

ANG

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

# Bayan

English Edition  
Vol. XLIV No. 13  
July 7, 2013

www.philippinerevolution.net

## Editorial

# The Aquino regime's treachery

**F**or the past three years under the US-Aquino regime, an unprecedented number of American warships and combat planes have entered and exited the Philippines, also with unprecedented frequency. US warships dock in Subic, Manila and other Philippine ports practically on a weekly basis.

Every day, American soldiers are a constant presence all over the country, with their ships docking or sailing and their planes taking off or landing whenever and wherever they want.

To justify the US military forces' unlimited access to Philippine waters and air space, American and Philippine military officials invoke the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), slapping these two documents in the Filipino people's faces.

Nonetheless, Aquino and the US government are not content with the number of US soldiers and combat vehicles enjoying free and frequent ingress and egress in the Philippines. In accordance with the US' desire to maintain a more permanent presence in the Asia-Pacific, especially in the Philippines, the Aquino regime has been preparing facilities in Subic and other ports for the US military's use.

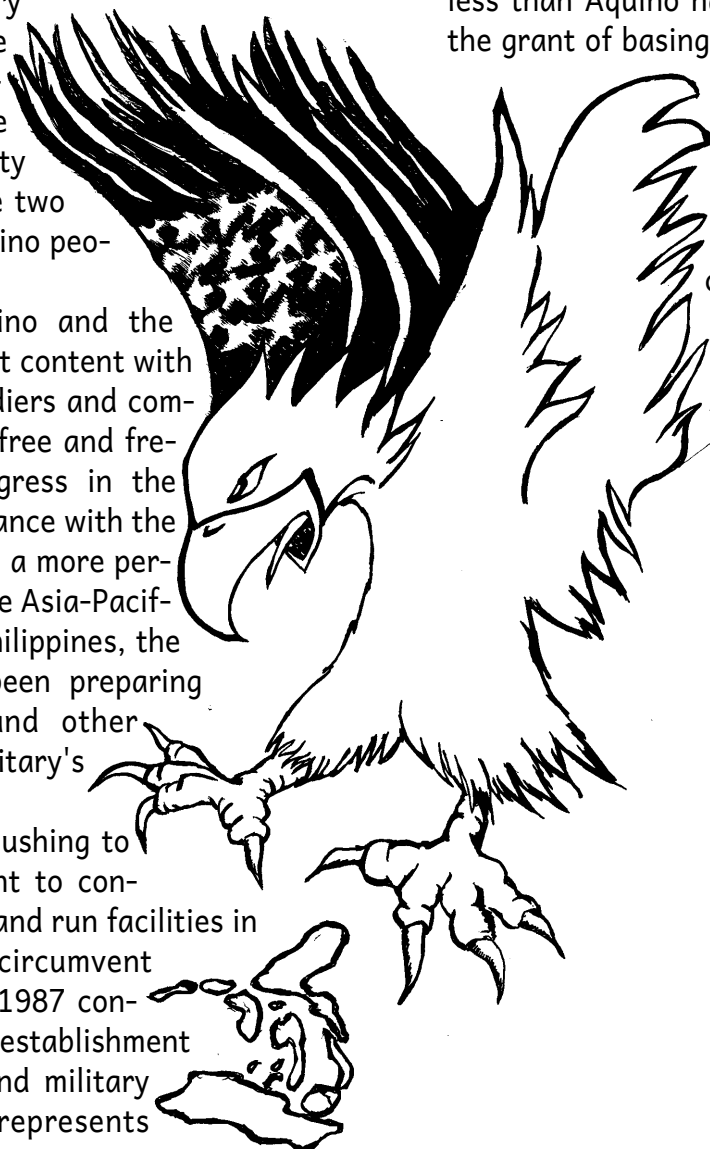
Aquino has been pushing to grant the US the right to conduct operations from and run facilities in the Philippines. To circumvent the provisions of the 1987 constitution that ban the establishment of foreign facilities and military bases, Aquino misrepresents

these as Philippine facilities made available for use by the US military and its allies.

With such plans, the US and Aquino are obviously dissatisfied with the fact that ships, submarines and other nuclear-capable US war ships are already able to come and go as they please. They are not content with the Philippines' current role as an outpost for rest and recreation, repairs and resupply.

They want to enhance the Philippines' status as a vast naval outpost in the Asia-Pacific by restoring the US military's basing privileges in the Philippines. Marking the extent of his puppetry, no less than Aquino has led the way in rationalizing the grant of basing privileges as part of the "military alliance" between the US and the Philippines.

What Corazon Aquino failed to do in 1991, her son Benigno III now wants to accomplish. In 1991, the first Aquino regime failed in its bid to extend the Military Bases Agreement (MBA), which was



### *In this issue...*

- NPA seizes 14 firearms in Mountain Province** 3
- NPA conducts people's clinic in Samar** 4
- CPP pays tribute to Bicol martyrs** 8

set to end after 50 years of existence. Aquino now wants to grant basing privileges to the US military even without a treaty. Aquino allies are currently riding on this as a pretext to push for the amendment of the 1987 constitution, in order to once and for all get rid of provisions barring foreign military bases.

The Aquino government is completely at the beck and call of US imperialism and in the service of US world military strategy. In exchange for Aquino's full support, the US has been buttressing his regime politically and militarily, actively intervening in the country's politics to ensure the Aquino government's stability. US media and political experts have also been assiduously guiding the course of the Aquino regime.

To justify growing US military presence, both the US and the Aquino regime have been whipping up conflicts on the Spratly Islands and other land formations in the South China Sea that have been the subject of disputes among the Philip-

pines, China and other countries. Since 2011, the US has intensified its military presence in the Asia-Pacific and established military bases and other military arrangements in northern Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam up to Japan and South Korea.

Its aim is to encircle China and make sure that trade routes like the South China Sea and Malacca Strait remain under US control. The US' growing presence in the Asia-Pacific has been provoking China to enhance its military strength and act more aggressively in defending its national interest.

The growing US military presence in the Asia-Pacific runs counter to the interests of the Philippines and the Filipino people. It is exacerbating military and diplomatic tensions and preventing the peaceful resolution of the disputes regarding the Spratlys and other islands in the South China Sea.

Granting the US military complete freedom to enter and


leave and station troops, equipment, war ships and combat planes in the Philippines comprise unmitigated trampling by the US of Philippine independence and sovereignty.

The Aquino regime is committing treason against the Filipino people, going to the extent of leading efforts for the US military to lord it over the country. In acceding to the US government's desires, the Aquino regime has ceded the country's right to blaze its own path and has bound the Philippines and its foreign policy to US designs. Every time Aquino complies with US military directives, he surrenders the Philippines' right to adopt a position of non-alignment or non-intervention should international conflicts erupt.

The Filipino people must take a stand for national independence. They must act to put a stop to and resist the Aquino regime's treachery in completely ceding Philippine sovereignty to its American imperialist masters. They must resist Aquino's plans to restore to the US the privilege of basing and stationing troops, equipment and other facilities for their war materiel. They must advance the struggle to abrogate the VFA, the MDT and all other unequal treaties that run counter to the people's interests.

It is highly ironic that Aquino's plans to grant greater basing privileges to the US military are being executed as the Filipino people prepare to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the great patriotic leader Andres Bonifacio on November 30.

In conjunction with this celebration, it is but right for the people to intensify their struggle for national liberation and put an end to the rule of puppet leaders who surrender the country's sovereignty and patrimony.

 <p>Vol. XLIV No. 13 July 7, 2013</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray at English editions. It is available for <i>downloading</i> at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:  <a href="http://www.philippinerevolution.org">www.philippinerevolution.org</a>.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> 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></p>	<p><b>Contents</b></p> <p><b>Editorial:</b> The Aquino regime's treachery 1</p> <p>NPA seizes 14 firearms in Mountain Province 3</p> <p>NPA metes blows on 26th IB 3</p> <p>NPA conducts people's clinic in Samar 3</p> <p>Urban poor persevere in struggle 4</p> <p>People resist hikes in service fees 5</p> <p>Corruption of Kamag-anak, Kaibigan Inc. 6</p> <p>Baladad's promotion assailed 6</p> <p>Davao civilians evacuate 7</p> <p>CPP pays tribute to Bicol martyrs 7</p> <p>Response to attacks on democratic rights 8</p> <p>Mass protests overseas 9</p>
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

# NPA seizes 14 firearms in Mountain Province

Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) carted away 14 high-powered firearms in an ambush on elements of the 2nd Company of the Regional Public Safety Battalion of the Philippine National Police (RPSB-PNP) in Barangay Kabunagan, Tadian, Mountain Province on the morning of June 28. The arms seizure consisted of 11 M16 and three M14 rifles. A policeman was killed and nine were wounded in the ambush.

An NPA unit under the Leonardo Pacsi Command (LPC-NPA) ambushed the RPSB troops while the latter were engaged in combat training. Up to a hundred troops were present, including their instructors.

NPA medics gave first aid to the wounded trainees before releasing them along with other captured combatants.

The RPSB 2nd Company is one of several Public Safety Battalion (PSB) batches undergoing a series of trainings since last

year. The PSB is an elite PNP unit that is currently being trained in counterinsurgency and urban warfare tactics.

Documents seized by the NPA from previous firefights prove that the PSB is an integral part of the AFP's Oplan Bayanhan. The PSB actively joins combat operations against the revolutionary forces. No less than Chief Supt. Benjamin Magalong, PNP-Cordillera Autonomous Region Public Relations Officer said recently that the PNP's elite units have

been undergoing intensive training in "counterinsurgency readiness."

In implementing Oplan Bayanhan, Mountain Province has been transformed into a virtual military garrison because of detachments of the 54th IB and PNP-PSB that dot its landscape. In addition, the enemy's patrol bases and mobile units serve as security forces for big mining and power generation companies. These huge companies have been wreaking havoc in ancestral lands in the towns of Bontoc, Sadanga, Barlig, Natonin, Paracelis, Sagada and Besao.

In reaction to the people's growing opposition to these companies' destructive operations, the national and local governments have been mobilizing Philippine Army and PNP troops to secure areas targeted in the construction of their facilities. AB

## NPA in Agusan del Sur metes blows on 26th IB

Two soldiers were killed and one wounded in two successive harassment actions by Red fighters under the NPA Western Agusan del Sur-Agusan del Norte Subregional Command in North Central Mindanao Region in the last week of June.

On June 22, at around 4 p.m., the NPA harassed a platoon under the 26th IB that was resting in a hut in Sitio Agungon, Barangay Maliwanag, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. The troops had just finished their hot pursuit operations against an NPA unit that attacked the Shannalyne Plantation Company compound and a rubber plantation in Barangay Hawilian, Esperanza on June 18. *(For details on the Shannalyne raid, read the June 21, 2013 issue of Ang Bayan)*

Two days later, a CAFGU element was wounded when another NPA unit harassed a detachment of the 26th IB-CAA in Km. 11, Barangay Policarpio, San Luis, Agusan del Sur on the morning of June 24. AB

## NPA conducts people's clinic in Samar

The New People's Army (NPA) provided medical services to some 300 individuals from seven villages in Samar province in May and June. The patients were physically examined and provided dental, acupuncture and reflexology treatment, given eye refraction tests, and with some undergoing minor surgery. Free medicines were provided to 226 individuals. Half of the beneficiaries were children.

The peasant masses' poor health conditions were proof that the Aquino regime was hardly providing basic services, despite its much-vaunted conditional cash transfer program or 4Ps. The villagers' most common health complaints such as ulcers, myalgia, anemia and primary complex in children were all traceable to their poverty and hunger. The barrio-folks' medical needs were not being met, despite a ₱30,000 health budget for every barangay.

Poor peasants like Tatay Lando and Lola Nelia were elated with the medical services provided by the NPA. All his life, 58-year old Tatay Lando had only gone twice to the town center to see a doctor. In one

of these consultations, he spent more than ₱100 for transportation fare and ₱300 for the doctor's fee. He also had to spend for food. With all these expenses, he was no longer able to buy the medicines prescribed by the doctor. In a span of three to four months, he would be lucky to earn ₱1,400 from his mung bean crop—that is, if he is able to harvest up to 70 kilos and if he could sell this for ₱40 per kilo. He gets only half of the income, with the other half going to loan sharks. Merchants would also often underbuy his produce. Thus, he was so grateful for the free medical attention given to him by the NPA. He was given prescription glasses, acupuncture treatment and free medicines. Seventy-three year old Lola Nelia, on the other hand, had a lipoma on her calf examined. She was so happy with the people's clinic that despite being a poor and elderly peasant, she gave a donation to the NPA, and praised the guerrillas for their service to the people.

The successful activity was undertaken through the cooperation of the NPA and mass organizations from various guerrilla fronts. It also served as training for the comrades and the masses to hone their abilities regarding health and medical matters. The people's clinic aimed not only to address the lack of medical attention but to train comrades and mass organizations in medical work and improve their capabilities, from applying cures to making herbal medicines.

Another objective was to stress to the people the importance of preventive health care and self-reliance, with the mass movement as the key to realizing this aim.

The people's militia actively joined in providing security for the four-day activity by conducting reconnaissance, posting guards and ensuring the smooth flow of communication.

AB

## Urban poor persevere in struggle

Demolitions are set to intensify in the next several months to force the evacuation of some 20,000 urban poor families before the end of 2013. In compliance with Aquino's orders to resolve the problem of "squatters" and flooding, the homes of up to 100,000 families are expected to be demolished by 2016.

In Aquino's three years in power, ten anti-demolition activists have been killed by the military and 8,336 cases of forced demolitions conducted.

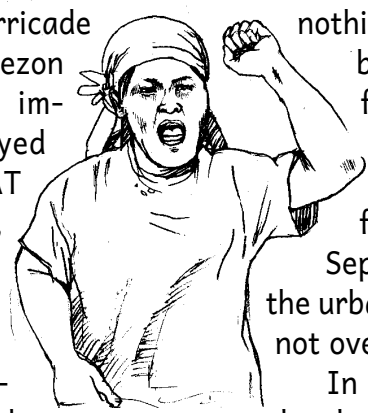
Meanwhile, in North Triangle, Quezon City, the dwellings of up to 4,000 urban poor families were set to be razed as the June 30 deadline imposed on them by the local government to leave the area had passed. The demolition was to give way to a road-widening project along Agham Road for the ₱22-billion Quezon City Central Business District.

In active defense against the looming demolition, more than 300 urban poor residents led by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY) put up a barricade on July 1. The Quezon City government immediately deployed anti-riot and SWAT teams to the area, some of them armed with high-powered rifles. The policemen violently destroyed the barricades by using truncheons, firing their weapons and pursuing the protesters, some of whom were beaten up. That afternoon, the residents trooped to the Quezon City Hall along with other progressive organizations, but were met with water cannons.

The urban poor bravely confronted such repression and were ready to fight for their families, dwellings and livelihoods. They managed to hold a program to expose Aquino's accountability for the demolitions. Meanwhile, Quezon City mayor Herbert Bautista spread intrigues that he would order an investigation and file charges against syndicates that were allegedly encouraging the residents to squat, and that were extorting ₱1,000 from each family in exchange for protection and residency rights. He cited the Anakpawis Party as the group allegedly responsible for goading the residents into barricading their community.

Bautista's scheme was nothing new to the urban poor. They have faced the threat of demolition several times since their first barricade in September 2010. For the urban poor, the fight is not over.

In the same period, local government forces likewise demolished homes in Barangay Bignay in Valenzuela City on July 4. Some 300 policemen and members of a demolition team attacked the barricade put up by the residents, arresting community leader Richard Gagap, who is also one of the striking work-



ers of Pentagon Steel Corporation in Quezon City.

Meanwhile, the Aquino regime announced that its priority in the planned demolitions are residents of river banks and estuaries in the following areas: San Juan River: 4,217 families; Estero de Tripa de Gallina: 3,887; Tullahan River: 3,683; Manggahan Floodway: 2,997; Manicaban Creek: 1,637; Pasig River: 1,434; Estero de Magpayo: 1,415; and Estero de Sunog Apoy: 170.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has offered ₱18,000 to each family to convince them to leave voluntarily. The amount will be given in full if the family voluntarily evacuates outside of the city, and by installment in the form of rent subsidy should the family opt to stay within the city while waiting for the relocation site to be readied.

But KADAMAY quickly refused the offer. For them, there is no guarantee that the government's promise of decent relocation will be fulfilled. In their experience, it is not usually the urban poor who benefit from housing projects in the city. Those who have been forcibly demolished are automatically disqualified from availing of such projects. They demand in-city relocation in areas near their places of work. Simultaneous to the eviction of the urban poor, Aquino spokesperson Edwin Lacieria warned that those who have evacuated will be arrested should they attempt to return to the estuaries.

The Gabriela Women's Party (GWP) has assailed the construction of condominiums and other commercial and real estate projects in the so-called danger areas vacated by the urban poor. Said the GWP, flooding is always being blamed on the urban poor, but it now turns out that flooding can be solved if such areas are occupied by foreign and local capitalists. **AB**

## People resist hikes in service fees

In denunciation of the Aquino regime's three years of incompetence and inutility, mass protests have begun that will peak on July 21, a day before Benigno Aquino III's fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Manila protested on July 5 in front of the Maynilad office in Ermita, Manila to oppose looming water rate hikes by Maynilad (₱8.58/cubic meter) and Manila Water (₱5.83/cubic meter). Consumers are set to pay at least ₱230 more for water services monthly once the new rates are implemented. The protesters likewise assailed price increases of other commodities due to the privatization policies of the current and previous regimes.

BAYAN condemned Manila Water and Maynilad for their unjust charges. It has come to light that the two companies have been passing on to consumers items such as their income tax expenses which they have included in tariff charges. BAYAN said that these excess charges must be returned to consumers. If anything, a refund should be ordered instead of a rate hike, added BAYAN.

According to the Water for the People Network, an alliance of entities opposed to the water rate hikes, the water companies overcharged their customers by up to ₱15.5 billion from 2008 to 2012. Maynilad and Manila Water have also been passing on to consumers other internal expenses as well as allowances, and the food

and transportation expenditures of their executives.

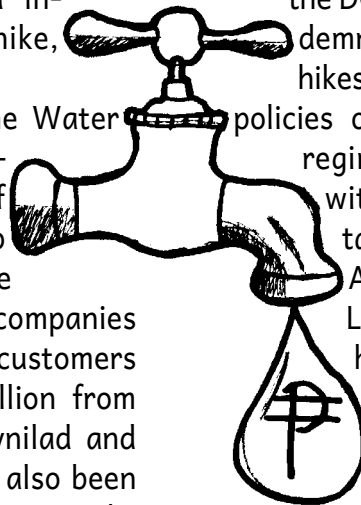
Meralco, on the other hand, is supposed to refund ₱28 billion to its consumers.

The two protesting groups also condemned the successive fuel price hikes by oil companies in the country such as Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation and Petron Corporation.

They also opposed the 5-15% tuition fee hikes in 343 private schools.

Aside from the protest actions, the groups also launched a signature campaign against rising prices and privatization. They aim to collect the most number of signatures from disgusted Filipino consumers who oppose privatization and favor the nationalization of basic industries and utilities.

On June 25, members of Anakbayan, PISTON, BAYAN and Riles Laan sa Sambayanan Network protested in front of the DOTC office to condemn transport fare hikes and the antipoor policies of the US-Aquino regime in cahoots with DOTC Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya. MRT and LRT fares will be hiked by ₱5 this year and by another ₱5 in 2014. The fare increases will be used to pay loans from banks charging high interest. **AB**



# Corruption of Kamag-anak and Kaibigan Inc. exposed

The involvement of members of the Aquino family in corruption is slowly being revealed.

A sister and brother-in-law of Benigno Asquino III have been reportedly involved in extorting millions of dollars from a foreign company.

Ma. Elena "Ballsy" Aquino-Cruz, the president's eldest sister and his brother-in-law Eldon Cruz personally traveled to the Czech Republic to demand from \$2-20 million from Inekon, a Czech manufacturer of trains and railways. In exchange, the Cruz couple claimed they would make sure that Inekon would be granted the contract for the MRT 3 project.

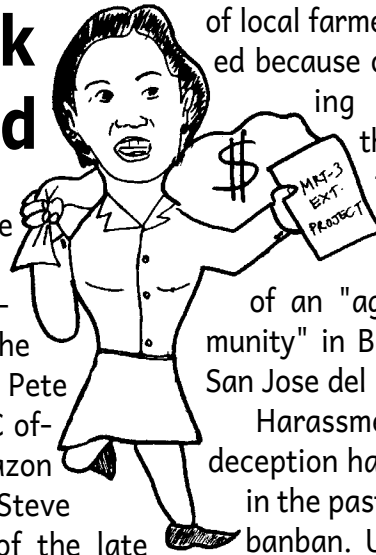
The company refused to give in to the Cruzes' extortion try and instead leaked details of the incident to the media. It has also

made a report to the Czech government.

With the Cruz couple in their trip to the Czech Republic were Pete Prado, a former DOTC official under the Corazon Aquino regime, and Steve Psinakis, son-in-law of the late bourgeois comprador Eugenio Lopez Sr. and a close ally of the Aquinos.

In related news, Jose Acuzar, president of New San Jose Builders (NSJB), owner of Goldenville Realty and Development Corp. and brother-in-law of Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa has cornered the contract for the conversion of an 85-hectare agricultural land into a relocation site.

The site has supposedly been reserved for urban poor evacuees. It is also the source of livelihood



of local farmers who will be evicted because of the planned housing project. Ironically, the land is covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and is part of an "agrarian reform community" in Barangay Kaybanban, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Harassment in concert with deception have been intensifying in the past few months in Kaybanban. Up to 50 armed private security guards buoyed up by policemen have been deployed to the area. The local government has been offering P5,000-bribes to the peasants and promising them all sorts of things just to convince them to abandon their farms.

It was the NSJB that also cornered the contract for the construction of a relocation site in Montalban, Rizal meant for victims of demolitions conducted at North Triangle, Quezon City in 2010. AB

---

## Rights groups assail appointment of general involved in "Morong 43" arrests

Human rights violations will worsen with Benigno Aquino III's recent appointment of Brig. Gen. Aurelio Baladad as chief of the Philippine Army 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd ID covers Western Visayas and parts of Central Visayas.

Baladad, then a colonel, was chief of the Philippine Army 202nd Brigade when 43 health workers were arrested in Morong, Rizal in February 2010. The court later dismissed the cases filed against the 43 activists.

Baladad likewise faces administrative charges before the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). He and other officers are also respondents in a case filed by the health workers collectively known as the "Morong 43" at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for violations of the Anti-Torture Law.

The National Union of People's Lawyers and KARAPATAN have condemned Baladad's appointment.

The appointment of a military officer facing illegal arrest and torture charges shows Aquino's contempt for human rights. In an interview last year, Aquino dismissed issues of human rights violations in the Philippines as mere propaganda by the Left.

KARAPATAN said that 76 cases of torture have been documented in Aquino's first three years in office (June 2010 to April 2013). This is already more than half of the 128 torture cases under the Arroyo regime's nine-year rule.

Foremost among the torture cases under the current regime is that of security guard Rolly Pansa who was arrested in Quezon City in 2012 and falsely accused of being a high-ranking leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In a later case in Samar, soldiers of the Philippine Army 87th IB tortured Richard Oblino, 25 and his nephew Orlan, 16, on February 28. Richard was made to lie face down on the ground and blindfold-

ed with his own clothes while other soldiers stepped on his thighs and abdomen and forced water into his mouth. Orlan's head was wrapped in plastic while he was beaten up by another group of soldiers.

On May 29, Cesar Graganta, a native of San Pedro, Laguna was at the barangay hall of Villa Hermosa, Macalelon, Quezon with two companions when soldiers of the 85th IB arrived. The soldiers called the three of them while firing their weapons. They arrested Graganta and tied him to a tree. The military interrogated him for an hour and a half. He was beaten, and a noose was put on his neck and pulled. His nose was also pinched with a pair of pliers and ants were poured on his body.

Meanwhile, the *Kabataang Artista para sa Tunay na Kalayaan* (KARATULA) demanded the immediate release of Pablo Versoza, 28, and his wife Grace, 25, who were arrested in Parang, Marikina City on June 28. The Versozas are currently being held at the Samar Provincial Jail in Catbalogan City on trumped-up criminal charges. Versoza is a graduate of the University of the Philippines, a member of *Alay Sining* and a former photographer of the *Philippine Collegian*.

In Davao City, suspected military elements killed Antonio Petalcorin, 56, as he was leaving his house in Barangay Maharlika, Matina Aplaya on July 2. The victim is a former leader of Transmission-PISTON and is currently the treasurer of the Metro Davao Transport Cooperative. **AB**

## Davao civilians evacuate

At least 100 residents of sitios Tikatig and Taburokon in Barangay Kinangan were forced to evacuate on June 18 due to a massive military operation launched by the 73rd IB in Malita, Davao del Sur since June 14.

According to KARAPATAN-Soccksargends (South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, General Santos City and Davao del Sur), the soldiers gave the residents until 5 p.m. to leave their communities.

The residents were reportedly made to evacuate after an encounter between the 73rd IB and the New People's Army on June 14 in Barangay Kinangan.

The villagers were forced to bring their harvest and farm animals. They are currently staying with relatives. Others are living in cramped conditions in the barangay hall.

Meanwhile, the soldiers have set up camp in the center of the community.

On June 20, four members of KARAPATAN went to Barangay Kinangan to determine the conditions of the evacuees. The military denied the existence of evacuees. Nonetheless, the KARAPATAN team saw the situation of the barangay and witnessed soldiers of the 73rd IB staying in civilians' houses. They were able to take pictures, but the military ordered them to delete the photos. **AB**

## CPP pays tribute to revolutionary martyrs and heroes of Bicol

The entire membership of the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army salute Comrade Frankie Joe Soriano (or Ka Greg Bañares) and seven of his comrades who were martyred after 31st IB troops attacked their headquarters in the early morning of July 4 in Barangay Upper Calmayon, Juban, Sorsogon.

Comrade Greg Bañares was the spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Bicol. He was with other personnel of the Information Office of NDFP-Bicol and an NPA security unit. The other martyrs were Comrades Christine Puche (Ka Nel), Ted Palacio (Ka Gary), Pehing Hipa (Ka Miloy), David Lluнар (Ka Rey), Romero Añonuevo (Ka Nene), William Villanueva, Jr. (Ka Jay) and Ailyn Calma (Ka Kevin).

The CPP condemned the massacre by the fascist 31st IB troops of the revolutionary martyrs. According to field reports, Ka Greg, Ka Nel and Ka

Gary were unarmed as they retreated from the scene of the fighting. But even if they did not have any weapons and were in no position to resist, the soldiers gunned them down instead of capturing them as prisoners of war. Their bodies were riddled with bullets by the fascist soldiers.

There were clear violations of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). The troops and officers of the 31st IB involved in the massacre must be held accountable for trampling on human rights and other violations of the CARHRIHL's provisions.

The CPP also called on human rights advocacy groups, church organizations, independent lawyers' groups and the corresponding international agencies to conduct their own investigations of the massacre. **AB**

# In response to attacks on democratic rights and freedoms

The following are excerpts from the third section of a document presented by the Communist Party of the Philippines at the 22nd International Communist Seminar held in Brussels, Belgium on May 31. The document entitled "Attacks on democratic rights and freedoms; strategies and tactics in response" may be read in full at the [www.philippinerevolution.net](http://www.philippinerevolution.net).

What the people can and must do about the global financial and economic crisis range from seeking relief, recovery and reforms within the imperialist-dominated world capitalist system, up to making the most fundamental criticism of this system and raising the demand and undertaking the actions for revolutionary change towards socialism. It is the strategic task of communists to serve the immediate demands of the proletariat and people and to seek the overthrow of the bourgeois state.

Reforms can be demanded to serve the immediate needs of the working people for employment, decent income, better working and living conditions, and the availability of basic social services. But communists must not be confined to merely seeking reforms within the existing ruling system of the big bourgeoisie. The long-term goal of the working class and the people is to replace the system of monopoly capitalism with the socialist system.

In the industrial capitalist countries, the economic basis for socialism exists. But the monopoly bourgeoisie never gives up its political and economic power voluntarily. It uses its state power to mislead the people and to violently crack down on the protesting masses. Thus, the battle for democracy must be won against the potential or actual rise of fascism and the use of imperialist war by the monopoly bourgeoisie to regiment the people.

There is the need for a

working class party to lead the people in seeking basic reforms within the bourgeois political system and aiming for socialist revolution. Without such a working class party, the big bourgeoisie continues to rule society unchallenged and unhampered through the political parties which it uses for preserving the system, for intra-class and intra-systemic competition for political power among the bourgeois factions, and for warding off any political

party that seeks to overthrow bourgeois rule.

There must be a working class party committed to the propagation and realization of the revolutionary program of social change, and capable of leading the broad masses of the working people.

In the far less developed countries, where there are still large vestiges of feudalism, winning the battle for democracy involves not only upholding, defending and promoting the collective and individual democratic rights of the people, especially civil and political liberties, but most importantly addressing the peasant demand for land reform. It involves engaging the peasant masses in the new democratic revolution led by the working class as the long-term agent for socialist revolution and construction.

The trade unions and other mass organizations must be built in order to uphold, defend and promote the rights and interests of the exploited classes and sectors of society. In the industrial capitalist countries, the most important of these are the mass organizations of workers, migrant workers,





migrants, the various nationalities, youth, women, the professionals and cultural workers. In the semicolonial and semifeudal countries, the most important mass organizations are those of workers, peasants, youth, women, the intelligentsia and the minorities.

The class and sectoral mass organizations must further form multi-class and multi-sectoral alliances in order to underscore common interests and build political unity cumulatively and progressively. The genuine working class party offers to them as guide its general line and program of action, encourages their political and organizational initiatives, and thereby wins their abiding support.

The broad masses of the people in their millions must be mobilized to denounce the exploitative and oppressive character of the system of monopoly capitalism, and to demand social, economic and political changes, ranging from basic reforms to the fundamental revolutionary transformation of society.

In countries where the ruling classes engage in state terrorism or imperialism engages in military intervention, the people have the sovereign right to mobilize themselves for all forms of resistance, including revolutionary armed struggle. At the moment, legal mass movements and revolutionary armed struggles are going on and advancing in several countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, where the people are the most oppressed and exploited. AB

## Mass protests overseas

The government of Pres. Mohamed Morsi of Egypt fell only a year after being elected to power. Morsi was overthrown after several days of gigantic demonstrations that had shaken Egypt's capital Cairo and other cities since the end of June. On July 5, Morsi was forced out of the presidency in a coup d'etat by military officers who had turned against him.

Millions of people had trooped on June 30 to Cairo and other cities. Policemen opened fire at the peaceful demonstrations, killing eight protesters and wounding 70.

Earlier, up to 15 million people had signed a petition seeking Morsi's resignation. It was a reflection of the people's widespread disappointment in the Morsi government, a year after it had failed to address the people's needs. The Egyptian people are now in worse shape economically.

In Ecuador, the people have been resisting the upcoming operations of Canadian and Chinese mining companies. To be affected by mining operations at Cordillera del Condor are the ancestral lands of more than 8,000 Shuar minorities.

The China Railway Corporation has already begun building infrastructure for an open-sky copper mine called Mirador. At

the northern and eastern borders of the Chinese concession, Canadian mining giant Kinross is preparing 39 lots, including Fruta del Norte, the biggest deposit of first grade gold ore in all of Latin America.

In San Francisco, USA, the two biggest unions in the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) struck on July 1 after union and management failed to come up with a new contract. This is the unions' first strike in 16 years.

The strike has paralyzed travel for up to 400,000 people in San Francisco. It is not certain when travel will be normalized as management continues to refuse to grant the workers' demands. Train operators, mechanics, station agents and maintenance workers are asking for a 5% wage hike and a stop to mandatory deductions for pensions and health insurance. AB

