

NPA seizes 8 firearms

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army's seized eight firearms from successful tactical offensives these past few weeks. Five of these came from Camarines Norte and three from Cagayan. Reactionary troops suffered at least 20 casualties in these offensives. Meanwhile, NPA-SMR released a policeman who was a prisoner-of-war.

Camarines Norte. Red fighters of the NPA-Camarines Norte (Armando Catapia Command or ACC) ambushed a two-vehicle and one motorcycle convoy of the PNP-Provincial Public Safety Company last December 2, past 1:00 p.m in Sitio Binuang, Barangay Daguit, Labo. Four M16 rifles, one 9mm pistol and ammunition were seized from the police. There were no casualties among the ACC troops.

Using command-detonated explosives, Red fighters hit the PNP-PPSC convoy on the way back to their camp after carrying out operations. After a fifteen minute fire fight, two policemen were killed and seven others were injured. According to ACC spokesperson Ka Carlito Cada, the offensive was in response to the CPP's call to intensify tactical offensives in the province as part of the efforts to oust the fascist US-Duterte regime, and also to punish the unit for its long record of abuses and extrajudicial killings.

Misamis Oriental. NPA-North Central Mindanao forces



EDITORIAL

Resist and overthrow the puppet and fascist Duterte regime

Dictator-wannabe Rodrigo Duterte intensified steps for his absolute fascist dictatorship after his imperialist master Donald Trump gave his all-out support.

After completely shutting down the peace negotiations between its regime and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, he declared the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army as "terrorist organizations." The declaration was made on the basis of the US State Department listing of both the "CPP-NPA" as a foreign terrorist organization under its "war on terror." Duterte once again displayed his utter subservience to his imperialist master, especially as it also serves his fascist ambitions.

Through this declaration, Duterte's main fascist machinery, the AFP, is sure to garner a windfall on military aid and weaponry from the US counterterrorism budget. As he did in Marawi when he declared the

now defunct Maute group as "terrorist," he opened the entire country to increased US military intervention in the name of its "war on terror." In exchange, Duterte is set to receive new arms, bombs, aircraft and other military materiel for him to use against the defiant population.

Furthermore, Duterte is sure to use this declaration to suppress national-democratic organizations which he has red- and terror-tagged. Under his Proclamation 374, anyone accused of giving financial and material aid to the CPP and NPA can be considered a terrorist. Duterte can use this against his political rivals and even business rivals of his cronies. He can accuse at will any capitalist for extortion.

Even before the declaration, Duterte has already set up the Inter-agency Committee for Legal Action (IACLA) as his “crackdown” machinery against the legal mass movement. After its establishment, cases of illegal arrests and harassment of known activists, supposed NPA supporters and even families of suspected Red fighters have increased.

Over and over, Duterte sanctioned the crimes and human rights violations of his lackeys in the military, paramilitary and police. Since coming into power up to December 5, there have been 124 cases of political killings under the US-Duterte regime. This is excluding the 13,000 extrajudicial killings in the guise of his “war against drugs” and the 3,000 Moros reportedly missing and possibly dead in his Marawi war. During the same period, 1,173 peasants, workers, human rights, workers and others have been illegally arrested by police and military forces. Attacks on civilian communities using airstrikes and cannons are also widespread.

DUTERTE'S INTENSIFYING fascism is an indication of the worsening crisis of the entire semicolonial and semifeudal system. He is terrified that he will be overthrown by a popular revolt as he is increasingly isolated and the people suffer increased hardship due to his neo-liberal economic policies. Infighting within the reactionary class is also intensifying due to Duterte's cronyism, favoring of a small group inside the reactionary government, his family's growing share in corruption and his vengeful ways of silencing his political enemies.

Duterte fears the increasing strength of the revolutionary movement both in the cities and countryside and the growing anger of the Moro people due to Marawi's destruction and his continued suppression of their right to self-determination. He is clinging tight to his US imperialist master, allowing himself to be whatever it wants him to be in accordance to its militarist designs in the Asia-Pacific.

To suppress the people, the regime has combined the worst

aspects of suppression campaigns of the past regimes. These included military tactics and combat operations which all target civilian communities. These are reinforced by the use of modern weapons such as drones, attack helicopters, bombers and cannons. Like in the past, these military operations in the countryside are carried out alongside attacks on the open democratic movement in the cities and town centers.

The revolutionary forces can effectively counter all these through increased determination, initiative, preparation and appropriate adjustments.

Intensive, massive and vigorous propaganda among the people should be carried out to unite and raise their consciousness and determination to struggle. Launch mass rallies, propagate the calls through radio and social media. Expose and struggle against every cause of harassment and suppression. Strengthen and expand mass organizations up to town centers, capitals and main urban centers.

Guerilla zones are open to all activists and progressives persecuted by the regime. At the same time, covert operations in a widening and deepening underground movement in the cities should be developed.

In the face of all of this, the New People's Army should raise its initiative in launching more and bigger tactical offensives. Attack “peace and development” units and other weak parts of the enemy. Study the capacity of modern weapons to effectively evade, target or sabotage these. Comprehensively plan the expansion of guerilla fronts with massive AFP troop deployment.

The superiority of revolutionary politics and the people's unity to raise their struggles are the sharpest weapons against the fascist US-Duterte regime. We must grasp these firmly and relentlessly use these to inflict blows against the narrowest target in order to weaken and hasten its fall.



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AB

"8 arms..." from page 1

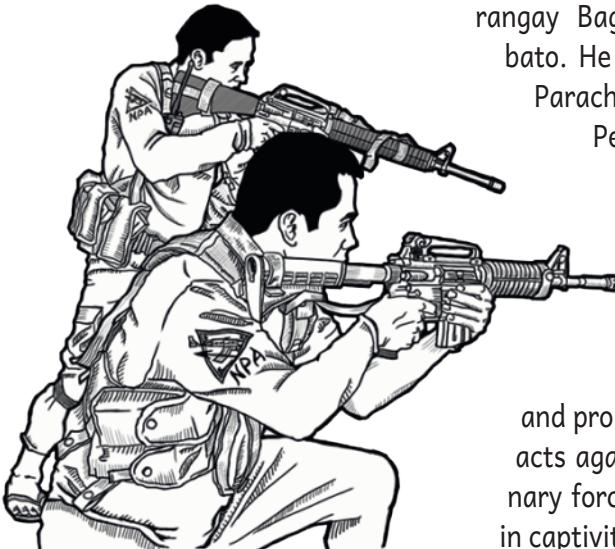
under the Eastern Misamis Oriental North Eastern Bu-kidnon Subregional Command attacked a PNP station in Binuangan town last December 3, at around 3:00 a.m., wounding four policemen.

According to Ka Malem Mabini, NPA-NCMR spokesperson, the military action serves as punishment for the PNP-Binuangan's role in counterinsurgency. In 2012, one hor de combat Red fighter was slain by these police forces.

Cagayan. NPA-Cagayan (Henry Abraham Command or HAC) executed Angelo "Buridek" Luis, intelligence agent of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG), when he resisted arrest last December 2, at 7:00 a.m. in Barangay Awallan, Baggao. A calibre .45 pistol, one .9mm pistol, and one BSL shotgun was seized from him. The HAC also recovered important intelligence data from the MIG. Luis, a former soldier and presently councilman of Baggao, was responsible for the death of four Red fighters in 2011.

Iloilo. The NPA-Central Panay (Jose Percival Estocada Jr. Command) ambushed the 6th PNP-RPSB in Barangay Bolo, Maasin on November 24 at around 6:00 p.m. One policeman was killed and 12 wounded.

Antique. Before the Iloilo ambush, a unit of the NPA-Sou-



thern Panay (Napoleon Tumagtang Command or NTC) ambushed a police vehicle at around 9:00 a.m. in Barangay Pis-anan, Sibalom. Three policemen were wounded. Earlier, another NTC unit also staged harassment operations against the Philippine Army and CAFGU detachment in Barangay Bulalacao in the same municipality, at around 2:00 a.m.

Nueva Ecija. Two PNP-PPSC officers were wounded in sniping operations by the NPA-Nueva Ecija on November 22 in Barangay Piut, Carranglan. The policemen were on their way to reinforce 84th IB soldiers who were carrying out operations against a unit of the NPA-Nueva Ecija who punished an active enemy spy in Barangay Putlan.

North Cotabato. After almost four months of captivity, the NPA-Mt. Apo Subregional Command released PO1 Bristol B. Catalan Jr. on December 4 in Barangay Bagumbayan, Magpet, North Cotabato. He was turned over to Rev. Hipolito Parach of the Exodus for Justice and Peace and other mediators. His wife and two children were also present to receive him.

According to Ka Rubi Del Mundo of the NDF-Southern Mindanao Region, Catalan showed remorse and promised to voluntarily cease criminal acts against the people and the revolutionary forces during the investigations while in captivity. AB

Duterte, number one terrorist

Since Rodrigo Duterte of the GRP terminated the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on November 23, the regime's attacks against activists and progressives, and on civilian communities in the countryside intensified further. Within ten days, seven members of progressive groups and civilians were killed, 14 illegally arrested, while more than 2,000 were forced to evacuate from their communities due to militarization and aerial bombings.

Killings. Fr. Tito Paez and Pastor Noveliyo Qui'ones were almost simultaneously killed, Palparan-style--on December 4 by elements of the military. Fr. Paez was killed by men riding in tandem who flagged his car on in Barangay Lambakin, Jaen, Nueva Ecija. He was one of the founders of Bayan-Central Luzon and among those who led the struggle against the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

Pastor Noveliyo Quinones was

killed in Barangay Don Pedro, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro while the PNP was carrying out military operations against a unit of the New People's Army (NPA).

Earlier on November 28, a fact-finding mission to Bayawan, Negros Oriental killed Elisa Badayos, member of Karapatan-Negros and Eleuterio Moises, member of the Mantapi Ebwan Farmers Association. CJ Matarlo of the Kabataan Partylist-Cebu was also hit by a

bullet. Before the incident, soldiers barred Badayos' group in Barangay San Ramon where they were investigating the AFP's militarization of the area.

On November 29, 66th IB troopers killed Rodrigo Timoteo, member of the Compostela Farmers Association, in Purok 20 Nursery, Barangay Mambusao, Compostela, Compostela Valley. Meanwhile, elements of the 16th IB shot and killed Apolonio Maranan, Anakpawis Partylist member, in Barangay Mandug, Buhangin District, Davao City, while he was buying food near his house on November 25.

Before this, Vivencio Sahay, chairperson of the Unyon sa Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Norte (UMAN)

was killed in Barangay Calamba, Cabadbaran on November 23.

Abduction and illegal arrests.

PISTON chairperson George San Mateo was arrested last December 5 while posting bail on trumped up charges filed by the LTFRB. He was detained for several hours at the Quezon City police station before he was temporarily released.

On November 24, soldiers of the 20th IB abducted and kept in hiding three farmers, Richard Avino, Terry Gabon and Arnel Aquino. The three are members of the Northern Samar Small Farmers Association. On November 26, LTC George Domingo, CMO Battalion commander, harassed and manhandled Sargie Macallan of the Katungod-Northern Samar at the military detachment in Opong, Catubig while the latter was arranging for a dialogue regarding the abduction and involuntary disappearance of the three.

Elements of the 66th IB also abducted Jean Baguio Bustamante, 17, member of the Compostela Farmers Association-Youth in Barangay Mambusao, Compostela, Compostela Valley and brought him to their camp at Purok 20, Barangay Mambusao, Compostela last December 5.

Meanwhile, soldiers illegally arrested four youth on December 4 in Ud-Udia, Sallapadan, Abra purportedly for violating curfew. The curfew was imposed in their community by the 24th IB after an encounter between the NPA and AFP at Sitio Nagas-asan, Sallapadan on November 28.

While defending their homes against demolition on November 29, two young people were arrested and mauled by policemen at Barangay Mabini, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Mangyan leader Jerry Santiago was illegally arrested on November 23 and charged with fake murder cases in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro. This was despite witnesses' testimonies that he was attending a meeting at the time of the crime.

Last December 4, 4th IB troopers abducted Nonoy Casidsid, a Hanunuo Mangyan, at Sitio Taikikan, Barangay Purnaga, Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro.

Two peasants were also tortured at Sitio Cambayang, Barangay Cambunang, Bulalaco, Oriental Mindoro. According to the farmers, the soldiers even mentioned that it was "okay to maul people, because it was martial law."

The next day, December 5, police illegally arrested Bernardo Lowaton at his house in Sitio Kawayan, Barangay Camflora, San Andres, Quezon. Lowaton was a tenant of hacienda Uy who is asserting the distribution of land to peasants.

On November 29, elements of the 29th IB ruthlessly strafed the house of Imelda Gagap, leader of the Union sa Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Norte (UMAN), in Barangay Mariging, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte.

In Davao City, military agents harassed League of Filipino Students-Northern Mindanao Region chairperson Kristine Cabardo on November 21. Military agents went to her house in Barangay Saray, Iligan City, terrorized her father who faced the agents, and accused Kristine and her sibling as NPA supporters.

On November 23, elements of the 71st IB and 46th IB ransacked the house of peasant leader Renante Mantos, Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela (HUMAWAC) chairperson. Mantos is actively supporting the struggle of agricultural workers of the Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Inc. (MARBAI) against exploitation by the Lorenzo family, owners of Lapanday in Tagum, Davao del Norte.

Evacuation. Three

hundred forty-five families or 1,688 individuals evacuated from 15 communities in Barangay Diatagon, Lianga and Barangay Buhisan, San Agustin, Surigao del Sur due to military operations after drones and 75th IB troops continuously circled Lumad communities and schools for two days. These communities are located in the Andap Valley Complex which the state is offering to multinationals for carbon mining.

As of December 1, soldiers of the 75th IB have thrice blocked humanitarian aid workers trying to bring food and other relief goods to the evacuees. As of this writing, relief goods have failed to reach the evacuees despite attempts of officials of the local social welfare office.

Last December 4, more than 139 individuals fled their communities in San Pedro, Binicalan and Mahagsay, in the town of San Luis, Agusan del Sur due to operations by 26th IB soldiers. They are presently encamped in front if the San Luis municipal hall.

In Sarangani, up to 210 families have fled from the barangays of Libab, Basyawan, Balataan, Banlas, Nabol and Makol, in the towns of Alabel and Malapatan, since December 1 due to the relentless attacks of the 73rd IB.

AB

#DUTERTERISTA:



132 POLITICAL KILLINGS

1,172 ILLEGAL ARREST AND DETENTION

427,359 FORCED EVACUATION

From July 1, 2016 to December 5, 2017

Duterte terminates peace talks

The Communist Party of the Philippines strongly condemned the US-Duterte regime's arbitrary termination of the peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) last November. Rodrigo Duterte capriciously dismissed months of negotiations between two panels which has already resulted into several common drafts.

Among these are 1) general amnesty and release of all political prisoners; 2) coordinated announcement of "stand down" orders for a coordinated unilateral ceasefire and 3) initial drafts on land reform and nationalist industrialization under CASER.

Duterte continued to speak ill of the peace talks and the revolutionary forces even while his panel was still engaged in the talks. He disregarded the agreement that the talks shall be initially held away from public eye and arbitrarily ordered his negotiators to return from Norway where the derailed fifth round of talks was scheduled to be held last November 25-27. On November 25, he issued Proclamation 360 which formally ended his regime's negotiations with the NDFP.

By doing so, Duterte also terminated efforts to come up with an agreement on political and constitutional reforms. According to Jose Maria Sison, NDFP negotiating panel senior consultant, Duterte is

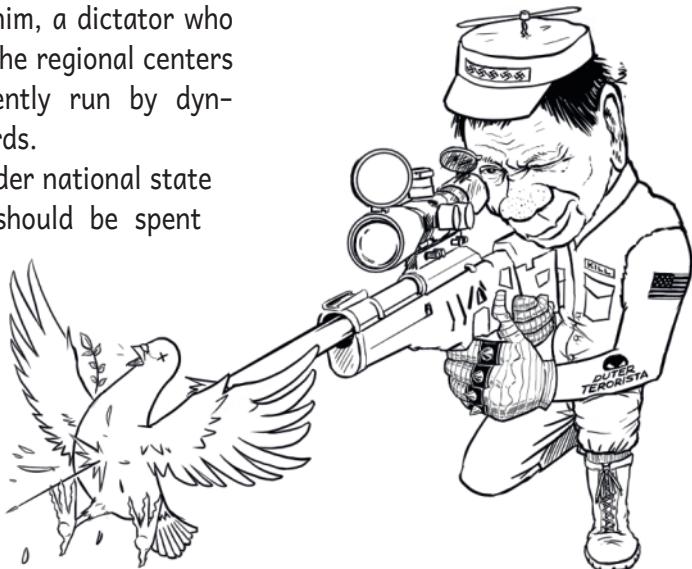
evading the scrutiny of the negotiations on his planned changes to the 1987 constitution. Instead, he has continuously maneuvered to implement his type of federalism which will give him sole power and prolong his term. He dreams of emulating the late dictator Marcos who dismantled the 1935 constitution so he could impose fascist dictatorship across the country.

Duterte wishes to move to a federal system which will overcentralize power to him, a dictator who will lord it over the regional centers which are currently run by dynasties and warlords.

It will squander national state resources that should be spent on centralized planning to establish and bloat regional governments. At the same time, repressive instruments of the state, such

as the police and military, will become even larger. It will worsen corruption and state violence in all levels. Through regional governments, restrictions on foreign investments in destructive industries such as mining and commercial plantations will rapidly be done away with.

For now, Duterte is using his federalism to encourage the separation of some regions in Mindanao. This is to placate armed Moro groups and make them believe that the Bangsamoro Basic Law, which will give limited autonomy to Moro areas, will be passed and implemented.



Martial law extension in guise of rehabilitation

Under the guise of rehabilitation and immediate reconstruction of Marawi City, the AFP and Duterte insist on extending martial law which is due to end on December 31. This after the AFP razed down a larger part of the city so Duterte can position his regime and his favored bourgeois compradors. Their recommendation will be submitted before December 15.

To further justify the extension, the AFP drumbeats alleged recruitment of ISIS in parts of Lanao del Sur and bombing threats in Iligan City. This December, the AFP even announced that improvised explosive devices planted by Maute group continue to explode in the city. This has been proven an utter lie by Maranao groups who investigated the reported incidents.

Moro groups denounced the threat of martial law

extension by the AFP and Duterte regime. According to Drieza Abato Lininding of Moro Consensus Group, martial law should be lifted and affected residents be allowed to return to their homes.

According to the group, the city has almost become a macabre "tourist attraction" with the number of VIPs and politicians visiting the area. Media also features showbiz celebrities roaming around Marawi while visiting AFP troops while former residents themselves are not allowed to return home.

The Moro people know the imposition of martial law in Mindanao and its extension is a mere reflection of hypocrisy and discrimination against the Meranao. Focusing solely on Marawi is Duterte's strategy to occupy their lands and award it to the AFP, US and local and

foreign investors.

Duterte even admitted that his regime does not plan to allow residents to return to their communities. In his speech at the Libingan ng mga Bayani last November 21, he stated that construction of a military camp will begin ahead of Marawi rehabilitation to ensure that another siege won't happen again.

In the span of almost seven months since the US-Duterte regime imposed martial law, the government has spent more than P6 billion; almost 1,200 individuals are nowhere to be found; around 400,000 individuals were not able to return to their homes; while human rights groups were able to document about 300 cases of abuse and human rights violations committed by military troops.

Despite protests from the residents against the soldiers, Duterte has repeatedly defended them. Among their complaints were blatant looting of personal belongings such as jewelry, money and appliances.

Worsening oppression

Last November 18, Kalinaw Mindanao led the 3rd Interfaith Humanitarian Mission in Marawi. In their 2-day investigation, the group was able to document additional 56 cases to the 300 documented cases of abuse, looting and human rights violations by the AFP troops.

According to the NIHM, there are so many questions regarding abuse and violations of human rights in Marawi which are left un-

answered. After the so-called liberation of the city, there is a need to document and report the truth to the people.

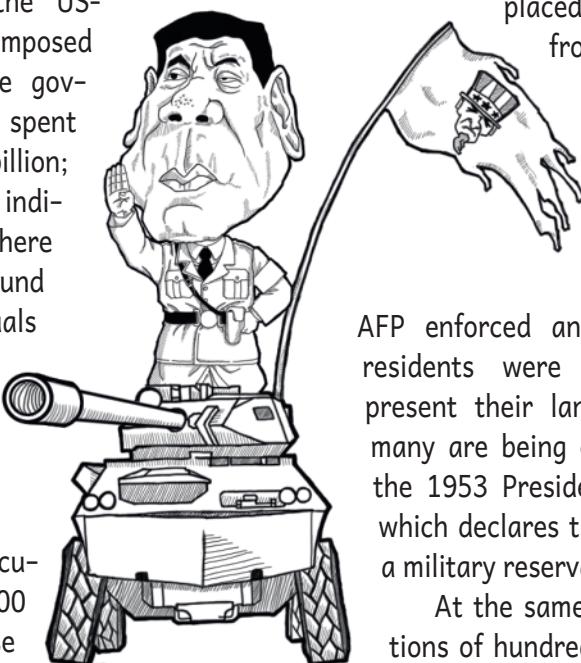
The group also added that the people are the ultimate losers of their livelihood, properties and loved ones. Many of them will not be able to return to their homes in Marawi.

According to reports, only 6,000 residents out of 400,000 displaced were able from returning.

While many were prevented to return to ground zero, the

AFP enforced an ID system, residents were required to present their land titles and many are being evicted using the 1953 Presidential Decree which declares the entire city a military reservation.

At the same time, conditions of hundreds of families in evacuation centers con-



tinue to worsen. Since the siege, the state has only given a P1,000 financial assistance per family. Meanwhile, Task Force Bangon Marawi could only give relocation to 2,000 families for this year.

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines also expressed distress on the initial reconstruction program of the Duterte administration which favors foreign and local investors carrying loans.

With the World Bank and Asian Development Bank spearheading Marawi reconstruction, it is certain that it will only serve the profiteers' interests to earn from the widespread destruction and war in Marawi. The reconstruction program is under the "Build, build, build" policy of the regime.

In addition to this, Duterte and Task Force Bangon Marawi chairman Eduardo del Rosario are calling out big local and foreign developers to submit their unsolicited proposals for the Marawi rehabilitation. Such scheme is full of corruption and anomaly.

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Drones used to attack people

THE NPA-North Central Mindanao Region slammed drone and spy plane operations by AFP troops in the villages of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and western parts of Misamis Oriental and Lanao del Sur last November 18-19. According to NPA-NCMR, these drones are similar to the spy planes used by the AFP to bomb Marawi City. This caused alarm to the residents especially since drones were operated from midnight until the next morning.

In a statement released by Malem Mabini, spokesperson of NPA-NCMR, drone operations serve as threats of bombing to harass and displace Moro and Lumad families in their communities. This was conducted to pave way for the construction of mines and plantations in their ancestral lands.

Through threats and harassment, investors for development projects and agribusinesses can easily enter the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao in Cagayan and Iligan. In ARMM alone, almost 103,000 hectares of lands will be used for oil palm and banana plantations. There are also plans for extending mining operations in Cagayan de Oro, by old and new foreign investors.

To hasten these projects, the AFP continues its violence against Moro people even after ending the Marawi siege. Military troops continue spreading black scare and fake stories of Maute group and ISIS recruitment in universities of Marawi, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro.

Red salute to the youth martyrs of the revolution

"If we have chosen the position in life which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people."

- Karl Marx

The Communist Party of the Philippines gives the highest honor and recognition to the courageous 15 Red commanders and fighters of the New People's Army-Batangas (Eduardo Dagli Command) killed in an ambush by the Philippine Air Force last November 28 in Nasugbu. The Kabataang Makabayan also saluted them, especially their members who were killed in the encounter, as they commemorated youth martyrs of the past two years.

Among the 15 killed were Glen Mark Aytona, Carl Espinosa Labajata, Julieto Pellazar Jr., Karla Bahasa, Henry delos Reyes, Joshua Hernandez, Evelyn Pagara Manalo, Roberto Dolendon, Alfred Cadag, Josephine Lapira, Anthony Felix and Graciella Pocaldo.

The National Democratic Front-Southern Tagalog also salutes their service to and defense of the people of Batangas who are currently under attack by intense militarization and abuse by the AFP. According to NDF-ST, AFP units in the region have intensified their military operations in the past month. Among these are frequent strafing and bombing of civilian communities.

Illegal searches and arrests of activists and those purported to be supportive of the NPA are rampant. Movement of civilians and residents are controlled and monitored through checkpoints along main roads and highways. All

these are part of the regime's desperate attempt to weaken the revolutionary movement and stop the growing number of people's struggles in Batangas.

Meanwhile, on their 53rd anniversary, Kabataang Makabayan conferred a red salute to the youth martyrs who joined people's war and offered their lives for the Filipino people.

Under the Duterte regime, more than 21 youths have offered their lives in service to the people. In addition to the above mentioned, others are Miguel Himor of NPA-Sorsogon, Jeramie Garcia and Paul Aringo of NPA-Quezon, Alvin Soria, Carlo Laguito, John Paul Calica, Emmanuel Canlas, Vic Nagawang and Guiller Cadano of NPA-Central Luzon.

The people and the entire country will never forget the time, enthusiasm, strength, wit, talents and lives given by these young martyrs. AB

Military kills 8 Lumads defending land

EIGHT LUMADS defending their ancestral land against the DMCI company's land grabbing operations were killed by elements of the 27th IB and 33rd IB last December 3 at Sitio Datal Bonglangon, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

The victims were all members of the T'boli-Manobo S'daf Claimants Organization. Only recently, the government rejected their claims and favored the DMCI in arrogating their land in the name of the Integrated Forestry Management Agreement (IFMA).

According to the NDF-Far South Mindanao Region, the soldiers went to the Lumad community and brazenly strafed the house of Datu Victor Danyan Sr. The residents defended themselves with homemade shotguns and other indigenous weapons.

Datu Victor Danyan Sr., Victor Danyan Jr., Artemio Danyan, Pato Celardo, To Diamante, Bobot Lagase and Mateng Bantal were killed defending their land. Many were wounded, including a minor. Three soldiers were killed while another three wounded.

The NPA-Mt. Daguma Operations Command immediately dispatched a unit to rescue the residents. They encountered an enemy column a kilometer away from the community. That afternoon, the AFP shelled the area 15 times, the NDF-FSMR added. Hundreds of T'boli and Dulangan Manobo families were forced to evacuate.

The DMCI is owned by the Consunji family, a crony close to Duterte and the Marcoses. Wide-scale logging by the DMCI has grabbed wide swathes of ancestral land from the Lumad and destroyed forests in South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani.

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Pulang Saludo!



Groups hold rallies against intensifying fascism on Bonifacio Day

Coordinated rallies were held nationwide by national democratic organizations on the occasion of Andres Bonifacio's 154th birthdate on November 30. The rallyists bannered the call "Frustrate the imposition of dictatorship! Resist the US-Duterte fascist regime!" They condemned the regime's fascist attacks on the people's rights and livelihood.

They also slammed Duterte's bogus "revolutionary government" that his supporters tried to popularize. This maneuver was part of Duterte's measures to arrogate sole power and impose a dictatorship.

Progressive forces also denounced the regime's arbitrary termination of the peace talks, his intentions to declare as terrorist New People's Army and maliciously connect the whole democratic movement to the armed movement.

Earlier, workers unions and associations held protest actions. Meanwhile, other sectors also staged their own actions the past two weeks.

Bonifacio Day. In Metro Manila, 8,000 workers and other democratic forces marched to the Liwasang Bonifacio from Mendiola against the Duterte regime. Police forces attempted to disperse them but they stood firm. At the end of their program, the rallyists burned the big effigy symbolizing Duterte as a brutal puppet of US imperialism.

In Bicol, 1,000 members of Bayan and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas marched to Legazpi City. In Southern Tagalog, at least 2,000 protesters marched to the Calamba City center in Laguna and held a program on the street. In Baguio City, members of the Tongtongan Ti Umili went to Magsaysay Avenue to hold their protest.

In Davao City, more than 2,000 demonstrators marched to Freedom Park where they burned the "Duteterminator," a big effigy illustrating Duterte's fascism.

December 11 to voice their opposition to the Jeepney Modernization Plan.

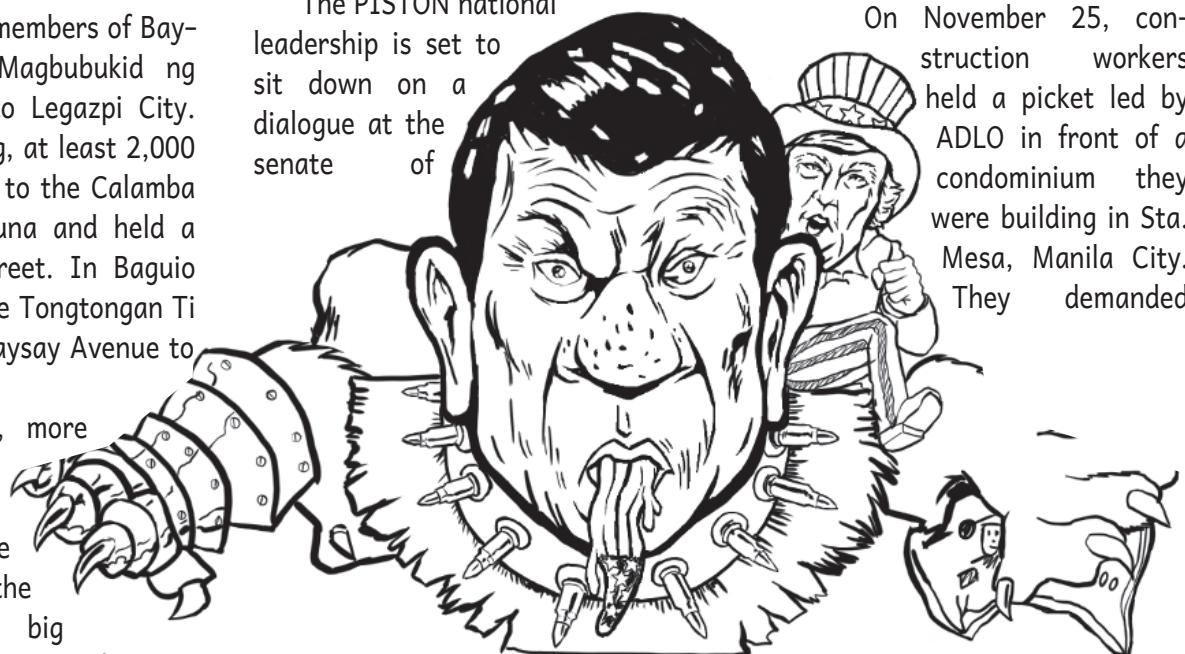
Workers' actions. On November 28, employees of the central office and NCR office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development held a protest action at Mendiola, likewise the employees of the National Food Authority on the same day. They demanded the repeal of Joint Circular No. 1 that allows widespread contractualization in government agencies and asserted their right to higher salaries.

On the same day, members of the VECO union held a picket in front of the DOLE regional office in Cebu City. They demanded the management to respect their CBA (collective bargaining agreement.)

Meanwhile, workers of San Miguel-Yamamura in Imus, Cavite held a picket to demand the regularization of factory workers who have been working for two decades. They condemned the connivance of the DOLE-Cavite and the Yamamura capitalists for keeping the workers contractuals.

The Kilos Na Manggagawa also picketed in front of the National Press Club on November 26 to call for wage increases.

On November 25, construction workers held a picket led by ADLO in front of a condominium they were building in Sta. Mesa, Manila City. They demanded



the rejection of contractualization and asserted their right to be regularized.

Commemoration of the Maguindanao massacre. Media groups held protests on November 23 in different parts of the country to commemorate the Ampatuan Massacre and the continuing harassment of the media. The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines led the mass in Ampatuan, Maguindanao to remember the eighth year of the massacre.

Meanwhile, a torch parade was launched in Bacolod City and young journalists lit candles in Tandag City in Surigao del Sur and Davao City.

Other protests. More than 1,000 Kadamay members held a rally in front of the National Housing Authority office in Quezon City on November 22 to call for the distribution of idle houses to the urban poor. Instead of facing them, the agency's guards bombed the urban poor with water cannons and arrested a protester. The rallyists stood firm and rebuilt their camp in front of the office.

At the same time, members of Panaghugpong-Kadamay in Cebu also held protests to defend the rights to housing. They were accompanied by residents of Sitio Tangke, Alaska Mambling who are threatened with demolition to give way to commercial buildings in their area.

Meanwhile, Lumad students led by Save Our Schools Network went to the Department of Justice on November 24. They condemned the continuing state violence against their ranks, including the latest case of militarization and forced evacuation in Lianga and other parts of Mindanao.

AB

Armed men harass "bungkalan" in Nueva Ecija

THE ALYANSA ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luson-Nueva Ecija (AMGL-NE) launched a fact-finding mission in Sitio Saranay, Baloc, Sto. Domingo on November 22 to investigate the harassment against farmers after they took back 17 hectares of land that were grabbed by the Sanggalang family. Led by the Damayan ng Mamamayan Laban sa Kaapihan at Kahirapan (DAMMA-KA)-Baloc, farmers started to till their land on November 15.

The AMGL reported cases of harassment to evict the farmers tilling their land. On November 30, two farmers were awakened by elements of the Provincial Public Safety Company and searched at gunpoint. Their huts were searched without warrants. The police took off with the AMGL banner that was planted outside the hut. Earlier on November 17, the Sanggalang family's armed goons removed the group's placards and streamers put up by the roadside. The same day, the Sanggalang family forcibly took the peasant group's water pump and brought this to the police station.

The 17-hectare land currently being tilled by the peasants has been awarded to them in 2007. The Sanggalang family appropriated the land and rented it out. Because the Sanggalangs were not directly tilling the land, the Municipal Agrarian Reform Office declared that this can be tilled by the peasants and they were later awarded titles.

According to Nida Aquino, DAMMA-KA spokesperson, they are prepared for any measures the Sanggalang family were planning, in case they are evicted. They have been suffering poverty and hunger for so long, this is the time to fight for the land that has been denied them. With collective struggle and unity in their area, they will surely win the fight, she added. AB

