



ANG

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Editorial

US covert operations in various countries

U.S. imperialism tramples on the sovereignty of various countries as it wages its global terrorist war. The US can no longer deny this fact after the disclosure this November of a document containing orders to the US Special Forces to launch secret attacks on perceived elements of the al-Qaeda terrorist network anywhere in the world.

Then US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued the "Al Qaeda Network Exord" (execute order) in 2004, ordering secret attacks on alleged al-Qaeda sanctuaries, even without the permission of the concerned countries. With a small group of top-ranking officers deciding, American soldiers can be sent immediately to other countries to launch bombing attacks and other operations against their targets.

The memorandum is part of a series of directives by the Bush regime meant to intensify and expand its terrorist war in different parts of the world. Bush had earlier ordered "renditions"— secret abductions and the detention, transfer, interrogation and torture of suspected terrorists in secret prisons in various countries. As early as 2002, Bush had also clandestinely ordered surveillance on telephone conversations, e-mails and other electronic communication of Americans and foreigners in the US without warrant or any sanction from the courts. These directives are blatant violations of international law and even of US laws.

The US has also stepped up espionage activities in different countries, covertly using spy drones and other advanced technology

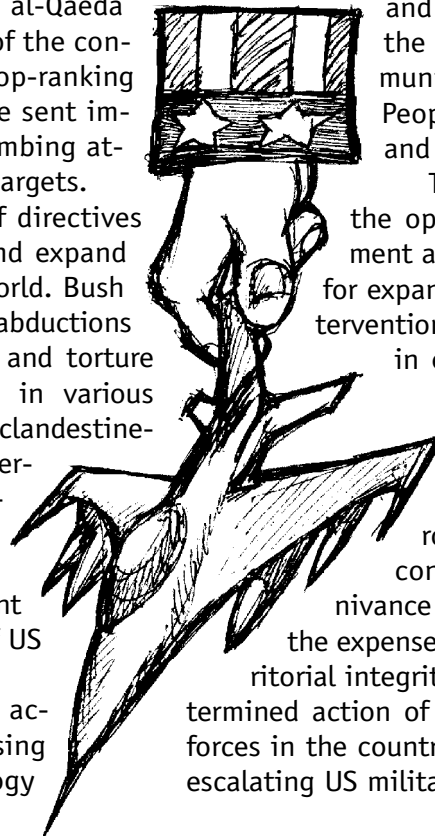
for electronic surveillance. It likewise utilizes spies and paid agents to monitor the location and movements of elements who are considered enemies of the US.

Rumsfeld's memorandum pinpoints 15-20 countries that are so-called terrorist havens. Aside from these, the memorandum allows attacks on any country, including US puppet estates like the Philippines, under the pretext of going after terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf. (See related articles)

The real and strategic targets of US attacks in the Philippines, however, are the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and other revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces.

The entire revolutionary movement, the open patriotic and democratic movement and the Filipino people must prepare for expanding and deepening US military intervention in the Philippines and persevere in exposing and defeating it in all its forms. These same policies are expected to continue under the new Obama government.

The puppet and traitorous Arroyo regime deserves the strongest condemnation for its all-out connivance with its imperialist master, even at the expense of the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Only the united strength and determined action of all anti-imperialist and democratic forces in the country can put a stop to continuing and escalating US military intervention on the Philippines.



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US invasions

The US military continues to wage aggression in various parts of the globe. From Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria in the Middle East, the US also conducts raids in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa. In order to justify these assaults, it links various armed groups, especially those opposed to US imperialism to the al-Qaeda group. The US has also threatened to invade Yemen, Algeria and Indonesia under the same pretext.

On November 7, up to 12 people died from a secret bombing attack by a US drone on a house along the border between North and South Waziristan in Pakistan which the US claimed was a base of local guerrillas resisting the US invasion and occupation of Iraq. This was but the latest of several US bombing attacks involving drones in Pakistan. In October alone, hundreds of residents in the area were killed and wounded in aerial attacks by US drones.

October 26, 2008. Four US helicopters raided Deir Ezzor, a community near Syria's border with Iraq, killing eight people and wounding many others. The attack did not have the permission of Syria. The Foreign Ministry of Syria

said that the US helicopters fired at civilian workers. American soldiers even got off their helicopters and assaulted a building in the area, according to witnesses. The US now claims that the community was the site of a plutonium enrichment plant recently

built by Syria with North Korean assistance.

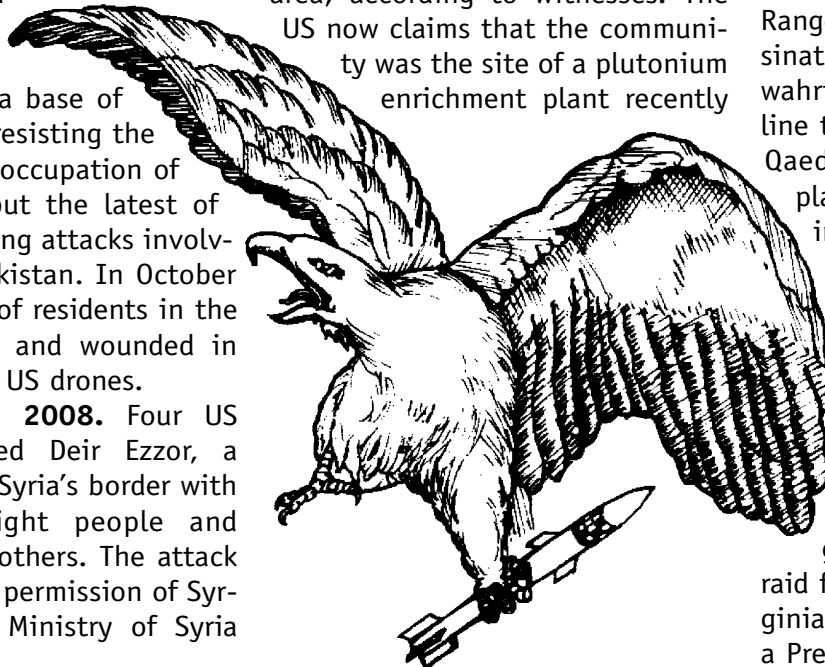
This was not the first time US troops have invaded Syrian communities. Since the US' occupation of Iraq, American warplanes have been frequenting Syria under the pretext of attacking al-Qaeda elements and Sunni guerrillas allegedly hiding along its borders.

June 2008. The US planned to send a Navy SEALs and Army Rangers team to Pakistan to assassinate or capture Ayman al-Zawahiri, believed to be second in line to Osama bin Laden in the al-Qaeda organization. The US planned the assault after hearing rumors that al-Zawahiri was to attend a meeting there.

In 2006, a US Navy SEALs team attacked a house in the Bajaur region in Pakistan that belonged to a person suspected by the US of being a terrorist. High-ranking officials of the Central Intelligence Agency watched the raid from their headquarters in Virginia, through cameras attached to a Predator drone.

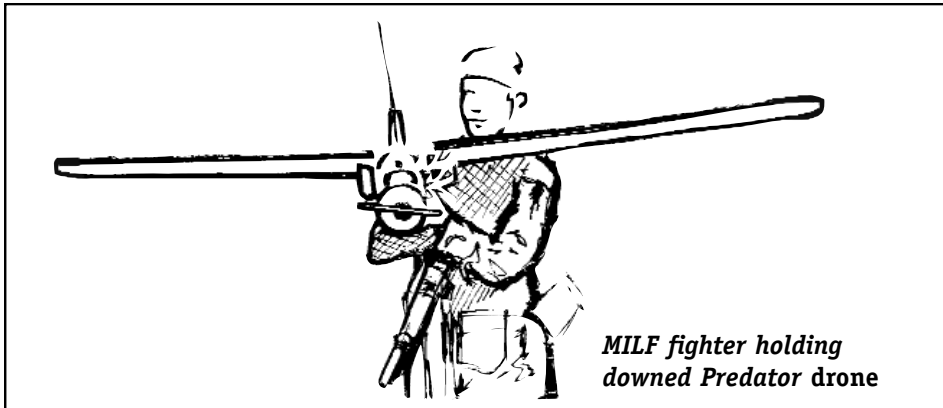
January 7, 2007. With Somalia serving as base, US warplanes rained missiles on a secluded community in Kenya. In a matter of hours, US troops landed to inspect the houses in ruins. The US claims that the target had connections with al-Qaeda.

End of 2006. The Joint Operations Command of the US Army covertly sent operatives and AC-130 gunships to Ethiopia after Ethiopian troops ruthlessly invaded and occupied Somalia. From Ethiopia, US troops repeatedly invaded Somalia to pursue and kill elements based in the area accused of bombing the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. **AB**



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US spy drones flown in the Philippines



*MILF fighter holding
downed Predator drone*

Two US drones have either crashed or been shot down in Maguindanao and North Cotabato in the past few weeks—a testament to the fact that the US military actively and directly conducts surveillance to support the Arroyo puppet regime’s counterrevolutionary war.

On October 31, a Predator drone crashed in Talayan, Maguindanao after Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces fired at it. Like other drones, the Predator is an instrument used by the US Army in its covert combat and surveillance operations.

Another US spy drone crashed in a community in Pikit, North Cotabato after being stuck in coconut tree branches on October 17. The local police swiftly formed a protective cordon around it and gathered its scattered debris. US officials and the Arroyo regime attempted to put a lid on the incident but the local media nevertheless reported the crash after a week.

US officials and the regime have repeatedly denied US intervention and the blatant presence of American soldiers in operations against the MILF. This is in spite of the testimonies of numerous witnesses and many pieces of evidence, including a photograph of a white US spy plane that went public in the initial days of AFP offensives against the MILF. In fact, the US Armed Forces has con-

firmed in an official report before the US Congress that drones in the Philippines are being used to provide “surveillance and communications support” to AFP forces conducting operations in the country.

On February 10, another drone crashed in Indanan, Sulu. Residents gathered the debris and presented them to the media.

Another drone exploded in Mt. Tumatangis in Sulu in November 2007. Residents in the area earlier

witnessed its use in the AFP’s pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

In February 2006, on the other hand, the US military paid ₱50,000 to a farmer who discovered a US drone that crashed in a coconut field in Indanan, Sulu. As far back as March 2002, a Predator had already crashed into the waters off Zamboanga City.

These spy drones have long been flown by the US not only in Moro areas in Mindanao. There have been numerous sightings of drones flying over areas where the NPA operates, and in other parts of the Philippines, especially when Balikatan military exercises are being conducted nearby.

The US’ P-3 Orion drones that are often flown in different parts of the country are usually stationed at the Philippine Air Force base in Mactan island, Cebu. AB

US troops in Southern Mindanao

The US military is a direct participant in the massive counterrevolutionary operations of 10th ID troops being conducted in the entire Southern Mindanao Region. The operations, which began this year have been intensifying since the first week of April. In the first week of May, no less than the residents of Barangay Ngan in Compostela, Compostela Valley reported to the New People’s Army (NPA) the presence of four American soldiers at a tactical command post of the Scout Rangers and the 1003rd Brigade-AFP in Sitio Spar Dos. Utilizing a satellite dish, laptop computers, a scanner and an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone, the American soldiers provide technical intelligence to guide AFP troops in their combat maneuvers against the NPA.

The incident is proof of the US military’s hand in directing not only operations against Moro revolutionaries and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, but counterrevolutionary military campaigns against the NPA as well. The US and the Arroyo regime are lying when they justify the US troops’ permanent presence in the country by saying that the latter are merely engaged in humanitarian missions. The US is also lying when it claims that the targets of its pursuit operations are groups with links to al-Qaeda. AB

Revolutionary forces in Southern Mindanao thwart OBL2

The revolutionary movement in the Southern Mindanao Region (SMR) continues to thwart Oplan Bantay Laya 2 (OBL2). Since January 2008, the NPA has been pummeling the forces of the 10th ID-AFP with vigorous tactical offensives in various parts of the region.

The AFP is hell-bent on crippling if not completely crushing the revolutionary movement in the region. Instead of being vanquished, however, it is the Red fighters who have been inflicting serious casualties on AFP troops, resources and operations. The NPA is in fact gaining major victories both militarily and politically.

Tactical offensives

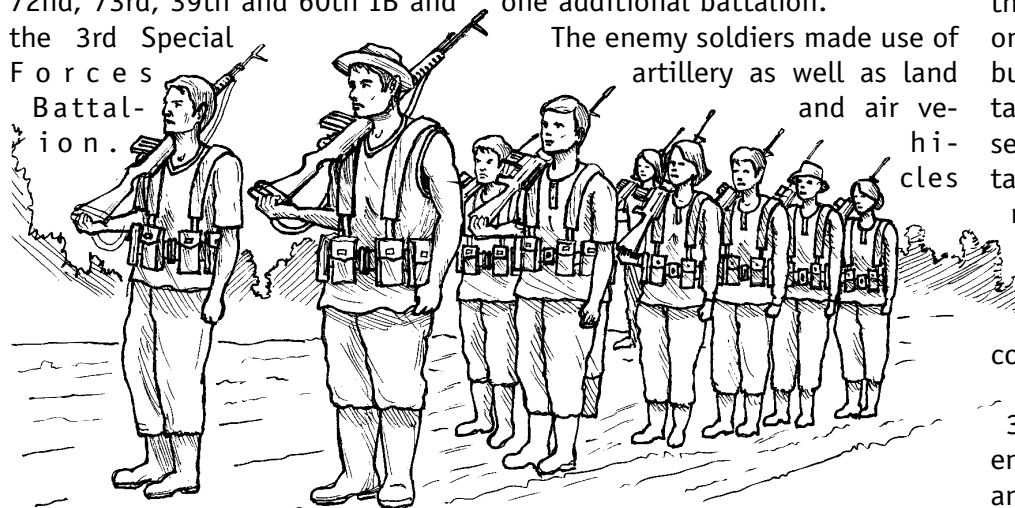
At the onset of 2008, the 10th Infantry Division of the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command launched massive and intense military operations against the revolutionary forces throughout Southern Mindanao. It was the biggest military campaign by the AFP in the region's history.

A total of 10 battalions under the 1001st and 1003rd Brigade of the 10th ID were mobilized in the operations. The AFP poured in some 1,500 to 2,000 troops coming from the 67th, 28th, 25th, 72nd, 73rd, 39th and 60th IB and the 3rd Special Forces Battalion.

This number did not suffice. The AFP had to add several Scout Ranger companies aside from the Division Reconnaissance Company. Reinforcements from the 1002nd and 602nd Brigade of the 6th ID were likewise deployed in the area. On top of this, the PNP-IX Regional Mobile Group and the 1105th PNP Provincial Mobile Group supported the AFP in its combat operations.

The 1001st Brigade and the rapid deployment units of the Philippine Army focused on the priority targets of OBL2 in the municipalities of New Bataan, Compostela and Monkayo in Compostela Valley, and in the towns of Baganga, Boston and Cateel in Davao Oriental. The 1002nd Brigade and Task Force Raptor (TFR) also launched simultaneous operations in North Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Davao City. The 1003rd Brigade has recently been tasked to take over as TFR and has been reinforced with one additional battalion.

The enemy soldiers made use of artillery as well as land and air vehicles



for combat, logistics, supply and transport purposes. They used, among others, UH-1 and MG250 helicopters, OV-10 airplanes, Simba tanks, armored personnel carriers and 105 mm howitzers.

An assessment by the Party Regional Committee in Southern Mindanao determined that the revolutionary forces actively frustrated and all-sidedly defeated the enemy's campaigns by launching widespread and intensive tactical offensives, expanding the mass base and strengthening the mass movement. The Party and people's army expanded and consolidated, and they in turn provided effective tactical leadership.

Thus, the region has been able to advance amid the brutality and destruction wrought by militarization. Not a single guerrilla front has been dismantled. In fact, the revolutionary movement has even been able to expand its guerrilla fronts as well as its areas of operation. Membership in the Party, the people's army and the mass organizations has grown. The people's army has also been able to pursue the implementation of the minimum program of agrarian revolution aside from other key tasks.

The most outstanding period in the NPA's effort to confront the enemy's all-out offensives regionwide was in April and May 2008, when the people's army manifested not only its ability to preserve itself but to wage victorious counter-attacks against the enemy through a series of effective and sustained tactical offensives. In just two months, NPA fighters were able to launch 76 tactical offensives that inflicted a casualty count on the 10th ID equivalent to a company (32 killed and 42 wounded). The Red fighters also seized 35 high-powered weapons—enough to arm a regular platoon—and achieved major political victo-

ries.

Frustrating intensifying enemy attacks

The Party Committee in Southern Mindanao stated in its assessment the valuable lessons learned from the recent series of tactical offensives launched to confront, resist and defeat the annihilative campaign that the enemy tried to wage. The lessons are instructive on the ways of maximizing the region's current capability to wage guerrilla warfare.

There are strong bases for advancing guerrilla warfare in SMR. Overall objective conditions regionwide, nationwide and worldwide are favorable for strengthening and advancing armed revolution. There is a sufficient area of operation and a deep enough mass base and there are NPA units that have the capability and experience to step up guerrilla warfare. In addition, enemy troops in the region suffer from a number of vulnerabilities in their deployment and movements that the people's army can take advantage of.

On these bases, the leading committee has called on all NPA guerrilla units in the region to intensify people's war and vigorously expand and intensify tactical offensives based on an ever-expanding and deepening mass base.

The Party regional committee

in SMR also stressed the need for the NPA's vertical or fighting units to adhere strictly to their orientation, role and duty as the main units tasked with strengthening guerrilla warfare in the region. The committee cited a number of instances where vertical units failed to respond immediately to the Party's call and the burden of engaging the enemy fell mainly on the horizontal or mass work units.

All NPA units must also internalize the correct orientation and objectives of launching tactical offensives: Annihilative tactical offensives (those whose objective is to wipe out the enemy and yield the most number of firearms) must be prioritized. On the other hand, attritive tactical offensives (those whose objective is to weaken the enemy) must also be launched as a second priority.

Stressing that the only way to strengthen the people's army is by fighting, the SMR in its assessment said that the NPA must conduct on a sustained basis tactical offensives and operations it is capable of winning. Lower Party territorial committees (sub-regional and front committees), platoons (platoon Party branches) and NPA territorial commands (the Regional Operations Command, the Subregional Operations Commands and Front Operations Commands) must vigorously implement the task of waging

widespread and intensive tactical offensives.

Along with these, the revolutionary movement must likewise build the broadest and strongest possible mass movement and simultaneously strengthen the anti-feudal mass movement. Ideological and political education and military training must be provided continuously to raise the politico-military capability of the NPA.

The revolutionary forces must also persevere in implementing the Basic Military Orientation (more familiarly known as military regulations in other regions) and guerrilla tactics, abide by the rules governing guerrilla movements and take strict security precautions. At all times and in all places, the revolutionary forces must painstakingly ensure that the enemy remains blind, deaf and inutile in its effort to identify, target and attack NPA units, Party committees and leading cadres on various levels.

Strengthening the mass movement in the urban areas is likewise integral to the effort to address enemy offensives and advance guerrilla warfare.

In firmly resolving to pay due attention to these points, the revolutionary forces in Southern Mindanao will surely achieve even more brilliant victories in advancing guerrilla warfare and completely defeat OBL2 in the region. **AB**

NPA-Sorsogon frustrates AFP preparations for Balikatan

The New People's Army (NPA) in Bicol simultaneously frustrates Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL2) and the ongoing preparations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for the Balikatan exercises scheduled for early 2009 in the provinces of Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate.

As part of OBL2 and in preparation for Balikatan, the 8th Scout

Ranger Company (SRC) has been launching a series of operations in the adjacent towns of Bulusan,

Barcelona, Gubat and Casiguran in Sorsogon. This has wrought intense militarization and grave human rights abuses in these areas. The Red fighters, however, have been hitting hard this so-called "elite unit" of the military.

Up to nine elements of the 8th SRC have been killed and at least one has been seriously wounded in clashes with the NPA in Sorsogon these past months.

On November 1, three elements of the 8th SRC were killed and one was severely wounded when the Scout Rangers dared enter Barangay San Pascual, Casiguran, Sorsogon. Though dressed in civilian clothes, the residents were able to identify them as enemy soldiers, prompting the masses to immediately relay the information

to the Red fighters. A platoon of the Celso Minguez Command (BHB-Sorsogon) that happened to be in Casiguran at the time was quick to prepare its defense. The Red guerrillas were able to fire the first shot, taking the initiative from the enemy in battle. The guerrillas also detonated a bomb, further demoralizing the Scout Rangers.

Prior to this, the same military unit suffered six dead in an assault on a group of NPA medics providing health services to the masses in the adjacent town of Gubat.

The AFP has sought to conceal these losses by imposing media blackouts on the incidents and refusing to reveal the names of the slain soldiers. **AB**

Violence and deception in Camarines Sur

Four elements of the 42nd IB were killed and many others were wounded in an encounter with members of the Tomas Pilapil Command (New People's Army-Camarines Sur) in Sitio Suguitan, Barangay Mapid, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur on September 3.

The incident occurred after military men posing as Red fighters instructed local farmers to guide them through mountain trails in upland Lagonoy. Fortunately, not a single farmer exploited and deceived by the military was hurt when the clash ensued. There were also no casualties on the side of the NPA.

The 42nd IB then vented its anger and humiliation on innocent civilians. After making sure that the NPA had pulled out completely from the encounter scene, the military torched the house of Mila and Sherwin Eviernes in Sitio Suguitan. With no roof over their heads, the couple is in a pitiful state as Mrs. Eviernes is due to give birth to her first child.

Not content with such an atrocity, elements of the 42nd IB arbitrarily arrested Nelfa Cledera, 43, and a mother of five; and Maricel Camacho, whom they chanced upon resting in a hut a few kilometers from the encounter scene. The fascist soldiers once again posed as NPA guerrillas when they arrested the two women and later accused them of being Red fighters.

Cledera and Camacho are in fact ordinary civilians and residents of Barangay San Isidro in Lagonoy. They were brought to the 42nd IB "C" Coy headquarters in Barangay Mananao, Tinambac where they were subjected to intense interrogation. Worse, the military even stole ₱2,000 from Cledera which was meant to pay for her children's school expenses.

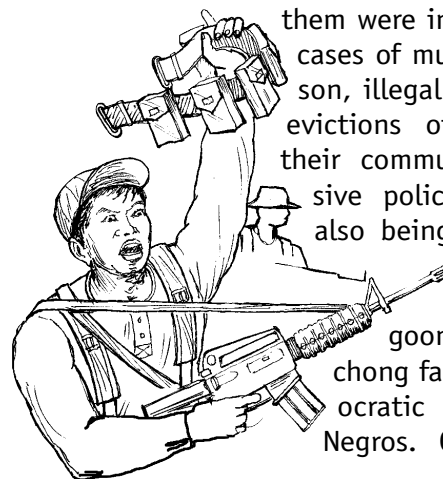
The women were released a few days later with the help of human rights organizations. **AB**

NPA battles land grabbing in Negros

The assault by Red fighters of the Leonardo Panaligan Command (NPA-Negros) on the headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in La Libertad town, Negros Oriental on November 3 was but the latest punitive action of the armed revolutionary movement against elements perpetrating massive militarization and landgrabbing in Negros. The attack also clearly belies Rep. Jocelyn Limkai-chong's claims that the revolutionary movement in the island had already been crushed.

Two women Red fighters posed as civilians to file a case with the police at 12:45 a.m. on November 3. They kept a policeman occupied to cover the entry of three other comrades into the headquarters. As soon as the guerrillas had entered, they quickly pointed their guns at the surprised policemen and ordered them to lie face down. The Red fighters swiftly disarmed the police of four M16 rifles and six .45 caliber pistols, camouflage uniforms and other military paraphernalia.

After the raid, the Red fighters immediately freed the policemen even though most of them were involved in various cases of murder, holdups, arson, illegal arrest and forced evictions of residents from their communities. The abusive police elements were also being utilized as personal bodyguards and paid goons of the Limkai-chong family against democratic organizations in Negros. Only one police-



man was wounded when he exchanged fire with the NPA.

Meanwhile, in Southeastern Negros, the Pulang Mt. Talinis Front of the NPA launched a campaign against landgrabbing. The perpetrators are agribusiness companies in collusion with bureaucrat capitalists and landlords. Ka Dom Pantaleon, spokesperson of the Pulang Mt. Talinis Front said that businessmen and landlords use the Philippine Army 302nd Infantry Brigade to protect the destructive Biogreen Inc., which is owned by a Korean company and its business partners from the family of former Rep. Herminio Teves (father of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves). Using the Tamlang Valley Agricultural Development Corporation (TVADC) as a front, the farmers are forced to plant jatropha and cassava for biofuel instead of traditional crops like rice and corn along the border areas of Sta. Catalina, Siaton, Valencia and Pamplona towns. According to the Tamlang Valley farmers, what they need is food and not the biofuel that the Arroyo regime has been touting as an alternative to petroleum.

In early 2008, protesting farmers Flaviano Arante and Reynaldo Yanoc, both residents of Barangay Talalak, Sta. Catalina were abducted by military agents and are feared dead. On the other hand, on September 9, the military launched bombing attacks for eight hours on the upland barangays of Sta. Catalina, using mortars, 105 mm howitzers, a Tora-Tora airplane and two helicopter gunships.

But the masses and the revolutionary movement remain unfazed by these atrocities. The NPA has carried out two punitive operations against the destructive company. On September 9, a group of NPA guerrillas seized and torched three tractors belonging to TVADC in Sitio Cuadra, Barangay Mantikal, Sta. Catalina. Again, on October 3, Red fighters confiscated and burned two tractors of the TVADC in Barangay Casalaan, Siaton.

Ten clashes occurred between the fascist military and the NPA from May to October. The enemy continues to conceal the numerous losses it has suffered in these firefights. On September 25, 2Lt. Romualdo Rubi of the 79th IB and a CAFGU element were wounded in a harassment operation staged by the NPA in Sitio Bagacay, Barangay Milagrosa, Sta. Catalina. Two soldiers and their guide—an element of the Barangay Defense System—were killed in an ambush on October 5 in Sitio Abante, Barangay Buenavista, Sta. Catalina.



NPA captures AFP officer, seizes M60

Red fighters of the NPA Front 3 Operations Command seized an M60 machine gun, two M16s and an M14 in an ambush on elements of the 3rd Special Forces Battalion (3rd SFB) on patrol in the morning of November 7 at Sitio Anagase, Barangay Casoon, Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

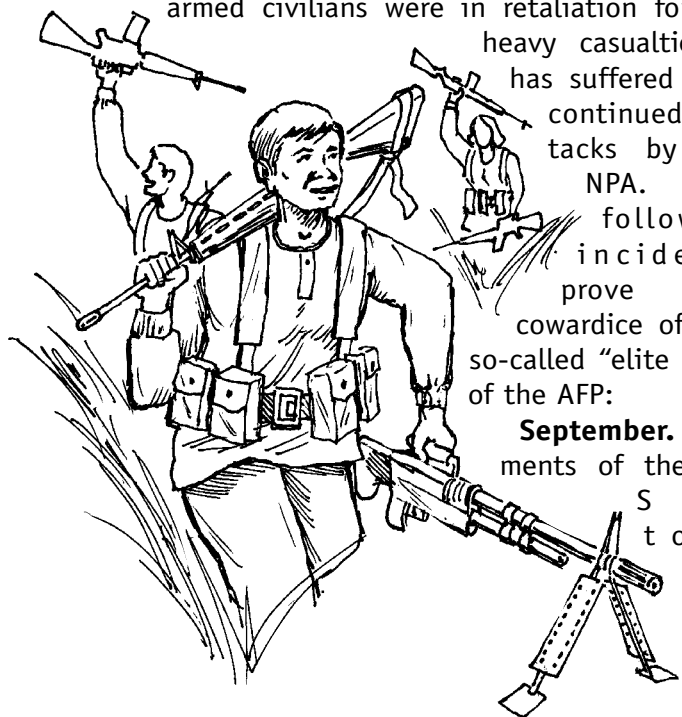
Three government soldiers died on the spot and many others were wounded. The military unit formed part of a Reengineered Special Operations Team (RSOT) deployed in the area. Meanwhile, 1Lt. Vicente P. Cammayo, commander of the 11th Special Forces Company-3rd SFB, surrendered after his unit was routed by the Red fighters. Cammayo is now being held by the NPA as a prisoner of war.

The NPA has been battering the 3rd SFB with successive tactical offensives. Prior to this, Front 3 Operations Command guerrillas ambushed the same military unit on October 25 along the national highway in Barangay Banlag, Monkayo. The Red fighters likewise sniped the 3rd SFP that same day in Barangay Canidkid, Montevista.

These continuous tactical offensives serve as punitive measures against the 3rd SFB for its grave human rights abuses, violations of the protocols of war and international humanitarian law which have victimized civilians. The brutalities inflicted by the 3rd SFB on unarmed civilians were in retaliation for the

heavy casualties it has suffered from continued attacks by the NPA. The following incidents prove the cowardice of this so-called "elite unit" of the AFP:

September. Elements of the 3rd SFB took



turns in beating up a certain Pascual, a farmer living at Cebu-li, Barangay Kapatagan, Laak after three of their troops were killed and two others were wounded in an encounter with the NPA.

July. The notorious military unit murdered peasant leader Diego Encarnacion, a resident of Barangay Linda, Nabunturan after an NPA raid and disarming operation on the 72nd IB detachment in the same barangay.

June. Troops of the 3rd SFB summarily executed Noli Llanos, a peasant leader and village councilman of Barangay Mipangi, Nabunturan after the NPA meted punishment on three elements of the 3rd SFB.

Residents of upland barangays in Monkayo also suffer intense military repression perpetrated by the 3rd SFB.

AFP coverup. Meanwhile, the Merardo Arce Command of the NPA in Southern Mindanao belied claims by the military that the 66th IB troops ambushed by Red fighters in Sitio Taytayan, Barangay Andap, Montevista on October 24, were heading towards Manurigao, New Bataan for a humanitarian mission. Eight soldiers were killed, including 2Lt. Jeffrey Domingo, commanding officer of one of the platoons under the 66th IB. The following morning, October 25, the guerrillas launched another attack on the 66th IB in Sitio Manlubog in the same barangay.

The fact is, as early as October 23, ten truckloads of soldiers deployed by the AFP 1001st Brigade had entered the village to launch all-out military attacks in New Bataan. Their true intentions became evident when they indiscriminately fired artillery shells at farflung barangays of New Bataan. AB

Bombings, extrajudicial executions and illegal arrests

Indiscriminate bombings, the merciless killings of activists and journalists and illegal arrests of leaders and members of the open democratic movement comprise the most striking human rights abuses colated by *Ang Bayan*:

November 18. A 30-year old civilian was killed and four others were wounded, including a child, after an air strike by the Philippine Air Force on a well-populated area in Mamasapano, Maguindanao. The fatality was identified as Sindak Ismael. Wounded were Haja Bai Masla Zangkala, 45; Haja Apisa Ibrahim, 47; Rudy Kamsa, 23; and a 12-year old child.

Meanwhile, forced evacuations by residents continue in Mindanao, according to the Philippine National Red Cross. Up to 46,350 people or 11,734 families have fled their communities in nine Mindanao provinces as a result of the latest clashes between the AFP and the MILF. Among those who sought refuge were members of an entire community in Bukidnon where 30 houses were torched and destroyed by soldiers on operation. There were also 1,230 families in Sultan Kudarat who lost their homes due to intense military operations against the MILF.

November 17. Aristeo Padrigao, a dxRS Radio Nation commentator and writer of Mindanao Monitor Today was murdered in Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental at 7:15 a.m. Padrigao had just brought his seven year old daughter to school when he was gunned down. He is the 61st media worker killed since

2001.

November 9. Bayan Muna municipal coordinator Rolando Antolihao, 39, was shot to death in Kupalong, Davao del Norte. Witnesses said that Antolihao was gunned down at around 6 p.m. by two men who knocked at his door. Antolihao suffered seven gunshot wounds.

November 6-13. Calamba City police and regional intelligence agents arrested Labor Education Advocacy Development Response Services (LEADS) executive director Emmanuel Dioneda, 42, making him the sixth activist in Southern Tagalog nabbed by state agents since October this year.

Dioneda, along with his girlfriend Sailani Catindigay were abducted in front of the Calamba City Hall in Laguna. Dioneda's wallet and cellphone were confiscated. He is among 72 persons accused in a multiple murder case related to the deaths of two policemen in an NPA ambush in Calapan City, Mindoro Oriental in March 2006.

Prior to this, elements of the 418th PNP Mobile Force raided the house of Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY)-Rizal secretary general Romeo Aguilar, in Barangay San Isidro, Antipolo City. Aguilar is also one of the accused



in the Mindoro Oriental case.

On November 6, another activist accused in the same case, Kilusang Mayo Uno member Arnaldo Seminiano was arrested.

November. The military is conducting widespread recruitment among the Mandaya Lumads, coercing them into joining the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in New Bataan, Com-

postela Valley. The AFP is using the tribespeople to go after the NPA.

October 10. Elements of the 17th IB led by Lt. Johnny Calub abducted five farmers from Barangay Sicalao, Lasam, Cagayan. The victims were identified as Romy Cagua, Jovito Domingo, Marcos Academia, Randy Miguel and Johnny Alburot. Academia,

Miguel and Alburot were released two days later. Cagua, however, was murdered, and Domingo remains in the custody of the 17th IB. Pablito Costano, a CAFGU element who witnessed the summary killing of Cagua has also gone missing and is believed to have been abducted as well by the 17th IB to silence him. AB

Triumph International Philippines

Workers condemn DOLE no-strike policy

Members of the Manggagawa sa Triumph International Philippines, Incorporated (BPMTI) strongly denounced the order of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) barring the workers from launching a strike against Triumph International Philippines. DOLE claims that the workers' grievances had already been forwarded to the National Conciliation and Mediation Board which has reportedly assumed jurisdiction over the case.

This was after a deadlock on negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Some 300 unionists stormed the DOLE national office on November 17 and condemned the company management's connivance with the Arroyo government in implementing the "no-strike policy."

Prior to this, over 1,000 BPMTI members took to the streets and marched towards the company warehouse in Buendia, Makati City. After the protest march, the workers threw hundreds of brassieres and panties at the warehouse building. The protest action was launched to pressure management after CBA negotiations collapsed on October 10.

Management continues to ignore the workers' demands for better wages and benefits despite three months of painstaking CBA negotiations.

The move by the Triumph workers was the latest among a series of protest actions launched by the workers in the past few days. In order to assert their interests, the workers picketed outside the factory, launched a noise barrage inside the factory every breaktime, put up streamers and conducted other

and after the CBA talks. Daily rallies were also held before the workers report for work. Silent protests were likewise conducted to air their legitimate grievances to the company management.

The union is demanding, among others, a P125 increase in basic pay (to be given in three installments of P45/P40/P40 over the next three years) and the implementation of an across-the-board government wage increase. The unionists are also fighting for financial assistance to resigning employees, union leaves, hospitalization benefits, free shuttle service, plant transfers and the removal of the "30-year compulsory retirement" rule, among others.

Triumph International Philippines is owned by British capitalists Speishoffer and Brawn. The company is at present the leading and biggest manufacturer of undergarments in the Philippines. It also has factories in Cavite and Cebu. It has a total of over 1,200 workers, majority of whom are women. The BPMTI union has 900 members, with most of them found in the Triumph factory at the Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI) Complex in Taguig City. AB



Arroyo camp seizes Senate leadership

The ruling Arroyo clique mobilized its minions and paid collaborators in the Senate and took advantage of contradictions among oppositionists to destroy their unity and seize the leadership in an attempt to use the Senate to serve Arroyo's objectives.

Sen. Manuel Villar was forced to resign immediately as Senate president on November 17 upon learning that the Senate majority had a pending resolution to replace him. In the election for a new Senate President, 14 senators voted in favor of Enrile, while Villar and six remaining opposition senators abstained from voting.

The public is fully aware that Enrile, the former implementor of martial law under the Marcos dictatorship, is one of Arroyo's closest allies and apologists. Malacañang wants to use Enrile as an effective tool to weaken the opposition in the Senate and serve Arroyo's interests. The Arroyo camp aims to emasculate the Senate and ultimately wants its complete dissolution to silence the opposition and break down a stone wall that has been blocking Arroyo's ambition to prolong her hold on power.

Malacañang immediately denied any involvement in the recent Senate coup. Aside from Arroyo's cabal, some opposition senators, including Jinggoy Estrada, son of ousted president Joseph Estrada, voted for Enrile. Arroyo's camp now claims that it was actually Estrada who was behind the change in Senate leadership.

Villar became the primary target of attack after his name appeared in surveys as one of the leading presidential candidates in 2010. The Arroyo camp is inciting divisions among oppositionists to weaken them and re-

duce their winnability should elections push through in 2010. An alleged anomaly in the C5 Road extension project that Villar purportedly profited from was exposed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in July, an issue that Malacañang has since been using against Villar to move for his ouster.

In any case, the leadership change in the Senate is clearly favorable to Gloria Arroyo. With Enrile as Senate president, the most important Senate committees are now in the hands of those who voted for him. Lacson now heads the most powerful committees in the Senate—the Ways and Means Committee, which investigates all issues pertaining to government finances; the Accounts Committee, which audits Senate expenses; and the Ethics

Committee, which investigates all corruption cases of Senate members—all in exchange for his leading role in Villar's ouster. Lacson will surely use the Ethics Committee to further crucify Villar.

Similarly, administration ally Richard Gordon is likely to head the "Blue Ribbon Committee" (Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations) that is charged with investigating cases of corruption such as the ZTE/National Broadband Scam, the "Euro generals" and Fertilizer Fund Scam. With the change in committee leaderships, these investigations are expected to come to naught.

Arroyo expects her maneuvers in the Senate to go easier with the installation of Enrile as the new Senate president. She fervently wants the Senate to be more cooperative with the Lower House that she had earlier already put in control when Jose de Venecia was ousted as House Speaker and replaced by Arroyo puppet Prospero Nograles.

The Supreme Court is next in line among Arroyo's targets, to ensure her absolute control over the entire machinery of the reactionary state. By the end of 2009, seven magistrates are expected to retire, including Chief Justice Reynato Puno. With Arroyo's appointment of their replacements, she will have decisive control over the court, whose rulings will surely favor her interests.

It has now become a lot easier for Malacañang to step up the pace of its pending schemes to extend Arroyo's power beyond 2010. AB



Capitalism in China

The Chinese people no longer believe that their country is still a socialist state. Thus declared Prof. Pao-yu Ching, an economics professor at a US university and a specialist in the Chinese economy and concrete conditions of the Chinese people. Professor Pao-yu expressed this view at a forum sponsored by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines-International Office on October 18.

The professor further added that the "economic reforms", which began in 1978 and dubbed "socialism with Chinese characteristics" have brought nothing but misery to the people, and caused the plunder of the nation's wealth, the destruction of the environment and the transformation of the country into a neocolony of foreign powers. From being a socialist country that supported the oppressed peoples of the world, China is now allied with the oppressors in Asia, Latin America and Africa in order to amass more resources and expand its sphere of influence over the economy and politics of other countries.

On the other hand, the professor added that these experiences teach the Chinese people the true nature of



capitalism. Thirty years after the so-called "reforms," the plight of the majority of peasants and workers has worsened. They are aware that the prevailing system will not bring about a bright future for their children. Thus, they now understand the two-line class struggle within the Community Party that Comrade Mao had explained before.

Due to the capitalist character of the Chinese economy, it is inevitable for it to succumb to the intense global capitalist crisis. In the first half of the year, almost 67,000 small and medium-scale factories closed down due to

the slowdown in demand for cheap products by US companies and other capitalist centers. The growth of the export sector dwindled from 26% in September 2007 to 9% in October 2008. This dismal performance gives the lie to all illusions that China remains unaffected by the raging crisis that is shaking the US economy and the entire global capitalist system.

Hundreds of thousands of workers have suffered arbitrary wage reductions, have not been paid at all or have even been terminated. It is not surprising that workers' protests and strikes have escalated as well.

In an effort to control the massive unrest wrought by widespread retrenchments, the Chinese leadership announced on November 8 that the government would be investing \$586 billion in the next two years to build additional infrastructure for transportation. The objective is to create new employment to replace the impending loss of thousands of jobs due to the worldwide crisis. As what is happening in other capitalist countries, however, the move is bound to fail in saving China from the current deepening global recession. AB

52,000 Citigroup employees to be retrenched

CITIGROUP, the largest bank in the US, is set to dismiss up to 52,000 employees from now till the start of 2009. This is on top of the 23,000 employees already terminated at the start of 2008. Twenty

percent (20%) of the bank's 4,000 employees in the Philippines will be among those to be laid off.

The massive retrenchments by Citigroup will further worsen unemployment in the US and worldwide.

Many huge companies have announced layoffs. Up to 1.2 million workers in the US have lost their jobs since the start of 2008. Unemployment now stands at 6.5%—the highest rate since March 1994.