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Bayan

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

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Editorial

Resist and frustrate the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime's all-out war!

The Communist Party of the Philippines and all revolutionary forces under its leadership stand ready to confront, resist and frustrate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's all-out counterrevolutionary war and the US' impending evil plan to wage a war of aggression in the territories of the People's Democratic Government.

Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of all-out war against the revolutionary movement signifies the rapidly intensifying crisis of the ruling reactionary system and her fear over the revolutionary movement's swift advance. She speaks with overweening arrogance, openly favors militarist policies and shunts aside the peace talks due to US imperialism's all-out support for the AFP and the presence of American troops inside the country.

Macapagal-Arroyo's all-out war is bound to fail. The revolutionary armed movement is bound to reap more and bigger gains in the various

arenas of struggle.

This is mainly due to the deep economic crisis besetting the ruling system; and the intense conflicts among reactionary politicians that have resulted in the regime's severe instability as well as widespread discontent among the people. The conduct of all-out war will also definitely lead to the further intensification of the crisis due to the drain in resources. This provokes the military to become even more wanton in violating human rights, which will surely incite widespread anger and people's resistance.

We must sharply analyze and take advantage of such a situation and wage all-out resistance in all fields to frustrate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's all-out war and the threat of armed aggression from US



imperialism.

Unite the Filipino people in resisting the reactionary Macapagal-Arroyo regime and strengthen mass struggles on the following issues:

a) thoroughgoing puppetry to US imperialism, especially in military affairs, including permitting permanent US military presence through the Balikatan series, drafting the Mutual

Logistics Support Agreement, allowing the entry of foreign troops in combat zones and blind adherence to US foreign policy that places the Philippines in danger of being drawn into US-instigated wars;

b) pro-imperialist and antipeople policies like the deregulation of the electric power and oil industries that result in the people's intensified poverty;

c) plans to amend the constitution to eradicate whatever provisions remain that protect the national patrimony and economic sovereignty;

d) worsening militarization and brazen acts of repression such as killings, torture, suppression and other continuing violations of the human rights of ordinary civilians, activists and captured NPA fighters;

e) scuttling of the peace talks due to the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's worsening militarism.

The people must be thoroughly aroused, organized and mobilized on the basis of these issues. It is particularly important to raise the spirit of militant patriotism, expose the various aspects of imperialist domination in the Philippines and continually advance the historic struggle for national liberation.

It is likewise particularly important to expose the ruling regime's lack of interest in solving the roots of the civil war through political negotiation and the various maneuvers it undertakes to sabotage the peace talks. Even as we intensify the revolutionary armed struggle, we can also encourage forces desirous of a genuine, long-lasting and just peace to assert the continuation of formal peace talks. This can be accomplished by implementing signed agreements and respecting the framework and agenda for negotiations previously agreed upon.

We must continue intensifying the revolutionary armed struggle. We must consciously plan and launch regular and special tactical offensives we are capable of winning.

We must launch them in the most number of places to force the enemy to disperse fascist troops and thwart its attempts to concentrate forces in a particular area at one particular period.

We must constantly observe, study and analyze the enemy's situation and movements to determine its weak points and other targets of tactical offensives.

The NPA may target electric power lines and towers and telecommunication installations that will inflict calculated damage on big corporations that oppress the people even as it ensures that no civilians come to harm. This may be undertaken especially during the massive deployment and concentration of AFP forces in a certain area. Smaller enemy teams that will be used to guard these installations are vulnerable targets of the NPA.

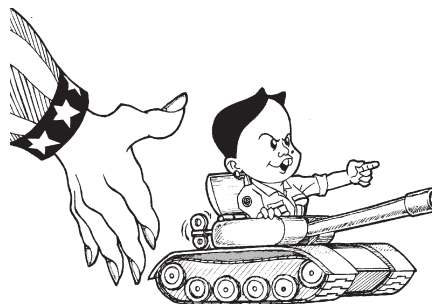
We must continue acquiring expertise in guerrilla warfare not only to preserve our forces but to launch tactical offensives against the enemy. We must cooperate closely with the masses. We must continue advancing agrarian revolution and strengthen the revolutionary mass organizations.

It is likewise necessary to resist US intervention and prepare for the planned direct armed intervention of US imperialist troops in the counterrevolutionary war.

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Macapagal-Arroyo regime declares all-out war against the revolution



The Macapagal-Arroyo regime declared all-out war against the revolutionary movement on August 5 to comply with the direct orders of US imperialism.

According to a statement by Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio “Ka Roger” Rosal on August 6, the declaration was dictated by US Secretary of State Colin Powell when the latter held a meeting in Malacañang on August 2.

Macapagal-Arroyo insists on using “counter-terrorism” as grounds for waging all-out war against the revolutionary movement. In her statements, she has twistedly included the revolutionary forces in her category of terrorists, along with kidnappers, smugglers and other criminal elements.

In this regard, she has ordered the transfer of thousands of AFP troops that used to ravage Basilan to areas suspected of being territories of the revolutionary movement. Among them are battalions assigned

in Western Mindanao that have been ordered back to Central and Northern Mindanao.

The AFP and PNP plan to recruit 7,000 soldiers (14 battalions), 5,000 new policemen and 15,000 new personnel for the CAGFU to be used in intensifying the counter-revolutionary war. In the case of the AFP, it will receive an P800 million increase in its 2003 budget to build the additional battalions.

There is no longer anything new about Macapagal-Arroyo’s declaration of all-out war against the revolutionary movement. In fact, she never did anything to put a stop to Estrada’s all-out war. “As soon as she took power in January 2001,” said Ka Roger, “Macapagal-Arroyo secretly ordered the terrorist AFP and PNP to launch massive attacks on guerrilla fronts.”

“The AFP’s all-out counter-revolutionary war has been raging in the guerrilla zones for months,” said Ka Roger.

Since the second half of 2001,

Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the massive deployment of AFP forces in guerrilla zones. Two-thirds (2/3) of AFP forces are now focused on suppression campaigns against the people and the revolutionary movement. Nineteen (19) AFP and PNP battalions are deployed in Southern Tagalog. It was Macapagal-Arroyo herself who ordered the deployment of nine assault battalions to Mindoro island this year.

Although she simultaneously reorganized the GRP negotiating panel in May 2001 to conduct talks with the NDFP, she has not shown the least seriousness to implement earlier agreements in order to advance the talks. In fact, the regime eventually dissolved the panel in March 2002.

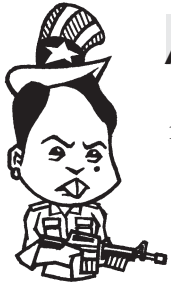
According to Ka Roger, the all-out war declaration is closely related to the US’ desire to ensure the permanent presence of American troops in the country and pave the way for their direct intervention in the counter-revolutionary war. The scheduled

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In this regard, we must strengthen and expand struggles against military training exercises, the MLSA approval and the blind enforcement of the Bush government’s “war against terrorism”.

It is also important to unite with peoples the world over to put an end to US armed intervention in various countries and thwart plans to wage war against Iraq.

It is likewise important to unite with the American people, aggressively expose to them the suffering inflicted on the people by the Macapagal-Arroyo regime’s all-out war and the widespread opposition to the presence of American troops in the country. An anti-war movement in the US that calls for the pullout of American troops will be a big help in the effort to resist the US’ war of aggression in the country. **AB**



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nine-month joint military exercises to be conducted in guerilla zones starting October will also be used for this purpose.

US pledges more aid to AFP

Pledges of additional US aid to the AFP highlighted talks between Macapagal-Arroyo and US Secretary of State Colin Powell on August 3.

Powell declared that the US government has allotted \$55 million for the AFP's "counter-terrorist" campaign, which is \$36 million more than the military assistance package provided by the US the previous year. The AFP announced plans to utilize \$25 million for training Light Reaction Companies that would be deployed against the NPA. But on August 20, US Pres. George Bush slashed the military support package by \$30 million.

Powell has pledged \$100 million ostensibly for accelerating reforms in law enforcement, the justice system and education. Additional support was given supposedly in recognition of the Philippines' role in the "international campaign against terrorism".

In addition, Powell said that the Philippines may receive funds from the US Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). The MCA is a program of the Bush government that calls for a 50% increase in US assistance for the next three years for countries that might become

springboards for terrorism. The MCA is set to allot an initial \$1.7 billion in 2004.

Defense Policy Board to be set up

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes visited the US from August 10 to 20 to conduct talks with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld allegedly to "strengthen defense relations" between the two governments.

Reyes and Rumsfeld agreed to form the Defense Policy Board which is supposed to serve as an "open line for strategic talks". The Defense Policy Board will serve as clandestine adviser to the Defense Secretary and the AFP on war issues. Its structure and functions will be patterned after those of the US Policy Defense Board that currently serves as the Bush government's clandestine and conspiratorial "war council." Through this, the US will further tighten its grip on the country's key and tactical military affairs.

Although Reyes initially denied that the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement would form part of their agenda, he later announced on August 14 that he and Rumsfeld indeed discussed how the agreement could be approved without the necessity of a Senate ratification.

CPP, NPA included in US terrorist list

US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced on August 9 that the US has included the CPP and NPA on its list of Foreign Terrorist

Organizations (FTO). The move is part of preparations by US imperialism to directly intervene in the counterrevolutionary war.

The NPA was included in the list of so-called FTOs supposedly because it strongly opposes "any US presence" in the Philippines and has killed American citizens in the country.

According to Powell, he hopes that the US decision would encourage other governments to likewise isolate the CPP and NPA, choke off its financial sources and prevent their movement across international borders.

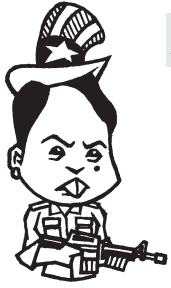
In this regard, the US and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime filed separate requests with the government of The Netherlands to freeze "assets of the CPP and its leaders" in that country.

In reply, The Netherlands foreign ministry announced on August 13 that it would freeze Comrade Jose Ma. Sison's bank deposits and the NDFP's assets. The United Kingdom issued a similar decision on August 17.

Sison assails US, Dutch pressure

NDFP senior political consultant Comrade Jose Ma. Sison challenged the Dutch government to go ahead in freezing his bank deposits so that he could show just how cruel The Netherlands government and the imperialists could be.

This was his reaction to The Netherlands' compliance with a US "request" to freeze his assets and those of the NDFP.



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Sison said that this was a cruel move because his bank deposits were just enough for his subsistence. He said that his money comes from the Dutch government since it does not allow him to earn a living due to his status as a political refugee.

Nonetheless, Comrade Sison said that such pressure would not affect the operations of the revolutionary movement, which is self-reliant and does not depend on outside support. He said that the bulk of the movement's funds comes from contributions from peasants, workers and other supporters in the Philippines.

Suppression also targets legal organizations

In declaring all-out war against "terrorism", Macapagal-Arroyo also specifically included among her targets militant workers' unions, branding them as terrorists in the factories.

She also implied that she would likewise target legal organizations she considers terrorist, including the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) and the Bayan Muna party.

In a statement on August 12, Macapagal-Arroyo ranged the opportunist AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS as "communists who were not terrorists" because they allegedly did not wage armed struggle. She did not include BAYAN and Bayan Muna in the list, indirectly branding them as terrorists. The two militant organizations have for months been

the target of a severe suppression campaign.

Such developments have prompted Bayan Muna representatives in Congress to express concern over the possibility that their funds would likewise be frozen. They also said it was possible that they would be booted out of Congress.

Regime scuttling the peace talks

In thoroughly acquiescing to the US move to brand the CPP and NDFP as "terrorists", the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime is in essence, putting an end to the peace talks between the GRP and NDFP.

The regime is using this declaration supposedly to force the revolutionary movement to go back to the negotiating table on its knees, but it is actually the regime that suspended and put up all sorts of obstacles to the talks.

The GRP negotiating panel has long been insisting on rushing the draft of a "final agreement", contrary to the framework and agenda for the talks that had already been earlier agreed upon. The regime also stubbornly refuses to fulfill its responsibilities in accordance with previously signed agreements.

Instead of conducting formal talks, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime insists on holding "non-formal talks of indefinite duration" to cover up the fact that it has turned its back on the negotiations.

According to the NDFP, it remains open to talks with the current regime if the latter is ready to resume the formal peace talks. If not, the NDFP likewise expressed its readiness to wait for the next regime before resuming the talks. **AB**

Guingona opposes US war doctrine

In a speech on August 8, Vice President Teofisto Guingona criticized the US



"first strike policy" which he fears would be used to intervene in the Philippines and wage war against other countries. Guingona said that it "endangers world peace".

Guingona's stand is unique among high-ranking officials of US neocolonies worldwide, who are all known to actively support any US policy. It also runs contrary to Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of blindly supporting any and all of US President George Bush's policies.

Bush recently stated that the US should launch preemptive strikes against countries it considers as supporters of "terrorism".

Guingona said that no one has the right to do such a thing merely because it had power.

Guingona also said that the continuation of Balikatan exercises could imperil the peace negotiations with the revolutionary movement and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. **AB**

Rift between Macapagal-Arroyo and Roco bared before the public

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's tenuous reign continues to be beset by internal conflicts. On August 13, Raul Roco resigned in disgust as secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) over the regime's exposure to the media of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's order to have him investigated for corruption. He claimed that he was put to shame when the regime had publicized the charges without giving him prior notice.

Roco used the opportunity to parry criticisms against his leadership, denounce Macapagal-Arroyo's politicking and present himself as a "respectable" alternative.

As early as July 11, the employees' union at the DepEd Central Office had filed formal charges against Roco at the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PACG).

Among others, Roco was accused of pocketing P15-16 million in "service fees" monthly from January to July 2002; having posters printed for his own propaganda purposes with the use of DepEd funds; illegally hiring "consultants"; illegally dismissing a number of DepEd officials and illegally assigning a DepEd driver to his wife.

Even before the charges were filed, the union had already presented its grievances to the public and to Malacañang. But Macapagal-Arroyo ignored them for more than a year, especially since she herself was guilty of the same excesses. It was only in August that the regime took notice of the cases, after a survey conducted by Ibon Foundation revealed that Roco would defeat Macapagal-Arroyo for the presidency if elections were held at this time. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime used the cases against Roco to force him to resign, cut off his access to public funds and shunt him aside as a leading political rival in 2004.

Due to Macapagal-Arroyo's political maneuvers, she is starting to become isolated even within her own clique. Some have admitted that they would be forced to choose between Roco and Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 elections. It would not be farfetched for Macapagal-Arroyo to put the squeeze on other potential rivals within her party like Sen. Loren Legarda. **AB**

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Some statistics

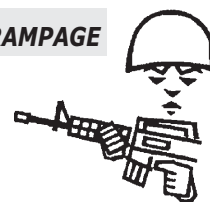
From January 22, 2001 to July 15, 2002, there were 1,334 cases of human rights violations recorded that victimized 37,164 persons, 1,265 families and 38 communities. (See article in July 31, 2002 issue of AB)

Among the peasantry. More than 163,000 families were victims of land-use conversion; cancellation of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), Emancipation Patents and Certificates of Land Transfer (CLT); and "development projects" like Danding Cojuangco's cassava project in Isabela

Among the fisherfolk. More than 145,000 families were victimized by the regime's aquaculture projects

Among workers. Two-hundred and twenty-six (226) cases of harassment, torture, beatings, intimidation, sexual abuse, coercion, murder threats, illegal arrest and detention, surveillance and other human rights violations were recorded.

Among national minorities. There were 99 victims in 354 incidents involving illegal arrests, murder, staving, destruction to property, forced disappearance, eviction, harassment, illegal searches, surveillance and their forcible use as guides during military operations. Six-hundred seventeen (617) families were victimized.



Latest cases of human rights violations (May-August 2002)

August 18. Troops from the 8th Special Forces Battalion (SFB) led by Maj. Alexis Gopico executed Amay “Ka Ronson” Espeja, a Red fighter, when soldiers laid siege to the guerrillas in Sitio Nursery, Barangay Binondo, Baganga, Davao Oriental. Ka Ronson was alive and unscathed when he was captured. Three children were killed in the siege. The fascists also mauled the residents of the sitio and stole two chainsaws, P9,000 in cash as well as other property from them.

In the first week of August, the soldiers and CAFGU elements also mauled 15 men in the same barangay who were suspected of being NPA supporters. The soldiers made them dig their own graves and threatened to kill them if they refused to divulge the guerrillas’ location. Residents of nearby Barangay Matanog also complained about the abuses inflicted on them by the soldiers of the 8th SFB.



August 18. The PNP in Boac, Marinduque forcibly and illegally arrested Mr. Prestores, who chairs the Pinag-isang Lakas ng Magbubukid ng Quezon, is vice president of Bayan Muna and assiduously provides assistance to victims of Marcopper Mining in the province. He was detained from 12:30 noon to 10:00 p.m. It is illegal to detain a person for more than seven hours without pressing charges.

August 15. Military Police violently dispersed a picket staged by hundreds of national minorities in front of Camp Aguinaldo. Benilda Coplangen, 45, sustained head wounds when she parried blows from a police truncheon meant for Baket Indena, an elderly woman from Sagada, Mountain Province.

The mass action led by the Kalipunan ng mga Katutubong Mamanayan ng Pilipinas was launched to oppose intensifying militarization in the countryside that has victimized thousands of national minorities and peasants in the entire archipelago.

Other elderly folk who were dancing the *patpong* (a Cordilleran community dance) also sustained injuries when the police attacked. Injured were Lakay Longan of Kalinga; Lakay Simplico Sikuan of Itogon, Magno Dumas of Abra, and Cordillera People’s Alliance leaders Joseph Torafing Jr. and Windel Bolinget. One of the fingers of a Southern Tagalog delegate, Robert Laplana, was also cut off.

Second week of August. Men under Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando demolished stalls maintained by sidewalk vendors in various parts of Metro Manila. Fernando also threatened to pour kerosine over the vendors’ wares if they refused to stop plying their trade along the sidewalks. He called them parasites who deserved brutal treatment to force them to stop. Malacañang has supported Fernando’s actions.

August 5. Troops under the 4th ID arrested Zenaida Llesis, 40, who is pregnant and suspected of being a Communist Party cadre. Llesis was arrested after a military operation in Rocky Village, Pangantukan, Bukidnon. She has been slapped with various criminal cases but has been denied the right to counsel. On top of everything, the military continued to subject Llesis to interrogation even if she was suffering from vaginal bleeding and was in danger of having a miscarriage. The military has also refused to consider the fact that Llesis suffers from tachycardia, a heart abnormality that requires her to rest.



August 5. Troops of the 74th IB illegally arrested three youths from Barangay San Pablo, Catanauan, Quezon. Resty Buen, Rogelio de Roxas and Romeo Resurreccion were accused of being Red fighters because they were found in the company of a suspected guerrilla.

Meanwhile, a six-year-old boy was arrested by 7th ID troops in Barangay Sto. Rosario, Masinloc, Zambales after an encounter between the military and the NPA.

August 3-4. Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) guards demolished the houses of 25 peasant families in Area 4, Sitio Seedling, Barangay Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal. The guards pointed their guns at the res-



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idents, uprooted their crops and stole their food, rice and money.

The following day, the guards burned down the houses of more than 100 residents. Four peasants were arrested and forced to sign certain documents. The area is part of the 2,700-hectare La Mesa Watershed which is being claimed by MWSS and the ABS-CBN Foundation.

August 2. Ten demonstrators were injured when Western Police District troops blocked and attempted to disperse some 500 protesters in front of the US Embassy who rallied during US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to the Philippines.

July 20-28. Hired goons of the San Roque Power Corp. harassed and forcibly evacuated hundreds of residents of Sitio Bolangit, Barangay San Felipe, San Nicolas, Pangasinan to give way to the completion of the San Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project. On July 22, the goons forced the residents to leave their homes and other property behind. The women and children were forced to board helicopters while the men were made to walk. They were also forced into signing papers stating that they had voluntarily left the area. On July 28, the demolition team burned down 11 houses of the evacuees. The incident has spawned fear even among villagers in nearby barrios.

July 24. The Baguio City Anti-Squatting Team demolished the houses of more than 20 families in Barangay Dontogan. More than 60 other houses are set



to be razed upon orders from Mayor Bernardo Vergara, who claimed that the residents were all illegal squatters even if they had titles to the land. The families who lost their houses were forced to take shelter under pine trees after their homes were demolished amid heavy rains.

July 24. Goons from the Manila Banking Corp. and 25 policemen led by Insp. Jose Costello of the Mabolo Police Station wrecked the houses of 27 families in the North Reclamation Area in Cebu City. The bank plans to build a branch on the 1,640-sq. m. lot. The evicted families were forced to set up temporary shelters on the streets. According to the Cebu City government, those who lost their houses have to fulfill certain requirements before they could avail of any assistance.

July 1. Three demonstrators were injured when some 40 policemen from Region 11 led by Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano violently dispersed a demonstration in Tagum City during Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the area. Most of the 200 demonstrators were women and children. They were mauled and verbally abused and their belongings, such as a megaphone, batteries and an amplifier were confiscated. Some of them were illegally arrested.



July. Despite lack of evidence, the police implicated Ador Pulido, a Bayan Muna leader in Gerona, Tarlac and president of the town's Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap chapter, in the killing of a certain Herman Dugay of Barangay Tagumbao of

the same municipality. Pulido is also an organizer of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Tarlac. He has been repeatedly arrested and detained by the police despite the absence of a clear case against him.

June. Soldiers of the 204th Brigade led by Col. Jovito Palparan repeatedly harassed Juvy Magsino, a lawyer and the vice mayor of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. Magsino was warned that she was under surveillance on suspicion of being an NPA supporter.

May 17. Troops of the PNP 15th Special Forces Company in Barangay Casigaran, Balilihan, Bohol rained automatic fire on the home of 70-year-old Cecilia Tambis where NPA fighters were resting. The soldiers also threatened to kill two Red fighters they had captured. **AB**

In Basilan and Zamboanga...

(The following were drawn from the report issued by the International Solidarity Movement [ISM] after its fact-finding mission conducted from July 24 to 30 on the recently concluded Balikatan 02-1 in Basilan and Zamboanga)

US AND AFP TROOPS THAT PARTICIPATED in Balikatan 02-1 perpetrated many violations of human rights. The starkest case involved American soldier Reggie Lane's shooting of suspected Abu Sayyaf member Buyong-buyong Isnijal. Contrary to the AFP's report, the soldiers who

conducted the midnight raid on the Isnijals' home had no arrest warrant. Besides this, the presence of American troops in what was supposed to be an arrest operation was a violation of Balikatan's terms of reference.

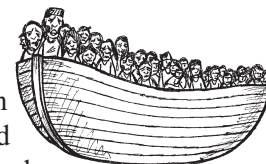
Following are other human rights violations documented by the ISM:

- Kidnapping and summary execution of an 11-year-old child along with three other civilians suspected of being Abu Sayyaf members;
- Illegal arrest of a Moro on suspicion that he was an Abu Sayyaf member;
- Harassment, illegal arrest and imprisonment of women and minors. As a result, a pregnant woman suffered a miscarriage but was never given any medical attention;
- Illegal arrest and imprisonment of 73 Moros identified by informers who were paid up to P1 million in rewards. Formal charges have yet to be filed against them.

The ISM is set to file charges against the American soldiers who shot Isnijal. They also plan to launch a campaign to free the innocent detainees and wage protest actions against various forms of destruction wrought by the US on the Filipino people's lives and livelihood. **AB**

Brutal treatment by Malaysia and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime

Malacañang defends the Malaysian government even as thousands of Filipinos are being expelled from Sabah like animals



The Malaysian embassy has been pelted with protests and criticism ever since the unjust and brutal expulsion of Filipinos and other "illegal residents" from Sabah was bared before the public. Malaysian authorities unabashedly violated the human rights of Filipinos living there as well as International Humanitarian Law.

The indiscriminate herding of thousands of Filipino migrant workers into ships and cramped detention centers without adequate food and water is comparable to the fascist Nazis' treatment of the Jews during Hitler's time. No provisions were made for children and the elderly. Worse, they suffered severe brutality at the hands of Malaysian police and immigration officials. Some of them were physically abused by the police for fun.

As a result, up to 18 infants and children have died due to heat exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition inside the detention centers and ships used to expel them to the Philippines. Five elderly folk have also died while some women have lost their minds while in detention.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime has been utterly inutile in the face of all this. It has failed to make the proper arrangements to absorb the migrant Filipinos despite the fact that Malaysia had informed the Philippines as early as January about its deportation plans.

Instead of defending the rights of Filipino deportees, it defends their

Destruction wrought by CARAT

Two hectares of rice fields were destroyed in Barangay Lucapon South, Sta. Cruz, Zambales on August 2 when four helicopters of the US Marine Corps that took part in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2002 landed. According to witnesses, the helicopters landed after dropping bombs on the nearby island of Potipot. The affected residents brought their plight before the local government and the AFP but were not extended any assistance.

Meanwhile, elements from the Philippine Air Force razed the houses of more than 60 Aeta families in Barangay Sta. Juliana, Capas, Tarlac in the first week of July. The area is part of several adjacent barrios comprising the Crow Valley firing range which is used for training by Filipino and American troops. **AB**

inhumane treatment by Malaysian authorities, saying that Malaysia was merely implementing its own laws and there was nothing the Philippines could do about it.

To cover up her own inutility, Macapagal-Arroyo even tried to exploit the pitiable situation of the Filipino deportees to portray herself as a “compassionate” person. She personally went to the Tawitawi port where Filipinos were barred from disembarking immediately to provide Macapagal-Arroyo with a photo opportunity with the deportees. For this reason, authorities delayed providing the immediate attention needed by several children who were sick and starving.

Even reactionary politicians could not help but condemn Malaysia’s moves and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime’s inutility. Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Jaime Cardinal Sin both called Malaysia’s deportation policy as “genocide”. Migrante International and Kilusang Mayo Uno picketed in front of the Malaysian embassy.

The deportation policy came about when Malaysia amended its laws on illegal migrants. The new law was passed in April and took effect on August 1. Since February, up to 64,000 undocumented Filipinos have been expelled from Malaysia. An estimated 30,000 more are being held in detention centers.

Clampdowns on migrants are commonly resorted to in various countries during times of intense crisis. In pinning the blame on migrants, the ruling classes are able to deflect the people’s attention from the real roots of the crisis into which their respective societies have slumped. **AB**

Bush warmongering against Iraq criticized



US Pres. George W. Bush could not muster the momentum to forge ahead with an immediate attack on Iraq, one of the countries comprising the so-called “axis of evil”. Hounded by criticisms, Bush was forced to declare on August 10 that he does not foresee any imminent war plans.

Nonetheless, the hawks within his cabinet—the faction closest to him and that advances his policies—have not let up with their warmongering and posturing. Neither have they discounted the possibility of a US

war of aggression against Iraq in the future.

The US is unable to sufficiently justify waging war on Iraq. In 1991, the US used Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait to justify its war. Bush is currently using all sorts of rationalizations to justify his plans to invade Iraq anew. He claims that Iraq mass-produces weapons of mass destruction, demonizes Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and repeatedly links Iraq to al Qaida. Lately, the US military has been spreading rumors that Iraq has allegedly provided sanctuary to and coddles some al Qaida members.

In the face of all this, the US’ most important allies in the Middle East have refused to give their support. Saudi Arabia refuses to allow the US to use its territory as a launching pad. Jordan is even more active in calling for opposition to the US’ military plans.

Likewise, the US’ allies in Europe have been raising a furor. Most outspoken among them is Chancellor Gerard Schroeder of Germany. Schroeder issued a direct warning, saying that the US’ war plans would destroy the international coalition against terrorism and can only cause unprecedented turmoil in the Middle East. Though he has not spoken a word, Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, who is also Bush’s most loyal follower, cannot escape criticism and pressure from his own parliament. Within the US itself, some legislators from congress and the senate and even some persons within the Bush cabinet have expressed their opposition. The United Nations also criticizes and opposes Bush’s plans.

Iraq has steadfastly faced all of the US’ direct and indirect threats. The Iraqi people are confident in waging all-out resistance against the US’ war of aggression, and just as confident that the latter will come to nought the same way that Operation Desert Storm failed in 1991. According to Saddam Hussein, should the US invade Iraq, “the forces of evil will carry their coffins on their backs, to die in disgraceful failure”. **AB**

US uses Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to justify its renewed war of aggression

THE US CLAIMS THAT IRAQ DESERVES to be attacked and Pres. Saddam Hussein ousted because it is supposedly capable of utilizing weapons of mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons that it would likely use against US interests.

This is despite the report issued by the latest batch of United Nations (UN) inspectors that entered Iraq in 1998 that Iraq's capability in this regard has been "qualitatively reduced". The US had rammed the weapons inspectors down Iraq's throat ostensibly to have it conduct investigations and come up with recommendations to control such capacity. The US used them to spy on Iraq's war arsenal. It withdrew the inspectors to prepare for the bombing campaign against Iraq in 1998.

The US repeatedly insists that Iraq is neither ready nor does it intend to comply with international standards and UN Security Council resolutions. But on August 6, the US and the UN Security Council refused invitations from Iraq to conduct a new round of weapons inspections. The US likewise derided Saddam Hussein's willingness to receive a delegation from the US Congress or any team of experts that might accompany it to conduct its own inspection. Due to the rebuff, Iraq has closed the door on negotiations. **AB**

Malacañang controls Diwalwal mining operations

THE GOVERNMENT FORMALLY TOOK CONTROL IN AUGUST OF MINING OPERATIONS within the 8,100-hectare "Diwalwal Gold Rush Area" in Monkayo, Compostela Valley. With Mt. Diwalwal having one of the country's richest gold deposits, local mining companies and bureaucrat capitalists have long been fighting each other tooth and nail to take control of its operations. Currently, there are some 20,000 people living in the estimated 700-hectare mines and resettlement site within the "Diwalwal Gold Rush Area."

The national government's formal orders to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to be in command of mining operations in Diwalwal enables Malacañang and its minions to control all of the area's resources. The AFP has likewise ordered the deployment of more military troops to Mt. Diwalwal. Malacañang's monopoly over resources and millions of pesos in income from Diwalwal is part of Macapagal-Arroyo's preparations for the 2004 presidential elections.

Malacañang issued the order after violence escalated in the area due to bitter conflicts between two bureaucrats who own the biggest local mining companies in Diwalwal—Rey Chiong Uy (who owns Blucor Mineral Corp. and Bullex Mining Corp. and was formerly mayor of Tagum City); and Joel Brillantes (who owns JB Mining Management Corp. and is currently mayor of Monkayo). Besides the two, there are tens of thousands of small-scale miners asserting their right to make a living from Diwalwal and who are being victimized by harassment

from big mining companies. An estimated 60 people have already been killed in relation to the conflicts in Diwalwal.

Just last July, two of Brillantes' men were killed by armed men believed to be Uy's goons. This was followed by the vendetta killing of a mining official of the rival Blucor Mineral Corp., this time on orders of Brillantes. Brillantes is also believed to be behind the smoking in July of tunnels dug by small-scale miners. The smoke caused the death of miner Roberto Zamora and the hospitalization of more than 20 others. An *armored personnel carrier* was used to run over the barricade set up by the small miners along Tagmanok Bridge in Mawab on August 10. The angry miners were demanding an investigation of Zamora's death.

Uy and Brillantes, along with other mining and military officials, were involved in the abduction, torture and massacre of Godofredo Guimbaolibot (a Party cadre from Southern Mindanao) and three others, in Mawab, Compostela Valley in August 1999. **AB**

Victorious tactical offensives launched this August

The New People's Army (NPA) chalked up six victorious tactical offensives launched separately this August.

In Negros Oriental, two policemen were killed, including an officer, in an NPA ambush in Barangay Basak, Guihulngan in the afternoon of August 27. The slain officer was Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego, police chief of Vallehermoso town.

Meanwhile, a clash ensued between the 66th IB and PNP troops who were both sent as reinforcements. Killed in the misencounter were Senior Insp. Remil Vizcaya, Guihulngan PNP chief, and two of his men.

In Cebu, four elements of the PNP 3rd Regional Mobile Group (RMG) aboard a jeep were ambushed on August 15 in Sogod. Three of them, including acting company commander Insp. Richard Caballero, were seriously wounded in the ambush. The NPA seized an M16 rifle and a 9 mm pistol. The ambush was launched only one kilometer away from the PNP detachment.

In North Cotabato, a soldier from the Philippine Army 12th Special Forces Company and a CAFGU element were killed in an NPA ambush in the afternoon of August 13 in Barangay Batasan,

Makilala. Three other CAFGU elements were wounded.

In Kalinga, three policemen, including an officer, were killed when their vehicle was ambushed while traversing the highway along Barangay Tangan, Payok on August 7. Killed was Senior Supt. Nestor Miranda and seriously wounded was Supt. Antonio Bumiran. The policemen were all assigned to the Cordillera PNP Special Action Force.

In Pampanga, NPA fighters seized the initiative in an encounter with patrolling soldiers from the 69th IB in the morning of August 16 in Sitio Labak, Barangay Cauayan, Mexico. Killed in the 30-minute firefight was a sergeant and a civilian agent. The NPA guerrillas safely retreated.

Meanwhile, in Davao del Norte, the NPA meted punishment on DOLE-Stanfilco for its refusal to pay revolutionary taxes. On the night of August 2, the NPA burned down DOLE-Stanfilco's packing plant in Barangay Manay, Panabo. DOLE-Stanfilco, which has huge banana plantations in Davao del Norte, is a subsidiary of the giant American corporation, Dole Food Company.



Dumagats assail destructive projects

Up to 500 Dumagats held a protest action in Lucena City on August 1 against projects destructive to the environment and their ancestral lands.

The Dumagats who belonged to the Bigkis at Lakas ng Katutubo sa Timog Katagalugan (Balatik) criticized massive logging operations undertaken by Green Square Properties Corp. in Gen. Nakar, Quezon and Dingalan, Aurora; the Kaliwa-Kanan Dam and the hydroelectric project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in Gen. Nakar; and the Laiban Dam as well as housing projects in Tanay, Rizal.



Acquittal of Mathay and Abalos assailed

Hundreds of residents of Payatas, Quezon City picketed in front of the Sandiganbayan office on August 9 to criticize the acquittal of former Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., former MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos and other government officials. Mathay and the others were charged in connection with the deaths of more than 50 people when their community was buried under tons of garbage in July 2000. The protest action was led by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap and the July 10 Payatas Victims Association.

Laid off workers strike in Cavite

Twenty-six workers laid off from Sanno Philippines Manufacturing Co., a Japanese firm in Gen. Trias, Cavite staged a picket on August 12.

The workers were not reinstated despite the court's dismissal of theft charges that had been filed against them. They were laid off in the company's attempt to bust their union. Some 130 priests, nuns and seminarians supported the picket.

Debt to sustain 2003 budget

Despite the worsening national deficit, a large chunk of the proposed P804 billion budget for 2003 will be financed through borrowings. The government plans to borrow P136.6 billion, 20% bigger than this year's P113.5 billion.

The government had planned on keeping within its target deficit of P130 billion, but the deficit already reached this ceiling in the first seven months of the year. It is estimated to reach P163 billion by the end of 2002. Because of added expenditures, the actual deficit for 2003 may reach P155 billion.

Oil prices hiked anew

Petron, Shell and Caltex simultaneously imposed a 30-centavo increase on the prices of petroleum products on August 11. Other companies like Total and Eastern Petroleum later followed suit.

The move was met with criticism and protests.

3 military officials in cahoots with Abu Sayyaf

The Senate has recommended that three high-ranking officials of the AFP be court martialled for conniving with the Abu Sayyaf. The case is in connection with the bandits' dubious escape from Lamitan, Basilan in June 2001. According to the Senate's investigation, the bandits were able to escape despite the military's presence because officers in charge of the operations were in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf. The three officers are former 1st

ID and Task Force Comet commander Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez; former 103rd Bde chief Col. Juvenal Narcise; and former 18th IB chief Maj. Eliseo Campued.

Meanwhile, Sen. Gregorio Honasan has asserted that Defense Sec. Angelo Reyes and then AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva should also face trial for this case.

Ramos to face senate investigation

The Senate is set to investigate former president Fidel Ramos in connection with anomalous contracts entered into by the government with independent power producers (IPP) while he was still in power. The signed contracts oblige the National Power Corp. to pay for the IPP's capacity, whether or not they produce electricity.

More than half of the 48 IPP contracts were approved during Ramos' time. In exchange, he and his minions raked in millions of dollars worth of commissions and additional contracts.

To deflect public attention from himself, Ramos exposed the bribery perpetrated by the Lopezes and other businessmen at the Congress last year to ensure the passage into law of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

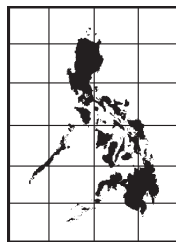
NBI files raps vs. Lacson

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed perjury charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson on August 16 in connection with his secret US bank accounts. According to the NBI, the accounts were worth a total of \$1.37 million (or about P52.7 million).

Lacson did not include the real value of his properties for five years in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth.

BIR chair resigns

Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) chair Rene Bañez resigned on August 20. Low tax collections



these past months which were allegedly responsible for the growing deficit in the national budget, were blamed on his incompetence. Bañez in turn blamed collection shortfalls on certain officials who purposely limited tax collections for this year.

Conflicts have long been brewing between Bañez and the BIR employees. The employees are opposed mainly to Bañez's planned "reforms" stipulated in the proposed Internal Revenue Management Authority (IRMA) which will replace the BIR. IRMA will be run both by the government and the private sector. Its head will be vested with vast powers to hire and fire employees and grant incentives on the basis of an employee's records. The employees assert that Bañez will merely use the IRMA to set aside their right to security of tenure and dismiss from the service 6,000 employees in the name of "cleaning up the bureaucracy". The employees fear that Bañez will not respect even their right to receive due compensation and retirement benefits.

U.S. government sued

Americans incarcerated in concentration camps during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines from 1941 to 1945 have filed a class suit against the US government. The case was filed after it was discovered that the US purposely did not issue passports and other travel documents from 1941 to 1943 to prevent the departure of some 12,000 American civilians then living in the Philippines. The US used the anticipated abuses inflicted by the Japanese against the civilians as grounds for its decision to wage war against Japan.



U.S. seeks dismissal of case vs. Exxon Mobil

The US State Department is trying to secure a dismissal of the case filed by 11 individuals from Aceh province in Indonesia against American oil giant Exxon Mobil.

According to the plaintiffs, Exxon Mobil financed and directed Indonesian military forces to perpetrate killings, torture and rape against the people of Aceh in the 1990s to protect the company's operations in the province. Exxon Mobil mines natural gas in Aceh.

According to the US State Department, US interests and the "campaign against terrorism" would be jeopardized if the case prospers.

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