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Editorial

Further stoke the fires of armed struggle in the Visayas and the entire archipelago

The revolutionary armed struggle is thoroughly advancing nationwide. In this issue, *Ang Bayan* features reports of victory by the New People's Army (NPA) in advancing armed revolution in the Visayan regions, particularly in Eastern Visayas, Panay and Negros islands.

These regions are among the priority targets of Oplan Bayan-nihan, the massive counterrevolutionary campaign of suppression of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) under the US-Aquino regime. After four years, however, military officers have nothing to show for their efforts except empty declarations that "the enemy has been defeated" and that "peace has been attained."

These regions are likewise among the most impoverished nationwide due to widespread land monopoly and the most

brutal forms of feudal exploitation. They are ruled over by big landlords controlling vast ricefields in Samar, sprawling coconut lands in Leyte and thousands of hectares of sugar cane plantations in Panay and Negros.

Impact projects in the Visayas like the Jalaur Dam in Iloilo and the highways in Samar merely serve as milch cows for corrupt officials of the Aquino regime and their local cohorts.

Like the rest of the Filipino people, the people of the Visayas are just as intensely desirous of revolutionary change. Most of the Visayas comprise a

rumbling volcano threatening to erupt in the face of in-

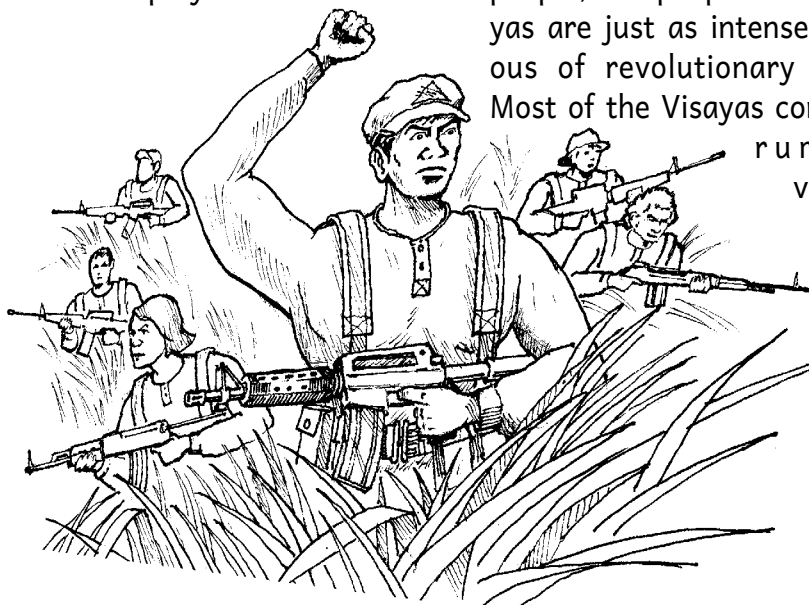
tensifying class struggle.

In Negros, there is a widespread movement of farm workers to till idle lands for food production, in outright defiance of the laws of despotic big landlords. In Leyte, coconut farmers are rising up to assert their right to land. In Panay, the Tumanduk people are fighting for tens of thousands of hectares of ancestral land being seized by the AFP.

The revolutionary armed struggle in the Visayas is advancing alongside the continually spreading and intensifying anti-feudal peasant movement. It is in areas where class struggle is most intense that the most number of people are eager to become Red fighters, the NPA enjoys the deepest support and the fires of armed struggle burn the brightest.

The regions in the Visayas bore the brunt of typhoon Yolanda's devastation last year. Yolanda pushed the people deeper into the quagmire of poverty and oppression. The US-Aquino regime's exceedingly slow, severely inadequate and anomaly-ridden response to the disaster caused further hardships to the people.

In contrast to Aquino's extremely poor showing, the revolutionary forces immediately took



action along with the people of the Visayas to organize a broad movement of peasants, fisherfolk and minority peoples to collectively address the devastation wrought by Yolanda. They immediately undertook cooperative efforts to repair damaged homes and production equipment, facilitate the flow of aid from other regions as well as national and international agencies and initiate collective farming and revitalize production.

But while the revolutionary forces focused on rehabilitation, AFP forces under the 8th and 3rd ID relentlessly conducted their counterrevolutionary war. Amid the widespread devastation and despite the ceasefire declared by the Communist Party of the Philippines in the typhoon-struck areas, fascist soldiers continued their onslaught and their campaign of suppression without letup. The enemy used fascist terrorism against a people who had taken the initiative to rise up from disaster and strongly protest the ruling regime's grave neglect.

The unstoppable advance of armed revolution in the Visayas unmasks the deceptiveness of Oplan Bayanihan and resists its fascist brutality. The New People's Army utilizes the tactics of guerrilla warfare to continually intensify people's war.

With the goal of raising the people's war to a new and higher level, armed struggle must further be fired up in the Visayas and the rest of the country. NPA commands must be strengthened and battle plans forged at the regional and subregional levels. NPA commands must thoroughly hold the initiative in battle and seize all opportunities to mete blows on the enemy. More and bigger tactical offensives where victory is a certainty must be launched. The people's militia must be further expanded and strengthened and their capability to launch independent and coordinated actions raised. Anti-feudal mass struggles of hundreds of thousands to millions of peasants must further be expanded, strengthened and intensified. **AB**

NPA seizes

2 M16s in

Himamaylan City




The 47th IB suffered three casualties (two killed and one wounded) in an ambush by a unit under the NPA Apolinario "Boy" Gatmaitan Command in Sitio Madaha, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental on July 17. The NPA likewise seized two M16s and two bandoliers full of ammunition.

Meanwhile, in Sorsogon, the NPA Celso Minguez Command launched a punitive action against the intelligence network of the 96th Military Intelligence Company (MICO) in Barangay Casay, Casiguran on July 3, killing Domingo Tisoy, alias Buyong, a rabid agent employed by the 96th MICO.

The partisan operation was conducted right in front of the 31st IB Alpha Coy detachment while Tisoy was in a drinking spree with some soldiers. Wounded in the exchange of gunfire was a Corporal Deprisa who serves as the detachment commander.

As an active CAFGU element as well, Tisoy often served as a guide in military operations and was involved in a number of extrajudicial killings, among them the murder of Joseph Benson, a civilian accused of serving as an NPA courier in Barangay Escuala, Casiguran on May 9, and of Jose Espera of Barangay Bentuco, Gubat on June 15, 2008. The military claimed that Espera was an NPA member. **AB**

 Vol XLV No. 17 September 7, 2014 Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions. It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at: www.philippinerevolution.org Ang Bayan welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at: angbayan@yahoo.com	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h3> <p>Editorial: Further stoke the fires of armed struggle in the Visayas and entire country 1</p> <p>2 M16 seized in Negros 3</p> <p>EV thwarts Oplan Bayanihan 4</p> <p>13 arms seized in Panay 4</p> <p>4 military actions in South Cotabato 5</p> <p>Corruption in NIA 6</p> <p>Congress junks impeachment 6</p> <p>People's Initiative against pork barrel 7</p> <p>9 civilians killed this August 8</p> <p>Lumad demand vs paramilitary group 10</p> <p>Soaring food prices 10</p> <p>Protest run against LBC-Davao 10</p>
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Oplan Bayanihan being thwarted in Eastern Visayas



The 8th ID has already launched up to 10,000 big and small combat operations since 2012 in 48 towns and 136 barangays in Samar and Leyte. Its attacks are concentrated along the common borders of the three Samar provinces where the military believes that guerrilla bases are strongest in the island. In these areas, not only AFP and PNP forces but various agencies of the reactionary government are being mobilized as well to deceive and brutalize the people. Through this, the 8th ID aims to reduce the revolutionary movement in EV to inconsequentiality and transfer "counterinsurgency" operations to the Philippine National Police by 2016.

But the 8th ID's goal is a pipe dream. Throughout Oplan Bayanihan's implementation in EV, the enemy has already suffered 341 casualties—255 killed and 86 wounded. This is more than eight times the number of Red fighters killed (14), wounded (eight) and captured (18) in the same period.

The 8th ID is straining to achieve the ratio of one military battalion per guerrilla front, but its forces are much too overstretched and can only concentrate on 10% of an area at any given time. This leaves the NPA free to operate in the remaining 90%.

Neither could the AFP's gimmick-laden activities conceal the fact of the reactionary government's utter failure to provide the people with much-needed services. The medical and dental missions, tree planting and other activities launched by the 8th ID in the region are desperate attempts to erase the bloody footprints left behind by its human rights violations under Oplan Bayanihan.

The Aquino regime's grandiose projects have also failed to alleviate the severe poverty suffered by the people of Eastern Visayas. Billions of pesos worth of projects have been launched

in areas believed to be guerrilla bases, including the ₱470-million Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (or PAMANA) which targets the NPA's mass base and is under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. There is also a ₱12-billion road project under the Regional Peace and Order Council, 14 tourism projects worth ₱888.8 million, the ₱1.6-billion Samar Pacific Coastal Road and the ₱900-billion Samar Peace and Prosperity Road (both in North-

ern Samar). The biggest of them all are the \$357.15-million projects of the US Millennium Challenge Corp., most of which involve road construction.

Despite all this, the region's poverty incidence has even worsened. Eastern Visayas is now the country's second most impoverished region. The region's poor have not benefited at all from the billions of pesos worth of projects, with only corrupt officials of the military and civil bureaucracy profiting from them. Nothing has changed in the people's basic problems, among them landlessness and lack of social services, soaring prices and the scourge of militarization. In fact, the devastation wrought by typhoon Yolanda and the reactionary government's criminal neglect have only worsened the people's plight.

All this serves as fertile ground for the NPA's intensification of tactical offensives in the region in order to totally defeat Oplan Bayanihan and contribute to the people's struggle to oust the US-Aquino regime. **AB**

NPA seizes 13 firearms in Panay



The New People's Army in Panay seized 13 firearms of various caliber in military actions launched from June to August to resist intensified attacks by the 3rd ID and PNP-Region 6. Six soldiers were likewise killed and eight others wounded in these firefights.

The military and police's renewed onslaught on the island's guerrilla zones began in April when the AFP poured in a battalion-size augmentation troop from the Division Reconnaissance Company and the 47th IB and activated PNP combat operations in the region.

From May to August, the 82nd IB relentlessly attacked the towns of Tigbauan, Miag-ao, Igaras, Tubungan, Leon and San Joaquin in southern Iloilo and Sibalom and San Remigio towns in Antique. Some 100 troops continue to conduct operations as of August in the Lambunao-Maason area in central Iloilo.

Meanwhile, in Capiz, some 200 soldiers from the 61st IB supported by two helicopter gunships conducted operations in Tapaz town from July 1 to 12. The 47th IB and PNP also simultaneously attacked the towns of Cuartero, Dumarao and Maayon, all in eastern Capiz and Lemery town in northern Iloilo.

The NPA under the Coronacion "Waling-waling" Chiva Regional Operational Command met the fierce enemy attacks head on. The following are some of its victorious tactical offensives:

June 30. Two soldiers were killed and one wounded out of a 14-man unit under the 61st IB in an NPA ambush in Sitio Tag-sik, Lahug, Tapaz, Capiz. The mercenary soldiers ran away in the middle of the NPA attack, firing their weapons at no particularly target for an hour.

July 1. Three soldiers under the 82nd IB were killed and two wounded when Red fighters under the Napoleon Tumagtang Command (NPA-Southern Front) used command-detonated explosives (CDX) on the six-by-six truck they were riding at the highway along the Calampitao-

Nalundan border in Guimbal town, Iloilo. The soldiers failed to notice the CDX because it was hung from a tree.

July 9. An NPA unit under the Nonito Aguirre Sr. Command in eastern Panay attacked the armory inside a compound owned by despotic landlord Sixto Castellana in Barangay Gibato, Dumarao, Capiz and seized 13 firearms of various caliber. The arms haul consisted of an M16, a KG-9 machine pistol with a silencer, a Thompson submachine gun, three cal .45 pistols, a 9 mm pistol, a cal .38 revolver, four shotguns, a home-made shotgun and ammunition.

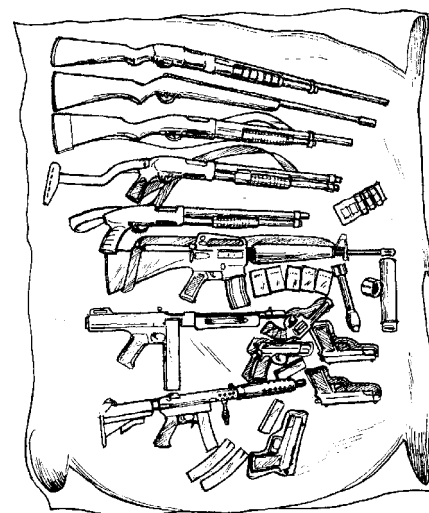
July 17. A soldier from the 82nd IB was killed and two others wounded in a harassment operation by a unit of the Napoleon Tumagtang Command in Barangay Mayang, Tubungan, Iloilo. In retaliation, the military summarily killed Geraldo Tabaquirao Larbo, a resident of Barangay Mayang and claimed that he was an NPA casualty. The military also arrested and tortured another civilian, Jake Erwin Tadiaque, a resident of Barangay Jolason, Tubungan.

July 17. A soldier under the

61st IB was wounded in an NPA harassment operation in Barangay Roosevelt, Tapaz, Capiz.

July 24. A soldier was wounded when an NPA unit opened fire on the 61st IB-CAF-GU detachment in Barangay Abangay, Tapaz, Capiz. The 61st IB had just returned from a week-long military operation in Abangay and adjacent barangays.

August 18. The NPA detonated a CDX on the Silver Dragon Incorporated in Barangay Guintas, Sigma, Capiz and destroyed a backhoe and a roller worth more than ₱10 million. The construction company was punished because of repeated violations of the policies of the revolutionary movement. **AB**



4 military actions launched in South Cotabato

The police and military suffered up to seven casualties after a series of harassment operations by the New People's Army (NPA) in the towns of Tampakan, T'boli and Lake Sebu in South Cotabato on August 15, 16 and 21. The operations were undertaken by NPA forces from Front 72 and Front 73 under the Mt. Alip Command—the NPA regional command in Far South Mindanao.

A policeman and a soldier from the 27th IB were wounded when an NPA team hurled a grenade at the detachment of the South Cotabato Public Safety Company of the Philippine National Police (PSC-PNP) in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Tampakan

at around 4:30 a.m. of August 15.

At least four soldiers were wounded and one trooper killed in two harassment operations conducted by an NPA sapper team on elements of the 27th IB in Barangay Tudok in T'boli town on August 15 and 16.



On August 21, the 27th IB suffered a yet undetermined number of casualties when two NPA sapper teams harassed the military unit's detachment in Sitio Blit, Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu. The military action was launched while most of the soldiers were conducting combat operations in Sitio Tawan Dagat in the same barangay.

The PSC-PNP and 27th IB are active protectors of the foreign gold mining giant Sagittarius Mining Inc.-Glencore-Xstrata and San Miguel Energy Corporation (SMEC) which mines coal. The SMEC is

owned by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, an uncle of Benigno Aquino III.

Meanwhile, the NPA released a video on the two 8th IB troopers arrested by Red fighters at the public market in Barangay Buntungon, Impasugong, Bukidnon on August 22. Seized from the soldiers were two cal .45 pistols and ammunition for an M203 grenade launcher and an M16 rifle. They are currently undergoing investigation for possible involvement in crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement. **AB**

Corruption in the proposed NIA budget

The acrid stench of corruption reeked anew when the proposed budget for the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) for 2015 was deliberated in Congress. The NIA will be receiving a ₱28.82-billion fund in 2015, twenty-eight times bigger than its ₱1.065-billion budget this 2014.

A markedly anomalous feature of the budget is the huge allocation for irrigation in the sprawling urban areas of National Capital Region (NCR). The NCR will be getting ₱9.89 billion, ₱1 billion bigger than the ₱8.8 billion allocated for Central Luzon, dubbed the country's rice granary. Also dubious is the extent of flexibility granted by Benigno Aquino III to the new NIA manager, including the power to modify the way the agency's funds are utilized.

Aside from the NIA, three out of the four leading agricultural agencies will also be receiving inflated budgets in 2015. The Philippine Coconut Authority will be allotted ₱4.07 billion, up from the present ₱2.3 billion; the National Food Authority, ₱4.25 billion; and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, ₱57.976 million.

These agencies' personnel had also just gone through a revamp, with the offices themselves now directly under Malacañang, specifically under Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, the Presidential Assistant for Food Security. This means that Malacañang gets to directly handle these agencies' huge budget allocations.

Through deft maneuvers by Benigno Aquino III's minions, the overblown budgets of the NIA and other agricultural agencies will surely be diverted towards the electoral kitty of the ruling clique's candidates for 2016. **AB**



Congress junks impeachment

MEMBERS of the House Committee on Justice junked on September 3 the three separate impeachment complaints filed against Benigno Aquino III. On a vote of 54-4, the congressmen declared the impeachment complaints "insufficient in substance" after only two hearings.

The Makabayan bloc condemned the railroaded voting within the committee. The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said this did not come as a surprise, especially since the majority of committee members were beneficiaries of pork barrel funds from the Development Acceleration Program (DAP). Among them is committee chair Rep. Niel Tupas, who received ₱12.5 million in DAP funds.

The biggest DAP recipient is House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, Aquino's leading apologist in Congress. Aquino bribed Gonzales with up to ₱203 million from 2011 to 2014.

Other Aquino partymates in the committee likewise received millions, among them Isabela Rep. Giorgidi Aggabao (₱88 million), Dasmariñas, Cavite Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. (₱60.5 million), Mindoro Oriental Rep. Reynaldo Umali (₱12 million), Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone (₱63 million) and Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo (₱10 million).

These congressmen played key roles in the ouster of then Supreme Court chief justice Renato Corona in 2013. **AB**

People's Initiative against the pork barrel system

More than 20,000 people protested on the morning of August 25 at the Rizal Park in Manila against all forms of pork barrel. The gathering dubbed "Stand UP, Sign Up Against All Pork" was also aimed at jumpstarting a national campaign to gather ten million signatures for a bill being advanced by the People's Initiative Against Pork Barrel (PIAP).

By afternoon, progressive groups marched to Mendiola to assail the Aquino regime for maintaining the pork barrel system and for its scheme to amend the constitution.

The pork barrel is a system by which the ruling regime utilizes public funds to grant favors to politician-supporters in order to consolidate its political power. It has been a year since the corruption attendant to the use of the pork barrel Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and the anomalies accompanying Aquino's Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) were exposed. The Supreme Court has also declared these two funds unconstitutional. Nonetheless, the Aquino regime has maintained the pork barrel system in the national budget through so-called Bottom-Up Budgeting and various other mechanisms.

Many officials of the Catholic Church and other churches joined the gathering. Cardinal Antonio Tagle and Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed their support. The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) called on member-schools to support the mass action. Ret. Archbishop Oscar Cruz joined the protest as well as priests and nuns from the Association of Major Religious Superiors of

the Philippines. Also joining were the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) and the Philippine Council of Evangelic Churches.

Simultaneous with the mass action at the Luneta, similar activities were launched in various cities and towns in Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Western Visayas, Ilocos-Cordillera and Mindanao. Booths for signature campaigns were set up in markets, churches, schools and other public places.

In Cordillera, the signature campaign began in Baguio City, led by the Tontongan ti Umili. In Vigan City, church people, human rights advocates and youth launched a protest. In Southern Tagalog, signature campaign centers were established in Calamba City, Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Calauan, Laguna and in Dasmariñas and Bacoor in Cavite. In Bicol, protest actions were launched in Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte and Sorsogon.

In Iloilo City, the signature campaign was launched alongside a forum which was

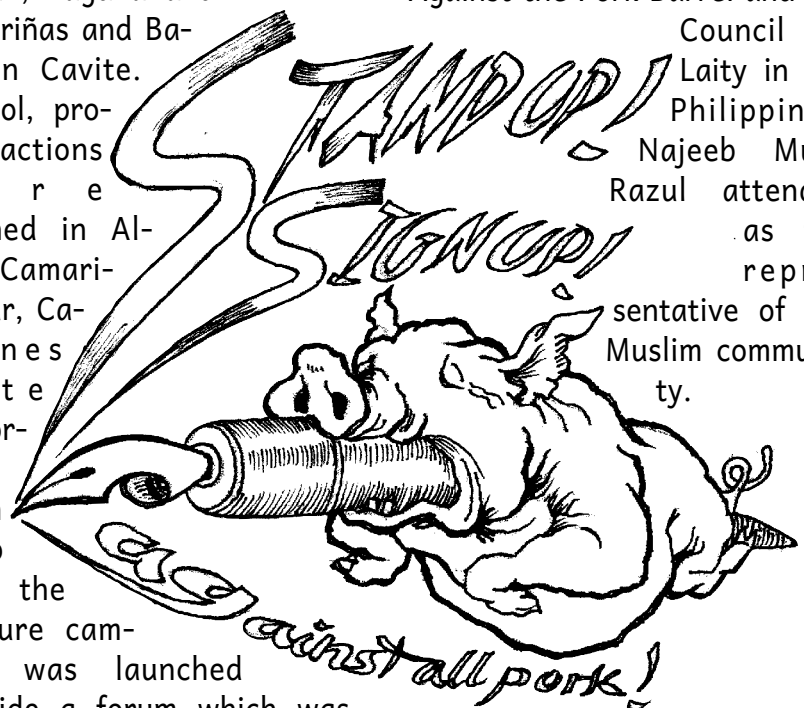
followed by a march-rally to Plazaletagay. In Roxas City, 1,500 people did a "Run after Corruption" as a form of protest. Signature campaigns were likewise initiated in Kalibo, Aklan led by the church and People's Solidarity.

The PIAP aims to systematically arouse and mobilize people in communities, schools and workplaces, build their unity and gather the number of signatures needed for the complete abolition of the pork barrel. The PIAP is conscious of the serious obstacles being put up by the reactionary state and is ready to overcome them.

Before the gathering at Rizal Park, a People's Congress held in Cebu City on August 23 approved the draft proposal of the people's initiative. Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma greeted the delegates.

Among those who attended and expressed their full support were the CBCP, CEAP, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Cebu Coalition Against Pork Barrel, Empowered People's Initiative and Reform Movement Alliance (E-PIRMA), Scrap Pork Network, Church People's Alliance Against the Pork Barrel and the

Council of Laity in the Philippines. Najeeb Mufti Razul attended as the representative of the Muslim community.



In accordance with the law on "people's initiative," the PIAP must gather a minimum of six million signatures representing 10% of the entire list of registered voters, and 3% of voters in every district between now and November 30. The signatures will first have to be verified and certified by the COMELEC before a referendum could be called on the proposal to abolish the pork barrel system. A simple majority is needed to pass the proposal.

Meanwhile, in a development marking the continually dwindling political support for the Aquino regime, minions of the "yellow army" failed to launch any significant counter-action on August 25, contrary to previous announcements that demonstrations would be held to show support for Aquino. Instead, a press conference was held by pro-Aquino personalities who inaugurated the so-called Koalisyon ng Mamamayan para sa Reporma (Kompre).

In another attempt to sabotage the People's Initiative, Genasque B. Enriquez, 41, was illegally arrested by joint police and 30th IB forces in Surigao City, a day before the people's congress. Enriquez is the representative and secretary-general of the Kahugpungan sa mga Lumadnong Organisasyon (KASALO-Caraga Region) and the second nominee of Katribu Partylist.

The arrest was clearly a form of harassment against leaders and progressive organizations at the forefront of the fight against the pork barrel and other related issues. Enriquez was freed on September 4 after posting bail and due to protests that demanded his release. AB

9 civilians killed this August

Four persons fell victim to extrajudicial killing in various parts of the country in a span of merely two weeks this August. On top of this, five civilians were also killed in AFP bombing raids in South Cotabato and a military strafing incident also in August. Two other civilians were abducted and are feared to have been summarily executed by the military in Maguindanao in July. These developments belie claims made by Benigno Aquino III that human rights violations have eased under his regime.

Rizal. Four men aboard two motorcycles opened fire on Atty. Rodolfo Felicio and two other civilians in Taytay, Rizal on August 26. Felicio was then sleeping in a tent with two caretakers of the Mejia family. He was a member of the National Union of People's Lawyers and served as the Mejia family's lawyer in a dispute involving several hectares of land in Taytay.

Felicio was shot at close range in the chest, and died on the spot. The caretakers Rolando Andaya and Antonio Arcilla were wounded in the attack. Thirty-six empty shells from cal .45 and 9 mm pistols were found at the scene.

Camarines Sur. Motorcycle-riding men wearing ski masks gunned down Librado Adoptante Sr. on August 26. Adoptante is the Bayan Muna coordinator of Baa town. He was on the way home from a medical checkup in a hospital and was with his wife Glenda and 12-year old daughter Sally. The assailants shot the victim in the head even when he had already been felled.

Soldiers from the 42nd IB and CAFGU elements had been frequenting the Adoptante residence since 2006 purportedly to "clean" his name off a list of persons accused of being members of the New People's Army.

Leyte. Two men aboard a motorcycle peppered with bullets Jefferson A. Custodio, 25, in Barangay Punong, Carigara on

August 23. The assailants could not be identified because they wore ski masks. Custodio sustained gunshot wounds to the arm and chest, which proved fatal. He was a member of the Municipal Farmers Association in Carigara (MUFAC) which has been overseeing the rehabilitation of various communities devastated by super typhoon Yolanda. MUFAC has been distributing construction materials, seeds and seedlings as well as farming implements to peasants.

Before the killing, troops from the 78th IB and the PNP-8 Regional Mobile Group arrived in Caloocan, Leyte on July 2 and immediately began looking for MUFAC's members. They camped at the barangay hall, barangay tanod outpost and chapel and compelled residents to attend meetings. The villagers were likewise barred from attending rallies.

South Cotabato. Three civilians, including a woman, were killed when the AFP conducted aerial bombings in upland communities of T'boli town on August 16. Hundreds of families were also forced to evacuate because of the bombings.

Agusan del Sur. Two civilians were killed when CAFGU and 26th IB elements indiscriminately opened fire in Barangay Mahagsay, San Luis on August 15.

An NPA squad that had come

to help the villagers harvest their corn crop was then inside a hut in the village. NPA medics were likewise holding a small clinic providing checkups to a number of residents.

When the military attacked the NPA, there were seven civilians with the guerrillas, including a woman and her newly born child. In spite of this, the soldiers sprayed the hut with gunfire.

Most of the civilians were able to escape with the NPA, but 40-year old Iya Manlapinding was shot in the chest and died on the spot. Another victim, 19-year old Oto Prisyoso was only slightly wounded in the thigh, but was finished off by the enemy. The military claimed that the two slain civilians were NPA guerrillas.

Bukidnon. An element of the Special CAFGU Armed Auxiliary (SCAA) under the 8th IB shot and killed Maricel Lambon, a

council member of the Lumad organization in Impasug-ong town on August 14. Lambon had been actively campaigning against the expansion of an oil palm plantation in their town.

Davao del Norte. Soldiers under the 60th IB occupied the school and church in Sitio Kapatagan, Barangay Gupitan, Kapalong on July 18. They ransacked the house of Mario Liban and carted off his rice supply. The AFP attack came after the NPA released its prisoner of war Cpl. Rogelio Rosales in Kapalong.

On July 20, some 40 soldiers swooped down on Sitio Mangkay, Gupitan and harassed local tribal leader Datu Herminio Suminggil. Military helicopters bringing in supplies arbitrarily landed in the villagers' farms, destroying their crops. The soldiers also illegally arrested a married couple, Jerry and Tata Antonio to force them to admit involvement in Corporal Rosales' arrest.

The soldiers imposed a curfew, allowing residents to leave their communities only from 7 to 11 a.m. The restriction has prevented the peasants from working their farms.

On July 29, the soldiers ordered residents of Sitio Kapatagan to come out of their houses and line up in the streets and threatened to shoot them in retaliation for an NPA ambush on their troops that day.

The day after, they forced a number of children to serve as guides in their pursuit operation against the NPA. According to the human rights watchdog KARAPATAN, up to 500 children in Gupitan's 11

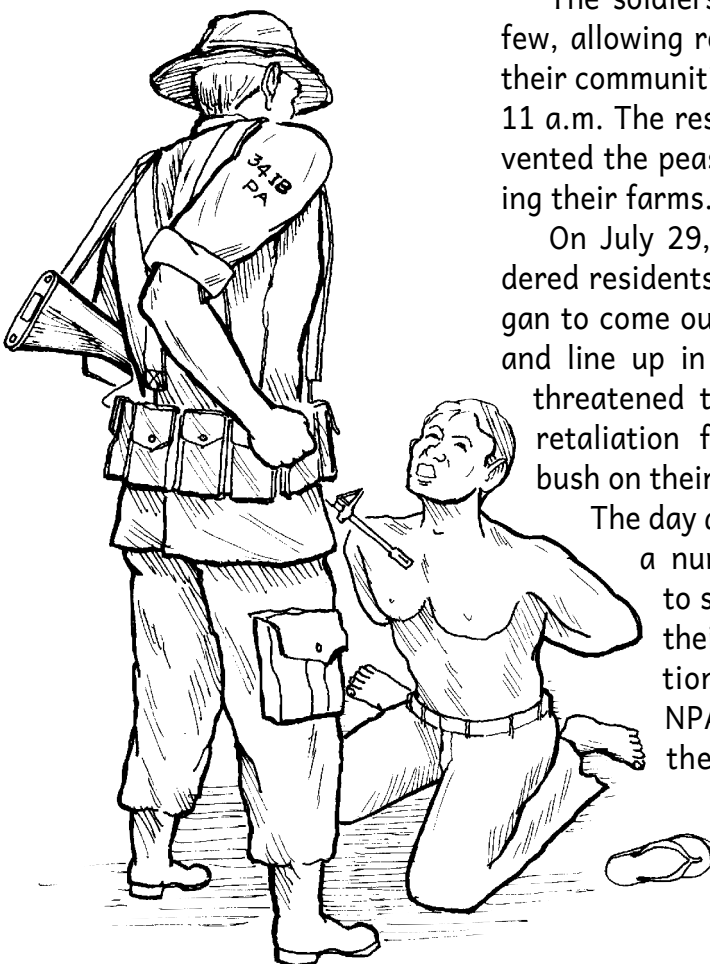
sitios were victimized by military operations.

Maguindanao. Elements of the 45th IB accosted and arrested Mohammad Abdulkarin and his 14-year old son Mehad Mohammad at a checkpoint in Barangay Meta, Datu Unsay on July 3. When relatives looked for them at the military camp, the soldiers claimed that they had already released the two captives. The military has yet to surface them after close to two months.

Earlier, Abdulkarin's four-month old baby was wounded when elements of the AFP 22nd Mechanized Brigade indiscriminately opened fire at their house on June 7. The family had long wanted to expose the soldiers' abduction and feared summary execution of Abdulkarin and his son but seriously fear for their safety due to possible military retaliation.

Negros Occidental. A CAFGU element strafed a peasant bringing his carabao to pasture in Sitio Cabadbaran, Barangay Santol, Binalbagan in April. The the pramilitary element is assigned to the Cansalongan Detachment in Isabel town. To cover up the brutality, the Philippine Army falsely claimed that an encounter had ensued between its troops and the NPA in Sitio Cabadbaran.

Earlier, soldiers from Negros Oriental conducting operations in February in Sitio Madaha, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City beat up another peasant bringing his carabao to pasture. A soldier pointed an Armalite rifle at the victim's front while other troopers aimed a machine gun at his back and a jungle knife at his neck. The farmer, who was arrested at around 8 a.m., was released only at 4 p.m. AB



Lumad group demands dismantling of paramilitary force

In the face of intense militarization and worsening human rights violations against the Lumad people in Davao del Norte, Kalumaran, an alliance of Lumad organizations demanded that the paramilitary group Alamara be immediately disarmed and dismantled. Alamara is a partner of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in its military operations against the broad Lumad masses in Davao del Norte and Bukidnon.

On August 30, a 94-strong delegation led by KARAPATAN-Southern Mindanao Region traveled to Barangay Gupitan in Kapalong, Davao del Norte to launch the National Interfaith Mercy Mission. But before they could reach the place, they decided not to proceed after motorcycle drivers informed them that Alamara elements were waiting for them along the way. According to a report they received, a 15-man team from the paramilitary group Alamara was in ambush position along the road the delegates would be taking. This prompted them to return to the Kapalong town proper. They had earlier been stopped four times at various checkpoints put up by the 60th IB. The soldiers even placed big rocks and spikes on the road to further delay them.

KARAPATAN-SMR, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Salinlahi and other progressive groups launched the NIMM to investigate and document human rights violations being perpetrated by Alamara and two AFP battalions encamped in Kapalong. (*Read about the particular cases on page 9*) Earlier, AFP and Alamara elements had also blocked a delegation led by the Exodus for Justice and Peace which also planned on conducting a fact-finding mission in Kapalong on August 9.

Alamara is an anti-communist group founded in 2002 by former Brig. Gen. Felipe Berroyo, commander of the 701st Brigade in Marilog and Paquibato Districts in Davao City. The AFP armed the group with M14s, M16s and other high-powered weapons and exploited certain backward elements of Lumad culture, such as the *pangayaw* (tribal war) in order to use them in the counterinsurgency campaign against the NPA.

Soaring food prices

Food prices spiked anew in August, further eroding the already dwindling incomes of the majority of the people.

The price per kilo of chicken rose from ₱130-145 to ₱160, while rice now sells for as much as ₱40-45 per kilo, up from ₱32-42 per kilo. Even the price per kilo of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) rose from ₱25-28 to ₱28-32.

Food prices likewise shot up in the latter part of 2013 up to the first quarter of 2014. In January 2014, the spike in rice prices filled headlines. By the end of June, garlic prices suddenly rose from ₱200 to ₱300-400 per kilo alongside hikes in the prices of petroleum products, especially liquefied petroleum gas, and water and power rates.

Relentlessly rising food prices are a big blow to the Filipino people. A study by Ibon Foundation states that poor families allot 50% of their income to food. A survey conducted last April by the independent think tank also revealed that 59.3% or three out of five Filipinos are finding it difficult to buy enough food.

Workers launch protest run against LBC-Davao

Officials and rank and file employees of LBC-Davao launched a "protest run" on September 1 to fight the LBC management's unfair labor practices. Up to 30 members of the LBC-Davao Employees Union (LBCDEU-ADLO-KMU) jogged along Freedom Park towards C.M Recto St., Davao City wearing black and carrying placards with their grievances written on them. The protest action was conducted to prepare for negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA) this September.

According to the LBCDEU-ADLO-KMU, the LBC management has reneged on the provisions of the current CBA regarding benefits and the regularization of employees. The union likewise assailed management's tactics to further suppress their campaign against LBC-Davao's unjust policies and malign its president Butch Gajudo.

Despite the many charges filed against Gajudo, the workers remain undaunted. They have told management that they are united and ready to defend their rights. The workers are supported by the Kilusang Mayo Uno-Southern Mindanao.