

EDITORIAL

Fight for the people's cause amid Marcos-Duterte power struggle

The latest round of conflict between the Marcoses and the Dutertes is a reflection of the depths of the political crisis of the rotten ruling system. It shows the irreconcilable contradictions between the rival bureaucratic-capitalist factions, who both are greedy for power and insatiable plunderers of the people's money.

This rivalry between the two factions, drunk with power, is threatening to escalate into a violent phase. The conflict recently intensified with the exposé of Vice President Sara Duterte's corruption in using over ₱600 million in "confidential and intelligence funds." In the face of desperate attempts to cover up the exposed corruption, Duterte flaunted her power by refusing to submit to the congressional investigation and taking illegal steps to block it.

Duterte openly threatened the lives of Marcos, his wife Lisa, and Speaker Martin Romualdez, whom she accused of threatening her life. Marcos "reciprocated" and mobilized the police and other state agencies to take legal action against Duterte. Amid mounting calls to impeach Sara Duterte, old Rodrigo, former president, drew attention to himself by openly calling on young military officers to take action in the face of what he

called Marcos's "fractured leadership." Duterte is riding on the people's grievances against the Marcos regime and anti-US imperialist sentiments to obscure how people suffered from grave oppression, repression and his regime's subservience to the US and China.

These conflicts are further fuel-

ing the Filipino people's hatred towards the ruling classes, particularly against the Marcos and Duterte ruling cliques. The people are well aware that this power struggle does not arise from any lofty principles or goals, but from the scramble for control of the large budget, government contracts, control and influence over the military and police, and other privileges that benefit their families and bureaucratic capitalist clique. They represent the most despicable political dynasties in politics, which are expected to clash and devour each other in the upcoming elections.

The people's anger towards the entire ruling system is growing sharper as the rampant corruption and crimes of those in power—both the Dutertes and the Marcoses—are exposed. While billions of pesos of the people's money are being squandered daily by the Marcoses and the Dutertes, millions of workers, peasants, the poor, ordinary employees, and small professionals are suffering daily from rising prices of goods and services, low wages and inadequate income, joblessness and lack of livelihood, land grabbing and economic displacement, debt and other burdens.

As the Marcoses



and Duterte clash, the people must take action to fight for their economic welfare, defend their rights, hold the Dutertes accountable for their crimes against the people, and make Marcos pay for his collusion with the Dutertes to gain power, and for using state terrorism to suppress the people's resistance. The people must continue to shake the ruling Marcos regime with growing protests.

The move of scores of organizations to file an impeachment case against Sara Duterte in Congress is worthy of the broad masses's support as a way of expressing their outrage against corruption and the squandering of the public funds. This must be pushed by the people, especially after Marcos said it should not or never be pursued, fearing reprisal by the Dutertes. Alongside the ouster of the vice president, the people must vigorously pursue the case filed against Rodrigo Duterte at the International Criminal Court, and push for his arrest, imprisonment, trial, and punishment for his crimes against humanity.

As Duterte is held accountable for his crimes against the

people, the Marcos regime must also be made to pay for its widespread corruption, such as the hundreds of billions of Maharlika Fund, the recovery of the Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth, the wastage of billions of pesos in "intelligence funds" and "unprogrammed funds," the incessant increases in the prices of rice, oil, and goods, the wage freeze, anti-people and anti-poor policies, and the suppression of democratic rights.

The collective expression of the

people's outrage against the treacherous Marcos and Duterte cliques, must be unleashed and given form. Mass assemblies, forums, town hall meetings, and other forms of mass gatherings must be launched in campuses, factories, communities, offices, markets, churches, and other places of convergence to serve as a venue for a study movement to tackle the issues and problems of the nation, and means of expressing the people's grievances.


The people must be united in various forms, levels, and scope of networks, alliances, and organizations. The unions and mass organizations that serve as the core of building a broader people's unity must be continuously strengthened.

For the masses to become a material force of resistance, hundreds to thousands of cadres, propagandists, and organizers must resolutely step forward, devote all their intelligence and abilities, fully immersing themselves among the masses and wholeheartedly embracing their lives and struggles.

Alongside participating in battles in Congress, courts, government agencies, and other fields of struggle—and more than these—the people must bring the fight to the streets, where they can demonstrate and utilize their strength based on their broad and solid unity. In street protests, the people can express their grievances with full force, and fight for their demands.

Bureaucratic capitalism, along with imperialism and feudalism, forms the three basic problems of the Filipino people, which are chiefly represented today by the oppressive and fascist US-Marcos regime. These must be to to an end by advancing the national-democratic revolution through armed struggle in line with the strategy of protracted people's war, to achieve genuine national freedom and democracy.






Vol LV No. 23 | December 7, 2024

Ang Bayan is published in
Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon,
Waray, and English. Ang
Bayan welcomes contributions in
the form of articles and news
items. Readers are encouraged
to send feedback and
recommendations for improving
our newspaper.

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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

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Impeachment complaint against Sara Duterte in Congress

On December 4, 74 individuals and representatives of organizations filed an impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte. Makabayan bloc congressmen Rep. France Castro, Rep. Arlene Brosas, and Rep. Raoul Manuel endorsed the complaint.

The complaint is based on "betrayal of public trust" which stands on three issues: 1) the abuse, misuse, and embezzlement of ₱612.5 million in confidential funds; 2) systematic cover-up of the crime through fabricated reports, receipts, and documents submitted to the Commission on Audit (COA); and 3) deliberate obstruction of Congress's investigation and scrutiny.

Most of the complaint's details emerged during the Congress' Good Governance and Accountability hearings which scrutinized Vice President Duterte's spending of funds from the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Department of Education (DepEd). The hearings focused on the anomalous use of both offices' confidential and intelligence funds (CIF).

In seven hearings from September to November, Duterte and her officials high-handedly opposed the investigation to avoid accountability. Duterte and her officials repeatedly refused to comply with Congress's summons. In one hearing, Duterte even refused to take an oath claiming that the investigation into her use of public funds was mere "politicking." Instead of answering the congressmen's questions, she repeatedly questioned Congress' objectives. Her officials also repeatedly lied to cover up their master's anomalies.

The hearings revealed that



Duterte spent ₱125 million in confidential funds within 11 days in questionable ways. The COA demanded the return of the majority of this amount (₱73 million) due to mis-spending such as on food, medical expenses, and exorbitant rent of "safe houses." Duterte was also revealed to have misrepresented certification letters to cover up the ₱150 million she embezzled and claimed to have spent on the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Youth Leadership Seminars (YLS).

Duterte's chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, twice attempted to block COA from providing confidential funds related documents to Congress. For undermining the power of Congress, Lopez was detained for up to 10 days. Duterte made a scene when she blocked and prevented Lopez's transfer to the women's detention center in Mandaluyong. This resulted in a skirmish between Duterte's military guards and Congress security officials and police. The PNP charged Duterte's guards with direct assault, disobeying authority, and grave coercion. This also prompted the AFP to sack and replace her military guards.

The hearings exposed numerous irregularities in documentation and protocols, such as thousands of unsigned receipts, fabricated names like "Mary Grace Piattos," and many others. That a single lawyer notarized almost all OVP and DepEd documents was also shown to be improbable. Duterte also apparently attempted to bribe DepEd officials to follow her procedures for purchasing the department's computers and books. Congressmen also noted the sharp increase of funds spent by the OVP, particularly in its "satellite offices."

According to Makabayan, Duterte did not commit mere technical violations of spending procedures but a systematic embezzlement and theft from the public treasury. They demand her removal from office and permanent disqualification from holding any government position.

The group is calling on Congress to promptly address the filed complaint and for the public to closely monitor the process. Along with demanding accountability from Duterte, they are pushing for the termination of all confidential funds, which only serve as a source of corruption for those in power.

AB

NPA seizes R4 rifle, pistol, and backpacks in Bukidnon

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-Bukidnon ambushed operating military troops at the Namnam River in Barangay St. Peter, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon on October 24. Three fascist soldiers were killed, and an R4 rifle, a vest and magazines, a pistol, 10 backpacks, ammunition, and other supplies were seized.

The NPA carried out this tactical offensive amid the height of focused military operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines battalions in the region. Prior to this, the NPA attacked the 26th IB troop in Sitio Kimam, Barangay Binicalan, San Luis, Agusan del Sur on October 14. Four backpacks and other military equipment were seized from the soldiers.

On October 22, the NPA encountered the 26th IB in Barangay Binicalan where Comrade Ike Dahonay (Ka Tres) was martyred. At least five 26th IB soldiers were killed, while many others were wounded, according to the NPA unit.

Active defense. In Masbate, units of the NPA-Masbate (Jose Rapsing Command) successfully defended against the AFP's attempt to raid their temporary encampments in the towns of Uson and Baleno in November. Seven soldiers were reported killed in the active defense, while seven others were wounded.

On November 22, the NPA confronted the 2nd IB in Sitio Pile, Barangay San Jose, Uson. The NPA-Masbate unit also defended against the 96th IB in Barangay Cancaborao, Baleno on November 20. After the battle, one Red fighter was captured. The NPA-Masbate demanded that the rights of the captured fighter as an *hors de combat* be respected.

In Oriental Mindoro, Red fighters thwarted an attack by the 76th IB and 203rd IB against the unit encamped in Sitio Camilian, Barangay Bugtong na Tuog, Socorro on November 18. The active defense by the people's army killed two fascist soldiers of the Marcos regime and wounded many others.

KM celebrates 60th anniversary

KABATAANG MAKABAYAN (KM) CHAPTERS launched various activities to celebrate its 60th anniversary on November 30. For over six decades, KM has upheld the banner of national democracy and promoted calls for genuine land reform, national industrialization, scientific and mass-oriented culture, people's democracy, and other pressing demands of the Filipino people.

In Metro Manila, KM members painted graffiti and pasted posters on the streets of the national capital. This was also conducted by KM at PUP-Sta Mesa, UP Baguio, UP Diliman, UP Cebu, and in the province of Quezon on the day of Ferdinand Marcos Jr's visit to the province on November 29. The chapters printed handouts and placed them in various areas of the PUP and UP campuses for students to read.

The Party, units, and commands of the NPA, as well as the chapters of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) and the Artista at Manunulat para sa Sambayanan (ARMAS), extended their greetings to KM.



Resume Peace talks! Peace groups gathered in Manila on November 21 to commemorate the first anniversary of the Oslo Joint Statement signed by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) on November 23, 2023. They expressed their hope for the resumption of talks, while voicing concern over the series of arrests of NDFP consultants in October. The Council of Leaders for Peace Initiatives led the gathering.

The Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle and its members in the United States, Canada, Netherlands, Hong Kong, and other countries took action on November 30 in support of the NDFP. They condemned the repression and attacks on NDFP peace consultants over the past years.

Workers picket in Pampanga. Workers from the SG Farms Processing Plant and Maximus Dressing Plant in Barangay San Isidro, San Simon, Pampanga staged a picket line to protest the plants' illegal closure. The Maximus Employees Union-NAFLU-KMU erected their picket line on October 8 and demanded separation pay and their absorption by the agency. The plant was suddenly shut after workers registered their union in July. Workers also staged a picket at the adjacent SG Farms plant. Workers believe that both plants are owned by the same entity.

Davao City vendors assert right to livelihood. On November 22, Agdao Laray Muslim and Christian Vendors Association members went to the Davao City Hall to seek protection against constant "clearing" and looming demolition, which threatened their businesses and their right to livelihood. They called on the local government to pass a resolution to provide them with adequate space to peacefully earn a living. They staged a protest at the city's Rizal Park a day before.

Masses, Red fighters hold Jose Maria Sison School classes in Southern Tagalog

Some instructors and the chief instructor of the Jose Maria Sison School (PJMS) gathered in a hut in a Southern Tagalog guerrilla zone. They were excited to start their classes. Three classrooms would open that night: students would be divided into classes on Proletarian Standpoint and Revolutionary Outlook, Political Economy, and Imperialism.

These gatherings have for about two months become a regular occurrence at each base of a New People's Army (NPA) unit in Southern Tagalog. The unit opened the PJMS to formally start the Basic Party Course (BPC) for Party members and mass activists from consolidated communities.

The BPC was launched in segments to cope with the busy schedules of the masses working in swidden farms, doing livelihood, or child rearing. When the classes are delayed, the unit adapts by holding discussions or cultural meetings.

An area sometimes accomodates one to three classrooms, with another detached team conducting lessons closer to masses' residences. Not waiting for ideal conditions to conduct classes is a strength of the unit. While simultaneous classes for large numbers of students were held, one-on-one or small groups sessions were also conducted to ensure the masses completed their studies.

Students in the classes included a mix of elders, youth, men, and women, and sometimes even their children. Similarly, instructors included veterans and young people, but the majority were from the new generation of youth. The instructors, who came from peasant and petty-bourgeois backgrounds, demonstrated excellent skills and abilities.

The unit launched the BPC because the masses clearly needed to be equipped with revolutionary theories and principles to confront and combat the intensifying crisis and state terrorism in their communities. This was also an effort to respond to the rectification movement, according to the unit.

Before the study sessions, the unit launched two waves of BPC Instructor Training workshops. The training aimed to adapt the BKP to the masses' specific conditions, experiences, and culture. Having sufficient social investigation and class analysis in the local area was crucial for the instructors. They were also encouraged to be creative in their teaching methods and adept in interspersing revolutionary art into the topics.

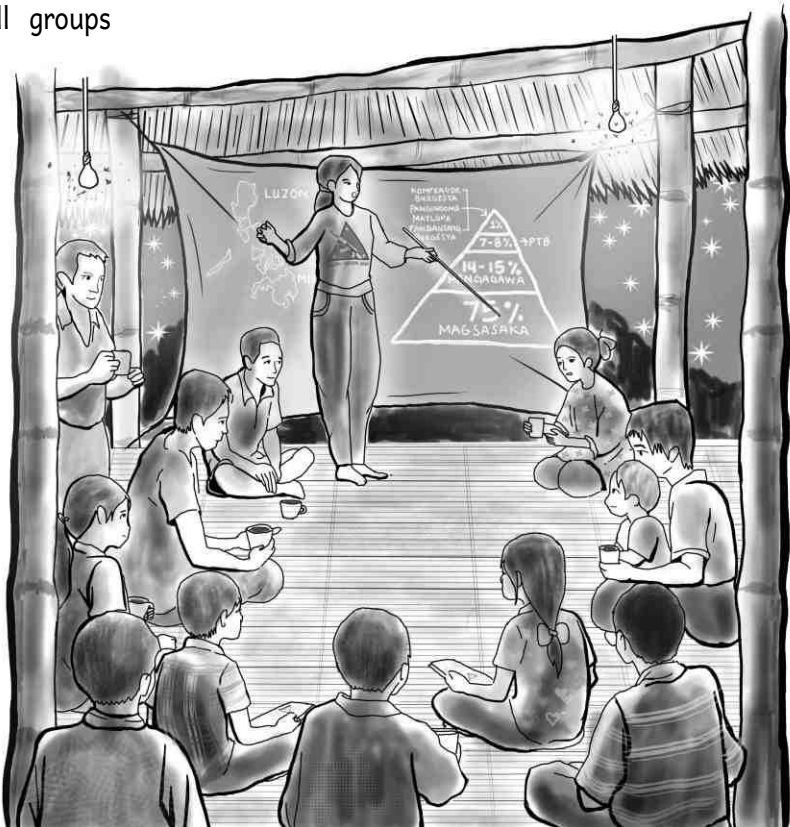
The masses and people's militia matched the army's preparations.

They assisted in inviting students, ensured security and transported needed supplies. Beyond this, the masses made sacrifices to attend the classes, which at times ended at 11 p.m., even when they had work the next day. In the late night hours, the masses and Red fighters would share coffee to keep the students and instructors awake.

At the end of the study sessions, the instructors and students would sing revolutionary songs. Before leaving, the masses and the Red fighters would shake hands and exchange words of encouragement, along with invitations and responses for the next study sessions. The classes led to the establishment of a new Party branch in the locality.

The resolve of the masses who completed the BPC was immediately put to test when their villages and areas faced AFP fascist attacks and focused military operations. Their unity thwarted state terrorism. They collectively fought, firmly united with their true army.

The active support and participation of the masses in the JMS School demonstrated their acceptance of the Party's rectification and their role in it. This serves as a challenge to revolutionaries—especially to cadres and members of the Party and the army—for the local forces to embrace the rectification as their own task, to resolutely contribute their strength, intelligence, and capabilities to the reinvigoration of the people's democratic revolution.



Alipato aids the army in organizing in Camarines Norte

The revolutionary movement in Camarines Norte resumed the publication of Alipato as a propaganda and organizing tool of the New People's Army (NPA) units in the province. The Provincial Party Committee decided to relaunch the revolutionary mass publication in June 2024.

This decision is the result of the committee's all-out efforts to highlight local economic and political issues, mass struggles, and expose the 16th and 81st IB units' violence and fascism against the CamNorteño masses. The committee said it seeks to use a thousand and one methods and more to advance the people's war.

According to the Alipato editors, they immediately began the process of forming the newspaper after the decision to relaunch it. The writing of articles, gathering of correspondents, and production of the newspaper took only about two weeks. They managed to accomplish this amid the guerrilla maneuvers of the NPA unit, in which they belong to.

The June issue had 10 sections. The Alipato editorial called on the CamNorteño masses to end poverty and join the people's war. It featured news on the NPA-Camarines

Norte units' military actions, human rights violations by the Marcos regime's armed forces, cooperation between the masses and the army, and other local issues. It also included sections on medical advice, trivia, and puzzles.

"Along with the revival of Alipato, we are also reorganizing its local production and circulation," the comrades shared regarding the newspaper's distribution system. They aim to provide a copy to every Party member in the locality and subsequently to members of mass organizations in each barangay.

Along with the relaunch of Alipato, the provincial propaganda unit also strives to strengthen their presence on social media to disseminate their articles online. From their experiences, members observe that their social media presence helped spark relative interest among the masses in areas not yet reached by

armed units.

Alipato was first published in 1988 as a result of successive anti-feudal campaigns. It published the organized unity of peasants and the army amid the intensifying feudal rule of the province's landlords in collusion with local government officials in the 1980s.

The pages of Alipato reported how the masses applauded the NPA's punishment of despotic landlords in the province. It also published the story of the spontaneous resistance of peasants and citizens against foreign mining in 1981.

In the following decades, Alipato became a primary herald of the revolutionary movement's successes in the province, serving as an inspiration to further strengthen the spirit and resolve of the masses to fight and struggle. The regular publication of Tilamsik ng Dakilang Apoy, the revolutionary cultural journal of Camarines Norte, also supported the newspaper in the field of propaganda.

The unit currently plans to release an issue of Alipato every quarter. In addition, they also plan to publish special issues when needed. "Alipato is open to continuous improvement and commentary. We expect... that this will contribute to [overall propaganda efforts]," the editorial board stated.

Alipato joins many other revolutionary mass publications from the local, provincial, regional, and national levels published by the Party, NPA units, and allied organizations of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. These publications serve as material to strengthen the revolutionary movement nationwide.





757

political detainees, including 148 (or 20%) arrested and imprisoned under the Marcos Jr regime, and 17 peace consultants and staff.

Source: *Karapatan*



₱12.5M/day

CIF spent by Ferdinand Marcos Jr in **365 days**

**confidential and intelligence funds*



₱11.4M/day

CIF spent by Sara Duterte in **11 days**

15 years

years since the **Ampatuan Massacre**, in which the Ampatuan family and their henchmen killed 58 individuals, including 32 journalists, in Ampatuan, Maguindanao on November 23, 2009. To this day, the court has failed to hand down any final judgment on the case.



3,823

people, mostly civilians, killed by Zionist Israel in Lebanon

before it entered into a ceasefire agreement on November 27. Israel's bombings in southern Lebanon and its capital Beirut injured up to 15,859.

3,500 hectares

of land in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan will be occupied by the Meralco Terra Solar Project, which will take away the livelihood of thousands of farmers and threaten the country's food security.

6 hours

of martial law declared by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on December 3.

Parliament immediately overturned it. Officials of the pro-US Yoon administration are facing 22 impeachment complaints.

Lola Estelita Dy

passed away on November 24. She was one of the **Filipino comfort women** and girls Japanese troops forced into sexual slavery during **World War II**. She died without obtaining justice due to Japan's refusal to fully acknowledge the crime and the reactionary Philippine state's subservience to imperialist Japan.



NDFP's third international conference discusses theory of national liberation

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) successfully held its third international theoretical conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on November 29-30. The conference focused on the theory of national liberation from imperialism. It was attended by 114 individuals representing 57 proletarian-socialist parties, national liberation movements, and anti-imperialist organizations.

It can be recalled that the first and second theoretical conferences held in October 2023 and March 2024 discussed imperialist war and the imperialist economic crisis. According to the NDFP, the third conference covered theoretical and practical contributions by Lenin, Stalin, and Mao on national liberation, including various methods of struggle and promotion of the right to self-determination, both armed and unarmed. The first day of the conference was dedicated to presenting prepared contributions, while the second day plenary session summarized the points raised by the delegates.

Topics discussed included the detrimental effects of imperialist aggression and proxy wars on the freedom and independence of nations. The discussions also covered various challenges confronting ongoing national liberation movements and the need to continue consolidating and defending their successes. Among the topics discussed was the building and strengthening of international support for these movements.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) warmly welcomed the focus on national liberation at the third conference. The main article written by the Central Committee of the CPP states: "The struggle of oppressed peoples around the world for national liberation today remains one of the crucial elements in the overall strategy for advancing



the international revolutionary cause of the proletariat."

According to the CPP, due to imperialist oppression, national liberation or national self-determination from colonization became the most fervent aspiration of the oppressed peoples. In these countries, the big comprador bourgeoisie is tied to the colonial economy and subservient to the imperialists, and the petty bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie are weak. Therefore, it was incumbent upon the working class to unite all oppressed classes and lead the struggle for national liberation. In the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution, a new type of bourgeois-democratic revolution led by the proletariat has emerged, serving as a preparatory stage for carrying out socialist revolution and construction.

The contributions of various participants at the conference helped deepen and enrich the discussions on national liberation. A Cyprus revolutionary group shared the role of their territory in imperialist wars in the Middle East and North Africa. Currently, it is used by five NATO powers (Turkey, Greece, US, United Kingdom, and France) as a base and launching pad for the US and Zionist Israel's genocidal cam-

paign in Palestine and the expansion of aggressive wars in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, communist forces in Turkey and Kurdistan discussed their respective struggles. The Turkish movement is a struggle in a country dominated by imperialist powers, while the Kurdish movement is oppressed by the comprador state of Turkey. The Kurdish movement also has deep ties with the Palestinian struggle, where their fighters first trained.

Overall, the discussions were productive, and the delegates achieved a new level of unity. The parties and organizations also expressed strong support for the liberation movement in Palestine and groups promoting it, including Hamas. Besides the mentioned countries, participants from Eritrea, Nepal, Senegal, Italy, and the US also contributed their perspectives and insights.

The conference concluded with a special cultural performance on November 30 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Kabataang Makabayan and its historic role in advancing the revolutionary youth movement in the Philippines and encouraging unity with the Philippine revolution.

AB

Ka Gemma: Dumagat, woman, Red commander

Ka Gemma (Susan Ritual) dedicated more than two decades of her life to serving her fellow Dumagat indigenous people and toiling masses in the countryside as a New People's Army (NPA) Red fighter and commander, and Party member. Ka Gemma was martyred in Barangay Bacong Sigsigan, Famy, Laguna on November 28 while carrying out revolutionary work.

She was born on October 13, 1984, in Barangay Dimanayat, San Luis, Aurora, to a poor indigenous Dumagat peasant family. Hardships prevented her from getting an education. To help her family, she moved to the city at the age of 13 to work as a househelper.

In 2002, women Red fighters in her area, whom Ka Gemma knew, convinced her to join the people's army unit. "She faced a crisis during her first year, but this did not deter her from continuing to struggle. Ka Gemma carried on despite the challenges," the NPA-Laguna tribute stated.

Over 22 years, she took various tasks as a platoon medic, squad leader, and deputy platoon leader in a large company unit, as well as a political guide and instructor. She carried out these responsibilities with determination.

The unit also noted that even amid personal crises and the birth of her child, Ka Gemma fully embraced these tasks. She showed her comrades motherly care, a care she

deeply wished to show her own child, but instead poured into each of her comrades and the masses she served.

The military's killing of Ka Gemma deeply grieved her comrades and family. This was further magnified when soldiers and police's deliberately delayed and prevented the Ritual family from immediately retrieving Ka Gemma's remains for them to hold a wake. For almost a week, her remains were kept at a funeral home, as fascist soldiers harassed the family.

"Ka Gemma's martyrdom does not mean the end of her noble aspirations, as the reactionary AFP-PNP and the US-Marcos II regime would like to project," NPA-Laguna stated. They added that Ka Gemma also belies the "insurgency-free" declaration in some towns in Laguna, such as Famy and Santa Maria. Instead, the masses in these areas continue to support their army.

Indigenous Martyrs

In November, the Filipino people

honored the national minorities who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for self-determination and national-democratic aspirations of the people. This is part of the annual celebration of Indigenous People's Heroes Day on November 10.

National minorities look up to figures like Macli-ing Dulag, who led the fight against the Chico River Dam Project during the Marcos dictatorship; Bai Bibyaon Ligkayan Bigkay, the first woman datu of the Manobo who led their decades-long defense of the Pantaron Mountain Range; Roy Giganto, a Tumandok leader who stood against the Jalaur Megadam in Panay Island; and many other leaders in the struggle of indigenous peoples.

Many indigenous people also decided to take up arms and join the NPA to defend their ancestral lands and rights. Among them are Chadli Molintas of the Cordillera; Divine Zureta, an indigenous Manide from Camarines Norte; and Lumad leaders Aprecia Alvarez Rosete (Ka Lalay), Beverly Sinunta (Ka Ayang), Kaerlan Fanagel, and others who gave their lives for the people's war.

We must also recognize individuals who have dedicated their time to serve indigenous communities in the Philippines. Many should emulate the example of Fr.

Fausto Tenorio or Father Pops in Lumad and Moro communities he served; Chad Booc who volunteered as a teacher for the Lumad in Mindanao; Party cadres, and Red fighters and commanders like Jorge Madlos (Ka Oris), Julius Giron, Menandro Villanueva (Ka Bok), Dionisio Micalbalo (Ka Toto), Antonio Cabantan (Ka Manlimbasog), and hundreds of others like them. **AB**



Relentless human rights violations under Marcos

International Human Rights Day will be commemorated anew on December 10. This year, various groups are demanding the accountability of Ferdinand Marcos Jr, while holding the former Duterte regime responsible for its crimes against the people.

Latest in the regime's crimes was the killing of civilian Honeylet Herrera by agents of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Sitio Balogo, Barangay Cristo, Donsol, Sorsogon on November 2. Herrera was falsely being linked to the New People's Army (NPA).

The NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command) stated the military attacked civilians in retaliation to the NPA's punishment of intelligence agent Darius Laya in late October. Laya was involved in accusing community members including Herrera of having ties with the people's army.

Arrest. On November 20, 85th IB soldiers arrested Allan Aragon, an indigenous Manide, in his community in Barangay Cabatuhan, Labo, Camarines Norte. His whereabouts remain unknown to his family to this day. Following the arrest, the 85th IB indiscriminately fired shots in the barangay.

In Negros Occidental, police arrested 29-year-old "Rafael" in Barangay Caradio-an, Himamaylan City, for illegal possession of firearms. The police claim to have confiscated a homemade 12-gauge shotgun with two rounds of ammunition from him. The police also accused him of being a "militia unit commander" despite having previously surrendered.

Harassment. In La Union, three 5th ID elements raided the house of George Cacayuran, vice-chair of Timek-Pamalakaya, on the morning of November 20 in Barangay San Manuel Norte, Agoo.

In Rizal, residents and indigenous Dumagat-Remontado of Barangay San Andres, Tanay, Rizal, confronted AFP soldiers for raiding their community on November 26. The AFP planned to use the ancestral land of the Dumagat-Remontado as a military reservation or camp.

In Negros Oriental, the 62nd IB forcibly entered and ransacked two houses on November 27. They entered the houses of Joan Lechan and the Perolino family, which included two young children aged 2 and 5, in Sitio Gusa, Barangay Budlasan, Canlaon City. Soldiers threatened to massacre the Perolino family if they refuse to answer their interrogation.

AB

Groups commemorate Bonifacio Day at Mendiola

ON NOVEMBER 30, WORKERS and other democratic sectors successfully asserted their right to march to the foot of Mendiola bridge in Manila, coinciding with the commemoration of Bonifacio Day.

The demonstrators stood their ground despite repeated police attacks to block and disperse their march. Police violence injured more than 40 participants, mostly youth. Police also arrested Nilo Mortifero, a senior citizen and organizer of Bayan Muna who had recently recovered from a stroke.

The workers declared this the toiling masses' day of reckoning against the Marcos Jr regime. They demanded living wages, regular and decent jobs, and affordable food and services. These demands were also linked with holding accountable the corrupt and thieving officials who embezzle public funds.

Alongside the rally at Mendiola, workers from the Far East Alcohol Corporation in Apalit, Pampanga; Umicore in Subic, Zambales; and Nexperia Philippines in Laguna held their own gatherings. Along with other sectors, KMU chapters launched protests in the cities of Baguio, Calamba, Cebu, and Davao.

Korean workers declare general strike

SOUTH KOREAN WORKERS under the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) launched an indefinite general strike in response to President Yoon Suk-yeol's declaration of martial law on December 3. The KCTU, the largest federation of unions in the country, represents approximately 1.2 million workers.

The imposition of martial law is merely Yoon Suk-yeol's tactic to suppress the people and maintain his position amid the escalating political crisis, according to the KCTU. Yoon's justification for the imposition is "to eradicate pro-North Korean forces" and "maintain the constitutional order." But the KCTU argues that this is just Yoon's pretext to extend his power as he is already politically isolated. Yoon's administration has for months been grappling with a crisis, facing 22 impeachment complaints, with 10 yet to be filed. His administration is detested for its anti-labor policies and subservience to US imperialism.

The workers will continue their strike until Yoon steps down from his position.