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Editorial

## Let the fires of armed struggle blaze like a prairie fire across the land

**T**he New People's Army (NPA) and all the revolutionary forces are ready, able and determined to go all out in advancing guerrilla warfare to reach the strategic stalemate in the next five years.

In heeding the call issued by the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) central leadership to further intensify tactical offensives, the NPA launched small and big tactical offensives every other day in March. Last month, Red fighters annihilated 30 armed elements of the enemy and seized at least 60 firearms. These victories added to the joyous celebration by Red fighters, Party members, the revolutionary forces and the people of the NPA 41st anniversary within and outside the guerrilla fronts.

Through the CPP Central Committee's statement issued on March 29, the revolutionary forces have become more enlightened on their tasks in further advancing guerrilla warfare and completing the stage of strategic defensive of the people's war in the next five years and entering the stage of strategic stalemate. This has further strengthened the unity of the entire Party and all the revolutionary forces and fired up the determination of every Red commander and

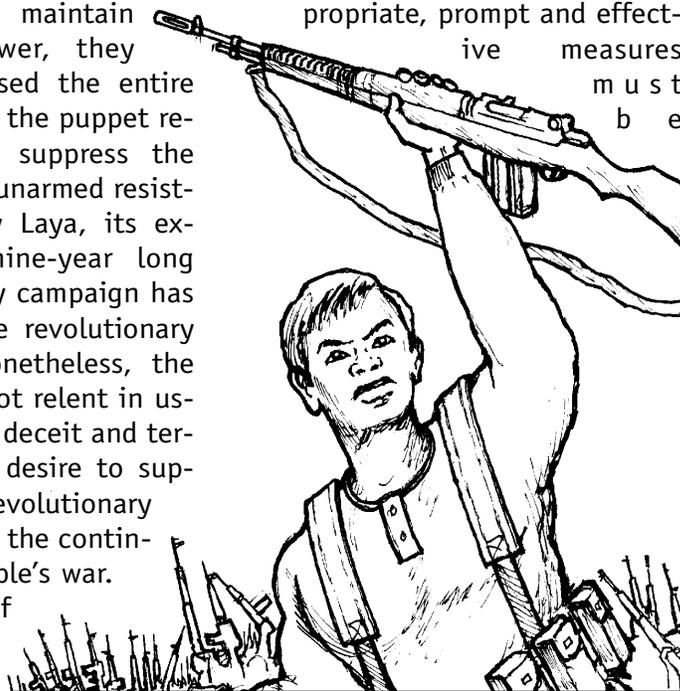
fighter to spread and advance people's war to every corner of the nation.

The reactionary ruling classes tremble with fear, especially the worst reactionaries and power-hungry elements among them in the face of the further intensification of armed struggle. In their desperate attempt to maintain themselves in power, they have relentlessly used the entire fascist machinery of the puppet reactionary state to suppress the people's armed and unarmed resistance. Oplan Bantay Laya, its exceedingly brutal nine-year long counterrevolutionary campaign has failed to defeat the revolutionary armed struggle. Nonetheless, the ruling classes will not relent in using fascist violence, deceit and terror in their foolish desire to suppress the people's revolutionary resistance and block the continued advance of people's war.

It is the duty of all leading cadres and members of

the Party, commanders and fighters of the NPA and all the revolutionary forces to continue to closely study the enemy's strategy and tactics to effectively defeat it and further advance people's war. Party committees and NPA commands at all levels of leadership must take the lead in confronting the enemy's military campaigns. The enemy's movements must be closely monitored and quickly analyzed and appropriate, prompt and effective measures

must be



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taken in response. Party committees and NPA commands must plan and coordinate the further intensification of guerrilla warfare in their respective areas of responsibility.

The revolutionary forces are now in a position to daringly mobilize hundreds of thousands up to several millions of people in all arenas of revolutionary struggle—in the further intensification of armed struggle, agrarian revolution and the mass movement; in further expanding and deepening the revolutionary mass base; and in meticulously establishing and raising the level of organs of political power. The Party must take deeper root among the masses and train cadres, members and mass activists in the various lines and spheres of work for the revolution. Let us give full sway to the masses' initiative and creativity in waging resistance.

Urban-based Party units and revolutionary forces must contribute massively to the advance of people's war. They must invigorate now and in the coming years their efforts to encourage, prepare and deploy thousands of cadres, members and activists from among the ranks of workers, educated youth, professionals and other sectors who are willing to offer themselves and their skills to advance armed struggle.

Various political and propaganda initiatives as well as material support from the urban revolutionary movement to the armed struggle now raging in the vast countryside will also help in a big way.

As the fires of people's war spread like a prairie fire across the nation, the enemy is sure to suffer even more demoralization and factiousness, especially among the AFP's junior officers and rank-and-file. All leading Party committees and NPA commands must see that the necessary steps are taken to expand among enemy ranks, clandestinely recruit and mobilize them and in some cases, cause them to openly defect to the side of revolution.

The Philippine revolution has a bright future. In the face of the relentlessly worsening chronic socio-economic crisis in the country and with the entire rotten ruling political system caught in the quagmire of successive and intense crises, the masses are intensely desirous of revolutionary change. The fires of people's war will certainly blaze like a prairie fire, spread across the nation and devour the rotten, exploitative and oppressive system in its flames as the people take action on a massive scale under the leadership of the Party and the revolutionary forces. AB

## NPA growing in strength

The psywar experts of the puppet fascist regime are making fools of themselves as their claims of destroying or reducing the revolutionary move-

ment to inconsequentiality before Gloria Arroyo steps down on June 30 are constantly belied by the successful tactical offensives of the New People's Army (NPA).

On the whole, the NPA and the revolutionary people are growing in strength and capability as they confront the most brutal and longest counterrevolutionary campaign the enemy has waged since the fall of the Marcos dictatorship—Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL 1 and 2).

**In Mindanao.** Relentless concentrated attacks by the AFP and PNP have failed to prevent the NPA from launching more than 400 tactical offensives from March 2009 to the first quarter of 2010. The NPA seized more than 200 firearms from the enemy within the period, said NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos.

The Southern Mindanao Region's (SMR) 15 guerrilla fronts have managed to sustain the momentum of guerrilla warfare in the face of massive military operations and the dirtiest propaganda campaigns of the enemy. Units

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under the NPA's Merardo Arce Operational Command have launched at least 200 tactical offensives, seizing weapons enough to arm an undersized company of new recruits.

Meanwhile, Ka Maria Malaya of the NPA's Pulang Diwata Command reported that none of the nine guerrilla fronts of the Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) was crushed despite three years of persistent attacks by five AFP battalions. The NPA in the region valiantly carried out 80 tactical offensives, killing 71 enemy soldiers, excluding those wounded and buried alive in a muddy logging area while conducting military operations in the mountains of Pakwan, Lanuza in Surigao del Sur last January.

While mercenary troops were concentrating all-out attacks on SMR and NEMR, NPA units in the North Central, Western and Far South regions of Mindanao were able to expand and cover new ar-

reas. The NPA in Mindanao now operates in 40 guerrilla fronts in 19 provinces covering more than 200 municipalities and 2,000 villages.

**In Negros.** The NPA and other revolutionary forces braved intensified and brutal military campaigns after the US-Arroyo regime identified the island as a "priority win area" in counterinsurgency operations in the entire Visayas.

Oplan Kalinaw, the local version of OBL2, concentrated over ten battalions of military, police and paramilitary forces in the island—two Philippine Army brigades from the AFP Central Command (a brigade comprises at least three battalions); a Scout Ranger battalion; two Division Reconnaissance Companies from the 3rd ID; two companies from the 12th IB; AFP combat intelligence units; a battalion from the 6th Regional Mobile Group (RMG) and a company from the 7th RMG of the PNP; 2,000 elements of the

CAFGU and other paramilitary forces like the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA).

The enemy had set a year-long timetable for destroying the revolutionary movement in the island. Later on, the AFP said it would cripple the revolutionary movement in Panay, Leyte and Samar. The military campaign lasted more than two years but failed to achieve its fantastic objective. Though bloodied, the revolutionary forces in Negros are defiant. Full-time NPA guerrillas and the people's militia in the island were able to launch ten tactical offensives every quarter.

**In Panay.** The NPA in the neighboring island of Panay also contributed 22 military actions from 2009 up to the first quarter of 2010 and inflicted more than 20 casualties on the AFP and PNP. Casualties sustained by the NPA are replenished by the growing number of new recruits, thereby maintaining the people's army's strength despite intensified enemy attacks.

**In Leyte.** Propagandists of the 8th ID received a slap in the face as NPA guerrillas under the Mt. Amandewin Command successfully ambushed 19th IB troops in Burauen town on March 12. The ambush took place a few days after top officials of the military claimed to have destroyed the armed revolutionary movement in Leyte.

**In the Ilocos-Cordillera Region.** Revolutionary forces bravely defied and frustrated the massive military offensives of the AFP in the region. In the first quarter of 2010, thirty-five AFP soldiers were killed and 35 were wounded in eight encounters in Abra, Kalinga and Mountain Province, according to Simon "Ka Filiw" Naogsan, spokesman of the Cordillera People's Democratic Front. **AB**



# NPA seizes 49 firearms

The New People's Army (NPA) seized 49 firearms in separate tactical offensives last month which saw 16 enemy soldiers killed and at least seven wounded. No casualties were reported on the side of the guerrillas.

**In North Cotabato.** Red fighters of the Mt. Alip Operational Command confiscated 35 high-powered rifles after a 14-minute raid on a CAFGU detachment in Barangay Luz, Mlang, North Cotabato on March 26. The arms catch included 15 M14s, two M16s, 17 Garand rifles and a carbine.

The CAFGU elements mistook the civilian-clad Red fighters aboard two trucks for participants in a rally of local election candidates. It was too late when they found out they were being attacked. The NPA carried out the raid on the first day of the campaign period for local candidates.

The attack was carried out within the bailiwick of the despotic bureaucrat Piñol clan. Manny Piñol is the vice governor of North Cotabato and his brother Joselito is the mayor of Mlang town. The detachment is just a few kilometers from the 57th IB headquarters. Two CAFGU elements were killed and two others were wounded in the raid. Those who surrendered were not hurt.

Humiliated, Manny Piñol ordered the 57th and 40th IBs on March 29 to launch massive operations and harass civilians in the interior villages of the towns of Mlang, Makilala and Tuluhan. In response, the NPA launched a series of harassment operations against enemy troops. The 40th IB suffered three casualties in NPA sniping operations in Sitio Salvan, Barangay Banayal, Tuluhan.

**In Davao Oriental.** At least six soldiers of the 67th IB were killed and three others were wounded in an assault staged by an oversized squad under the Antonio "Ka Nerio" Antao Command (ANAC) of the NPA while the soldiers were resting in Sitio Pagbayan, Barangay Mahan-ob, Baganga on the morning of March 27. As early as 2:00 in the morning, the Red fighters received information that an enemy platoon had entered the area and they immediately prepared to attack. The guerrillas seized an M16 rifle from the soldiers.

The guerrilla action is a slap in the enemy's face who just recently declared that Baganga is NPA-free, said Dyomabuk Kadyawan, spokesperson of the Antonio "Ka Nerio" Antao Command.

The attack took place in spite of the establishment of the enemy's Barangay Defense System (BDS) in all of the villages of Baganga. This only shows that the enemy remains blind and deaf because the people despise them.

**In Agusan del Sur.** NPA Red fighters confiscated five firearms from a fanatic group in Sta. Irene, Bayugan on March 26.

**In Misamis Occidental.** The

NPA seized four firearms from the private army of despotic Mayor Donjie Animas of Sapang Dalaga town on March 22.

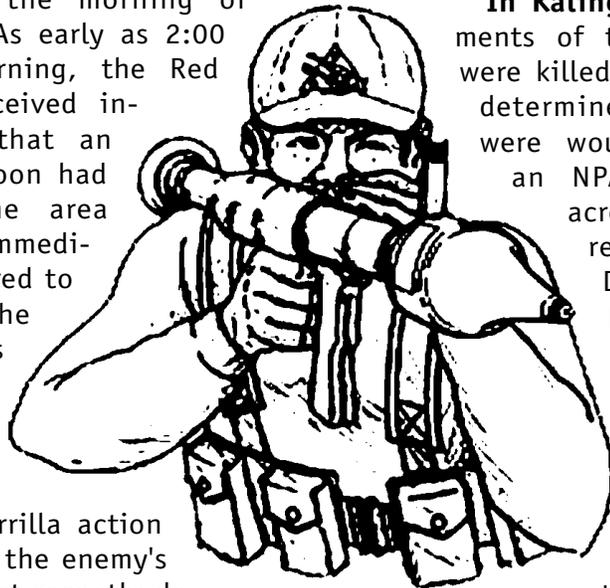
**In Negros Occidental.** NPA fighters under the Roger Mahinay Command attacked the aircraft hangar of G Holdings in San Jose, Sipalay town on the evening of March 22. The guerrillas did not harm the two guards of GHI but disarmed them of their shotguns as punishment for the numerous crimes committed by the former Maricalum Mining Company like the killing of civilians.

**In Kalinga.** Two elements of the 21st IB were killed and an undetermined number were wounded when an NPA unit ran across soldiers resting in Dao-angan, Balbalan at 8:20 in the morning of March 19.

**In Leyte.** Five soldiers of the

19th IB were killed and two others were wounded in an ambush carried out by Red fighters under the NPA Mt. Amandewin Command in Barangay Cagbana, Bureauen, Leyte on March 12. The people's guerrillas seized two high-powered rifles from the enemy troops. This has proven false the military's claim that the NPA no longer exists in Leyte.

**In Quezon.** Red fighters ambushed and killed two soldiers belonging to the 1st IB as they traveled on a motorcycle in Barangay Amot, Burdeos, Quezon on March 29.



# Protests avert PUP tuition fee increase

Students of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) have successfully foiled planned tuition fee hikes at the university.

Protests have stopped the proposed 1,567% tuition fee increase (from ₱12 to ₱200 per unit) for incoming freshmen this coming school year. Among the courses that would have been affected are laboratory-intensive courses and those that require board examinations which include courses in the colleges of Engineering, Science, Arts, Computer Management and Information Technology, Education and Architecture. Fee increases are also planned in the College of Law from the current ₱500 to ₱1,000 per unit. Increases in miscellaneous fees were also proposed.

According to the Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan (SAMASA) which led the campaign against the tuition fee increase, the

administration of Dr. Dante Guevarra continues to deny the youth their right to education at the so-called poor man's university. Guevarra has asserted that tuition fee increases are necessary for the improvement of university facilities. But Central Student Council President Chaser Soriano said students seeking affordable education would have nowhere to go should the tuition fee hike be implemented.

Bayan Muna Rep. and senatorial candidate Satur Ocampo, himself a former student of the PUP expressed solidarity with the students. He said the PUP administration should not hike tuition fees and instead unite with the community in demanding a bigger budget for education.



Meanwhile, the Kabataan Partylist demanded the creation of an emergency fund for state universities like the PUP. Kabataan Partylist Rep. Raymond Palatino said the continued reduction of the government's education budget has resulted in the growing number of out-of-school youth.

PUP Student Regent Donna Pascual said the Arroyo regime should also be held accountable for its abandonment of the entire education system and youth seeking education. The regime is cutting back on expenses for education while jacking up the budget for military spending and debt servicing.

There are 62,000 students and 3,700 teachers and employees in PUP's 21 branches and extensions. But the mere ₱661 million allocated for the university has even been cut by ₱43 million this year, compelling the PUP to beg for more funds from businessmen, politicians and others.

The students conducted a series of protest actions against the tuition fee hike. On March 19, some 1,000 students walked out of their classes in protest. They threw out

## A history of struggles against tuition fee hikes

It has been 30 years since tuition fees were hiked at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). It was in 1979 when tuition fees at the university were raised from ₱10 to ₱12 per unit.

In 1988, then PUP President Dr. Nemesio Prudente proposed tuition fee increases but did not pursue it.

In the mid-1990s, during the term of PUP President Zenaida Olonan, news leaked of administration plans to hike tuition fees. The plan, however, was preempted by protests from student leaders.

In 2000, then PUP President Dr. Ofelia Carague intended to propose a 270% tuition fee increase but was met with vehement student resistance. Instead, Dr. Carague was urged to fight for higher budget allocations for the university.

In 2004, University President Dr. Samuel Guevarra tried to increase charges other than tuition fees, including fines for late payment and fees for entrance examinations and graduation but was again opposed by the students.

In August 2004, Dr. Dante Guevarra proposed to the BOR a 525% increase in tuition fees but the plan was met with intense protest actions joined by some 8,000 students inside PUP and at the CHED. The BOR rejected Guevarra's proposal. AB

the school's dilapidated chairs, tables and other furniture and set these on fire as a symbol of protest against the threat of tuition fee increases. On March 22, the students held another protest action and again took out dilapidated furniture. They also protested at the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) before noon.

On March 23, some 500 students walked out of the PUP gate in Sta. Mesa, Manila as the administration prohibited the media from covering the protest actions inside the school premises. They showed the press and the residents outside the PUP their anger and again set fire to the dilapidated furniture.

On March 24, students in PUP's 21 branches nationwide launched simultaneous protest actions. The students tried to take the dilapidated chairs to the CHED but were prevented from doing so by the police. Five student leaders were arrested, brought to the office of the Manila Police District and charged with theft for taking university property.

In the afternoon, students of the PUP and the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Los Baños trooped to the CHED. CHED Chairman Emmanuel Angeles promised the students that the PUP will not proceed with the tuition fee increase. The students also demanded the release of the detained student leaders.

Some 1,000 youth and students protested on March 29 in time for the scheduled BOR meeting where the planned tuition fee increase was supposed to be approved. The protest action forced the BOR to cancel the meeting and junk the proposal. That same afternoon, the five student leaders were released after the administration dropped the charges against them. AB

## Issues hounding state colleges and universities

**P**roof of the low priority the Arroyo regime gives to education, it has slashed P3.2 billion from the budgetary allocation for state colleges and universities (SCUs) from 2009 to 2010. The regime is now pushing state schools to generate needed funds by raising tuition fees and commercializing school assets.

This has been state policy ever since the enactment of the Education Act of 1982 which pushed for the deregulation of tuition fees both in private and public schools.

This is further aggravated by the Arroyo government's Long-Term Higher Education Development Program (LTHEDP) for 2001-2010 as imposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (IMF-WB). It mainly calls for rationalization or the reduction of the number of state colleges and universities by 20%. It also promotes the semi-corporatization of the operations of six SCUs; the generation of income by 20% of SCUs through the sale of intellectual property rights and grants; the initiation of active projects to generate funds in 50%

of SCUs; and the collaboration of 60% of SCUs with big business. The LTHEDP also calls for tuition fee hikes in 70% of SCUs to match tuition fee levels in private schools.

As a result of these policies and the lack of funds, many SCUs have implemented massive tuition fee hikes. At the Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, tuition fees were increased from P15 to P100 per unit (566% increase) in 2007. Students, however, successfully prevented the school from collecting the P500 developmental fees. At the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, tuition fees were raised from P25 to P100 per unit. The administration also ordered the closure of the *Tandem*, the of-



ficial student publication of the UNP, because it played a part in exposing the planned fee increase.

Tuition fee increases are expected in the coming school year at the Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology in Masbate and the Mindanao State University (MSU). At the Philippine Normal University (PNU), students are opposing the university's program of increasing tuition fees from 2008-2013. The PNU has already hiked its tuition fees from P35 to P100 per unit. Meanwhile, a spinoff of the Iligan Institute of Technology from the MSU is being planned in accordance with the rationalization of SCUs.

At the University of the Philippines (UP), the administration continues to violate democratic processes after increasing tuition fees in 2007 without consulting the students. The most recent violations are the choice of a Malacañang favorite as the new director of the UP-Philippine General Hospital; the removal of Student Regent Charisse Bañez from the Board of Regents (BOR); and the persecution of activist professor Sarah Raymundo at UP Diliman.

The students, employees and teachers were so angry they pelted UP Los Baños Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco with paint when he attended the BOR meeting scheduled on March 24. Velasco was among the proponents of the BOR decision to oust Student Regent Bañez.

Meanwhile, tuition fee increases are also planned at the UP-Baguio graduate school in the coming academic year. The UP-Visayas High School in Cebu also continues to face threats of clo-

AB

## Military retaliates against civilians

The most prominent human rights violations gathered by *Ang Bayan* these past four weeks involved military retaliation against innocent civilians each time soldiers incurred casualties in encounters with the New People's Army (NPA). Nineteen civilians were reported to have been victimized in such manner in Compostela Valley, North Cotabato and Camarines Sur from March to April.

**April 1.** Elements of the 57th IB harassed two innocent civilians in North Cotabato and planted weapons in their houses after the NPA launched a successful raid in Mlang on March 26 and later conducted attritive operations against the enemy. Soldiers planted a grenade when they raided Jessie Capasgurdo's house in Barangay Banayal, Tulu-

nan. They also planted a rifle during a raid on Minda Embate's home in San Isidro, Nabundasan.

**March 23.** Elements of the 22nd IB seized Jerry Candelaria, 32, a farmer living in Sitio Maynipa, Barangay Tabgon, Goa, Camarines Sur. The arrest took place after an encounter between Red fighters of the NPA Tomas Pilapil Command and the military in Barangay Pinamihagan in Lagonoy town. The military accused Candelaria of being an NPA member. He was forced to act as a guide for a 13-man squad from the 22nd IB as it conducted military operations.

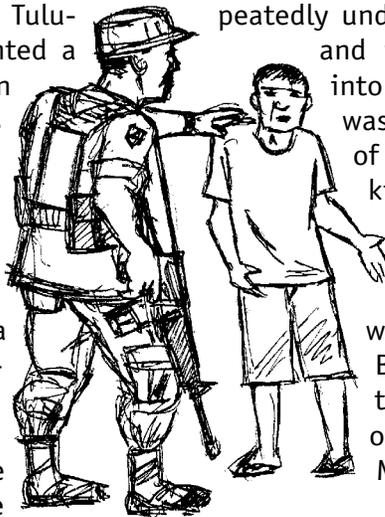
**March 22.** Military elements illegally arrested and detained Myrna Abraham, 55, a development consultant of the Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon ti Cagayan Valley and a member of Anakpawis-Caga-

yan Valley. Abraham had just gotten off at a bus station in Pamplo-

na, Cagayan when she was abducted by four civilian-clad armed men. She was forced to board a white van. The abductors shouted that they were police so that others would not approach them. The military brought Abraham to a military safehouse where she repeatedly underwent interrogation and was being pressured into admitting that she was Nel Villanueva, one of the accused in the killing of a certain Johnny D. Belo in Amulong, Cagayan in 2002. Abraham was transferred to the BJMP detention center in Tuguegarao City on the afternoon of March 23.

In order to aggravate Abraham's case, two grenades were planted in her bag. The bags, IDs, ATMs and credit cards, flashdrive and hard disk in her possession were also taken from her.

**March 15.** Troops of the 57th IB captured and tortured a 17-year old boy in Barangay Bulatucan, Makilala, North Cotabato. The military misrepresented the youth as a child soldier of the NPA. The minor was abducted after an NPA harassment operation against military troops that same





day. A soldier was seriously wounded in this operation.

After the Red fighters withdrew, soldiers of the 57th IB who were having a drinking session at the time were ordered by battalion headquarters to pursue the guerrillas. They went to a community that was a half kilometer away from the harassment site. The soldiers became angry and roughed up the civilians they arrested when the latter denied having any information regarding the NPA presence in their area. Among those beaten up by the military were two civilians—Bienvenido Masamloc 51 and his son Jaymar, 23.

It was then that the soldiers took Allen (not his real name), a

17-year old teenager just because he was wearing clothes that had some orange markings. The soldiers who were harassed by the NPA allegedly saw someone wearing an orange colored T-shirt who ran towards the brush. The minor was blindfolded and hog-tied. A knife was held to his neck and he was hit with rifle butts in the back. He was brought to the military command post, detained for six hours and forced to admit that he was involved in the harassment operation and is an NPA member. At around 5:00 p.m., he was passed to the police which then turned him over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development the next day. After this, the youth was

identified as a rubber plantation worker who was on his way to take lunch when the soldiers seized him.

**March 7.** Thirteen civilians were forcibly picked up by 25th IB troops as they were headed home after a week of cutting wood in the forest. The civilians, who are all members of the Nagkahiusang Kattawhan sa Diwalwal (NAGKADIWA) were jailed for four days, tortured, maliciously accused by the 25th IB of being NPA members and slapped with criminal charges. The victims are Alfonso Mangubat, 45, and his wife Baden Mangubat, 35; Anastacia Vilaniso, 59, and her sons Emilio, 18, Boicy 23, and Roy, 20, and her granddaughters Mary Grace Minor, 15; and Christina Minor, 15; brothers Francisco and Junrex Linantod; Edmund Cutor, 19; Mary Jane Yurong, 23; and Nilo Sinao, 48. They are all residents of Kalaberahan, Sitio Paraiso, Barangay Diwalwal, Monkayo, Compostela Valley and make their living as peasants and farm workers. Most of them are Lumad. The two 15-year old girls were branded by the military as “NPA child soldiers” who were allegedly captured in two separate encounters in North Cotabato and Compostela Valley. The military even falsely claimed that one of them is pregnant.

The 13 victims are accused of involvement in an NPA ambush on March 5 where four 25th IB troops were killed and several were wounded.

**Since August 2009.** Intelligence operatives of the 5th and 55th IB continue to harass Dolorith Obsid, 41, resident of Barangay Carayagan, Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur and member of the Justice and Peace Group (JPAG). The military insists that Obsid’s husband is an NPA member and should

## Panay farmers file military abuse complaints with CHR

Complaints of abuse by Philippine Army troops in Panay were brought before the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on March 23. The latest incident involved the murder of civilian Ronilo Perez in Barangay Mali-ao, Tapaz, Capiz.

According to KARAPATAN-Panay secretary general Reyland Vergara, Perez was killed on March 19 by soldiers of the 3rd ID’s Division Training Unit under the command of Capt. Adolfo Delizo. Vergara belied military reports that Perez was a Red fighter killed in a clash between the Division Training Unit and a group of New People’s Army (NPA) guerrillas in Mali-ao village. He said that Perez who was visiting his farm in Barangay Mali-ao was a resident of the neighboring village of Alfonso Doce in Libacao, Aklan.

Prior to this, 13 residents of Barangay Manampunay, Leon, Iloilo filed cases with the CHR. They said that the soldiers committed various atrocities against them after the NPA ambushed and killed four soldiers of the 82nd IB’s Bravo Company on December 10, 2009. Four *barangay tanod* (village guards) of Barangay Manampunay were also investigated and tortured. According to Fermin Caceres, *barangay tanod* chief and one of the victims, the soldiers tortured him and were forcing him to admit to being an NPA spy. The soldiers also beat up the three other *barangay tanod*.

The victims identified two of the perpetrators as Lieutenant Libongcogon and PFC Aldrin Legarde. They were unable to identify the other soldiers because they wore no namecloths, although they know that they are elements of the 82nd IB’s Bravo Company.

surrender. At first, the military agents pretended to be members of the revolutionary movement and tried to get Obsid to accompany them because her husband was purportedly at a hospital due to a kidney ailment. She refused to go with them and denied that her husband is a member of the NPA. He is a construction worker in Cebu.

When they again visited Obsid, the two men admitted that they were military and told her to stop playing games with them. They once again tried to force her to come with them to supposedly go to her

husband and have him surrender. When the neighbors overheard Obsid having a loud argument with the soldiers, they went to the house to find out what was happening. The agents were forced to withdraw but they returned several more times.

Besides the military's desire to stop her involvement in JPAG, Obsid said that she was also being harassed because her daughter witnessed an abduction in Iligan City in 2008. The military has attempted to take her daughter into custody but she is currently under the protection of Karapatan-Western Mindanao.

## Persecution of Morong 43 escalates

The military is stepping up the persecution of the Morong 43 to break their morale and unity and push them to incriminate their fellow detainees.

Sworn statements executed by relatives of Elenor Carandang, Cherilyn Tawagon, Valentino Pauli-

no, Jennilyn Pizarro and John Mark Barrientos said the victims were tortured and threatened that their families will be hurt if they did not admit to being members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Carandang's mother Norma Origena testified that on March 8, a

van arrived at their house in Lopez, Quezon and took three of Carandang's four children and her sister Grace. Orgena said that the children are probably being used to compel their mother to admit to the false accusations hurled against her.

When Paulino was presented to the media on February 11, he said that he was an NPA member. However, on February 25, Paulino told his mother that he was coerced into lying because of threats against their family.

Tawagon and Carandang were transferred on March 1, Pizarro on March 4, and Barrientos on March 5. Since March 2, Paulino, Tawagon and Carandang have not been seen by their lawyer Atty. Romeo Capulong. And since March 7, Pizarro and Barrientos have also not been seen by Capulong.

The other detainees held a noise barrage as a show of protest. A Maj. Manuel Tabion shouted at them and threatened to electrocute them if they did not stop.

Until now, the relatives of the five detainees have not yet been notified of their whereabouts. On March 20, the five detainees were brought before a reporter at a safe-house inside Camp Capinpin, where

### Dumarao residents expel military detachment

Residents of Dumarao, Capiz succeeded in expelling a detachment of the 47th IB's Bravo Coy which was based in Barangay Tamulalod. The Bravo Coy was forced to relocate to the town of Cuartero in February after the Dumarao town council approved a resolution expelling the soldiers from the area.

The ejection of the 47th IB soldiers resulted from numerous complaints and petitions sent by the people to the Dumarao local government. Several of these petitions were even passed as high up as the office of then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado.

The people's organized efforts against military abuses began in September last year. They staunchly opposed the human rights violations committed by the soldiers, which worsened when the Reengineered Special Operations Team (RSOT) was deployed to the villages of Agbatuan, Bungsuwan, Tina, Sibariwan and Gibato.

Even the town mayor Leslie Warren Benjamin witnessed the soldiers' abuse. In one incident, the mayor chanced upon four drunk and half-naked soldiers of the 47th IB's Bravo Coy as they menacingly brandished their automatic rifles in Barangay Bungsuwan. Infuriated by the scene, Mayor Benjamin disarmed the four soldiers and took them to the town hall. Their firearms were only given back to the soldiers when they were over their drunken stupor. AB

they admitted to being NPA members. No other media person was given access.

The military also attempted to separate Samson Castillo on February 28 and Mian Oseo on March 6 but they clung to the iron bars of their cells. The soldiers dragged Oseo, causing her to suffer bruises on her arms, hands, feet and other parts of the body

Castillo is constantly told by the military that they will not hesitate to harm his children if he does

not cooperate.

Four other detainees continue to be kept in solitary confinement and subjected to interrogation. They are Angela Doloricon, Jacqueline Gonzales, Ma. Teresa Quinawayan and Ma. Elena Serato.

On March 18, lawyers for the Morong 43 lodged additional complaints before the Commission on Human Rights on the aforementioned violations of the detainees' human rights. AB

## Ka Noli, a true hero of the people

**T**he Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army (NPA), Cordillera People's Democratic Front and other revolutionary forces in the Ilocos-Cordillera Region express their deepest condolences to the family members, relatives, friends and comrades of Dionisio "Ka Noli" Tongdo, a true hero of the people.

In his more than two decades of serving the people, Ka Noli was forged, tested, and honed to become an exemplary Party cadre and commander of the people's army.

Ka Noli was born and raised in Tanglag, Lubuagan, Kalinga. He grew up knowing how it was to struggle against exploitation and oppression because the leaders and others from Kalinga who fought against the Chico River Dam Project and bravely confronted the brutal fascist machinery of the Marcos dictatorship were his fellow tribe members.

Just after finishing high school, he began his political involvement as a member of the people's militia in his village from the late 1970s until the late 1980s. While still working as a heavy machinery operator in the construction of Halsema Highway in Benguet in 1987, he did not think twice when he was recruited to serve fulltime in the revolution as a semilegal organizer of workers and peasants in Mankayan, Buguias and Halsema Highway. He became a member of a team charged with guerrilla zone recovery. It was also then that he was recruited as a Party member.

He joined the NPA in 1988 and

became part of a platoon conducting expansion and recovery work in the towns of Bugias, Mankayan, Bakun, Kibungan, Bokod and Atok in Benguet, and part of Tinoc, Ifugao. They also launched tactical offensives in the area. Ka Noli led a special team that expanded among the communities along the Halsema Highway. Because he interacted well with the masses, he became popular among the people of North Benguet where he was also known as Ka Jable and Ka Elton afterwards.

In 1989, he underwent military training. After this, he took part in a raid on a CAFGU detachment in Ballay, Kabayan and an ambush on police troops conducting operations in Cayapas, Buguias. This ambush, where 19 enemy troops were killed along with the lieutenant who was leading the platoon was the first successful tactical offensive in North Benguet. The Red fighters also confiscated 19 weapons, including an M60 machine gun. Only two members of the enemy platoon survived and escaped. Ka Noli led the team that conducted the ambush.

In 1990, the NPA in North Benguet punished the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company due to the severe hardships it was causing the



local people and its exploitation of the company workers. Ka Noli led a team that blew up the copper drier plant which the Mankayan peasants had long been complaining about due to the destruction of crops, the emaciation and death of livestock, and the persistent lung ailments of peasants and children it had been causing.

From 1990-1996, Ka Noli became a member of the Party committee in North Benguet. The revolutionary movement in the area went through considerable birth pains, but Ka Noli overcame the initial demoralization and difficult working conditions. He and his comrades were reinvigorated when they grasped the particularities of operating in the area. From 1995-1996, he became a member of the

committee secretariat and was appointed NPA commander of North Benguet.

From 1997-2000, he helped establish a new guerrilla front in North Benguet and made significant contributions in the expansion and consolidation of the mass base and the advancement of agrarian revolution in Kibungan, Kapangan and Bakun, Benguet.

During the period of disorientation, Ka Noli was also influenced by the militarist line. But when the Party launched the Second Great Rectification Movement in 1992, he wholeheartedly admitted all his weaknesses and was diligent in taking part in the rectification.

From 2001-2003, he was moved to a unit that operated in Tubo, Abra and was appointed secretary of the platoon's Party branch and political instructor of the platoon.

From 2004-2005, he was transferred again to a front covering the Benguet-Ilocos Sur-Abra-Mountain Province quadri-boundary. He became 2nd Deputy Secretary and afterwards 1st Deputy Secretary of the Front Committee. He was appointed deputy front commander and in 2005 he led a successful ambush in Bessang, Cervantes, Ilocos Sur where 11 troops of the 50th IB were killed and seven weapons were confiscated.

Until his death, he assiduously participated in the consolidation of the mass base, the development of agrarian revolution and armed struggle, and other revolutionary tasks in the area.

Ka Noli was good at integrating with the masses. He was active in holding discussions and assiduous in conducting propaganda work and providing political education to them. He also actively participated in solving various problems among the masses, including problems with land and property, local crimes, and other issues that dis-

turbed the peace among the mass organizations and the people.

Ka Noli was also good at interacting, discussing and sharing jokes with his fellow Red fighters. He promptly explained revolutionary principles and various issues and subjects. He provided guidance and patiently spoke with and helped troubled comrades.

As a military cadre, Ka Noli was skilled in studying and practicing theories on how to correctly handle weapons and apply tactics in battle. He also studied intelligence work and was appointed intelligence officer of the platoon and guerrilla front. His skills in intelligence work would later serve as the key to several victorious tactical offensives. As an instructor in politico-military training, he was diligent in sharing his knowledge with the other forces.

Ka Noli was a model of perseverance in the face of many trials. He overcame weaknesses and limitations in order to continue contributing to the advance of the revolutionary movement. He was long plagued by severe hyperacidity and his stomach and throat constantly hurt especially when they had to walk long distances. From time to time he would vomit and be extremely fatigued. But this was not a hindrance as he persisted in waging revolution and serving the people. He was also diagnosed with high blood pressure in 2007. Because of these ailments, there were times when he would suddenly become dizzy and black out. But he did his best to take care of his health so that he could remain active as a full-time comrade and fighter.

Ka Noli was also a responsible husband, father and son. Although far from his family, he often wrote or called to check on them and let them know how he was also doing. At times, he would give guidance in dealing with various family

problems and issues. He also often checked on his parents and siblings. He himself saw to the medical treatment of his mother in 2009, when her illness worsened.

Before he died, Ka Noli was one of the Red commanders and fighters who courageously fought against a much stronger enemy force that was conducting operations in Tubo, Abra. By employing guerrilla tactics and quick maneuvers, Ka Noli's unit was able to inflict numerous casualties on the enemy, killing six enemy troops and wounding ten during gunbattles in Tubo on January 31 and February 1.

Ka Noli passed away in the early morning of February 18, ten hours after a grenade accidentally detonated while he and other guerrillas were preparing for another tactical offensive. He was immediately given first aid by medics and withdrawn to a safe area. The medics and other comrades ceaselessly attended to him. But his pulse continued to weaken due to the large amount of blood he lost.

Though deeply saddened by Ka Noli's passing, the masses and comrades pay him the highest tribute for his immense contributions to the advance of the revolutionary movement in the Ilocos-Cordillera region.

From preparing and keeping vigil over his remains to holding tributes and carrying his body from Abra to his birthplace in Kalinga, comrades and the masses at every stop expressed their gratitude and honored him for his contributions to the country and revolution.

The NPA's Chadli Molintas Command in the Ilocos-Cordillera region called on comrades to emulate Ka Noli's shining example as he selflessly served the people and devoted his life to working for the fulfillment of the people's aspirations for a humane, free and progressive society. **AE**

# Arroyo clique's mockery of the party-list system

Up to 20% of the positions in the Lower House of Congress have been set aside for party-list organizations in a bid to "open up" to marginalized and oppressed sectors what is in essence an exclusive competition between representatives of the reactionary classes' rival factions.

But genuine and progressive organizations from these sectors are made to go through numerous obstacles, hardships and sacrifices. Even if a few are allowed to win, they continue to suffer various forms of harassment and fascism.

Reactionary politicians and cliques are also snatching away even this small concession granted to marginalized and oppressed sectors using the most repressive and brazen methods.

The Arroyo clique is currently undertaking the most barefacedly reprehensible attempts to mock the party-list system. By forming and buying fake party-list groups, it is striving to control the biggest number of party-list positions and add these to the number of congressional districts it will be able to lay its hands on.

Many of the ruling regime's closest officials are now running in the congressional district elections to ensure Gloria Arroyo's further control over the Lower House. Among them are former Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, former AFP chief and Presidential Management Staff head Hermogenes Esperon and TESDA Director-General Augusto Syjuco.

This is all part of Arroyo's

plan to seize the majority of seats in the Lower House so as to ensure that she succeeds in her bid to grab the House Speakership and to use this position to further extend her stay in power, whatever the outcome of the presidential elections.

**Malacañang's stooges.** Up to 40 party-list groups have been created, funded and bought by Malacañang, according to a secret memorandum from the Office of External Affairs in 2006.

Ang Galing Pinoy (AGP) is the Arroyos' most barefaced attempt so far to put forward its own party-list group. AGP

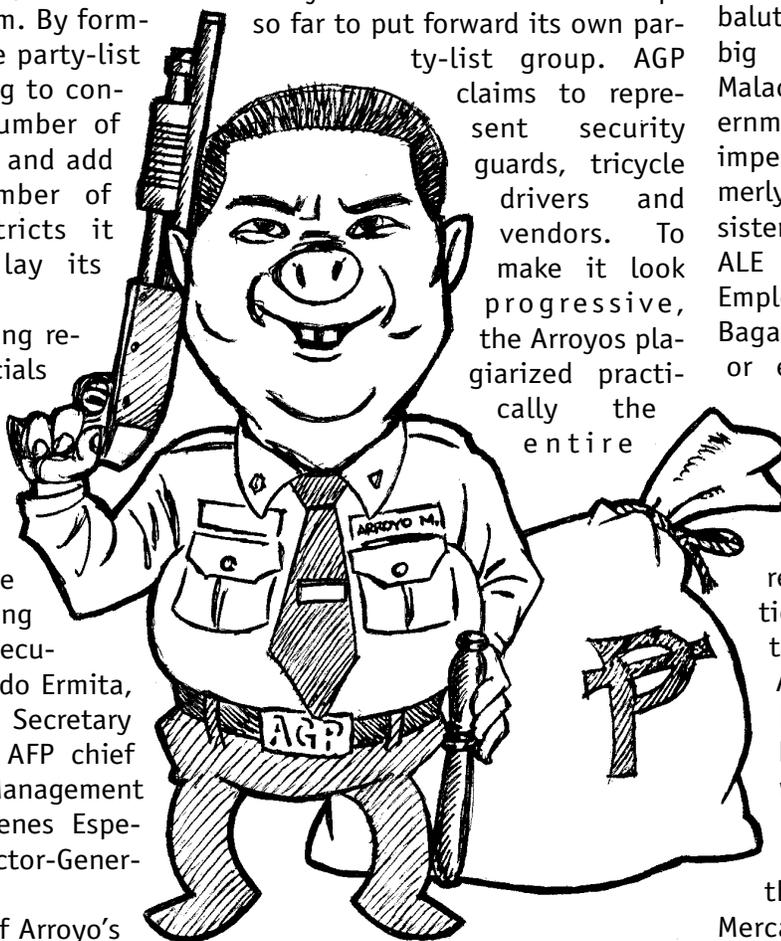
claims to represent security guards, tricycle drivers and vendors. To make it look progressive, the Arroyos plagiarized practically the entire

constitution of Bayan Muna.

Gloria Arroyo's son Mikey who currently represents the first district of Pampanga is AGP's first nominee. This is in exchange for ceding his congressional seat to Gloria. AGP's first and second nominees are Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao and Mayor Romeo Dungca of Bacolor, both of them close allies of Arroyo in Pampanga province. By placing them as AGP nominees, Arroyo ensures the cooperation of their families and organizations not only in winning the congressional elections for her district but in getting rid of all obstacles they face in achieving complete political control of Pampanga.

**Millionaire's club.** There are also fake party-list groups formed or bought by wealthy businessmen. The most notorious among these is Kasangga which supposedly represents "small entrepreneurs" such as balut vendors. But its nominees are big finance capitalists close to Malacañang who have huge government contracts and links to big imperialist corporations. It was formerly represented by Mike Arroyo's sister Malou. Another example is ALE (Association of Laborers and Employees) represented by Catalina Bagasina, who is neither a worker or employee, but a millionaire businesswoman, Pampanga provincial board member and close ally of Malacañang.

1-UTAK purportedly represents marginalized sections within the transport sector. But its first nominee is Angelo Reyes, Department of Energy secretary and key henchman of the oil cartel within Arroyo's cabinet. Its other nominees are Vigor Mendoza, defense lawyer of the oil cartels, and Homer Mercado, president of the Provin-



cial Bus Operators of the Philippines. They all serve the rich and powerful and not the marginalized.

Kabayan is another group supposedly representing peasants, fisherfolk, the disabled and other sectors. But its nominee is Ron Salo, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's former undersecretary and official of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office. PACYAW allegedly represents the urban poor, but a former Department of Tourism assistant secretary is its nominee.

**Fascists' den.** There are more party-list organizations that are currently being used by rabid fascists (like Pastor Alcover's anti-communist group ANAD; Bantay which Gen. Jovito Palparan has passed on to his wife; and Gen. Romeo Maganto's Sagip), retired military and police officials (like ANAK whose nominee Gen. Eliseo de la Paz was arrested in Russia while smuggling euros worth an equivalent ₱6.9 million; APOI of Gen. Melchor Rosales; and ARARO of Gen. Quirino dela Torre). There are also many party-list groups which, though prohibited by law, were set up by the government and are represented by government officials. There are also those established by religious organizations and represented by religious leaders, though this is also prohibited by law.

Furthermore, the Arroyo clique has been buying mercenary party-list groups. Many of these are being offered to reactionary politi-

cians for millions of pesos. Third nominee positions are being sold for ₱3 million while first nominee positions cost as much as ₱10 million upwards. These groups also invest as much as ₱12 million each to secure the Comelec's approval.

However strong the clamor of progressive organizations and the people against the mockery of the party-list system by the ruling Arroyo clique and other elitist reactionary cliques and against the rottenness of the entire ruling system, this can only be put to an end when the entire ruling system is overthrown and replaced. The ruling system's exploitation of even a mere political token like the party-list system makes it ever clearer to the people that the entire rotten ruling system is utterly hopeless, and that it is not reac-

tionary elections but a new people's democratic revolution that is needed.

Such rottenness will be completely repudiated through the absolute victory of the Philippine revolution we are advancing and the establishment of a new national democratic government and new social system under the leadership of the revolutionary proletariat and allied classes. In the new democratic government and system, the classes and sectors who are the most marginalized and oppressed under the present rotten government and system will comprise the vast majority in the government and people's assemblies from the national to the local level. This will ensure their dominance and their continued enjoyment of the fruits of victory of the new democratic revolution. AB

### **75 soldiers killed in Maoist guerrilla offensives in India**

SEVENTY-FIVE soldiers of India's reactionary government were killed in a series of ambushes carried out by Maoist guerrillas on April 6 in the state of Chhattisgarh. This is the largest number of government forces killed since the revolutionary forces led by the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-M) launched armed struggle 20 years ago.

Reactionary police troops were combing forested areas in Talmetla in the district of Dantewada when the truck they were riding was ambushed. Sixty-seven (67) soldiers were killed instantly. More troops were killed when the guerrillas attacked reinforcements. Two days before the series of ambushes, ten policemen were killed and another ten were wounded when the truck they were riding was ambushed in the eastern state of Orissa.

The series of offensives and counter-offensives occurred amid the Indian government's fascist Operation Green Hunt against the Maoist guerrillas. AB