

EDITORIAL

Hold Marcos accountable for bloody war crimes

In a show of gross hypocrisy, Marcos hosted the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in Makati City last August 11-14. In front of representatives from various countries, Marcos pretended to be meek and obedient to the principles and rules of IHL. He brazenly lied to cover up his regime's bloody record of unleashing state terrorism and waging a relentless war against the people.

While the conference was being held in Makati, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) flew jetfighters on the early morning of August 13 and dropped several 500-pound bombs in the province of Bukidnon. These bombs shook the mountains and nearby communities of Lumad and peasants in Barangay Dumalaguin in the town of Impasugong.

Just a few days prior, heavy bombs also shook the ground in Barangay San Isidro, in Las Navas,

Northern Samar, dropped by the AFP at 2 a.m., in the proximity of a community of indigenous Mamanwa people. On August 2, at dawn, the AFP also dropped heavy bombs in Barangay Maguibay in Tagkawayan, Quezon, not far from the community of farmers.

The aerial bombing using heavy explosives is a blatant violation of IHL by the Marcos fascist regime. It directly endangers the lives of civilians. It destroys and poisons the land and forests that are the source of livelihood and resources of indigenous people. It brings deep trauma and fear to communities.

It is also against the law prohibiting the use of excessively destructive weapons that cause widespread damage.

International

Humanitarian Law or the laws of war is a set of rules and protocols that govern the conduct of armed conflict. These laws primarily focus on respecting the rights, and protecting the welfare and well-being of people who are not participating or no longer taking part in the hostilities: civilians, as well as the wounded, sick, and prisoners of war, who are no longer able to fight.

In addition to the aerial bombing, the AFP's violent control of civilian communities, imposing food blockades and restrictions on commerce, forcible removing people from their homes and concentrating them in evacuation centers, declaring villages as "no man's land," prohibiting people to work on their fields and swidden farms, imposing curfew, conscription into the CAFGU, forced labor (including water fetching), using civilian infrastructure, and other measures of imposing military power are also violations of the laws of war.

In an attempt to prevent people from uniting, expressing their grievances, and fighting back, the AFP imposes martial law in villages and communities. Violations of



democratic rights are relentless. The military dismantles the people's own organizations, forces them to "surrender," and intimidates them into joining organizations created by the AFP. Those who disobey the AFP's orders are considered supporters of the CPP and are targeted with endless threats and assassinations. Since Marcos took office, the AFP has been killing and massacring civilians left and right, and then dressing up their corpses as NPA fighters.

The deliberate killing of revolutionaries and *hors de combat* (fighters no longer taking part in hostilities) is also a blatant violation of the laws of war. Among the victims are the couple Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria and seven of their companions. They were arrested while traveling in Catbalogan, Northern Samar, subjected to torture before being killed, and blew up their bodies in the middle of the sea. Since Marcos took office in 2022, his armed forces have brutally killed close to 80 while in captivity. Many have also been arrested, illegally imprisoned in secret jails in military

camps, to force them to renounce their beliefs.

All of these heinous crimes in violation of IHL were carried on Marcos' orders by his officials and fascist minions in the military and police. All of these serve the sordid aim of crushing the Filipino people's armed and unarmed resistance. Marcos' recent declaration that "there are no more guerrilla groups" in the Philippines is a signal




of an even bloodier campaign of suppression against the people, and of even more heinous crimes.

The imperialist US instigates, funds, and arms this bloody war of suppression against the Filipino people's struggle. The US imperialists earn massive profits through the sale of large bombs, artillery, jetfighters, attack helicopters, drones, and other weapons and military equipment. The US aims to crush all patriotic and progressive forces so that foreign capitalist investors can "peacefully" and without resistance seize land and plunder the country's natural resources, and establish its military power in the country.

Marcos' hands are stained with blood due to the numerous crimes he has committed against the laws of war. His false claims cannot cover up the numerous cases of military abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Everything possible must be done to hold Marcos and his minions accountable, and to fight for justice for all the victims of their atrocities.

The intensification of the US-Marcos regime's fascist assault is a reflection of the deepening crisis of the ruling semi-colonial and semifeudal system. To maintain and defend the oppressive and exploitative system, the ruling regime is simultaneously using brutal suppression and deception to try to crush the Filipino people's struggle for revolutionary change.

However, no matter how brutal and widespread the US-Marcos regime's atrocities may be, the people will continue to rise up to defend their welfare, rights, lives, and livelihood. Under the leadership of the Party, and along with the New People's Army, the people will not be intimidated in their struggle. Their determination to advance the struggle for national democracy will never wane.




Tomo LVI Blg. 16 | August 21, 2025

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.

Contents

Editorial: Hold Marcos accountable for bloody war crimes	1
NPA armed actions shame Marcos and the AFP	3
Protests	3
2 unions clinch new CBA negotiation	3
Soldiers willfully kill hors de combat in Mindoro	4
Stop the genocide in Palestine	4
MILF orders BIAF not to heed decommissioning	4
Courts dismiss cases	5
2026 Budget: corruption and fascism	6
Intensifying aggression in plantations	7
In Briefs	8
Direct US-Israel occupation of Gaza	9
Korean against US imperialism	10

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

 ang.bayan@cpp.ph

Successive NPA armed actions
shame Marcos and the AFP



THE SUCCESSIVE NPA armed actions in various provinces nationwide shame the US-Marcos regime and its Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officials. This was just after the regime's 4th SONA statement in July that "no guerrilla groups remain."

On August 12, three soldiers, including a 203rd IBde 1st Scout Ranger Regiment captain, were killed in that day's second encounter between the NPA-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command) and the military in Barangay Lantuyang 2, Baco, Oriental Mindoro. Unit leader Capt. Marky John Alberto died instantly from a head shot. Three other fascist soldiers were wounded.

A few days earlier, on the morning of August 9, an NPA-Mindoro active defense against an attacking enemy unit killed a 203rd IBde soldier in Barangay Mangangan 2, Baco.

In Quezon, a unit of the NPA-Quezon (Apolonio Mendoza Command) fired shots at the newly-built military camp of the 85th IB in Barangay Cogorin Ibaba, Lopez, on August 2. The unit carried out the harassment at 7:30 p.m.

Quezonians welcomed the attack as a way of holding accountable the blood-thirsty battalion for its crimes and to give justice to their peasant victims.

In Capiz, the NPA-Central Panay (Jose Percival Estocada Jr Command) thwarted the 12th IB's attack on one of its units at the boundary of Barangay Artuz and Barangay Apero in Tapaz on July 19. The people's army actively defended against the military troopers through thorough preparations and by launching a counterattack.

"Shocked, the soldiers fired indiscriminately like mad dogs," according to the NPA-Central Panay. To cover up their loss, the 12th IB together with the 3rd ID fabricated a story of their supposed victory against the NPA.

Uphold IHL, hold Marcos accountable. Hundreds marched to Mendiola in Manila on August 19 to mark the 76th anniversary of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and to hold the US-Marcos regime accountable for serious violations of IHL principles. They also condemned the regime's National Action Plan for Unity, Peace and Development (NAP-UPD), which they called a "national plan for state terrorism."

On August 13, progressive groups stormed the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on IHL, which was then being held in Makati City. They condemned the Marcos regime for leading the conference, considering it is the number one IHL violator in the country. A day earlier, students gathered at the UP Diliman campus to mark IHL Day and expose the serious violations of the Marcos regime, including those against indigenous peoples.

Reverse the decision. Progressive organizations went to the Supreme Court on August 12 to demand that it reverse the decision to dismiss the impeachment complaint against Sara Duterte which had been forwarded by Congress to the Senate.

Against demolition in Smokey Mountain. Residents of Smokey Mountain staged a protest in front of Manila City Hall on August 18 to demand a dialogue from city mayor Isko Moreno regarding threats of eviction from their community. The demolition is being carried out to give way to the construction of a 100-megawatt Waste-to-Energy (WTE) incineration plant in the area.

2 unions clinch new CBA negotiations

TWO UNIONS successfully finalized their respective collective bargaining agreements (CBA) in July and August.

The Unyon ng mga Panadero sa Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc. (UPGBPI-OLALIA-KMU) announced its victory in negotiating a new CBA on July 18.

The union secured a ₱70 annual wage increase for the next three years, an additional ₱0.50 in seniority pay, a ₱20,000 signing bonus, a ₱7,500 lump sum, an ₱80 meal allowance with an extra ₱35 during overtime, and additional leave credits for workers who have served more than 15 years in the factory.

The union also pushed management to grant workers retroactive wage increases covering the months of October 2024 to June this year.

Meanwhile, the University Hotel Worker's Union-KMU NCR announced on August 13 that it also signed a new CBA with the management of the hotel inside the University of the Philippines-Diliman in Quezon City.

The new CBA also granted additional benefits and allowances that will support workers' daily needs.

Soldiers willfully kill *hors de combat* in Mindoro

The 1st IB and 203rd IBde elements apprehended and willfully killed *hors de combat* Red fighter Ising Domingo (Ka Mutya) on August 7 in Barangay Happy Valley, Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. He was fetching water when captured and subjected to torture after butchers failed to extract information from him.

The same military units also harassed and intimidated a Karapatan-Southern Tagalog team conducting an independent fact-finding mission in Roxas on August 9–11. Soldiers threatened and harassed the team’s peaceful protest and picket in front of the funeral where the bodies of those killed were brought.

The group then documented how the 203rd IBde soldiers stole and seized the remains of Ka Mutya and another battle casualty Red fighter Jomari Palomar (Ka Jonnel) in the middle of the night. The investigation also exposed the military rule over the Roxas civilian government.

Last week, soldiers forced over 1,000 families to evacuate barangays Lantuyang, San Ignacio, Bayanan, and Bangkatan in Baco, Oriental Mindoro. The military carried this out to subject the area to zoning operations following clashes with the NPA in Baco on August 9 and 12. This disrupted and terrorized the daily lives of the masses.

Bombing. On August 2, the 201st IBde carried out aerial bombing and strafing in the forests bordering Tagkawayan, Quezon, and Labo, Camarines Norte. This is the military’s response to an encounter with the NPA earlier that morning. The AFP bombing gravely disrupted the residents’ peaceful community.

Police and military also harassed the group Tanggol Quezon conducting a fact-finding mission on the military bombings in the province. The group aimed to determine the condition of the civilian population amid intensified combat operations and military rule.

Arrest. The 77th IB arbitrarily arrested farmers Belmar Garvida and Ferdinand Bangngad (Willy) in Sityo Salicsic, Barangay Dampig, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte on the night of August 11. Soldiers returned Garvida hours later to the community while keeping Bangngad in military custody. The victims and the tribe in the area frequently suffer surveillance, harassment, and intimidation for their opposition to the Cabacanan Dam project. AB

Stop the genocide in Palestine

MORO AND FILIPINO groups held separate protests to strongly condemn US-Israel for its intensified genocide in Gaza in recent weeks. They called for the immediate halt of attacks, called for the entry of aid, and demanded freedom for the Palestinians.

On August 15, around 1,300 Moro gathered in Marawi City for a “peaceful solidarity and mass demonstration for Gaza.” They marched from Masjed Bato to Sarimanok Stadium in the city’s Ground Zero, the area which the Duterte regime and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) pulverized with massive bombings in 2017. They compared the AFP’s destruction of their city to the current US-Israel forces’ bombings in Gaza. Prior to this, a “walk for peace” was held in the city on August 9.

That same day, August 9, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance, and Philippine-Palestine Friendship Association held an indignation rally in Quezon City to condemn the Israeli cabinet’s approval of a decision for its military to occupy Gaza.

On August 13, journalists, youth groups, and media organizations protested inside the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City to condemn the US and Israel for the killing of another journalist in Palestine.

MILF fighters ordered not to heed GRP decommissioning

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ordered all Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force fighters and other agencies to strictly comply with the MILF Central Committee resolution that suspended the implementation of the BIAF decommissioning process. It issued a new memorandum on August 16, directing all field commanders and deputy commanders, heads of other agencies, and their representatives not to take part in any activity for decommissioning or normalization unilaterally organized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) without prior written consent or authorization from the MILF chairperson.

The order warned that non-compliance will be regarded as a “serious breach of command discipline” and that disobedience may entail administrative and disciplinary action. The MILF suspended the decommissioning process because the GRP failed to fulfill many accompanying provisions.

Courts successively dismiss fabricated cases against political prisoners

In recent weeks, courts successively dismissed fabricated cases against 18 political prisoners. Seven of them have already been released. These prove that the cases they faced were fabricated and baseless. These cases aimed only to harass and keep them imprisoned for long.

On August 14, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Renante Gamara, and worker-activists Diony Borre and Raul Razo were released. They were acquitted along with two others—NDFP consultant Tirso Alcantara and peasant organizer Dionisio Almonte—in cases of kidnapping with murder and attempted murder. They were accused of involvement in the kidnapping and killing of a soldier and the attempted killing of a “former rebel” in Mauban, Quezon in May 2007.

Also on August 14, former UP Student Regent Desiree Jaranilla-Patun-og and peasant organizer Maria Theresa Buscayno were released following the court’s dismissal of the illegal possession of

firearms and explosives case filed against them and against Andres Ely and Oliver Millo. They are known as the Mexico 4. The case was dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence. Millo and Ely remain detained for other charges still pending in Nueva Ecija and Zambales courts.

On August 6, a Taguig City court dismissed the case of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition against five political prisoners known as Santa Cruz 5. The five include NDFP consultant Adelberto Silva, Ireneo Atadero, Hedda Calderon, Edisel Legaspi, and Julio Lusiana. According to the court, the evidence was insufficient and the method of obtaining such “evidence” was dubious. Atadero and Lusiana have been released, while Calderon posted bail in June 2019. Silva and Legaspi remain imprisoned for other murder charges.

Also on August 6, a court in Don Carlos, Bukidnon issued a decision for the “provisional dismissal” of attempted murder and murder charges against Charisse “Chaba”

Bañez and Arjie Dadizon, two of the Agusan 6. The case was linked to an alleged encounter between the NPA and the military in 2022. A “provisional dismissal” in the attempted homicide case against Louvaine Espina in Davao Oriental was also reported this month. Apart from Bañez, Dadizon, and Espina, the Agusan 6 includes Ronnie Igloria, Larry Montero, and Grace “Nik-nik” Man-aning. They were traveling on June 13 from Monkayo in Davao De Oro when their vehicle was stopped at a checkpoint and they were arrested.

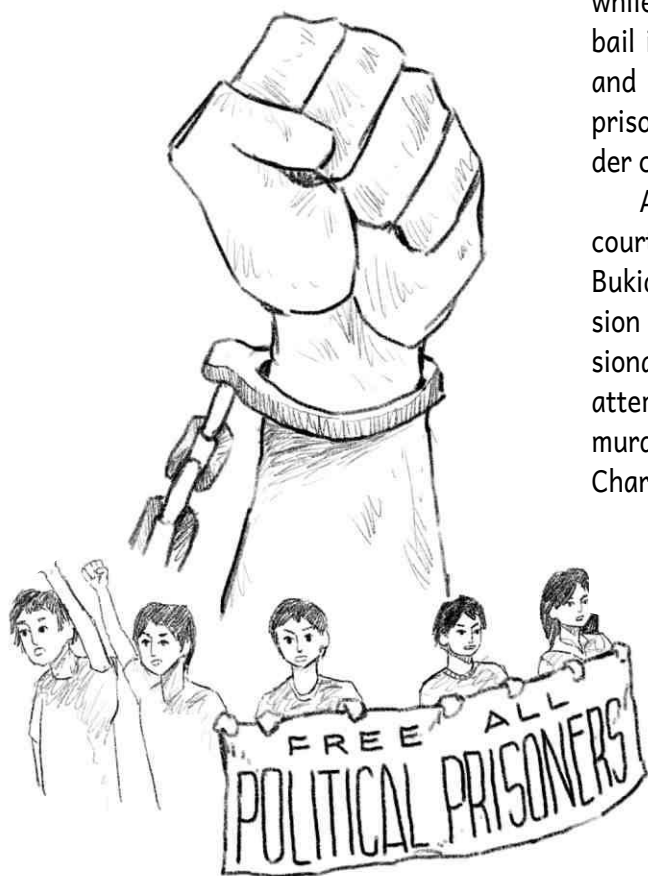
On August 4, a Cagayan court dismissed charges of attempted murder against Myrna Cruz-Abraham. Authorities arrested Abraham on January 27 while she was with her family in a mall in San Miguel, Bulacan. She was released on bail a week later.

In a resolution on May 29, the Department of Justice dismissed the “terrorism financing” case state forces filed against Myrna Zapanta. Zapanta is a church worker and an advocate of peasants’ rights. The allegation that she funded the NPA had no sufficient evidence.

Political prisoners also won victory with the removal of abusive Tacloban City Jail warden J/Insp Eva Naputo on August 16. Altermidya Network and other groups filed complaints against Naputo for her abuses against prisoners, especially those dubbed as the Tacloban 5, which include journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio and church worker Marielle Domequil.

Amid these legal victories, the call continues for the release of more than 700 political prisoners nationwide who suffer extremely prolonged detention from the slow proceedings in the reactionary courts and the delaying tactics of the Marcos regime and its armed forces.

AB



Budget 2026: For debt payment, corruption and fascism

The 2026 national budget's purpose and priority is no different from the previous years' budgets. It still focuses on debt payment, enrichment of bureaucrat capitalists along with their comprador bourgeois cohorts, and squandering funds on the state's massive fascist machinery.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr submitted his 2026 National Expenditure Program which amounts to ₱6.79 trillion, 7.4% higher compared to the 2025 budget. The largest chunk, more than ₱2 trillion, goes to debt payment. Interest payments alone will have an allocation of ₱950, which is ₱102 billion higher than the current year. Another ₱1.1 trillion is set aside for principal debt repayment. Under Marcos, the Philippines' debt rose by ₱3.26 trillion, reaching ₱17.27 trillion in June. Worse, Marcos plans to borrow another ₱2.68 trillion to cover the budget deficit.

As in the past, a large portion of the budget, or ₱1.56 trillion, will go to grandiose infrastructure projects, most of them roads and transport systems. These projects fall under the Public-Private Part-

nership program, now expanded to include the Luzon Economic Corridor, funded by loans from the US and Japan. These grandiose projects are accompanied by massive displacements, livelihood seizures, and environmental destruction.

The infrastructure budget also includes ₱274.9 billion for so-called "flood control" projects. Contrary to Marcos pronouncements those behind these failed projects should "be ashamed," he continues to pour funds into them. From 2022 to 2025, Marcos allocated ₱545 billion for such projects.

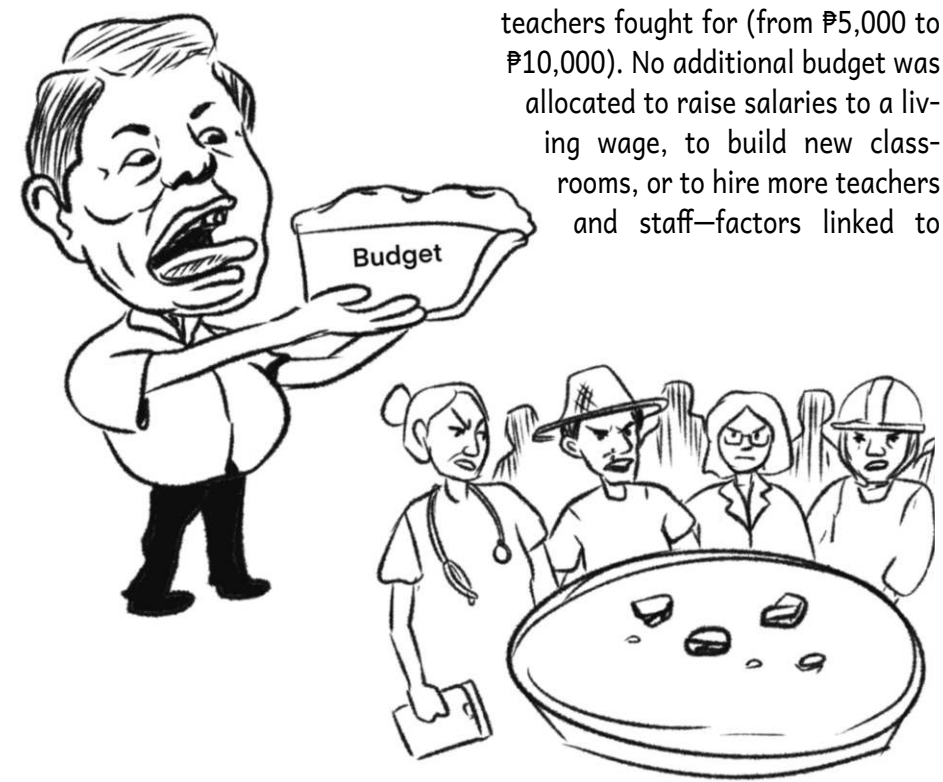
The regime boasts of increased funding for education, health, and housing, yet it remains far too inadequate for these sectors' needs. The Department of Education's budget rose by 18.9% to ₱928.52 billion, but nearly all of this will go to a one-time allowance increase that teachers fought for (from ₱5,000 to ₱10,000). No additional budget was allocated to raise salaries to a living wage, to build new classrooms, or to hire more teachers and staff—factors linked to

the poor quality of education and the burden faced by teachers, parents, and students. Funding for free college education remains grossly insufficient.

Meanwhile, the Department of National Defense budget increased by 87.9%, from more than ₱378.89 billion in the current year to ₱430.9 billion in 2026. This is nearly 200% higher compared to the ₱221.6 billion allocated in 2022. Instead of expanding funds for basic services, the regime will squander resources on the Armed Forces of the Philippines by repairing military camps for the use of American troops and purchasing military equipment and vehicles. This aligns with the US strategic plan to use the AFP in war preparations against imperialist rival China.

The regime did not abolish and instead strengthened the NTF-ELCAC, for which it allocated ₱8.1 billion to fund ₱10 million per "cleared" village under the Barangay Development Program or BDP. This is 314% higher than the agency's 2025 allocation. Its budget for 2025 was intentionally reduced after congressional hearings exposed that none of the 885 BDP projects had been completed in 2024. Reports abound regarding the BDP's unfinished roads and inappropriate livelihood projects. Worse, the military used the program to subject barangays to zoning operations, force residents to "surrender," restrict their means of livelihood, and suppress their rights.

Marcos also did not miss out on his share of the public coffers. He allocated for himself ₱4.6 billion as confidential and intelligence fund (CIF), half of the total CIF in the budget. He also allotted ₱1 billion for foreign trips for himself, his family, and his cronies.



Intensifying aggression of commercial plantations under the US-Marcos regime

Commercial plantations are relentlessly expanding under the US-Marcos regime, grabbing land and livelihoods from farmers, farmworkers, and indigenous peoples nationwide.

On August 3, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced the creation of a Joint Memorandum Circular involving 38 national government agencies to hasten the approval of so-called strategic investments in the agriculture and fisheries sector. The DA focuses on increasing the export of high-value products such as palm oil, bananas, pineapples, cacao, coffee, bamboo, rubber, and others, as well as expanding land available for corporate plantations through “industry road maps” or production development plans.

After Marcos signed the new law that allows 99-year land leases to foreign corporations, the number of plantations to be established in the country is bound to increase. The problem of food insecurity will worsen since the share of land allotted for rice, vegetables, and other local food production continues to further shrink, on top of widespread land-use conversions for real estate and large-scale pro-foreign infrastructure.

Farmers and indigenous peoples are being aggressively dispossessed of their farmlands. Many are driven into remote areas and forced to seek various odd jobs. Others become contractual laborers by corporations that seized their land. Plantation workers are among those with the lowest wages.

Expansion of plantations

The Philippines ranks as the world's third-largest banana exporter. Banana plantations in the country cover a total of 450,000 hectares. The largest belongs to Dole Philippines, with a 20,000-hectare plantation in Davao and Bukidnon. It plans to expand by an additional 12,000 hectares in the coming period. Other major plantations are Tagum Agricultural Development Company in Panabo, Davao City, Sumifru Corp., Lapanday Foods Corp., and Unifrutti Tropical Philippines. In Davao, site of the majority of plantations, the average daily wage of farmworkers is ₱476.

In July, Phividec announced

that it would lease to Del Monte Phil. Inc. (DMPI) 226.4 hectares of land within the special economic zone in Misamis Oriental, which is classified for industrial use. The land will be converted to pineapple and papaya plantations. The DMPI already operates a 30,000-hectare pineapple plantation in Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental, considered the largest plantation in the world. Despite the company's enormous profits, workers in the plantation earn only ₱461 per day.

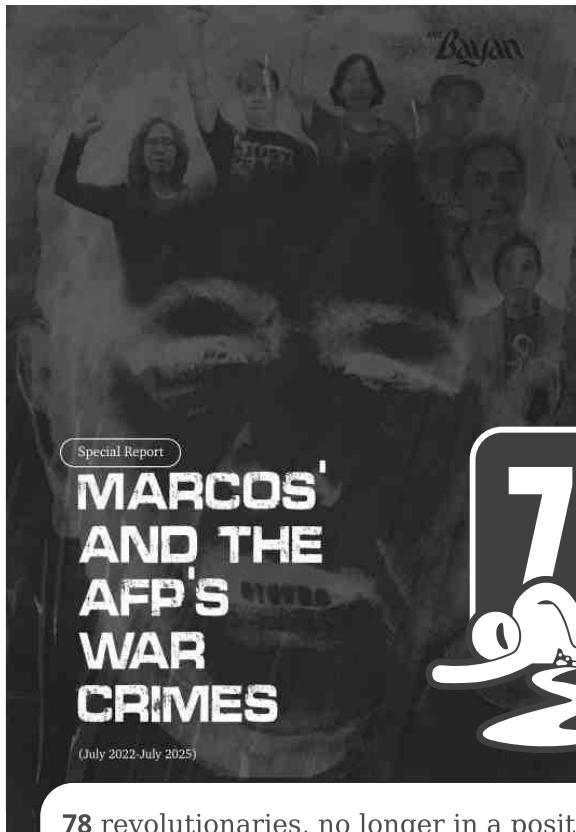
Up to 1,000 families will be displaced, and 1,000 farmers will lose their livelihood because of the 6,000-hectare oil palm plantation being built by Consunji and Hacienda Asia Plantations Inc. in Candoni, Negros Occidental. The minimum daily wage for farmworkers in the plantation is ₱488. Based on 2022 state data, oil palm plantations in the country already covered 63,380.85 hectares, and the DA plans to expand this to 117,212 hectares by 2033.

Also set for expansion are commercial coffee and cacao plantations in SOCCSKSARGEN, Davao, and BARMM; and of mango in Pangasinan, Isabela, Pampanga, Cebu City, and Zamboanga City.

Foreign corporations owning plantations in the Philippines amass billions of dollars in profit disregarding its concomitant massive environmental destruction. The widespread and unrestrained use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers poisons the soil and water resources, causing severe illnesses among farmworkers and their families.

Once abandoned, plantation lands are no longer arable due to decades of chemical pesticide and fertilizer use. Decades are needed before such lands become fertile or regain their previous productivity. **AB**





philippinerevolution.nu



78 revolutionaries, no longer in a position to fight, were willfully killed while in the custody of Ferdinand Marcos Jr's armed agents.

88%

increase in **Nickel Asia Corporation's** revenue in the first half of 2025. The company operates the most destructive mines in the country such as Rio Tuba Nickel Mining in Palawan, Altai Philippines Mining Corporation in Sibuyan Island, and mining operations in Hinatuan Island.

₱15,862.50

per month lost in jeepney drivers' income due to extremely high oil prices.



₱5.3 B

earnings by **Petron** in only the first half of 2025 from relentless oil price hikes



Cypermethrin

poisoned 268 students in Sibalom, Antique in July. Despite being one of the most toxic pesticides, its use in the Philippines remains widespread.

Agosto 14

International Memorial Day for **Comfort Women**, with the continuing call for justice and accountability for thousands of women exploited by Japanese forces as sex slaves during the Second World War.



87

hospitals nationwide are the only ones covered by Marcos-boasted **"zero billing"** program, and applied only on ward patients.



Direct US-Israel occupation of Gaza means Palestinians' annihilation

This August, the Zionist state of Israel declared its plan to directly occupy the entire Gaza Strip after nearly two years of brutal genocidal bombings against the Palestinians. Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet approved the plan in its August 7-8 meeting. A few weeks earlier, the Israeli parliament also called for the occupation of the entire West Bank.

These measures mark a new stage in intensifying the US-Israel genocide with the aim of annihilating the Palestinian people.

Netanyahu is pushing for Israel's occupation of Gaza amid growing Israeli outrage against his government, because of its failure to recover the prisoners held by the Palestinian group Hamas and because of its brutality against the Palestinians. Series of massive protests have erupted, as more and more young Israelis refuse military drafting as a protest against the genocide.

The Zionist regime is now widely despised by countless nations and peoples. Since it escalated its genocidal campaign, millions of people all over the world have carried out actions and mobilizations to stand for the liberation of Palestine.

Israeli forces already control almost 90% of Gaza's territory. Only Gaza City and the refugee

camps in central Gaza remain. Two million Palestinians are crammed into these areas, where they endure daily bombings and assaults, extreme hunger, and abject poverty.

According to the plan, Palestinians will have until October 7, the day marking the second year Israel began its attacks, to evacuate Gaza City, the enclave's largest city. The Zionist military will then launch a large-scale assault on the city and other parts

of Gaza not yet occupied. The plan allegedly aims to eliminate Hamas, end the war, and "deliver humanitarian aid" to civilians.

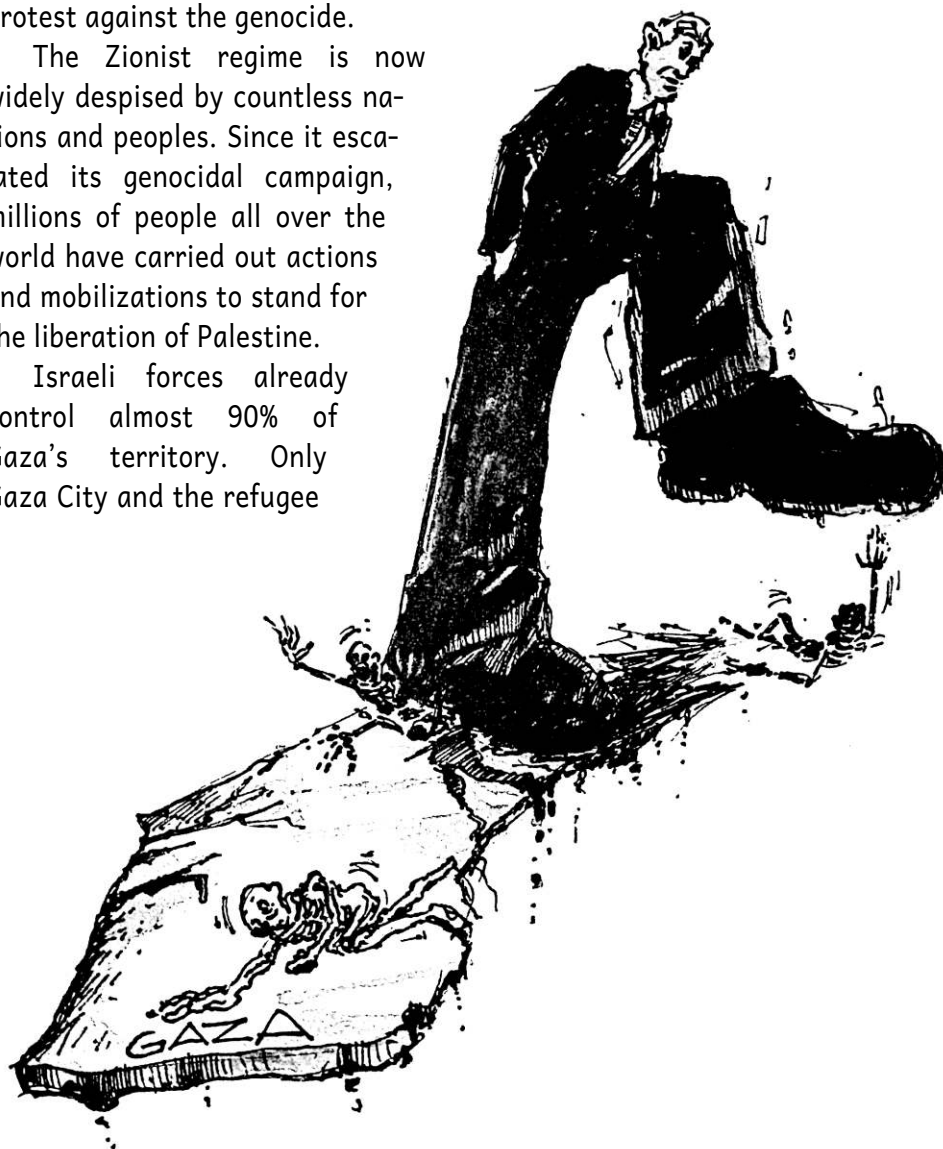
Filipino groups denounced this plan as "heinous." Groups in various countries, international institutions, and ordinary people also condemned the plan.

Since March, Israel has absolutely banned the delivery and distribution of aid. Only the so-called "Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)," jointly operated by US and Israeli military forces, has been permitted to distribute food. Israeli soldiers have willfully killed at least 859 Palestinians queued at GHF distribution sites. They add to those who died while scrambling for the meager food rations.

Hunger in Gaza has reached unprecedented levels. Some 210 Palestinians, mostly children, have died of starvation. Just this July, 74 died from malnutrition, many already bedridden, including children under five. They add to over 60,000 directly killed and 150,000 wounded by Israel's bombings and assaults during the 22-month genocide. Many countries have condemned US and Israel for weaponizing food to suppress the Palestinian people's fighting spirit.

Israel continues to relentlessly bomb and assault Gaza Strip. On August 10, US-Israel bombings killed journalist Anas al-Sharif, together with another Al Jazeera correspondent, Mohammed Qreiqeh, and their camera operators Ibrahim Zaher, Mohammed Noufal, and Moamen Aliwa.

This constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law, which considers journalists as protected individuals in armed conflicts. Since 2023, US-Israel has willfully killed more than 200 journalists in Gaza.



Korean's amplify call against US imperialism

The broad anti-imperialist mass movement in South Korea continues to surge. The Korean people are forging unity to achieve full democracy and liberation from US occupation. This growing struggle follows the massive protests in late 2024 and the first quarter of 2025 against the country's US puppet president. In the past weeks, groups in South Korea and the US held forums, mass gatherings, and demonstrations to strengthen their stand.

March for liberation

On August 15, thousands of South Koreans marched in Seoul, South Korea to demand the expulsion of the US and its military bases in the country, the end of war games, and the cessation of economic exploitation. The action coincided with the 80th anniversary of South Korea's liberation from imperialist Japan in 1945. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) spearheaded the protest.

The KCTU stated that US imperialism poses a major threat to life and peace in the Korean Peninsula. Koreans recognize the dangers of the US-South Korea war games such as Ulchi Freedom Shield 2025, launched on August 18 and set to continue until August 28.

The South Korean masses believe that these war games serve to drag their country into the US war against imperialist rival China. Beyond South Korea, the US also launches hundreds of war games in other parts of the Asia-Pacific, including the Philippines.

Groups marched toward Gwanghwamun in Seoul, where South Korean President Lee Jae Myung was delivering a speech. Police already blocked them from a distance.

The protesters condemned the president for his scheduled meeting with US President Donald Trump on August 25. They believe this meeting will only bring more benefits to the US and greater hardship to the South Korean people.



People's Summit for Korea

More than 500 delegates from the US, South Korea, and European countries attended the first-ever "People's Summit for Korea: Towards National Liberation" in New York City on July 25-27. Nodutdol led the event, with the participation of Philippine national-democratic groups based in the US such as Bayan-USA.

Organizers convened the gathering in response to the US escalation of military activity in the Korean Peninsula after talks between the US and North Korea collapsed in 2019. Since 2022, US-South Korea war games have significantly increased in number and intensity. US Forces Korea conducted 200 days of war games in Korea in 2023, and 275 days in 2024.

Over the two-day program, activists at the People's Summit shared views and drew lessons from the struggles in the Korean Peninsula to expel US military bases, achieve a peaceful end to the Korean War, and uphold democratic rights. US-based activist groups also discussed their efforts to oppose Trump's expansion of the US military budget and other policies. **AB**

Trump is putting pressure on South Korea to pay \$10 billion annually to fund US occupation, up from the previous \$1.13 billion under the Special Measures Agreement. He also demands it to increase defense spending to 5% of its gross domestic product (GDP) to purchase \$87 billion worth of US weapons. Trump also pushes Myung to approve new agreements for the deployment of US troops in South Korea against China. He also plans to impose a 25% tariff on the country's products.

A day earlier, groups protested at Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi, the largest US foreign military base.

In the US, Korean group Nodutdol led demonstrations in different states on August 15-16 to demand US withdrawal from Korea.