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Editorial

Shatter reactionary illusions of hope

US imperialism and the apologists of the ruling system are conjuring up illusions of hope as they propagate the view that Benigno Aquino III's installation as the new leader of the puppet state signals much-needed change after nine years of widespread corruption, brutality and puppetry by the Arroyo regime.

The illusion is being conjured up mainly for the consumption of the urban petty bourgeoisie in order to firm up their trust in the new regime and ruling system and to popularize this illusion among the masses. The goal is to obscure or rationalize the perpetuation of the antinational, anti-democratic and antipeople policies and programs of the puppet reactionary government and state.

Aquino faces the huge challenge of addressing the people's demands and undertaking steps to prosecute and punish Gloria Arroyo. On the other hand, in the face of the cases that will be filed against

her, Aquino is obliged to fulfill his US-brokered agreement with the Arroyos to deal with her in the same manner as Marcos and Estrada were dealt with. The agreement is meant to preserve the stability of the ruling class and system, and even of Aquino's rule.

The agreement alleviates to a certain extent the intense conflicts among the ruling classes to enable them to focus on fighting the people in a consolidated manner.



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Meantime, although Aquino has yet to take power, he has already cautioned the people to lower their expectations to a "reasonable" and "realistic" level to prevent their disappointment from culminating in massive anger and resistance.

Amid the intensifying crisis of the ruling system, the emptiness of the "kung walang korap, walang mahirap" (without corruption, there will be no poverty) slogan will be exposed in no time. Poverty will worsen and become even more striking given the absence of any program from Aquino's end to resolve the basic and outstanding problems of the people. Instead, bureaucrat capitalism and corruption will persist, this time perpetrated by the new clique of big businessmen and bureaucrats that rode on and invested massively in his campaign.

A more severe crisis awaits the soon to be installed US-Aquino regime 2. The entire ruling system is on its inexorable descent to an ever deeper crisis and the people are suffering from ever worsening poverty.

Sooner or later, the people's intensifying discontent and the shat-

tered illusions of hope will lead to widespread protests and resistance to Aquino's perpetuation of the same exploitative and oppressive policies and measures. The call for revolutionary change will quickly be instilled in the minds of the people.

In the face of the people's continuing revolutionary resistance, the US-Aquino regime 2 will increasingly rely on the concomitant use of deception and state fascism to preserve its rule. We can expect Aquino to restore and utilize low-intensity conflict (LIC) the same way the US-Aquino regime 1 did. It will be remembered that the US-Aquino regime 1 adopted a clean, pro-democracy and pro-peace posture in order to abuse power, plunder the public coffers, exploit the people



and unleash the full viciousness of the state's fascist forces to suppress resistance.

The US-Aquino regime 1's only legacy to the peasantry was a bogus land reform program. It responded to their resistance with the Mendiola and Lupao massacres. It recruited and armed thousands into paramilitary groups and fanatical cults which it used to suppress the people's struggles. It stepped up anti-communist psywar.

We can expect Aquino to utilize once again the two-faced tactic that is LIC. We can expect the viciousness of OBL 1 and 2 to continue under a new name and with an even more virulent psywar offensive as a component.

The US-Aquino regime 2 will give the people some semblance of hope by implementing a limited number of reforms. Towards this end, Aquino will be using as his instruments reformists and pseudo-progressive groups like Akbayan to make a show of advocating the people's interests. It is these groups that will be calling on the people to content themselves with bogus and cosmetic solutions in order to evade most especially the issue of thoroughgoing land reform

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in Hacienda Luisita and other big landlord estates. They will steer the people away from the path of revolution in order to step up political and military attacks against the revolutionary movement.

In the countryside and in workers' and urban poor communities where revolutionary and progressive forces are present, the US-Aquino regime 2 will also be stressing the use of "civil-military operations" (CMO) especially in areas where armed resistance and mass struggles are strong. All this, while it pushes brutal campaigns of suppression.

But this will all be ineffective in the face of the people's allout resistance. The people must fire up their mass struggles for genuine land reform and against the myriad problems of the peasantry in the countryside; against unjust wages, underemployment and casualization, rising prices of goods and the lack of social services such as education, housing and health; against corruption; against the imposition of more taxes as well as other IMF-WB neoliberal policy dictates; for the defense of human rights and against fascism; against US military intervention and abuses by US troops; and for the genuine and significant advance of peace negotiations.

The revolutionary movement wants the long-delayed peace negotiations to continue with any reactionary government that is willing to sit down and talk. Nonetheless, many doubt the seriousness of the new regime to engage in peace talks as an arena for resolving the basic problems that are at the roots of the armed conflict. The dominance of fanatical anti-communists in the Government of the Republic of the Philippines panel whose only interest is to liquidate the revolutionary movement is also viewed as a major obstacle.

Business as usual

The statements made by the new president Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and his clique show that no changes can be expected of the new reactionary regime when it comes to economic policies and practice.

Exploitation by US imperialists, big compradors and big landlords, including the Kamag-anak, Inc. and the major bankrollers of his campaign will worsen.

At least one indication is the way Aquino has approached the issue of landlessness and injustice in Hacienda Luisita. He clearly has no intention of resolving the issues within the hacienda.

Even before Aquino's proclamation, various organizations of big foreign and local businessmen had already expressed their elation and confidence in him. Among them were the US Chamber of Commerce and its local branch and the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines.

Also undeniably behind Aquino are some of the most rabid apologists of neoliberal policies, among them Arroyo's former economic adviser Joey Salceda. Even Mar Roxas, Aquino's losing vice presidential bet served as secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry under Arroyo. And then there are the authors and advocates of the Value Added Tax (VAT) and Arroyo's other disastrous and anti-people schemes such as Ralph Recto (Arroyo's former NEDA chief) and Cesar Purisima, Arroyo's former secretary of the Department of Finance.

Aquino has already commissioned a team from the University of the Philippines School of Economics to draft his economic agenda. These academics were also Arroyo's advisers. Among the measures they have been pushing for are an immediate hike in the VAT from 12% to 15% and the reduction of allocations for social services in the national budget. It is these same economists who are the main proponents of liberalization, deregulation and other neoliberal reforms that are in accordance with US imperialism's economic framework and policies. AB

Even as the revolutionary struggle is advanced, the people must go allout in fighting for changes that will advance their democratic and national interests. And even as armed revolutionary struggle is paramount, there are still a number of things that can be achieved in the arenas of mass and parliamentary struggles and peace negotiations. At the same time, we must thoroughly expose the reformists and pseudo-progressive groups that are being used by the reactionary system and likewise al-

low themselves to be used by it.

We must go allout in steering mass movements and mass struggles towards revolutionary struggle as the only path towards change and the achievement of the people's patriotic and democratic interests.

The six years under Aquino will serve as the context for the further advance of mass movements and struggles and the allout advance of guerrilla warfare in order to reach the stage of strategic stalemate in the people's war. AB

Arroyo's legacy to Aquino

Newly-elected president Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III will inherit the backward and bankrupt system which has been made more rotten by the nine-year reign of the Arroyo regime.

In a comparison made by the private research organization Ibon Foundation, the Arroyo regime is leaving with bleak prospects for the country. Ibon compared the promises that Arroyo had made in her past speeches to the actual accomplishments of her regime in the past nine years. The following set the two apart:

On the regime's promise to eradicate poverty: From 2001 to 2006, the number of poor families increased by half a million based on conservative data of the National Statistical Coordination Board. The number of poor Filipinos also grew by 2.1 million families or 27.6 million individuals. In contrast, the net profit of the wealthiest companies in the Philippines grew by P116 billion.

On the promised land distribution: Arroyo has the distinction of having distributed the

least amount of land among the post-Marcos regimes. According to the Department of Agrarian Reform, it has distributed only 119,301 hectares per year from 2001 to 2008 under the Arroyo regime. It has failed to fulfill its promise of distributing a measly 200,000 hectare every year (100,000 hectares of private lands and 100,000 hectares of public lands.)

On the promise of generating new jobs: The regime's nine-year record shows the highest unemployment rates. Manipulated data of the National Statistics Office recorded an 11.2% unemployment rate. Up to 4.3 million Filipinos were unemployed in January 2010, some 730,000 more than in January 2000. The number of underemployed is at 7.1 million, 2.4 million higher than in January 2000.

Arroyo claims that 877,000

jobs were created every year since 2001, totalling 36 million by January this year. But most of these were part-time, low-quality jobs. Many of what the regime considers "employed" (36 million) are in the category of "unpaid family workers." Twelve point one (12.1) million are in the "self-employed" category and 12.6 million (only a third) are actual wage-earners.

In the agricultural sector, only 172,600 new jobs were created in the past nine years. The sector's productivity dropped to its lowest level in 2009, accounting only for 18.1% of the GDP, the lowest in the country's history.

The number of Filipinos seeking jobs abroad was highest in the period 2001-2009. Up to 1.04 million applied for and found jobs overseas compared to 500,000 during the time of Pres. Cory Aquino, 713,000 under Ramos and 839,324 under the Estrada administration. Some 1.42 million left the country for overseas employment in 2009, equivalent to 3,898 Filipinos daily. Filipinos working abroad now number nine million, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

On responding to the people's grievances: The Arroyo regime holds the record of giving the lowest wage increases since the time of the Marcos dictatorship. The real value of wage increases in the past nine and a half years amounted to only P5.00.

The regime blocked the passage of the proposed P125 wage increase long demanded by workers. The gap between the minimum wage (P404 in the NCR) and the living wage for a family of six (P957 in June 2010) is steadily growing.

On ensuring the people's welfare: The regime allocated on-



ly 15.1% of the national budget to education, lower than in the two previous regimes. It allotted only 1.8% for health services and 0.4% for housing.

The number of out-of-school children and youth grew by 2.45 million from 2001 to 2009, bringing the total to nearly five million today.

On establishing a “new economy,” moving forward to First World status and other fantasies: The regime earlier boasted Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) as a “new” industry that would bring the country to prosperity. The sector grew rapidly but it accounted for only 1.3% of the total number of jobs created and contributed only 2% to the GDP.

On the other hand, the manufacturing sector has shrunk to its 1950s level. It has generated only 15,000 jobs per year since 2001 or three million

after a decade. More jobs for domestic helpers have been created in the same period (over 100,000 yearly). The number of domestic helpers and workers in the manufacturing sector are now almost equal.

Furthermore, the rotten reactionary government has become more bankrupt. Total deficits reached ₱1.34 trillion from 2001 to 2009 or thrice the combined deficits under the previous three regimes which amounted to only ₱422 billion. The regime paid ₱5.1 trillion for debts in the same period and yet public debt continued to mount to ₱4.36 trillion in February or more than twice the ₱2.17 trillion debt under the Estrada regime. Since assuming power, the regime has borrowed ₱243 billion per year. **AB**

Investigate the automated elections

Even if the COMELEC insists that the credibility of the last election is no longer at issue, it cannot deny that so many questions and doubts have been raised about its first-ever automated polls and the legitimacy of its results. The most outstanding issue involves US interference in the process.

Various organizations and institutions are calling for the continued investigation of the conduct of the automated elections. The Center for People’s Empowerment and Governance (Cenpeg) demanded from COMELEC officials on June 13 that they open all documents to enable various groups to conduct a comprehensive and independent analysis and assessment of the recently concluded automated elections.

Cenpeg has asked that at least 22 important documents be made available to the public, among them the source code of the software for the automated counting machines, the record of their transmissions starting May 10 and the inventory of compact flash cards used, including those that were recalled. They also demanded that the contract between the COMELEC and Smartmatic-TIM be made public.

Ibon Foundation has raised the **ANG BAYAN June 21, 2010**

basic question of why the COMELEC granted a private company absolute control over the conduct of the elections. Ibon said that allowing a private company control over the entire automated elections process creates huge vulnerabilities to manipulation and cheating.

The most serious criticism of the May 10 elections has come from Prof. Jose Ma. Sison who chairs the International League of People’s Struggle. In an interview with *Pinoy Weekly* on June 5, Sison said that six weeks before the elections, Gloria Arroyo, the US Central Intelligence Agency and Aquino family representative Pinky Abellada met to preprogram the results of the automated elections.

He said, “There are indications that in the automated electoral system of Smartmatic, which is controlled by the US and its agents, there was preprogramming to secure the victory of Benigno Aquino III and Jejomar Binay. A



huge percentage was obviously shaved from the votes of Manny Villar and Loren Legarda. Their poor showing was too sudden and hard to believe.”

As expected, both Abellada and Malacañang have denied Sison’s accusations. Sison said in a statement issued June 12 that in due time, his informant will surface to disclose when and where Abellada and Arroyo met. But before he does, he wants first to secure his and his family’s safety. **AB**



Activist, journalists killed

Three journalists, an activist and two civilians were the latest victims of extrajudicial killings, according to reports gathered by *Ang Bayan*.

June 19. Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Nestor Bedolido, a reporter for Davao del Sur weekly *Kastigador*. Bedolido was killed past 7 p.m. in Digos City. He is the third media person in the country to be killed in five days.

June 15. DzJC Aksyon Radyo Laoag broadcaster Joselito Agustin, 37, was shot along the boundary of Laoag City and Bacarra town in Ilocos Sur. He died while undergoing treatment at a hospital. Agustin was known for his critical commentaries against corruption in the province. A witness has identified the assailant as a bodyguard of a local politician. Prior to this incident, Agustin's house in

Bacarra had been strafed on May 7. Agustin is the third media person killed in the province.

June 14. Unidentified men killed Desidario "Jessie" Camangyan, 52, a broadcaster for Sunrise FM based in Mati City. He was killed while emceeding a singing contest in Barangay Macopa, Manay, Davao Oriental at around 10:30 p.m.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP)-Davao City said Camangyan was a known critic of mining and illegal logging in Davao Oriental. He, Agustin and Bedolido are the 101st, 102nd and 103rd journalists killed since Arroyo took power in 2001.

June 14. Two men armed with .45 caliber pistols shot to death activist Benjamin Bayles, 42, in Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental.

Bayles was a member of Karapatan, September 21 Movement and Bayan Muna.

Two elements of the 61st IB suspected of having perpetrated the crime were arrested by police at a checkpoint in Kabankalan City. Seized from them were the pistols believed to have been used in the killing.

June 1. Soldiers belonging to the 9th IB mercilessly tortured and killed civilians Jolito Etang and Borromeo Cabies. Military men claiming to be Red fighters abducted the victims in Sitio Canela, Barangay Baang, Mobo, Masbate. Their bodies were found on June 3. The victims suffered multiple fractures and smashed testicles. **AB**

SELDA demands release of political detainees

The Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Para sa Amnestiya (SELDA) demanded from incoming president Benigno "Noy" Aquino III the release of all political detainees in the country.

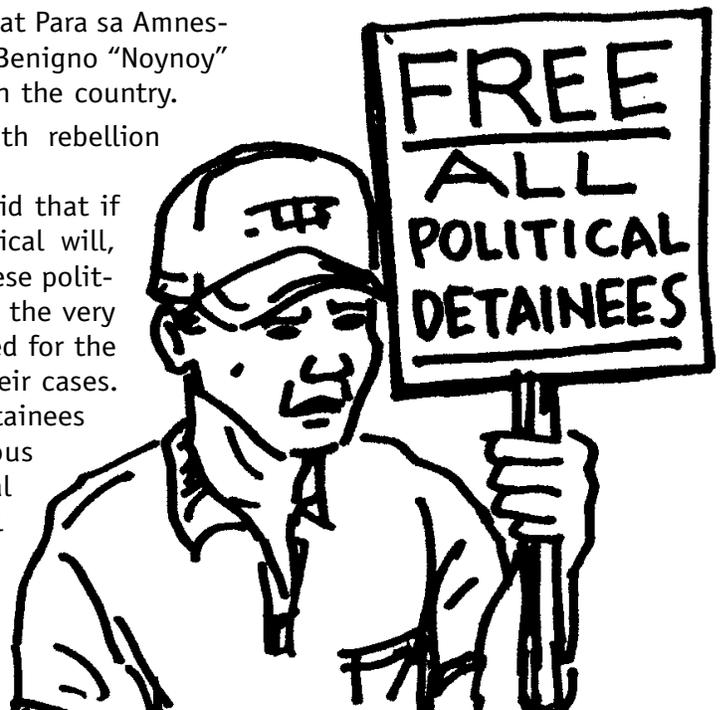
SELDA National Secretariat member Fr. Diony Cabillas said there are 317 political prisoners in various detention facilities across the country who were arrested between Gloria Arroyo's ascension to power in January 2001 and March 2010. The number includes the 43 health workers illegally arrested in a military raid on a resort in Morong, Rizal on February 6.

The detainees have been criminally charged with mostly non-bailable cases such as murder, frustrated murder, kidnapping, arson and illegal possession of firearms. Only a few of the detainees have

been charged with rebellion which is bailable.

Fr. Cabillas said that if Aquino has political will, he can free all these political detainees. At the very least, SELDA called for the speedy trial of their cases.

All of the detainees suffered various forms of physical and psychological torture under the Arroyo regime. **AB**





NPA seizes 22 firearms

Red fighters of the New People's Army seized 22 firearms in separate offensives on June 8 and 13.

Guerrillas under the NPA Julito Tiro Command in North Central Mindanao seized three M16 rifles, a Garand rifle and a carbine in an attack on a CAFGU detachment in Pigdosoon, Binicalan, San Luis, Agusan del Sur on June 13. The battle was quickly concluded as three CAFGU elements had been wounded and another had surrendered. The NPA suffered no casualties.

Red fighters under the Jose Rapsing Command seized ten firearms in two operations on June 8. They took an M16 rifle, a .45 caliber pistol, two .38 caliber revolvers and ammunition in a raid on the residence of Roly Jimena, a carabao rustler and a member of

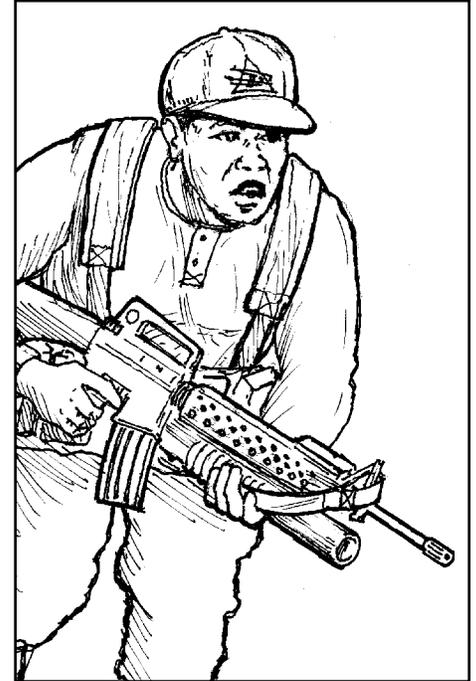
the private army of former mayor Zacarina Lazaro of San Pascual, Masbate.

The NPA command also disarmed four bullies of their two .45 caliber pistols, two .38 and a .357 revolvers in Barangay Dangpanan, Placer and Barangay Robog, Cawayan. The bullies had used the guns in terrorizing civilians.

Meanwhile, NPA fighters set off explosives on a vehicle carrying 12 elements of the PNP Regional Mobile Group who were on their way home from an operation in response to the NPA disarming operation in Placer.

In Agusan del Sur, Red fighters of NPA Guerrilla Fronts 21-b and 8 confiscated three shotguns from

the guards of Sodaco, a palm oil manufacturing company in Sitio Thankiu, Purok 8, Barangay Santa Teresita, Bayugan City. The guerrillas also razed two company trucks. **AB**



NPA releases 4 POWs

Despite continued rescue operations by the 10th ID under Maj. Gen. Carlos Holganza, the Merardo Arce Command (MAC) of the NPA-Southern Mindanao Region released on June 15 four prisoners of war which it held for more than a month.

The Crucifino Uballas Command (CUC) of the NPA released captives Cpl. Marcial Bawagan, Ariel Asumo and Edmundo Alcala of the Philippine Army and CAFGU element Victor Pitogo in Sitio Linao, Barangay Teresa, Maco, Compostela Valley.

The prisoners were released on humanitarian considerations despite their serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The NPA gave consideration to the appeals of their families, religious groups and individuals as well as distinguished and respected groups and individuals.

Their release gives the former captives a chance to change for the better. According to CUC spokesman Ka Anvil Guinto, "Their capture and detention also serves as a warning to officers and men of the

AFP, PNP and paramilitary groups."

Throughout their arrest, detention and investigation since May 12, the CUC respected their rights as captives in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and its protocols and the policies of the NPA on the humane treatment of prisoners of war. The NPA acknowledged the help of the church, the local government unit, peace and human rights advocates as well as certain individuals and organizations to ensure the safe and orderly release of the captives.

Meanwhile, NPA guerrillas again captured two armed government soldiers in Barangay Upper Ulip, Monkayo, Compostela Valley on Hunyo 19. The prisoners were identified as S/Sgt. Bienvenido Arguilles of the 25th IB and Job Latiban, a CAFGU element under the 72nd IB. The motorcycle-riding soldiers were captured as they passed through an NPA checkpoint on their way to their detachment in Mount Diwalwal. **AB**

Ka Roque: People's militiaman

Ka Roque is a member of a people's militia (*milisyang bayan*, MB) unit operating in their village in Northeastern Mindanao.

He related that members of the MB undergo continuous ideological, political and organizational consolidation. Under the local Party branch, they have a Party group in the MB giving direction, laying out plans and ensuring their implementation.

The plans of their militia unit are made in accordance with plans of the NPA command in the area. One of their regular responsibilities is ensuring the security of their village. They regularly conduct patrols and intelligence work, closely monitoring enemy movements. They coordinate closely with the full-time NPA units and comply with the guidelines and advice from the NPA command.

They also undertake the task of resolving the day-to-day problems and conflicts among the village masses. Their presence has led to the eradication of criminality and the eviction of enemy assets in the barrio. The MB also enforces the policies of the local revolutionary authorities such as the ban on commercial logging. The enthusiastic participation of the masses enables them to enforce revolutionary laws and policies, said Ka Roque.

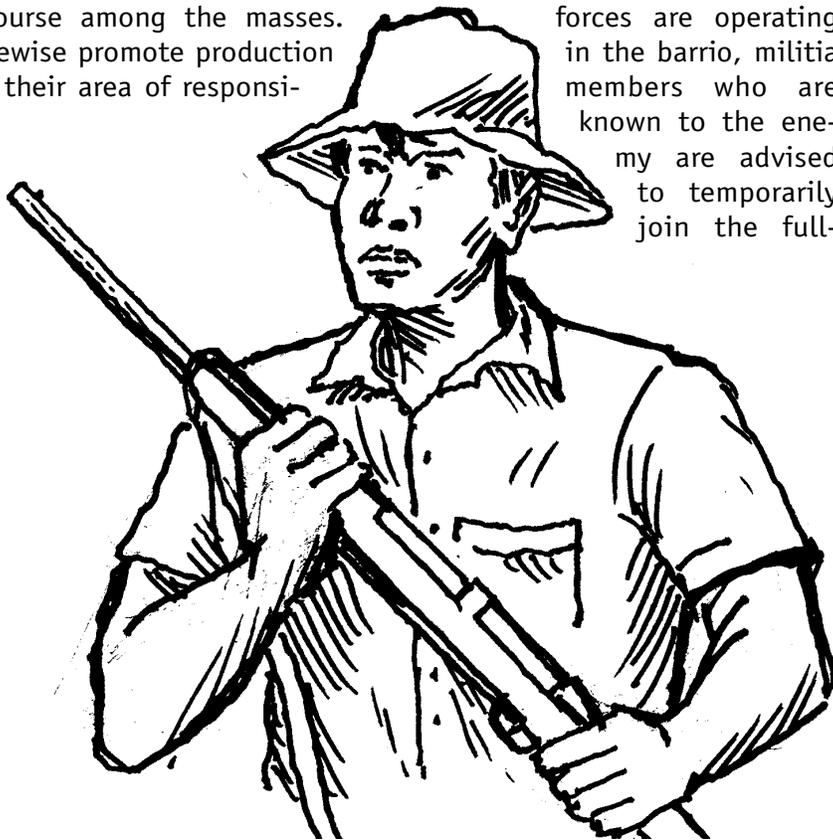
Members of the MB often take part in military trainings that are conducted by the NPA. They carry out drills on their own. They always conduct education work whenever they gather.

The MB is also mobilized in the advancement of agrarian revolution, health campaigns, education work and organizing. They assist in building revolutionary organizations of Lumad, and peasant, youth and women's organizing

groups. They also conduct education courses including the basic party course among the masses. They likewise promote production work in their area of responsibility.

They also take on responsibilities in expansion work. Depending on the directive, they may move to a certain area to do organizing work there. At times, they also merge with fulltime NPA units, as when tactical offensives are to be

launched. When enemy forces are operating in the barrio, militia members who are known to the enemy are advised to temporarily join the full-



Valiant militiamen

The people's militia counts among its members excellent fighters who have brilliant accomplishments in warfare. In Ka Roque's area, people often talk about how an MB member caused the crash of a helicopter in the 1990s. They were also able to destroy a tank in 2006.

One of the most skillful snipers in Northeastern Mindanao was Ka Dandy, a member of the MB. Before he was martyred in 2002, Ka Dandy was among those who had the most excellent records in sniping with a Garand rifle equipped with a scope. He was able to inflict around 50 casualties on enemy forces.

The MB has also induced several misencounters between enemy units. They are able to do this by quickly positioning a two- to three-man team between two enemy columns and firing on both sides before quickly withdrawing. There was one instance when the enemy units spent an hour firing at each other. Around a hundred soldiers have been killed in such misencounters. **AB**

time guerrillas to avoid being targeted by the enemy.

Ka Roque's wife is also a Party member and is active in revolutionary work. Because they devote nearly all of their time to their revolutionary tasks, the mass organizations decided to help them in their needs. Aside from the couple's individual farms which other villagers help maintain, proceeds from communal farms also help provide their military needs like backpacks and boots. "That's why very few barriofolk around here are very hard up," Ka Roque emphasizes. "We only go hungry when we are forced to evacuate because of militarization."

Because Ka Roque and his fellow MB members know the local terrain by heart, they are the best people to serve as the NPA's advance force in operating in their area. And because they live there, they can closely monitor the enemy's movements. Once, when enemy forces entered their village, they took it upon themselves to prepare explosives to harass the intruders while waiting for orders from the NPA command.

Like Ka Roque, some of the best guerrilla fighters are in the people's militia. Their story is a story of brilliant victories in the battlefield.

In joining the people's war, Ka Roque is aware of the sacrifices that the struggle entails. Whenever the enemy enters their area, Ka Roque and his family are among those singled out by the fascist troops for harassment. But he is prepared to face and fight all this, along with the Party and the revolutionary mass organizations. By employing different tactics and collective action, they vigorously frustrate the enemy's fascist campaigns of suppression and consistently contribute to the advancement of people's war. **AB**

Joan Hinton, proletarian internationalist

In behalf of the Filipino people and their revolutionary forces, the leadership and entire membership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) pay the highest tribute to Comrade Joan Hinton, indefatigable communist, anti-revisionist and proletarian internationalist. The working class and oppressed peoples across the globe feel a deep sense of loss with the passing away of Comrade Joan last June 8. She was 89. We express our heartfelt condolences to her children, family, friends, comrades and all the people she served and loved.

Through the most part of her life, Comrade Joan, with husband Ernest "Sid" Engst and brother William (Bill), served the Chinese people and worked tirelessly with them to advance the revolutionary struggle and build socialism in China. She and her husband worked in various people's enterprises, including an iron factory, various dairy farms and other agricultural projects where they contributed all their efforts and expertise. She continually integrated with the workers and peasants, helped build the Party, upheld Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and fought revisionism and the restoration of capitalism in China.

Comrade Joan was a pioneering nuclear physicist in the United States in the 1940s. She was one of those chosen by the US government to form an elite team in Los Alamos, New Mexico to secretly work on the Manhattan Project for the development of the first atomic bomb. The dropping of the US atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the mass destruction they caused among innocent Japanese people in 1945 shocked and angered Comrade Joan, prompting her to leave the project.

She was inspired to go to China in March 1948 by her then fiancé Sid who left for China in 1945 and joined the Chinese revolution and the work in the liberat-



ed areas under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman Mao Zedong. Sid was an American agriculturist. They got married in 1949 in Yanan, the main base of the people's revolutionary government when the national democratic revolution in China was about to be completed and the People's Republic of China was to be inaugurated.

For the next several decades, Comrades Joan and Sid devoted all their efforts to the Chinese revolution and the socialist cause. As they served the Chinese people and revolution, they expressed disdain against the special treatment of "foreign experts" and sought to be treated equally, to have the same living standard as

their local counterparts and not be accorded special distinctions based on their specializations. She worked as an equal among workers and peasants as they built socialism from the 1950s to the 1970s, established their communes, developed industries and agriculture, carried out criticism and self-criticism, consolidated the Party, studied Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and launched struggles against revisionism.

She witnessed and experienced setbacks in the struggle for socialism leading to the restoration of capitalism in China as the revisionists seized power within the CPC from 1976 onwards. She criticized the rise of exploitation in China as the revisionist leadership of Deng Xiaoping tore down the socialist system and paved the way for the return of the big bourgeoisie and foreign monopoly capitalists in China. It was due to her fearless and undying devotion to the socialist cause and the proletarian revolution that she persisted in revolutionary work and the struggle for socialism in China despite the many difficulties she, her family and the people she worked with have encountered since revisionism took over and set back the socialist revolution in China.

Comrade Joan, as well as her husband Sid and brother Bill were long-time friends of the Philippine revolution. Their writings chronicling their experiences in building socialism in China from the 1950s to 1976 and the rise of revisionism and restoration of capitalism there from 1977 onwards have been well read by Filipino communists and revolutionaries. Her writings provided the Filipino communists and revolutionaries a clear picture of the Chinese people's daily struggles and practical lessons in the merging of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist teachings with the concrete experi-

ences on the ground in the context of the Chinese revolution, especially in carrying out of agrarian revolution and advancing the socialist transformation of agriculture. Their incisive analyses and criticisms of revisionism and the restoration of capitalism have further enriched our grasp of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.

She helped develop solidarity between the Filipino and Chinese peoples. She took great interest in the development of the Philippine revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and supported several progressive causes in the Philippines. She visited the Philippines with her brother Bill in 1996 to participate in the People's Campaign Against Imperialist Globalization and the People's Caravan Against the APEC summit. She warmly welcomed Filipino comrades who visited her in China and fostered friendship with Philippine progressive and democratic forces. She particularly developed a special interest and close friendship

with the Filipino women comrades.

Comrade Joan was a staunch proletarian internationalist. Her loyalty to the working class and people transcended national boundaries. The significance of her work and writings has contributed greatly to the proletarian ideological counter-offensive throughout the 1990s and the resurgence of revolutionary struggles in the past decade.

She will continue to serve as an inspiration to the oppressed Chinese, Filipino, American and other peoples, and to all victims of imperialist globalization, semicolonial and semifeudal oppression and capitalist restoration. Her memory will forever be etched in the hearts of the world's proletariat as they continue to carry forward their historic mission to put an end to capitalism, build socialism and achieve communism.

Raise high the red banner of proletarian revolution in memory of Joan Hinton!

Long live the international communist movement! **AB**

Lies of the 9th ID

The National Democratic Front (NDF)-Bicol strongly denied the 9th ID's claims of a 70% reduction in the New People's Army (NPA) in the region from its 2008 level of 350 fighters. In a statement on June 19, NDF-Bicol spokesman Ka Greg Bañares revealed that the NPA has in fact grown in strength in confronting Oplan Bantay Laya 2 and is poised to launch more offensives in the coming months and years.

Bañares said Maj. Gen. Ruperto Pabustan was merely concocting stories of victory to gloss over the 9th ID's failure to cripple or weaken the people's armed movement in the region. Bañares said such stories are just psywar ploys of the AFP to dampen the people's will to fight for social change.

Bañares pointed out that the enemy has not destroyed a single guerrilla front in the region from 2001 to 2010. He said NPA commands from the front to the regional levels are intact and strong and that the number of NPA Red fighters and commanders is several times bigger than the AFP's false estimates. **AB**



Capitalist greed and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill

It has been over two months since crude oil began bursting into the Gulf of Mexico from holes in underwater pipes owned by British Petroleum (BP). Crude oil has been quickly spreading on the ocean surface and now covers at least 64,750 square kilometers.

The US state of Louisiana has been worst hit by the oil slick, affecting more than 110 kilometers of its coastline as of May 30. The latest estimate placed the rate of the oil leak at 60,000 barrels per day in the past six weeks.

The pipes began leaking on April 20 after an explosion sank a BP oil exploration rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven workers who were at the site during the explosion remain missing. Workers had complained weeks earlier about the company's disregard of safety regulations in its hasty quest for profit.

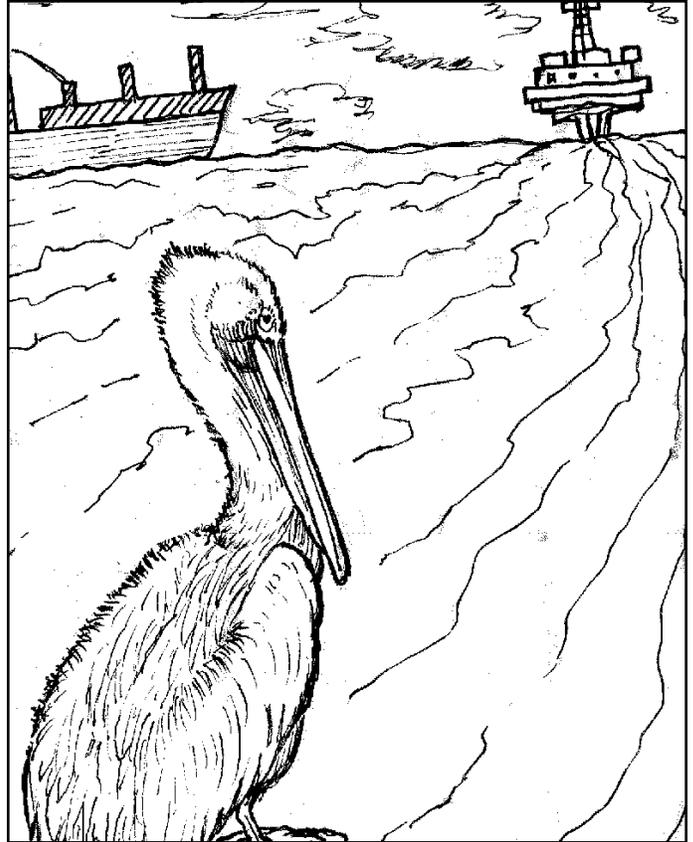
Experts had been warning the US government on the dangers of deep-sea drilling. But instead of

tightening safety regulations, the US government relaxed them amid assurances from the oil companies, including BP, that they have adequate technology to prevent disaster.

The oil leak has wrought unprecedented damage on the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent marshlands, endangering thousands of marine animal species and birds that rely on the sea for their food and habitat. An agency estimates that residents of areas and islands near the affected

area have so far lost some \$1.6 million in revenues. Businesses dependent on the gulf are expected to lose billions of dollars more.

BP, a British company, is the biggest company in the United Kingdom and the fourth biggest company in the world. AB



SLEx toll fee hike slammed

BAYAN Muna and transport groups are protesting plans to hike toll fees in the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) on June 30.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño called the toll fee increase "midnight highway robbery."

The South Luzon Bus Operators Association, the Confederation of Truck Associations of the Philippines and the Christian International for Transparency and Accountability are also strongly protesting the plan. The four congressmen of Laguna have also filed a protest.

Casiño called on the Department of Transportation and Communications to junk the proposed increase in toll fees.

He added that the toll fee hike would also cause

price increases in agricultural products, transport fares and basic commodities from the provinces.

The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) allowed the South Luzon Toll Corporation (SLTC) which manages the SLEx to hike toll fees from Alabang to Calamba, Laguna. From the current 82 centavos per kilometer, motorists plying the route will be charged ₱3.52. Around 200,000 vehicles take the SLEx everyday. If the toll fee increase pushes through, the SLTC will be collecting ₱14 million more daily.

The Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opreytor Nationwide (PISTON) called on president-elect Aquino to immediately junk the proposed increase once he assumes his post.