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Reverse the historical wrong

DENUNCIATIONS AND protest actions threaten to escalate against the Duterte regime for exalting the erstwhile fascist dictator Ferdinand Marcos by giving him a hero's burial last November 18. Duterte must take immediate steps to reverse the historical wrong of glorifying Marcos.

The people are outraged over the hero's burial for Marcos not only because it is the ultimate act of rehabilitating the hated dictator, but also because Duterte depicts him as model for his own repressive rule.

Many a time did Duterte praise Marcos for being "bright". Not once did he condemn the abuses and brutalities under the US-Marcos dictatorship.

The most cruel legacies of the Marcos dictatorship have not been fully dismantled and are in place up to the present. More than 430 political prisoners remain in prison despite promises that they will be freed en masse through an amnesty proclamation. The suppression and arrests of activists and struggling people continue. Wide swathes of the countryside remain under military rule.

Duterte has yet to end the AFP's repressive Oplan Bayanihan war. To the people in the countryside, the presence, marauding and ravaging by armed soldiers in their communities are the starkest reminders of martial law and proof that nothing has changed in the state's oppressive rule over the past three decades.

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EDITORIAL

On Duterte's steps backward

Over the past few days, GRP President Duterte has been taking one step back after another, particularly in relation to his much-vaunted independent foreign policy.

Instead of taking concrete steps towards the path of national freedom, he took backward steps. As a result, the people's skepticism grows over his capability to stand by his declared patriotic avowals.

Duterte first raised the flag of independent foreign policy around the middle of September. He denounced US meddling and looked back at its history of colonization and brutality. He reserved the strong denunciation for the interference of the US government on the question of human rights over the increasing number of incidents of killings in the course of his "war against drugs."

Duterte followed through with such declarations as US troops in Mindanao "must go", that "there

will be no more war exercises" between the US and Philippines after Phiblex last October and that the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) might be abrogated in two years. In his visit to China, he declared "I am separating from the US" in military and economic terms.

Duterte raised people's hopes that he would carry out measures to uphold Philippine national independence. The Filipino people waited for him to stand by his words and undertake big steps to end US military presence in the Philippines, US intervention in the country's internal affairs and use of the country as platform for its wars of aggression against other countries.

However, in just a few days,

Duterte took back these declarations after another. The biggest of his steps back is declaring that he will allow the continuation of the Balikatan exercises, the annual large-scale military exercise which involves thousands of US troops together with the AFP.

Recently, Duterte once again allowed the US military to undertake another joint military exercise with the AFP. The Balance Piston Exercises in Palawan involving an unspecified number of American soldiers are set for one month (November 14 to December 14).

Duterte wants to make these acceptable by parroting US claims that these exercises will focus on "humanitarian" and "disaster response" operations. Such labels or descriptions are US euphemisms for military intervention in the Philippines and other countries. It deploys rescue and other emergency equipment forward to sugar-coat the maintenance of US military bases and facilities and deployment of war matériel.

Duterte's change of mind with

regard to allowing American troops to continue entering the country for military exercises are said to be in response to recommendations of the Department of National Defense (DND). The DND is led by its secretary Delfin Lorenzana who, from the start, has been defending the presence of American troops in the Philippines.

The push to reverse all the declarations made by Duterte against the presence and intervention of the US military in the Philippines was led by Lorenzana and other pro-US cabinet members.

Around 100 US soldiers belonging to the US Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) who were involved in the bloody Mamasapano operation in January 2015 remain in Camp Navarro in Zamboanga City until now. Nothing happened over Duterte's earlier declaration that JSOTF-P forces "must go." Neither has anything come out over the threat to reinvestigate Mamasapano to unearth the role of US officials.

With the victory of the ultra-

right Donald Trump as new US president last November 8, Duterte said the Philippines and the US will remain "friends and allies" and that he will respect all agreements signed with the US. In changing his tune, Duterte has practically bound Philippine foreign policy to his personal relations with the US president.

Duterte must remember that genuine and equal friendship with the US cannot be attained merely by his words. US imperialism will not be a true friend as long as the Philippines is tied down to unequal military agreements which allow the building of military bases, while American soldiers freely enter and leave the country's sovereign territory and meddle in its internal affairs.

The US cannot be regarded a friend especially when neoliberal economic policies are imposed to favor foreign big capitalists and foster unequal trade between the Philippines and US imperialism and other big capitalist countries.

The Filipino people must advise Duterte to stand by his words and take concrete steps to abrogate the EDCA, the Visiting Forces Agreement and Mutual Defense Treaty, dismantle all US military bases and facilities including the JSOTF-P headquarters and to end the entry of American soldiers, US warships and jet fighters and the launching of military exercises.

If instead of carrying out these measures Duterte chooses to take more steps back, his declarations for an independent foreign policy will turn out to be hollow.

This will rouse strong disapproval from the people. If Duterte continues to fail to stand by his patriotic declarations and turn a deaf ear to the people's outcry, his efforts to forge an alliance with the patriotic and democratic forces of the Filipino people will be forestalled. If that happens, the old neocolonial system will just persist and overwhelm him and nothing will change in the situation of the Filipino people.

AB

 <p>Vol. XLVII No. 22 November 21, 2016</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Waray and English.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news items. Readers are encouraged to send feedback and recommendations for improving our newspaper.</p> <p> instagram.com/prwc.info</p> <p> youtube.com/PhilippineRevolutionWebCentral</p> <p> @prwc_info</p> <p> fb.com/PhilippineRevolutionaryWebCentral</p> <p> cppinformationbureau@gmail.com</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Editorial: On Duterte's steps backward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reverse the historical wrong</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Condemnation on Marcos burial</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gear for intensified anti-imperialist struggles under Trump</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anti-Trump protests</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No ceasefire document</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harassment of Lumad schools</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Masbateños against OpBay</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AFP targets relief workers</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HLI massacre anniversary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Significance of October Revolution of 1917</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> </table>	Editorial: On Duterte's steps backward	1	Reverse the historical wrong	1	Condemnation on Marcos burial	3	Gear for intensified anti-imperialist struggles under Trump	4	Anti-Trump protests	5	No ceasefire document	6	Harassment of Lumad schools	7	Masbateños against OpBay	7	AFP targets relief workers	8	HLI massacre anniversary	8	Significance of October Revolution of 1917	9
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Duterte is challenged to prove that he is no Marcos. He must reverse his historical wrong by taking steps to withdraw his acclaim for Marcos and to support the people's aspiration to put to account the Marcoses for their plunder and fascist crimes against the people.

He will be able to show that he is different from Marcos by ending all legacies of martial law including political detention and waging Oplan Bayanihan which is a war of suppression against the people.

He can show he is no Marcos by listening to the people's outcry for free distribution of land to peasants, higher wages and ending contractualization, free education and health service, ending the presence of foreign troops and military bases and so on.

Duterte must listen to the people's anger against his exaltation of

THE UNBROKEN CHAIN OF ANTI-PEOPLE STATE SUPPRESSION

 <p>Ferdinand Marcos Suspension of Writ of Habeas Corpus MARTIAL LAW</p>	
<p>ASSO Arrest, Search and Seizure Order</p>	<p>PCO Presidential Commitment Order</p>
<p>PDA Presidential Detention Action</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.A. 1834</p>	
 <p>Cory Aquino Low Intensity Conflict Total War</p>	 <p>Fidel Ramos Oplan Lambat Bitag 1, 2, 3</p>
 <p>Joseph Estrada All-out War Oplan Gordian Knot Oplan Makabayan Oplan Balangai</p>	 <p>Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Oplan Bantay Laya 1,2</p>
 <p>Benigno Aquino, III</p>	<p>Rodrigo Duterte</p>  <p>Oplan Bayanihan</p>

Marcos. He must not turn a deaf ear so that his efforts to build a patriotic and democratic alliance

will not be forestalled and as such, will pave the way for the changes demanded by the people.

AB

Widespread condemnation greets Marcos burial

Widespread condemnation greeted the sudden and treacherous burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes Cemetery or LNMB) last November 18.

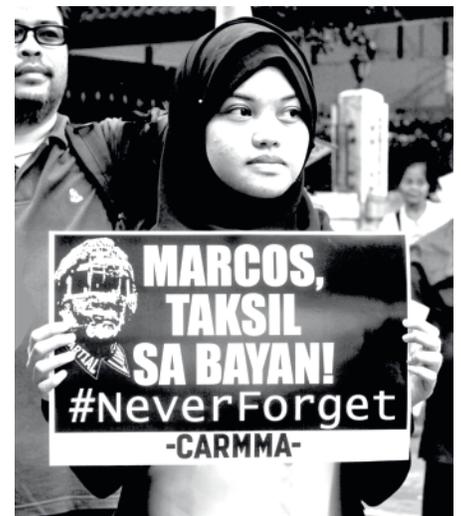
Up to 3,000 students from the University of the Philippines (UP-Diliman, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College gathered on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. There were also protests in UP-Manila, De La Salle University (DLSU), Technological University of the Philippines, and even in the Philippine Science High School and Manila Science High School. There were assemblies in Luneta in Manila, Monumento in Caloocan and in Marikina City. Church people launched protests in Mariana Park at E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Quezon City. That night, groups from Katipunan proceeded to the People Power Monument in EDSA to join those who were already there.

In Davao, progressive groups

gathered near the city hall to express their condemnation. They called the dictator's sneaky burial "cowardly." There were also protests in Baguio, Naga, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Iligan, Bacolod and Cebu. In all these places, the call "Marcos, not a hero!" resounded.

In Metro Manila, students and employees from UP, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), University of Sto. Tomas (UST), DLSU and other schools have been hoding protest actions for several days. As the students say, it is not too late for the youth to correct the revisions in history. They promised to continue their protests until the Duterte regime listens to them.

In the assembly called by the



alliance CARRMA (Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses in Malacañang), martial law victims and their families said that they can never accept the rehabilitation of the Marcoses and their style of rule based on "swindling, lies and deception." Together with the youth, the alliance is gearing up for a protest-action to convey to the Duterte regime their rage and dismay.

Protests first erupted last November 8 after the Supreme Court allowed the burial. That day, rallies were launched in Metro Manila, Naga, Baguio and other urban centers. The youth declared No-

vember 11 as a "Day of Rage" and launched protests in their campuses. Students from Laguna, Baguio, Cebu, Pampanga, Tacloban, Iloilo and Mindanao followed suit.

CPP in solidarity

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) joins the people in condemning the interment of Marcos as a hero. The said burial is the "last step in the rehabilitation" of the Marcoses, a process long started by the previous regimes and aided by the US. It is an insult to the people who fought and ousted the dictator, especially the thousands of human rights victims.

By ordering the military to honor Marcos, Duterte has proven himself a "trapo" (traditional politician) who is ready to pay his political debts against the people's call for historical and social justice. He displayed disrespect and insensitivity to the people's sufferings under martial law. Duterte should reverse this historical wrong, the CPP says, or else face mounting protests and isolation.

Prior to this, the CPP also castigated Duterte for his efforts to make acceptable some measures Marcos used to expand his control and extend his rule. Last November 11, Duterte threatened to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in line with his "anti-drug war."

This followed his earlier pronouncement that he wished to re-establish the Philippine Constabulary and put the police under military control. His spokespersons scrambled to retract his threat to suspend the writ, saying it was only a "hyperbole."

Hyperbole or not, the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus is against the fundamental human rights that the police and military will surely exploit. The writ of habeas corpus is the obligation of the police and military to produce to the court whoever is arrested or charged. **AB**

Gear for intensified anti-imperialist struggles under Trump

The Communist Party of the Philippines called on the Filipino people to firmly advance their national democratic struggles and revolutionary armed resistance upon the assumption of power of ultra-rightist Donald Trump as president of the US. The CPP also urged the American workers to wage widespread class struggles and lead the people in their democratic mass struggles.

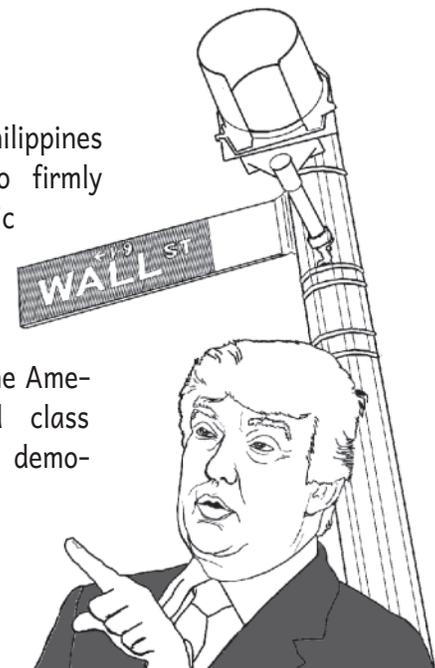
Promises to be broken by the new president

The incoming Trump presidency will prove to be fundamentally no different from the Obama regime and past US governments in representing the interests of the monopoly capitalists. It is bound by the laws of development of imperialism which determine the US drive to exert and establish itself as a dominant economic and political power in the widest possible sphere around the world.

It will be confronted by the basic problem of the persistence of the capitalist crisis of overproduction. There is a global glut in virtually all classes of commodities from electronics to construction materials, steel, petroleum products, cars and so on. There is a global manufacturing slowdown, even in China which has become the main production hub of the world capitalist system over the past decade or so.

Over the past three decades, the US economy has been hollowed out by the export of manufacturing jobs to China and other countries with cheap labor for semi-manufacturing. American workers are confronted with the problem of widespread joblessness.

Trump's promise to "make America great again" and give priority to "bringing jobs back home" is



highly unlikely to be fulfilled. He will have to convince or compel the financial oligarchy to invest capital in the US labor market and domestic production. He is set on lowering regulations and cutting taxes on Wall Street banks.

He will have to subject American workers to wage reduction and further labor flexibilization in order to make domestic capital investment profitable. Lowering wage levels, however, will tend to constrict the US market and counteract on the protectionist thrust to sell US-made commodities. Furthermore, this will surely be opposed by the American workers who are already suffering from severe indebtedness, unemployment, increasing inaccessibility of education and health-care services, homelessness and other social miseries.

Further misery will come from his promoted ultra-right measures such as the deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants, shutting all doors to refugees, gun rights for the protection of private property and building a wall in its border with Mexico.

Trump insisted at the start of the elections campaign that US

soldiers "cannot be the policemen of the world." While declaring his plan to build a 350-ship US Navy (from the current 272), he has also expressed plans to withdraw from the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and put an end to the military alliances where the US spends billions of dollars to supposedly "help its allies." He has hinted on plans to reduce US forces and close military bases in Japan, and has openly expressed willingness to end animosity with Russia and China and push for more economic cooperation. In spite of this, inter-imperialist contradictions are bound to arise and intensify whether in the unipolar or multipolar system.

If Trump is to seriously reorient US foreign policy, he is bound to be opposed by the neoconservatives who have long been advocating Pax Americana. They hold dominant sway over much of the US state machinery, especially at the helm of security and defense agencies.

Social unrest in his own country

Trump rode on the people's seething anger over the Obama regime's failure to salvage the ever plummeting economy. But within hours of his election, tens of thousands of people marched to the streets across several states to express their disgust over Trump's anti-immigrant, anti-Islam, anti-gay and anti-minority standpoint, his misogyny and racism.

Such protests are a likely portent of intensified social unrest and mass resistance in the United States in the years to come as its economy remains in the doldrums with no clear sign of recovery. Over the next four years, the Trump presidency will surely be confronted with rising demands for promised jobs, higher wages and greater social security.

The American working class, including millions of undocumented immigrants and minorities, black workers, young workers and scores of millions of unemployed people,

have long been suffering from worsening social conditions. For nearly a decade, the US economy has faltered from one depression year to another with no clear recovery in sight.

US society has become more deeply divided between the big monopoly capitalists who are awash in wealth and the working class mired in poverty and social hardships in the course of four decades under the neoliberal policy regime.

The incoming Trump regime will be confronted with the widespread clamor for it to step back from the neoliberal policies which have become widely discredited for having failed to re-energize the US economy and for having brought about severe misery and oppression.

The class and democratic struggles of the American proletariat and people that are bound to intensify cannot be disconnected from the intensifying anti-imperialist struggles of the world's people and proletariat who are crying to end US world hegemony and the neoliberal policy regime. The rise of the ultra-right Trump government underscores the need for the revolutionary proletariat to take firm hold of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism in order to put forward a sharp analysis of concrete conditions and put together a revolutionary program of action in order to unite the working class and people in the re-

volutionary socialist cause.

Implications for the Filipino struggle

The Filipino people must take advantage of Trump's declarations of reducing foreign military spending by amplifying the demand for an end to US military presence in the Philippines.

In light of Trump's declared intention of withdrawing from the NATO and other military alliances, the Filipino people must reiterate their demand for the abrogation of the Cold War-era Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) of 1951 as well as its derivatives including the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

The Filipino people must demand the Duterte regime to be steadfast in its earlier declarations for an independent foreign policy. They must censure Duterte for backtracking on the earlier pronouncements putting an end to all US military exercises with the AFP.

Duterte must be reminded that the demand to abrogate all unequal military treaties with the US and end US military intervention and presence is based on the principle of national sovereignty and does not change even though he finds himself liking Trump for being a fellow cusser. AB

Anti-Trump protests erupt in the US

PROTESTS ERUPTED after it became apparent that Donald Trump won the elections. Rallyists condemned his anti-immigrant and anti-women stance and popularized #NotMyPresident and #StopTheHate on the streets and in social media.

The night he was elected, thousands trooped to the Trump Towers in New York, his campaign headquarters. There were also protests in Oregon, where dozens of protesters were arrested, as well as in California and in Washington D.C. where the White House, the president's official residence is based.

Faced with this, the far-right ruling class faction continues to consolidate its hold on the state. Trump has appointed known far-right personalities to important positions in his cabinet. He has also reiterated his stand to deport three million illegal immigrants presently in the US .

No ceasefire agreement being crafted

At odds with what the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) would like to project, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is not, nor is it close to, signing an agreement for a bilateral ceasefire. The GRP's announcements that the sides have exchanged drafts, that the only issues left are small technicalities such as monitoring, and that an agreement will be signed on December 10, are clear disinformation.

According to Benito Tiamzon, NDFP panel member, it is obvious that the GRP has a campaign to spread false news so as to gloss over the serious obstacles put up by the GRP in the forging of a more stable ceasefire.

A document for a bilateral ceasefire was supposed to have been signed last October 29 but was nixed due to the widespread military operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the countryside in the guise of operations by "peace and development teams" (PDT). According to the NDFP, AFP operations are making the situation on the ground untenable and endangering the fragile unilateral ceasefires currently in place.

"Though the NPA exercises restraint and steers clear of encounters, the patience of the NPA and the NDFP have bounds," Tiamzon said. "If the military's ceasefire violations and aggressive persecution of farmers and communities suspected of supporting or sympathizing with the NPA continue—especially taking into consideration that talks for the release and amnesty of political prisoners have not progressed—it is likely that the NPA will end its unilateral ceasefire," he adds. "The NDFP would rather continue the peace talks according to past conduct."

Likewise, NDFP peace panel chief Fidel Agcaoili said that the GRP has not informed them on any talks regarding the bilateral ceasefire, either formally or through a phone call. "The GRP seems to be negotiating with itself," he said.

According to Karapatan, there have been 16 cases of political

killings and 16 cases of frustrated extrajudicial killings from July to September alone. There are also more than 13,000 victims, mostly farmers and national minorities, of forced evacuations.

The following are the latest cases of militarization, harassment, abuses and counter-revolutionary deception in the guise of PDT operations:

Samar: Troopers from the 14th IB carried out combat operations in Mabuhay, Jipapad in Eastern Samar and Gook, Catubig in Northern Samar last November 5-7. According to the NDF-Eastern Visayas, soldiers were also present in barangays Agsamana and Cagmanaba in Jipapad.

Meanwhile, CAFGU element and goon-for-hire Jonas Boller shot dead Rex Arandia, 35, a member of the Parag-uma ha Matuguinao (PANGUMA) in Odiong River between the barangays Hinayagan and San Antonio in Gandara, Western Samar. Arandia, along with other farmers and village mates, was then walking home from the Gandara poblacion fiesta when Boller aimed and fired at him. Arandia is an active member of PANGUMA which is involved in the relief and rehabilitation campaign in areas devastated by successive typhoons.

Panay: PDT operations persist in barangays Tagpuan, Ingay, Mayang, Bundoc, Boloc, and San Jose, (Tubungan); barangays Tacuyong Norte and Nalbang (Leon); Cabledan, Sibalom and Osorio II, San Remigio, (all in Antique). According to the NPA-Panay (Coronacion Waling-waling Command), aside from PDT operations, the 82nd IB

maintains detachments in the interior villages of Passi and Igcabugao (Igaras). There are also PDT operations in the boundaries of Maa-sin-Janiuay and in Brgy. Jayubo, Lambunao. PNP special forces are also deployed in upper Calinog where the mega dam is to be built. The 61st IB's PDT presence are virtually permanent in barangays Acuna and Katipunan, as well as its joint detachment with the Civilian Armed Auxiliary in Brgy, Daan Sur, Tapaz, Capiz.

Sorsogon: The 31st IB's PDT operations are currently carried out in the barangays of Fabrica, San Antonio, Sta. Lourdes and San Ramon in the town of Barcelona and Brgy. Cabagahan, Matnog. According to the NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command), PDTs have been conducting military operations for the past months in the interior barrios of Barcelona, Gubat and Matnog.

In Matnog, human rights groups have documented cases of harassments, intimidation and physical abuse in Brgy. Balocawe last August. In some of the residents' complaints, 31st IB troopers, headed by a 1st Lt. Meneses and a Sgt. Asares, singled out those who attended the rally in Manila for President Duterte's SONA. They were questioned on the reasons why they went, forced to admit that they were NPA members or supporters, their pictures taken and pressured to sign a blank paper. A *barangay tanod* was physically attacked during his investigation. The residents also complained of the soldiers' extortion whenever they sell their charcoal products at the Matnog town center.

Camarines Sur: In Ragay and Del Gallego, Camarines Sur, no less than a hundred soldiers from 49th, 31st and 22nd IB have encamped in health centers, barangay halls and houses in barangays Cabadisan,

Panaytayan Nuevo, San Pablo, and Bagong Silang. According to Karapatan-Bicol, since July 26, soldiers have been coming in and out of said villages to conduct surveillance and harass residents. They conduct house-to-house operations to ask whether residents have relatives who are members of the New People's Army and telling them to surrender. Soldiers also regularly engage in drinking sprees in barangay centers. In some barangays, they even made foxholes to "prepare" for "NPA attacks."

Soldiers also harassed Jovita Argente, wife of political prisoner Ramon Argente. They also interrogated Bayan Muna members Angel and Helen Mendoza.

Caraga: Up to the present, there are about 20-30 soldiers in each of 61 Lumad and peasant communities in the region's 14 municipalities. Karapatan-Caraga says troops from the 30th, 29th, and 75th IB, as well as from the 3rd Special Forces Battalion, routinely conduct harassments, intimidation and surveillance operations. They force members of organizations who participate in protest actions to "surrender." They also carry out house-to-house operations supposedly for census-taking, and call the residents to their meetings to force them to participate in their civil-military operations.

Other activities

Together with combat operations, AFP troops also continually conduct civil-military operations under Oplan Bayanihan. These include launching "seminars" in schools to propagate counterrevolutionary propaganda, an activity banned by international institutions to safeguard children's rights in times of war.

In other areas, the AFP maintains operations and presence in the guise of medical missions and other social services that should be under the ambit of civilian agencies.

AB

Harassment forces Lumad schools to close

EIGHTEEN SCHOOLS under the Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services (CLANS) in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat were forced to close temporarily due to harassment and persistent threats from the local government, police and other government agencies. There are more than 1,000 students in these schools.

According to the Save Our Schools Network report, a meeting led by Palimbang mayor Abubacar Maulana for the 4Ps and Kalahi-CIDSS in October 11 was used to close the CLANS schools. The mayor accused CLANS teachers as members of the NPA and threatened to have them arrested. He called the schools illegal, deceptive and "communist." According to residents of Barangay Kidupong where one of the schools is located, Maulana even offered P5,000 to anyone who could take a picture of CLANS teachers whom he threatened with arrests.

Progressive representatives strongly condemned Maulana's harassment. According to Arlene Brosas, Gabriela Women's Party representative, it is an outrage that children are deprived of their right (to study) on the occasion of Children's Month.

This malicious red-baiting of the schools and their teachers is being used by the AFP to launch military operations in the said communities, said her fellow GWP representative Emmi de Jesus.

Masbateños launch campout against Oplan Bayanihan

MASBATEÑOS held a campout against Oplan Bayanihan from November 15-20 in front of the Cawayan and Dimasalang municipal halls. Groups demanded the withdrawal of AFP troops back to their barracks.

According to Vince Casilihan of Bayan-Bicol, the campout also aimed to hold dialogues with their respective local officials urging them to remove military units deployed in their communities. Protesters carried reports of human rights violations committed by AFP troops.

Peasants also slammed local government officials for turning a deaf ear to their demands and simply offering the victims some measly benefits through the 4Ps or some relief goods to keep them silent.

Meanwhile, BHB-Masbate (Jose Rapsing Command or JRC) warned the AFP about the latter's ongoing militarization to terrorize the people and its declaration that "only the NPA has a ceasefire," despite the GRP's declaration of a unilateral ceasefire.

According to Luz del Mar, JRC spokesperson, the NPA forces remain in active defense mode and are always ready to defend the people.

The JRC statement also declared that militarization of Ticao Island villages have persisted and intensified since 2014 up to the present. Since October 12, troops from the 9th IB have been terrorizing towns of Monreal and villages of Rizal, Real, Cantorna, Torgoron, Maglambong, MacArthur and Sto. Nino. The AFP have also deployed combined troops of the Alpha Coy, 31st IB, 9th IB and troops from the CMO Bn of 9th ID based in Pili, Camarines Sur in the villages within the towns of Dimasalang and Cawayan since October 6, 2015.

"These operations are disguised as Community Peace and

Development Teams (CPDT) under Oplan Bayanihan (OPB). Through this, the military's Bayanihan Team Activities are focused on intelligence-gathering, violence and intimidation of villagers," Del Mar said.

On October 22, 2016, a civilian was illegally arrested, his house searched and planted with revolutionary reading materials and seven M16 bullets to make it appear that he is a member of the NPA. The victim was also forced to act as guide in combat operations and continuously investigated.

The military also conducted house-to-house operations and illegally arrested a peasant youth.

At present, around 100 AFP troops of the 31st IB are deployed in barangays Boracan, Mambog, Buenaflor, Cabrera and Cabanayuan. They stay in barangay halls, day care centers, waiting sheds and plazas.

4Ps beneficiaries also reportedly being asked by soldiers for the whereabouts of NPA members, and being threatened of removal as 4Ps beneficiaries if they attend any protest actions.

Meanwhile, attendance has decreased among students because many are scared of the soldiers' presence in their communities, said Geraldine Codera, a Barangay Cabrera official.

Teachers say that the students might not graduate if they fail to return to school before January.

"Oplan Bayanihan is being used by AFP troops to harass people. It brings fear and human rights violations in the region. The remnants of martial law will continue if the people do not take a stand against military operations," Casilihan added. AB

AFP targets relief workers for harassment

THIS NOVEMBER 14, Alay Bayan Luzon Inc. (ABI), an organization conducting relief operations in Central Luzon, lamented the continued stalking and intimidation of their members who were distributing relief goods in areas struck by typhoon Lawin in Cagayan and Nueva Vizcaya.

According to the ABI, their relief workers on the ground reported persistent surveillance by the military, listings and interrogations, as well as spreading malicious information against them. The group considers as harassment the phone call made by an official from the 7th ID to one of their staff last November 4.

Due to these incidents, the group has decided to stop their operations. These include relief operations in Barangay Pelaway, Alfonso Castaneda in Nueva Vizcaya last October 24. The ABI say that on the way to the area, two of their workers learned of the soldiers' presence in the said barangay and their intention to "invite" them for "questioning." Because of this, the group decided not to proceed to the area despite pleas from its residents.. Even after the soldiers left Pelaway, the group still decided not to proceed because of a nearby military detachment.

The ABI has long been a victim of harassment and red-baiting. The worst was when military agents murdered Willem Geertman, the group's executive director and a Dutch missionary, on 2012. AB

Cultural caravan launched on Hacienda Luisita Massacre's anniversary

CARRYING BANNERS for land and justice, peasants and other sectors launched a cultural caravan from Manila to Tarlac last November 14. The caravan was held to commemorate the 12th year of the Hacienda Luisita massacre where police and military troops opened fire on the picket line of striking farm workers last November 16, 2004. Seven farmers were killed while hundreds were injured in this massacre.

"Let us show the injustice that they did to us. And let us show that we are unbowed and still fighting," said Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA).

"The massacre is considered to be the bloodiest attack in the continuing struggle for land of Hacienda Luisita peasants," AMBALA added.

In spite of the lives lost and the Cojuangco-Aquino clan's tightening grip on the land in the past 12 years, Hacienda Luisita farmers are now even more eager to lay their rightful claim to ownership of the land, as they continue their *bungkalan* or the land cultivation campaign.

The caravan took off from the Department of Agrarian Reform Office and held short cultural programs at Bulacan and Pampanga.

They were welcomed by the local chapter of Kadamay in Balagtas, Bulacan. In Malolos City, students from Bulacan State University added their call for the right to education and jobs.

Malolos vice mayor Gilbert Gatchalian welcomed the caravan and expressed solidarity with the struggle of Hacienda Luisita farm workers for land and justice for their martyrs.

The caravan also made short stops in Capas town and in front of the Nolcom headquarters in San Miguel, Tarlac.

According to Danilo Ramos, secretary general of Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA), twelve years have passed, yet no land was distributed. Instead, the DAR led by Virgilio delos Reyes used

a *tambiolo* to pick the names of beneficiaries.

Ramos noted that military officials accountable in the massacre are yet to face justice, and were even promoted to top positions, such as current Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Lt.Gen. Ricardo Visaya.

However, with the persistence of farm workers, they were able to reap fruits of their struggle through their *bungkalan*. In the past years, they were able to harvest rice, vegetables and fruits from the former sugar lands.

Recently the DAR under the leadership of Ka Paeng Mariano has recognized the *bungkalan* system and ordered the distribution of the cultivated land. The DAR also nullified the *tambiolo* system which the previous administration used to deny the beneficiaries their land. The group also supported enactment of House Bill 555, the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill, which will dismantle land monopoly and bring social justice to the peasantry.

AB

The significance of the October Revolution of 1917 in the era of neoliberalism

Amid neoliberalism's ruthless attack against the world's proletariat and people, the need for revolution to end imperialism and establish socialism has become crystal clear. The October Revolution of 1917 was a most glorious event in the struggle of the proletariat and the first great strike against imperialism in the history of the capitalist world.

The October Revolution of 1917 signifies the Bolshevik Party's great achievements in the establishment of dictatorship of the proletariat, overcoming civil war and foreign intervention, economic revitalization, socialist industry construction, collectivization and mechanization of agriculture, development of the toiling masses' education and culture, support for the international communist movement, and struggle against imperialism after the Second World War.

Conditions that gave birth to the October Revolution

At the beginning of the 20th century, the world entered the era of modern imperialism and proletarian revolution. Monopoly capitalism became dominant in the advanced capitalist countries, finance capital emerged from the merger of bank and industrial capital, and the export of surplus capital exceeded the export of surplus goods.

The crisis created by the acute

competition of monopolists for more foreign markets and fields of investment peaked into an inter-imperialist war. This was the First World War in 1914. Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin), then chairman of the Bolshevik Party, clarified that this was a war between imperialists to expand their markets and resources.

Lenin published in 1916 his exposition on imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism. This is characterized by decay and parasitism, and more intense exploitation and oppression of the proletariat in its own country and the people in its colonies. The development of capitalism proceeds extremely unevenly and by leaps. The crisis of overproduction comes in cycles, each worse than before. Decadence, aggression and destruction are its characteristics.

Russia at this time was a huge country with a few islands of industrial development in the midst of

an ocean of feudalism. It was the weakest among the imperialist powers, thus an object of intervention and manipulation by the stronger imperialist powers. However, it in turn oppressed nations and peoples under the Russian empire.

It was in Russia's impoverished and desperate conditions that the Bolshevik Party led the advance of the revolution to overthrow the Tsar and install a democratic republic. It galvanised the militance of the workers around the call for an 8-hour working day and rallied the broad masses of peasants for land reform and nationalization.

After the victory, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led the socialist bloc to frustrate US imperialist efforts to gain world hegemony. The constant anti-imperialist threat of the socialist bloc lent advantage to national liberation movements in the era of intense anti-communist hysteria propagated by the US then. The



socialist bloc stood as a formidable rear for countries launching armed struggles against US imperialism during the Second World War and thereafter.

The Soviet Union stood as a socialist country for almost four decades. It had to take decades for modern revisionists to subvert and dismantle socialism in 1991, even with the aid of a series of imperialist attacks during the Cold War.

Enduring relevance of socialism

Contrary to claims of bourgeois economic and political experts, the capitalist system was not strengthened by the restoration of capitalism in the former socialist countries. Instead, it intensified the exploitation and oppression of the toiling masses. The expansion of the capitalist system to include

Russia and China today resulted in deeper inter-imperialist contradictions.

Neoliberal globalization failed miserably to resolve the crisis that the imperialists have tried to conceal through burdensome indebtedness, at the expense of the proletariat and people of the world who are subjected to denationalization, liberalization, privatization and deregulation. There is a growing trend towards protectionism in capitalist countries. Inter-imperialist contradictions are escalating and aggravating. We are practically back to conditions of great disorder similar to before World War I. There is no other solution to the grave crisis but a socialist revolution.

In this period of the temporary defeat of socialism on a global sca-

le, proletarian revolutionaries must be able to answer the questions of the proletariat and people about the past, present and future of the revolutionary cause of socialism. They must sharply belie the mocking claims of the imperialists that socialism is "passé" or no longer necessary, that neoliberal globalization is the only path for capitalist development, and that there is no future for the peoples' struggles for liberation, democracy and socialism.

The October Revolution represents the firm grasp of imperialism's true character and the great struggle of the proletariat and the toiling masses. The working class must grasp its lessons and constantly use this to inspire the advance of struggles of the oppressed people of the world. AB