

EDITORIAL

# Gear up for next phase of protest movement against corruption and fascism of the Marcos regime

**T**he first phase of the anti-corruption and anti-bureaucratic-capitalist protest movement lasted roughly three months. It erupted in September and culminated in a nationwide coordinated demonstration on November 30. Each week in between saw walkouts and demonstrations by students at universities from northern Luzon to cities in the Visayas and Mindanao. In various communities, towns, factories, offices, and churches, different sectors rallied and marched, united by a common outrage against corruption and the rotten system.

It began with the scandal of billions of pesos siphoned from anomalous flood-control projects. Soon, similar blatant forms of government corruption were exposed. The anomalous “farm-to-market road” projects and various other infrastructure works were revealed. Hundreds of billions of pesos in “allocables” in the national budget were uncovered, as well as Marcos’s illegal use of PhilHealth funds.

The movement started with the demand “all those involved must be held accountable” and denunciation of officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and accomplice contractors, congressmen, and senators. Soon the youth and other sectors clamored, “Oust Marcos and Duterte!” after it was revealed that Marcos himself is the “King of Plunder” sitting atop a mountain of stolen wealth, and Sara Duterte is the “Queen of Corruption” who squan-

dered hundreds of millions of people’s money. There is now public discourse on establishing a national transitional council as means to assert the interests of democratic sectors in the event of a new government.

The flood of protests that began in September can be compared to historic waves of protest in the country. In past decades, powerful popular movements have surged for-

ward several times, twice toppling incumbent presidents (Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in 2001). Added to these are the patriotic youth uprisings of the First Quarter Storm in the 1970s, the “people’s strikes” of 1989-1990, rallies against the corrupt and authoritarian Arroyo regime, and the massive demonstrations against pork-barrel in 2013-2014.

The outbreak of the protest movement reflects the broad and deep anger of the people. Its rapid flare-up shows the boiling fury of the people over the relentless increases in prices, wage stagnation, and the overall erosion of their standard of living—from the Duterte regime, and even more so since Marcos assumed power. The public’s anger intensified



in the face of widespread devastation from Cebu to Palawan caused by storms and rotten flood-control projects. The embezzlement of billions of pesos from the nation has only deepened the people’s unending hatred of the Marcos family of thieves.

The Marcos regime has been plunged into a deep political crisis by the surge of protest actions. The situation worsened when it was revealed that Marcos himself received at least ₱25 billion in kickbacks or “SOP” in exchange for the infrastructure projects he ordered to be inserted into the budget. To shield himself, he sacrificed and ordered the dismissal of several high-ranking officials, including the head of the cabinet identified as being involved in the anomalies.

Marcos created an “independent commission” supposedly to investigate the anomalies, but its real purpose was to obscure Malacañang’s role in the corruption scheme. To project himself, pacify, and divert public anger, Marcos is now pushing to prosecute and arrest a few large contractors and well-known politicians.

Marcos pretends be anti-corruption, following the advice of his imperialist bosses, in order to take away the momentum of the anti-corruption protest movement. He has allies in some Akbayan leaders who are working hard to divert the anti-corruption drive away from holding Marcos accountable and drown resignation calls. Acting on US counsel, Marcos ordered a new raise in soldiers and police salaries to consolidate his control over the AFP and PNP, and use them more aggressively in a brutal, total-war campaign against peasants in the

countryside, and to suppress the looming expansion of popular protests in the coming period.


After continuously advancing since September, the protest movement against corruption and bureaucrat capitalism is now in a consolidation phase—strengthening and preparing for a renewed offensive. It challenges the national-democratic forces at the forefront of the movement to sum-up and learn lessons from the past three months, to solidify and expand their organizations, broaden their alliances, and reinforce their resolve and determination to fight the US-Marcos regime’s corruption.

They are urged to continue preparations for the next phase by reaching out to and organizing more factories, impoverished communities, schools, and other population centers nationwide, and to hold more mass protest actions in their localities. It calls for deepening understanding of bureaucrat capitalism in its various forms and of the root causes of the people’s suffering. The anti-corruption alliance must be broadened several times, and its unity strengthened against the Marcos and Duterte rule. It also

demands exposing fake progressive leaders and ultra-conservatives who deceive and mislead the anti-corruption masses onto the wrong path of submitting to the king of corruption.

The Party and revolutionary forces must also strengthen themselves amid the ongoing broad anti-corruption movement of the people and the fight against the US-Marcos regime’s fascism. They must further expand underground mass organizations to awaken and galvanize the broad masses to advance the democratic people’s revolution as the true solution to the crisis. In the face of the people’s intense hatred toward the rotten reactionary state, the situation is very favorable for recruiting to New People’s Army, and for advancing the people’s war in the countryside. **AB**






Vol. LVI No. 23 | December 7, 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

<b>Editorial:</b> Prepare for the next stage of the protest movement against the Marcos regime’s corruption and fascism	1
Thousands rise again against corruption	3
Relentless mobilizations	3
Marcos’ shameless plunder	4
KM strengthens for PDR	5
Education for communist remoulding	6
Fascism at the imperialist heartland	7
In short	8
4 soldiers killed in encounters	9
Military rule in Samar and Kalinga islands	9
Protests	9
Free the butterflies!	10

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

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

# Thousands of Filipinos rise again against corruption

Thousands of Filipinos once again marched in the streets on November 30 across different parts of the country to protest rampant government corruption. The protest marked the 162nd birth anniversary of the father of the Filipino revolution, Andres Bonifacio.

The people's demands resonated that day—from holding all those involved in corruption accountable, dismantling political dynasties, to calling for the resignation of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Vice President Sara Duterte, and other corrupt officials.

Led by Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (KBKK, or People's Movement Against Corruption), more than 20,000 gathered at Luneta Park in Manila for the protest Baha sa Luneta 2.0. The Marcos regime attempted to foil the action by forbidding them from gathering and holding a program. The attempt failed to silence the people's clamor for accountability and justice.

Various groups, forces, and sectors participated in the action, including workers, peasants, urban poor, students, women, and church people. As it had previously declared, KBKK openly welcomed the various demands of groups, including calls for Marcos and Duterte to step down and for the setting up of a transition council.

Thousands also gathered at the protest Trillion Peso March 2.0 held on EDSA in Quezon City. It was led by the Catholic Church and other groups and parties forming the Trillion Peso March Movement (TPMM).

Before the protests, KBKK tried but failed to unite with TPMM for a single protest in Metro Manila. The TPMM groups, particularly Akbayan, refused to allow KBKK groups to raise issues directly implicating Marcos in systemic corruption.

Outside Metro Manila, KBKK allied groups mobilized in Baguio City, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Tarlac, Calamba City, Cavite, Oriental Mindoro, Legazpi City, Naga City, Antique, Capiz, Aklan, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Cebu City, Tacloban City, Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, and General Santos City. Reports also mentioned mass gatherings and marches of priests and church leaders with the people in no less than 86 dioceses across the country.

Overseas, nearly 2,000 Filipino migrants and allies in 30 cities across 23 countries joined the global anti-corruption protest. The recently formed KBKK-Global led these protests.

## Step down versus step up

The difference between the groups' calls regarding holding Marcos himself accountable became clearer. Akbayan, one of the leading groups in TPMM, refused to recognize the extent of Marcos' corruption and instead called for him to "step up" in the fight against corruption. This sharply contrasted with KBKK's position pointing to Marcos' major accountability for systemic government corruption.

Akbayan also urged Marcos to prioritize the "anti-dynasty bill," despite his family representing the most entrenched political dynasty.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan, a part of KBKK) called for Marcos to "step down" (resign now). The demand aimed to allow a free

and thorough investigation into corruption and to make him answer for his crimes against the Filipino people.

After the KBKK Luneta Park protest, Bayan led the march to Mendiola to hold Marcos accountable. The group called for the resignation of both Marcos and Duterte. Their demand was to replace them with a national transition council. As before, thousands of police blocked their march, forcing them to hold their program in front of the University of the East on Recto Avenue. Joining Bayan were forces from Partido Lakas ng Masa, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, and Sanlakas.

At the end of the program on Recto Avenue, the protesters destroyed an effigy of Marcos wearing a crown and a sash painted with the US flag.

AB

## Rallies continue

BEFORE AND AFTER November 30, the KBKK continuously launched Black Friday Protest and other actions.

Youth Rage Against Corruption's nationwide walkout was notable on November 21. On that day, 1,500 youth marched in Mendiola. The next day, Seniors Kontra Kurakot and cyclists launched separate protest activities.

On November 28, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Philippines led a nationwide sit-down strike and protest. Teachers from over 400 public schools in 14 regions nationwide joined the activity.

# Marcos' shameless plunder of the national coffers

**F**erdinand Marcos Jr is undeniably the mastermind and the greediest who must be held accountable for rampant government corruption. Over the past nearly three months, a continuous string of scandals has revealed cases of corruption directly involving him, his family, and his closest officials. The ICI, the commission he set up to pacify public outrage over corruption and clear his name, is now on the brink of collapse.

With help from his officials in the departments and his allies in congress and the senate, he restored the pork barrel fund system under the label “allocable.” He secured billions in his own pork barrel in the form of confidential and intelligence funds, as well as funds for unprogrammed appropriations (UA). He now faces anomalies that could serve as grounds for impeachment.

## Use of UA for flood control

This December, former Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio revealed proof linking the PhilHealth funds transfer and the anomalous flood control projects. In 2024, Marcos’ UA appropriated the ₱60 billion in PhilHealth funds that had been “returned” to the government. Earnings of ₱170 billion from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) was also transferred to the UA. Marcos used this UA to finance failed and ghost flood control projects (₱170 billion) and other projects such as the Davao Bypass Road Project.

Carpio said former finance secretary and now Marcos’ executive secretary Ralph Recto’s fund transfer to the UA violated the constitution.

The Supreme Court recently ruled the transfer illegal and ordered the funds be returned to PhilHealth.

## Kickbacks, smuggling, and price manipulation

Since November 14, Elizalde Co,

former Ako Bicol Partylist representative and Congress budget committee head, released seven videos that exposed the Marcos family’s corruption. Co’s first three videos revealed that Marcos instructed him to insert projects worth ₱100 billion into the 2025 budget. Marcos allegedly received ₱25 billion in kickbacks from this. Co said he delivered more than ₱50 billion in similar kickbacks to former house speaker Rep. Martin Romualdez and Marcos since 2022.

A separate video revealed that the president’s son, Rep. Sandro Marcos, ordered him to insert ₱50.9 billion into the budgets from 2023 to 2025 for his own kickbacks. Another video implicated Marcos’ wife, Liza Araneta-Marcos, in rampant smuggling of rice, fish, and vegetables. Co said that Araneta-Marcos blocked a congressional investigation into rice and onion smuggling to cover up her brother Martin Araneta’s role as mastermind in smuggling and price manipulation of rice and vegetables since 2022.

## “Allocable” as the new pork barrel

Since 2022, in collusion with congressmen and senators, the Marcos regime has inserted the pork barrel into the budget under what it calls



“allocable.” Simply put, the allocable is a fixed amount allotted to each district representative. It is included in the president’s National Expenditure Program under the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). A congressman can receive his “allocable” by submitting infrastructure proposals that the president will then approve.

An investigation by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) found that Rep. Marcos received the largest allocable (₱15.79 billion) from 2023 to 2025. His uncle, Rep. Romualdez, followed with ₱14.43 billion. A total of ₱1.2 trillion in allocable was divided among 254 congressmen across 14 regions over the past three years.

The 2026 budget still includes allocable funds. Congress has allotted ₱400 billion for itself. Congressmen repackaged their proposed flood control projects into farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems, classrooms, health facilities, housing, and airport buildings to preserve their funds in the budget. Another ₱100 billion non-allocable fund is labeled as a “free-for-all” pork barrel.

AB

# Kabataang Makabayan strengthens for the people's war

**C**elebrating its 61st anniversary on November 30, Kabataang Makabayan (KM) chapters launched studies, assemblies, rallies, and other activities. This also forms part of KM's effort to reinvigorate the underground movement among the youth to strengthen their integral part in the revolutionary movement.

The KM strengthens itself while Filipino youth lead massive nationwide anti-corruption protests since September. It encourages the youth to continue to raise their voices and fight against corruption and bureaucrat capitalism. At the same time, it clarifies that the youth and the people can only achieve genuine change through people's war.

## Study the people's war

In Manila, a college KM chapter gathered to discuss Ka Amado Guerrero's *Ang Mga Partikular na Katangian ng Ating Digmang Bayan* (The Specific Characteristics of the People's War). They chose the work to study the people's war being waged by the New People's Army (NPA), to understand its particularities, and to learn the method of advancing it from one stage to another.

"This deepened my understanding of the people's war," new KM recruit Ka Sharon shared. "Despite my class background, I am now more eager to join the next group of students bound for revolutionary integration," Ka Len said.

KM members also watched the Sine Proletaryo documentary *Buhay Komunista 2* (Communist Life) together, studied the revolutionary song *Pagbati* (Greetings), and

read Comrade Jose Maria Sison's poem *Ang Gerilya Ay Tulad Ng Makata* (The Guerrilla is Like a Poet). The chapter also discussed revolutionary art and how it reflects the art of guerrilla warfare.

Chapter official Ka Ces expressed optimism about the positive outcome of their gathering. "May these discussions enable us to further strengthen ourselves in the realm of ideology," he said. KM members need this even more amid the intensifying political situation under the Marcos regime.

## KM Rallies, assemblies, and OP-OD

Defying the regime's fascist repression, KM chapters determinedly launched rallies, assemblies, and graffiti-and-poster operations (OP-

OD) in several places. They meticulously planned these to ensure safety and security in each activity.

On November 27 and 28, and December 5, KM chapters held rallies in Quezon City and Manila. Carrying the KM flag, they called on Filipino youth and the people to join the NPA and dedicate their strength, intelligence, and abilities to advancing the people's war.

In Metro Manila, KM held three assemblies in November. Meanwhile, KM chapters launched OP-OD at De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila, DLS-College of St. Benilde, University of the Philippines (UP)-Manila, and Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila. Similar KM activities were carried out in UP Los Baños, in Calamba City in Laguna, and in UP Cebu. In Canada, a KM chapter composed of Filipino migrant and diaspora youth also reported launching OP-OD.

KM chapters also released various statements to mark its anniversary. They paid tribute to KM founding chairperson Ka Joma for his invaluable legacy for the youth in advancing the Philippine revolution. Chapters from the regions of Ilocos, Metro Manila, Negros Island, Panay, and in Laguna, Cavite, and Cebu issued statements.

"In immersing among the masses, we boldly forge our conviction. We are summoned to detach from our comfortable and habitual lives...the sacrifice to end the rotten system holds far greater meaning," KM declared. **AB**



# Education to forge communist fighters

**I**n the people's army, study is essential to mold fighters as proletarian revolutionaries.

The Party committee within Southern Tagalog NPA unit Luntian ensures raising the level of theoretical grasp of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. It firmly links theory with the unit's concrete revolutionary practice.

"The challenge in implementing education work in the people's army lies in the military situation we face," unit commander Ka Reymundo said. For nearly a year, Luntian constantly maneuvered from the intensified operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The AFP deployed more troops in the guerrilla front. It also intensified the use of modern weapons and technology.

## Invigorating Party education

Luntian's education campaign focuses on reviewing history and the Party's basic analyses and lines. It abides by the practical guide set by the Party's rectification movement. Since 2024, the unit has launched regular and special courses to review mistakes and weaknesses and to sharpen comrades as communists. Among the courses are Bureaucratism, Commandism and Liberalism, Rectify Errors and Rebuild the Party, Communists Must be Advanced Elements of the Proletariat, the Party Constitution, and Program for the People's Democratic Revolution.

The studies are held concurrently with the Kolektibong Basa at Kolektibong Talakayan (KBKT, or Collective Reading and Collective Discussion) program for study materials. This helps students familiarize with course content. It encouraged comrades who previ-

ously had little interest in reading or discussions. When missed, the fighters themselves ask:

"Don't we have KBKT?"

Rebokabularyo (revolutionary vocabulary) also became a daily activity. This activity introduces and explains technical terms, laws, and significant personalities found in the daily study topics.

Central Committee and Regional Committee messages are promptly discussed whenever they arrive, usually on the anniversaries of the Party and the Army. Cadres and Party members at various levels, as well as the revolutionary masses, attend these discussions.

## Targetting weaknesses

Study sessions are closely linked to the comrades' concrete revolutionary practice. Examples are drawn from the unit's actual experiences and the comrades' own practice.

Study sessions thus become venues for unifying assessments and syntheses on issues the unit has faced.

Comrades are encouraged to reflect back on their own revolutionary practice during study sessions and use it as a guide for self-assessment. During discussions, comrades more openly raise individuals' mistakes and weaknesses.

"Study sessions often strike me



on what really needs to be done and what wholehearted service truly means," one student said at the assessment after a study session that tackled ways to excel as a proletarian.

## Combating empiricism

Raising the comrades' practice to a theoretical level is key to combating empiricism. It guides assessments and syntheses. Its goal is to elevate revolutionary practice.

In the study sessions, comrades are encouraged to be more critical of themselves and others concerning incorrect work styles. These help much in combating many of the unit's individual and collective weaknesses. They are also key to resolving conflicts arising from differing ideas, practices, and styles.

"There are contradictions in identifying what is right and wrong in practice, the persistence of empiricism and individualism, which the unit continuously confronts," Ka Reymundo said. He thinks these struggles are progressing. The comrades' wrong habits and practices are gradually changing.

"The unit now further tightens its implementation of unities," he added.

AB



# Fascism in the imperialist heartlands

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) successfully held the 5th International Theoretical Conference themed Fascism in the 21st Century in the Imperialist Heartlands. It was held on November 28-29 in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The conference was attended by 125 individuals from 71 communist parties and mass organizations. It discussed contributions submitted by 20 of these parties and groups. The NDFP dedicated the conference to the memory of Ka Louie Jalandoni, proletarian internationalist and martyr of the Philippine revolution.

The two-day conference built upon the theoretical and historical understanding of fascism from the contributions of Lenin, Stalin, and Mao. Participants affirmed the definition of fascism along the concept of Georgi Dimitrov, the Bulgarian communist who led the Communist International in the 1930s. Dimitrov described fascism's class character as an "open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, and most imperialist elements of finance capital." Monopoly capitalism in crisis is by nature anti-communist, ultra-reactionary, and violently suppresses the working class.

The conference tackled fascism's resurgence from the global capitalist crisis, particularly after the 2008-2009 financial crisis. They identified the manifestations of fascism and fascisation in imperialist countries centered on: 1) fascisation of the bourgeois state; 2) use of AI (artificial intelligence) and advanced technology to repress and further exploit the working class; 3) heightening chauvinism and reactionary ideologies; and 4) rise of

fascist mass movements.

Fascisation of the bourgeois state unmasks bourgeois liberal democracy and exposes more authoritarian, repressive measures toward open terror rule.

Lively exchanges covered fascism's interaction in imperialist countries and neocolonies, where the state is characterized as inherently fascist. Semicolonies serve as laboratories where imperialism first experiments and implements state terrorism through counterinsurgency programs, military aid, manipulation, and violent repression of peoples.

Specific discussions highlighted Ireland's experience as a capitalist semicolony and Palestine as an occupied country, where their liberation movements fuse anti-fascist and anti-imperialist struggles.

The conference pointed to building "fighting organizations" as the proletariat's immediate task to counter the "fighting organizations" of fascist movements. Comrades from imperialist countries shared concrete anti-fascist resistance examples.

They presented lessons from mass work, advocacy, self-defense, and organizing in unions, parties, organizations, and movements.



They emphasized building a broad anti-fascist united front of workers and democratic sectors. They said forming this alliance rejects sectarianism and conservatism while guarding against social democrats and opportunists. They are aware that proletarian leadership in this front is integral to mass struggles in uprooting fascisation and is crucial to dismantling monopoly capitalism and bourgeois dictatorship.

Participants from imperialist countries affirmed the need for stable workers' parties. Revolutionaries should conduct clandestine operations combined with legal work to withstand fascist attacks and win victories for the working-class. They called for expanding unity in struggles between imperialist heartlands and semicolonies.

The conference ended with a short cultural program themed "From Palestine to the Philippines, stop the US war machine," marking the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine.

AB

27.3%↑

increase in prices of food for Christmas Eve dinner since 2011, or 2.3% per year.

Source: BusinessWorld Noche Buena Index



25 years

of the **People's Liberation Guerrilla Army**, the army of the Communist Party of India-Maoist, marking its anniversary on December 2.

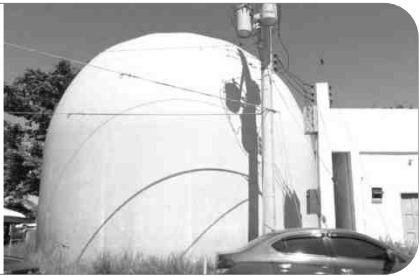


₱500

**Christmas Eve dinner budget** is enough for a 5-member family, insisted the Department of Trade and Industry. Workers and the urban poor strongly denounced this and called it "out of touch" and "insulting."

17 COLD STORAGE FACILITIES

built in 2022 amounting to ₱20 million each are useless because of faulty design and construction.



₱9.8 BILLION

amount of funds under the Department of Foreign Affairs' Assistance to Nationals and the ₱1.2 billion Department of Migrant Workers' Agarang Kalinga at Saklolo for Needy OFWs are like the flood control "ghost projects" because these do not benefit migrant Filipinos.



₱17.56 TRILLION

**Philippine debt** by the end of October 2025, representing a 10% increase over the ₱16.02 trillion recorded in October 2024. trilyon noong Oktubre 2024.

120.5%  
BED OCCUPANCY  
RATE

or the number of patients per 100 beds in the **Philippines**. Patients and health workers are rendered vulnerable by overcrowding in hospitals, indicating a crisis in the health system.

27 WEBSITES

of **alternative media**, mass organizations, and others were ordered by the court to be "unblocked" or made publicly accessible again.

The court upheld the petition of Bulatlat, one of those whose websites was shut down, that the "blocking" amounted to censorship and violated freedom of speech, expression, and of the press.



## Encounters with NPA kill 4 AFP soldiers

SEPARATE ENCOUNTERS WITH the New People's Army (NPA) in Samar and Occidental Mindoro killed four soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

According to an initial report, at least two 8th ID soldiers were killed in an NPA armed action in Barangay Babaclayon, San Jose de Buan, Samar on December 3. In Occidental Mindoro, two 76th IB soldiers were killed in the clash at Sitio Balite, Barangay Lumangbayan, Abra de Ilog on November 26. Several other soldiers were reported wounded.

Meanwhile, on October 28, three 62nd IB troopers were killed in a clash with the NPA in Barangay Quintin Remo, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental. From its defeat, the 62nd IB indiscriminately fired their weapons and killed a 6-year-old child.

## Military rule in the islands of Samar and Kalinga

**I**n Samar, the villages of Gereganan, Marcos, San Miguel, and nearby communities in Gandara have been militarized since November 22. This forced more than 100 residents of Marcos and San Miguel villages to evacuate their homes. The military also imposed a hamlet and prevented people from going to the fields and earning a living.

In Northern Samar, the 8th ID launched aerial bombing and strafing in Barangay Nipa, Palapag at 2 a.m. on November 29, terrorizing the residents.

In Kalinga, the 103rd IB continues its combat operations in Pinukpuk villages following its clashes with the people's army on November 21. Soldiers encamp in community centers, disrupting the livelihood and security of residents. Police raided the home of human rights defender Elma Awingan-Tuazon in Barangay Cawayan, Pinukpuk on November 30. Twenty police officers stormed her house accusing her of harboring a wounded NPA fighter.

Cases of arrest, arson, and military repression were recorded elsewhere in the country. In Navotas City, police arrested anti-demolition women's leader Jane Alfabete on November 27.

In Negros Occidental, the 15th IB burned down the house of peasant Carmelita Ulgasan in Barangay Linaon on November 28, accusing her of supporting the people's army. Meanwhile, Warden Jsupt. Crisyrel Awe continues to repress political prisoners and other inmates in the Bago City jail. Prisoners and families protested to oppose this on December 3.

In Masbate, the 2nd IB stole eight carabaos and cows from peasants in the Triple A Land in Cawayan, Masbate on November 27. The soldiers also earlier stole the livestock of peasants in the villages of Mobo, Milagros, and Uson towns.



**Israel, US found guilty of genocide and ecocide crimes.** The International People's Tribunal (IPT) on Palestine, held on November 22-23 in Spain, concluded with a verdict finding the Zionist state of Israel and its accomplices in the governments of the US, UK, Germany, France, and others guilty of the crimes of genocide and ecocide.

On November 29, the Philippines-Palestine Friendship Association led pro-Palestinian groups in a gathering to discuss and affirm the IPT's verdict. A brief action was later held in front of the University of the Philippines-Manila which hosted the gathering.

**Cordilleran indigenous people hold 2-day noise barrage in NCR.** Cordillera indigenous peoples declared the success of their 2-day noise barrage in the national capital, launched on November 25 and 26. The noise barrage aimed to express the regional indigenous peoples' grievances to government agencies and departments, as well as Congress. The Cordillera People's Alliance led the noise barrage.

**Planned demolition in Taytay condemned.** Residents of Sitio Sapang Gody and Siwang in Barangay San Juan protested in front of the Taytay, Rizal municipal hall on November 26 to call for a dialogue with the local government and denounce the threat of demolition in their area. Their land is being forcibly seized by Sta. Lucia Corporation and Kristina Robles.

**Youth oppose Davao Bus Project.** Anakbayan-SMR protested in Davao City on November 24 to demand the scrapping of the Davao City local council's fake modernization and anti-people Davao Bus Project (DBP). Colluding with the Duterte family, the Asian Development Bank is imposing the project on the city. The project aims to dismantle the existing transportation system in Davao, which consists of modern and traditional jeepneys, tricycles, and buses. The DBP will be funded by a P54-billion loan from the ADB.

# Free all political prisoners, free the butterflies of the liberation movement

November 25 annually marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW). It honors the martyrdom of the Mirabal sisters who were killed by the Dominican Republic state in 1960. The dictator Rafael Trujillo ordered the killing of sisters Patria, Minerva, and Maria Teresa for their resistance.

The sisters, known as butterflies in their country, were among the founders of the anti-dictatorship movement "14th of June." They became symbols of the anti-dictatorship struggle in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere. Their deaths helped ignite the fall of the Trujillo dictatorship, six months after their murder.

Like the Mirabal sisters, thousands of Philippine women use their minds, strength, and lives to fight state fascism, defend women's rights, and transform society. Like the Mirabals, they also face the state's violent response. They are victims of arrest, abduction, detention, sexual abuse, enforced disappearance, and murder.

## Violence of unjust arrest and detention

Victims of state violence include the Banjawan sisters. The 85th IB abducted Gabriela Youth organizer Fatima on August 2, 2024, in Santa Elena, Camarines Sur. The 59th IB abducted Pauline a few months later on April 26. The military subjected both to physical and psychological torture.

Fatima and Pauline are only two among the hundreds of women victims of the US-Marcos regime's arrest and abduction.

Karapatan tallies 696 political prisoners nationwide, 164 of whom were arrested under the Marcos regime, and 146 are women. Ang

Bayan recorded 63 cases of arrest of women, three of whom had children or infants with them at the time of arrest, and five were pregnant. Most of those arrested are from Negros (14), followed by Bicol (10) and Southern Tagalog (9).

The state targets young women who chose to organize and serve workers, farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous peoples. Among them are Amanda Echanis, Michelle Campos, Emelyn Acevido, Charisse Bañez, Louvaine Erika Espina, Sofia Almonte, and Andy Magno. They were illegally arrested, abducted, and imprisoned in military camps, then mentally and/or physically tortured before they were handed over to police detention. Charges against them include illegal possession of firearms and explosives, homicide, murder, and violation of the Anti-terrorism Act.

## Targeting vulnerable women

Pregnant or post-natal women suspected of being Red fighters or wives of Red fighters are specifically targeted. Even infants are not spared from military abduction.

On January 13, 2021, around 2 a.m., 79th IB soldiers raided the home of Edwin and Marlyn Madin in Barangay San Fernando, Talisay



City, Negros Occidental, and abducted their then 2-month-old baby, Baby Marx Cairo Salino. The AFP hosted the baby to force the surrender of his parents, New People's Army members. The DSWD until now continues to deny the custody of Baby Marx to his grandparents, following the AFP's order.

The violent ordeal of women worsens as the economic and political crisis in the country deepens. This escalation compels more women to rise to end the feudal-patriarchal and bourgeois-decadent system.

According to the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan, 65 years after the Mirabal sisters were killed, the revolution has become even more meaningful and vital. Only armed struggle with a socialist perspective can decisively end gender-based violence and achieve the full liberation of women.

AB