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Editorial

CPP declares ceasefire

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ordered on December 17 the New People's Army (NPA) and people's militia to implement a ceasefire at Christmas and New Year and on the occasion of the visit to the Philippines of Pope Francis, the patriarch of the Roman Catholic Church.

The ceasefire will take effect on the following dates:

12:01 a.m. of December 24, 2014 to 11:59 p.m. of December 26, 2014; 12:01 a.m. of December 31, 2014 to 11:59 p.m. of January 1, 2015; and 12:01 a.m. of January 15, 2015 to 11:59 p.m. of January 19, 2015.

The CPP said the ceasefire declaration is being issued in solidarity with the Filipino people in their observance of traditional holidays which also correspond to the CPP anniversary celebrations on December 26.

This ceasefire declaration is also being issued in deference to the upcoming visit of Pope Francis which the Filipino people look forward to as an opportunity to raise outstanding issues such as militarization, violations of human rights and children's rights, Hacienda Luisita and widespread landlessness, the poverty and exploitation of peasants and workers, bureaucratic corruption and government neglect of calamity survivors

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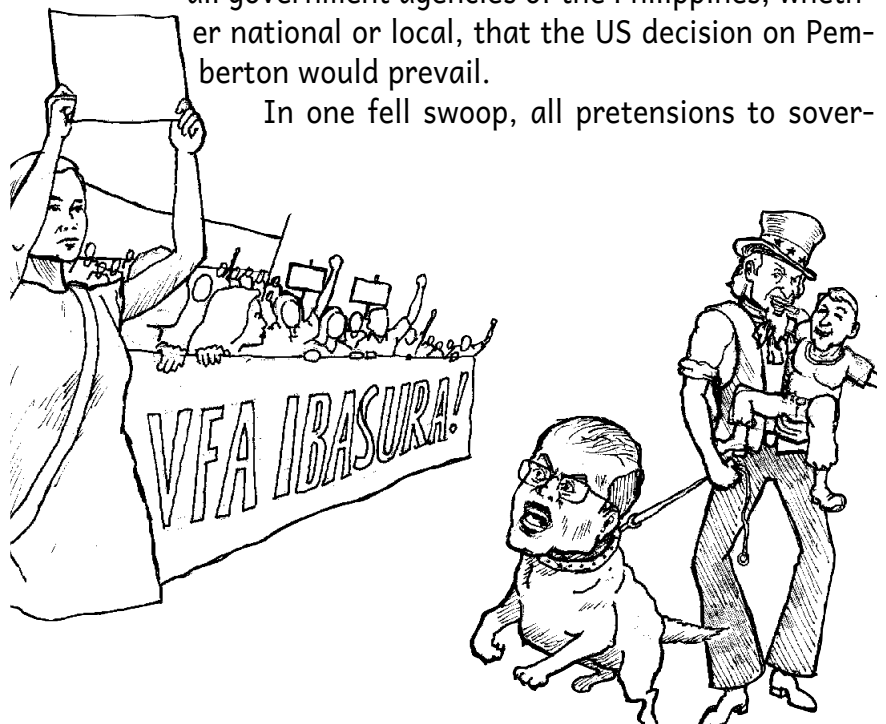
Resist the US' overweening arrogance under the VFA

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the entire Filipino people condemn in the strongest possible terms the Aquino regime's contemptuous puppetry in the case of the Jennifer Laude killing.

The Aquino government immediately buckled in the face of the US' outright denial of its "request" to cede to Philippine authorities custody over US Marine Lance Corporal Joseph Scott Pemberton, who has been accused of killing Laude. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) very meekly accepted the US embassy's response regarding Pemberton. Worse, it even served as a US apologist in saying that the rejection was well within the rights of the US under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and that it would not appeal the decision.

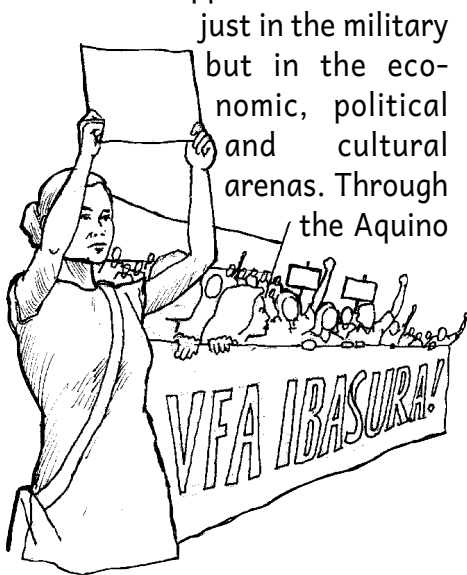
Even more enraging were the other contents of the US' response to the DFA. Aside from refusing to give up custody over Pemberton, the embassy virtually ordered the DFA to inform all government agencies of the Philippines, whether national or local, that the US decision on Pemberton would prevail.

In one fell swoop, all pretensions to sover-



eighty and equality were banished. The US tyrannically wielded its power as imperialist master in commanding its puppet, with the DFA immediately playing the grovelling servant. Malacañang conveniently avoided trouble by saying that the matter was now in the hands of the court.

Benigno Aquino III's regime has once more demonstrated its utter inability to promote and protect the Filipino people's interests. Instead, it betrays the Filipino people by entering into unequal agreements and enforcing policies and laws that are inimical to Philippine interests not



just in the military but in the economic, political and cultural arenas. Through the Aquino

regime's subservience in this matter, it not only shows contempt for, and tramples on, the rights of the Laude family, it likewise violates the rights and dignity of the entire Filipino people.

The developments surrounding the Laude case are a learning experience for the people. They provide excellent opportunities for the people to expand their knowledge and deepen their understanding of the brutal history of the US imperialist occupation of the country.

The Filipino people must grasp that Laude's killing is but the latest of countless crimes committed by American soldiers against the Philippines and against Filipinos. They must remember that up to 1,400,000 Filipinos were killed during the US war of subjugation against the Philippines from 1898 to 1913.


A century before the US used unbridled brutality in conquering Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya in the 2000s, and half a century before it occupied Vietnam, US imperialism had already pepe-

trated unspeakable atrocities in its conquest of the Philippines. Long before the US military employed "waterboarding" in its military camp at Guantanamo Bay, it was already using "water torture" extensively by pouring sea water into the nostrils of bound "insurgents"—the term it used for Filipinos who refused to surrender to its power.

US imperialism has systematically wiped out the bloody chapter of the US occupation of the Philippines from the consciousness of succeeding generations of Filipinos in its desire to eliminate the fires of patriotism and strip Filipinos of all vestiges of national dignity. It must therefore be systematically restored to the consciousness of the new generation of Filipino youth in order to rekindle patriotic fervor and the desire to militantly struggle for national freedom and independence.

The study of US colonial and neocolonial rule in the Philippines will likewise enable Filipinos to realize that Benigno Aquino III is but the latest in an unbroken line of puppet presidents who have betrayed Philippine interests and sovereignty.

Such knowledge must be transformed into a people's movement demanding the immediate abrogation of all unequal military accords such as the VFA, the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). The Filipino people must likewise translate their gathering rage into a powerful movement for the ouster of the Aquino regime for its utter puppetry. An abjectly craven president who allows himself to act like flotsam in the face of the heinous violations committed by a foreign power to Philippine sovereignty, interests and dignity has no right to remain in power. **AB**

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<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

and the poor.

Nonetheless, all units of the NPA and the people's militia shall remain in active defense mode. They must maintain alertness against the treacherous encroachment of operating military troops and police personnel of the GPH into the territories of the people's democratic government. They must also be prepared to engage the aggressive units of the AFP, PNP and paramilitaries under the GPH to defend themselves and prevent them from committing acts of brutality and repression.

The CPP likewise warned against the Aquino regime's intention to use Pope Francis' visit as pretext to deploy large numbers of armed troops to prevent the people from organizing and collectively expressing their national and democratic aspirations during the visit.

In Northcentral Mindanao, the NPA custodial unit holding prisoners of war Pfc. Marnel Cinches and Pfc. Jerrel Yorong is preparing to transfer them to the custody of the Third Party Facilitators anytime within the periods covered by the ten-day ceasefire declared by the revolutionary movement. The two prisoners have been in NPA custody for the past four months due to the AFP's adamant refusal to implement a seven-day ceasefire of limited scope in order to pave the way for their safe and orderly release.

Meanwhile, the GPH declared a ceasefire from December 18, 2014 to January 19, 2015. Based on experience, however, AFP, PNP and paramilitary forces do not comply with their own ceasefires. **AB**

Pemberton charged with murder

US Marine Lance Corporal Joseph Scott Pemberton was formally charged with murder on December 15 and a warrant for his arrest issued by an Olongapo City court on December 16.

Pemberton is currently detained within the Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) compound in Camp Aguinaldo, the national headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Although the JUSMAG is situated within a Philippine military camp, US Marines stand guard over Pemberton. The AFP was among the entities ordered by the court to serve the arrest warrant on Pemberton, but it has not complied. According to the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), Pemberton will remain in US custody during his trial. This case starkly demonstrates how much the VFA is lopsidedly in favor of the US and the extent to which it transgresses on Philippine sovereignty and holds the country's judicial processes in contempt.

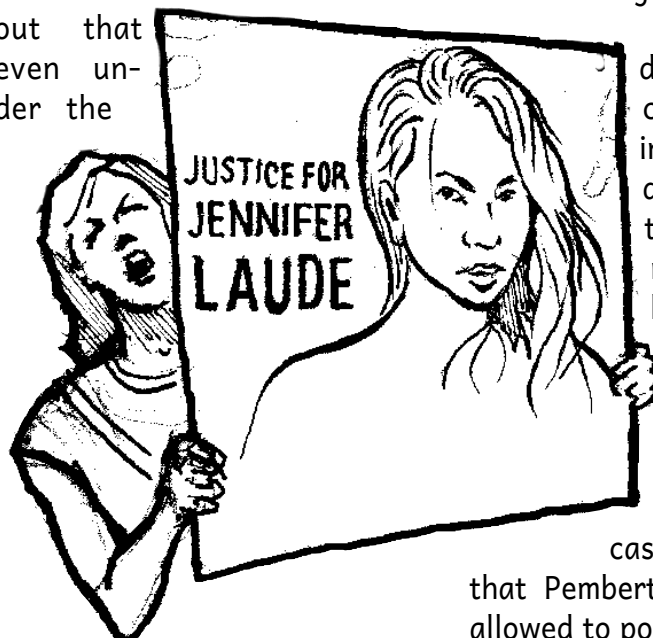
The Laude family's lawyers pointed out that even under the

VFA, the Philippines may demand custody over an erring American soldier under extraordinary circumstances. They said that the murder charge Pemberton faces and the aggravating circumstances surrounding the case may be considered extraordinary in nature.

The murder case is premised on Pemberton's use of superior strength and cruelty and the treacherous way by which he attacked his victim. The prosecutor said that Pemberton not only took advantage of his stronger physique and martial arts skills, he treacherously held the victim in a chokehold while her back was turned to further prevent her from fighting back or escaping. Laude's body was likewise full of abrasions and contusions, indicating the suffering she endured from Pemberton's beatings.

The assailant did not stop at choking and beating up Laude. He dragged the victim to the bathroom and shoved her head into the toilet bowl until Laude died from drowning.

Due to the gravity of the case, the fiscal said that Pemberton must not be allowed to post bail. **AB**



Crimes committed by US troops under the US-RP MBA

From shootings and beatings to prostitution and dumping toxic waste from their warships, American soldiers in the country were guilty of a long list of crimes and abuses while the US-RP Military Bases Agreement (MBA) was in effect.

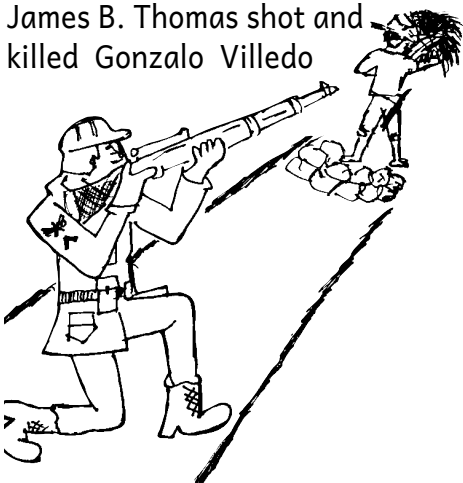
Killings and shooting. Thirty killings involving American soldiers were documented before the US military bases were boot-ed out in 1992. Following are but a few of these cases:

Kenneth Smith, a US Marine, killed Rogelio Gonzales, a shoe-shine boy in 1968. Gonzales was shot near the gates of Sangley Point in Cavite after being accused of stealing a bicycle.

American soldier Michael Moomey killed Glicer Amor, a base employee, while the latter was drinking from a spring near Subic Bay. Moomey claimed that he mistook Amor for wild boar. The US military absolved Moomey and immediately flew him home to the US.

In 1964, US soldier Larry Cole shot 14-year old Rogelio Balagtas in the back while the latter was gathering bullet shells from a target range at Clark Airfield. US authorities claimed that the boy who had been shot was involved in an attempt to bomb an American school within Clark.

Just two weeks later, US troops James A. Edwards and James B. Thomas shot and killed Gonzalo Villedo



while he was fishing with his brother at Subic Bay.

An American soldier also gunned down a Filipino after the latter came near a radio tower at Clark.

Beatings. Two US Marines beat up five workers at Clark in 1970. After asking for their IDs, the marines suddenly kicked and punched them.

Two other American soldiers beat up a man who was cutting grass inside Clark. The soldiers gagged him and kicked his mouth, damaging his teeth. The beating was repeated in the afternoon when the victim was chanced upon by 18 soldiers who took turns in mauling him.

Meanwhile, another civilian living near the base was tied by soldiers to a horse and dragged.

Abduction and attempted rape. A woman was abducted and almost raped by Ronald McDaniel, Cecil Moore, Bernard Williams and Hiawatha R. Lane in 1970. The soldiers belonged to the Gestapo Unit at Clark Airfield, Pampanga led by Col. Averil Holman. In a separate incident, six of Holman's men beat up Clark civilian employees and sexually harassed two women.

Rampant prostitution. Prostitution worsened at the US bases in the cities of Olongapo and Angeles in the 1980s. Up to 60,000 were prostituted (including 20,000 minors). There were 3,274 cases of violence against women documented involving American soldiers, with 15 of the victims minors. Not a

single case prospered in court.

In 1983, eighteen minors were infected with AIDS after being prostituted. In 1990, an 18-month old baby was infected with gonorrhea after she was abused along with her mother by three American soldiers in a Subic apartment.

In 1987, in Subic, 12-year old Rosario Baluyot died of an infection after a vibrator inserted into her vagina by Heinrich Stefan Ritter broke, leaving part of it inside. Ritter was imprisoned for a few years but later freed after being acquitted in court.

A US serviceman named Larry Venaska secretly left the country after a Filipina charged him with rape in 1992.

Destroying lives and the environment. Aside from violating women, US troops likewise polluted the environment. US Marines and US Air Force personnel dumped toxic chemicals like asbestos, mercury, zinc, pesticides, petrochemicals and the like at Subic and Clark.

In 1991, an estimated 20,000 families were affected after they settled in areas abandoned by the soldiers at Clark. Some of them suffered stomach pains, skin ailments, dizziness and spontaneous abortions.

In 2000, up to a hundred people died from poisoning. The most striking case was that of 6-year old Crizel Jane Valencia who died of leukemia due to mercury contamination in the water she drank at CABCOM (Clark Airbase Command).

Instead of providing compensation in accordance with an agreement reached between the US and the Philippines, the US government gave only a small amount to the Philippines, equivalent to \$17 million or merely 1% of the budget for "domestic base cleanup." **AB**

COPD is part of AFP combat operations

The declaration by the US-Aquino regime of a Suspension of Offensive Military Operations (SOMO) and Suspension of Offensive Police Operations (SOPO) from December 18, 2014 to January 19, 2015 is a big sham since it does not cover the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) Community Organizing for Peace and Development (COPD). This was National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson Ka Oris' reaction to the declaration.

In a statement dated December 17, Ka Oris pointed out that COPD operations are aimed at the brutal suppression of the people in the countryside and preventing them from launching struggles to advance their welfare. They form part of AFP combat operations in areas where the revolutionary movement is believed to operate and are attempts to deprive the New People's Army (NPA) of political and material support.

According to Ka Oris, COPD operations are widespread and intense all throughout Mindanao. They are the leading cause of violations of human rights and international rules of war.

They include the following practices:

1) Violations of the rules of war that protect civilians by distancing them from armed clashes and ensuring their security. Under the COPD, AFP elements forcibly occupy public structures and community centers such as barangay halls, schools, health centers and the private homes of individuals.

2) Implementing a type of economic blockade by limiting the volume of basic goods purchased by the people on suspicion that they share these goods with the NPA.

3) Forcibly recruiting men

into paramilitary forces like the CAFGU, CAA or Tribal Force through psywar and/or intimidation and harassment.

4) Curtailing the people's mobility by limiting the time allowed for them to tend to their farms on the suspicion that the peasants use their "spare time" to report to, or link up with, the NPA.

5) Propagating antisocial activities such as gambling, drinking and using illegal drugs in the villages.

6) Raping and sexually harassing women.

7) Coercing individuals into admitting membership in, or of leading, the revolutionary movement in the area and forcing them to join activities to dismantle revolutionary organizations in the community.

8) Forcing individuals to join counterrevolutionary organizations such as certain Lumad groups or the "Alsa Masa."

9) Intensely terrorizing and intimidating residents, which often culminates in their forced evacuation from their communities.

Aside from Mindanao, COPD operations are likewise widespread in guerrilla zones in Luzon and the Visayas. In December, the AFP announced that Northern Samar would be the main arena for COPD. **AB**

Militarization in NEMR intensifies

Following Southern Mindanao, Northeastern Mindanao (NEMR) is the most militarized region in the island. The US-Aquino regime has turned the region into a virtual garrison to pave the way for the unbridled plunder of NEMR's natural resources by big mining interests, plantations and hydropower projects.

In the latter part of November, about 300 Philippine Marine troops docked at Nasipit, Agusan del Norte. In the same period, 11 six-by-six trucks full of military troops from Davao arrived in Agusan del Sur. These are on top of the nine fullsize AFP battalions already in the region—the 26th, 29th, 30th, 36th and 75th IB under the 4th Infantry Division; the 1st and 2nd Scout Ranger Battalions; and the 2nd and 3rd Special Forces Battalions. In addition, the AFP also utilizes paramilitary forces to attack the people and the revolutionary movement. These paramilitary groups forcibly recruit members from the peasantry and the Lumad people.

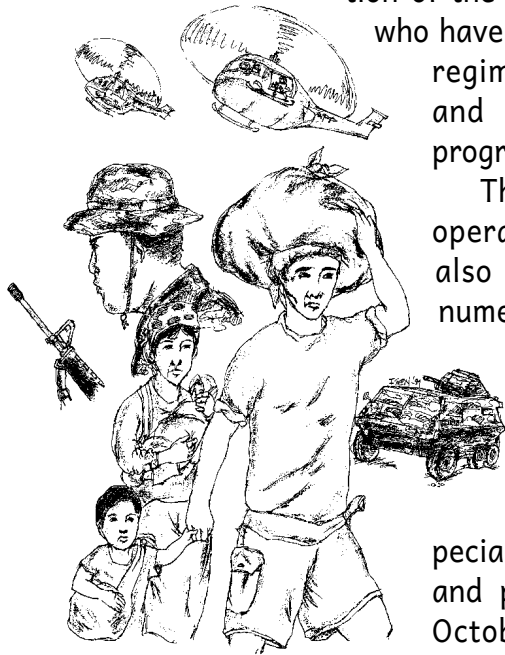
Relentless combat operations are being implemented full throttle under Oplan Bayanihan to attack Lumad communities staunchly defending their ancestral lands. Currently, the main target of combat operations are upland communities along the Agusan-Surigao del Sur border that stand in the way of coal and gold mining and the expansion of the Itochu-Dole and Sumifru banana plantations; the oil palm plantations of Agusan Plantation Inc.(API) and Filipinas Palmoil Plantations Inc. (FPPI); and the hydropower projects of Global Sibagat Hydropow-

er.

They are also targeting communities in Agusan del Norte that will be affected by the hydropower projects of the Lopez family-owned First Gen Hydropower Corp; Equi-Parco Construction; Agusan Power Corp; and Asiga Green Energy. The military wants to obliterate all obstacles to these projects by attacking mass organizations and Lumad and peasant leaders strongly opposed to the destruction of the environment

who have exposed the regime's violent and antipeople programs.

These military operations have also resulted in numerous human rights violations and the widespread displacement especially of Lumad and peasants. In October, more



than 2000 residents from 16 communities in Lianga and San Agustin, Surigao del Sur were forced to evacuate after the 36th IB, 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion, 3rd Special Forces and paramilitary groups killed Lumad leader Henry Alameda, threatened other Lumad leaders, burned down a school and camped in civilian communities. This November, 383 residents or 140 families from eight communities in Bunawan and Rosario, Agusan del Sur fled after the 75th IB killed Filjohn Poloyapoy and abducted his two brothers. On November 18, seventy families likewise evacuated from Purok 1, Barangay Pinagalaan, Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur after the 75th IB terrorized farmers and branded them members of the New People's Army (NPA).

The National Democratic Front in Northeastern Mindanao said that the revolutionary movement would not weaken in the face of such militarization. Instead, militarization further spurs the oppressed people to join the democratic revolution. It added that the relentless military operations being launched by the US-Aquino regime provide the NPA with opportunities to mete blows on the brutal troops defending local and foreign companies that destroy the environment and attack the people. **AB**

AFP suffers 10 casualties in Agusan del Sur

An officer and two soldiers were killed, while seven troops were wounded in harassment operations launched by the Western Agusan Norte-Agusan Sur Subregional Command of the New People's Army (NPA) in La Paz and Talacogon towns, Agusan del Sur on December 13 and 14.

On December 13, at around 4:30 a.m., an NPA harassment team attacked a platoon-size unit under the 26th and 36th IB occupying a school in Sitio Libon, Barangay Leydia, La Paz. Three soldiers were wounded in this harassment operation. The residents had been complaining about the soldiers for turning the literacy-numeracy school being run by the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines into military barracks.

In a related development, a Lieutenant Meneses was killed and four other troopers from the 26th and 36th IB wounded

on December 14, at around 5 a.m. after the NPA used command-detonated explosives (CDX) in an attack in Sitio Minangkig, Barangay Angeles, La Paz.

By 3:30 p.m. of the same day, an NPA team launched another CDX attack, this time on a six-by-six truck loaded with 26th IB troopers at a log pond in Barangay Zillova, Talacogon, killing two soldiers. The CDX attack was conducted in the middle of a vast plain, only three kilometers away from the battalion headquarters at the town center.

Large numbers of military troops have arrived in the area to pave the way for the entry of Metro Luxury Mining Corp., which will be extracting gold and copper. Prior to this, soldiers forced the datos of local tribes to sign documents ceding 30,000 hectares of their ancestral land in San Luis and Esperanza towns to the mining company.

On December 10, four truckloads of residents went to Butuan City to condemn the militarization of their communities and demand the pullout of military troops. Roads and town centers "turned red" with numerous placards and streamers stating their demands. Even the tributaries of the Agusan River were filled with placards and streamers floating on banana stalks. **AB**

2 soldiers killed, 8 wounded in Ilocos Sur and Mountain Province

Two soldiers were killed and eight others were wounded in two separate tactical offensives launched by the New People's Army (NPA) in Ilocos Sur and Mountain Province against the Philippine Army in November.

Two 54th IB troops were killed and five others wounded in an ambush launched by an NPA unit in Sitio Pigiw, Barangay Teptepan, Sagada, Mountain Province on November 30. The soldiers of the reactionary government were aboard a six-by-six truck and an Isuzu Elf pickup when ambushed by the NPA at around 10:45 p.m.

A soldier was killed on the spot in this ambush while the second casualty died on December 2 at the Bontoc General Hospital. The other five wounded troopers of the 54th IB were likewise brought to this hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, in Ilocos Sur, three military troops were wounded on the night of November 10 in an attack by an NPA unit under the Alfredo Cesar Command (ACC) on 81st IB soldiers encamped at Barangay Bugbuga, Sta. Cruz. The fascist soldiers are stationed at the barangay hall pending the construction of their new battalion headquarters at the village.

The residents were not consulted on the construction of the 81st IB's military camp within the community, causing fear and distress among the people.

Aside from building the battalion headquarters in the middle of the village, the 81st IB Delta Company has posted itself beside a cluster of civilian houses in Barangay Bugbuga. CMO-PDT units of the 81st IB have also been regularly using the barangay hall and civilians' homes in San Antonio, Pidpid, Amarao as detachments. AB

Hold the US-Aquino regime accountable for military abuses and brutality

The Aquino regime is guilty of grave violations of human rights nationwide. Thus declared the more than 20,000 people who joined protests in various parts of the Philippines to commemorate the 66th year of International Human Rights Day on December 10. Aside from the gatherings at Mendiola, Manila, there were protest actions in the cities of Baguio, Capiz, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao, Kidapawan and Digos and in Kalibo town in Aklan. In Manila, representatives of the International League of Peoples' Struggle from Bolivia, Colombia, Indonesia, Spain, India and a number of African countries joined the activities.

December 10 also served as the culmination of Manilakbayan ng Mindanao. The people and revolutionary movement on the island are currently Oplan Bayanihan's priority targets. More than 60% of AFP forces (from the Philippine Army, Marines and Special Forces) are now in Mindanao, while 22% are in Luzon and 18% in the Visayas.

The growing numbers of military troops in Mindanao have further aggravated human rights violations in the island.

According to the latest reports, there

have been up to 92 cases of extrajudicial killings in Mindanao. Most of the victims are Lumad defending their ancestral lands.

On December 3, representatives of Manilakbayan and KARAPATAN met with Michel Forst, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders (UNSR-HRD). They shared with Forst the situation of national minorities in Mindanao and other human rights victims under the Aquino

regime's Oplan Bayanihan. In response, Forst promised that his office would seek



Aquino's permission anew to conduct an investigation on the conditions of human rights defenders. The Philippine government has twice refused to allow UN special rapporteurs on human rights defenders into the country.

The rallyists also held the government accountable for the deaths of activists fighting widespread mining operations in Mindanao. KARAPATAN spokesperson Cristina Palabaya demanded a stop to the killing of activists, peasants and minority peoples and a halt to mining applications.

There have been 226 cases of extrajudicial killings under the Aquino regime, with 105 of the victims human rights defenders. KARAPATAN has also documented the following human rights violations during Aquino's time: 26 cases of abduction; 104 victims of torture; more than 900 illegal arrests; five cases of rape; 46,799 victims of forced evacuation; 91,103 victims of intimidation/harassment; 11,166 cases of indiscriminate shooting; 401 victims of physical abuse; and 12,695 cases of destruction of property.

Meanwhile, political prisoners fasted from December 3 to 10 as part of the commemoration of International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners. Almost 100 political detainees from various jails joined the fast, including consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Other political detainees launched noise barrages and hung streamers in high places in protest. Progressive organizations led by KARAPATAN and SELDA picketed the Manila Regional Trial Court and the Department of Justice on December 3 as part of their support for the political prisoners.

4 civilians killed in Sorsogon

Four civilians were mercilessly killed by elements of the 31st IB in Sorsogon in December.

On December 14, Anacleto Laceda was gunned down for still undetermined reasons near a police checkpoint in Barangay Balogo, Sorsogon City while he was on his way home.

On December 12, at around 11 p.m., three soldiers from the 22nd IB forced their way into 60-year old Susan Ernacio Cagalitan's house. The soldiers interrogated Cagalitan on the whereabouts of her husband, allegedly a member of the New People's Army (NPA). They shot her dead after refusing to believe Cagalitan's statement that she has long been separated from her husband.

Earlier, on December 8, the body of 45-year old Samuel Dollesin was found buried by the roadside in Barangay Sugod, Bacon, Sorsogon City. He had been missing for four days since drunken 31st IB and police troops on operations chanced upon him in Barangay Lapinig in the adjacent town of Gubat. Dollesin was last seen alive while being beaten by soldiers. He was a former NPA Red fighter who had long been living as a civilian and working in a sawmill.

Also on December 8, twenty-three-year old Boyet de la Cruz was shot dead in Barangay Abuyog, Sorsogon City while he was on duty as a village watchman. Marie Hagus, 50, who lives near the scene of the crime, was hit by stray bullets.

According to the Celso Minguéz Command (NPA-Sorsogon), three other civilians—Federico Erivera, Jinky Estrada and Alan Figueras—were likewise killed by the military in October.

All of the victims were targets of the 31st IB's misdirect-

ed anger due to its successive defeats in clashes with the NPA. The 31st IB likewise wants to create a climate of fear among civilians and blame the killings on the NPA to besmirch its image.

The civilian victims are but the latest in a long list of victims of extrajudicial killings in Bicol under the Aquino regime. There have been 60 victims of extrajudicial killing in the region since Benigno Aquino III began his term.

On the whole, there have been 373 human rights violations in Bicol involving 16,240 individuals since 2010.

In related news, motorcycle-riding gunmen shot to death Anthony Inopiquez, leader of the Concerned Operators in Metro East Transport (COMET) on December 10. COMET is an organization of FX taxi operators based in Rodriguez, Rizal. Aside from leading COMET, Inopiquez was the secretary-general of the Stop and Go Transport Coalition.

The victim had reportedly been receiving threatening text messages for days.

PISTON strongly condemned the killing, saying Inopiquez was an ally in the fight against the exorbitant fines being imposed by the DOTC, LTO and LTRFB under Joint Administrative Order 2014-01. AB



Survivors of typhoon Pablo victimized twice over

The Aquino regime has victimized anew more than 1,000 survivors of typhoon Pablo when it forcibly transferred them to a housing project in San Roque, New Bataan, Compostela Valley that is too far away from their farms. They said they had to spend an entire day walking just to get to their farms.

This is contrary to an agreement they had with DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman that the housing projects would be constructed near their sources of livelihood. The DSWD refused to comply with the agreement, claiming that their farms were located in danger zones.

In fact, said Barug Katawhan, an organization of typhoon Pablo survivors, the housing project is a way of displacing the farmers from their land to enable foreign mining companies to enter freely. It is also a form of hamletting since the houses have been built close to the 66th IB camp and the military would be able to easily monitor the movements of community members. They cited the killing by 66th IB elements of Gregorio Galacio as an example of the dangers they face. Galacio, a peasant activist and typhoon Pablo survivor was killed in Kahayag, New Bataan in July.

In Cateel, Davao Oriental, peasants have to trek for five to six hours from a housing project before reaching their farms. The houses are also substandard, with no floors and with ceilings made only of coco lumber.

Meanwhile, the NDFP International Information Office announced on December 7 that the New Communist Party of The Netherlands (NCPN) has given a generous donation to help communities devastated by typhoon Yolanda in their recovery efforts. The donation, which was handed over by Maarten Muis of NCPN, came from its members and from readers of its monthly publication *Manifest*. **AB**

Lightning rallies mark CPP's 46th anniversary

Two successive lightning rallies were launched in Manila to commemorate the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) forthcoming 46th anniversary. Members of the Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan rallied on December 16 along CM Recto Avenue. On December 19, members of the Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions (RCTU) and the National Democratic Front (NDF) marched along Recto towards Rizal Avenue.

Inspired by Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, the CPP was reestablished on December 26, 1968 from the ruins of the old party ruled by the revisionist Lava-Taruc clique.

According to RCTU spokesperson Juan de Mayo, the CPP has led the Filipino working class and people for close to 50 years in the struggle to achieve great victories in advancing people's war in order to attain national liberation, democracy and socialism.

The people's war continues to gain strength, said De Mesa, because the country's situation is deteriorating and growing numbers of workers and oppressed people are treading the path of revolutionary struggle, especially the armed struggle being waged by the New People's Army.

The rallyists also called for the junking of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) because it obstructs the quest for justice for the killing of Jennifer Laude.

PLGA celebrates 14th anniversary

On December 1, fourteen elements of India's Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed and 15 others wounded in an ambush by fighters of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) of the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) in a forested area in Bastar district, near the border of Chhattisgarh and Orissa states. Among those killed were the deputy commandant and the assistance commandant of the operating troops. Previously, seven elements of the CRPF were killed in an attack by the PLGA on November 21 in the same area. These ambushes were launched after the local state had announced that Chhattisgarh was close to being declared "insurgency-free."

The ambushes were conducted prior to the 14th year of the PLGA's founding on December 2 in a forested area at the Bihar-Jharkhand border. To commemorate the occasion, the CPI-Maoist called for a ten-day intensification of activities up to December 9. A statement issued by the Eastern Regional Bureau (ERB) of the CPI-M called on the people's army to gain more strength because "people's war is protracted in India" and "its strength lies in the militia."

According to Comrade Abhay, ERB spokesperson, the anniversary must be used to launch a special recruitment campaign through cultural activities, mass meetings, discussions and parades in the PL-

GA's areas of operation. On that day, more than 3,000 people gathered in a remote village at the Jharkhand-Chhattisgarh border to celebrate the occasion. AB

Punish the US for its use of torture!

A 500-page summary report has been issued by the US Senate Intelligence Committee on December 9 based on 6,700 documents concerning the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) use of torture or what the document refers to as "enhanced interrogation techniques." The report detailed brutal and lethal torture methods used by the CIA from 2002 up to early 2009 against 119 individuals in the name of the "war against terror."

The program was authorized by then US president George W. Bush Jr., who likewise gave permission to the CIA to abduct persons from various countries who have been branded as terrorists. The abductees were detained by the US government in secret prisons abroad called "black sites." The countries where "black sites" are located are US allies like Poland, Romania, Lithuania and other countries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

According to the US Senate Intelligence Committee which conducted the hearing, the "interrogations" did not yield positive results despite the brutality of the methods used.

Among the methods mentioned in the report are sleep deprivation lasting weeks and placement in a cell with glaring lights and very loud noises;

slapping a detainee and banging his head against a wall; confinement in a small box such as a coffin and suddenly closing it shut; chaining a detainee to a freezing floor; deprivation of food, water and/or medical assistance; prolonged isolation from other detainees; and repeated threats to kill a detainee or his loved ones.

A particularly gruesome method is "rectal feeding" where a detainee is forcibly injected through his anus with mashed food to partially revive him and subject him to further "interrogation." Another method is repeated "waterboarding" and submerging a detainee's head in water to the point of near-drowning. "Waterboarding" involves continually pouring water over a detainee's nose and mouth while his head is wrapped with a piece of cloth or plastic sheet to create the sensation of drowning.

These are all violations of international law, and even of US law which prohibits the use of torture and any form of cruelty and inhumane treatment to prisoners. The use of torture, especially the methods being used by the CIA, has long been declared a crime against hu-

manity, and whoever engages in torture must be tried and punished.

In the face of all this, the Obama regime has not undertaken any significant measures to put a stop to the rampant use of torture. In fact, the Obama regime withheld the documents on which the Senate report was based for five years.

As a result, Ben Emmerson, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counterterrorism, strongly demanded that US President Barack Obama take relevant steps to punish those who have committed torture against so-called "enemies of the state."

Nonetheless, the US Senate report has serious gaps, and has failed to include many details, say progressive US organizations. The report mentions only one detainee dying while being subjected to torture and does not include the detention and torture being perpetrated by other US military agencies. Neither does it mention other political detainees, who numbered 100,000 by 2005.

Meanwhile, KARAPATAN accused the US government of exporting torture to the Philippines by framing Oplan Bayanihan. KARAPATAN, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch likewise demanded answers on why no one has been made accountable for the 104 cases of torture documented under Benigno Aquino III's administration. AB

