

ANG

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Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

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Editorial

## End US military presence and intervention in the Philippines

The Communist Party of the Philippines is in solidarity with the Filipino people in strongly assailing the killing by an American soldier of a Filipina in Olongapo City on October 12.

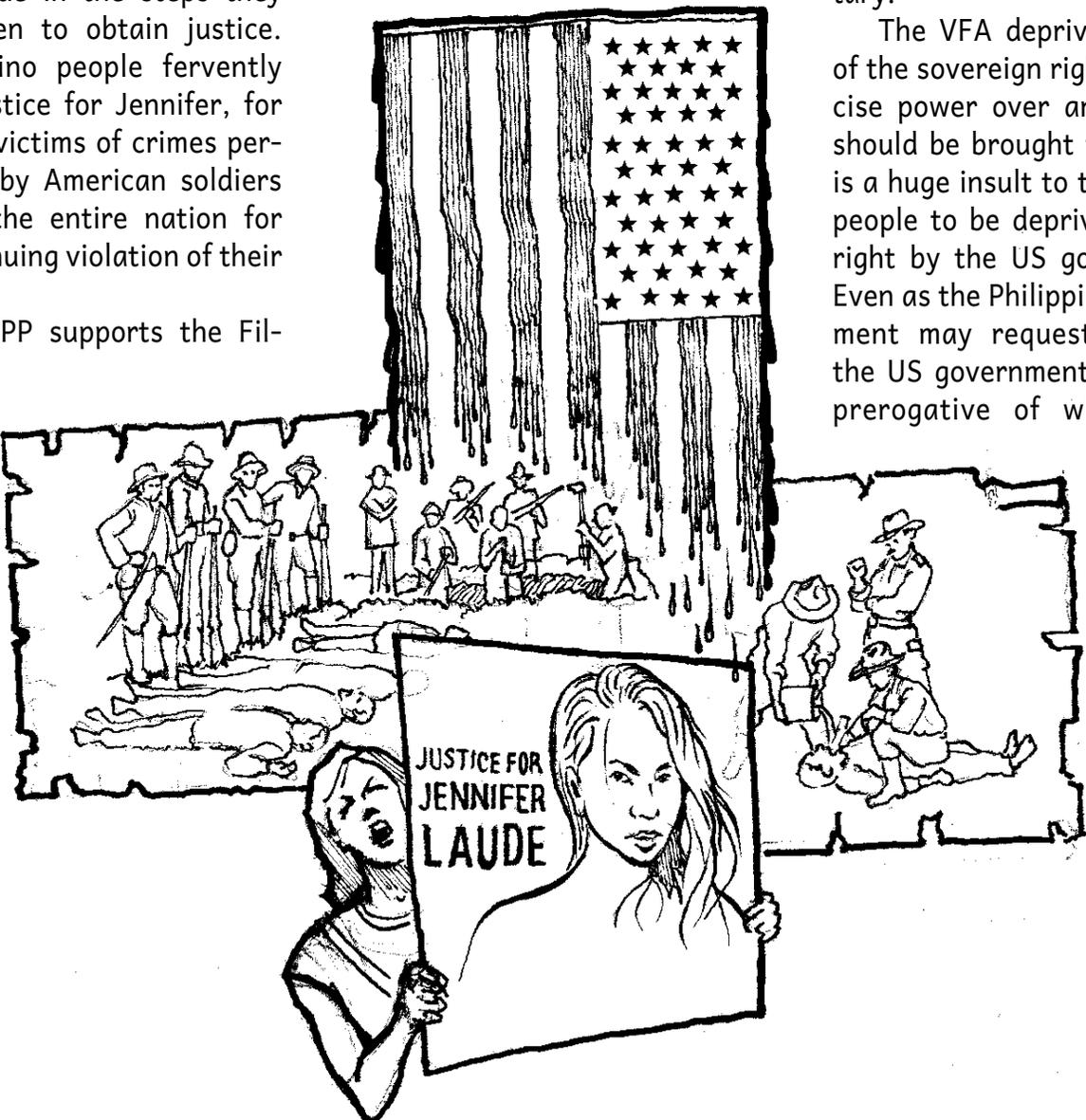
The CPP and all revolutionary forces support the family and friends of the victim Jennifer Laude in the steps they have taken to obtain justice. The Filipino people fervently desire justice for Jennifer, for all other victims of crimes perpetrated by American soldiers and for the entire nation for the continuing violation of their freedom.

The CPP supports the Filipino people's demand

to place the accused American soldier in Philippine custody. They must go all-out in demand-

ing the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)—an unequal treaty stating that American soldiers facing criminal cases in the Philippines should remain in the custody of the US military.

The VFA deprives a state of the sovereign right to exercise power over anyone who should be brought to trial. It is a huge insult to the Filipino people to be deprived of this right by the US government. Even as the Philippine government may request custody, the US government holds the prerogative of whether to grant the request



or not!

Jennifer's name is only the latest in a long list of Filipino victims of various crimes committed by American soldiers and the US military in the Philippines. In more than a hundred years of US colonization, neo-colonial rule and military intervention in the Philippines, there have been myriad cases of killings, rape, massacre, robbery and plunder.

Jennifer's killing is a painful reminder to the Filipino people of how US imperialism obliterated the lives of 700,000 Filipinos in the war of aggression of 1899-1902. Up to 800,000 more Filipinos would be killed by American soldiers in the war to quell the armed revolution for national liberation that lasted until 1916. Not a single US soldier or officer was held accountable for these crimes. Neither was any soldier or officer held responsible for the Subic rape case in 2005 and for various other killings, violations, shootings, beatings and intimidation, among other crimes.

We can expect more crimes of this nature committed by American soldiers due to the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) signed by the Aquino regime and the US government. Under EDCA, more American soldiers will be entering the country and stationed in bases and facilities to be built in so-called "Agreed Locations" or areas within AFP military bases.

Aquino's signing of the EDCA is but his latest act of subservience to US military power. Under the Aquino regime, the number of US battleships and warplanes allowed to enter, sail, dock and launch various operations within Philippine territory in the name of "joint military exercises," or "rest and recreation" and "supply procurement" by American forces have grown over the years. Thousands of American troops have been entering the country annually.

It is the puppet Aquino regime that has actually created the situation that culminated in Jennifer's killing. Wherever

American soldiers are found, prostitution and decadent lifestyles are rampant.

Jennifer was killed in the 70th year of US imperialism's return to reconquer the Philippines. In the so-called Leyte Landing, the US invaded the Philippines anew to reoccupy it after its forces withdrew in 1942 upon their defeat in the hands of attacking Japanese imperialist military forces. The Leyte Landing (also known as Gen. Douglas MacArthur's return) is the second time the US snatched Philippine freedom from the Filipinos.

Whenever it enters Philippine territory, the US military arrogates the privilege of having the world's most powerful armed force. It is the US military that decides when and where to enter, where and how long to dock, what weapons to bring, how many soldiers to deploy and what operations to launch.

Every American soldier carries with him the imperialist arrogance of his chieftain Barack Obama, who, in a recent speech, boasted that "we are the indispensable nation." As a rule, wherever they go, armed American troops behave like masters who expect to be waited on by their "friends." Whether in Afghanistan or Iraq, Pakistan or the Philippines, American soldiers commit crimes and violate the sovereignty and integrity of the countries they enter.

There will definitely be more Jennifers who will be falling victim to various crimes and acts of violence perpetrated by American soldiers in the country. The Filipino people must give their all to fight for justice for Jennifer, to demand an end to US military presence and intervention and to oust Aquino's puppet government. **AB**

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# American soldier kills Filipina in Olongapo

Various progressive organizations launched successive protest actions to demand the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) after the brutal slaying of a Filipina by an American soldier on the night of October 12 in Olongapo City.

Jennifer Laude, 26, was killed by Pvt. 1st Class Joseph Scott Pemberton, an element of the US Marine Corps who was among 3,000 soldiers from the US Marines and US Navy who joined the recently concluded Balikatan Exercises held in Palawan and Zambales. The American troops were then in Olongapo for rest and recreation.

Jennifer, whose birth name is Jeffrey, is transgender. She and Pemberton met at a disco house and later went to a nearby motel together. Shortly after, Laude was found dead in the motel minutes after Pemberton was seen leaving.

The Olongapo City police charged Pemberton with murder on October 16, but he remains aboard the USS Peleliu instead of being detained at a Philippine jail. This is due to a VFA provision stating that the US shall maintain custody of American soldiers accused of crimes in the Philippines.

History is marked with US contempt for Philippine sovereignty, especially in the case of erring American soldiers. In every case, the reactionary government is likewise complicit in covering up for the criminal troops of its imperialist master.

In November 2005, Lance Corporal Daniel Smith raped a Filipina named "Nicole."

Just as it is now doing with Pemberton, US authorities had custody of Smith while his case was being tried and appealed. Meanwhile, the US relentlessly pressured "Nicole's" family to have her recant her testimony. The US quickly flew Smith out of the country after "Nicole" retracted her statement and the court reversed Smith's previous conviction.

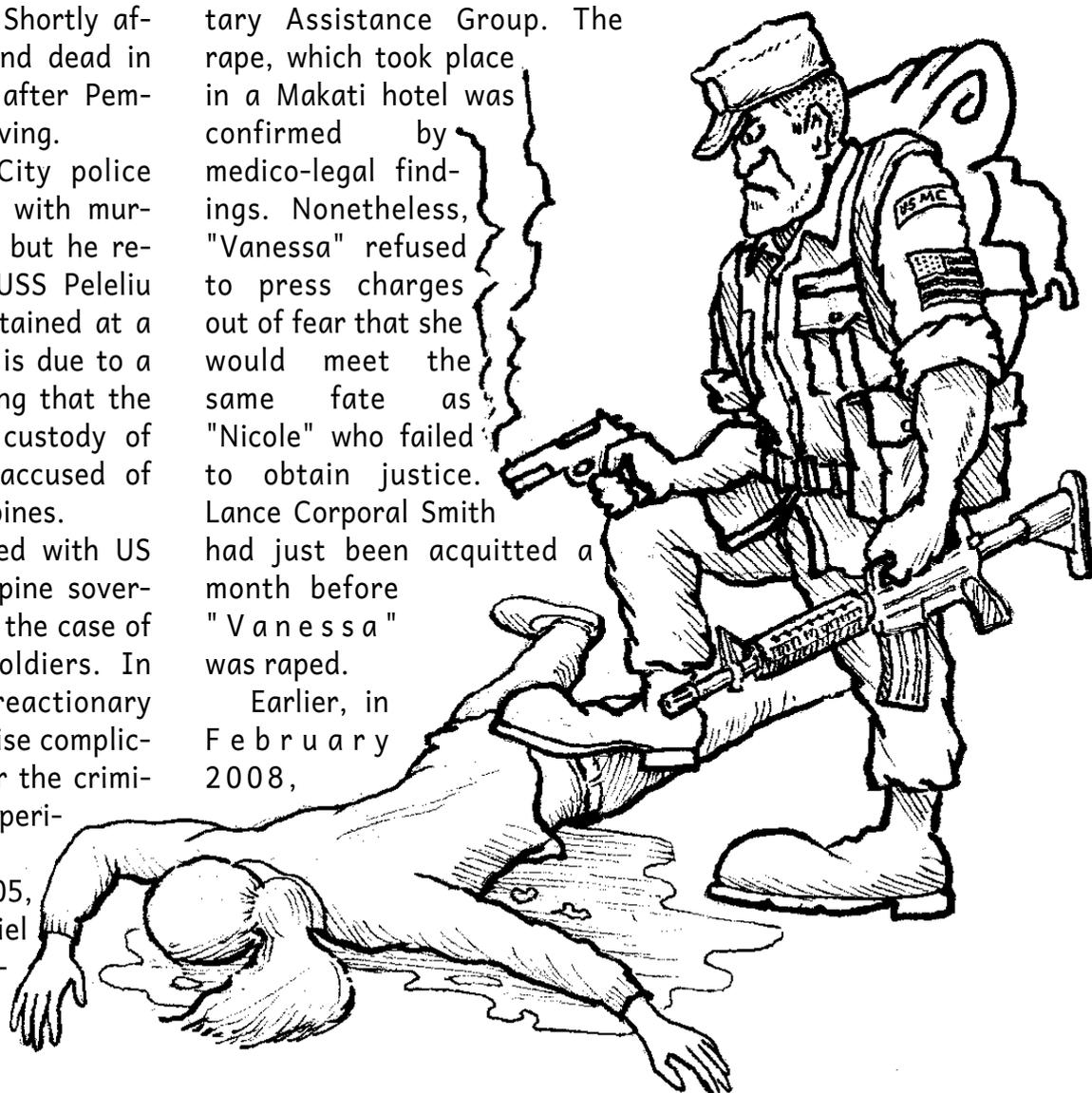
Another Filipina named "Vanessa" was likewise raped in April 2009 by a US Marine assigned to the Joint US Military Assistance Group. The rape, which took place in a Makati hotel was confirmed by medico-legal findings. Nonetheless, "Vanessa" refused to press charges out of fear that she would meet the same fate as "Nicole" who failed to obtain justice. Lance Corporal Smith had just been acquitted a month before "Vanessa" was raped.

Earlier, in February 2008,

seven civilians, including four minors were killed in an attack by joint US Navy and AFP forces on Barangay Ipil, Maimbung, Sulu. The AFP later claimed that the victims were killed in a military operation against the Abu Sayyaf that did not involve American soldiers.

In 2004, Arsud Baharun, a fisherman, was wounded by American soldiers undergoing marksmanship training in Zamboanga City. No one was held accountable, and assistance for the victim's medical treatment came in trickles.

Another civilian, Buyong-Buyong Isnijal, was shot by American soldier Sgt. Reggie Lane in July 2002 in Basilan.



Lane was never charged because the US whisked him out of the country the next day. The doctor who treated Isnijal and reported that three American soldiers were among those who brought the victim to hospital was killed under mysterious circumstances after two years.

In March 2000, three American soldiers participating in the Balikatan Exercises mauled taxi driver Marcelo Batistil in Cebu City. The troops involved were likewise immediately sent back to the US.

The latest victim before Laude was Gregan Cardeño, a civilian contracted as a translator by American soldiers stationed inside an AFP military base in Marawi City. On February 2, 2010, just three days after he started work, Cardeño was found dead at the Philippine Army 103rd IBde barracks in Camp Ranao. His friend who recommended him for the job and was helping investigate his death was killed in an ambush after two months. He was on his way to meet with Cardeño's family to disclose his findings.

US military personnel have also been involved in numerous cases of disorderly conduct and lascivious acts against women in Zamboanga City since the headquarters of the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) was established here in 2002. Prostitution has likewise become more rampant in Zamboanga and Olongapo since US warships began docking more frequently in the Philippines. We can expect more crimes involving American soldiers once the EDCA is implemented at full throttle, since the agreement allows the US to build military bases in the Philippines. **AB**

## 18 soldiers killed in series of NPA military actions



**E**ighteen soldiers were killed and two others wounded in a series of tactical offensives and other military actions by the New People's Army (NPA) in Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and Agusan del Sur from September 22 to October 12. Two M16 rifles were likewise confiscated in these firefights. The areas concerned fall under the NPA Comval-Davao Eastcoast Sub-regional Command in Southern Mindanao.

These tactical offensives belie claims by the AFP that the NPA has been obliterated in Davao Oriental and parts of Compostela Valley. Instead, it is the 67th IB that has lost an equivalent of two platoons (dead and wounded) in six NPA tactical offensives and harassment and sniping operations launched against this battalion. In desperation, the AFP Eastern Command has sent in an additional 100 soldiers from the 11th Coy of the 4th Scout Rangers Battalion instead of passing on to the police the areas that have allegedly been cleared of Red

fighters.

In the latest tactical offensive, Red fighters detonated explosives at the 66th IB headquarters in New Bataan, Compostela Valley on October 12, at around 10:45 p.m. and another NPA unit ambushed 67th IB soldiers conducting operations in Barangay Mahan-ub, Baganga, Davao Oriental. Five soldiers were killed and two M16s were seized in these two tactical offensives.

Earlier, two other soldiers were killed when the NPA harassed the 67th IB patrol base in Salvacion, Trento, Agusan del Sur at exactly 10:35 p.m.

of October 11.

The attack on the 66th IB headquarters was especially timely as it was conducted only hours after soldiers from this battalion brutally killed a father and his son who they merely chanced upon in Manurigao, New Bataan. (See *related article*) It was also punishment on the 66th IB for its extrajudicial killing of peasant activist Gregorio Galacio who was murdered in his house in Kahayag, New Bataan on July 19.

The NPA in the subregion likewise attacked various military units in its area of operations four times in the latter part of September:

On September 27, at around 2 p.m., the NPA burned down the 67th IB detachment in Km. 28, Barangay Panansalan, Compostela town in Compostela Valley.

On September 26, at around 9 a.m., four fascist troopers were killed and two others wounded in an encounter between the NPA and 67th IB soldiers in Barangay Kampawan, Baganga.

On September 24, at around 10 and 11 p.m., two soldiers under the 72nd IB were killed in two separate sniping operations on enemy detachments in Barangay Tapia, Monkayo, Compostela Valley and Barangay Marapat, Compostela.

And on September 22, at around 3 a.m., four soldiers were killed when the NPA used command-detonated explosives on a platoon under the 25th IB conducting patrols in Upper Ambawan, Barangay Ngan, Compostela. The KM 450 truck they were riding was likewise destroyed. In another operation, a soldier guarding Petroleum Mining Corp. was killed by NPA snipers in Sitio Mambusao, Barangay Ngan. **AB**

## NPA punishes Itochu-Dole Corp. in South Cotabato

The New People's Army (NPA) in Far South Mindanao torched a boom sprayer in Sitio El Bantong, Barangay Rang-ay, Banga, South Cotabato on October 6 to prevent it from being used further in destroying the environment and the people's health.

This piece of equipment is owned by Itochu-Dole (formerly Dole Philippines), a Japanese company with vast plantations in the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and various other countries in Asia.

The NPA Julito Banda Front undertook the punitive measure in the face of the widespread and serious damage being caused by the company's operations. Since the plantation was built in Allah Valley more than ten years ago, thousands of peasants have been dispossessed of their lands due to the pineapple and banana plantation's aggressive expansion.

Large-scale land-use conversion from rice cultivation to monocrop plantations has gravely threatened food security. On the other hand, the company's massive use of agrochemicals has polluted the air, irrigation systems and food sources, causing health problems to growing numbers of people. Serious flooding which is now common in Allah Valley has been caused by siltation due to the company's dumping of toxic waste into nearby rivers.

Strong opposition by the masses has forced the company to stop the aerial spraying of pesticides. Instead, the company's boom sprayers are now being used on land. But whenever the boom sprayers pass, residents throw stones at them to show their anger at, and opposition to, the plantation's presence.

Itochu-Dole has been using the mercenary troops of the 27th IB to suppress the people's resistance and the farm workers' movement against the company.

Meanwhile, in Northern Samar, up to 11 soldiers were killed in two separate harassment operations in Barangay Gebonawan, Lope de Vega on September 29 and 30.

The targeted enemy elements formed part of a 50-man force from the 63rd IB that conducted military operations in the area from September 26 to October 7.

After the harassment, more than 130 soldiers who were sent in as reinforcements scoured the area within a six-kilometer radius but failed to find the Red fighters.

Angered, the enemy strafed communities in Gebonawan and in Barangay Paguite twice from the air, but again failed to inflict casualties on the NPA except for a guerrilla who was slightly wounded.

Officials of Barangay Paguite immediately complained to the local government about the AFP's indiscriminate aerial strafing. **AB**

## Harassment operation in Bukidnon

An element of the Special CAFGU Active Auxiliary was killed after a team of guerrillas from the New People's Army (NPA) sniped soldiers conducting military operations in Kagahuman, San Luis, Malitbog, Bukidnon on October 9, at around 12 noon.

Again, at around 5:30 p.m. of October 11, another NPA team sniped 8th IB troops in Sitio Calampigan, Kalabugao, Impasugong, Bukidnon, killing a soldier and wounding two CAFGU elements.

The AFP troops have been stubbornly conducting military operations in a vain attempt to rescue two soldiers arrested by the NPA in Impasugong on August 22—Pfc. Marnel Cinches and Pfc. Jerrel Yorong. The soldiers even mounted two 105-mm howitzers in Barangay Hagpa, Impasugong. Meanwhile, 58th IB elements have also continued launching combat operations and mounted two howitzers in Palo, Hinda-ngon, Gingoog City.

The NPA has roundly assailed the continuing rescue operations, saying that the AFP should instead implement a Suspension of Offensive Military Operations to pave the way for the orderly and safe release of the two prisoners of war. **AB**

## Father and son slain in ComVal

A Mandaya father and his son were mercilessly killed by soldiers in Compostela Valley. Meanwhile, a peasant leader in Davao del Norte, a development worker in Tagum City and two cousins in Pampanga became victims of illegal arrest.

**Compostela Valley.** Two members of the Mandaya tribe were killed after elements of the 66th IB Alpha Coy gunned them down in Manurigao, New Bataan in the early morning hours of October 12.

Rolando L. Dagensan, 45, and his 15-year old son Juda were on their way home from their corn farm when they were chanced upon by soldiers conducting military operations. The troopers indiscriminately rained bullets on the victims, mutilating their bodies and leaving their faces unrecognizable. One of Rolando's arms was torn away from the sheer force and number of the gunshots inflicted by the soldiers. The fact that the victims were riddled with bullets gives the lie to the military's claim that the soldiers had been taken by surprise and mistook the Dagensans for NPA.

**Tagum City.** Policemen and soldiers who seized Dominiciano Muya at a checkpoint on October 16 failed to present an arrest warrant. Muya, an agriculturist and development worker was accused of being a high-ranking official of the CPP and NPA with a ₱4.8-million bounty for his arrest on charges of murder and robbery in Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur and Davao Oriental. He is actually a soil science con-

sultant for the Salugpungan Learning Center in Talaingod, Davao del Norte and a member of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines staff.

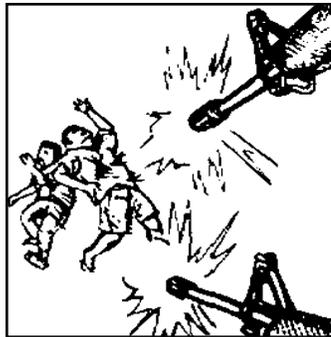
**Pampanga.** Police and AFP intelligence operatives illegally arrested cousins Lourdes David Quioc, 64 and Reynaldo Canlas Ingal, 63, in Barangay San Antonio, Mexico on

October 2.

The PNP-Region 3 insists that Quioc and Ingal are actually "Eugenia Magpantay" and "Agaton Topacio," allegedly CPP and NPA officials with ₱10.6-million bounties on their heads. The victims' relatives strongly denied the allegation. Quioc is a well-known midwife in the locality and a church volunteer while Ingal is a retired driver of the National Power Corporation in Morong, Bataan.

They are currently detained at the Bulacan Provincial Jail.

**Davao del Norte.** Peasant leader Lito Lao was arrested at the ABC Hall in Kapalong town while arranging a dialogue between farmers and a land grabber in the area. He is one of 13 activist leaders named in an arrest warrant stemming from a trumped-up case of theft filed against them by landlord Vivien Jubac in 2012. **AB**



# CPP strongly condemns Lacub, Abra massacre

**T**he Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) in Ilocos-Cordillera Region vehemently condemned the heinous massacre of seven NPA members by 41st IB soldiers in Lacub, Abra on September 4. The victims were all hors de combat. The CPP likewise condemned the extrajudicial killing of two civilians by the military as well as other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The CPP and NPA paid the highest tribute to Party cadres and Red fighters Arnold "Ka Mando" Jaramillo, Recca Noelle "Ka Tet" Monte, Brandon "Ka Sly" Madranga, Robert "Ka Dawyan" Beyao, Ricardo "Ka Tubong" Reyes, Pedring "Ka Jess" Banggao and Robert "Ka Limbo" Perez.

Initial investigations revealed that the slain Red fighters had all been captured wounded after being subdued by operating troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Instead of providing medical treatment and treating them as prisoners of war in accordance with international rules of war, they were mercilessly tortured and killed by the fascists. These findings are supported even by the results of the autopsies conducted by government agencies. Ka Mando's body, in particular, was riddled with bullets. The bullets' entry points had gunpowder burns, indicating that he had been shot at close range.

The CPP also condemned the killing of Engr. Fidela Salvador, 50, an official of the Cordillera Response and Development Services, a local NGO. She was monitoring the implementation of her NGO's Philippine Tropical Cyclone Emergency Response Project

in the area when she was killed.

Also tortured and killed by the 41st IB was Noel Viste, a resident of Barangay Poblacion, Lacub who was among 24 civilians used as guides and human shields by the 41st IB on September 5. Most of the civilians were eventually released with the exception of Viste and Nicasio Asbucan. Viste was found dead the day

after. Asbucan said that he had been ordered by the soldiers to claim that Viste was killed by NPA members.

The CPP strongly supports the widespread demand by the people of Abra for the immediate pullout of the 41st IB. The CPP called on the people of Abra and the Filipino people to strengthen their protests and make resounding cries for the immediate expulsion of the criminal AFP troops.

The CPP also directed the NPA in Abra and the entire Ilocos-Cordillera Region to punish those responsible for these crimes and grave human rights abuses and give justice to all victims of fascism. **AB**

## Minority groups assail AFP for arming and pitting Lumad against fellow Lumad

**T**he Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas (KAMP) strongly assailed the AFP for organizing and arming paramilitary groups among the Lumad and pitting them against their own relatives and fellow tribespeople.

The AFP aims to destroy the unity of the Lumad, use them as pawns in its Oplan Bayanihan war and pave the way for the entry of foreign companies coveting the mineral and other natural resources found in the Lumad's ancestral lands.

There are now 13 Lumad paramilitary groups in the entire island of Mindanao that continue to sow terror in Lumad and peasant communities. In Bukidnon, among these groups are the San Fernando Matigsalug, Tribal Datus (Sanmatidra); the Bungkatol Liberation Front (Bulif); and the New Indigenous People's Army for Reform (Nipar) under the 8th IB. Other examples are the Salakawan or Wild Dogs (formed by the 402nd Infantry Brigade), the Alamara in Northern Mindanao and the Task Force Gantangan-Bagani Force in the Caraga region.

These groups are behind at least 11 killings of Lumad and their supporters. **AB**

# Hacienda Luisita barangay captain benefits from DAP

**E**dgardo Aguas, village chief of Barangay Central, the biggest barrio within Hacienda Luisita, has long been a loyal liege man of the Cojuangco-Aquino clan. Aguas is one of the government officials who benefited from Benigno Aquino III's anomalous Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP).

Aquino personally handed over ₱3.5 million to Aguas in August 2012 allegedly for the construction of a multi-purpose building in Barangay Central. Aguas is one of only two barangay captains who received DAP funds. The other recipients are 22 senators, 173 congressmen, 51 governors, two vice governors, two provincial board members, 32 mayors and two vice mayors.

Aguas' inclusion in the list of DAP recipients brings to the fore the rotten patronage system being used and strengthened by Aquino. Aquino uses public funds to bribe and reward government officials and gain their support. The favors he has bestowed on Tarlac and its officials call to mind the favoritism exhibited by Marcos for his home province of Ilocos Norte.

Aguas was likewise provided with DAP funds in exchange for his long service to the Aquinos and Cojuangcos, especially in maintaining the clan's control over the vast Hacienda Luisita estate. The Cojuangco-owned Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT), their church and "Sitio Alto" where the Cojuangcos' luxurious mansions are situated are all in Barangay Central. Aquino and his sisters are registered voters of this barangay.

More than being a mere village chief, Aguas is virtually a member of the powerful landlord clan. He is a stockholder of the CAT,

## Aquinos and Cojuangcos slapped with criminal cases

**M**ore than 100 farmers from Hacienda Luisita trooped to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on October 12 to file more than 100 criminal cases against the Cojuangco-Aquino family and their cohorts in the police and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The cases stem from the series of violent acts inflicted on the estate's land reform beneficiaries since the fake land distribution at the hacienda in July 2013.

The respondents are all friends and members of Benigno Aquino III's family, among them his uncle Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., his sister Maria Elena "Ballsy" Aquino-Cruz and his shooting buddy Virginia Torres. Also among the accused are Tarlac PNP Provincial Director Alex Sintin and former Tarlac City PNP chief Bayani Razalan.

The charges include attempted murder, arson, physical injuries, illegal arrest and arbitrary detention, robbery, child abuse and dam-

age to crops and property. They stem from the repressive acts of personnel from the Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco) in its attempt to expel the farm workers from the lands they have been tilling within Hacienda Luisita. Tadeco's goons have several times bulldozed the farmers' crops and burned their huts.

Despite being at the receiving end of these violent acts, the farm workers have been charged multiple times in various Tarlac courts in an attempt to pressure and intimidate them.

Prior to this, the farm workers assailed the disqualification of 125 farm workers of Hacienda Luisita, including members and officers of AMBALA (Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita). The DAR dropped them from the list of beneficiaries after they refused to sign a contract obliging them to pay regular amortizations for the land they have been fighting for. AB

along with Aquino's sisters and a Wellerita Aguas, also an executive of the CAT and the Cojuangco-owned Luisita Realty Corporation. When the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme was implemented, Edgardo Aguas was an engineer at HLI and one of its most highly paid employees. The Cojuangco-Aquino family uses him to undermine the peasants' unity in their struggle to regain the land in Hacienda Luisita.

In February 2013, Aguas' name and those of other loyal factotums of the Cojuangco family were surreptitiously included in the final list of those who would be receiving Certificates of Land Ownership Award. On the other hand, genuine beneficiaries like the members and officers of AMBALA were arbitrarily disqualified and dropped from the list. (*See related article*)

Aguas and the village chiefs of all of Hacienda Luisita's 11 barangays also receive huge percentages for serving as middlemen in the "aryendo" system. The scheme involves encouraging beneficiaries to borrow money using the land distributed to them as collateral. The lands are eventually foreclosed. The Cojuangcos use this as a means of reconcentrating the land and realizing their plans of converting part of the plantation into a commercial center. This way, the Cojuangcos are able to circumvent the law requiring the distribution of agricultural land. **AB**

## Urban poor wage series of protests

Various groups rallied in front of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on October 7 to condemn the relentless demolitions of urban poor communities and assail corruption in the use of the Aquino regime's budget for housing.

According to the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY)-Metro Manila, the urban poor have not benefited at all from the ₱11.05-billion in DAP funds purportedly set aside for government housing programs.

Instead of benefiting the urban poor in the form of decent housing and other basic services, it serves as capital for construction companies like New San Jose Builders. It also serves as a milch cow of high-ranking officials of the National Housing Authority (NHA) and Malacañang, including Aquino's former classmate, NHA Gen. Manager Chito Cruz.

According to the DBM, ₱10 billion from the DAP has been given to the NHA for housing urban poor living along Metro Manila's estuaries; ₱450 million for residents of North Triangle, Quezon City; ₱100 million for settlers along the banks of the Iloilo River and its tributaries; and ₱500 million to house personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The ₱10 billion allotted to the NHA is part of the ₱50-billion Informal Settler Fund (ISF) for 2012-2016. The ISF and other DAP funds purportedly for housing have been used to fund costly and violent clearing operations in urban poor communities, thus accelerating the implementation of various Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, including the Quezon City Central Business District.

**Quezon City.** Also on October 7, the Alyansa Kontra Demolisyon-Quezon City (AKD-QC) led a protest action to assail the "zero informal settlers" policy or the removal of all urban poor communities.

The AKD likewise issued an urgent call for the revocation of a new city ordinance—SP 2247-2013—which empowers local officials to order demolitions even in the absence of a court order. This ordinance will pave the way for rampant demolitions of urban poor dwellings.

"The fate of the houses of 223,000 families now lies in the hands of the corrupt officials of Task Force Copriss (Control, Prevention and Removal of Illegal Structures and Squatting). TF Copriss is an agency attached to the Office of the City Mayor and the barangay captains. It has the power to arbitrarily declare any structure illegal, and therefore order its demolition.

The AKD has discovered that 17 communities in Quezon City have already received Certificates of Compliance from the QC Local Housing Board and could go ahead with evicting the urban poor.

**Montalban, Rizal.** Also on October 7, residents of Kasiglahan Village dialogued with NHA officials and the New San Jose Builders housing contractors. Kasiglahan Village is a housing

project in Montalban where thousands of families evicted from "hazardous areas" in the National Capital Region were resettled.

The residents said, however, that they now face greater dangers compared to the hazards they encountered in their previous communities. Just last September, their houses at the relocation center were submerged in floods that reached their rooftops during the onslaught of typhoon Mario.

During the dialogue, KADAMAY Secretary-General Carlito Badion, a resident of Kasiglahan Village asked the

NHA representative regarding the whereabouts of the DAP allocations for their community. The NHA representative answered that the P10-billion fund from the DBM was not intended for Kasiglahan Village. He added that the residents' housing amortizations will be used to fund other urban poor groups to be relocated in the future.

**October 3, Western Bicutan, Taguig.** Residents of Fort Bonifacio Tenement Building conducted a noise barrage to oppose the notice of eviction they have received. The entire tenement has 692 units with up to 1,000 resident families

who are now facing eviction allegedly because the building has become unsafe.

They are likewise opposed to their next relocation site at Aguada, Trece Martirez, Cavite not only because it is far from their jobs but because the dwellings have been built with substandard materials and the area is prone to landslides and used to be a dumpsite for toxic waste.

Ayala Land is keenly interested in their current location because it lies between Global City and ARCA South Industrial Estate where the Ayalas are major investors. **AB**

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## Danding Cojuangco will benefit the most from the Laiban Dam project

**B**enigno Aquino III is hell-bent on pushing the construction of the Laiban Dam in Tanay, Rizal under his watch because the project's main investor is no other than his uncle Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

The P65-billion Laiban Dam project is a joint venture of the Cojuangco-owned San Miguel Corp. and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), a government corporation. It falls under the Aquino government's Public-Private Partnership scheme. The dam, which is one of two ventures under the New Centennial Water Source Projects meant to ensure Metro Manila's water supply is slated to become another milch cow for the Aquino clique. (The other project is the P23-billion Kaliwa Dam in General Nakar, Quezon).

These projects will be submerging 37,700 hectares of watershed areas, including the ancestral lands of the Dumagat and Remontado tribes in Rizal and Quezon. Up to 8,000 families living in the affected areas, including more than 4,000 Dumagat and Remontado families will be forced to evacuate. Neither tribe has consented to the construction of the Kaliwa and Laiban Dams.

The Laiban Dam will be causing far greater damage. The 113-meter concrete-face, rock-

filled dam (CFRD) which will have a capacity of 1,800 million liters per day will submerge 28,000 hectares and displace about 7,000 families.

Aquino declared in his State of the Nation Address last July that the construction of the Kaliwa and Laiban Dams in the Sierra Madre is a priority. To suppress the people's widespread opposition to these projects, the AFP has deployed two battalions in the villages to be submerged by the dams. Forces of the 16th IB are currently occupying the mountainous barangays that would be going under water due to the Laiban Dam—Laiban, Cayabu, Sta. Inez, Tinucan, Mamuyao, San Andres, Sto. Niño and Daraitan in Tanay and Lumutan in General Nakar. On the other hand, the 1st IB has been focused on the upland villages to be submerged by the Kaliwa Dam—Pagsangahan, Umiray, San Marcelino and Canaway in General Nakar and Magsaysay in Infanta, Quezon.

Nonetheless, the New People's Army's (NPA) Rosemarie Lodronio Rosal Command supports the people's struggle to stop these megadams' construction. The command, whose area of operations is the Mt. Sierra Madre-Southern Tagalog Subregion, pledged to launch tactical offensives like the successive attacks on AFP troops in General Nakar, and in Tanay and Montalban, Rizal last July. **AB**

## SOS: In defense of schools and communities

The state has been waging relentless military attacks on schools and communities, especially alternative schools built by the peasant and Lumad masses in various parts of Mindanao.

This spurred various groups to hold a conference of the Save Our Schools (SOS) Network in Davao City on September 25-27. The conference was attended by 142 teachers, church people and advocates from ten Mindanao provinces.

The conference, the second to be called by the SOS Network, issued the call "Stop Attacks on our Schools and Communities! Education not Militarization!"

The conference took notice of the rampant human rights violations and repression of persons advocating alternative schools. At least 100 community schools have been victimized by the AFP all over Mindanao. Most of them are found in farflung areas of Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Davao del Norte, North Cotabato, Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Bukidnon and Sarangani.

These schools were built on the initiative of Lumad organizations in partnership with church people to provide schooling to children who have long been deprived by the reactionary government of education services.

The Aquino regime has been severely trampling on the rights of these schools. It has issued in quick succession policies that run counter to the growth of alternative schools such as the 2013 Guidelines on the Protection of Children during Armed Conflict (Memorandum 221 of the Department of Education) and Letter Directive 25 issued by the AFP chief, both of which assert that launching AFP activities within schools and public utilities is legitimate.

These policies grant the AFP the freedom to attack community schools, with cases becoming worse than ever as the AFP implements its Oplan Bayanihan war against the people. Schools are frequently used as barracks or detachments are built right beside school buildings.

The SOS Network called for the immediate pullout of soldiers and paramilitaries from all schools and communities. They also condemned the conduct of psywar operations within schools and communities under Civil-Military Operations (CMO) and demanded an end to hamletting, food blockades and the conscription of Lumad into paramilitary groups. **AB**

## Kurds' resistance to ISIS

The Kurdish people in Syria are waging all-out resistance to the vicious and plunderous war of aggression being launched by Islamic State (ISIS). Despite their inferior weaponry, they have succeeded in repulsing ISIS forces attacking Kobane, Syria's northernmost town which lies along Turkey's southern border.

For the past several weeks, ISIS has been targeting Kobane, which is a key area in its objective of gaining absolute control over the entire border area between Syria and Turkey. ISIS has committed numerous atrocities, including mass killings of civilians and rape. Tens of thousands have been forced to evacuate to Turkey.

Instead of being shaken, however, the Kurdish people's determination to struggle and defend their homes and town have only grown stronger. Led by the YPG or People's Defense Unit, the Kurdish people have continued to inflict casualties on ISIS and thwarted its plans to seize Kobane.

Kobane is one of three cantons in the Rojava region (or western Kurdistan, which lies in northern Syria) where the Kurdish people have established an independent administrative government. They have long been struggling for self-determination in order to establish an independent state in an area straddling northern Syria, southeastern Turkey, northwestern Iran and northern Iraq.

More than a year has passed since ISIS attacked Kobane and imposed blockades to force the people to succumb to ISIS' brutality. Scores of municipalities are already under siege by ISIS in its campaign to expand its territory at the border region between Iraq and Syria through sheer brutality and terror. Its goal is to control the vast oil fields in this area.

At least 40 ISIS personnel have been killed as the YPG put up intense resistance in Kobane in the past few days. Since September, more than 300 ISIS forces have been killed while attacking Kobane, and more than 200 on the YPG side. On October 15, the ISIS forces were repulsed in most of their positions in Kobane. Nonetheless, they are expected to mount renewed attacks.

The YPG is an armed force established by the PYD (Democratic Union Party), the Kurdish people's main umbrella organization in

Rojava. The PYD is an ally of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) which is based in southern Turkey and northern Iraq. The PKK and its allied parties have long been at the forefront of the Kurdish people's armed struggle to advance their aspirations for self-determination.

The Kurdish people attained their victories in the face of Turkey's refusal to confront ISIS. Turkey has preferred to attack, instead of help, the Kurdish forces resisting ISIS. This has sparked massive demonstrations in Turkish and even German cities, condemning the Turkish government's molycoddling of ISIS.

In a desire to protect its "alliance" with Turkey, the US has pussyfooted in launching bombing raids on ISIS positions—demonstrating the US' rank hypocrisy when it declared war on ISIS just to preserve its standing within the Middle East. AB

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## Progressive journalists hold conference on alternative media

Progressive journalists from various parts of the country successfully launched a conference on the alternative media on October 9 and 10 at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

The term alternative media pertains to media that are not owned or controlled by big corporations. Websites, radio programs and newspapers published by progressive or national-democratic organizations are part of the alternative media, or altermedia for short.

Altermedia journalists from Metro Manila, Baguio, Southern Tagalog, Davao, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Bicol, Central Luzon, Panay and Tacloban attended the conference, whose theme was "New Times, New Challenges, Strengthen the people's voice."

The conference tackled the importance of the alternative media in the current situation and its duty to serve as the "people's media" advocating the people's basic issues.

The conference harked back to the revolutionary tradition of propaganda work, citing the contributions of *La Solidaridad* of the First Propaganda Movement to those of

*Kalayaan*, the newspaper of the Katipunan during the First Philippine Revolution, and those of the revolutionary publications like *Ang Bayan*, *Taliba ng Bayan* and *Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas* since the martial law years to the present.

In a speech read by National Democratic Front of the Philippines consultant Rey Claro Casambre, CPP Information Bureau media liaison officer Marco Valbuena traced the gradual expansion of revolutionary propaganda's reach, from written form to internet and video.

The conference likewise resolved to expand the network of progressive journalists and include other aspects like radio, internet (social media), video and print. The delegates also adopted resolutions defining their stand on issues relating to the mass media such as the Maguindanao Massacre, the Cybercrime Law, the Freedom of Information Bill and charter change, among others. They also vowed to continue strengthening the people's voice by providing alternative sources of information and analyses on issues. AB