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Filipino people have little to gain from May national elections

By Bagani Dong-ilay

Is there hope for genuine change? This has been the question inside and outside the country in the aftermath of the 10 May 2010 national elections in the Philippines.

The Filipino people can expect nothing by way of real change from the recently concluded elections. The same old names, the same old political dynasties, have been proclaimed winners. All the mainstream bourgeois parties represent the interests of the local exploiting classes of big compradors and landlords. They act as junior partners of US imperialism in exploiting and oppressing the Filipino people and in keeping the country backward, non-industrialized and agrarian.

There is clearly no hope that the two most important reforms needed to turn the Philippines into a modern industrialized country – land reform and national industrialization – will be carried out under the incoming government of Benigno Aquino III.

Aquino III was a non-performer as a congressman and as a senator. His only qualification was being the son of Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. who was murdered in 1983 on orders of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and Corazon Aquino who was catapulted to the presidency as the widow of Aquino, Jr. and for leading the bourgeois opposition against Marcos.

Noynoy, as the younger Aquino is called, belongs to a big comprador-landlord family that owns Hacienda Luisita and is vehemently opposed to land reform.

On 16 November 2004, security troops of the government of the Republic of the Philippines fired at striking workers and peasants demanding compliance with a court decision ordering Hacienda Luisita to be subjected to land reform. The shooting killed seven of the strikers and wounded scores of others.

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New US puppet president Benigno Aquino III needs to account for his family's refusal to submit their landholdings to agrarian reform. Striking peasants and farmworkers in family-owned Hacienda Luisita were massacred by government security forces in November 2004. photo from ohnoy.wordpress.com.



Filipino revolutionaries condemn Comrade Azad execution

By Communist Party of the Philippines

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and all Filipino revolutionary forces join the Indian people in condemning the summary execution of Comrade Azad (Cherukuri Rajkumar) and his companion journalist Hem Pandey (Jitender) by the fascist Indian police last July 2 in the Adilabad jungles near the Maharashtra border, Andhra Pradesh.

Comrade Azad and Hem Pandey were en route to meet other comrades in Nagpur District, Maharashtra when they were abducted by the notorious Andhra Pradesh Special Branch Police. They were likely flown by helicopter to the jungles where they were summarily executed.

To cover up its fascist crime, the Indian police claim that Comrade Azad was killed in an armed encounter and to have recovered an AK-47 rifle at the scene. According to

reports, Comrade Azad was traveling unarmed when he was accosted. His killing was carried out by the Indian police in cold blood and in complete disregard of international laws of war.

Comrade Azad was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India and served as its spokesperson. He was a disciplined student of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism who dedicated three and a half decades of his life to the revolutionary struggle of the Indian people. He was well regarded for living a simple life and working hard for the revolutionary cause. His death is mourned by the working class and oppressed people of India, the Philippines and the world over.

The CPP pays the highest revolutionary tribute to Comrade Azad and encourages all its members and revolutionary forces under its leadership to read and study the life story of Comrade Azad and be inspired by his revolutionary dedication. ■

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In an interview right after the incident, Noynoy Aquino publicly defended the action of the military. Two years later, Ricardo Ramos, union president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (CATLU) in Hacienda Luisita that had led the strike, was killed by state assassins.

All the main candidates who ran for president are known advocates of the current orthodox line of "free market globalization", which is opposed to national industrialization. Only Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party agreed, albeit with little enthusiasm, to carry the line of national industrialization in his party's political platform.

There is every indication that Noynoy Aquino will pursue basically the same approach that the discredited Gloria Arroyo regime had pursued against the revolutionary forces under the direction of US imperialism.

In a speech on peace and security before foreign correspondents on 22 April, Aquino did not mention anything on peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines to address the roots of the armed conflict nor on forging agreements on social, economic and political reforms in order to lay the basis for a just peace.

On the other hand, he echoed the line of the recently published US Counterinsurgency Guide that the reactionary government can destroy, co-opt or render the revolutionary movement inconsequential by implementing the following guideposts: good governance, delivery of services, economic rehabilitation and development and security reforms.

Election results under a cloud

A delegation of 86 foreign observers that covered the elections, called the People's

International Observers Mission (PIOM), concluded in their report that the political exercise was "neither fair nor honest", contrary to government claims. The delegation went to "election hotspots" in various provinces in Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Visayas, Davao, Mindanao, and the National Capital Region.

The foreign observers reported widespread voters' disenfranchisement, vote-buying, corruption and violence in all places they went to. They cited the "systematic vilification campaign" against progressive senatorial bets Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza and eight progressive partylist groups by the military and paramilitary groups.

Sharp criticism has been leveled against the Automated Election System (AES) that was implemented for the May 2010 elections under the control of a foreign firm Smartmatic. It is quite instructive to note that the Dutch and German governments have already dropped the AES for being flawed and unreliable. They have since returned to the manual system in the conduct of their elections.

NDFP Chief Political Consultant Jose Maria Sison has made the charge in an interview by *Liberation International* that Noynoy Aquino's unusually huge lead against his rivals was due to pre-programming done under the AES. Noynoy Aquino was widely-known to be the candidate of choice of Washington.

A source told this writer that a Precinct Count Optical Scanner or PCOS machine that covered an equivalent of 1,000 votes could be bought by a candidate for one million pesos. He said that a mayoral candidate in his hometown paid two million pesos for two PCOS machines to ensure his victory.

The progressive Left

The progressive Left fielded two candidates, Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna and Liza Maza of Gabriela Women's Party,

to the senate race under the coalition Makabayan. Together with other progressive political parties, they also vied for seats under the party list system for the lower house of congress.

Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza failed to make it to the "Magic 12", the winning 12 candidates to the senate. The progressive Left parties Bayan Muna (People First), Gabriela Women's Party, Anakpawis (Toiling Masses), Kabataan (Youth) Party and ACT (Alliance of Concerned Teachers) won a total of seven seats in the lower house.

According to an election analyst, the progressive Left improved its vote-getting capability by 30% compared to the previous elections. This was no mean achievement considering that these parties were subjected to the combined attack of the military, paramilitaries, the extreme-right pseudo-partylist groups led by extra-judicial-killing-proponent Gen. Jovito Palparan and pseudo-left partylist groups like Akbayan.

The progressive party list groups have served as the voice of the oppressed and exploited masses inside the big comprador and landlord dominated congress. They have fought for legislation for the benefit of the workers, peasants, migrants, women

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The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace. It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

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BOARD OF EDITORS

- Roselle Valerio
- Ed Ladera
- Isah Antonio
- Jose Emilio Jacinto III
- Bagani Dong-Ilay

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NDFP International Information Office

Postbus 19195 | 3501 DD Utrecht
The Netherlands
Email: ndf@casema.nl
www.ndfp.net

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**Interview with Maria Malaya
Spokesperson, NDFP
Northeastern Mindanao**

By Roselle Valerio

Following is the third part in a series of interviews conducted by *Liberation International* with Regional Spokespersons of the NDFP regarding the current strength of the revolutionary movement and its prospects in the next five years.

1. The government of Gloria Arroyo has boasted of defeating the revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines by the end of its term in June 2010. How far has it gone in terms of achieving this goal? In the region, how much damage has the Arroyo regime's national security program Oplan Bantay Laya wrought against the people's army, the local organs of political power, the mass movement and the people's livelihood?

Gloria Arroyo's government failed to defeat the revolutionary movement.

The mass base expanded and deepened throughout the region. From the time Arroyo assumed power in 2001 until the end of OBL1 in 2006, the area covered by the revolutionary movement in the region expanded by 13%. It further expanded by 29% within the three years of OBL2. The area has grown by a total of 46% within the nine-year duration of OBL 1 and 2. We have also linked all guerrilla fronts in the region, broadening the area of maneuver of NPA units.

From 2001 to 2006, consolidated areas grew 92%. In the three years of OBL2, however, the expansion of consolidated areas was just enough to compensate for areas lost due to intensified enemy attacks. But in the entire nine years of OBL, our consolidated areas grew by 87%. In these areas, we have strengthened the mass organizations and established several organs of democratic people's government in the communities and villages. With its widening and deepening mass base, it is no wonder the NPA in the region has been able to launch bigger and successful tactical offensives.

Nine years of brutality under the US-Arroyo regime's OBL 1 and 2 failed to hinder the advance of armed struggle in the region. In the six years of OBL1, NPA tactical offensives increased by 39% throughout the region, and the same number was sustained in the next three years of OBL 2. Despite

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"Organized masses, consolidated areas grew 80% in past 10 years"



Revolutionary cadres organize schools for indigenous peoples in the region who otherwise have limited access to the mainstream school system. The new schools teach literacy and numeracy, as well as political education. photo by Ang Bayan.

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and the youth, and rallied others to oppose legislation that would further entrench the domination of foreign and local vested interests.

They have exposed the corruption in high places, anomalous contracts, and the gross violations of human rights perpetrated by state security forces against unarmed civilians within the halls of congress and combined with the various mass organizations in rallies and demonstrations to oppose the pro-imperialist and anti-people policies of the reactionary clique in power.

To win the votes, Noynoy Aquino promised that he would prosecute Gloria Arroyo for corruption and for the numerous cases of extrajudicial killings, disappearances, torture, illegal arrest and detention of unarmed activists by state security forces. The progressive mass organizations have issued the challenge to the incoming president

to make true that promise. Otherwise, he would expose himself as a liar and a big deceiver of the people.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), on behalf of the revolutionary forces including the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA), has expressed its openness to resume formal peace negotiations with the incoming Government of the Republic of the Philippines, represented by Noynoy Aquino.

The resumption of the negotiations, according to the NDFP, should be based on previously signed agreements between the two sides, in order to address the roots of the ongoing armed conflict and attain a just and lasting peace. The revolutionary forces have also indicated that they are ready to pursue the revolutionary struggle to fulfill the Filipino people's aspirations for national freedom, social emancipation, progress and peace. ■

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the number and intensity of the brutal military operations under OBL 1 and 2 in the last nine years, NPA tactical offensives increased by 32% in the entire region.

As a result, the NPA's high-powered firearms increased by 19% in six years of OBL 1 and 10% in three years of OBL 2, and overall, by 31% in the entire region in the nine years of the entire OBL.

Aside from seizing firearms, the Red army was likewise able to annihilate a big number of enemy forces and destroy a relatively big number of enemy equipment. Red fighters sustained only one casualty for every 10 they inflicted upon enemy forces.

From 2003 to 2004, although there were only relatively fewer tactical offensives in the whole of the Caraga region, units of the NPA successfully raided the armory of the Paper Industries Corp. of the Phils. (PICOP), where the Red fighters confiscated 92 high-powered rifles.

In 2005, NPA units in the region were able to launch 31 military actions, which reaped three M16, three M14, two Garand and two Carbine rifles; one shotgun; and two handguns. The biggest action was the raid against the 36th IB-CAA detachment in Tandawan, Bigaan, Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, Philippines on Sept. 28, 2005, where three M14 and two Garand rifles were confiscated.

The year 2006 saw 93 NPA military actions in the region, seizing 17 high-powered rifles all-in-all: six M16, seven M14 and one FAL, and two Carbine rifle, and five short arms: two cal .45, one cal .357, and one cal .9mm). An armed personnel carrier (APC) was also destroyed. The most daring among these was the raid against the 23rd IB-CAA camp in Maputi, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur, where seven M14 rifles, one FAL rifle, and one cal .38 handgun were confiscated.

In 2007, in spite of the fiercest military campaign of Oplan Bantay Laya 2, the NPA was able to launch 58 tactical offensives, confiscating 17 high-powered rifles: 16 M16 and one M14 rifles, two shotguns; four cal .45, one .9mm, and one cal .38 handguns. On February 9, 2007, a unit under the 58th IB PA, conducting military operation, was ambushed in Sitio Quarry, Barangay Huwangan, Diatagon town, Surigao del Sur, which reportedly suffered 14 killed in action. Subsequently, on March 7, another unit of the 58th IB PA was ambushed while operating in Barangay Cagbaoto, Bayabas, Surigao del Sur; 19 were reportedly killed in action and eight were wounded. Then on March 22, eight soldiers of the 58th IB were

killed in an ambush Barangay Laperian, Bayugan, Agusan del Sur.

On 23 September 2007, while OBL 2 focused its attacks on Guerrilla Front 14, Red fighters were able to execute a daring raid against the Cantilan PNP station in Surigao del Sur. The NPA confiscated 14 M16 rifles, two shotguns, one .9mm, and one cal .38 handguns. Cantilan, a far-flung town in Surigao del Sur, is ruled over by Rep. Butch Pichay, the foremost Arroyo lackey in Caraga. Members of the police in Cantilan have been responsible for a number summary killings and have been involved in illegal drugs and gambling.

In 2008, the NPA was able to sustain the intensity of the tactical offensives in the region despite OBL 2's continued attacks, with a total of 57 T.O.s that confiscated six M16 rifles, one shotgun, and 12 short arms. On June 28, seven simultaneous tactical offensives thundered their way throughout two municipalities in Siargao island: against a PNP station in Dapa, and another PNP station and a CAFGU detachment, both in General Luna. Simultaneously also, on the same day, the NPA paralyzed four communication towers of both Globe and Smart companies in Dapa and in Gen. Luna to prevent the police from calling for reinforcements from the mainland. Siargao Island could be reached by a three-hour ferry boat ride from Surigao City. General Luna in the Island of Siargao, considered to be the surfing capital of the Philippines, is a favorite vacation spot of Arroyo. Red fighters were able to withdraw despite the difficulties posed by the enemy's aerial support (with helicopters), the use of K9 dogs, and heavy artillery firing.

23 December 2008: The NPA in the region sanctioned San Roque Metals, Inc. (SRMI), a mining company operating in Tubay, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, for denying payment of the 1% royalty share to the Lumad peoples, for its anti-labor practices, and for causing severe damage to the environment. Confiscated from SRMI were 21 firearms: nine baby M16 and one A2 M16 rifles, three shotguns, three cal .38 revolvers, two 9mm pistols, one cal .45 pistol, one 40mm pistol, and one cal .22 revolver. Two base VHF radio receivers were also confiscated. Simultaneously, NPA Red fighters raided and took control of the Tubay Police Station, where only one 9 mm pistol was seized because police elements in that particular station fled with their firearms in fear.

The increase in NPA tactical offensives was sustained in 2009 in the region, six months before Arroyo's term ends, and, consequently, the reactionary regime's Oplan Bantay Laya 2. There were 80 tactical offensives launched by the NPA that

amassed high-caliber weapons, enough to arm an additional platoon for the NPA. The biggest among these was the military action that sanctioned SUDECOR Logging Company in Barangay Puyat, Carmen, Surigao del Sur. NPA Red fighters demobilized the SUDECOR's destructive logging machineries and confiscated their security guards' firearms. Seized from the company were two M14, five Garand and six Carbine rifles. The NPA unit in the offensive also ambushed the reinforcement Scout Platoon of the 58th IB, at Km. 18, Pakwan, Carmen, and, confiscated four M16 rifles. More than 20 enemy soldiers were killed, not including an unknown number of wounded troops. On the side of the NPA, two Red Fighters were martyred in battle.

Mass movements demanding basic reforms, specially land reform; exposing and opposing human rights violations; fighting the environmental hazards posed by logging, mining and the use of chemicals in plantations; and the plunder of natural resources specially by foreign companies have grown wider and stronger.

The AFP's brutal suppression campaign was unable to stop the people's daringness in participating in the revolution. The number of people joining revolutionary mass organizations grew by 61% in six years under OBL 1, and grew by another 18% in the three years under the more brutal OBL 2. In the face of OBL operations the last nine years, the number grew by 89%.

Despite delays in revolutionary work caused by enemy operations under OBL, a total of 44,531 peasant families — over 220,000 individuals — benefited from agrarian revolution in 242 barangays (villages) in various towns within guerrilla fronts. Eighteen thousand fifty-six (18,056) families gained the right to till within logging concessions that have long deprived them of land. Ten thousand nine hundred ninety-eight (10,998) peasant families succeeded in their struggle for the reduction of rent for land and agricultural equipment. Raising the prices of copra, abaca, bananas, rattan and falcatta benefited some 6,250 families. Five thousand three hundred sixty-nine (5,369) families of farm workers and poor peasants won the fight for higher wages. Initial efforts to reduce usury benefited 1,321 farmers. A self-sufficient economy has been established as well as cooperatives and the practice of mutual exchange of labor. Mass movements to promote health and social services have been launched. Peace and order were maintained and the spread of illegal drugs, illegal gambling and criminality stopped. In 2009, the number agrarian revolution beneficiaries increased by 18%.

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The enemy's OBL campaign has failed to destroy the organization of the Communist Party in the region. The leading committees at the regional and guerrilla front levels as well as in urban areas, in Party branches within guerrilla units remain strong and deeply rooted among the basic masses in the communities and villages. Overall, Party membership grew by 72% during the nine years of terrorist brutality under the US-Arroyo regime's national security program OBL.

The almost relentless military operations failed to stop the ideological consolidation of the Party in the region. Study of the Basic Party Course by Party members within the Red army is widespread. Party cadres within guerrilla fronts and white areas are also given the Intermediate Course, and some have also finished the Advance Course. Conferences on military and mass work were launched.

In the span of nine years, the US-Arroyo regime used almost all means to dismantle the revolutionary movement in the region. At the height of the military's brutality, the AFP poured in more than ten battalions to encircle and suppress NPA units in a number of areas in the region. It used airplanes, helicopters and cannons to bombard the NPA. But the NPA's areas of maneuver expanded and deepened, with support from the broad masses of the people. The enemy resorted to psywar and intrigues, including the killing of a number of mass activists.

The US-Arroyo regime's term is due to end in June 2010 with its "counterinsurgency" campaign an utter failure. But, until now,

the AFP's generals continue with the delusion that their OBL 1 and 2 have succeeded. They deceive themselves and their troops by claiming "successes," such as the fake or recycled surrenderees, or overstating the number of NPA casualties.

The statistics are concrete proof that despite the onslaught of OBL 1 and 2, the revolutionary movement grew and continues to advance.

The people suffered economic dislocation during massive military operations which halted all peasant economic activity especially in the five towns of Surigao del Sur on which the AFP in Caraga focused its destructive operations and especially during the anti-militarization protest evacuations. In 2007-2009, we estimate that the economic dislocations caused by AFP operations in the Caraga region has cost the people at least P390 million in terms of lost income.

2. Do you think that the enemy is still capable of launching massive military operations against the armed revolutionary movement before June 2010? In the region, which units of the Arroyo regime's security forces are most responsible for launching brutal attacks against the people and the revolutionary movement?

A brigade-sized operation with widespread battalion and company operations, all under Gen. Augustus Tolentino, 401st Infantry Brigade commander, that ran from February 2010 to the first week of April, has just finished. The operation planned and led by the brigade and that employed a battalion of troops, plus a company (or three platoons) from the 6th Scout Ranger Company, a company (Bravo Coy) from the 58th Infantry Battalion, and a company from the

36th IB, covered just a single guerrilla front. It failed to accomplish anything except to report the recovery of an old NPA encampment. The enemy even lost four men due to attritive operations by the NPA.

Battalion operations are usually able to cover one town within a guerrilla front, and sometimes only the town's mountainous areas. The enemy can launch similar military operations, but since such operations can only cover small areas, the guerrilla units are able to operate widely in other areas.

Currently, enemy forces are mostly tied up in securing the coming national elections. Major military operations are launched mainly as a reaction to NPA tactical offensives, or when they have a clear target.

The PNP, being tasked as the main force in maintaining peace and order during the election period, can hardly participate in any "counterinsurgency" operation of the AFP. The PNP alone (including its mobile forces) is undermanned even for the gigantic task of securing the elections. Considering that a lot of areas in the region are classified as "election hotspots," the AFP is compelled to work with the PNP in election-related operations.

Aside from this, AFP units are also engaged in campaigns for certain candidates or for certain party-list groups put up by the Arroyo regime, elite politicians, big businessmen or even the AFP itself and its former generals. They are even busier in campaigns against progressive party-list organizations and candidates. They are also conducting military operations to protect the turf of their political patrons wherever there is strong NPA presence. Every time their political patron makes some campaign sweep in rural towns and barrios, they are used as escorts in big formations. AFP units love these types of operations because there is less risk involved and they are rewarded with fat allowances, a lot of food and other amenities.

The AFP is still the main force in the "counterinsurgency" campaigns of the reactionary regime, and as such their fascist forces are most notorious. The 58th IB and 36th IB of the 4th Infantry Division's 401st Brigade are the ones particularly involved in "counterinsurgency" operations against the more active guerrilla fronts in the Caraga region.

The 36th IB was the lead battalion during the 4th ID's encirclement and suppression campaign against our forces in Front 14 (Surigao del sur-Agusan del Sur boundary areas). This battalion wrought havoc among the masses, committing extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations,

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NPA guerrillas preparing for a cultural presentation. The brutal "counter-insurgency" campaigns of the US-Arroyo government failed to suppress these mass gatherings. photo by Ang Bayan.

... *Maria Malaya*, page 5, col 3

and directly participating in or supporting illegal logging activities in areas they considered cleared of NPA guerrillas.

The 58th IB has been tasked mainly to neutralize the NPA Front 19, located in the central part of Surigao del Sur, and Front 30, located in the southern part of Surigao del Sur. It has encountered stiff resistance from the NPA units in these two fronts resulting in a number of casualties on the side of the AFP and firearms seized by the NPA. Every time they lose a battle with the NPA unit in the area, in desperation they vent their ire against the masses, committing numerous human rights violations such as summary executions, abductions, and forced recruitment of the populace for paramilitary service.

3. *Have US military forces been involved in counter-revolutionary activities in the region?*

There have been no US military forces monitored as openly operating in the area, but there have been unconfirmed reports of US soldiers frequenting the Philippine Army brigade headquarters.

4. *Despite the vicious attacks of the Arroyo regime, the revolutionary movement has managed to advance significantly in the last 10 years. What were the major victories achieved in the region within the last decade?*

In the main, this question has been answered in number 1.

The revolutionary movement now has comprehensively advanced compared to its level 10 years ago. In the year 2000, we were still patching up the negative effects of erroneous lines. After one decade, the revolutionary forces have grown and gained strength. While we have yet to surpass the peak we reached in the mid-1980s, the revolutionary forces are now stronger, more well-rounded and in a position to advance more comprehensively.

Following are the growth rates within nine years (except for agrarian revolution whose growth rate was determined for a period of one year alone):

- growth of organized masses: 89%
- growth of consolidated areas: 87%
- growth of Party membership: 72%
- area expansion: 46%
- growth in no. of tactical offensives: 32%
- growth in no. of high-powered rifles: 31%
- growth in no. of agrarian reform beneficiaries: 18%

As our agrarian revolution gains momentum, it can cover wide areas. Agrarian revolution can take various forms and the masses can carry these out even if there is enemy presence. The masses will definitely defend their gains, and will not easily be cowed by the enemy's Special Operating Teams (SOTs). The number of NPA and Party recruits among the peasant masses will rise, because they can see concretely how they are benefiting from the revolutionary movement. There will be more recruits, and therefore, more new platoons of the NPA.

5. *In its statement marking the 41st anniversary of the re-establishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines on 26 December 2009, the Party's Central Committee declared that the people's war should advance from the strategic defensive to the strategic stalemate within the next five years. How have the people and the revolutionary mass movement in the region reacted to this declaration?*

The people's enthusiasm in areas where there are clear victories especially with respect to agrarian revolution or land reform definitely indicates that this can be achieved and that the people's democratic revolution will be victorious, thus the organized masses are determined to reach out to other areas in order to launch agrarian revolution. In areas where the agrarian revolution is not yet fully developed and where the people have been terrorized by the military, the people and their revolutionary forces are still in the process of studying diligently how they can overcome the military's campaign of suppression and contribute to the overall effort to advance the people's war.

6. *Do you think that this target is achievable in the next five years, given the objective situation and the condition of the revolutionary forces in the region?*

7. *In your opinion, what are the main obstacles – internal and external to the revolutionary movement in the region – you will need to overcome in order to contribute to the achievement of the five-year goal of strategic stalemate?*

Answers combined for the two questions:

Two factors determine the viability of such a projection from our point of view. One is the objective politico-economic situation in our region, country and the whole world. The second is the capability of the subjective forces in the region for such a challenging task. Given the trend nowadays, clearly the overall semicolonial and semifeudal situation in our country is getting much worse. And the ruling reactionary clique cannot expect substantial help from their imperialist masters who themselves are mired in a global crisis of capitalism.

This situation can get even worse for the reactionary ruling system, but would be favorable for the advance of our people's protracted revolutionary struggle, if the coming election would not be able to temporarily solve, and instead even heighten, the antagonistic contradictions among factions of the ruling classes.

Given this favorable condition, the state of our subjective forces will then be the determining factor. If we really have to move forward in bigger strides and win bigger victories, we have to completely depart from our conservative practices in the armed struggle and development of the mass movement. We must come up with more creative ways of carrying out the tasks set by the Party's central leadership, adapting them to the particular conditions in the region.

Yes, we have grown and gained strength in the last decade in our region but judging from our pace, we must do more to complete the requisites set by our central leadership. We need to grow in geometric, and not simply in arithmetic, terms. We need to release the full potential of our forces and the masses both in the armed struggle and the mass movement. We need to be more resolute in carrying out agrarian revolution as the prime motivation for a full blown mass movement and support for armed struggle in the countryside. Marxism-Leninism-Maoism must deeply take root among the masses. Our mass movement in the urban and town centers must develop its full potential to fill our growing requirement for cadres from the intelligentsia.

8. *What are the targets that have been defined for the region, in order to contribute to the achievement of this five-year strategic goal? Please illustrate what targets have been set in the region for advancing the land reform program, the revolutionary mass movement and the local organs of political power, and the armed struggle against the armed counter-revolution.*

With regard to armed struggle, the regional committee has projected a faster pace of building new platoons, one in every town or at least in every two towns; developing all guerrilla fronts to company-size formations; faster pace of people's militia building; and fulfilling the frequency of two to three basic tactical offensives per platoon. Our mass base must encompass the highways, shorelines, plains and populated areas. We have to establish and strengthen our guerrilla bases, more firmly establish the National Democratic Front and build the democratic organs of people's government therein from the barrio to higher levels.

Minimum land reform is high in our agenda in the next five years, taking note of the pos-

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sibility set by the central leadership – that of implementing maximum land reform in the later phase of the five year program. There must be 10,000 to 15,000 Party members in the region by then, all with appropriate education on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, down to the local party branches, and performing a multitude of tasks.

9. The reactionary state will be conducting national and local elections this coming May. How will this affect the revolutionary work in the region? Can the people and the revolutionary movement reap any advantage or benefit from this type of exercise?

During the elections, we aggressively pursue our program of launching various agrarian revolution campaigns. In the course of the election campaign, the masses demand candidates to support their struggles for land, the interests of the peasants and other basic people's issues. They have launched demonstrations where they have invited a number of politicians. Those who refuse to support the peasants' demands are jeered by the people.

During this period, NPA military actions will be stepped up, especially disarming operations against private armies and armed politicians who enter the area. We have come up with a particular program for this period.

The regional leadership, in line with the central call, lists among its tasks that of launching an educational campaign to expose the reactionary elections in order to guide the people in viewing the elections and taking advantage of any and all opportunities to advance their interests. ■

NPA offensives expose failure of US-Arroyo regime's security program

By Isah Antonio

A big joke. This was how the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) dismissed the declaration of newly-installed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo David's bravado that the military can defeat the revolutionary armed struggle within three years.

Gen. David should be reminded that not only has the AFP failed to crush the revolutionary forces by 30 June 2010, as it has boasted time and again in the past, but the US-Arroyo regime's Internal Security Operational Plan Bantay-Laya (OBL, Oplan Freedom Watch) is a complete failure.

Despite the regime's use of brute military force and hundreds of billions of pesos spent in building up its war machinery to impose a nine-year reign of terror against the Filipino people, it has failed to dismantle even a single guerrilla front. On the contrary, the revolutionary movement and the New People's Army (NPA) have grown in strength and expanded its areas of operation in the past nine years.

The Red fighters of the NPA have achieved great strides in advancing the people's war by launching tactical offensives across the country against the reactionary security forces. These have resulted in the death, wounding and capture of enemy troops and the seizure of thousands of high powered firearms and ammunitions from the AFP, the Philippine National Police (PNP), its

paramilitary groups and private armies. The victories of the NPA tactical offensives have also caused grave demoralization among enemy troops.

Partial reports received by *Liberation International* cited the following tactical offensives launched by the people's army in different regions in the Philippines during the first half of 2010:

In Mindanao:

The people's army seized 35 high powered rifles (HPRs) including 16 M-1 garand rifles, two M-16 rifles, an M-14 rifle, a carbine and hundreds of ammunition in a raid staged by the Red fighters against a detachment of the paramilitary Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) in Mlang, North Cotabato last 26 March. A member of the CAFGU was killed while two others were wounded.

Red commanders and fighters from the composite striking force of the 3rd Pulang Bagani Company and the Wilfredo Zapanta Command-Front 18 Operations Command of the NPA launched a successful raid on the patrol base of the 28th Infantry Battalion under the 10th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army on 24 May along the Davao-Mati national highway in Sitio Chapter, Barangay Maputi, Banaybanay, Davao Oriental.

The raid netted two FN Minimi Light Machine Guns, two M-203 grenade launchers, three garand rifles, three M-14 rifles and

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While the enemy concentrates its forces in one area, the NPA can move freely in a wider area, in more than 120 guerrilla fronts across the country. photo by Ang Bayan.

... **NPA offensives, page 7, col 3**

an M-16 armalite rifle. Three enemy troops were killed and four were wounded. Two enemy combatants surrendered uninjured during the fierce gun battle and were freed shortly after.

In Brgy. Panoraon, Maco, Compostela Valley Province, last 6 June, the New People's Army Rhyme Petalcorin-Front 27 Operations Command staged two successive attritive operations against the 71st Infantry Battalion-AFP and the 2nd Scout Rangers Battalion stationed in the province. At least two enemy troops were killed.

On 4 June in Brgy. Sukob, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, the Valentin Palamine Regional Operations Command-NPA initiated a punitive military action against the plantation which drove peasants out of their lands to expand its operations. Refusing to stop its landgrabbing activities even after protests from the victimized peasants and warnings from the revolutionary movement, the NPA razed to the ground the backhoe, multicab and other farm tools of the plantation owned by Mr. Johnson Ng.

The plantation which operates for the multinational palm oil company Kenram-Agumil, has stolen thousands of hectares from poor farmers living in the area, causing great suffering to the more than 150 displaced families. To gain support of the military in the displacement of the peasantry, Ng awarded hectares of lands to military officers such as former commanding officer of the 6th Infantry Division, General Augustin Demaala and Major General Jerry Jalandoni.

Last 13 June, Red fighters of the Julito Tiro Command of the NPA-North Central Mindanao garnered nine HPRs (3 M-16, 5 M-1 Garand and one carbine) when it raided a detachment of the CAFGU in Binicalan, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. Three CAFGUs were wounded while one surrendered to the people's army.

In response to the complaints of the people of Cateel, Davao Oriental against the 1105th Police Mobile Group-Philippine National Police's (PMG-PNP) extortion, harassments, hooliganism and conspiracy with the 67th IB-AFP in the political killing of Mandayan peasant activist Ludenio Monson, the Red fighters of the Antonio Nerio Antao Command-Front 15 Operations Command staged a series of punitive actions against the enemy troops last 18 June. These resulted in the death of three members of the 1105th PMG-PNP and the wounding of five other members.

In the Visayas:

The Efren Martires Command of the NPA in Eastern Visayas carried out a successful tactical offensive in Brgy. Cagbana, Burauen, Leyte last 12 March against the 19th Infantry Battalion. Five enemy combatants were killed in action and two more were wounded. The people's soldiers confiscated two high powered rifles. The tactical offensive, according to the Mt. Amandewin Command, is a slap on the face of the AFP which boasted that Leyte is "insurgency-free".

"From May-June in Northern Samar, on the side of Armed Forces of the Philippines, at least 12 were killed in action and seven wounded in action in an NPA ambush and other military actions," said Karlos Manuel, Spokesperson of the Efren Martires Command. "Meanwhile, one Red fighter was martyred."

Manuel also cited the following offensives in the region:

2 May: The NPA harassed operating enemy troops in Brgy. Rizal, Gamay.

3 May: An NPA unit had an encounter with 10 government troops between Brgy. Nagbubtac and Brgy. Lanubi in Laoang town. In a two-hour firefight, three soldiers were killed and two wounded, while the NPA had no casualties.

31 May: The NPA ambushed operating enemy troops between Brgy. Osias and Brgy. Bangon in Gamay. Seven soldiers were killed and three wounded, while one Red fighter was also killed in action. The NPA likewise confiscated one K3 weapon and one M203 rifle.

23 June 23: In Brgy. Poponton, Las Navas, the NPA seized the initiative by attacking first against an enemy unit of more than 30 elements that was part of a four-column enemy offensive. The alert NPA had discovered the enemy presence even though the soldiers moved only at night and did not pass through the villages to conceal their attack maneuvers. In three firefights, at least two soldiers were killed and two wounded, while the NPA had no casualty. The enemy troops withdrew in confusion as their plan was thrown in disarray."

The Red Limbaong Platoon of the NPA disarmed the bodyguards of Capt. Badong Divinagracia at a checkpoint in Brgy. Agcalga, Calinog, Iloilo last 14 April. Confiscated were two M-16 armalite rifles, two baby armalites, two calibre .45 pistols, two 9mm beretta pistols and one calibre .38 revolver.

In Brgy. Jose, Sibalay City, Negros, the members of the Roger Mahinay Command-

NPA disarmed the elements of the PNP and security guards of Maricalum Mining Corporation last 30 April. Using the element of surprise, the people's fighters raided the security detachment and garnered one M-16 armalite, one M-14 rifle, two 9mm pistols, 12 Moss Berg shotguns, two .38 calibre pistols, two .22 calibre pistols, a hand grenade and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and military equipment.

In Southern Tagalog:

The CPP lauded the NPA in Mindoro for its successful tactical offensive against the 23rd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) of the AFP in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro last 6 March. The Red fighters practically wiped out a platoon of the enemy troops with the death of 15 reactionary troops and the wounding of eight others. As a result of the tactical offensive, the NPA arsenal has increased its stockpile by seven M-16 rifles, two M-14 rifles, one Cal. 60 machine gun, an Ultimex sub-machinegun and two M-203 grenade launchers.

In spite of the intense enemy militarization in the island of Mindoro, the successful offensive of the NPA shows the continuing vitality of the people's war, the strengths possessed by the NPA and its valiant Red fighters, and the deep support they enjoy among the people of Mindoro.

Last 20 April, an NPA unit under the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command (NAAC-NPA) successfully ambushed a Commando Unit of the PNP Special Action Force in San Jose, Antipolo City, Rizal. Killed instantly were five members of the SAF-PNP while 4 others were wounded. Those who surrendered were treated as prisoners-of-war while those wounded were given medical treatment before being brought to the nearest hospital.

Confiscated from the enemy were one M-203 grenade launcher, one sniper rifle, seven M-16 rifles, two .45 calibre pistols, several rounds of ammunitions, and documents with high intelligence value.

Enemy troops pursuing Red fighters that staged the above-stated ambush were themselves attacked by members of the NAAC-NPA last 22 April in Sitio Tayabasan, San Jose, Antipolo City. The tactical offensive resulted in the death of 12 enemy troops and the wounding of 5 others. To avoid being seen by the people and media, the AFP-PNP airlifted the bodies on board 2 helicopters at night and declared a news blackout of the incident.

In Bicol:

The NPA ambushed the Special Operations
NPA offensives, page 9, col 1 ...

World condemns Israeli massacre on Freedom Flotilla

By Isah Antonio

Deep anger and strong condemnation were the response of the world's peoples to Israel's massacre of members of a humanitarian mission on board the Mavi Marmara, one of the six aid boats of Gaza Freedom Flotilla last 31 May 2010.

Using live ammunition on unarmed civilians, the attack of the Israeli security forces resulted in the slaughter of at least 9 members of the mission and the wounding of more than 50. The boats were seized and members of the mission were arrested, detained and underwent physical and psychological torture.

The Freedom Flotilla was carrying more than 750 passengers from 40 different countries and the much needed cargo of 10,000 tonnes of relief goods, water, medical supplies and construction materials. The mission was meant to aid the people of Gaza who have been under siege from the Israeli state and military.

The brutal invasion of Israel of Gaza in December 2008 caused so much destruction in lives and properties that the people of Gaza continue to suffer to date. The Israeli regime has kept Gaza sealed off from the rest of the world in its futile attempt to suppress the resistance of the Palestinian people against its continuing occupation of Palestine.

Condemnation on the barbaric attack was swift from the international community.

In a statement issued by the Executive Council of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), it stated:

"Israel Premier Netanyahu's claim that the attack was in self-defense is ridiculous and totally unacceptable.

"This outrageous attack is a blatant violation of international law and Israel must be condemned for committing a crime against humanity. This latest condemnable act by the Israeli state reminds the people of the world of its other hideous crimes against humanity committed against the Palestinian people, such as the Sabra and Shatila mas-

sacre of 1982, the Deir Yassin massacre of 1948, the invasion and massacre in Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009, and the blockade and siege of Gaza since 2007, among many others."

Furthermore, "the NDFP joins the worldwide protest and condemnation of Israel for this latest crime against humanity committed against people bringing humanitarian aid in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza.

"The NDFP firmly supports the struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable right to national self-determination, the right of the uprooted and displaced Palestinians to return to their homeland, and their other fundamental human and democratic rights."

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (New Patriotic Alliance-Bayan) and the local chapter of the International League of People's Struggle (ILPS) in the Philippines led the picket protest of the Israeli embassy in the financial district of Makati City and denounced the attack.

In the United States, protesters staged a picket line in the Port of Oakland and successfully blocked the unloading of an Israeli cargo ship for 24 hours. In a show of support, port workers refused to cross

Freedom Flotilla, page 10, col 1...

... NPA offensives, page 8, col 3

Team of the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in Brgy. Taplacon, Camalig, Albay last 14 January resulting in the death of one enemy trooper.

On 15 January, two enemy soldiers of the 49th IB were killed when an NPA unit ambushed their military truck in Brgy. Palogtok, Irosin, Sorsogon. On the same day, in Lalguan, Mobo, Masbate, four soldiers of the 9th IB were killed and 6 others were wounded when their vehicle was ambushed by a unit of the people's army.

Two members of the CAFGU in Bgy. Sto. Nino, Bula, Camarines Sur were killed in an operation of a unit of the Edmundo Jacob Command-NPA-Rinconada last 20 May. A .38 revolver and homemade pistol with M-16 rifle bullets were confiscated.

Three enemy troops of the Regional Mobile Group-PNP were killed and many others were wounded in an ambush staged by a unit of the NPA in Brgy. Lalaguna, Mobo, Masbate last 28 May.

The people's army dealt a big blow to the 9th ID after it successfully ambushed elements of the 42nd IBPA in Sitio Guinubat, Brgy. Becalen, Presentacion, Camarines Sur last 29 May. Killed in the operation was 42nd

IBPA officer 1Lt. Miguel Logronio and 3 enemy soldiers, while 3 others were wounded.

The Red fighters garnered three M16 rifles, one 5.56mm K3 squad automatic weapon, ammunition and other military materiel.

Members of the Jose Rapsing Command-NPA raided the house of Negro Tirol, a cattle rustler and a member of a warlord's army in Burias, Masbate, last 8 June and confiscated two M16 rifles, one .45 calibre and .38 calibre revolvers and several ammunitions.

In the Cordillera and Cagayan Valley

On 27 January, the NPA ambushed the elite platoon of the 54th IB led by 1Lt. Victor Leopoldo at the vicinity of Mt. Bato, Mainit, Bontoc resulting in the killing of 5 enemy troops and the wounding of four others.

On 31 January, three reactionary troops of the 50th IB PA were killed in an encounter with an NPA unit in Tubo town, bordering the provinces of Abra and the Mountain Province.

On the same day, NPA forces almost wiped out another platoon of the 41st IB in Brgy. Lat-ey in Malibcong town. Five govern-

ment troopers were killed and eight others were wounded.

Two enemy troopers and one member of the CAFGU were killed in a sniping operation staged by a team of the Reynaldo Piñon Command-NPA last 01 February in Brgy. Libertad, San Mariano Isabela. Among those killed was the detachment commanding officer, Sgt. Go.

These tactical offensives of the New People's Army were victorious because of the iron determination of the Red fighters to fight, the NPA's application of creative guerrilla tactics and their mastery of the terrain and arena of battle, and because of the deep support of the peasant masses for its army.

The people are willing to fight and sacrifice to bring an end to the rapacious, corrupt and unjust system that brings them nothing but continuing economic hardship and political bankruptcy. The cruelty of poverty, landlessness, displacement and the grave violations of human rights only heightens the class hatred of the people against the state, the military and the ruling classes.

Only by participating in revolution will they ensure the realization of their aspiration for a peaceful, genuinely free and just society. ■



... Freedom Flotilla, page 9, col 3

the picket line to unload the cargo from the Israeli ship.

This was the first time that an Israeli ship was blocked from unloading in a US port.

Meanwhile, reports received by *Liberation International* indicate that pickets, demonstrations and other protest actions were also held in Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Syria. Letters and statements of condemnation continue to bombard the embassies and consulates of the Zionist state.

The attack of Israeli commandos on the Freedom Flotilla some 70 kilometers off the Israeli coast, thus clearly in international waters, was premeditated. Israeli naval vessels surrounded the flotilla while masked commandos slid down ropes from helicopters onto the Mavi Marmara, the biggest of the flotilla, and started firing even before they touched down.

They continued firing even as the ship's passengers were waving white flags during

the invasion. The attack was a clear violation of international maritime law and an act of barbarism and piracy.

It also exhibits Israel's defiance of international law when it restricts the flow and outflow of food, water, fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza. Even the United Nations and international human rights organizations have criticized Israel's imposed blockade on Gaza for causing untold suffering to the 1.5 million residents, most especially women, children and the elderly.

The US-led imperialist states and their collaborators should be made accountable for their limitless support for the Zionist state control of the Gaza strip's airspace, territorial waters, offshore maritime access and inland borders. US President Barack Obama has pledged at least \$30 billion in military aid to Israel over the next 10 years. Their continuing support emboldens Israel to mount attacks such as the commando operation against the Freedom Flotilla.

Notwithstanding Israeli's aggression, the NDFP stated that the continuing struggle of the Palestinian people and the resistance of the people of the world against Israeli and US imperialist aggression are bound to grow stronger in the coming years. ■

... UN and EU, page 11, col 3

of its rivals committed by the regime's security forces.

In its 2010 Report, AI stated that the military subjected civilians to secret detention, torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. A culture of impunity continued as almost no perpetrators were brought to justice. The regime also failed to implement institutional reforms necessary to prevent a possible resurgence of political killings.

In fact, the killings have never stopped, the violations of people's rights continue. Thus the international campaign is needed now more than ever. It is noteworthy that international campaign committees have been set up in different global regions and have taken up the challenge of defending human rights in the Philippines.

As Ms. Angelica Gonzales of the International Coordinating Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines stated, "As long as the international community continues in supporting human rights work in the Philippines, then I can continue hoping that Filipino political refugees and migrant workers around the world can one day finally come home in peace." ■

Violations of human rights presented before UN and EU

International campaign for human rights in the Philippines gains support

By Pingkian and Isah Antonio

The international campaign to defend human rights in the Philippines has intensified its activities to bring to the international community the grave situation of human rights in the country and called for action to immediately stop the violations and bring justice to the victims. The campaign was launched amidst the public outcry both in the Philippines and abroad on the impunity with which the killings are being perpetrated under the so-called counterinsurgency scheme Internal Security Operational Plan Bantay-Laya (Operation Guard Freedom-OBL).

OBL is a brutal military campaign that escalated urban and rural militarization and terrorism of entire communities, displacing tens of thousands of civilians, and systematically targetting leaders and members of progressive and militant people's organizations, human rights advocates and activists, journalists, and members of religious organizations branded as "communist" for extra-judicial killing, enforced disappearance or illegal arrest and detention.

In June 2010, the Ecumenical Voice for Peace and Human Rights in the Philippines (EcuVoice) made oral interventions before the 14th Session of the

United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, and presented the impunity by which the US-Arroyo regime violated the rights of the Filipino people. The EcuVoice delegation to the UNHRC was composed of representatives from Karapatan (Alliance for People's Rights), International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL), National Union of Lawyers of the Philippines (NUPL) and the International Coordinating Committee on Human Rights in the Philippines (ICCHRP). The delegation also spoke at forums and side events and met with representatives and officers of international bodies.

Mr. Roneo Clamor, Deputy Secretary General of Karapatan, presented the case of the Morong 43, 43 community health workers and doctors summarily abducted by Arroyo security forces, heavily tortured and who now languish in jail based on trumped-up charges. Mr. Clamor described how his wife Dr. Merry Clamor, one of the Morong 43, was being threatened to admit to being a member of the New People's Army. Rev. Rex Reyes, Jr., meanwhile, informed the Body on the repressive effects of the OBL on the Filipino people.

Atty. Edre Olalia, Chairperson of International Association of People's Lawyers and Secretary General of NUPL spoke on the attacks on lawyers and judges who were perceived by the state and the military as defending those critical of and

opposing the Arroyo regime.

Chairperson of Karapatan Marie Hilao-Enriquez said that it is quite alarming and deplorable that on the run-up to the so-called peaceful transition between two administrations, the killings of activists and human rights defenders continue to be committed with brazen impunity. Within a period of 16 days, six people were summarily executed. The victims were human rights workers, peasants and trade union leaders.

Aware of the parliamentarians' interest on the recently concluded presidential elections in the Philippines, Ms. Angelica Gonzales of the ICCHRP spoke of human rights in the context of the elections during the session of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights in Brussels, Belgium last May. "Leaders and supporters of the opposition groups are often targets of vilification, harassment and threats, illegal arrests and detentions, enforced disappearances, and extra-judicial killings," Ms. Gonzales said.

Support from the international community

The International Campaign has gained the support of numerous international human rights organizations, advocates and the network of human rights defenders.

In his response to the testimonies of the Ecumenical Voice delegation, Mr. Eric Sottas, Secretary General of the World Organization Against Torture noted that the case of the Morong 43 is an example of the criminalization of social protest where the health workers are portrayed as criminals.

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara, Director of the Commission of the Churches for International Affairs-World Council of Churches, stated that the WCC has supported the human rights work in the Philippines and will continue to do so for as long as human rights violations go on.

Mr. Rolf Timans of the European Commission admitted that the human rights situation in the Philippines is a cause of concern, especially with the number of human rights violations and the prevailing culture of impunity.

Ms. Renate Bloem of the World Alliance for Citizen Participation (Civicus) in the UN reiterated Civicus support for the Morong 43 and will continue calling for their release from prison.

Meanwhile, the London-based human rights watchdog Amnesty International linked Gloria Arroyo to a culture of impunity with the widespread and systematic political killings and enforced disappearances

UN and EU, page 10, col 3 ...



Roneo Clamor of human rights group Karapatan (right), presents the case of the Morong 43 on the sidelines of the UN Human Rights Council Session in Geneva, 6 June. At left is Eric Sottas of the World Organisation Against Torture - OMCT. photo from ecuvoicephils.wordpress.com.

Comrade Joan Hinton, Proletarian Internationalist

**More than 60 years
service to the
Chinese and world
revolution**

By Ed Ladera

Joan Hinton, soon after she reached the Liberated Area in Yanan, China in 1949, said: “To be working with all those people who were thinking so far ahead. I realized that I was part of something very, very big, very, very new, and something that the whole people of the world should know about, but didn’t.

“And I also realized that although I’d had a lot of experiences, this was something I’d never had. I felt like I’d really come home. Suddenly I was in this family, part of the family of the human race... All the people around me weren’t thinking about themselves. They weren’t thinking about Yanan, or about Wa Ya Bao. They were thinking about the whole world... It was an international feeling; they were thinking about how to change not just China but the whole world into a place where everybody could live.

“When I got into that situation, it was extremely exhilarating and liberating. I just felt like ‘Oh boy, this is it!’ They didn’t treat me like a foreigner; they didn’t isolate me, they treated me like a comrade, because they considered foreigners part of the revolution. They took me as part of the world.” (Dao-yuan Chou, *Silage Choppers & Snake Spirits, The Lives & Struggles of Two Americans in Modern China*, IBON BOOKS, 2009, p. 129).

Joan Hinton died on 8 June 2010 at the age of 88, after more than 60 years of serving the Chinese people. She and her husband and soul mate, Erwin “Sid” Engst, gave of their skills and whole life to help build socialism in China under Mao Zedong, and since 1977 firmly opposed the revisionist policies of Deng Xiaoping.

Joan was a nuclear physicist selected in 1945 to work in the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico to build the first atomic bombs. When the US used atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, she angrily left the project. A few years after, she left to join Sid, an agri-

culturist, in the Liberated Areas in China.

She and Sid worked in various people’s enterprises, including an iron factory, various dairy farms and other agricultural projects. Till the day she died, Joan worked in the small Agricultural Machinery Experiment Station just outside Beijing. Sid died in Beijing in 2003.

She and Sid were proletarian internationalists as well. As the tribute of the Communist Party of the Philippines points out: “Comrade Joan, as well as her husband Sid and brother Bill were long-time friends of the Philippine revolution. Their writings chronicling their experiences in building socialism in China from the 1950s to 1976 and the rise of revisionism and restoration of capitalism from 1977 onwards have been well read by Filipino communists and revolutionaries.

“Her writings provided the Filipino communists and revolutionaries a clear picture of the Chinese people’s daily struggles and practical lessons in the merging of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism with the concrete experiences on the ground in the context of the Chinese revolution, especially in carrying out agrarian revolution and advancing the socialist transformation of agriculture. Their incisive analyses and criticisms of revisionism and the restoration of capitalism have further enriched our grasp of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism.”

The CPP tribute adds, “They helped develop solidarity between the Filipino and Chinese peoples. They took great interest in the development of the Philippine revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and supported several progressive causes in the Philippines.

“Joan visited the Philippines with her brother Bill in 1996 to participate in the People’s Campaign Against Imperialist Globalization and the People’s Caravan Against the APEC summit. She warmly welcomed Filipino comrades who visited her in China and fostered friendship with



Photo: Lavina Tien, NPR News

Philippine progressive and democratic forces. She particularly developed a special interest and close friendship with the Filipino women comrades.”

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines also rendered highest honors to Joan as a proletarian revolutionary heroine. The National Council of the NDFP and the Central Committee of the CPP awarded a citation to Joan and Sid in 2002: “For more than half a century, you have unselfishly used your unique knowledge and skills in the service of the Chinese people, and of all people struggling for national and social liberation from imperialism and reaction.

“We deeply appreciate your keen interest in the Philippine revolution and your militant support for the Filipino people and their struggle for national liberation, democracy and socialism. Your selfless devotion to the cause of the exploited and the oppressed is a great example to revolutionaries of today and will be an inspiration to future generations of revolutionaries.” ■

Note: An online videoclip carries a note about Joan Hinton’s death and a speech she made three and a half years before she died to commemorate the 116th anniversary of Mao’s birth:

[Http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTgwMzU4ODE2.html](http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTgwMzU4ODE2.html)