



EDITORIAL

A thousand celebrations for the Party's 50th anniversary

This December, the entire Party and Filipino people will mark and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Party cadres, Red fighters, revolutionaries and activists in factories, schools and in guerrilla bases and zones of the New People's Army will launch a thousand and one rallies, assemblies and meetings.

Duterte and the Armed Forces of the Philippines will not be able to stop the Filipino people's celebrations, no matter how big or intensified their military operations are. In fact, early celebrations have already been launched in some areas without the fascist enemy knowing. In other areas, comrades are already busy with food preparations and cultural presentation practices with the best singers, dancers and other artists.

The AFP mounted intensified

military operations in a desperate attempt to halt any celebration of the revolutionary people. Its soldiers went on an even more rapacious rampage in communities and forests they suspect as venues for gatherings. Their strafing, artillery shelling and aerial bombardment have caused great distress among the people.

Under the guise of preventing NPA attacks, the reactionary state deployed a number of police officers

"Celebrations..." continued on page 2

NPA raids CAFGU camp in Agusan

TWO SOLDIERS OF the 3rd Special Forces Battalion and 12 CAFGU elements were captured and declared prisoners of war by the New People's Army-Agusan del Sur after Red fighters overran their camp in Barangay New Tubigon, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. The daring offensive was carried out without firing a single shot last December 19 at 3 a.m.

The NPA-NEMR also seized an M60 machine gun, 17 M16 and 4 M14 rifles, two M4 carbines, a Harris radio and hundreds of ammunition.

The people lauded the successful offensive of the people's army. The said detachment is among the more than 100 military camps in Northeastern Mindanao which serve as hives of criminals and anti-social activities. The troopers de-

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and soldiers in far-flung barrios to purportedly stand guard. This is despite the temporary unilateral ceasefire declaration of the CPP and NPA in observance of both traditional and revolutionary traditions. The CPP and NPA are ready to withdraw this declaration if proven to be disadvantageous amid relentless enemy offensives.

Whether the US-Duterte regime declares a temporary ceasefire or not in conjunction with the Christmas season, the intensification of military operations and campaigns is imminent this coming year. Rodrigo Duterte has already pushed its rubberstamp Congress and Senate to extend martial law in Mindanao and expanded its



coverage to other parts of the country through Memo Order 32. He has already formally established the National Task Force which purportedly aims to end the armed conflict through the “whole-of-nation” approach. Concurrent with the militarization of the civilian bureaucracy and the scheme to declare the CPP and NPA as “terrorist” organizations, Duterte has actually put the entire country under martial law.

By launching large-scale military operations, Duterte is squandering the people’s money in procuring more bullets, guns, cannons, mortars, rockets, helicopter and drones. These are a bane to the people who are being assailed by military

troops.

He bribes ordinary soldiers with larger salaries, and recently, CAFGU elements with financial aid while fattening the pockets of high military officials he favors with large funds they can corrupt and plunder. Duterte’s real aim is to buy their support for his fascist regime. He wants to use the AFP to interfere and manipulate the results of the 2019 elections, if this indeed will push through, to put into power those who favor his tyranny and the AFP’s military reign.

Amid this, unrest among the AFP’s ordinary soldiers against Duterte’s rotten and criminal regime is stirring. They are being ran to the ground in ceaseless military operations by Duterte’s cannon fodder. Meanwhile, the people grow more contemptuous with the widespread and forced AFP and CAFGU recruitment.

While celebrating, the people should prepare for the intensification of attacks on their lives and rights. They should intensify the resistance against martial law in the entire country.

All efforts should be exerted to unify all forces and masses to resist Duterte’s tyrannical rule and martial law with the aim of ousting his regime. Encourage all organizations and personalities to expose and condemn Duterte and his clique’s crimes and unrestrained corruption. Simultaneously, the underground movement should be strengthened to foil the regime’s brutal attacks.

The NPA should launch more tactical offensives against the most notorious AFP and PNP units behind the worst human rights violations and military abuses. These are also involved in criminal activities targeting ordinary people, and act as protectors of destructive operations of mining and commercial plantation among other plunderous corporations. These bring the most destructive impact to the people’s livelihood.

AB

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ployed therein are notorious for extorting from small-scale loggers, miners and businessmen in the area.

Ka Sandara Amihan, NPA spokesperson in the province, said that the soldiers and CAGFU troopers who were captured are being treated humanely. Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the Philippines declared that the prisoners of war shall be released once the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ceases its offensives. This is to ensure the safe release of the prisoners. The Party also called on third-party facilitators to coordinate with the concerned NPA command for their release.

The Party also complimented the successful offensives mounted by the NPA-Sorsogon in the evening of December 17. The Red fighters fired upon a police station in Magallanes downtown and subsequently attacked the PNP Mobile Force camp in Barangay San Ignacio, Gubat. Three soldiers were wounded.

In North Central Mindanao, the AFP incurred 14 casualties from counter-offensives carried out by NPA units in the triboundary of Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon at Agusan del Sur. No less than 13 encounters took place in the area. The residents reported that the cadavers of two soldiers were retrieved by the military in the evening of December 7 in Barangay Hagpa, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon. Subsequently at midnight, 12 other wounded soldiers were secretly retrieved by trucks and ambulances in Barangay Calabugao in the same town. **AB**

19 new medics in Camarines Norte

A GUERRILLA FRONT under the Armando Catapia Command (ACC or NPA-Camarines Norte) successfully conducted a province-wide training on the Basic Health Course this October. Nineteen individuals from the unit of the people's army and militia and mass organizations in the barrio completed the course.

Prospective medical officials of the people's army and militia and members of the subcommittee on health of various mass organizations were among the priority participants of the training. Most of them had limited experience on medical work. But recognizing the significance of the line work in advancing the revolution, they willingly volunteered to attend and learn.

All delegates vigorously participated in the training. They were active especially while discussing the course on First Aid because according to them, this is a staple need in times of armed encounters. The training gave the prospective medics further confidence. Their determination to save patients served as their drive to learn various medical techniques. Full-time Red fighters are challenged to perform their medical functions in times of tactical offensives and even during unexpected defensives. Meanwhile, delegates from

mass organizations pledged to deliver medical services in their respective barrios.

The training also gave emphasis to the Revolutionary Medical Code of Ethics which states the principles on how medics should deal with co-medics and patients (Red fighters, masses and even enemy troopers).

The training was a huge success as it was carried out amid unrelenting military combat and "peace and development" operations in the province since February. The operations covered eight barrios in Labo. The military also besieged and occupation various barrio centers.

After conducting the training, the Party and NPA in Camarines Norte is confident that they can withstand the attacks of the enemy and mount tactical offensives more frequently amid the intensifying armed struggle against the dictatorial and fascist US-Duterte regime. **AB**

Congress approves martial law extension

FOR THE THIRD time, the implementation of martial law in Mindanao was further extended. On December 12, the Joint Session of the House of Representatives and the Senate approved Duterte's proposal to extend martial law in the island until next year.

With a majority vote of 223-23 in the House of Representatives and 12-5 in the Senate (with one abstention), the Congress has once again paved the way for reign of military terror in Mindanao.

Progressive groups from Mindanao and supporters led by Bayan responded to the extension with protests. Simultaneous with the joint session, victims of human rights violations in Mindanao mounted a program outside the Batasang Pambansa. Sumifru workers also staged a symbolic die-in protest to portray the experience of hundreds of victims under the military reign in the island.

The youth and Sumifru workers also protested in Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila in the evening.

By subsuming the civilian bureau-

cracy under the absolute reign of the military, the intensification of human rights violations perpetrated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) is imminent. The AFP and PNP shall certainly exploit this scheme to ensure to manipulate the upcoming May 2019 elections and place their henchmen in power.

Despite the people's observance of traditional holidays this December and the temporary ceasefire declaration of the Philippines, intense military combat operations continue unabated in the regions of Mindanao. Troopers are ravaging communities and barrios in a vain attempt to sabotage celebrations by the New People's Army on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Party. **AB**

Thousands mark International Human Rights Day with protests

Over 20,000 protested in more than 20 provinces and cities in the Philippines to mark the 70th International Human Rights Day last December 10. Similar protest actions were mounted abroad by Filipinos and their supporters.

Amid martial law, more than 10,000 protested in Mindanao. They collectively condemned martial law to belie Duterte's whims on its implementation and further extension.

In Metro Manila, around 5,000 participated in the United People's March for Human Rights spearheaded by Bayan and Karapatan. The group marched from Liwasang Bonifacio, Lawton and converged at the Mendiola Arch in Manila.

Among the protesters were Lumads, Sumifru workers and individuals from other sectors from Mindanao. Dumagats, workers and farmers from Southern Tagalog also participated in the protest action.

Luzon. The Cordillera Movement Against Tyranny and Cordillera Human Rights Alliance led the protest of hundreds of individuals in Session Road, Baguio City to oppose the intimidation and suppression of human rights defenders and indigenous peoples.

Meanwhile, members of the Ilocos Human Rights Alliance and Solidarity of Peasants Against Exploitation trooped to and mounted a picket in front of the provincial capitol of La Union in San Fernando City. Assemblies and protests were also conducted in Tuguegarao City, Didipio in Nueva Vizcaya and Bangued, Abra.

In Central Luzon, farmers led by the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon and individuals from other democratic sectors marched in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

In Bicol, thousands of members of Bayan-Camarines Sur and Camarines Sur Ecumenical Movement

for Justice and Peace protested in Plaza Oragon in Naga City. Similar protests were conducted in Legazpi City and Sorsogon and the provinces of Camarines Norte, Catanduanes and Masbate.

Visayas. In Panay, Bayan and Karapatan spearheaded the United People's Action against Dictatorship in front of the Iloilo Provincial Capitol where thousands took part.

In Eastern Visayas, Bayan led the protest action of more than 800 activists in Tacloban, Leyte, and Catbalogan and Las Navas in the Samar island.

More than 1,000 members of Bayan-Negros protested in the Bacolod City Public Plaza to demand justice for the massacre of nine farmers in Sagay and the killing of Atty. Benjamin Ramos.

In Cebu City, members of Bayan and Karapatan marched from Fuente Osmeña Circle to Metro Colon. In Bohol, a similar program was mounted by farmers under Humabol-KMP and members of Gabriela in the City Square, Agora, Tagbilaran City.

Mindanao. Around 7,000 Lumad-members of MAPASU and KASALO and human rights defend-

ers protested in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte. They condemned the violent military occupation of Lumad communities and schools.

Meanwhile, Bayan spearheaded the march of 3,000 individuals in Cagayan de Oro City.

In Davao City, protesters criticized Mayor Sara Duterte and her father for the long list of human rights violations they have perpetrated. The protest was mounted in the Freedom Park and was spearheaded by Karapatan. A similar protest action was conducted in General Santos City and Tandag City.

Overseas. In Indonesia, members of the International League of People's Struggle and People's Struggle Front protested in front of the US embassy in Jakarta.

In Brussels, Belgium, the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) mobilized in support of human rights defenders in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Filipinos led by ICHRP protested in front of the Consulate General of the Philippines in New York City and marched towards the Trump Towers. They demanded an end to US military aid to the US-Duterte regime.

A similar protest action was mounted in Vancouver, Canada. **AB**



Unity march against demolition

More than 300 farm workers of Sumitomo Fruits Corporation (Sumifru) camped out in Mendiola, Manila last November 27. The workers trooped to Metro Manila to fight contractualization and assert their demand that the right of their union to collective bargaining be recognized.



They also protested in front of the Department of Labor and Employment headquarters in Intramuros, Manila on November 29 to condemn Sec. Silvestre Bello III's issuance of Assumption of Jurisdiction which prompted the violent dispersal of their picket and the murder of two strikers.

Meanwhile, the workers gained broad support including those of the Workers Advocates for Rights Network (WARN) and students of the University of the Philippines at University of Santo Tomas.

Drivers and operators protest against jeepney modernization

The No to Jeepney Phaseout Coalition and Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuiper at Operator Nationwide (PISTON) spearheaded a nationwide coordinated action last December 5 to demand the abolition of the bogus and pro-capitalist jeepney modernization program which shall commence on March 2019.

Drivers and operators marched and converged in front of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) in East Avenue, Quezon City. The Baguio-Benguet Movement Against Jeepney Phaseout and PISTON-Central Luzon mounted similar protest actions in Baguio City and in front of the regional office of the LTFRB in San Fernando, Pampanga, respectively.

Various groups of jeepney, truck, bus and UV express drivers and operators assembled, in time with the Senate budget hearing of the Department of (DOTr), to oppose its bogus and anti-poor program. Groups of truckers from Cavite, Laguna and Bulacan and bus operators from Cavite and Batangas participated in the said action.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 Angkas drivers under the Riders of the Philippines protested at the People Power Monument to oppose the decision of the Supreme Court to stop cease their operation. The drivers who lost their jobs due to the decision demanded that the operation of the private transportation company be allowed.



Activists lambast Red-tagging campaign

Members of Bayan conducted a press conference and picket protest in Plazoletegay in Iloilo City to condemn the recent distribution of posters by state elements tagging 45 members of progressive organizations as "terrorist communists." Among those listed are members of the National Union of People's Lawyers, Karapatan and League of Filipino Students. A similar protest action was mounted in Aklan on the next day.

Anti-TRAIN law protests

Progressive individuals spearheaded by GABRIELA protested in Mendiola, Manila on December 14 to oppose the almost one-year implementation of the anti-people Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law. The policy resulted in rising inflation over the year.

Protests for the environment

The Center for Environmental Concerns and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment mounted a protest action in Mendiola, Manila after conducting the first conference of environment defenders on December 7. They demanded justice for the extrajudicial killings of their fellow advocates.

The conference delegates also asserted that the construction of megadams, operation of foreign mining and plantation corporations and reclamation projects be stopped. They said that these violates the rights of the people to a safe and healthy environment.

AB

Duterte's continuing reign of terror

In conjunction with the commemoration of the December 10 International Human Rights Day, Ang Bayan (AB) issued a report culled from its news reports of human rights violation perpetrated this year by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other armed agents of the US-Duterte regime. The complete article may be accessed at www.philippinerevolution.info.

This year, AB monitored an average of almost 82 cases of human rights violations per day or a total number of 29,869 victims from January to December 7, 2018. Close to four victims were killed every two weeks while at least three were illegally arrested and detained per week. An average of at least 12 activists and progress-

ives were threatened, intimidated and harassed per day. This summary report affirms the grave state of human rights in the Philippines even as numerous other cases are yet to be reported in AB.

With the implementation of Duterte's National Internal Security Plan (NISP) this year which purportedly aims to decimate the



revolutionary armed movement, the fascist suppression of civil liberties and democratic rights and brutality against the people, especially the oppressed masses of peasants, workers and national minorities has intensified.

Killings, frustrated killings and torture

Based on the initial tally of AB, there were at least 106 civilian victims of extrajudicial (political) killings from January to December 7 this year. In Negros Island, which is dubbed a social volcano because of intense land conflicts, 23 victims of extrajudicial killings, 18 of whom are peasants, were reported. The victims include nine members of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW) who were massacred by suspected Special Civilian Active Auxiliary elements in Sagay City, Negros Occidental on October 20.

Twenty victims were also killed in the Bicol region. Among them are five residents of Barangay Nabongsoran, Aroroy, Masbate who were massacred by CAFGU troop-

ers on June 8. Meanwhile, 44 other victims were killed in Mindanao under the regime's continuing martial law.

On top of this, there were also

47 victims of frustrated killings. The victims include Jerry Alicante and Victor Ageas, members of Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farms (NAMASUFA) who were shot by unidentified men in Compostela Valley last November 11 and September 4, respectively.

At least 37 individuals were also subjected to torture. Among the victims are five minors who were mauled and threatened to be killed by 19th IB troopers on November 18 in Magpet, North Cotabato.

Bombing, strafing, attacks on communities and forcible evacuation

Twenty-two incidents of indiscriminate bombing and/or strafing and 54 incidents of military occupation and attacks on communities resulting in the evacuation of about 24,667 individuals (excluding Marawi residents who remain in evacuation centers up to the present) were reported by AB this year.

Four incidents of bombing and/or strafing perpetrated by various military units were recorded in Northern Mindanao. Meanwhile, 11 incidents of occupation and attacks were reported each in Southern Tagalog and Caraga. Massive evacuation of Moro residents from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (12,100

evacuees) and peasant and Lumad residents from Caraga (8,791) were reported as well.

Among the most vicious military actions were the bombing and mortar shelling carried out by the AFP Joint Task Force Central with the assistance of US Army Special Forces in Barangay Bialong, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao on September

5 which resulted in the killing of one civilian and wounding of two others; the strafing and bombing launched by the Joint Task Force Lanao in three towns of Lanao del Sur which resulted in the mass evacuation of more than 11,000 individuals; and the repeated evacuation of thousands of Manobo from Lianga and San Agustin Surigao del Sur and hundreds of Dumagats from Gen. Nakar, Quezon due to the unrelenting abuses perpetrated by AFP troopers occupying their respective communities.

Illegal arrest and detention

This year, at least 271 were illegally arrested and detained by military and police force. On top of this are 407 victims of arbitrary detention.

In Central Luzon, 50 cases of illegal arrest and detention were reported. Among the victims are 42 striking NutriAsia workers, their supporters and members of the media who were illegally arrested and detained by elements of the Philippine National Police-Meycauyan after the violent dispersal of their picketline in front of the

factory in Marilao, Bulacan on June 14 (23 victims) and July 30 (19 victims).

In the Davao region, at least 45 were illegally arrested and detained. Among the starkest cases is the illegal arrest of 18 leaders and activists, including former Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and ACT Teachers Party Rep. France

Castro, who were all slapped with trumped-up charges of kidnapping and human trafficking in Tagum City last November 29. A day earlier, elements of the police, 56th IB and the Municipal Social Work and Development Office put up roadblocks, interrogated and arbitrarily detained them together with 61 other delegates of the National Humanitarian Mission and the Manobo evacuees they rescued from Talaingod, Davao del Norte.

Threat, Harassment and Intimidation

At least 4,282 individuals have been subjected to threat, harassment or intimidation this year. More than a thousand victims were from Caraga (1,659), 1,600 of whom are Manobo evacuees from Lianga who were harassed by 75th IB troopers on their way to and even while staying in an evacuation center on July 16-18.

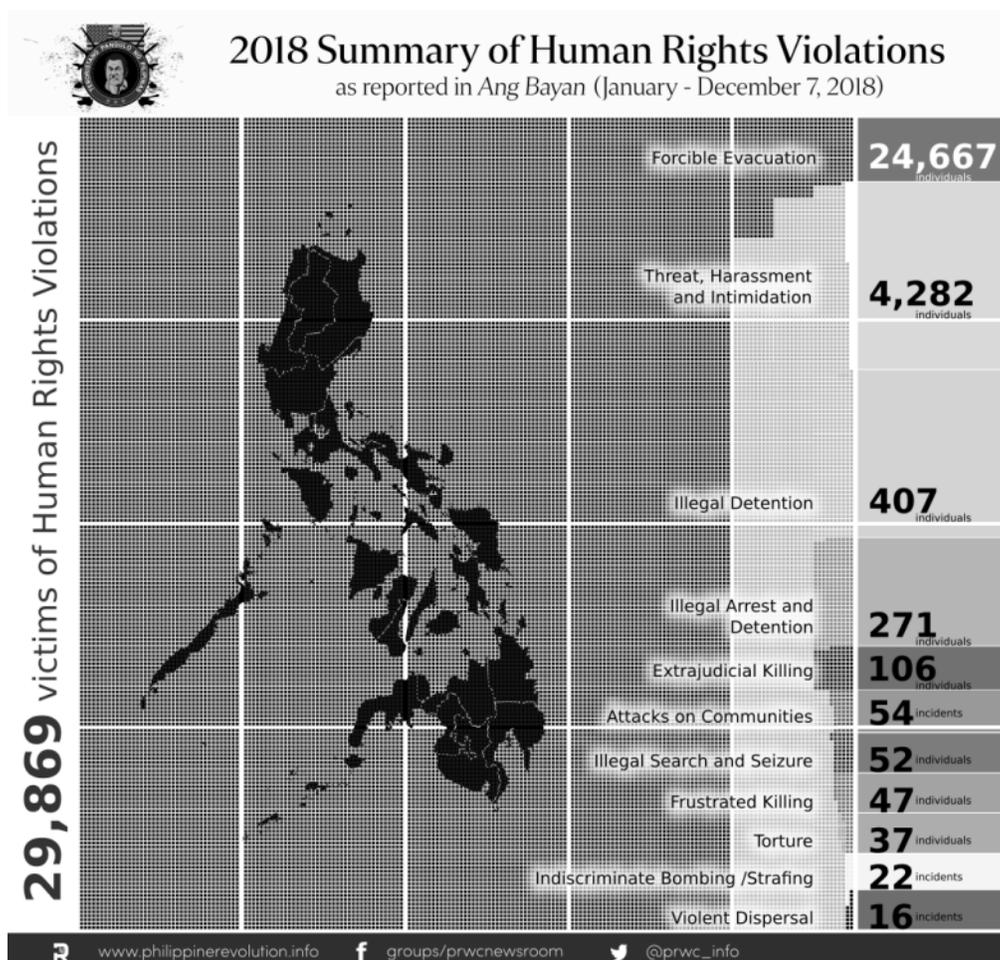
The victims also include National Democratic Front of the Philippines consultants Rey Casambre, Adelberto Silva, Vicente Ladlad and Rafael Baylosis who were all illegally arrested this year. They are among the 600 names of

activists and political personalities included in the regime's proscription case against the CPP and NPA.

The regime recently issued Executive Order 70, which created the National Task Force (which shall purportedly implement the

whole-of-nation approach, derived from the "whole-of-government" concept espoused by the US State Department's 2009 Counterinsurgency Guide), and Memorandum Order 32 (which directly deployed additional battalions to three regions to supposedly counter "lawless violence and terrorism") to push for the institutionalization of its NISP. With this scheme to establish a fascist dictatorship across the country, the further intensification of suppression is imminent this coming year.

In a separate report, Southern Mindanao registered at least 90 cases of extrajudicial killings (EJKs) in the region under the Duterte regime, 21 of which were perpetrated from January to November 19, 2018. At least 12 of the victims were from Compostela Valley, dubbed as a "valley of death." At least 27 civilians were also illegally arrested this year, six of whom are still in detention in addition to the other 49 political prisoners in the region arrested and detained under the Duterte regime. Meanwhile, 927 individuals were slapped with trumped-up charges this year in the North Central Mindanao Region.



AFP's all-out operation in Northern Mindanao is a bane to the people

The New People's Army (NPA)-Bukidnon ambushed the soldiers of the 8th IB last December 20, 2 p.m. at Sitio Nasandigan, Barangay Kalabugao, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon. Three were slain and two wounded while retreating.

The ambushed troopers are part of the units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducting all-out operation and non-stop bombing in the boundaries of Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon and Agusan del Sur since the first week of December. The attacks are part of the AFP's attempt to halt preparations for traditional holidays in the communities.

Apart from the 8th IB, the US-Duterte regime also mobilized more than 400 troops from the 58th IB, Charlie Company of the 4th ID, 4th Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC), Scout Rangers, Special Action Forces of the Philippine National Police and CAFGU units. From December 2-14, at least 43 6x6 military trucks roared into rural villages

to transport enemy soldiers into the battle zone. The AFP conducted almost daily artillery shelling and aerial bombardment using MD-520 attack helicopters which traumatized civilian residents in the area.

The military conducted intensive operations in the area to pave the way for the Kalabugao Plains Peace and Development Convergence Program (KP-PDCP). Preparations for the project have been underway since 2016 which were operationalized through government agencies, as stated in the accomplishment report of its Technical Working Committee.

The Department of Interior and Local Government facilitated the improvement of water system,



spillway construction and road rehabilitation of Barangay Bulonay to Pulangui River.

Meanwhile, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples provided assistance on desalinization and titling codification of traditional laws. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources implemented the greening and planting of at least 1,330 trees in the area, most of which are not beneficial to the community.

"AFP..." continued on page 9

Political prisoner dies

ALEX ARIAS, A 63-year old political prisoner, died after suffering from a heart attack at around 7:30 on the eve of the International Human Rights Day. He was declared dead on arrival at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City. He was the third political detainee to have died under the Duterte regime.

Arias suffered from high blood pressure and diabetes while in detention. He was the former chairperson of the Pagkakaisa at Ugnayan ng mga Magbubukid sa Laguna, an affiliate of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

He was arrested last April 7, 2012 and slapped with trumped-up cases of kidnapping and frustrated homicide, and detained in the Metro Manila District Jail.

Arias is among the 160 sick and elderly political detainees that Duterte promised amnesty as a sign of goodwill in conjunction with the peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Bernabe Ocasla, a peasant leader, also died in prison on November 28, 2016 after suffering a heart attack. His heart complication and high blood pressure worsened while in detention. On September 12, 2017, Marcos Aggalao, 74, also died in the Kalinga Provincial Hospital. He suffered from dementia, pneumonia and high blood pressure while in detention.

According to Karapatan, the deaths of the three political prisoners under the Duterte regime is a grave reality whereas former First Lady Imelda Marcos and other personalities are given special treatment despite having been proven guilty.

AB

State elements torch unionist's house in Compostela

AT AROUND 2:00 a.m. on December 15, unidentified men burned down the house of Paul John Dizon, chairperson of NAMASUFA (Nagkahiusang Mamumuo sa Sayupa Farms) in Compostela, Compostela Valley.

The house of Vicente Barrios, former chairperson of NAMASUFA and Kilusang Mayo Uno-Southern Mindanao Region chairperson, which stood adjacent Dizon's, and the union's office were also consumed by fire. The burned houses and office were located 30 meters away from the Packing Plant 220 of Sumifru.

The assailants first attempted to burn Dizon's house on November 29. They also strafed the house the following day. These incidents occurred simultaneous with the camp-out mounted by NAMASUFA in Mendiola.

AB

The late Bush's hidden war crimes

The US mass media was all praise to ex-president George Herbert Walker Bush or Bush Sr. when he died last November 30. This flattery by the mass media and elitist politicians aims to obscure US imperialism's war crimes and genocidal violence. But for Bush Sr.'s critics, his crimes against humanity can never be forgotten.

In particular, Bush Sr.'s war crimes in the 1991 Gulf War wherein he was dubbed as the "butcher of Baghdad" can never be forgotten as he was responsible for the deaths of 200,000 Iraqis through massive aerial bombardment.

War lies

According to his critics, Bush Sr. peddled lies to justify the imperialist war against Iraq. He used propaganda in many forms to amass support for his war of aggression in the Persian Gulf. After Iraq under Saddam Hussein occupied Kuwait, its smaller neighbor, on August 1990, Bush Sr. rushed to portray Saddam as a "threat and bane to the world."

What Bush Sr. did not disclose is that April Glaspe, former US ambassador to Iraq, was the one who gave Saddam the go signal on July 1990, a week before he attacked and annexed Kuwait.

To amass greater support for the 1991 Gulf War, Bush Sr. condemned Saddam as a brutal dictator who violated international laws

for annexing Kuwait and declared him a threat to US national security. Bush Sr. used the issue of human rights in his grandiose speeches and even dubbed Saddam a "living Hitler."

The US fabricated stories about the so-called brutal killings of infants in a Kuwaiti hospital by Iraqi soldiers. A 15-year old Kuwaiti girl, named "Nayirah," testified in the US Congress that she witnessed Iraqi soldiers entering the Kuwaiti hospital. It was uncovered later on that "Nayirah" was actually the daughter of Kuwait's ambassador to the US and was coached by a public relations company for her congressional testimony. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported that its reporters did not come across any evidence of the so-called infant killings.

Bush Sr. campaigned for the expulsion of Saddam's forces in Kuwait for its use of chemical weapons in the past and its continuous development of nuclear arms. Despite having supported Saddam, then a US ally, the US condemned his use of chemical

weapons against Kurds in the city of Halabja in 1988 which resulted in the deaths of 6,800 individuals, most of whom were civilians.

Documents recently released by the US government exposed that the main aim of launching the war against Saddam's regime is to secure oil resources in the region. Bush Sr. signed the National Security Directive 26 in 1989 and National Security Directive 54 in January 1991 which both declared that oil in the Middle East is important to US national security and that the US will continue to forcibly defend its interests.

Bush Sr.'s accusation that Saddam was stockpiling chemical weapons is both a hypocritical and big lie as it was the US which gave Saddam billions of dollars in military and economic aid since the 1980s until Iraq annexed Kuwait.

In 1992, it was reported on a prominent US television channel that both the Reagan and Bush Sr. regimes allowed funds, chemicals, agricultural loans, dual-use technology of chemical weapons and other war materiel to enter Iraq.

War crimes

The US-led coalition declared war against Iraq on January 17, 1991 and quickly defeated Saddam.

"Bush..." continued on page 10

"AFP..." from page 8

The Department of Public Works and Highways completed the construction of the road connecting Agusan del Sur to Bukidnon—the Danay-Kalabugao-Adtawon Road—which cost P752 million. This aims to ease the entry of materials to the underdeveloped area of Kalabugao for the KP-PDCP.

They also recruited two regular members of the Philippine Army in the communities of Kalabugao to maintain "peace" in the area.

Several other agencies were mobilized to fulfill the project in

order to purportedly "develop" Kalabugao which the New People's Army "preys on." This is an initial implementation of the "whole-of-nation approach" in accordance with the National Internal Security Plan of the Duterte regime.

Due to continuous military attacks, the lives and livelihood of the Lumad residents were disrupted. The attacks have massively affected the residents of Sitio Lakbangan and Kalhaan in Barangay Minalwang, Claveria, Misamis Oriental. Other barangays such as Kalabugao, Bulonay, and Hagna in

Impasug-ong, Bukidnon and Sitio Kulili, Barangay San Vicente, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur were also affected.

Meanwhile, despite the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA's declaration of temporary unilateral ceasefire in conjunction with the celebration of traditional holidays, the AFP asserted its non-observance of a ceasefire.

In launching relentless combat operations, the AFP doused the high hopes of their foot soldiers to have a brief respite during the holidays to be with their families. **AB**

CPI-Maoist holds 5th Plenum

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of India (Maoist) held its 5th Plenum in November 2018 and elected a new set of Central Committee (CC) members. Former General Secretary Comrade Ganapathy volunteered to resign from his post to give way to younger comrades. He cited his worsening health condition and advancing age as basis for his resignation.

The new Central Committee honored Comrade Ganapathy for his contribution as the CPI-Maoist's General Secretary since 1992, leading the Party through various Party mergers and internal conflicts. The CPI-Maoist is waging a protracted people's war against the reactionary system in India. According to the Party, his key contribution was strengthening the collective Party leadership in the CC.

Upon deliberation, the Plenum elected Comrade Basavaraju to stand as the Party's General Secretary. He has been a member of the CC for 27 years and of the Political Bureau for 18 years. He was mainly tasked to head the Central Military Commission, contributing to the advancement of the people's war in India.

The Party noted that these changes mark the Party's advancement and development. They added that these will strengthen the Party leadership in its general membership. Despite the SAMADHAN, the counter-revolutionary offensive of the enemy, they are ever-determined to march forward. AB

'Yellow Vest' protests in France continue

THE PROTEST MOVEMENT of the French people against the anti-poor government of President Emmanuel Macron has now entered its fifth week. (*Read related article in Ang Bayan November 21, 2018.*)

Compared to previous protests, the weekly demonstration (every Saturday) last December 15 in Paris and other cities of France such as those in Saint-Etienne, Bordeaux and Marseille are smaller and calmer but continue to manifest the anger of the people against the elitist government.

Despite the decreasing ranks of protesters, Macron was forced to give in and commit to lower taxes and increase wages to temper the yellow vests.

The people, however, continue to doubt the anti-poor government. According to a protester, the imposition of high taxes impeded the country's advancement and the drive of its entrepreneurs, artisans, small businesses, workers while allowing the rich minority to evade taxation.

The demonstrations, which were dubbed as the 'yellow vest movement' because protesters wore fluorescent vests that are commonly used by drivers in France when repairing vehicles, started in November 17. The protests which were initially directed against taxation, grew and expanded in the whole country as an anti-government movement that pulled down President Macron's popularity.

The people of Belgium, a nearby country, emulated the yellow vest protests against the neoliberal policies imposed by their government. AB

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In the course of the war, the US dropped 88,500 tons of bombs in Iraq and Kuwait, resulting in many civilian casualties.

In a report on February 1991, no less than 408 civilian Iraqis died when US planes bombed an air-raid shelter in Amiriyah in Baghdad, Iraq's capital. According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Amiriyah facility was used as a civil defense shelter during the Iran-Iraq war, but the US still attacked this without warning. This is a grave violation of laws of war, HRW added.

The US destroyed essential civilian infrastructures in Iraq including electric plants, water sanitation facilities, food plants and flour mills among others. In a report by the Washington Post on June 1991, the bombardment of civilian facilities by the end of the

war was premeditated and not an accident. After the war, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis were slain and considered "collateral damage." That month, a group from Harvard University conducting a research on public health issued a report stating that the destruction of civilian structures resulted in malnutrition and epidemics such as cholera and typhus.

In a research conducted on January 1992 by Beth Osborne Daponte of the US Census Bureau, she estimated that 1991 Gulf War resulted in the death of 158,000 Iraqis, including 13,000 who immediately died, and the destruction of 70,000 electrical plants and water sanitation facilities.

The US amassed a huge sum of profit by launching the 1991 Gulf War as it was able to sell its stockpiled modern armaments to various

countries that participated in this war of aggression. It was also able to control oil supply from the Middle East and acquire a huge portion of oil profits from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other emirates by binding them to military sales contracts wherein the US has control over modern war matériel such as the anti-missile system.

In 2003, US officials stripped a thousand pages from the United Nations Report disclosing that it has actually supplied the materials for the manufacturing of chemical weapons in Iraq. A report by Die Tageszeitung, a German news outfit, disclosed that 24 US-based corporations and the Reagan and Bush Sr. regimes were actually involved in illegally supplying Saddam's government with materials for manufacturing weapons of mass destruction. AB