

EDITORIAL

# Fight the US imperialist's Task Force Philippines

**T**he Task Force Philippines formed by the imperialist US must be strongly denounced and opposed as it will be used for further military intervention in the country. With the establishment of Task Force Philippines, the US increasingly places under its control the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and other security forces of the neocolonial state to serve US geopolitical interests in Asia.

Task Force Philippines is a new US military unit based in the Philippines, aimed at directing the AFP's "external defense" operations from the South China Sea to the Luzon Strait against alleged "coercive and aggressive" actions by China in the region.

The declared objective to "enhance cooperation between the US and the Philippines" is utterly absurd, especially since the AFP chief himself admitted he knows no details about this planned task force by the US. The only thing he knows is that it is based on the concept and operations of the Task Force Ayungin established by the US last year.

This earlier task force was formed in 2024 and created by US military officials. It planned the "resupply" operations for the AFP ship BRP Sierra Madre, which is stranded at Ayungin Shoal. The US provided military equipment and the necessary resources, as well as aerial and satellite surveillance support. In simple terms, the AFP's "resupply missions" are maritime operations directly commanded and controlled by the US.

The formation of Task Force



Philippines is the latest ploy of the imperialist US and is a clear indication of higher levels of intervention in the country. It serves the framework of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy aimed at surrounding its imperialist rival, China, and preventing its growing military and economic power.

For many years now, the US has been exploiting and exacerbating the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China, in order to justify the use of the Mutual Defense Treaty and other unequal military agreements to strengthen its military presence in the Philippines. It has established at least nine US military bases recognized under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation

Agreement (EDCA).

There are more unacknowledged bases and facilities of the US across the country, including an AFP facility on Mavulis Island in Batanes for US use. The US military is also present in facilities in Ilocos Norte, Aurora, Quezon, Mindoro, Panay, and various parts of Palawan. These facilities are staffed by American officials and soldiers or are equipped with weapons like the Typhon missile system and other powerful weapons. The US also plans to establish ammunition, drone, and other weapon manufacturing sites in the country. Additionally, there are plans for the US to set up a refueling depot in the vast waters of Davao Gulf.

The US also maintains the permanent presence of its US warships, including massive aircraft carriers carrying thousands of American soldiers, in the waters surrounding the Philippines. They freely navigate and dock in any part of the country. They are used in successive military exercises in the Philippines, all building on the scenario of a potential war with China.

Marcos is a subservient lapdog to his imperialist master, the US. He has become even increasingly submissive due to his desperation to gain US support, especially in light of the brewing political crisis caused by the revelation of massive corruption cases and ongoing widespread protests against his regime.

In a recent ASEAN meeting, Marcos served as a mouthpiece for the US agenda and promoted what he referred to as "enhanced defense cooperation" among Southeast Asian countries against the "threat and aggression" of China. Marcos was rebuffed, receiving no support for his proposal.

Following US orders, Marcos has consecutively entered into "visiting forces" agreements with

Japan and Canada, both of which are countries allied with the US. This aims to allow these countries to utilize the maritime and land territories of the Philippines for US-affiliated military operations. Now, Marcos boasts of plans to purchase one-month's worth of military equipment to enable the AFP to defend the country against a supposed aggressor for one month, before seeking assistance.

Aligned with Marcos'- agenda, various pro-US parties, organizations, institutions, and media seg-

ments are acting to support the increasing military presence of the US in the Philippines, under the guise of defending the "West Philippine Sea." These are funded by US imperialism through institutions like the National Endowment for Democracy and flow into groups like "INCITE-gov." In 2023, the US government also allocated \$1.6 billion for a 5-year program for "anti-China propaganda."


They are fueling Sinophobia or hatred towards everything related to China. Like Marcos, they portray a threat of "invasion" and "aggression" from China while remaining silent about how the Philippines continues to be a neocolony of US imperialism. They claim that anyone opposing US military intervention in the Philippines is "pro-China."

The Dutertes are now pretending to be anti-US to overshadow the corruption issues involving their family. This is a hollow act. While in power, Rodrigo Duterte did nothing to close EDCA sites or to completely reject the VFA and military agreements with the US. He freed the American soldier who killed Jennifer Laude. The Dutertes are now silent on the US plan to establish a refueling depot in Davao Gulf.

In light of the increasingly aggressive push from the US to provoke war and drag the Philippines into conflict against China, there is an urgent need for the people to unite and prevent this from happening.

The call to dismantle all US military bases, remove all US missiles from secret locations in the Philippines, and send home all interventionist US military forces from the country must be strengthened. This demand should be linked to the people's struggle to break free from the clutches of imperialist predators, attain independence, and build a free and prosperous nation.






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 [ang.bayan@cpp.ph](mailto:ang.bayan@cpp.ph)

# Marcos Jr puppet regime: Promoter of US imperialist agenda in SEA

US Department of War (formerly the Department of Defense) secretary Pete Hegseth announced on October 31 the establishment of the US “Task Force Philippines” at the ASEAN Defense Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM)-Plus in Malaysia. This task force will consist of 60 elements from the US Pacific Fleet and will be led by an American general. It expands on the operations of the US Task Force Ayungin based in Palawan, which currently directs the operations of Philippines forces in confrontations with Chinese vessels in the disputed reefs.

Hegseth announced the Task Force Philippines after ASEAN rejected his proposal to form a “shared maritime domain awareness program” that would centralize US intelligence data against China. The countries snubbed his proposal despite his offer of advanced drone technology, including unmanned aerial and maritime vehicles, in exchange for cooperation.

Hegseth then formed only an “Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defense Cooperation Council,” along with his loyal puppet Gilbert Teodoro and the defense secretaries of Australia and Japan, during their meeting in Malaysia on November 1. There is nothing new in this council since the four countries already maintain multi-layered “cooperation” in the form of bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral military agreements.

## Imperialist agenda panderer

Prior to the announcement, Philippine neighboring countries expressed concern over Ferdinand Marcos Jr’s speech at ASEAN on October 28, where he urged for “enhanced defense cooperation” with Japan and the US against the “serious threat of Chinese aggression” in the region.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim warned not to “yield to external forces” to resolve internal conflicts. Ibrahim said both compul-

sion and unrest must be avoided for the sake of regional stability. He encouraged nations to resolve issues through dialogue, cooperation, and peaceful means in accordance with ASEAN principles. Indonesia, Laos, and Cambodia voiced concern over the escalating maritime tensions caused by Marcos’ aggressive confrontation with China.

AFP commander Romeo Brawner recently flaunted the Typhon Missile System’s capability to “reach China.” The said missile system is stationed in the northern part of Luzon, near Taiwan. This constitutes an offensive posture and

US interference in the internal affairs of Taiwan and China.

## Base of the imperialist war machinery

With its utterly subservient state, the Philippines is the only Southeast Asian country that allows the long-term basing of foreign troops and weapons on its land and seas. It is also the only one in the region holding formal military agreements with the US, such as the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. As a sign of extreme servility, the AFP created the Strategic Command to unify its various branches, further easing the flow of US command within it.

In the coming months, the Marcos regime will allow not only American troops to base in the Philippines. Major US allies Japan and Australia are already negotiating to establish their own bases and storage facilities in the country. In addition to the US, four countries are now permitted to send troops, equipment, and vehicles under the established visiting forces agreements (VFA). The latest of these is the VFA with Canada, signed only on November 2.

The presence of foreign troops in the country is continuing and alternating in the form of relentless war games, multilateral maritime exercises, “experience sharing,” and civil-military operations. They even exploit the successive disasters suffered by Filipinos, such as earthquakes and floods, to normalize their presence and intervention in the country’s internal affairs. **AB**



# Massive people's anti-corruption protest set for November 30

A massive people's anti-corruption protest will be launched at Luneta Park in Manila and other parts of the country on November 30. The mobilization will be led by the Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (KBKK or People's Movement Against Corruption), newly formed from the protest of 100,000 individuals in the so-called Flood in Luneta on September 21. The group will demand: "Hold everyone involved accountable!"

According to KBKK, only holding all those involved in anomalies accountable can end systemic corruption plaguing the nation. "Everyone" includes President Marcos, who created and approved the annual budget riddled with irregularities, and Vice President Duterte, who faces charges of misusing hundreds of millions in confidential and intelligence funds.

Throughout November, KBKK members will launch weekly Black Friday Protests, pickets, and noise barrages in communities, universities, factories, markets, and densely frequented places. They will also lead forums, mass meetings, and streamer displays to reach more Filipinos.

KBKK member organizations held a series of protests and activities in October. With other democratic sectors, thousands of farmers marched from Liwasang Bonifacio to Mendiola in Manila on October 21. They called for genuine land reform and accountability from the Marcos regime for corruption. Actions were also held in Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, and Santiago City in Isabela, as well as in the provinces of Southern Tagalog and Panay. Filipino migrants from the US, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, and South Korea supported the farmers and launched a "global noise barrage."

On October 24, Bayan-NCR conducted a Black Friday Protest in the

cities of Manila, Quezon, Pasig, Taguig, and Valenzuela, with similar activities in Laguna and Albay. Members of Kalikasan-PNE, People Surge, and Kadamay stormed the compound in Taguig City, site of the ICI office.

On October 27, bishops, priests, and pastors from various denominations based in the National Capital Region gathered in San Juan City to form the Church People Against Corruption. The next day, Gabriela chapters protested during the National Women's Day of Protest.

On October 30, Quezon City health workers protested to condemn corruption and demand salary increases, payment of benefits, and additional staff in government hospitals. Students from UP-Tacloban and the University of Eastern Philippines in Northern Samar also staged actions.

On October 31, Bayan member groups marched anew to Mendiola in Manila. On the same day, Concerned Artists of the Philippines launched the #StopKorap Halloween Party with the theme "Ghost Projects: The Exorcism!" in Quezon City. Black Friday Protests were also held in Caloocan and Pasay City, San Pablo City in Laguna, and Cagayan de Oro City.

## Fascist fangs

Amid the people's escalating outrage, the Marcos regime contin-



ues its efforts to suppress and intimidate the youth. On November 3, the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) announced filing cases against 97 unnamed individuals involved in the September 21 protest, which resulted in violent police suppression.

In addition, four student leaders from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and De La Salle-College of St. Benilde were subpoenaed by the PNP-CIDG for investigation. The youth leaders refused to appear before the police. They also held a protest on October 27 at the PNP Quezon City headquarters to denounce the subpoenas.

Meanwhile, the prosecutor in Manila recommended charging ten of the 270 individuals arrested on September 21 with tumult and other disturbances of public order. The complaints of illegal assembly and direct assault filed against those arrested were dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence. AB

# Corruption and quarrying in Cebu result in tragedy

RECORDED DEATHS IN Cebu on November 7 has reached 139, caused by the floods that ravaged the island due to reckless deforestation in its mountains, worsened by Typhoon Tino's high rainfall volume. The most deaths were recorded in Liloan and the cities of Talisay, Mandaue, and Cebu—areas that supposedly have standing flood control infrastructure, including projects contracted to Discaya-owned companies. Cebu ranks second in the country in the number of flood control projects, amounting to ₱26 billion.

Cebuanos demand justice for those devastated by the failure of flood control projects and accountability from corrupt local and national government officials.



**Picket against water rate hike.** Bayan-Panay picketed at the Metro Iloilo Water District office in Iloilo City on October 20 to protest the scheduled increase in water rates. Metro Pacific Iloilo Water will raise the rate by 26% to ₱25.2 per cubic meter in November and ₱28.67 per cubic meter by March 2026, from the current ₱20 per cubic meter.

**Aeta protests NCIP in Pampanga.** The Aeta indigenous people and other sectors trooped to the NCIP Regional Office in San Fernando, Pampanga on October 23. They expressed their opposition to projects that are grabbing their ancestral lands, such as quarry and mining operations, golf courses, and solar farms. Prior to the protest, the Aeta established their organization, Mansaway, and Pamilalamu, an association of indigenous people and church groups.

**Mindanaoan youth for Palestine.** Students from Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City and the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines in Cagayan de Oro City launched a protest in the last week of October in solidarity with the Palestinian people. They denounced the genocide committed by Zionist Israel and the imperialist US against Palestinians in Gaza.

**Opposition to market privatization in Baguio City.** Baguio City residents protested on October 26 to oppose the privatization, or what they called the "mallification," by SM Prime Holdings and the local government of the city's public market. Various groups organized different activities to call for inclusive, community-centered development in the city.



**Wyeth Philippines workers' fight.** Led by the Wyeth Philippines Progressive Workers Union-DFA-KMU, workers again protested in front of the company's plant in Cabuyao City, Laguna on October 24. They condemned the capitalist's continuing refusal to heed their call for just wages and regularization after nearly four months of collective bargaining agreement (CBA) negotiations.

**Respect the demand for wages and rights in Kowloon!** Led by the Kowloon House West Chapter of Glowhrain-KMU, workers of Kowloon House West picketed outside the restaurant on West Avenue, Quezon City on October 24. The union denounced what it called the management's blatant disregard for workers' rights and violations of their CBA. According to the union, the restaurant failed to implement CBA provisions such as the regional wage board-mandated across-the-board wage increases and the proper procedure for disciplinary cases. It also failed to provide the appropriate benefits and protection.

**2 unions in UA&P prepare to strike.** The University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) Union of Faculty Members and the UA&P Union of Allied Employees submitted their strike vote reports to the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) on October 27. The two unions responded to the university administration's refusal to grant their demand for higher salaries, benefits, and better working conditions. The unions have been negotiating with the administration for four months at the NCMB level, but it has remained rigid and deaf to their demands.

## NPA attacks the 94th IB

THE NEW PEOPLE'S Army (NPA)-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) launched a harassment operation against 94th IB troopers in Sitio Cantupa, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental on the night of October 27. At least two fascist soldiers were wounded.

The soldiers scampered and managed to fire back only after a few seconds. The 94th IB indiscriminately fired in the area using their machine gun and M203 rounds.

Meanwhile, some 15th IB intelligence agents reportedly surrendered to the NPA-Southwest Negros (Armando Sumayang Jr Command) in the town of Cauayan in October. The unit accepted their surrender on the basis that the assets had not harmed or committed blood debts against the revolutionary movement and the people.

In the spirit of the rectification movement

# Kaguma strengthens the revolutionary teachers' ranks

The Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (Kaguma, or Alliance of Patriotic Teachers) decisively overcomes its past year's weaknesses and mistakes, inspired by the revolutionary struggle's rectification movement. The revolutionary group's Fourth National Congress held last October attests to this.

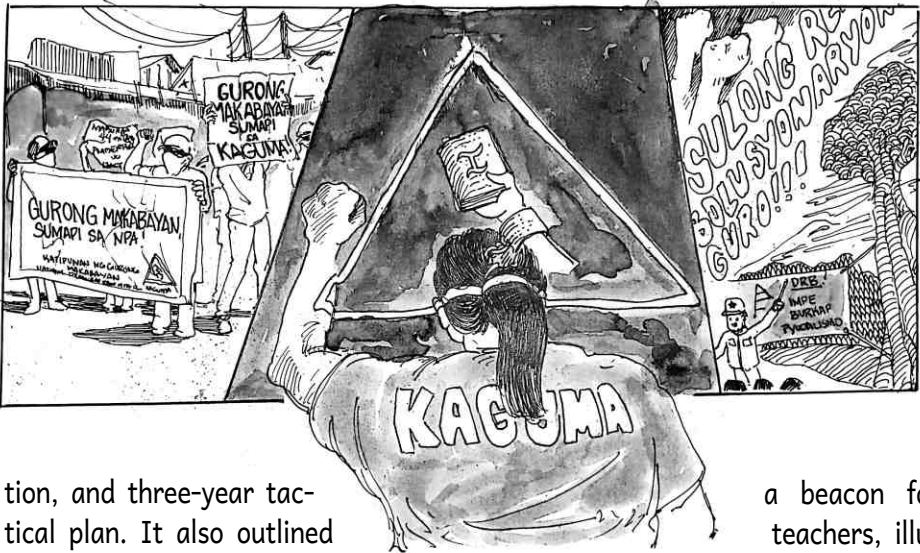
At least 79 members from Kaguma chapters across various regions, academic institutions, and universities within the education sector gathered for the congress. The delegates united under the theme "Advance the revolutionary teachers' movement! Rectify! Expand! Struggle! Triumph! Advance the national democratic revolution with socialist perspective with utmost efforts!"

The group's last congress was more than two decades ago. Its earlier congresses were held in 1985, 1987, and 2003. The organization was founded on March 28, 1971.

"Reinvigorate Kaguma, boldly expand and strengthen it nationwide. Vigorously advance the comprehensive tasks for the revolution," the National Secretariat declared in its keynote report.

During the gathering, the secretariat presented Kaguma's self-evaluation over the past two decades. It highlighted a humble self-criticism for having deviated from the basic principles and methods of a revolutionary organization in recent years.

The congress finalized and approved Kaguma's major documents, including its orientation, constitu-



tion, and three-year tactical plan. It also outlined six resolutions that will guide the organization's continuous development.

The congress elected a new National Council and National Executive Committee that will lead the organization nationwide. Guia Umili was elected as Kaguma chairperson and spokesperson.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Communist Party of the Philippines congratulated Kaguma for its determination and perseverance in holding its Fourth National Congress.

"We hope that this congress will consolidate your ranks, draw lessons from experiences, and advance more firmly in fulfilling your tasks of strengthening teachers' revolutionary ranks," NDFP secretary general Elias Dipasupil said.

CPP chief information officer Marco Valbuena said the recently held congress is undeniably historic—not only because it was convened after a long time but also because it marks the beginning of a new period of advancement for the revolutionary teachers' movement.

Valbuena said Kaguma serves as

a beacon for teachers, illuminating the

path they must take to achieve their aspirations and those of the people. "Your perseverance inspires teachers to look beyond present hardships and join the wider masses in the struggle to fundamentally transform the social order," his message to Kaguma said.

Concluding the congress, members and newly elected leaders took a collective oath, followed by the chairperson's closing address. In her speech, Umili recognized and honored the martyrs of the sector and the people. "They offered and gave their whole lives to the revolution. Let us salute our comrades in the countryside who carry on the highest form of struggle," she affirmed.

Umili also challenged the congress delegates: "May the link between our revolutionary theory and practice continue to grow stronger; may our documents and studies not become stagnant knowledge stored only in our minds but serve as guides for advancing our actions; and may our actions in turn elevate our revolutionary theory to a higher level."

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# PORK BARREL of MARCOS JR.

₱15.9 BILLION

confidential and intelligence funds  
(2022-2025)

₱2.1 TRILLION

unprogrammed allocations  
(2023-2025); ₱214.4 of which was  
allotted to 3,700 flood control  
projects, most of them anomalous  
and ghost projects.

₱1.79 billion

were spent for a substandard flood control  
project on **Bunawan River** in Davao City from  
2016 to 2024. Portions of it remain unfinished to  
date.

Source: Kilab Multimedia

1 out of every 5

Filipinos aged 10–64 is **functionally illiterate**. They  
can read and write but have no practical daily use  
for these skills

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority/Functional Literacy, Education  
and Mass Media Survey



15 million

**Venezuelans** have  
registered since August to  
rebuild the **Bolivarian  
Militia** nationwide. This  
demonstrates that the  
militia forces are “ready,  
active, and armed” to  
defend Venezuela’s  
national territory amid U.S.  
intimidation and threats of  
invasion.

188

deaths and 135 missing, mostly in the  
Visayas, because of **typhoon Tino**’s heavy  
rains and flooding. About 127,827 families  
were forced to evacuate from their  
communities.



3,000 ▶

fisherfolk in Bais City  
and Manjuyod lost their  
livelihood from the **URC  
Sugar and Renewables  
Group Distillery  
Plant**’s ethanol  
chemical spill on  
October 24; the  
chemical poisoned  
Tañon Strait’s rich  
waters and  
marine life.



14 years

passed since AFP  
paramilitaries  
killed Fr. Pops  
Tentorio,  
advocate of  
Lumad rights and  
environmental  
protection, on  
**October 17, 2011**



# Trump regime's intensifying fascist repression against the US people

Only ten months back in power, yet Donald Trump's anti-people and anti-democratic policies have reached new levels of intensity.

Trump is pushing the boundaries of his power as US president. He acts like a king and a dictator who does his whims without accountability. He is openly steering his administration toward fascist and dictatorial rule. He is also blatantly suppressing the people's civil rights and freedoms and trampling on his own country's laws, processes, and institutions.

Trump's dictatorial posturing uses military forces (the US Marines and the National Guard) to subjugate sanctuary states that recognize immigrant rights. In September, Trump announced his plan to use the military to crush resistance against his policies. He claimed that those opposing his regime are no different from its enemies abroad.

Trump ordered the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) a "quota" of 3,000 immigrant arrests per day and authorized using the harshest and most brutal methods. Those who criticize Trump, those who "look like immigrants," and activists have become targets of beatings, shootings, chases, and deportations.

Twenty-three individuals have died while in ICE custody, mostly from denial of medical attention. Around 515,000 individuals have been deported, and 1.6 million immigrants have been forced or voluntarily left this year. Nearly 60,000 people remain illegally imprisoned in ICE facilities, where they suffer abuse, maltreatment, and lack of medical care.

Greedy for power, Trump has repeatedly declared his intention to run for a third presidential term by



any means, even violating the US Constitution. He has installed his allies and personal lawyers in positions of power, while prosecuting, hunting down, and firing all who oppose or refuse to follow his whims. He forces the media, the judiciary, government agencies, critics, and universities to bow to his will.

Trump has also intensified US foreign intervention. By supplying missiles and weapons to the Zionist Israel state, Trump is actively colluding in the genocide against the Palestinians. He incited Israel's attack on Iran in June and ordered the dropping of large bombs. He declared plans to invade Venezuela to oust the anti-imperialist president Nicolas Maduro. The US continues its proxy war against Russia in Ukraine and is further expanding its intervention in Taiwan and the Philippines.

Trump blatantly uses his position to amass more wealth. He sued a media company for "fake news" only to receive several million dollars in "settlement." He gladly accepted a ₱400-million jumbo jet from the government of Qatar as a "donation" that will become his property after his term ends. In October, he demanded that the Department of Justice pay him ₱230 million as compensation for al-

legedly violating his rights when the government investigated him in 2023 and 2024.

The US government is currently under a "shutdown" because Congress members failed to agree over the 2026 state budget. The regime shows no concern for the suffering of government employees who work unpaid or for the dwindling food aid for families earning only the minimum wage. Trump is instead busy constructing a ₱300 million 90,000-square-meter ballroom at the White House, which he plans to name after himself.

The US people's outrage against the Trump regime is reaching its limits. Even some of his former supporters have expressed anger and disappointment with his governance. Barely a year in power, Americans already want him removed from office.

The American people's clamor grows louder: Dethrone Trump! Hundreds of protests have erupted across the US condemning his anti-people policies. Communities have united to protect immigrants from ICE's violent raids.

Around seven million people joined the "No Kings" protest on October 18 to express their outrage at Trump's fascist and anti-people

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# Filipino migrants' condition worsens

In recent weeks, reports have emerged left and right about the deplorable condition of Filipino migrants being violently persecuted, abused, deported, and denied justice and rights. As the global economic crisis intensifies, they are accused of taking away jobs and are being blamed for inflation and rising crime rates in their countries of residence.

In Canada, Japan, and Korea, anti-migrant policies and the worsening culture of racism and xenophobia have intensified the persecution of immigrants.

In Taiwan, 169 rape victims among migrant workers were recorded in the country last year. Twenty-two of the victims were Filipinos. Most of the victims worked in factories and as domestic helpers.

In the US, 143 Filipino seafarers were deported beginning last year. In September, the US embassy in the Philippines canceled already-approved US visas of seafarers set to leave the country. Similar to the deported seafarers, the embassy justified their acts using child pornography allegations that are uninvestigated and lack evidence.

In Thailand, more than a hundred Filipino victims of "scam-hub trafficking" have already reached the Myanmar border and are in urgent need of rescue and immediate action.

In Kuwait, the family of Dafnie Nacalaban, a domestic helper killed by her employer, obtained only token justice. The employer was sentenced to merely 14 years in prison, a light sentence for such a crime.

In The Netherlands, 11 Filipino migrant workers were also denied justice when the Public Prosecution Service dismissed their human trafficking complaint against the Amsterdam-based Saints and Stars Gym.

The migrants' miserable condition is a direct result of the reactionary Philippine government's labor export policy. These policies promote Filipino workers to migrate instead of addressing the problems of unemployment, living wages, and decent social services.

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From page 8

rule. It was the year's largest demonstration for the country and third national protest.

Filipino democratic organizations in the US are actively participating in these protests. Under the Tanggol Migrante Movement, they have launched campaigns demanding the release, extending protection and service for illegally detained Filipino migrants, and holding the Marcos government accountable for its responsibility to safeguard Filipinos in the US.

On November 8, the first anniversary of Trump's election victory, various chapters of organizations in the US led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan plan to launch a protest.

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# 12th CMO and NTF-Elcac attacks North Caloocan

The 12th Civil Military Operation (CMO) Battalion and NTF-Elcac have been harassing North Caloocan residents for a month now. They have carried out rampant Red-tagging, surveillance, and harassment, especially against the barangays' progressive organization members.

The battalion was first deployed in Barangay 181-182, Pangarap Village on October 3 under the guise of the Community Support Program. The military plans to suppress the people's resistance against the Araneta family's threat of demolition.

On orders of 2nd Lt. Julie San Jose and using peace and order as its pretext, the 12th CMO began encamping on October 6 behind the covered court of Barangay 175, Camarin, where the battalion concentrated its operations. Their operations expanded to Barangay 187-188 Tala several days later.

On October 28, individuals who identified themselves as police raided the Gabriela-Calooocan office. They claimed to have an arrest warrant but did not show any document. On the same day, the military and the barangay captain summoned Gabriela-Matarik members to the barangay hall, where they were accused of being recruiters for a revolutionary organization.

NTF-Elcac also used the barangay assembly on October 18 to spread disinformation and Red-tag mass organizations. The military blatantly surveilled progressive groups during anti-corruption protests held at Camarin Kiko Palengke and at UCC Congressional Village on October 10 and 17.

Defend Caloocan fears that the military will again coerce members of progressive groups and residents to "surrender," similar to what the 12th CMO did to the United Vendors Alliance in 2024.

The ongoing militarization in North Caloocan aligns with the National Action Plan for Unity, Peace and Development framework. According to the program Capacitating Urban Communities for Peace and Development led by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, communities in urban areas with existing patriotic organizations are subject to surveillance, harassment, and repression operations by the PNP and AFP.

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## Students thwart NTF-Elcac intervention in universities

ENLIGHTENED AND MILITANT youth and students frustrated the attempted intervention in universities disguised as "forums" and "academic discussions" by the National Task Force-Elcac and mercenary traitors to the revolutionary movement.

At UP Mindanao, student leaders walked out of the TAGBO 2025 campus forum on October 26 because of the participation and speech of Arian Ramos, a traitor to the revolutionary movement and one of the most notorious defenders of the NTF-Elcac and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Ramos and tens of her fellow traitors leads the Red-tagging of legitimate student organizations and their leaders. Ramos even brought an intelligence agent "bodyguard", deeply alarming the students.

The university's Council of Student Leaders commended the students' walk out. They also denounced the UP Mindanao administration for allowing the incident, which they said was not an "isolated" case. According to them, it reflected "institutional weaknesses" that they had long criticized. More than 30 student organizations of UP Mindanao signed the CSL statement.

The UST students collective condemnation forced the NTF-Elcac to withdraw its supposed participation in the forum "Preventing Terror Grooming: The Philippine Experience." According to progressive groups on campus, inviting the agency was an affront to the university's dignity and to Thomasians who defend the truth.

On November 5, students held a campus protest to register their opposition to the NTF-Elcac and the forum. Although the NTF-Elcac backed out, the representative of the National Security Council and traitor Arian Ramos still served as guest and speaker at the forum on November 6. An activist at UST debated with them and stood firm against Red-tagging.

## 802nd IB militarily ravages Leyte island

FROM JANUARY TO October this year, no fewer than 99 barangays and 15 municipalities on Leyte island were ravaged by 802nd IB combat operations. The 14th IB, 93rd IB, 8th CMO Battalion, and police assisted in the operations.

Combat operations covered 10 towns in Leyte province, including Baybay City, which in February was categorized as under a Stable Internal Peace and Security Condition (SIPSC) to project that the people's army no longer had forces in the area. Barangay Caraye in Javier, and barangays Igang and Hilapnitan in Baybay City, were placed under hamlet in September.

Five Southern Leyte towns were militarized, including Saint Bernard, which was also categorized as SIPSC in March.

Residents said relentless intimidations occur whenever the military is in the villages. They are forcibly sent home early from their fields. They are threatened with arrest and imprisonment if they support the people's army. The military also confiscated firearms used by residents for hunting.

The military's most recent crimes on the island was the arrest of a farmer named "Loloy" from Barangay Masuganao, Mahaplag, Leyte. He was accused of being a New People's Army member.

## Human rights violations in Panay and Negros persists

**T**he military and police continue to target farmers on Panay and Negros islands in recent weeks to intimidate communities and sow terror.

In Negros Occidental, the military killed a woman farmer named Joan Escuadro on the night of November 3. Military agents entered her house and shot her at close range.

In Bago City, Negros Occidental District Jail-Male Dormitory police continue to harass political prisoners and leaders who resisted the abuses of the dismissed but reinstated warden Maj. Crisysrel Awe. Lorenzo Perolino has been arbitrarily committed

to solitary confinement since the afternoon of October 26.

In Iloilo City, police arrested a 67-year-old man known as "Mayok" in Barangay Buntatala, Jaro on November 3. He was charged with multiple criminal offenses and accused of being a high-ranking officer of the revolutionary movement. He carries a ₱2.55 million bounty.

Meanwhile, police and military forces arrested farmer and indigenous peoples organizer Marlene Es-

piritu while she was traveling in Mabalacat City, Pampanga on November 1. She was accused of being a high-ranking Central Luzon NPA officer and charged with five criminal cases.

In Davao City, the Ombudsman imposed a 30-day suspension on October 20 against Barangay Bucana 76-A captain Robert Olanolan for his resistance to the demolition in Kabanacan and Times Beach since January 2024. Olanolan faces a complaint of grave abuse filed by DMCI, which plans to establish a business in the area.

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