

EDITORIAL

Continuing history of resistance to US military bases

In the coming days, the Filipino people will mark the historic termination of the Military Bases Agreement on September 16, 1991. That day, the Philippine Senate rejected a proposal to extend by ten years the stay of US military bases in the country. Like an erupting volcano, 170,000 people took to the streets, bound by the patriotic aspiration to rid the country of the most repugnant symbol of US domination and control of the Philippines. The resolution and the thrust of people's powerful resistance gave victory to the decades-long struggle to oust American troops from Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and other US military bases in the Philippines.

It is only fitting that the Filipino people recall that historic day in their struggle, and draw its profound relevance to

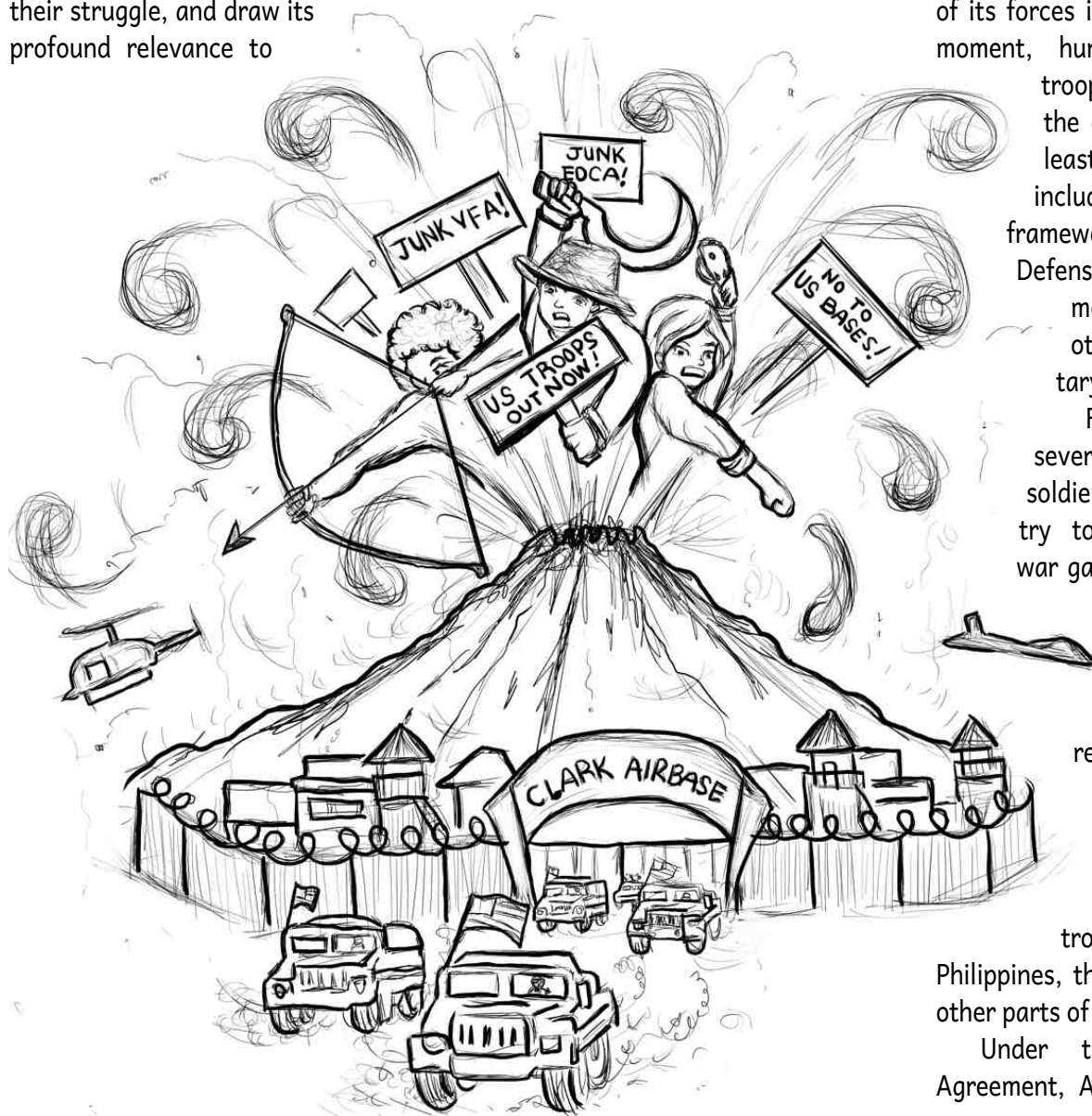
the current period. Forgetting the people's long history of patriotic

struggle can only lead to the complete demise of Philippine freedom. The current struggle against new US military bases, against lopsided military agreements and against continuing intervention of US military domination is linked to the fight for genuine freedom.

Over the past two years, US military bases in the Philippines have increased dramatically along with the steady rise in the presence of its forces in the country. At any moment, hundreds of American troopers are stationed in the country. They man at least 17 US military bases, including nine under the framework of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), as well as other unpublicized military bases.

From time to time, several thousand American soldiers pour into the country to conduct successive war games in different parts of the country, for pretentious "humanitarian missions", and for the rest and recreation of their troops. They arrive aboard large US warships making port calls from patrol missions around the Philippines, the South China Sea to other parts of Asia and the Pacific.

Under the Visiting Forces Agreement, American troops move



in and out of the country, and staying within or outside their military bases. They bring and deploy jet fighters, drones, missiles, bombs, and other powerful weapons. As in the past, US imperialism is using the country as its bastion in the Asia-Pacific to engage in saber-rattling, show off its intimidating power, carry out intervention or aggression against weaker countries, and constantly prepare for war.

Aware of the deep sentiment and long history of the Filipino people's resistance to US intervention, they avoid calling their military bases in the Philippines "military bases", rather "facilities", "agreed locations" or such. Under the EDCA, these are built inside AFP camps which provide it with perimeter security and hide them from the public's critical view. Whatever the case, it cannot be denied that these military bases are areas under the exclusive control of US military forces, which even AFP generals are not allowed to enter or inspect (except when granted permission), something considered an insult even by some officers that possess a bit of patriotic feeling. They have no right to ensure that there is no violation of the Philippine constitu-

tional prohibition of nuclear weapons.

US officials repeatedly claim to be "friends and allies" of Filipino to obscure the fact that they have long denied the country's freedom to determine its own destiny. Since occupying the Philippines, and even after "granting independence" in 1946, the US has never relaxed its grip on the country. The US rules the Philippines through a neocolonial state now headed by its obedient factotum Marcos. Its existence depends on the pillar of its armed forces that is under the firm control of the US.

Intensifying US military presence and intervention is part of its strategy to impose its hegemony or

power in the country and the region. The US aims to protect its economic interests, especially control over trade, fields for dumping investment and loans, and sources of raw materials. The US has become increasingly assertive in imposing its dominance in the Philippines and other Asian countries in the face of the economic crisis of the global capitalist system and its intensifying imperialist competition with China.

The US used the Philippines and its interest in its exclusive economic zone to assert its presence and expansion of power in the South China Sea. It armed and supplied the Philippines with old naval vessels. Goaded by the US, the Philippines is actively deploying these to challenge China's presence in the South China Sea. Rather than vigorously pushing for peaceful and diplomatic means as the primary means of resolving maritime disputes with China, Marcos has chosen to act as the US forward deployed force to lock horns with China in the West Philippine Sea. China, the imperialist rival of the US, has confronted this situation with a far bigger force, heightening tensions and further raising the possibility of sparking an armed conflict with the US.

In chorus with US officials, the puppet regime continues to make noise about China's "threat," with the shameless objective of pushing the idea that "we need help from the US" in order to "defend the independence" of the country under the Mutual Defense Treaty. This plot of the US-Marcos regime must be exposed and rejected.

By looking back at history, the Filipino people must understand that never in history has an imperialist colonizer defended the freedom of the subjugated. Promoting Philippine freedom and independence depends on the Filipino people and their determination to liberate the country from the control, intervention and domination of US imperialism and of the subservient ruling classes in the country.




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Bayan welcomes contributions in
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 ang.bayan@cpp.ph

NPA-Masbate launches harassment operation

SOLDIERS OF THE 2nd IB resting in a compound in Barangay Puro, Placer, Masbate scampered in fright after an attack by the New People's Army (NPA)-Masbate on August 26 at 11 pm. Red fighters opened fire and blasted a command-detonated explosive on the 2nd IB Alpha Company unit in the area. The Masbateño masses rejoiced at the armed action because it rendered justice to victims of the 2nd IB's military violence.

On August 30, the NPA-Masbate imposed the death penalty on a CAFGU element and traitor to the people, Jay-R Avalor in Barangay Baras, Esperanza. He was a former member of the people's army turned active military asset.

Renewed calls for NDFP-GRP talks resumption

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) and the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Forum held a liturgical celebration last September 1 to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the signing of the Hague Joint Declaration by representatives of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) in The Hague, Netherlands. This declaration sets the framework of negotiations and the sequence of substantive agenda to achieve a just and lasting peace.

Revolutionary forces earlier condemned National Security Adviser Eduardo Año for saying he does not see peace talks moving forward. This was refuted by another official saying the Marcos regime is "optimistic" about the talks reaching a "final agreement."

Amid conflicting signals from the GRP, the NDFP reaffirmed its readiness for dialogue as an effective way to address the root causes of the ongoing civil war. The Communist Party of the Philippines said the progress of the talks is highly dependent on the strength of the Filipino people's voice and collective assertion to push the Marcos regime to heed the long-standing clamor for genuine land reform and national industrialization and the demand for an end to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.



Bicol Red fighters finish Basic Party Course

A UNIT OF the New People's Army in Bicol finished the Basic Party Course last July amid military combat operations. The course was given to new Red fighters and members taking a refresher. It was conducted in a staggered manner to adapt to the military situation.

The people's army officers valued the study to strengthen the ideological foundations of Party members and new Red fighters. They said the launching of the study proves that nothing can hinder revolutionary learning. It boosted the morale of Red fighters and bolstered their willingness to face sacrifices and hardships.

Tribute to Panay's August Heroes

MORE THAN 100 people attended the tribute program for the August Heroes and Martyrs of Panay on August 26 in Iloilo, including friends, family and former comrades of the 11 fallen Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA)-Panay and Communist Party of the Philippines cadres in the region. They were martyred in a series of armed encounters last August in Iloilo and Antique.

The tribute day coincided with the 74th birthday of Ka Concha Araneta-Bocala, one of the martyrs. Ka Concha served as one of the top officials of the Party Regional Committee in Panay and National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace negotiations consultant.

The Party Central Committee tribute to the Panay August Heroes and Martyrs was read in the program. It gave the highest tribute to Vicente Hinojales (Ka Hadjie/Ka Emil), Central Committee member and Regional Party Committee secretary in the island. He spearheaded the Panay region from 2016, after playing an important role in the comprehensive growth of revolutionary struggles in Northeast Mindanao from 2006 to 2016.

Global support for the Philippine revolution

FRIENDS OF THE Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) chapters in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America launched various types of activities to express their solidarity with the Filipino revolution and to generate support. They conducted their action on August 26.

In the US, group members launched coordinated discussions and militant demonstrations in Baltimore, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Orange County. In addition, two new member organizations, Tanod Lupa and Guerrero, were established in the country. Activities were also conducted in Canada, The Netherlands, Finland, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Greece, Austria and the United Kingdom. In Mexico, several scores of activists gathered at the plaza in Oaxaca to conduct a program.

The crime of enforced disappearance

In the last week of August alone, the Marcos regime's armed forces forcibly disappeared three victims. The crimes took place days before the commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared on August 30.

Enforced disappearances can be considered crimes against humanity once they become widespread or systematic attacks against the civilian population. Thus, the charges against the perpetrators of the crime are forever valid, and the victims' family members have the right to dig up the truth of the disappearances and demand indemnification.

One of its latest victims is Rowena Dasig, a detained student activist and environmentalist from Southern Tagalog, whom families cannot locate since August 22. The Lucena City District Jail where she was detained claimed Dasig was "released" on the day criminal charges against her were dropped.

In Albay, James Jazmines, 63, former Kilusang Mayo Uno official and brother of National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) peace consultant Alan Jazmines also went missing on August 23. He was last seen in Barangay San Lorenzo, Tabaco City on August 23. From the youth-student sector, he served as KMU information officer and Amado

V. Hernandez Resource Center executive director. Since the mid-2000s, he has worked as consultant on information technology matters.

A few days later, 66-year-old Felix Salaveria Jr, an active member of Cycling Advocates (CYCAD), was abducted on August 28. He often cycles with Jazmines. Salaveria served as a founding member of the Tunay na Alyansa ng Bayan Alay sa mga Katutubo and the Kabataan para sa Tribung Pilipino in the 1980s.

Under the Marcos regime, Ang Bayan recorded 153 victims of abduction. Of these, 43 remain missing. Meanwhile, 32 of the abducted were extrajudicially killed, 29 were detained, 10 were claimed to have surrendered, 39 surfaced but continue to be subjected to state harassment. Ten of the victims were children used as hostages by the military. Most of the cases occurred in the countryside amid intense military combat operations.

Struggle for justice

Relatives of the victims of en-

forced disappearances continue the fight for justice. On the Day of the Disappeared on August 30, Eco Dangla, a victim of state abduction, went to the Supreme Court to file writ of amparo and habeas data petitions. Dangla was abducted, along with Jak Tiong, in San Carlos City and kept for four days. At the same time, progressive groups staged a protest action at the Supreme Court to call for the surfacing of all the disappeared.

On the same day, youth groups went to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City to hold the AFP accountable for cases of abduction and enforced disappearance of activists.

In Southern Tagalog, the day was commemorated at the University of the Philippines (UP)-Los Baños. In UP Diliman, the UP Film Center screened the movie *Alipato* at Muog about the mother and sister's search for the missing Jonas Burgos. The audience gathered outside the hall after the film to call for justice and the surfacing of all the missing. They also condemned the MTRCB for giving the documentary an X-rating which bans its screening in commercial theaters. Following demand, it was given an R-16 rating in its second review on September 5.

In Cebu, friends and church people offered flowers in memory of Fr. Rudy Romano, a priest of the Redemptorist Church who was abducted and disappeared on July 11, 1985. A day earlier, Karapatan-Central Visayas held a protest to call for justice for Elena Tijamo who was abducted on June 13, 2020, secretly detained and surfaced dead on August 29, 2021. The group condemned the Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 7 for its report from its bogus investigation which concluded that state agents did not violate any human rights in the abduction and hiding of Tijamo. AB



Low poverty standards, a lever to push down wages

The Marcos regime drew left and right criticism when its officials defended the ₱21/meal or ₱64/day as measure of hunger and ₱91/day as the standard of poverty. Using this, Marcos claims that a 5-person family spending ₱9,581/month is no longer "food poor." Making false prices and rates, the current regime made boasts that the number of impoverished Filipinos has "declined" from 18.1% in 2021 to 15.5% in 2023.

To lower hunger standards, the Marcos government changed the contents of the "subsistence food basket" of food items necessary for survival. For example, it categorized noodles as a viand and mongo with anchovies as protein source, instead of fish or meat, which were removed from the list. Not content with reducing the basket contents, it invented prices such as ₱7/package for noodles instead of ₱11/pack and ₱4 for 3-in-1 coffee instead of ₱8 from retailers.

Marcos officials falsely reduced "non-food" expenses such as housing, water, electricity, fares, medical services and other basic necessities. This is far from the truth being barely sufficient for an ordinary family's electricity bill alone. As of June, a family consuming only 200kwh/month already paid ₱1,890.32 (₱60/day or ₱12/person). The remaining ₱15 is not enough for the minimum return fare.

Other than its goal of conjuring an improving condition for the people, this statistical manipulation is a way to further pull down or prevent the increase in wages and salaries of workers and employees. This rationale is being used to prevent significant increases in the minimum wage, which is also used as grounds to prevent wage increases for skilled workers. Be-

cause of this, the standard of living of the masses of workers, farmers, staff and ordinary citizens continuously plummets.

In 2023, the state set the national poverty threshold at only ₱13,873/month or ₱462.43/day. This is only half of Ibon Foundation's estimate of ₱26,210/month or ₱873.66 per day (equivalent to ₱1,207 daily wages for a 5-day work week). The Marcos regime uses such very low poverty standards to justify measly wage increases of ₱35/day in 2023 and ₱40/day this 2024.

Even worse is the two-tier wage system adopted since 2012 and first implemented in Southern Tagalog. The first tier is set below the minimum wage or the average wage of workers in the region, which further drags down workers' wages. The

second tier, which is supposedly based on productivity, is only set at the capitalist's whims, and still needs to be negotiated.

Living wages against poverty

Ibon's studies show it is more realistic to look at the number of Filipino families living below the living wage to show the true face of poverty. It said about 13.7 million families live on ₱23,000/month or less. Meanwhile, the 19.2 million who live on ₱29,000/month or less can be considered to be at the poverty line.

Calculations by Ibon show that a family of five needs at least ₱26,261/month to live decently. Most of this will be spent for food (₱13,740), followed by housing (₱4,666), electricity, water, LPG, others (₱2,722), other services (₱1,788) and transportation (₱1,487). The rest (₱1,851) will be divided for household goods, communication, health expenses, clothing, education, special occasions, alcohol, entertainment, savings and others.

In a study by the Ateneo Policy Center last August, a family needs at least ₱693/day (₱20,790 per month or ₱138.66/person) for food alone. This is to meet the dietary requirement set in the "Pinggang Pinoy" (Filipino plate), a standard released by the state's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). Using the cheapest ingredients, the study found that a healthy diet costs at least ₱46.20/meal in the National Capital Region, while it costs ₱43.80/meal in other parts of the country.



Protests continue against jeepney phaseout, forced consolidation

THE UNITED NEGROS Transport Coalition held a surprise action inside the city hall of Bacolod last August 28 to dialogue with the city mayor. They were met by the city council which, after hearing them, issued a resolution asking the LTRFB to withdraw the PUVMP and give back their individual franchises.

On September 2-3, the UNTC picketed the LTRFB Region 6 office, along with groups of drivers in Panay. The group delivered the Bacolod City local government's resolution to push the agency to take action.

Meanwhile, Piston submitted on August 28 a petition with the signatures of 1,000 drivers who seek to withdraw from the consolidated franchises they were forced into.

Makabayan fields 10 senatorial candidates

THE MAKABAYAN COALITION formally introduced its 10 senatorial candidates for the 2025 election in a program at Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila City on August 26. It was held to coincide with Heroes' Day.

The introduction highlighted various people's issues and interests of ordinary citizens. The coalition said it is fully determined to challenge the election dominated by factions of the ruling class. They chanted: Bring the People into the Senate!

The Makabayan candidates for the senate are as follows:



**Arlene
BROSAS**
Children's advocate,
Gabriela Rep.



**Liza
MAZA**
Women's advocate,
Makabayan Co-Chair



**France
CASTRO**
Teacher,
ACT Representative



**Jocelyn
ANDAMO**
Nurse,
Filipino Nurses United



**Mimi
DORINGO**
Maralita,
Kadamay Sec. General



**Mody
FLORANDA**
Tsiper,
PISTON Chair



**Teddy
CASIÑO**
Aktibista,
BAYAN Chairperson



**Jerome
ADONIS**
Unyonista,
KMU Sec. General



**Danilo
RAMOS**
Magsasaka,
KMP Chairperson



**Ronnel
ARAMBULO**
Mangingisda,
PAMALAKAYA Vice Chair

Various progressive and democratic organizations expressed their support for Makabayan's announcement. They also expressed their willingness to campaign as much as they can for these candidates. Makabayan said this announcement is an important chapter in the direction taken by the coalition, as it continues to mobilize the people towards the politics of change.



Protests at opening of universities. Hundreds of youth at universities staged protests in August to welcome the opening of classes. They called for increased funding for education, an end to the commercialization of education, opposition to tuition and other fees increases, promotion of academic freedom and others. They also highlighted other people's issues. Student councils and national-democratic youth organizations led the actions. Actions were held in all campuses of the University of the Philippines on different days in August. Protests were reported at the University of Sto. Tomas, Ateneo de Manila University, Far Eastern University and Saint Louis University.

South Cotabato indigenous people gather against mining. More than 500 B'laan and T'boli natives gathered in Sitio Tablo, Barangay Maan, T'boli, South Cotabato on August 22 to convey to the NCIP their opposition to the mining of 88 Kiamba Mining and Development Corporation and all other applications for mining in their area. The meeting was a response to the consultation called by the NCIP, but the agency did not attend.

CIF anomaly can be grounds to impeach VP Duterte

THE ANOMALIES IN her spending of confidential and intelligence funds in 2022 can serve as basis for an impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte, Rep. France Castro said. Castro revealed that the Commission on Audit asked Duterte to return ₱73 million of the ₱125 million CIF due to her office's "misuse" of said funds. This expenses prompted the COA to send Duterte's office a notice of disallowance.

Non-stop US war games in the Philippines

From January to August this year, the US military forces conducted war games on Philippine land, air and sea almost once every two days. They stage these with allied military forces and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). War games were staged at least 105 out of 244 days, with the longest and non-stop from April 7 to June 21 (76 days). In total, at least 21,000 American troops, Australian, Canadian, Japanese, French and other foreign troopers participated.

Not a few times when two or three war games were held simultaneously in the country. Through these, American troops are staying permanently in the country.

Before and after the war games, foreign military officers conduct numerous meetings, preparations and inspections around the activity areas. In eight months, US military officers held nearly 20 high-level meetings with the AFP, Department of National Defense and Malacañang.

The war games used the nine publicly disclosed permanent military bases (called "EDCA sites") and at least seven secret facilities in the country. American troopers also stayed behind the pretext of "humanitarian assistance" and "disaster response" and during repairs of their naval ships at the Subic Freeport.

War games

In eight months, the US launched three series of Multilat-

eral Maritime Cooperative Activities (MMCA), which started only this year. It was conducted on April 7, June 16-17 and August 7-8 in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) involving the US, Japan, Australia, Canada and the Philippines.



Earlier, the US conducted the bilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) in the WPS between the AFP and the US Indo-Pacific Command. It was first launched in 2023 and subsequent series were conducted on January 3-4 and February 9. On February 19, the US and Philippines launched airspace "patrols" over the WPS.

Together with Japan, the WPS launched the Bilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity on August 2. This is around one month after the Philippines and Japan signed the Reciprocal Access Agreement on July 8. The Senate has yet to ratify this treaty.

The largest of the war games was the Balikatan 39-24 involving 16,000 American troops, 200 Australian soldiers, and French troops. Troops from 14 other countries participated as observers.

The longest of the war games was Salaknib 2 which was launched from May 11 to June 10, and was conducted in Nueva Ecija and Isabela and involved 1,644 American soldiers. The Kasangga 24-1 bilateral war games between the Philippines and Australia lasted 40 days from May 13 to June 21.

The US launched two series of the aerial war games Cope Thunder, one in April and another in July.

Hiding behind "humanitarian mission"

"Humanitarian missions" are ubiquitously conducted by US troopers in the Philippines to "normalize" the presence of American soldiers in civilian communities.

The most recent of these was the "humanitarian mission" under the Pacific Partnership 2024-2 last August 1-14 in Legazpi City, Albay. This is the 20th launching of the activity, dubbed the "largest multina-

"Non-stop US war..." continue on page 8

Bicol rejects American troops

PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN Bicol protested on August 14 in Legazpi City to condemn US imperialist military presence in the city. They conducted the action on the last day of the US "humanitarian mission" under the Pacific Partnership 2024-2 that began on August 1.

Led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Bicol, its members and allied organizations picketed before the Marison Hotel in Barangay 38-Cogon where some of the American soldiers stayed. A mass was earlier held at the Albay Cathedral and caravan to Our Mother of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Church, near the said hotel.

Bayan-Bicol Chairperson Jen Nagrampa said they staged the protest to register the opposition of Bicolano patriots to US military activities in the region and even in the entire country. "Led by the US Indo-Pacific Command, its humanitarian mission is a smokescreen for combat operation," the group said.

AFP kills 3 civilians in Negros and Masbate

Soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) killed three civilians in Negros Occidental and Masbate in recent weeks. Negros Occidental and Masbate are provinces with the first and second highest number of killings under the Marcos regime.

On August 22, the 94th IB brutally murdered a civilian spouse, Marvin Incancion, 37, and Jolina Martinez, 27, in their hut in Sityo Pisok, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental. They died of gunshot wounds to the head. Martinez's face is almost unrecognizable due to the repeated shooting.

On September 1, the 2nd IB killed 30-year-old farmer Tata Bacutin in Barangay Pili, Placer, Masbate at the height of Typhoon Enteng's devastation. He is the 33rd victim of political assassination in the province.

All victims are falsely being claimed to be Red fighters killed in an encounter.

Food blockade. The weeks-long food blockade of the 80th IB and 70th IB in four areas of Barangay Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon brings extreme hunger and disruption. Soldiers block sacks of rice and other food items from being brought to stores in the community on baseless allegation that they were for the New People's Army.

Arrest. Police and military abducted Cirila Estrada, a former political prisoner, and Victor Pelayo in Capiz on August 29 then slapped them with trumped-up criminal charges. They were not immediately surfaced had not human rights groups and relatives tracked them down to a police station in Roxas City after two days.

In Quezon, police illegally arrested coconut farmer Roberto Mendoza on September 1 in Barangay Silongin, San Francisco. Mendoza is the father of human rights defender Lieshel Mendoza who is being harassed by the 85th IB. The police also destroyed the wall of his hut after ransacking it.

Harassment. Soldiers of the 3rd Civil-Military Operations Battalion of the 3rd ID illegally took the names of members and officers of the Asosasyon sang Magagmay nga Mangingisda sa Santiago (Association of Small Fishermen in Santiago) in Barangay Santiago, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo on August 18. In Manila, Bayan-Manila spokesperson Enrique Lozada Jr (Teng) reported to the barangay on August 19 how he was subjected to police surveillance.

"Non-stop US war..." from page 7

tional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness" in the Indo-Pacific.

The US warship, City of Bismarck, docked on July 30 in Legazpi City, carrying 500 American, Japanese and South Korean soldiers for the activity. In Legazpi City, Americans held mall concerts as a gimmick. They also marched in the Ibalong Festival parade held in the city. Earlier, they took part in PR stunts such as tree planting at the foot of the Mayon Volcano and school construction at Legazpi Port Elementary School.

The "humanitarian missions" also included "clearing operations" by American soldiers in the Basco Port in Barangay Chanarian, Basco which ended in June. The real aim was to deepen the Basco Port for use of American ships during war games. The Basco port is the only one servicing the northern part of Batanes, including the Mavulis Island, near Taiwan, where the US plans to build military facilities, ports and munitions storage.



60 bombings and shelling under the US-Marcos regime

AMID WIDESPREAD HUNGER and poverty, Department of Defense secretary Gilbert Teodoro announced yesterday the plan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to buy missiles and 40 war planes at the cost of ₱300-₱400 billion from American arms companies and their subsidiaries.

Currently, the AFP reportedly has 224 fighter jets, being used in indiscriminate bombings of forests and civilian communities in the AFP's obsession to "crush" the revolutionary movement.

Ang Bayan recorded at least 60 cases of bombing, shelling and strafing from July 2022 to June 2024. Thirty-two of these were aerial bombings including at least four large bombs using FA-50s, Super Tucanos and attack helicopters.

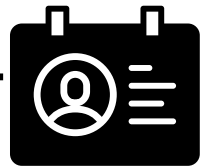
The highest number of bombings and strafings were recorded in Bukidnon, followed by Northern Samar, Abra, Kalinga, Cagayan and Aurora. There were also bombings in Oriental Mindoro, Western Samar, Misamis Oriental, Apayao, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Quezon and Camarines Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, Agusan del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Negros Oriental, Masbate and Samar.

In all cases, bombings were accompanied by shelling and extensive and prolonged military combat operations that are marked by widespread abuses and violations of rights of civilians.

5 out of 10

Filipino workers, mostly youth, report for work despite being ill.

Source: KonsultaMD

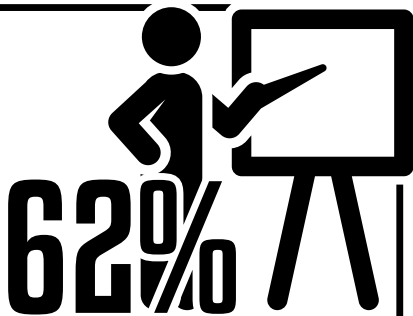
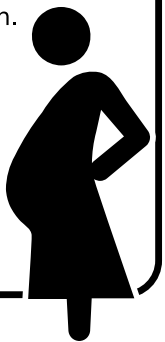


51.6
MILLION

National ID cards only were printed by private contractor All Card Inc out of 116 million it should have printed in 4 years.

15.4%

of young Filipino women, ages 15-24, are not in school, work or training, and are, thus, vulnerable to early marriage and childbearing, unemployment and lack of income, poverty and social marginalization. Meanwhile, 10.2% of young men are in the same predicament.



62%
of high school teachers teach subjects they did not major in at college.

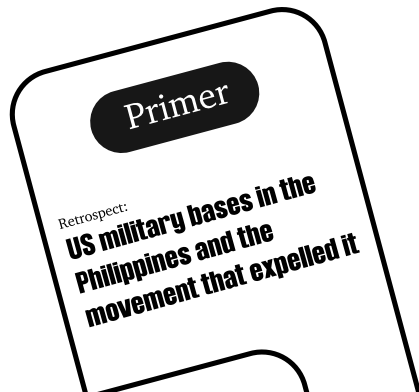
₱4.73
billion

► final estimate of damages caused by typhoon Carina and southerly monsoons to agriculture and fishing. Carina is only the 3rd of an average of 20 typhoons that hit the Philippines annually

₱202.4 billion
per month

or ₱4.9 trillion in the last two years was borrowed by the Marcos Jr regime since taking office in 2022.

This is 54% more than the monthly ₱131 billion borrowed during the Duterte era which reached ₱9.4 trillion within 6 years.



<https://philippinerevolution.nu/>

1945

SEPTEMBER 2

Japan's WW2 **General Tomoyuki Yamashita** surrendered to American forces. He was tried and convicted of all his war crimes in the Philippines, particularly the "Rape of Manila" where Japanese troops killed over 100,000 and raped countless, including children. **He was hanged in Los Baños, Laguna on February 23 the following year.**

Destitute conditions of Bukidnon corn farmers

Long before dawn, Tatay Arman is already toiling away in his 3-hectare cornfield in Bukidnon. He will end his work day before the sun sets. He does all the work—from planting, spraying pesticides, applying fertilizers to harvesting. Despite his efforts, he will only earn ₱48,210 in a 4-month planting cycle.

Tatay Arman's suffering is mainly due to the neglect of the reactionary government. The state has no support for poor peasants like him to cope with the high costs of production. There are also no subsidies to support farmgate prices to help him recover his invested capital. All these force him to borrow from agencies and individuals despite very high interest rates just to till for the next crop cycle.

Tatay Arman and peasants like him seem to get played when the time comes to sell their produce. Traders raise farm gate prices when farmers have little or no harvest and lower it come harvest time. Tatay Arman says prices of corn reached ₱23 per kilo in June when they could not sell anything due to El Niño. Before this, the price was only ₱16/kilo.

Imperialist corn monopoly

Tatay Arman would not have spent so much if he had continued with traditional organic farming. The imperialist monopoly in the country's agricultural sector forced peasants like him to use high-yielding varieties of corn and harmful chemicals and fertilizers.

Often, peasants are forced to use the Pioneer variety of corn, one of the genetically modified organism (GMO) seeds. Growing this seed effectively requires the use of fertilizers such as Urea, which now costs ₱1,400 per sack. This fertilizer also cause other

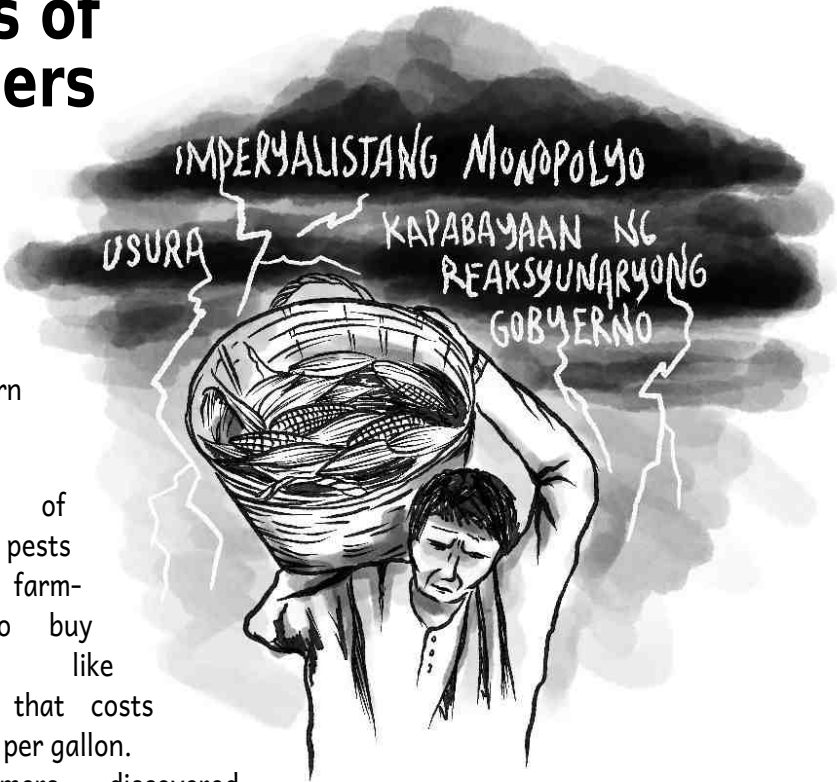
types of corn pests forcing farmers to buy sprays like Alecta that costs ₱1,400 per gallon.

Farmers discovered that using such pesticides induces the growth of "bila-bila" grass (paragis grass or goosegrass) which are resistant to the same pesticides. Farmers are forced to buy other types of spray or weed these by hand. Caterpillars that bore into their corn due to several months of drought bring further hardship on them.

Exploitative usury in the countryside

Very high debt interests imposed by big usurers are a heavy burden on peasants. In Tatay Arman's case, he was forced to borrow fertilizer and pesticides at nearly 50% interest.

He said he has no choice since



all usurers charge the same rates. In his town, usurers charge old borrowers 10% interest, but impose a 50% interest on new borrowers. As a result, Tatay Arman always loses. He says he always gets to speak English word every harvest time: "short."

Tatay Hildo's situation is no different as he has long relied on loans for his one-hectare cornfield. He borrowed a total of ₱71,370 to plant, at 10% interest. At harvest time, he earned ₱67,200, short of ₱4,170 excluding interest.

Farmers would have had a modicum of relief had the state subsidized the price of corn to keep it at ₱23/kilo. In Tatay Arman's cornfield, at this price, he could earn ₱37,890 or ₱421 per day.

Bukidnon is the second largest corn producer in the country. Corn production in the entire province reaches more than 500,000 metric tons (or 500 million kilograms). Due to the utter failure of the state, it is also host to a large number of hungry and poverty-stricken peasants.

From Ang Kalihukan, revolutionary newspaper of the people of the North Central Mindanao Region. AB

