



EDITORIAL

Fight all-out the ruthless fascist terrorism in the countryside

The US-Duterte regime's fascist terrorism in the countryside was ruthless this year. The cruelty of Duterte's armed minions against the peasant and poor masses is without equal. Amid raging pandemic and calamities, psywar, intelligence and intimidation operations are relentless in villages and communities which the enemy suspects of having mass organizations or Party branches or supportive or sympathetic to the New People's Army (NPA). This suppression campaign against the masses, under the so-called Joint Campaign Plan-Kapanatagan, is carried out in parallel with large-scale, intense and sustained combat operations against NPA guerrilla fronts.

Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) teams of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) lay siege, occupy and reign over villages. Its despicable aim is to eliminate any trace of revolutionary influence. Its operations last 3-6 months at the minimum, or up to three years in a cluster of villages.

Its fascist objective is to destroy the masses' unity and cooperation. They pinpoint and gang up on

those they suspect of being members of mass organizations, or having a relative in the NPA, a Party cadre, a former NPA fighter or just anyone who refuse to bow, surrender or serve as informant.

The fascists use red-tagging. They announce names over the radio or in tarpaulins. They paint a red X on the homes of those they suspect. They summon or take "suspects" in to report or "clear their names" in military camps

where they are made to "surrender" and serve the enemy or take part in projects where the military rakes in money.

Those who refuse are arbitrarily imprisoned or threatened with death. They get repeated visits in their homes, which later get surrounded, entered or raided and searched, usually in the dead of night. Those who continue to resist are eventually liquidated. There are increasing cases of massacres later made to appear as encounters with the NPA. This 2020, at least 290 peasants were killed by the fascists.

The peasant masses are compelled to follow arbitrary policies imposed by the fascists, such as limiting amount of food and supply purchases, or prohibiting them to work in their fields on the pretext of "social distancing." All these have

no legal bases, violate their rights and a burden on the masses.

Community peace is disturbed. These ruffians promote cockfighting, all-night drinking, drug use, pornography and abuse of women. They fire their weapons at night to intimidate people. They drop bombs and fire artillery in mountains near villages, damaging farms and property of the masses and causes grave fear, especially among children.

The enemy spread intrigues non-stop to destroy the masses mutual trust and destroy their organizations. They vilify the people's army and threaten the village folk that they will suffer the consequence of any NPA tactical offensive in their area.



The fascist regime's dirty war is causing grave damage in some guerrilla fronts. The masses have become passive and disorganized and could not resist in the face of the enemy's onslaught and abuses. This is due to some shortcoming of Party committees and NPA units to quickly adapt to the enemy's siege tactic and carry out the necessary steps to maintain firm unity and cooperation with the masses.

Still, in many guerrilla fronts, the masses, together with their army, have valiantly stood up and fought back. Despite their losses, they continue to rise up and resist.

With firm assistance and guidance of the Party and NPA, the masses have remained united and have collectively acted and fought tooth and nail. With the army, they are not helpless. They stand firmly for their rights and fight for their well-being. They stand by each other. The welfare of one is fought by all. They are able to collectively and courageously fight cruelty and oppression. They have accumulated rich experiences in fighting back,

openly or though other creative means. They collectively disobey the enemy, run circles around or completely ignore them. There find ways as long as they are determined and imbued with a fighting spirit.

The mass organizations continue to be strengthened and expanded to forge their unity and raise their determination and capability to resist. Even if enemy forces are in the village, they can meet and assemble without the fascists seeing or hearing. The strongest organizations are active in propaganda work and education. They thoroughly denounce the terrorist crimes of the AFP and Duterte regime and expose their lies.

In the face of the regime's fascist repression, the link between the masses and the people's army should not be severed. As it is of utmost importance, countless ways of communication and correspondence are developed. The people's army perseveres in assisting the masses' antifeudal struggles. They also actively fight against the enemy's armed minions. The enemy's spy network is disrupted. Those threatened by the enemy are temporarily taken in or brought to a safe haven. The fascist criminals in the villages are punished--sniped at and blasted away.

Across the country, the masses' has proven that their determination to fight and overcome fascist abuses will not be crushed. Lessons and inspiration must be drawn from experiences of the masses, the army and the Party's undaunted resistance, as well as the further deepening of the revolutionary mass base in the countryside.

In its desire to remain in power and perpetuate its reign of plunder and corruption, the Duterte fascist regime will undoubtedly continue to oppress and burden the masses. But the more Duterte resorts to cruelty and brutality, the more the masses and the people's army are determined to resist and carry forward the people's war.

AB

ANG Bayan

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Mass protests amid lockdown

The Duterte regime exploited the Covid-19 pandemic to suppress the people's rights to express, organize and protest. The militarist lockdown brutally implemented by the police and military fended off the outbreak of massive protests for aid, livelihood and rights. Despite this, democratic sectors were able to mount several large and small protest actions this year.

Based on initial data by Ang Bayan, there were more than 400 protest actions this 2020. Twelve of these were major mobilizations in Metro Manila. Next to the latter, the highest number of protests were launched in Southern Tagalog and Cebu. On top of rallies, activists also conducted barricades, cultural protests, collective land cultivation, pickets, caravans and camp outs.

Large and small protests

The largest protest was held on November 30 in commemoration of the Bonifacio Day. This was participated in by around 5,000 individuals to demand the junking of the regime's Anti-Terror Law. Most protests across the country this year were directed against the said law, including small yet frequent protests in various urban centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The youth participated in most of the protests.

There were also protests against rice importation liberalization, ABS-CBN shutdown, red-tagging, harassment and killings, demolition and land reclamation. Activists also rallied to demand protection of health workers, mass

testing, emergency aid, safe re-opening of schools, resumption of jeepney operations, increase in basic salary and hazard pay, and additional budget for social services. Protests were also held to condemn the killing of activists including Randall Echanis and Zara Alvarez, as well as the persecution of Reina Nasino and her infant daughter River.

At the onset of the lockdown, organizations skirted through lockdown restrictions and led various protests within houses and communities. This was participated in by around 10-20 neighboring families who held noise barrages and posted their demands in their social media accounts.

These were held in conjunction with the conduct of online protests and rallies. The biggest of which was the Labor Day protests wherein participants were seen taking part in the program to listen to speeches and press their demands. A quick picket was simultaneously held at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City.

Outdoor protests

The first outdoor protest was

held on April 1 in Barangay Bagong Pag-asa in Quezon City to condemn the absence of aid for the urban poor. The police immediately and violently dispersed the protests.

Activists were again pushed to take it to the streets on June 4 after the regime's Anti-Terror Law hurdled through Congress. More than 1,000 converged at UP Diliman to condemn the railroading of the said law. They again assembled in the campus on June 12. In succeeding months, the university and the office of the Commission on Human Rights in the same campus served as centers of protests including several major mobilizations such as the SONA rallies. Protesters strictly observed physical distancing and wore face masks.

The transportation launched the highest number of mobilizations. Jeepney drivers and operators picketed more than ten times to demand the resumption of jeepney operations.

Proressive individuals and organizations also participated in more than five of the ABS-CBN workers' protests in front the station in Quezon City.

The first mobilization in Mendiola, Manila was spearheaded by the LGBT groups on June 26. This was followed by protest actions by the urban poor, and rallies in commemoration of the Peasant Month and the International Human Rights Day.

During all major mobilizations, local protests were simultaneously held in the cities of Baguio, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Davao and others. These were participated in by around 150-300 rallyists.

In sum, more than 300 activists and volunteers were arrested and temporarily detained while on their way or during rallies and relief operations for purportedly violating lockdown protocols.



PNP arrests 7 activists on Human Rights Day

Elements of the Philippine National Police (PNP)-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group illegally arrested seven activists at different places in Metro Manila on December 10 in conjunction with the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day.

Operatives simultaneously ransacked the houses of Manila Today editor Lady Ann Salem, and trade unionists Dennise Velasco, Rodrigo Esparago, Romina Astudillo, Mark Ryan Cruz, Joel Demate and Jaymie Gregorio, Jr. They were arrested and slapped with trumped up charges based on planted evidences of firearms and explosives. The search warrants used in the operations were all issued by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert. The said judge is notorious for conniving with PNP Chief Gen. Debold Sinas in perpetrating numerous arrests in Negros and the National Capital Region. Progressive lawmakers urged the Supreme Court to investigate Vil-

lavert's office for serving as a "warrant factory" against activists.

The incident was met with widespread condemnation as an attack against press freedom and the right to unionize. Manila Today is among the organizations that was red-tagged by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict in a recent Senate hearing for publishing stories that are critical against the regime. The unionists were arrested for being active in the campaign against contractualization in big companies such as PLDT, Jollibee, Regent, Super 8, Pepsi and others.

Red-tagged Doctor, killed in Negros

A doctor who was accused of

being a member of the New People's Army (NPA) was gunned down by the regime's death squad on December 15 in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental. The victims was identified as Dr. Mary Rose Sancelan, head of the local task force against Covid-19 and the only doctor in the city health office. Her husband, Edwin, who was accompanying her on the way home, was also killed.

Before the murder, Sancelan was repeatedly red-tagged by Kagubak, an anticommunist paramilitary group under the operational command of the police and military in Negros. In 2018, she was falsely tagged as JB Regalado, spokesperson of the NPA-Central Negros. In 2019, Sancelan issued a video statement expressing fear for her safety but decided to stay in the province to continue to serve the people. AB

AFP's crimes in Sultan Kudarat and Western Samar

THE TASK FORCE Central (TFC) of the military is perpetrating unabated atrocities in Sultan Kudarat. Last September 10, more than fifteen 15 families in Sitio Tupi Bato, Midtungok, Sen. Ninoy Aquino were displaced after their houses and farm produce were razed altogether by the 37th IB.

The regional NPA unit reported that nearly 2,800 Dulangan Manobos, Tidurays, Moros and settlers fell victims to harassment and killings by the said unit from January to November this year.

Its crimes include the killing of Milboy Dakula, 17, and Dino Limboy, 23, on September 4 in Barangay Santa Clara, Kalamansig. On September 5 in the same barangay, soldiers hogtied and hung from a tree, Cris Macargas, a 40-year old mentally-challenged man. On October 22, soldiers ransacked, looted and burned a house at Sitio Ebe, Barangay Lagubang, Sen. Ninoy Aquino.

The TFC is under the Western Mindanao Command and comprised of elements of the 37th IB, 7th IB, 6th IB and PNP Special Action Force.

Western Samar. The last victim killed by the 46th IB in the province was Joey Ocasla, 38, resident of Barangay Sinalangtan, Calbiga. He was gunned down by soldiers after opening the door of his house on October 23, 3 a.m. They were looking for his wife who is a barangay captain.

The fascists also killed in September Juanita Pacayra, captain of Barangay Antol.

Farmer Teddy Solayao, resident of Barangay Magdawat, was also killed by the 46th IB in his farm in August.

End state terrorism!

Three thousand individuals led by Karapatan and Bayan marched to Mendiola, Manila on December 10 to mark the International Human Rights Day. They call for **an end to state terrorism.**

They demanded a stop to attacks against progressives and activists and to the state's deadly red-tagging campaign. Simultaneously, four organizations and two lawmakers filed a case at the Office of the Ombudsman to sack three officials of the NTF-ELCAC who are actively red-tagging activists.

The pandemic brought forth protests of millions peoples

The year 2020 saw an extremely unprecedented economic downturn and health crisis. Millions of people were infected and have died, while many others have lost their jobs and incomes. Poverty and hunger worsened across the globe. Instead of providing aid and support, and strengthening public health systems, many governments opted to resort to curtailing civil rights and fascism to suppress the demands of their peoples. These conditions, on top the longstanding crisis of the capitalist system, served as a fertile ground for mass protest movements to emerge and spread. These actions were participated in by the highest number of peoples in the past five decades.

This includes the protest of 250 million farmers and workers in India against the neoliberal agricultural policies imposed by the pro-imperialist Modi regime. Millions marched to the national capital and other parts of the country, and got past through thousands of barricades and police checkpoints to demand their government to junk all its anti-people measures and provide them aid. The protest movement gained wide support from middle forces, media and other institutions. India is currently the second highest in terms of Covid-19 infections.

In the US, the powerful Black Lives Matter movement gained ground amid the onslaught of the worst health crisis in the country. Massive protests broke out and began to spread in May. It peaked

in June wherein approximately 26 million protested in various parts of the country. As of October, the said movement was able to mount more than 7,000 protest actions. The movement further gained strength due to the people's growing discontentment over Donald Trump's failed pandemic response, as well as his fascist and racist policies. The movement has actively campaigned against Donald Trump's presidential bid last November. The US has recorded the highest number of infections and fatality across the globe.

In Indonesia, hundreds of thousands of workers participated in 3-day general strike in about 60 locations against a bill that deny them of their benefits and pave way for contractualization.

In Thailand and Hongkong,

hundreds of thousands also protested against the political systems and repressive policies of their respective countries. Around 100,000 individuals participated during the height of protests which demanded an dismantle the absolute powers of the monarchy in Thailand. In Hongkong, there are continuing protests against the China-backed extradition law. Both movements are spearheaded and mostly comprised of the youth.

In Israel and Lebanon, tens of thousands rallied against the failed pandemic responses of their respective governments, the economic downturn caused by the lockdowns, as well as the corruption of their high officials. Massive protests in Spain and Turkey also pressed for an increase in aid. In France, Italy, UK and Belgium, where the impact of the first wave of infections was worst, health workers continue to protest for a just compensation and protection.

This December, more than 50,000 rallied in France against brutality and racism. In Nigeria, the successfully asserted their demand to dismantle SARS (counterpart of SWAT in the Philippines) which is notorious for brutal human rights violations.

Since March, series of protests were mounted by poor residents of Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala and Chile to demand aid and budget for social services, as well as increased support for health workers. Biggest of which was in Chile where 120,000 rallyists marched to assert women's rights and condemn the inflation which has resulted in extremely high food prices and water rates. In Colombia, workers launched a general strike against human rights violations amid rising cases of Covid-19 infections in the country.



A woman in the people's war

There are many women who embrace the sacrifices and challenges of life in the New People's Army (NPA). With firmness, they perform their tasks as equal counterparts of male fighters. These women include Paolin, Mimi and Jellyn, young women fighters from various walks of life who found acceptance and equality in the people's army.

Ka Paolin, revolutionary mother

Ka Paolin is a member of a propaganda and education committee in a province. She serves as teacher to her comrades who are unable to read and write. She also teaches cultural performances, and mass and Party courses.

Her parents are both leading cadres of the Party and NPA. She decided to follow their footsteps and joined the people's army when she turned 18. This was where she met her husband.

She became pregnant and temporarily went on leave of absence to ensure the safe delivery of her baby at the height of martial law in Mindanao. She was very stressed as she knew that soldiers would not respect her rights as a nursing mother.

With a heavy heart, she had to leave and entrust her three-month old baby to the care of a trusted relative. Returning to the NPA unit, she brought with her photographs of her child. Upon arriving back in camp, she was welcomed by her mother with a tight embrace. "Now, you probably already know why I had to entrust you to your lola," her motherly jokingly told her while in tears.

Ka Mimi, semi-proletariat

Ka Mimi is a platoon medic. She is responsible for ensuring the health of comrades and cleanliness in camp. This pandemic, she actively participates in conducting medical missions and education campaign on Covid-19 in communities within their unit's area of responsibility. As a fighter, she feels very fulfilled seeing the trust of

barriofolk whom they serve.

Ka Mimi hailed from a city. At the age of 18, she worked as a contractual employee of a palm oil processing plants. In one of these, she received a measly ₱180-daily wage for 12 hours of work. The amount is lower by ₱100 compared to what her male counterparts receive. Like other factory employees, she was not allowed to sit, only allowed to have a 30-minute lunch-break, and limited bathroom breaks. She had no health benefits.

As her salary was not enough to make ends meet, she was pushed to engage in several antisocial activities to feed her children. She was also abused by her husband who once electrocuted her.

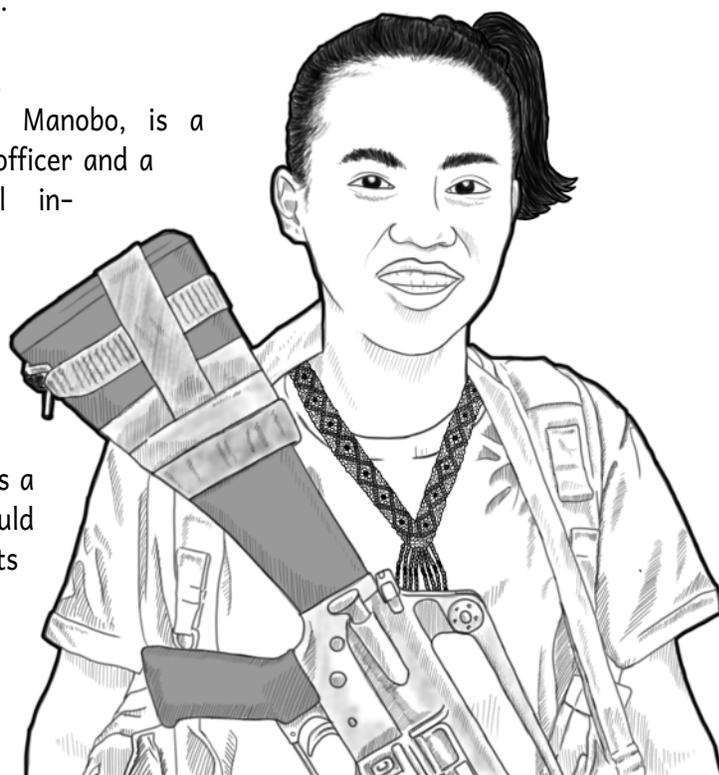
Ka Mimi first met and spoke to comrades when she returned to her home province. She attended an educational discussion in an NPA camp and decided to stay there for a week until she decided to become a full-time fighter.

Ka Jellyn, Lumad

Ka Jellyn, a Manobo, is a company supply officer and a platoon political instructor. She does not find life in the people's army different as she is used to life in the mountains. As a child, she would help her parents do household chores and harvest sweet potatoes at their farm.

She joined the NPA in November 2014 at the age of 18. In 2018, she was able to take part in an NPA ambush against a unit of the 66th IB wherein 17 soldiers were killed. One Red fighter was killed on their part. Ka Jellyn said that this has not terrified her, but has further strengthened her revolutionary spirit. She said that she fully knows that death is a part of warfare. However, she is also aware that fighters should at all times be careful and follow regulations in order to lengthen their service to the revolution.

Like Ka Paolin at Ka Mimi, Ka Jellyn is inspired whenever she gets to meet the masses and see that they trust her. In deep regard, the masses especially women often ask them: Is life not the peoples army? Are you not afraid? What is it like to be a woman in the people's army? They are conscious that by serving as Red fighters, they are able to gradually contradict and break the low stereotypes against women. They prove themselves capable of shouldering various lines of work, including military work. **AB**



NPA-Camarines Norte ambushes operating soldiers

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-Camarines Norte ambushed the operating soldiers of the 902nd IBde on December 12 at Sitio Manlapat, Baay, Labo, Camarines Norte. The soldiers besieged the community which is still reeling from the impact of successive typhoons. Red fighters were able to seize two 9mm calibre Glock pistols and eight backpacks. Two soldiers were wounded.

Surigao del Sur. NPA fighters fired at a CAFGU detachment at Km. 8, Barangay Puyat, Carmen on December 4. Soldiers manning the said detachment are responsible for coercing residents to surrender, and forcibly recruiting male residents into the CAFGU. An enemy trooper was killed.

Samar. The NPA ambushed police troops aboard a mobile in Barangay Logero, Marabut, Samar on December 10. P/Capt. Earl Hembro was killed during the attack. Earlier in October, three soldiers were killed and another was wounded in five harassment operations by the NPA across the island. The offensives targeted the 19th IB and 43rd IB who are currently sowing terror in the barangays of the northern and western part of the island. The attacks were mounted from October 13-24 in the towns of Pambujan and Silvino Lobos in Northern Samar; and in Matuguinao, Samar. Red fighters also encountered a unit of the 19th IB on October 28 in Barangay Nagpapacao, Matuguinao wherein two soldiers were wounded.

Capiz. Two soldiers of the 12th IB were wounded during an NPA offensive at Sitio Buga, Siya, Tapaz in the third week of November. Tapaz residents reported that the 12th IB hamletted the barangay. Residents were forced to surrender and threatened; and barangay officials were coerced to declare the Party and the NPA persona non grata.

Iloilo. A paramilitary element was killed in two successive harassment operations launched by the NPA-Iloilo against a CAFGU detachment at Barangay Pudpud, Miag-ao on November 3 and 4.

Police and soldiers summoned to face charges regarding "Antique 7 massacre"

THE OMBUDSMAN SUMMONED three police officials in Antique and an official of the 301st IBde to face criminal and administrative charges filed against them by the relatives of seven staff of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Panay. The said police officers and soldier led the massacre of the victims called the "Antique 7" on August 15, 2018 at midnight in Barangay Atabay, San Jose, Antique.

The complaints were based on the results of the autopsies conducted by the Commission on Human Rights Forensic Center. The "Antique 7" refer to Felix Salditos, Peter Mecnas, Jayson Talibo, Liezel Bandiola, Jason Sanchez, Eldie Labinghisa, and Karen Ceralvo.

New maneuvers by the Marcoses

THE MARCOSES ARE employing endless various maneuvers to be able to return to Malacañang. Last of which was the impeachment complaint filed by Marcos minions against Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen on December 7 for purportedly not submitting his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

This was the second impeachment case against Leonen to pave way for the electoral protest of Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. against Vice Pres. Leni Robredo. The court earlier junked the quo warranto petition filed by Solicitor General Jose Calida against Leonen.

Justice for Ka Alvin Luque!

THE COMMUNIST PARTY of the Philippines called for justice over the butcher 4th ID's killing of Alvin Luque (Ka Joaquin Jacinto) and his civilian companion on December 10 at midnight in Barangay San Agustin Sur, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur. Ka Joaquin was the spokesperson of the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindanao. Contrary to statements made by the military, it would be impossible for him to fight back as he was paralyzed and recuperating when the crime took place.

Ka Joaquin hailed from Davao City. He became the president of the student government in Ateneo de Davao University in his youth. From the 1990s to 2000s, he became a renowned leader of Bayan-Southern Mindanao. He even once ran as councilor of Davao City. He started to earn the ire of the reactionaries when he spearheaded rallies against the Arroyo regime. He was repeatedly red-tagged, harassed and slapped with trumped up criminal charges. He was deployed to Cagayan de Oro City, but the attacks still went on. To escape political persecution, he sought refuge in a guerrilla zone of the New People's Army in 2007 until he finally decided to become its fulltime member.

In 2009, he was assigned to help Ka Oris in strengthening the work the NDF-Mindanao. AB

Christmas of poverty and hunger

Christmas is one of the most anticipated occasions by Filipinos annually. A major part of this celebration is the *noche buena*, a traditional feast often celebrated by Filipino families on Christmas eve. Amid the pandemic however, many families will opt not to carry on with the tradition due to the crisis which has been ravaging the nation for more than nine months already. Most of whom have lost their jobs and incomes during the lockdown.

These people include Gerald, a jeepney driver. "I still do not have any plans for Christmas because I am on a tight budget as I couldn't drive my jeepney," he said. This will be different to his usual Christmas. Before, their family usually plans prior to the occasion.

Their living condition began to deteriorate when the regime ordered a stop to jeepney operations in the name of the lockdown. He is among the 200,000 drivers who are still not allowed to operate until today."

"Before, we used to eat delicious food such as chicken and pork, but this pandemic has made life extremely difficult. There were times when we just depended on food aid and repeatedly ate canned goods, noodles and fish," he pointed out. Like them, two out of five Filipino families experienced hunger during the pandemic, while one out of five have experienced not eating at all

for a day.

He was also left with no other option but to drop his only child out of school, despite the latter's wish to continue studying. A joint research by the World Bank and National Economic and Development Authority in August pointed out that only 20% of those who had children in school before the pandemic are able to continue doing so. Nearly 80% said that they will send their children back to school once these reopen.

Taho vendor Win-win said that aside from being on a tight budget, their family will not be complete this Christmas due to quarantine restrictions. "This Christmas will most likely be sad because we will not be complete," he said. Compared to before, his five children will not be able to celebrate with their grandfather, grandmother, cousins, aunts and uncles. Like Gerald, his family primarily relied on food aid during

the lockdown.

Gerald and Win-win are among the 40% of workers who suffered income losses during the pandemic. They are called the "new poor" by the World Bank, a category which refers to people who have lost their jobs or sources of income during the pandemic.

Smallscale businessmen from the informal sector are likewise on a tight budget. They include Tam, who asked advice from her friends on how to spend her limited ₱1,000-budget this Christmas. "That's what I have left because I'll use the rest of my savings to buy rice," she said. Most of her friends told her to just buy chicken meat as this is the cheapest in the market this month. Compared to pork which costs ₱320 per kilo, chicken only costs ₱210 per kilo. Last month, the inflation rate rose to 3.3% which saw the highest increase in the prices of food commodities.

However, not all will be able to prepare anything for Christmas. "You're lucky to have even a meager budget, our family will just sleep it through," replied Lani to Tam. Since the pandemic hit, more and more are going hungry and just rely on relief by the church and private institutions. In the aforementioned report, more than 54% of poor families said they cannot afford to buy essentials such as food.

This rising number of feeding program beneficiaries by humanitarian organizations and the church proves this issue. They include the beneficiaries of the soup kitchen operated by the Society of Divine Word in Metro Manila which feeds about 1,000 individuals, five days a week, from just 250 in April. "The majority are still homeless," said the priest who manages the soup kitchen. "But there's a good number who are with homes but are desperate because there are no jobs."



1 OUT OF 4

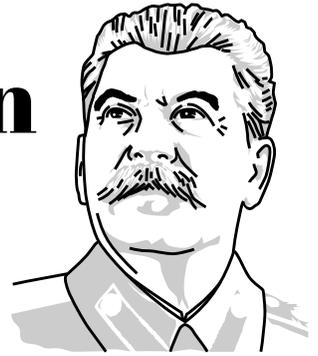
individuals across the globe

may not get COVID-19 vaccines until 2022.

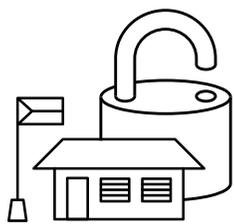
Source: Johns Hopkins
Bloomberg School of Public Health

Joseph Stalin

(December 21,
1878-March 1, 1953)



Marxist-Leninist expert who led the **Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU)** from **1924-1953**. He replaced V.I. Lenin in leading the first journey of the people in the socialist path.

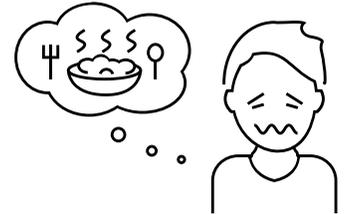


only **1,114** out of **61,000 schools**

have been nominated for the implementation of face-to-face classes in **January**.

2.4 million children

experience hunger in the UK, **fifth richest country in the world.**



(For the first time in history, UNICEF will go to the country to feed hungry children.)

50% of families who rely on remittance

received less this year. **11%** have not received anything.

Source: World Bank/NEDA, August 2020



7.3 MILLION

Filipino workers are set to lose their jobs.

due to the **digitalization** and the **Covid-19 lockdown**.

Source: International Labor Organization, 2020

Digitalization refers to the automation of business processes such as computing and providing customer service among others.

\$7.2 TRILLION

total net worth of Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft.

This **grew** by **46%** this 2020 while poverty and hunger is worsening globally.

Number of workers in the biggest airlines who are set to lose their jobs:

Lufthansa Air (Germany)	29,000	Air Canada	20,000
United Air (US)	36,000	British Air	12,000
America Air (US)	25,000	Air France-KLM (France)	12,500

Raising the capacity of the health system

Second part of the two-part series on the Cuban state and people's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of lessons drawn by Cuba on how to manage the Covid-19 pandemic is the need to raise the capacity of its health care system to provide health care for seriously ill and critical patients. This is called intensive care which refers to highly specialized care which involves complex procedures.

Amid the pandemic, Cuba strengthened intensive care units (ICU) in various hospitals and facilities. It accelerated the development of new medical technologies and personnel trainings. It recognizes the role of nurses, whose duty is crucial to the survival of its patients. The Cuban state is planning to produce more beds for ICUs and complete its services from 2021 to 2026.

Cuba prepared for the worst and most daunting scenario when the pandemic hit. According to an article by Granma, the Cuban government's official publication, Cuban doctors complied with global health protocols which they continually developed by incorporating lessons from their own practice. They applied these procedures to the particularities of their society and health system, to each individual patient and every case of infection. The accumulated experiences gave them the determination and confidence to implement protocols and the experiment in order to produce new drugs.

Cuba's health system was never overwhelmed during the pandemic

and the capacity of hospitals has never been exceeded. Cuban health workers managed to avoid getting infected, even in red zones. Not one doctor or nurse expired due to the virus. This is due to the strict implementation of biosecurity measures and protocols. The spirit of camaraderie and cooperation among health workers was high as they ensured sanitation, and sufficient medical equipment and food.

Since the pandemic raged, the highest daily death toll recorded by Cuba is just six. On average, only one patient succumbs to the virus each day. No child, teenager or pregnant woman died due to the virus. This was made possible because of the Cuban people's strict compliance with state regulations. All protocols are written, clear and straightforward. The media plays a vital role in disseminating correct information.

This pandemic response in Cuba is exceptional as the state has a strong political will to overcome the global health crisis. The response includes joint research and devel-



opment work by scientists and the biotechnology industry. One of their immediate tasks was to come up with their own vaccine. Two of which—Soberana 1 and Soberana 2—are currently undergoing clinical trials.

Cuba actively deploys doctors and other health workers to various parts of the world. The Cuban state and people consider this as part of their internationalist duties. At present, there are 53 brigades of professionals under the Henry Reeve Medical Contingent deployed to 39 countries. This is in addition to Cuban health workers earlier deployed to 58 countries prior to the pandemic. Cuba believes that only through cooperation and solidarity will humankind be able save itself.

All these were made possible despite the harsh economic blockade that the US has imposed on Cuba for the past six decades. The blockade has cost the Cuban health system around \$3 billion, which limits its capacity to send medical aid to other small countries. AB