

Highest honors to Comrade Basavaraju, martyr of the Indian people, hero of the international proletariat

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The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines raises high its Red banners to pay tribute and give its highest honors to Comrade Basavaraju (Nambala Keshava Rao), secretary general of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), who paid the ultimate sacrifice in fighting for the revolutionary cause of the oppressed and exploited peoples of India, and the cause of the international proletariat.

Along with 26 other revolutionary fighters, Comrade Basavaraju, 70, was murdered last May 21 by the mercenary troops of the Modi fascist regime in the Abhujmad forests, along the Narayanpur-Bijapur-Dantewada districts in Chhattisgarh state.

The fascists unleashed disproportionate amounts of military force to carry out the bloody crime. The massacre was a gross display of power meant to terrorize the people of India, in order to force them to submit and surrender to imperialism and state terrorism.

The Modi fascist regime carried out the brutal mass killing with the aim of projecting strength, but has, in fact, further exposed the rottenness of the ruling system and its deepening political crisis. This is characterized by the increasing isolation of the Modi regime, which has resorted to open terrorist rule and increasing monopolization of power, in its desperation to suppress the growing armed and non-armed resistance of the broad masses of India to social and economic oppression.

Over the past years, it has carried out Operation Kagaar, an intensive campaign of terrorism, marked by the deployment of tens of thousands of combat troops and police forces in the desperation to take over the lands of the Adivasi people by dotting it with scores upon scores of military camps and detachments, in order to pave the way for the imperialists and local big capitalists to plunder the wealth of the land. On Modi's orders, the reactionary armed forces have mounted aerial bombing campaigns using drones and jet fighters supplied by the US and Israel, and carried out successive massacres of both guerrilla fighters and civilians.

A similar US-directed campaign of all-out suppression is being carried out in the Philippines, along the same strategy of using overwhelming military force, in a vain attempt to terrorize the people and put an end to their armed and non-armed resistance. Wherever the fascist armed forces carry out their rampage, drooling American multinational corporations follow with their earth-moving machines eager to take over the land. However, the more atrocities

and brutalities committed by the reactionary forces against the peasant masses and the minority people, the greater the contempt that they provoke among the people, leaving them with other option than to take up arms to defend their rights and lives.

The fascists are celebrating the death of Comrade Basavaraju. In truth, they are trembling in their knees, for fear that his death will stir the indignation and inspire greater revolutionary resistance of the millions of working people, the semiproletariat, the peasant masses, the Adivasis and other progressive sectors of India, all of whom Comrade Basavaraju dedicated his thoughts and energy.

The Modi fascist regime and its imperialist masters are utterly wrong to think that the death of Comrade Basavaraju will lead to the defeat of the CPI (Maoist) and the people's war in India. In life, he led, taught and strengthened the mettle of thousands of communist cadres and revolutionary fighters (Naxalites). In death, his heroism and martyrdom will surely inspire even more to fight without fear, and with even greater determination to advance and win the people's war.

The CPP extends its deepfelt sympathies to the leadership and entire membership of the CPI (Maoist) and the to People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) for the loss of their dear comrade and leader. We pay tribute to the invaluable contributions made by Comrade Basavaraju, especially in founding the PLGA in 2000 and leading it in many of its victories and achievements in building the revolutionary base areas and carrying out tactical offensives against the fascist forces. He picked up the mantle of leadership from Comrade Ganapathy in 2018 and served as general secretary since.

The CPP joins the CPI (Maoist) and all revolutionary forces in India in forever keeping the memory of Comrade Basavaraju alive. His name now shines among the immortal heroes of the epic people's war in India and the revolutionary struggles for national liberation and socialism around the world. In bearing the torch of the armed struggle in India, Comrade Basavaraju helped illuminate the path of the world proletarian revolution, especially in the past decades of setbacks and defeats of socialist forces around the world. For that, Comrade Basavaraju will always be remembered as a hero of the international proletariat.

We fully trust that the Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist) will promptly elect an equally capable leader to take over the responsibilities of Comrade Basavaraju. We are confident that by combining the wisdom of its senior cadres, with the energy and acumen of its young cadres, the CPI (Maoist) will surmount all difficulties, persevere on the path of revolutionary armed struggle, and accumulate even greater victories the people's war in India.

Long live the memory of Comrade Basavaraju, martyr of the Indian people, hero of the international proletariat!

Long live the people's war in India!

Long live the People Liberation Guerrilla Army!

Long live the Communist Party of India (Maoist)!