



EDITORIAL

Sweep away all the monsters of martial law

Fifty years since Ferdinand Marcos Sr declared martial law and established his fascist dictatorship, the people continue to be savaged by the monsters engendered by the brutal and corrupt terrorist state. Beyond the resolve "never again," efforts to look back at and draw lessons from the history of martial law should also strengthen the determination to continue the fight to eradicate these monsters.

The biggest monster which emerged under martial law is no other than the Marcos family itself which now rules the country in the person of Marcos Jr. Marcos and his cronies grew from mid-sized bureaucratic capitalists to giants. Imelda Marcos, wife of Marcos Sr, once proudly declared that they owned everything in the Philippines. There was no business that operated or infrastructure project built which the Marcos did not actually own or mulcted. The Marcoses made money from the economy and people's livelihood.

For more than a decade, the Marcoses amassed an estimated 10-15 billion dollars. Much of it is stashed away in foreign banks, or in the form of diamonds, mansions, overseas real estate and other expensive items. The Marcoses lived in shameless luxury while the vast masses of the people were burdened with hard work and poverty.

Despite their ouster in 1986, a large portion of the Marcos stolen wealth remained in their hands. They have used these monies since returning to the Philippines to buy political loyalties, flood the country

with historical lies, and restore itself to power. This funded the political alliance with the Dutertes to rig the results of the previous election and install Marcos Jr in power. Having Marcos Jr sit on the Malacañang throne is their biggest benefit to the father's 14-year dictatorship.

The most vicious of the martial law monsters is the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police (now the Philippine National Police or PNP). Under martial law, they served as Marcos' minions and weapons for sowing fascist terrorism against the people. Marcos satiated officers of the AFP and PC-INP whose ranks he expanded from just above 50,000 in 1972 to more than 200,000 before being ousted. The AFP's budget

rose by four times in the early years of martial law. Under the Marcos dictatorship, the military is the law, and anyone who resisted is suppressed with utter viciousness.

Marcos Sr used his monopoly on power to suppress all opponents, including rival groups of ruling classes. The dictator ended the old power sharing among the ruling classes, shuttered Congress and oversaw the military courts that executed his judgments.

The military reigned. More than 70,000 were imprisoned, 34,000 tortured, 3,240 killed, and more than 1,300 disappeared. Many more victims remain undocumented, most

of whom were workers and peasants who sought to defend their interests and welfare. There were massacres left and right especially in the countryside where Marcos' fascist troops reigned on the pretext of suppressing the armed revolution. The US government extended full support to Marcos in exchange for guaranteed operations of US military bases. This is similar to US support for dictators in other countries in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere.

Not one of the military officers were made to account for the crimes of the AFP and PC-INP. When Marcos Sr was ousted, many

were like chameleons who became officers in the bureaucracy or business, using their power connections. On the prodding of the US—the number one war monger and weapons seller in the country—the AFP and PC-INP were made to undergo an image makeover to turn them into advocates of human rights and peace, directly opposite to their essence as violent instruments of repression against the people.

Despite the makeover attempt, the AFP and PC-INP remain the giant monsters of Marcos Sr's martial law. The overthrow of the dictatorship did not see the dismantling of the fascist machinery of the AFP and PC-INP. In fact, it continued to grow and become more vicious. Under the same old counterinsurgency and the new "counter-terrorism," cases of killings, abductions, illegal arrests, molestation and rape, incarceration and military torture continue to rise. It consumes more and more funds taking away resources for more productive investment or expansion of social services. The AFP-PNP's power and interference in state and society further expanded under the National Task Force (NTF)-Elcac.

Above all, Marcos Sr's martial law generated a monster crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system that devoured the lives of the broad masses of toiling people. Using absolute powers, Marcos Sr paved the way for all-out plunder resulting in widespread denudation, poisoning of rivers, environmental destruction and grabbing land of farmers and minority peoples.

Under martial law, Marcos Sr implemented the policy dictates of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (IMF-WB) in exchange for loans with high interests. Workers' salaries were kept at low levels to attract foreign capitalists. Marcos Sr carried out a fake land reform program, imposed levies on coconut farmers, pulled down the price of domestic sugar to maximize export profits and imple-





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mented the Masagana 99 program, all of which buried millions of farmers in debt and pulled their livelihood in deep crisis.

Export processing zones were established which further tied the country to the international assemblyline of multinational corporations. The backward, agrarian and non-industrial character of the Philippine economy deepened further. The problem of widespread unemployment was addressed with the export of cheap labor which subjected Filipinos to gross forms of exploitation and slavery overseas. The peso's value against the dollar slid. The country was buried in mountains of foreign debt which Marcos Sr used for infrastructure programs all tainted with corruption.

When the Marcoses were ousted in 1986, the Philippines was known as the "sick man" of Asia, lying in the deathbed of the economic crisis. The people strongly clamored to renounce IMF-WB policies and reliance on foreign debt; this was reflected in the 1987 constitution

which included provisions for protecting local investors and developing the economy.

But instead of correcting Marcos Sr's twisted policies that led to economic crisis, these were continued and made further worse. The neoliberal economic policies from the late 1970s were further expanded with the push of the IMF-WB. Local production remained import-dependent and export-oriented. Nothing was done to establish the basic industries and develop agriculture.

Water and electricity services were privatized, the oil industry deregulated, and funds for education, health and other social services were cut. Government assets were sold under contracts tainted with corruption. Tariffs were removed from imported commodities resulting in widespread losses, closure of businesses, and worsening poverty of peasants. Overseas migration of Filipino workers, including nurses and other professionals, was pushed more vigorously.

After three decades, policies

started under Marcos Sr's martial law resulted in chronic trade deficits, the destruction of the local productive forces, collapse of agriculture, food crisis and increased dependence on imports and foreign remittances. Amid the economic crisis, bureaucrat capitalists have become more and more insatiable in plundering public funds, which, in turn, lead to deepening rifts among the ruling class cliques.

The three monsters engendered by Marcos Sr's martial law—the Marcos dynasty corruption, fascist terrorism of the AFP, and imperialist-dictated neoliberal policies—continue to cause widespread suffering among the Filipino people. As the Filipino people look back on martial law, their collective strength and resistance should be sharply directed to fight and eradicate these monsters. The struggle should be further strengthened and intensified to end the basic problems of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism and achieve the aspiration for genuine national freedom and democracy. AB

8th ID's eight-month ravaging of Samar island

THE 8th ID recently bragged of deploying nine battalions or more than 2,700 soldiers in the island of Samar and of using advanced military equipment in an eight-month focused military operation from January to August. It supposedly aims to crush or weaken the New People's Army (NPA) in the island and pursue "known personalities" of the Party.

What it brought to the Samareños, in fact, was wanton destruction in the form of militarization or occupation of communities, hamlets, harassment, illegal arrests and murder of peasant and minority people in Northern, Eastern and Western Samar.

The gravest of these crimes is the murder of two children in Barangay Roxas, Catubig, Northern Samar on February 8.

Two incidents of murder of four elderly and sick retired cadres of the revolutionary movement were also recorded. These include the 87th

IB's murders of couple Rodrigo Mejica Lorezo (Ka Akag) and Delia Rosco Rotalano (Ka Mema) at their home in Barangay Galutan, San Jose de Buan, Western Samar on August 7.

The 8th ID mounted at least three series of aerial bombings during this period. A Super Tucano plane dropped six bombs on a farm in Barangay Bay-ang, San Jorge, Western Samar on August 1. On July 7, communities along the San Jose de Buan and San Jorge border were also bombed, shelled and strafed.

During the eight-month opera-

tion, two peace consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines were illegally arrested.

Military occupation of communities is also prevalent. There are also not a few cases of hamlets or population control. Farming and economic activities are restricted or time-bound. Limits are set on the amount of rice and food residents can buy.

In the face of the enemy's intensified military operations, the NPA continues to defend the masses in the countryside.

NPA units in the island launched at least 20 tactical offensives from February to August. At least 18 soldiers were killed and 27 wounded in these tactical offensives. An NPA unit also torched an abandoned army camp in a village. AB

Horrors of martial law remain fresh in farmers' minds

In a recent interview, Ferdinand Marcos Jr justified his father's declaration of martial law in September 1972. The dictator's son also admitted there were human rights abuses, but claimed that such are normal "like in any war."

Marcos Jr.'s statement exculpated the military and police of horrific human rights abuses and violations during martial law. More than that, Marcos Jr normalized these abuses, just as Duterte has previously justified them.

Farmers interviewed by Ang Bayan reporters do not want these abuses repeated. Although long past, the horrors and names of battalions and officers remain etched in their minds. People in rural villages will never forget the cruelty they suffered under the men of Marcos Sr.

Nay (mother) Lorena of Agusan del Norte was 17 years old when she fell victim to soldiers. She is now 56 years old, but the military's character is clear to her, which she calls "Marcos' minions."

"If they investigate, you can't properly respond because questions and buttstrokes come at the same time," she said. One even forgot his name because of panic," she said.

"If they search us women, they grope our breasts, our crotch... Such perverts! We can't complain, 'no, sir...' because you might be hit with rifle butts, be taken to their detachment. Do you think they will ever release you?"

Rifle buttstrokes are the most common of cruelties endured by farmers who are chanced upon by soldiers in their fields. This is what Tatay Rolando went through when he was investigated.

His villagers went through worse. His neighbor was beaten black and blue with buttstrokes only because he replied "We've

been here for a long time, we don't see any rebels." His two elderly neighbors were killed after being suspected of supporting the NPA.

He was also on the brink of death after being arrested and taken to the detachment on charges that he was supporting the NPA. "I was tortured. I was freed of ropes and taken to the pit where they had earlier buried a young man. I was really nervous about being next."

The detachment commander? "Sgt. Sumayo," Tatay Rolando replied without hesitation. If Nay Lorena were to be asked what battalion? "29th IB, which is more brutal than the 54th (IB)," she replied clearly. Their words were stark as if the events had taken place only yesterday.

Indeed, how can the brutality of martial law be forgotten, if after 50 years, they face the same brutality today? "There is not so much difference between soldiers then and now," Tatay Rolando said. "Before, investigations and buttstrokes come at the same time, before the salvagings. Now, the armalite will be first be aimed before the buttstroke."

As his father did before, Marcos Jr is now feeding the fascist mindset and impunity with which abuses and violations of human rights continue to be perpetrated



with utmost cruelty by state-terrorists against the people.

Tatay Rolando and Nay Lorena have yet to attain justice, as well as Tay Nardo and Nay Paning, who are also among the countless victims of martial law's horrors. Their answers are the same. "We are poor farmers. We didn't finish school. What are we going to pay for the paperwork required to file a case?"

Those whose dignities were crushed by martial law, are putting their hope on the armed struggle. "Military abuses push the people to join the armed resistance," said Nay Lorena, who warned that Marcos Jr might repeat his father's actions. Tay Nardo agrees, "the answer to martial law," he said, "is for the people to take up arms. If we too have weapons (as the military), we will no longer be afraid."

On the part of Tay Rolando, "It is important to immediately get rid of Junior Marcos, because he might follow the policies of his father. The son is worse... We must encourage the youth to join the revolution, to stop the military from torturing. Dare to struggle!"

AB

Demand justice for Marcos Sr's crimes against the people

A few days prior to the 50th anniversary of Ferdinand Marcos Sr's martial law, Ferdinand Jr shamelessly defended his dictator father's crimes against the people. He went on to say that military abuses were "normal" because of the state of war in our country.

In the face of attempts to bury the crimes of the Marcos dictatorship in apathy and lies, we are obliged to refresh our memories, and repeatedly remind ourselves of the grim memories of Marcos Sr's 14-year military rule. Particularly for the youth, we must carefully study our history, reject distortions, let truth prevail and draw lessons.

In this regard, Ang Bayan released a series of articles this year: "Remembering the anti-Moro massacres under the US-Marcos dictatorship" (Ang Bayan, March 21), "Dark memories of the massacres of the Marcos dictatorship," "Massacre in Sag-od" (April 12); "The Massacre on the Bacong River Bridge in Culasi" (April 13); "Bloody Thursday in Escalante City" (April 14); "A Bloody June Sunday in Daet" (June 25); "Massacre in San Rafael, Bulacan: The Flowers of Motherland" (June 27); and "The Massacre in Guinayangan, Quezon" (June 28). These are only a few of the more than 900 massacres nationwide recorded by revolutionary newspapers and the

so-called "mosquito press."

Massacre in Ibajay River

The semi-legal team of Edward L. Dela Fuente was conducting propaganda and organizing work in Barangay Naligusan, Ibajay, Aklan on April 12, 1984 when they were encircled by soldiers of the 47th IB. The team, armed only with short firearms, was able to retreat. After crossing the Ibajay River on the borders of barangays Agdugayan and Unat in the same town, they were ambushed by troops of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) led by Major Wilfredo Blanco.

One known only as "Johnny" was killed in the ambush while Dela Fuente (Ka Ponso) and Antonio Diore Mijares were captured alive, though wounded. Instead of treating the wounds and respecting their rights as "prisoners of war" (POW), Dela Fuente and Mijares suffered severe torture before they were killed. Farmers who witnessed the incident said the hands of the two captives were tied with barbed wire, dragged by a carabao from the banks of the Ibajay River into

the road of Unat which was about a kilometer long. This massacre was named "Bloody Holy Thursday."

Other massacres

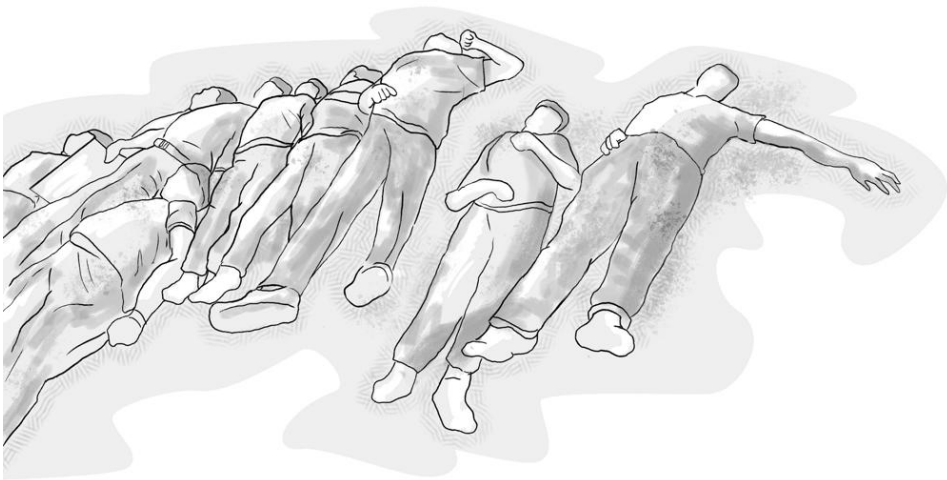
The house of the Gupanon family of the Subanon tribe in Sityo Gitason, Barangay Lampasan, Tudela town in Misamis Occidental was peppered with bullets in August 24, 1981 as they slept. Those who strafed the house were members of a paramilitary group called Rock Christ, a fanatical group that also serves the military. Of the 12 who were sleeping in the house, 10 were killed including a baby.

In the town of Talugtug, Nueva Ecija, the military abducted five 20-year-old individuals on January 3, 1982 around 7:00 p.m. The next day, their lifeless bodies were found. They were called "supporters of the communist movement."

In Zamboanga del Sur on February 12, 1982, 12 people were killed in revenge for the killing of an Ilaga leader by the New People's Army (NPA). The culprits were members of the notorious group Ilaga, a terrorist cult known for its cannibalism and also functions as Civilian Home Defense Forces.

In Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur, on May 25, 1982 Philippine Air Force planes dropped bombs on Barangay Dimalinao. Three were killed and eight others were injured. The military claimed that the bombing was in retaliation for the killing of a soldier in a battle with Red fighters of the NPA.

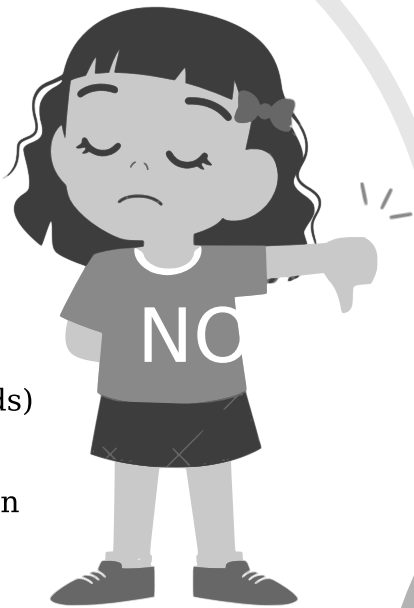
In Barangay Masaymon, Southern Leyte, eight people were massacred by the troops of the 357th PC Company on March 23, 1982. Six of the eight victims were only three to 18 years old.



Free Our Sisters, Free Ourselves

₱0

budget for special education (education for children with special needs) out of the total ₱788.5 billion budget for DepEd in 2023.



re-launched campaign of women's groups in September 17 for the freedom of **Adora Faye de Vera, Atiel Hijos, Tess Pielago** and all other women political prisoners.

₱9,900/month

requirement for every college student in order to live decently. This is higher than the ₱7,000/month before the pandemic.

40.3%

increase in agricultural trade deficit for Quarter 1 of 2022, indicative of the increasing dependence on food importation, and resulting from hikes in prices of petroleum and fertilizers.

Source: SUKI Network

7 minutes

was all it took in the railroad deliberations for **Sara Duterte's ₱2.3 billion budget** as vice president.

Of this, ₱2.2 billion is for "good governance" and ₱500 million is for "confidential" and "intelligence funds."



SEPTEMBER 9, 1976

great communist **Mao Zedong**, leader of the Communist Party of China and founder of the People's Republic of China, died at the age of 82.



50 MILLION

number of "modern day slaves" worldwide. They are those forced to work or wed and are unable to resist or flee due to threats, violence, deception, abuse of power or other forms of coercion.

Source: International Labour Organization

NPA mounts offensives in Sorsogon, Negros and Agusan

FOUR ARMED ACTIONS were mounted by units of the New People's Army (NPA) in Negros, Sorsogon and Agusan del Sur from September 5 to 14.

Police Executive M/Sgt. Israel Rebosura of the Pilar Municipal Police Station was killed in a partisan operation by the NPA-Sorsogon on September 5 in Purok 2, Sityo Cagduyong, Barangay Ginablan, Pilar, Sorsogon. He is an active intelligence agent setting up a network of police informants in the villages of Pilar.

In Negros Occidental, the NPA fired upon more than 30 soldiers under the 94th IB while on patrol in Sityo Dawahan, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City on September 6. Soldiers scampered bringing along their casualties.

A police officer was killed in a sniping operation by the NPA on a police substation in Sityo Parkingan, Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental on September 10. The next day, a 62nd IB soldier was killed in sniping operations by Red fighters in the village of Sityo Tuko Gamay. The soldiers are encamped near the civilian community, which violates international humanitarian law.

Meanwhile in Agusan del Sur, a soldier was killed and three were wounded in an NPA ambush against the combined troops of the 26th IB, 41st DRC and Special Forces in the mountainous area of Barangay Moretola, San Luis on September 14.

Courts dismiss trumped-up charges

A COURT IN Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur found five women human rights workers "not guilty" in a decision last September 17. The 81st IB filed charges of frustrated murder on January 26, 2018 against Sarah Abellon-Alikes, Sherry Mae Soledad, Joanne Villanueva, Rachel Mariano and Asia Isabella Gepte.

The 81st IB implicated the five in an ambush by the New People's Army on July 22, 2017 against patrolling soldiers in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals (CA) dismissed the case of illegal possession of firearms with live ammunition against union organizer Maoj Maga. In a September 15 decision, the court reversed the guilty verdict issued earlier by the San Mateo Regional Trial Court against the unionist. Maga has been illegally detained since February 2018 at the Metro Manila District Jail 4 in Taguig City. He is still facing murder charges in Cabadbaran, Agusan del Sur filed against him by the AFP.

For Kapatid, a group of relatives and friends of political prisoners, this CA decision should push all courts to more thoroughly review cases filed by the state against imprisoned activists and critics. The group considers the new decision important not only because it reversed a guilty verdict against an activist but also because it underscored constitutional protection from illegal search and seizure.



Anti-Marcos protests in the US.

Protests were held by progressive Filipino organizations following the arrival of Ferdinand Marcos Jr in the US. They staged a rally in New Jersey where Marcos gave a speech on September 18 and again in New York on September 19 where he met with foreign leaders. Marcos was in the US to participate in the September 20 to 26 UN General Assembly.

LFS@45. The League of Filipino Students commemorated its 45th anniversary with a protest on September 11 in front of the US embassy in Manila. They condemned US wars of aggression and its military intervention in countries like the Philippines. They also criticized Marcos Jr for putting the country in the middle of inter-imperialist conflicts between the US and China.

We reject Gened 1 and 2. Isnag minorities staged a picket in front of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in Quezon City coinciding with a meeting with agency officials on September 14. They travelled from Kabugao, Apayao to show their strong opposition to the Gened 2 project on the Apayao-Abulog River. The Isnags are opposed to the NCIP's railroading of the project's free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

Alliance against Bacolod reclamation. More than 80 community leaders from various sitios, together with church people and human rights advocates, linked arms to launch the Banago Against Reclamation Movement on September 10 at the Nuestra Señora de Salvacion Parish in Barangay Banago, Bacolod City.

The planned reclamation will affect more than 6,000 homes along the coast of Sibucan in Barangay Banago to Barangay Punta Taytay in Bacolod City.

Soldiers kill farmer in Negros Oriental

The 62nd IB killed Greg Cantela, farmer and resident of Sityo Manlibod, Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental, at 6:00 in the morning on September 7. He is the latest victim of killings in the militarized island.

The NPA-Negros reported the AFP's operation involving several battalions in the mountains and communities of Negros Occidental. In the villages of Calatrava and Toboso in Negros Occidental, battalion-sized troops of the 79th IB mounted focused operations since August 26.

Meanwhile, around 200 troops under the 94th IB and SAF have encamped in the mountains and villages of Himamaylan City, Binalbagan and Isabela since August 11.

Abduction and illegal detention. Raquel Dahoyla Santillano, a revolutionary in North Central Mindanao, was kept for four days by the 4th ID of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, before being

presented as "surrenderer." The joint forces of the 1st Special Forces Battalion, Military Intelligence Battalion and 51st IB captured Santillano on September 4 in Bumbaran, Lanao del Sur. She had come from a medical checkup for her spinal pains.

Santillano's abduction and illegal detention were exposed and denounced on social media. This prompted the 4th ID to weave a surrender story to justify their violations of the victim's rights. She was released on September 16.

Harassment. Bayan-Gitnang Luzon reported the surveillance by state agents against their general secretary, Au Santiago, on September 17. According to Santiago,

police identified themselves as DILG Region 3 and visited the residence of Santiago's son on September 16. Earlier, Santiago received threats via text.

On the same day, police from PNP-Quezon City forced Aries Soledad, a member of Pamalakaya-Cavite, to surrender purportedly as a Red fighter.

In Bohol, three activists were falsely charged. In a report by Humabol-KMP, charged with homicide were Joemar Pogio, the organization's former coordinator; Racquel Autida, former coordinator of Gabriela-Bohol; and Women's Development Center's executive director Maria Ira Pamat.

The three are being implicated in an encounter between elements of the 47th IB and the people's army in Barangay Bayawahan, Sevilla, Bohol on June 26, 2020. **AB**

Sugar, garlic and rice: victims of neoliberal importation

Sugar, garlic and rice farmers have bewailed Ferdinand Marcos Jr's lack of support for local agricultural production, both as the country's president and secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

On September 13, Amihan, a group of peasant women, reported that palay farmgate prices have dropped to ₱13 in some parts of the country, even as rice prices are set to increase by ₱4-₱5 per kilo in October. The group said the state must act to save the farmers by buying local rice for ₱20 per kilo.

According to Amihan, the state should prioritize the development of local rice production, and not rely on importation. From January to August this year, the Philippines imported 2.7 million metric tons (MT) of rice, higher by 64% compared to

the same period in 2021. Total imports could reach 34 million MT for the whole 2022.

Farmers also criticized Marcos' decision to import 150,000 MT sugar in November. This is not necessary, according to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, as the local mills are about to enter production. According to the group Masipag, sugar imports will result in the collapse of local production by 6.8%. Marcos signed the importation order following the sham withdrawal of an earlier order in August for the importation of 300,000 MT

of sugar.

Meanwhile, the farmers rejected the blame assigned to them by a DA official for the "oversupply" of garlic and cabbage during the first week of September. This was after the mayor of Batanes appealed to the DA to buy their supply of local garlic to fill the shortage in Metro Manila. According to the DA, it is the fault of the farmers that they do not sell their products because they do not consider market conditions. According to state data, only 4,817 MT of garlic is produced locally, while 78,133 MT is imported. The importation of garlic began in the 1990s, when the reactionary state signed the neoliberal General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. **AB**

Social media suppression of the freedom of expression and information

Revolutionary forces continue to face suppression and restrictions against the freedom of expression and information by monopoly social media companies such as Facebook, Google and Twitter. Various revolutionary and anti-imperialist groups around the world have faced similar challenges, as well as individuals or groups expressing opposition to US policies.

The Philippine Revolution Web Central (PRWC) was first suppressed in 2017 when Facebook deleted its page that had at least 10,000 followers. Since then, any attempt by the PRWC to put forward statements or articles on Facebook has been quickly thwarted. Recently, sharing links to the CPP's website or posting information about the revolutionary movement are automatically being blocked.

In March, also without warning, Google deleted the accounts of PRWC and the Communist Party of the Philippines Information Bureau on Gmail, Youtube and Google Drive. In June, Twitter also took down the PRWC account with more than 15,000 supporters, along with the Party information officer's account and at least 15 others. This was repeated in August.

Target

Behind the veil of "community guidelines," Facebook, Twitter, Google and Youtube suppress the flow of information and freedom of expression. Many of the posts that are classified as violating their standards are statements that expose crimes and anomalies involving the AFP and the reactionary state; as well as videos or images depicting the unity between the New People's Army (NPA) and the masses, and of the tasks, programmes and achievements of the revolutionary movement especially in the countryside.

These posts are branded "harmful content" because they allegedly promote or support terrorism or

groups and individuals branded as "terrorists" by the US. In the name of "transparency" and "protection" or "counter-abuse," groups or individuals involved in legitimate armed resistance are harassed.

In addition to the revolutionary movement in the Philippines, Facebook's harassment also target organizations or movements for national liberation, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Kurdistan Workers Party, and others.

Facebook recently restricted the accounts of Palestinians and their supporters after exposing Israel's human rights violations and other abuses in May 2021. During this time, Palestinians suffered a series of attacks and bombings by the Israeli military. Posts favoring the struggle of the Palestinian people were immediately deleted, such as a picture with the words "never concede their rights," which was immediately deleted by Instagram, Facebook's sister company.

On the other hand, it was revealed recently that majority of the institutions employed by Facebook to monitor war posts in Ukraine were directly funded by the US government, which plays a major part in encouraging, escalating the war and selling weapons there. In February, Facebook loosened its policies to favor the Azov Battalion, a fascist and neo-Nazi group in Ukraine, which is the US's main tool in its proxy war in Ukraine.



Who defines "correct" information?

In fact, Facebook's "community guidelines" are instruments of US imperialism to silence critics and control the flow of information to ensure that only those acceptable are propagated. These rules are decided by the Oversight Board under the Transparency Center of Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram.

To allegedly solve their problem with fake news and disinformation, Meta worked with the Atlantic Council, which consists of ultra-right officials in Washington and the Pentagon, weapons manufacturers, and multinational partners of tyrants in Arab Gulf countries.

The US government and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) are closely linked to Facebook. The manager of Transparency Center is Aaron Berman, a 15-year veteran of the CIA. Facebook's misinformation policy manager, Mike Bradow, is a former USAID official accused of instigating coups in Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. A former US military officer is also in charge of Trust and Safety policy.

Meta's declaration that it is for "democracy" is all for show. In fact, the drafters, managers and implementors of restrictions in the name community guidelines are notorious forces repressing people's rights to information and expression.

CPI (Maoist) celebrates 18th anniversary

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (CPI-Maoist) called on the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), organs of political power and all revolutionary people to celebrate the Party's 18th anniversary in the countryside and cities from September 21- 27 this year.

The CPI (Maoist) was established on September 21, 2004 after the Communist Party of India (Marxist -Leninist) merged with the People's War and Maoist Communist Center of India.

Last year, the Party, PLGA and the Strategic and Tactical United Front's continued efforts to carry out their duties amid the enemy's severe fascist attacks. Important

achievements include the relative development in fields of ideology, political education, military training, expansion of organs of political power and launching of mass struggles. Political organs strive to reach the district level to put into place the seeds of alternative development model.

Like the rest of the world, the fascist Hindutva Modi government

has promoted globalization policies and has made the country reliant on capitalist system. It has normalized repression of the people's democratic rights. In turn, the oppressed classes, sectors and national minorities are ready to wage class struggle as long as oppression, pressure and discrimination prevail.

Amid of all this, it is a challenge for the Central Committee of the Indian Party to develop the class struggle and mass struggles and advance along the path of protracted people's war. AB

Calls mount for removal of Kurdish communist party from EU terror list

An international campaign is underway to seek the removal of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) from the European Union (EU) list of "terrorist organizations." This call is carried in a statement that has been signed by more than 6,000 personalities who believe that such removal is in the interest of peace, democracy and human rights. The International League of Peoples' Struggle has expressed support to this international campaign.

"A peaceful solution to the Kurdish Question is a prerequisite for a healthy democracy and for stability in Turkey and the wider Middle East," according to the statement. "Turkey and its large Kurdish community will be able to achieve that peaceful solution only through negotiations. Such negotiations need to involve all parties, including the PKK." Treating the PKK as a terrorist organization is a hindrance to the path to peace, they say.

There are so many practical and

legal reasons to remove the PKK from such a list. It was first put on the terror list in 2002 at the behest of the Turkish state. In 2018, the Court of Justice, the EU's highest court, said that it was unjust to put it on the list between 2014 and 2017. In 2020, Belgium courts also proved that the PKK could not be considered a terrorist organization since it is a party to a civil war, making the matter subject to the laws of war and not to criminal laws.

"Under the global war on terror,

states have used the designation 'terrorist' as a political weapon to de-legitimize opposition and repress efforts for human rights and freedom," the statement said. The designation has been used to suppress freedom of expression and deny the civil liberties of the Kurds. In recent years, it has been an instrument of the Erdogan regime to suppress rival parties and the masses. This has led to the imprisonment of political leaders, members of the parliament, elected officials and critics on the pretext that they are involved in "terrorism." It was used to launch a brutal war against the people. Due to the designation, the European Union is effectively being used to whitewash the attacks of authoritarian regimes, the statement said. AB