

LIBERATION

INTERNATIONAL

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TRIBUNAL: AQUINO,
OBAMA GUILTY 4



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TWO NEW BOOKS
LAUNCHED 11



A BELOVED PEOPLE'S
WARRIOR 18

ON A RAMPAGE

Philippine military unleashes terror on indigenous community; kills Manobo leaders, local school head



By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

The US-Aquino regime has intensified its terror attacks against the Manobo indigenous community in Mindanao island with the recent killings of Manobo indigenous leaders.

Throwing away any pretension at respecting human lives, international humanitarian laws and UN conventions, the Aquino regime last Sept. 1 murdered Emerito Samarca, executive director of the Alternative Learning Center for Agriculture and Development, Inc. (Alcadev) and a convener of the Save Our Schools Network. His body was found lying in a pool of blood, with stab wounds on his neck, and his throat slit.



Emerito Samara (*inset*), Alcadev's executive director, one of those who were brutally murdered

Philippine military unleashes terror on indigenous community

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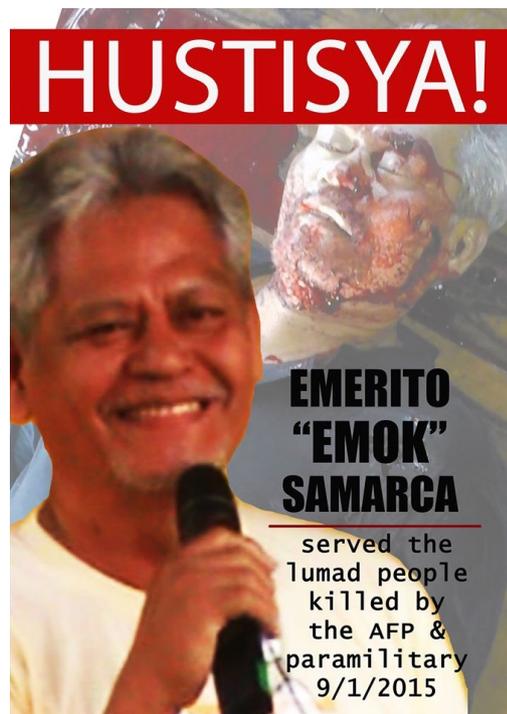
Dionel Campos, chairperson of Mapasu (Persevering Struggle for Future Manobo Generations), and a cousin, Aurelio “Bello” Sinzo, meanwhile, were shot dead in front of many witnesses in Han-ayan, Lianga town, Surigao del Sur province.

The paramilitary group Magahat — armed, controlled, and commanded by the 36th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army — was responsible for the killings. Days before the killing rampage, this same group burned down a school cooperative building and threatened to massacre the entire community if they would not leave the area.

Since the implementation of Aquino's counterinsurgency scheme dubbed “Oplan Bayanihan”, many schools and related facilities in Mindanao and other rural areas in the Philippines, have been turned into military camps and outposts, disrupting the operation of these schools, depriving schoolchildren the right to basic education, sowing fear and terror in the lives of many communities, specifically indigenous communities in Mindanao, and violating and disregarding international laws prohibiting the use of schools for military purposes.

In one of its recent reports, Karapatan, a people-based human rights alliance, stated: “Since 2011, a total of 82 incidents of state-instigated attacks involving 57 schools and daycare centers in Mindanao have been documented and reported by the Children's Rehabilitation Center. In Southern Mindanao alone, at least 13 cases have been documented and reported from January to May of this year.

“The Department of Education further supported the military's use of schools and violation of children's right to education when it issued Memorandum 221, series of 2013 or the Guidelines on the Protection of Children During Armed Conflict which adopted the AFP Directive 25 or Guidelines on the Conduct of AFP Activities Inside or Within the Premises of



School or Hospital. Under both directives, military elements are allowed to conduct “civil-military operations” as long as the AFP has a written request and school authorities have given their approval. Since the issuance of the department order, an increase in the number of military attacks on schools was noted.”

Concerned organizations and children's advocate groups have launched a campaign to end the continuing use of the military of these schools and to expose and oppose Aquino's education department's approval to militarize schools and deprive rural schoolchildren of the right to education.

The fascist brutes of the US-Aquino regime have deep hatred in the fact that these indigenous leaders and indigenous schools advance a liberating education for the indigenous peoples to assert their fundamental rights, overturn the neglect and discrimination on them by the Aquino regime and fight for their ancestral lands against imperialist plunder.

The fascist AFP has continued to train their guns in Mindanao, particularly among the peasant and *lumad* (indigenous) communities because these marginalized sectors have long

stood up to resist imperialist mining, logging and other exploitative and abusive big businesses in the region. It is also among these sectors where the revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (NPA) have taken deep roots and have continued to grow in strength.

According to the Save our Schools Network in Mindanao, these killings are but the latest in a string of attacks on indigenous communities and schoolchildren in Mindanao. The attacks include:

1. Since April of 2014 up to present, 25 Lumad schools and community schools were forced to halt operations for the entire month of June due to harassment by the AFP and sanctioned by the Department of Education (DepEd).
2. At least 84 cases of attacks on 57 community schools have displaced and disrupted the education of over 3, 000 Lumad children.
3. Three minors were brutally killed by the elements of 3rd Company of the 1st Special Forces Battalion under ground commander Capt. Balatbat with Col. Nasser Lidasan as Battalion Commander on Aug. 19, 2015 in Pangatukan town, Bukidnon province. They were part of five Manobo tribals strafed and killed on suspicion of being NPA combatants.
4. The schooling of Lumad children under the Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur (Trifpss) was disrupted when residents of Brgy. Siagao, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur were displaced. The victims were killed by an armed group led by Hasmin and elements of the 36th IBPA
5. A Lumad child was among 14 farmers in White Culaman, Kitaotao, Bukidnon who were illegally detained and arrested by elements of 8th IB and 23rd IB headed by Nicolas Rivera and an official named Tocmo. All were accused as members of the New People's Army in contrast to the fact that they are members of organizations Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Barangay White Culaman (Namabaw) and Tinananon Kulamanon Lumadnong Panaghiusa sa Arakan (Tikulpa). The Army threatened to

burn down the Misfi-run (Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Incorporated) school which offers 7th and 8th grade education in Sitio Dao, Bukidnon.

6. Adding to these abuses is the ongoing mass evacuation of the Talaingod Manobo people in Davao City since April of this year due to intensified military operations and threats from the terrorist paramilitary group Alamara. Around 1, 000 individuals from San Fernando Bukidnon, Kapalong and Talaingod, Davao del Norte have sought sanctuary at UCCP Haran, Davao City. Learners from Salugpungan Ta Tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center Inc. (Sttilci) in Talaingod have been holding their classes at the refugee camp since the evacuation started. Worse, three soldiers of the 1003rd Infantry Brigade raped a 14-year old Manobo grade 4 student of the Butay elementary school while conducting military operations in the area.
7. Last month, the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines-Northern Mindanao schools in Agusan del Sur and Bukidnon have earlier reported harassments and threats from suspected state forces in the form of anonymous text messages, private message via Facebook, and surveillances. On March 18, 2014, RMP-NMR school grounds in Binikalan, San Luis, Agusan del Sur was strafed by 26th IB troops disrupting the graduation practice of the school. In Sarangani province, administrators and faculty of the Center for Lumad Advocacy and Services (Clans) which provides education to indigenous Blaan children have been filed with false criminal charges of serious illegal detention of evacuees and inciting to sedition.

The indigenous people and the Filipino people demand justice for the murdered indigenous leaders and to hold the US-Aquino regime accountable for this latest crime and all other crimes against the Filipino people. The revolutionary movement is always ready to exact justice where it is due. ■

(Data from the Save our Schools Network Mindanao.)

GUILTY AS CHARGED

International tribunal finds Obama, Aquino governments guilty of gross human rights violations

By Ed Ladera

The International People's Tribunal (IPT) rendered its verdict on July 18, 2015 in Washington, DC, finding President Simeon Aquino III and the Government of the Philippines and the United States Government represented by President Barack Hussein Obama II



illegal and criminal acts, to repair the damages done to the Filipino people and their environment, compensate the victims and their families for their atrocities, and to rehabilitate the communities, especially indigenous communities that have been destroyed by the criminal acts of the Defendants.”

1. GUILTY of gross human rights violations involving the civil and political rights of the Filipino People, for committing extrajudicial killings, disappearances, massacres, torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions as well as other vicious, brutal and systematic abuses and attacks on the basic democratic rights of the people;

2. GUILTY of gross and systematic violations of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights of the Filipino people through the imposition of neoliberal “free market” globalization to exploit the people; transgression of their economic sovereignty and plunder of their national patrimony and economy; and attacks on the people's livelihood and the destruction of the environment; and

3. GUILTY of gross and systematic violations of the rights of the people to national self-determination and liberation through the imposition of the US war of terror and US military intervention; as well as the perpetration of crimes against humanity and war crimes; misrepresentations of the people's right to national liberation and self-determination as “terrorism” and the baseless “terrorist” listing of individuals, organizations and other entities by the US and other governments.

The International People's Tribunal further enjoined “the Defendants to undertake, and the People to pursue proper remedial measures to prevent the commission or continuance of such

The Filipino people at the suit of ECUVOICE, KARAPATAN, HUSTISYA, DESAPARECIDOS, SELDA, BAYAN, KMU, KMP, GABRIELA, MIGRANTE, and KADAMAY, people's organizations and alliances active in the struggle for human rights and development, filed the charges against the Defendants.

The Prosecution, with Atty. Ramsey Clark, former US Attorney General as Chief Prosecutor, stated “they have presented meticulously and thoroughly a compelling case of complicity, collusion, responsibility, and liability for gross, massive, and systematic human rights violations.” They presented one after the other, 34 cases with 32 witnesses, 17 here in Washington, D.C., 10 in Manila, 5 from more far-flung parts of the Philippines. The People have also submitted 29 more cases for the consideration of the jury. The jury concluded, “Indeed, the Prosecution has satisfied the burden of proving satisfactorily that the Defendants, in concert with each other, wilfully and feloniously committed gross and systematic violations of the Filipino people's basic human rights.”

The witnesses presented their testimony before a prestigious panel of jurors composed of Atty. Azadeh Shahshahani of the US National Lawyers' Guild, Atty. Camilo Perez-Bustillo, Rev. Malcolm Damon, Rev. Molefe Tsele, Prof. Pao-yu Ching, Rev. Michael Yoshii and Ms. Mary Boyd.



Among the testimonies were that of Raymond Manalo, former political prisoner, who testified to seeing students, Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan being tortured and sexually molested by General Jovito Palparan as well as the burning to death of peasant farmer Manuel Merino; Maria Aurora Santiago, testifying to the extrajudicial killing of her husband, Dutch missionary Willem Geertman; Maria H. Enriquez, Chairperson of Karapatan, presenting evidence of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, state terror and other human rights violations by the Aquino government; the testimony of Melissa Roxas, US citizen of Filipino origin, arrested, detained and tortured during her visit to the Philippines; the testimony through Skype by Liza Maza, Gabriela leader, prevented by US authorities from boarding the plane in Manila in flagrant violation of Philippine sovereignty. She was scheduled to appear at the IPT to present her testimony.

Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), National Lawyers' Guild of the USA, and IBON International provided strong support to the IPT. The IPT also enjoyed the solidarity of Endorsers consisting of 18 organizations and four individuals, among whom were the International League of Peoples' Struggles (ILPS), ANSWER – ACT NOW TO STOP WAR AND END RACISM, Asian Human Rights Commission, International Action Center, Peace for Life Network, Union of Progressive Iranians, Fuerza Mundial Global (FMG) and Mining Justice Alliance (MJA – Vancouver, BC).

Hundreds of participants enthusiastically followed the IPT sessions and celebrated the Verdict, issued at the very heart of US imperialism, in Washington, D.C. ■

Other powerful testimonies from workers, farmers and indigenous people are recorded and may be accessed at the website of the International People's Tribunal.

The Conveners: International Coalition for



SCORING VICTORIES

New People's Army launches successful tactical offensives nationwide

By Ed Ladera & Roselle Valerio

In **Northeastern Mindanao**, in Surigao del Sur, four days after gruesome murders on Sept. 1, 2015 of Emerito Samarca, Dionel Campos and Juvello Sinzo by the 36th Infantry Battalion (IB) and its paramilitary Magahat Bagani, the New People's Army attacked troops of the 36th IB, causing the death of three soldiers and four wounded.

On the same day, the NPA attacked troops of the Army's Scout Rangers in Buhisan, San Agustin. Three troopers were killed and four wounded.

In **North Central Mindanao**, the New People's Army (NPA) carried out 21 military actions in June and July, 2015. The NPA seized 16 assorted firearms. The troops of the Aquino regime suffered 20 fatalities and more than 12 wounded. The entire revolutionary movement in the area rendered its salute to two Red fighters who were martyred in these battles.

Among the military actions of the NPA in these two months are the following:

June 14 – a unit of the NPA under the South Central Bukidnon Sub-regional Command successfully raided troops of the 69th Infantry Battalion (IB) who occupied the community hall in a village in San Fernando Bukidnon. Two soldiers were killed and one was wounded. The NPA seized 13 firearms (a K3 light machine gun, an M203 grenade launcher, three M-16 and five M-14 rifles and three handguns, together with other military hardware. Note that International Law on Armed Conflict strictly forbids the military encampment in community halls, because this act causes grave danger to the civilian population. Such act is likewise prohibited by the Comprehensive Agreement



on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), an agreement forged between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the reactionary government of the Philippines (GRP, now calling itself, Government of the Philippines (GPH). The CARHRIHL was signed on March 16, 1998 by the negotiating panels of the NDFP and the GRP and approved by their respective principals on April 10, 1998 and Aug. 7, 1998, respectively.

June 9 – three troopers of the elite force, the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police (PNP) were killed after three incidents of harassment by an NPA squad in the village of Olave, Buenavista, province of Agusan del Norte.

June 27 – an NPA unit harassed troops of the Regional Public Safety Battalion – PNP in the village of Tungao, Butuan City. Two troopers were killed and some wounded. Due to their rage, the troopers killed a civilian, a charcoal maker near the incident.

July 19 – a team of Red fighters harassed the paramilitary detachment of the 58th IB in the

village of Hindangon, Gingoog City. Three members of the paramilitary unit were killed. NPA Actions in Mindanao, Aug. 6 – 11, 2015

The NPA in three sub-regions of Mindanao carried out tactical offensives against troops of the 4th Infantry Division. Eleven soldiers were killed and many were wounded in the hilly parts of the provinces of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental and Agusan del Norte.

The NPA in South Central Bukidnon launched on Aug. 6 three harassment operations against the troops of the 8th IB and the Division Reconnaissance Company which were operating in the village of Indasa, Malaybalay City. Three soldiers were killed and five wounded.

On Aug. 8, two operations were launched by the NPA in the same village of Indasa. Five soldiers were killed, and many wounded. In reaction, the military bombarded the place almost the entire afternoon. Their helicopters landed several times to retrieve their casualties.

On Aug. 11, the NPA harassed soldiers in subvillage Magawa, Village of Bolunay near the town of Impasug-ong. There was no report of casualties.

In the province of Misamis Oriental, the NPA attacked the troops of the 1st Special Forces Company and the paramilitary Cafgu (Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units) in the village of Farmbugas, Claveria on Aug. 8. One Cafgu was killed and 1 soldier wounded.

In **Southern Luzon**, on the island of Masbate, on Aug. 3, the NPA Jose Rapsing Command or JRC attacked joint troops of the Bravo Company of the 9th IB and the Civilian Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police. Killed was Sgt. Fernando Leynes Jr. and wounded were corporals Razalo, Abumita and Umdop of Bravo Company. One trooper of the CIDG was wounded. This NPA ambush was preceded by three days of terror inflicted by the soldiers on the civilian population from villages in the towns of Cataingan, Palanas, Cawayan and Placer.

In the province of Albay also in Southern Luzon, on Aug. 7, four soldiers of the 2nd IB were wounded in NPA operations. The NPA Santos Minamera Command carried out the

harassment operations in the villages of Rawis and Pioduran. The NPA action followed two weeks of terrorizing of civilians by the soldiers in seven villages in the area.

In the province of Quezon, in Southern Tagalog, Luzon, the NPA Apolonia Mendoza Command launched a military action against troops of the 85th IB who camped in the village community hall of Malabahay, Macalelon town. The NPA action took place in the night of July 26. No casualties were reported.

In **Northern Luzon**, the NPA in the Cordillera Region attacked two truckloads of soldiers of the 50th IB and 51st Division Reconnaissance Company. The ambush was launched around 11 p.m. on July 27 in Pinukpuk, Kalinga. The enemy suffered 15 casualties: 12 injured and three dead, including two sergeants. The NPA suffered no casualties.

In the **Visayas**, in Central Philippines, the NPA Jose Percival Estocada Jr. Command (JPEC) in Central Panay launched nine military actions from June to August. Six enemy elements were killed and three wounded while the NPA suffered no casualty. Among these NPA actions were the following:

Aug. 15 - an NPA team harassed the forces of the 61st IB encamped in the mini-market of Katipunan Village, Tapaz, Capiz. Three enemy troops confirmed dead.

Aug. 16 - another NPA team attacked the 6th Philippine National Police detachment in Agcalaga Village, Calinog, Iloilo. One enemy was wounded.

Aug. 17 - NPA fighters ambushed the troops of the 61st IB in Aglinab Village, Tapaz, Capiz. Three enemy soldiers were killed and one was wounded.

The NPA in Central Panay launched these military actions to show support to the strong opposition of the Tumanduk indigenous people to the two mega dams to be constructed along the Jalur and Pan-ay rivers. These mega dams will displace thousands of the Tumanduk people and cause grave damage to the environment. Moreover, the NPA units are exposing the lies of the 3rd Infantry Division and 301st Brigade who claim that the revolutionary forces in Central Panay are weakening. ■

MEDICAL TRAINING

People's army in Samar holds medical training



In the hilly part of Samar, in the early part of 2015, the New People's Army (NPA) Northern Samar Command (Rodante Urtal Command), together with several dozen peasants and their families, launched a medical training for 30 Red fighters and members of mass organizations.

Led by the medical staff of the NPA Eastern Visayas, they carried out the joint Level 1 and 2 medical training in three weeks. The objective of the training was to push forward the implementation of the medical task inside the NPA platoons and the areas where they operate.

According to Ka Tina, main instructor of the training, this is part of strengthening

the machinery of the NPA in Eastern Visayas so that it can further raise the capacity to launch tactical offensives. She said the medics further strengthen the commitment of the Red fighters in launching armed actions.

Ka Tina, with three other instructors, presented the basic principles for better care of the health of the Red fighters. Together with this, the

instructors taught the scientific and simple ways to avoid common illnesses in the communities. This is part of the health campaigns being launched together with other mass campaigns in the barrios. The instructors hope that the youth will lead the training participants set up

The NPA's medical service is in stark contrast to the criminal neglect of the reactionary state in giving public service in the face of widespread privatization of medical services and facilities.

medical groups in the barrios. Thus, ensuring that the people of the barrio get the most basic medical service.

The NPA's medical service is in stark contrast to the criminal neglect of the reactionary state in giving public service in the face of widespread privatization of medical services and facilities.



Ka Tina praised the students who finished the training. In spite of the difficulty of memorizing the symptoms of the illness, appropriate medicines and other medical concepts, they studied persistently and meticulously theory and practice.

Most of the students came from the peasant class and reached only elementary level in formal schools. They had difficulty keeping track of the methods of measuring medicines, such as “mili-milligram of penicillin” and reading medical literature such as the instructions for the medicines because these are in the English language.

To facilitate and make the training easier, the instructors simplified the theories and stressed more on the practice. In every chapter, they did the practicum so that the concepts could be better understood. They deepened the truth and the emptiness of superstitions and hearsay which are widespread in the barrios.

They meticulously studied the particular illnesses in the region, such as “sisto” (schistosomiasis) and “tugsik” (sickness that is similar to leptospirosis).

The local Party branches in the nearby barrios were happy with the graduation of the new members. According to Ka Auring, member of the local Party branch, hundreds of peasants are awaiting the care of the new medics of the NPA and the medical group. For a long time, the poor peasants bear the burden of the very high charges of the doctors, expensive medicines and

the very far hospitals and facilities. When their children get sick, she said, they are forced to borrow money from the usurers who charge high weekly interest because they cannot rely on the local reactionary government and its agencies.

According to a youth participant in the locality, they are ready

to answer the challenge of service to their barriomates. One of the first things they will pay attention to is the gathering of adequate medical instruments and tools so that they can start medical service right away.

The representatives of the Front consider as a big victory the training that was launched amidst the limitations and other tasks. The knowledge imparted will serve the people's army, they said, and help in the consolidation of the mass organizations and in the building of revolutionary committees in the barrio, and eventually in the municipality.

Part of the completion of the medical training was the launching of a two-day people's clinic which was attended by many peasants even though it was held in a faraway place. After meticulous medical consultations, a simple common meal was provided. This was followed by dancing, as part of the celebration.

According to Ka Tina, the said training is only one of a series that the medical staff of the region is launching. In October 2014, the Level 3 training was launched in the nearby province which was attended by representatives of the medical groups of the different NPA commands.

Aside from the trainings, Ka Tina and her comrades also campaigned for widespread vaccination, restoring the broad practice of acupuncture, fostering the wide use of herbal and local medicine and remedies, and avoiding “sisto” and curing it. (*Reprinted from Ang Bayan, the official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines.*) ■

K-12 YET ANOTHER SCHEME TO ENLARGE ARMY OF CHEAP LABOR

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Protest activities greeted the opening of schoolyear this June as teachers, students, parents and organizations from other sectors waged united actions against the implementation of the US-Aquino regime's K-12 program. The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (Act) and the youth organizations Anakbayan and League of Filipino Students vowed to continue their fight and declared June 30 as a National Day of Protest against K-12.

Rallies and demonstrations demanding the junking of K-12 were held by students and teachers of Manila High School, Manila Science High School, Araullo High School, Ramon Magsaysay High School, Caloocan High School and Batasan High School. While students from various universities and colleges in Metro Manila and major regional centers all over the country walked out of their classes in protest of K-12 program, tuition fee increases and other school fees.

The Aquino regime's "K-12" scheme (kindergarten to grade 12) is part of the overall design of imperialist globalization to further commercialize the already profit-oriented educational system and further gear schools to prepare the Filipino youth to become the menial servants of global capitalism, while castrating patriotic, progressive and scientific consciousness in the next generation of Filipino youth.

Vencer Crisostomo, National Chairperson of Anakbayan, stated that the K-12 program aims to create more cheap labor and ensure that more semi-skilled youths enter the labor force as soon as they graduate senior high school



making the unemployment problem worse. The net effect will be lower wages for workers.

Citing the think-tank outfit Ibon Foundation's data, Crisostomo added that as of January 2015, the Filipino youth comprises 78% of unemployed Filipinos under the Aquino administration and 3 out of 10 (33.4%) had a college education; with at least 20.4% actually having graduated, and 7 of 10 unemployed were high-school or college-educated. This data shows that the Aquino regime failed to generate jobs for Filipino youth thereby pushing them to poverty.

Already burdened with the worsening economic crisis, the youth and their parents have to confront the nightmare of a costly education that is becoming accessible to fewer and fewer families, and at the same time facing the prospect of not finding any work upon graduation. Costs of education continue to rise despite the fact that the Philippine educational system has deteriorated significantly since imperialist agencies, from the time of the Marcos dictatorship, began to re-program said system to suit imperialist ends – supply cheap but skilled labor for the global capitalist markets.

Because the Aquino cacique regime and its imperialist bosses don't intend to industrialize the Philippines and they want to maintain it as backward, agricultural and underdeveloped, the educational system as an ideological apparatus has to ensure that the country remains semicolonial and semifeudal, an adjunct of the global imperialist system and a tool for preventing genuine social change. Thus, despite a much-hyped new education scheme, the

► K12 SCHEME page14

BOOK LAUNCH

Two new books on Filipino people's struggle launched in the Philippines and the Netherlands



Luis Jalandoni with author Ina Alleco Silverio, at the book launching in Manila.

By Ed Ladera

Two new books on the struggle of the Filipino people were launched this year in the Philippines and in

Utrecht, The Netherlands. The two books, Prof. Jose Maria Sison's **Continuing Struggle for National and Social Liberation** and Ina Alleco Silverio's illustrated biography of Luis Jalandoni, **Louie Jalandoni Revolutionary**, were very positively received by the people.

The book launch of the **Continuing the Struggle for National and Social Liberation** (1986-1991) was held in the packed College of Science Auditorium, University of the Philippines on 27 August 2015. Hundreds attended the book launch which was combined with a tribute for the beloved New People's Army (NPA) Commander Leoncio "Ka Parago" Pitao.

Prof. Sison's book was reviewed by Liza Maza of the women's organization Gabriela and Nathaniel Santiago of the Makabayan Bloc of Party List Representatives. Senator Loren Legarda graced the launch as a special guest.

In his video message during the event, Prof. Sison stressed that the struggle for national and social liberation must continue because even after the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship by a people's uprising cum military rebellion in

1986, the semicolonial and semifeudal system ruled by the big compradors, landlords and corrupt

bureaucrats who are subservient to US imperialism still persists in oppressing and exploiting the Filipino people.

Prof. Sison's message, which ended with a powerful tribute to Ka Parago, provided the transition to the testimonial for Ka Parago who served the people as an outstanding proletarian leader and Commander of the NPA for 37 years. Successive speeches in honor of Ka Parago were given by Vicente Ladlad, NDFP peace consultant, Rep. Karlos Zarate of Davao, and Atty. Edre Olalia, NDFP Legal Consultant for Peace Negotiations.

The book launch and testimonial ended with a militant singing of the Internationale.

A similar launch of Prof. Sison's book was held at the NDFP International Office in Utrecht on 26 July 2015. The standing room book launch was accompanied by a vibrant concert by well-known artist, Danny Fabella. Luis Jalandoni, Chairperson of the NDFP Negotiating Panel and Ilena Saturay of Samahan ng mga Kabataan sa Netherlands (Samaka-NL), a youth organization of Filipinos in The Netherlands presented their reviews of the book.

As Saturday stated in her review, “Faces and style change but the same rotten base that the system was built on is still in place. However, that necessary social revolution we are all hoping for is ongoing. More and more people are resisting. The struggle is not yet finished. And herein lies the importance of this book.”

The Utrecht book launch was also followed by a tribute for Ka Parago. Prof. Sison and Jalandoni delivered short speeches honoring the people’s hero Ka Parago. Youth activists from Utrecht and Amsterdam, and a cultural group from Belgium performed during the cultural presentation at the tribute before an appreciative audience.

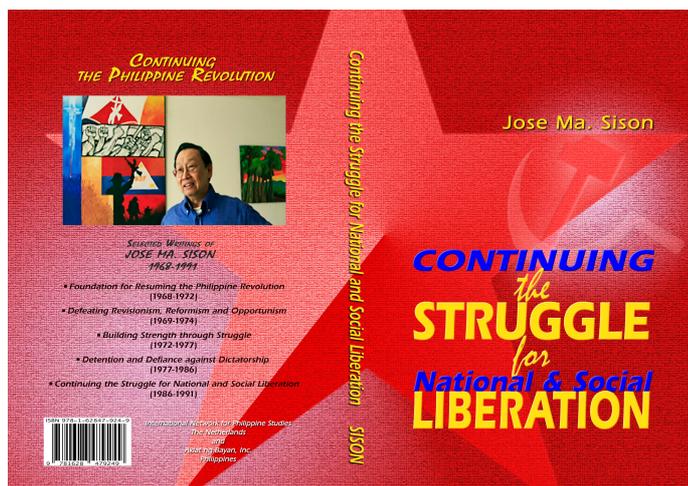
Book Launch of Louie Jalandoni Revolutionary

The illustrated biography on Luis Jalandoni's life, **Louie Jalandoni Revolutionary**, was launched at the Bahay Alumni of the University of the Philippines (UP) on 25 April 2015. Honored during the launch were the author, Ina Alleco Silverio, managing editor Walkie Mirana and the artists who made the illustrations, namely Fernando Argosino, Neil Deloricon, Roberto Elias, Mervin Malonzo, Enrico Maniago, Renan Ortiz, Jaco Payawal and Max Santiago

National Artist Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, Dean of the UP College of Mass Communications Rolando Tolentino and Member of the Faculty of UP College of Fine Arts Lisa Ito presented reviews of the book.

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Chairperson of the International League of Peoples’ Struggle and Jonas Staal of the New World Summit wrote forewords to the book.

The audience of some 200 persons included Jalandoni's sister, Inday de la Paz, prominent leaders of people’s organizations such as Ka



Mameng Deunida and Satur Ocampo, Members of the House of Representatives Luz Ilagan, Emmi de Jesus, Karlos Zarate, and Fernando Hicap. Present too was Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Peace

Panel Member Abdulla Camlian. Soprano Rica Nepomuceno rendered a song while Sarah Elago, recited a poem.

The book, **Louie Jalandoni Revolutionary**, was also launched at the prestigious Centraal Museum in Utrecht on 14 June 2015. Around 100 people attended the launch sponsored by the World Academy and Jonas Staal, who together with Prof. Sison, wrote forewords to the book. The launch started with a powerpoint presentation of Staal showing a brief history and current political situation in the Philippines then a background to the book.

Displayed on the stage was the original painting of the book’s cover by artist Rafael Maniago. A Skype conference was held with the author of the book, Ina Alleco Silverio and the managing artist Renan Ortiz. The audience were amazed by their youth and appreciated their responses.

An interview was conducted with Jalandoni followed by an open forum. Presentations were made by representatives of various action groups in The Netherlands involved with arts and culture, students and migrant workers.

Book launchings of the **Continuing Struggle for National and Social Liberation** and **Louie Jalandoni Revolutionary** will also be held in Baguio, Philippines on Sept. 21, 2015. ■

The Continuing the Struggle for National and Social Liberation and Louie Jalandoni Revolutionary are available at the NDFP International Information Office at Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513 AG Utrecht.

ON CHINA AND THE U.S.

Interview with Prof. Jose Maria Sison



By Jan Victor Ayson, *Manila Today*

I have some complex questions on the issue of Chinese expansion and the US pivot to East Asia.

1. People are wondering about the stand of the mass movement and the revolutionary movement, as well, as yours on the issue of Chinese aggression in the Kalayaan group of islands and Bajo de Masinloc in the West Philippine Sea. Kindly state your personal analysis on this issue and your personal stand.

JMS: I resolutely and vigorously oppose the aggressive acts of China, especially the occupation of the Bajo de Masinloc and the ongoing reclamations being made in the Kalayaan group of islands. I have published my position in several articles and interviews.

I agree with the revolutionary underground forces and the open legal forces of the national democratic movement that have expressed their position against China's acts of aggression which seek to grab 100 percent of the East China Sea (ECS) and 80 percent of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippines.

There is a new broad alliance called PINAS which opposes the US and China for violating Philippine national sovereignty and territorial

integrity. PINAS will be launched on June 8 and will spearhead the mass actions against the US and China for committing such violations.

2. The Aquino regime and its military and political underlings have repeatedly begged for US military assistance in the Filipino nation's territorial claims. Is it possible that US intervention would sustain this nation's territorial claims?

JMS: The US has expressed a neutral position on the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China and speaks only for freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. But it has expressed support for Japan's invalid claim on Daoyu islands on the basis of previous imperialist aggressions of Japan.

It has its spy satellites always in operation. It has known about China's reclamations in the West Philippine Sea since the beginning. But it has not made any timely opposition.

It is mainly and essentially interested in making its own violations of Philippine national sovereignty and territorial integrity in collaboration with its Filipino puppets. It allows China's acts of aggression and yet cites them to further entrench itself in the Philippines and reestablish US military bases under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

3. China's emerging economic power is the presumed target of the US "pivot" (another English word for rebalance) from the Middle East to East Asia. Kindly state your observations on the rebalance of American military forces on East Asia as a political scientist and an international situation observer.

JMS: The US pivot to East Asia or rebalance towards deploying 60 percent of its naval assets and 50 percent of its ground and air assets is meant to influence China's economic, social, political, military and cultural policies and

affairs in the direction of favoring a pro-US big bourgeoisie within China and restraining the trend of Sino-Russian collaboration. At the same time, the US is unwittingly pushing China to strengthen its relations with Russia. The US is using Japan as a pawn to pressure China.

4. What can the Filipino people do in spite of the Filipino nation's economic undevelopment/maldevelopment, absence of military modernization for the defense of Philippine waters (lack of planes, ships and missiles), the shameless treason of the Philippine government's highest officials, and the Chinese expansion, the US pivot to East Asia, and current international events?

JMS: The Filipino people can become more resolute and militant in carrying out the people's revolution and realize full national sovereignty, the nationalization of the economy, the development of the economy through national industrialization and land reform, boycott against the hostile powers and disable or dismantle their enterprises on Philippine territory.

There are many people already proposing that mass organizations and the people's army can

take offensive actions against the enterprises of hostile powers. They say that they can disable or even dismantle such enterprises, like mines, plantations, logging, power plants, warehouses, real estate businesses, towers, commercial and financial enterprises, and so on.

Many people say that they only need to have a patriotic will, a lighter or match box and cans of petrol to disable or even destroy any unwanted enterprise. They are outraged by China's reclamations and by the basic condonation of these by the US. They oppose the US and China trying to divide and dominate the Philippines for their respective imperialist benefit.

Because of the ever worsening crisis of the world capitalist system, the contradictions among the imperialist powers will continue to intensify and will result in opportunities for revolutionary advances. The global crisis, depression and the imperialist wars of aggression inflict terrible suffering on the people. Thus, the people are bound to rise up and take their destiny into their own hands. The movements for national liberation, democracy and socialism will resurge to a new and higher level. ■

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problems of unemployment, lack of job security, poverty, and forced migration will remain staples the years to come.

Ironically, while the regime's education department drumbeats this new scheme as one of its supposed centerpiece achievements to pay lip service to education as a universal right, it is consciously mum on the cruel deprivation of the right to education of schoolchildren, particularly in Mindanao. [See "On a Rampage" on page 1]

Since the implementation of Aquino's counter-insurgency scheme dubbed "Oplan Bayanihan", many schools and related facilities in Mindanao and other rural areas in the Philippines, have been turned into military camps and outposts, disrupting the operation of these schools, depriving

schoolchildren the right to basic education, sowing fear and terror in the lives of many communities, specifically indigenous communities in Mindanao, and violate and disregard international laws prohibiting the use of schools for military purposes.

The US-Aquino regime's rotten educational system has to serve imperialist and fascist ends, enslave and indoctrinate people to servility, and prevent the oppressed and exploited from availing themselves of a truly liberating education despite the rotten system – these in sum give the *raison d'être* for the revolutionary movement to wage battles in the education front and, eventually win the bigger struggle for national and social liberation. ■

NDFP CONGRATULATES THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION DAY

His Excellency Kim Jong Un
Supreme Leader
Democratic People's Republic of
Korea
Pyongyang, DPRK
Thru: Korean Committee for
Solidarity with the World People
dmw@star-co.net.kp
Your Excellency,



We in the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and its 18 allied revolutionary organizations, including the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, convey to Your Excellency as Supreme Leader, the Korean Workers Party, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean People's Army and the broad masses of the Korean people our warmest greetings of comradeship and solidarity on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Liberation Day of your Fatherland on August 15, 2015.

We warmly congratulate you for your great victory over Japan signalling the liberation of the Korean people in 1945. This prepared the victorious resistance under the great leadership of Comrade Kim Il Sung against the US imperialist war of aggression in the 1950s. This victorious resistance in turn paved the way for the victories of the Korean people in socialist revolution and construction in succeeding decades.

We congratulate you for so many revolutionary victories over 70 years of revolutionary struggle. All these victories were attained under the great leadership of Kim Il Sung and his successor Kim Jong Il, and these are being carried forward under your supreme leadership.

The National Democratic Front represents a revolutionary movement, firmly fighting and

waging armed revolutionary struggle against US imperialism and the local reactionaries. For more than 46 years we have waged a people's war for national and social liberation. Our revolutionary forces in 71 provinces throughout the country, the entire revolutionary Filipino

people, firmly support all the heroic efforts of the Korean people to uphold, defend and advance their national independence and their socialist achievements. In particular, we firmly support the Korean people's profound aspiration to attain the realization of an independent and peaceful reunification of the Korean Fatherland. We wish you a glorious and successful celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Liberation Day of your beloved Fatherland. Long live the Korean Workers Party, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean People's Army and the broad masses of the Korean people! Victory to the Korean people's heroic striving for an independent and peaceful reunification of the Korean Fatherland! Down with US imperialism and its Japanese and other imperialist cohorts! Long live proletarian internationalism and anti-imperialist solidarity!

In comradeship and solidarity,

LUIS G. JALANDONI
Member, National Executive Committee
National Democratic Front of the
Philippines
Aug. 15, 2015

GREEK TRAGEDY

Tsipras betrays will of the Greek people, succumbs to diktat of the troika



By Bagani Dong-ilay

On July 5, 2015, the Greek people voted with a resounding “NO!” to the latest memorandum put forward by the Troika (International Monetary Fund, European Commission and European Central Bank) that would impose new austerity measures in return for new loans and for Greece to remain in the Eurozone. Two days later 7 July, arrogantly dismissing the referendum results, the Troika gave Greece Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras an ultimatum, present “credible proposals” to Greece’s creditors or face expulsion from the Eurozone. Tsipras set aside the will of the people and capitulated to the demands of the Troika.

Syriza won wide popular support and was voted to power in January 2015 based on its solemn pledge to make a clean break with the austerity programs being imposed by the Troika.

More than four years of austerity has brought Greece on its knees and resulted in the impoverishment of the people not seen since the Great Depression. Austerity has resulted in a continuous drop in the country’s GDP. Unemployment has risen from 11.9% in 2010 to 30% today with youth unemployment at 60%. More than 65,000 small and medium sized enterprises have folded up. There has been a 25% increase in families losing their homes. Greeks have seen their incomes reduced by 30%. There is 40% child malnutrition.

Hospitals are barely able to function due to deep cuts in public spending.

Greece’s debt stands at €357 billion and government debt more than 175 per cent of GDP. According to the EU bureaucrats, it is due to the Greek government’s profligate social spending. It took out loans to spend on health, decent pensions, libraries, schools and a decent minimum wage considered by these unelected EU bureaucrats as luxuries that Greece cannot afford to have. Social spending by the Greek government as percentage of GDP has been lower than that of Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and France among European countries.

Truth is, Greece was an early victim of the derivatives scams concocted and peddled by Wall Street banks that led to the global crash in 2008. In 2001, Greece’s financial situation was problematic at a time when Eurozone members were expected to show improved balance sheets. Goldman Sachs offered to help Greece hide the true extent of its debt. Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein devised a complicated scheme that resulted in a portion of Greece’s debt disappearing from its national accounts. But in the process, Greece incurred a debt of 2.8 billion euros while Goldman Sachs profited 600 million euros from the scam.

But the foremost reason for the present problems of Greece is the great financial meltdown in 2008 that was precipitated by the corrupt lending policies of the banks promoting toxic financial products to gullible investors that included governments. Governments in Europe from the national level to city councils that bought these products saw their investments evaporate.

Greece received two bailouts—€110 billion in 2010 and €130 billion in 2012 which carried cruel conditionalities. The billions of euros in loans given to Greece were never designed to help the country or its people. The loans were intended mainly to pay the banks and for

servicing the country's debt. And the Greek government was told to impose austerity measures on the people.

Meanwhile, from 2008 to 2011 the European Commission approved €4.5 trillion in public money to bail out the troubled banks with no strings attached. European taxpayers were made to pay the bill to bail out the banks that created the crisis in the first place. On top of that the European working people had to tighten their belts: suffer lower incomes, non-functioning hospitals, higher school fees, loss of jobs, etc.

The new memorandum

The new memorandum approved by the Tsipras government at the end of July contained even worse terms than the memorandum that was rejected by the Greek people by 61% in the July 5 referendum called by Tsipras. The latest "bailout" instead of reducing Greece's debt will actually raise it from 357 billion to over 430 billion euros and growing rapidly with compounded interests, and the debt ratio to GDP of more than 180% from the present 175%.

It entails the privatization of about 50 billion euros worth of Greek public property. Up for grabs by foreign companies are energy firms, water companies and infrastructure such as airports, harbors, motorways and rail and bus services.

The memorandum calls for neoliberal reforms in the labor sector and the pension system that are bound to lead to more lay-offs and further reduction in pensions punishing even further the pensioners who must eke out a living on less than 685 euros a month.

The plan to raise VAT on tourism, from the present 6.5% to 13.6% will strike a lethal blow to Greece's one of the last remaining important sources of income.

It appears now that Tsipras did not have the mettle to stand up to the evil Troika. Once he realized that the EU bureaucrats would not budge on austerity, he resigned himself to negotiating "better terms" for a deal that he himself knew would bring nothing but more catastrophe to the Greek people.

The EU bureaucrats did not even reward him for his obeisance. To spite him even more, the blood-thirsty bureaucrats put in even harsher terms to the final document. This is to send a clear warning to Left-wing parties/movements in Spain and elsewhere who would even think of defying the will of the financial oligarchy that is in command of the centres of power in this era of imperialism.

Split in Syriza

Tsipras' betrayal of the people's trust has led to a split in Syriza. Recently, 25 members of parliament elected under Syriza in the January elections declared the formation of a parliamentary group called Popular Unity to oppose the implementation of the new memorandum imposed by the Troika and endorsed by Tsipras.

They vowed to give expression to the 61% of the people who voted "NO" to austerity and the new memorandum. They pledged to create a broad democratic and progressive front against austerity and if necessary to return to the national currency "if this is the only way to avoid the blackmail of the European elites."

In their declaration, Popular Unity called on "all democratic, leftist and progressive Europeans to join us or to engage in dialogue with us in order to dismantle an institutional structure which provides only poverty and anti-democratic reforms to the people of Europe."

If Popular Unity truly intends to fight not only the austerity measures imposed by the Troika but to "dismantle an institutional structure which provides only poverty and anti-democratic reforms to the people of Europe", it must make a clean break with the capitalist system and adopt a clear socialist program. But in order to succeed, it must go deep among the working people and organize them in the factories, in the communities, in the schools and work places for the difficult struggle ahead.

What is needed is a proletarian party with solid ideological foundation, armed with iron discipline, with close links to the masses of the working people, and determined and capable of leading the masses in the struggle for state power. For Greece to have real societal change, it would need no less than a revolution. ■



KA PARAGO, A BELOVED PEOPLE'S WARRIOR

By Isah Antonio

Unmindful of the heat of the burning sun the masses queued to take their turn to bid farewell to their beloved warrior lying in state. Their faces depicted the pain of loss but there is anger and determination to continue the struggle for national and social liberation. The struggle that Leoncio "Ka Parago" Pitao, the people's warrior, gave his life for.

An exemplary strategist and tactician

Ka Parago was an exemplary comrade and revolutionary commander who made significant contributions to the Filipino people's democratic revolution against the exploitation and oppression of the toiling masses by the monopoly capitalists, the comprador big bourgeoisie, landlords and the corrupt bureaucrats that rule the Philippines. He was creative, daring and courageous.

He first worked among the peasants, farm workers and the Lumads in the defense of their lands and communities against the landgrabbing, militarization and environmental destruction of big logging companies and the reactionary troops in Mindanao.

His mastery of the strategy and tactics of guerrilla warfare resulted in victorious tactical offensives that increased the stockpile of firepower of the New People's Army (NPA) and dealt heavy blows to the enemy forces. He led the outstanding tactical offensives of Red fighters of the Pulang Bagani companies in Mindanao such as the successful raid of the Davao Penal Colony in April 2007 that netted 100 firearms for the NPA, and the capture of Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo and Capt. Alex Montealto. Obillo and Montealto, were later released as goodwill measure for the ongoing peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Philippines.

According to Ka Teo, a veteran Red fighter who fought and worked with Ka Parago, many of the military tactics employed today by the people's army were devised by Ka Parago.

Despite his military brilliance and successes, Ka Parago remained humble and open to criticism to improve his style and methods of work and his understanding of situations. He carried out the Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM) campaign with enthusiasm and helped

Party members, Red fighters and masses understand the importance of rectifying the grave errors due to deviation from the correct ideological and political line.

When Ka Parago was captured by the enemy in 1999, put in solitary confinement and offered bribes in return for his betrayal of the national democratic movement, he stood firm in his loyalty and commitment to the revolution and the Filipino people.

In 2009, his daughter Rebelyn, a school teacher, was abducted, tortured, raped and killed by agents of the military. Despite his great loss and deep pain, Ka Parago upheld the rules of the conduct of war of the NPA by assuring the families of military officers and men that the NPA will never resort to such acts of barbarity as done by the forces of the enemy.

Ka Parago was brutally killed, together with his medical officer Vanessa Limpag, last 28 June 2015 in Purok 9, Barangay Panalum, Paquibato District of Davao City, Mindanao. He was undergoing medical treatment at the time of his death. Ka Parago and Limpag were mowed down with automatic fire by the fascist soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Their murders are clear violations of the Rules of Engagement in accordance with Geneva Conventions and the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Until his brutal murder Ka Parago was contributing his utmost best to the advancement of the revolution. In his 37 years of serving the revolution and the masses Ka Parago integrated armed struggle with the implementation of genuine agrarian reform, and the building of mass organizations and the organs of political power.

Beloved of the masses

“*Tatay*” (Father) was the masses’ endearing name for Ka Parago. It is a name he earned from his integration with the peasants, farmworkers and the indigenous people, his dedication to living and working with them and most of all, from his unceasing defense of their interests. Even when he was weakened by illness and the comrades

advised him to get rest and attend to his health, the interest of the masses was foremost in his mind and never once did he think of giving up the fight.

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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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KA PARAGO

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During his wake, the masses came in their thousands. Some came by bus, some walked for miles. They filled the arena where he lay in state to take a last look at their *Tatay* and bid him farewell. They know that there were enemy soldiers and intelligence agents everywhere watching them. But they were unafraid.

The enemy like to crow that the revolutionary movement is declining and that the death of Ka Parago will cause great demoralization among the people and the people's army. The enemy is wrong. It will choke on its own words.

As one farmer who attended Ka Parago's wake said: "Like the soldiers of the poor, we poor farmers came prepared to bid Ka Parago our goodbye with the promise to keep the fight!"



The heroic martyrdom of Ka Parago has further inflamed the fire of people's war. The blood spilled by Ka Parago will water the revolution and new Ka Paragos shall bloom to advance the revolution for national liberation and democracy. ■



A video of Ka Parago's funeral march can be viewed via this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV3IpZN8F5k>