to 100% of its gross domestic product.

The US government's austerity program will

impact primarily on the American people. Next year will see the dismantling of the \$26-billion support program for the unemployed. Also to be cancelled is the government's 26% share in Medicare, which will result in \$11 billion of additional medical costs to the people.

A \$400 billion tax program suspended during the Bush administration will be implemented in 2013. A 2% tax on the incomes of workers and employees temporarily shelved in 2010 will be resumed. By the end of 2012, twenty-eight million middle class Americans will be required to pay the so-called Alternative Minimum Tax, which has no allowable deductions.

Even bourgeois economists are worried that these measures will cause the US economy to plummet anew next year, with local production to decline by an estimated 0.5% on top of a projected 0.6% slump in 2012. The US economy has been on a slowdown for years.

The measures will inflict even more brutal blows on hundreds of millions of Americans in the form of worse unemployment, homelessness and indebtedness. Bigger protest actions are sure to erupt against deteriorating social conditions and the Obama government's antiworker and antipeople policies. **AB**

Israel wages renewed attacks on Palestine

Up to a hundred Palestinians have been killed and more than 850 wounded in eight days of continuous bomb attacks by Israel on the densely populated Gaza City. Most of the victims are civilians, including 12 members of a family whose house was targeted simply because of Israeli suspicions that it was frequented by a high-ranking Hamas official. Israel has admitted that many civilians, including women, children and infants have been killed in its indiscriminate bombing sprees, with the number of civilian casualties growing daily.

Israel began its latest assault on Palestine on November 14 with a missile attack on Ahmad al-Jabari, Hamas' highest-ranking military official. Hamas, an armed organization opposed to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories was legitimately elected to head the government in Gaza in 2006. Jabari, who was in a car, was instantly killed in the attack along with his companions.

The assassination was carried out in CIA fashion which favors the use of attack drones to arbitrarily kill persons it has branded as terrorists. It is violative of international law and is a crime against the Palestinian state. Days before, Israel had even cunningly entered into an informal ceasefire agreement, with Jabari directly negotiating in behalf of Palestine.

To defend itself, Palestine launched its own missile attacks against Israel. With a casualty count much lower than that of Palestine, Israel nonetheless seized the opportunity to claim that there was an active exchange of hostile fire between the two countries. It was a gross distortion of the

unilateral nature of the attacks. Israel used this to justify its relentless and widespread bombings all over Gaza.

Along with its incessant bomb attacks, Israel has tightened its watch on the flow into Gaza of food, water, medicine and other basic needs, worsening the blockade it has imposed on all of Gaza since 2007. The strangled supply lines have doubled the suffering of the people in the area.

Egypt, the Arab League and many other countries immediately condemned the treacherous Israeli attacks on Palestine. On the other hand, US imperialism, the Israeli military's patron and biggest financier, was quick to defend its client state on the enraging pretext that Israel had the right "to defend itself."

The US had previously branded Hamas as a terrorist organization to come up with a convoluted justification for eliminating its leaders and members without due process.

The Communist Party of the Philippines expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemned Israel's brutal attacks on Palestine in the strongest possible terms. **AB**

Workers launch coordinated strikes in Europe

A DAYLONG strike by millions of workers and other sectors shook southern Europe on November 14. The coordinated mass action was launched to protest plans to slash funds for social services.

The protests were strongest in Spain and Portugal. More than half of public sector workers in Spain joined the strike.

Hundreds of airline flights were cancelled and train and bus services came to a halt, as well as work in piers and factories. International train travel was also at a standstill as rail workers in Belgium, Greece, Italy and France conducted a simultaneous work stoppage. Hundreds of thousands joined protest actions in hundreds of cities.

Days before, Greek workers launched a two-day strike as parliament voted on additional austerity measures. There are plans to reduce the education and health budgets as well as retirement pensions for the elderly.

These policies are dictates of the imperialist government of Germany, the European Union and the International Monetary Fund in exchange for loans being sought by countries in deep financial crisis and in danger of bankruptcy.

The International League of Peoples' Struggle and the Kilusang Mayo Uno issued statements expressing solidarity for the strike. **AB**

Workers mount mass actions

THE Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and progressive unions commemorated the International Day of Action against Trade Union Repression on November 16 by launching a rally at Mendiola.

They assailed the Aquino regime's antiworker policies and labor programs, including union busting, the use of assumption of jurisdiction against striking unions, contractualization and the militarization of factories and communities.

Cases of trade union repression have been mounting. Among them is management's heavy-handed dealings with the unions of Lapanday Fruits Cor-

poration and Freshmax Trading Company, both fruit-exporting companies in Mindanao.

This November, the Department of Labor and Employment sided with the management of Bacolod Columbia Marketing Inc. in Negros Occidental, slapping an assumption of jurisdiction order on an ongoing workers' strike. Other unions that are on strike or in the thick of negotiations are those of Pam-

bato Cargo Forwarder, Inc. and Prudential Customs Brokerage Inc. in Surigao City and Coats Manila Bay Inc. at Marikina City.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno also picketed the offices of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Manila Electric Co. on November 12 and 13.

The KMU condemned the SSS for overcharging interest payments on the salary loans of its members. The progressive labor center demanded that the SSS reimburse its members for the ₱789-million overcharge collected by the agency since 2011.

5 migrant workers' bodies sent home daily

AT least five dead bodies of migrant workers are repatriated to the Philippines daily. Forty percent of them are victims of crimes such as poisoning, sexual abuse and maltreatment. Others were killed to harvest their organs.

Up to 35 to 40 other cases per month are referred to Migrante International. The cases include, among others, overcharging, illegal recruitment, human trafficking for sexual purposes and government abuse and neglect of victims.

Up to 2,904 workers leave the country daily to work abroad. More than 10% (or upwards of 12 million) of the Philippines' population of 96 million are migrant workers who send more than \$17.4 billion (or ₱731 billion) in remittances back home.

About half of the Philippine population are dependent on the incomes of migrant workers.

A large proportion of the local economy is com-

posed of remittances. In spite of this, the reactionary government's assistance to migrants has been woefully inadequate. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) charges a total of up to ₱52 million from all migrants for their legal assistance fund, but the amount serves only as a milking cow for corrupt bureaucrats. The fund has not been of much assistance, especially to about 7,000 migrant workers incarcerated in various prisons around the world, including 123 who are on death row.

Migrant workers' advocates have called on the government to repatriate overseas workers to the Philippines and provide them with adequate work, land to till, decent wages and decent livelihood. This can only be realized with the implementation of national industrialization and genuine land reform which will spur production and create jobs.

US intervention seen to rise with signing of PNP-NYPD accord

US INTERVENTION in Philippine internal affairs will intensify with the recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the New York Police Department (NYPD). With the NYPD's notoriety as one of the most fascist police organizations worldwide, its cooperation with the PNP is sure to result in stepped-up abuses of human rights.

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed on October 31 by PNP Chief Nicanor Bartolome and Lt. Gustavo Gutierrez, head of the NYPD satellite office in Singapore which covers 17 countries. The memorandum calls for the establishment of an NYPD satellite office within the PNP national headquarters in Camp Crame for coordination in

the investigation of transnational crimes such as terrorism, illegal drug traffic, cybercrime, smuggling, human trafficking and the like.

The NYPD-PNP agreement forms part of US imperialism's efforts to create a worldwide intelligence and police network. In September, the NYPD also opened a satellite office in Kfar Saba, Israel. Aside from Singapore, it maintains other satellite offices in the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada.

The International Liaison Program (ILP), which is part of the NYPD's intelligence division is supported by private donations coursed through the New York Police Foundation. The real amount of donations received is concealed from the public. According to a former police offi-

cial, the ILP is like a mini CIA that operates outside the structure with unclear legal accountabilitys.

The agreement entered into with the PNP will serve as added legal cover to intensify US government intervention in the Philippines. It will result in greater interference by the US police and other American police and military agencies in the country. Among the NYPD's interventionist activities are training, exchanging intelligence information and supplying weapons to the PNP.

Before the memorandum of agreement was signed, US forces had already been operating clandestinely in the Philippines. In June, political prisoners exposed the presence and extralegal activities of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation within the PNP Custodial Center at Camp Crame.