



ANG

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Editorial

Further resist intensifying militarization in Mindoro and other areas

The Communist Party of the Philippines strongly condemns the abduction and murder of Elaine "Eden" Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro while investigating cases of abuse perpetrated by the 204th Bde.

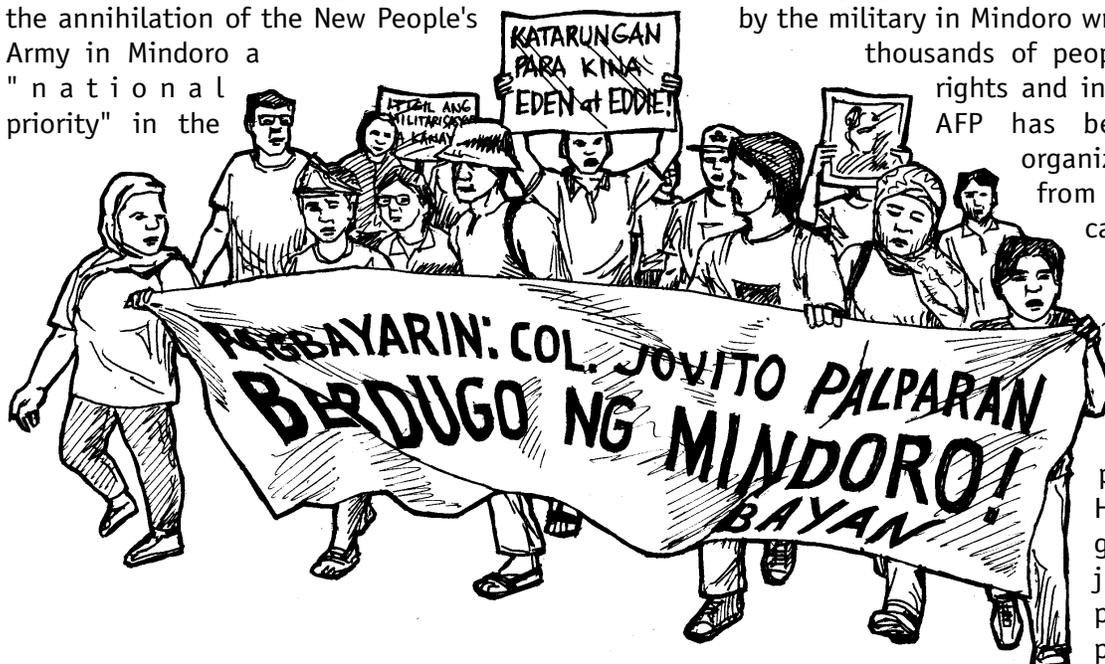
The murders starkly illustrate the brazen and unprecedented suppression and devastation wrought by the utterly brutal militarization of Mindoro since the current regime took office. Marcellana and Gumanoy are the 31st and 32nd activists killed by 204th Bde troops led by Col. Jovito Palparan.

In 2001, Malacañang declared the annihilation of the New People's Army in Mindoro a "national priority" in the

AFP's counter-insurgency program. Macapagal-Arroyo gave all-out support to the military campaign in the island. But the fascist AFP has failed to crush the NPA in Mindoro due to the depth of its mass support and the Mindoreños' high level of militancy in advancing their revolutionary struggle. The firmness of the people of Mindoro in waging all-out resistance to militarization has been praiseworthy.

In its failure to defeat the NPA, the AFP is now training its guns on the people. Barefaced military rule prevails. Terror is relentlessly sown in the countryside. Intensifying militarization and the cruelties inflicted by the military in Mindoro wreak havoc on hundreds of thousands of people and trample on their rights and interests. In particular, the AFP has been focusing on legal organizations to silence them from persevering to expose cases of military abuse.

The AFP honors no laws or rules in its desperate suppression campaign especially as it enjoys Malacañang's full support. The butcher Palparan has bloodied hands. His commander Macapagal-Arroyo's hands were just as bloody as she pinned a medal on him and promoted him to general.



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Military officials are perverse in thinking that they can "drain the ocean where the fish swim." They think they can crush the masses' determination by massively deploying military troops, imposing martial law and sowing fear and terrorism. History shows that the people's determination to wage resistance grows as militarization intensifies. This situation likewise makes ever clear to the people the correctness, justness and need for armed revolution. As the number of victims of military abuses rises, so does the number of those desiring to join the New People's Army.

The murders of Eden Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy signify the further intensification of the AFP's suppression campaign. On the other hand, they rouse the Filipino people to intensify the mass movement to resist and put an end to militarization and fascism in Mindoro and other areas.

We continue to strengthen and consolidate mass organizations in the countryside and raise the people's militancy to resist militarization and defend their rights. In many places, the people have done well at transcending the



limitations wrought by a heavy military presence. They develop expertise in working underground to preserve their organizations, continuously consolidating them and expanding and strengthening their ranks.

It is of utmost urgency to strengthen the legal democratic movement in the cities and countryside in order to effectively resist militarization and military abuses. Strengthening the legal democratic movement means close cooperation and coordination on various levels, among local organizations in different barrios

and towns, between mass organizations based in the countryside and those based in the cities and between national centers and local chapters.

We bring to the fore the many cases of military abuses in various areas in order to mobilize the broadest possible number of people to wage resistance. It is likewise important to cooperate with organizations overseas in order to expose abuses and human rights violations to the whole world.

Most of all, we must further strengthen the revolutionary armed struggle nationwide. The conduct of more frequent tactical offensives, both big and small in various parts of the country will thwart the enemy's ability to concentrate its forces for long in any area, wreak great havoc and severely brutalize the people.

It is the responsibility of the revolutionary armed forces to impose the appropriate punishment on Col. Jovito Palparan and the other notorious fascist masterminds of the murders of Ka Eden, Ka Eddie and many others.

As in the past, the revolutionary movement is determined to heed the Filipino people's cries for justice against the most brutal fascists who have perpetrated serious crimes against the people. ■

	
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Widespread anger flares against 204th Brigade

Various sectors and personalities have expressed their anger at the 204th Bde and its commander Col. Jovito Palparan in the face of the murders of Elaine "Eden" Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy, two activists investigating cases of human rights violations in Oriental Mindoro.

On April 21, Ka Eden, Karapatan-Southern Tagalog secretary-general and Ka Eddie, Katipunan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) chair and three of their companions were abducted in Barangay Maibon, Naujan.

Marcellana and Gumanoy's bodies were later found in the town of Bansud. After being tortured, their three companions were left hogtied in the town of Bongabon by armed men wearing bonnets on their faces.

Marcellana and Gumanoy were conducting a fact-finding mission to investigate cases of human rights violations in Barangays Buong Lupa, Gloria and Pinamalayan.

Thousands joined the funeral march for Marcellana and Gumanoy in Mendiola on April 26 to demonstrate that it was the Macapagal-Arroyo regime that was responsible for this heinous crime and to condemn the intense militarization and human rights violations the regime has been perpetrating in Mindoro and various other places in the Philippines.

In his message during the wake at the UP Chapel on April 25, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal expressed the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army's strong

condemnation of the terrible and deplorable murders of Ka Eden and Ka Eddie.

Said Ka Roger, "Col. Palparan is deathly afraid of human rights advocates who courageously take a stand and expose the military's shamelessness and abuses."

The more than 3,000 persons who joined the celebration of Aldaw Kordilyera in Ilocos Sur on April 24 also paid tribute to Ka Eden and Ka Eddie's heroism. During the gathering that was sponsored by the Cordillera People's Alliance, the participants gave recognition to Ka Eden and Ka Eddie's work for the welfare of the Mangyan people in Mindoro who, like the Kaigorotan, are struggling for the rights of national minorities.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines likewise paid tribute to the two leaders. Comrades Joema and Julie Sison said they were "martyrs and heroes of the Filipino people." They added that "Only by expanding the democratic movement and struggling against the enemy can we avenge them and advance justice."

The Lucio de Guzman Command (LGC), the NPA command in Mindoro island, also expressed its condolences. "Our command pledges that Ka Eden and Ka Eddie's sacrifice of their lives on Mindoro land will not be in vain," said LGC spokesperson Victor Rivero.

Initial investigations conducted by Karapatan and Bayan Muna have proven that it was soldiers of the 204th Brigade who abducted and killed Marcellana and Gumanoy.



Before they were abducted and killed, no less than Col. Johnny Gomez, Palparan's cohort in the 204th Bde,

called up the mayor of Gloria ordering him to expel Karapatan members who were conducting an investigation. Three of those who were abducted also recognized Aniano "Silver" Flores, known to be one of the 204th Bde's men, since he did not wear a bonnet while torturing them. These investigations belie Col. Palparan's claim that vigilante groups were behind the crime.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo has recommended that the 204th Bde be confined to barracks. Ocampo said that the 204th Brigade was behind the killings of 27 other activists including Bayan Muna members and officers.

In the face of widespread anger at the military, the AFP leadership was forced to remove Col. Palparan from Mindoro and transfer him to the 2nd Infantry Division in Tanay, Rizal. Hearings for his confirmation as general have likewise been suspended by the Senate. Palparan's promotion last year demonstrated Arroyo's advocacy of the militarization of



Mindoro island.

Nonetheless, there has been no change in the 204th Brigade's stance. Its officer-in-charge Col. Johnny Gomez is just as fascistic and is undoubtedly in cahoots with Palparan regarding the killings. When the Bayan Muna-Karapatan fact-finding mission went to Gloria to retrieve Ka Eden and Ka Eddie's bodies, Gomez frontally threatened them, saying that the Special Forces would "finish off" all of them.

Meanwhile, the Senate and Congress are set to conduct their own investigations on the murders of Marcellana and Gumanoy. This is apart from the investigation being conducted by a Department of Justice-National Bureau of Investigation task force.

Many, however, are skeptical that justice will be obtained under the current regime. Said Gumanoy's daughter Rose Ann, "We aren't hopeful that (Arroyo) will be able to help us. What happened to my father was what she wanted anyway."

Eden's husband Orly Marcellana said, "I would rather wait for revolutionary justice to be meted, the kind that was meted on Colonel Aguinaldo. Even if I have to wait for decades," he added.

In concluding his message, Ka Roger declared the New People's Army readiness to mete the appropriate punishment on Col. Palparan for all the crimes that he and the 204th Brigade have perpetrated against the people of Mindoro. AB

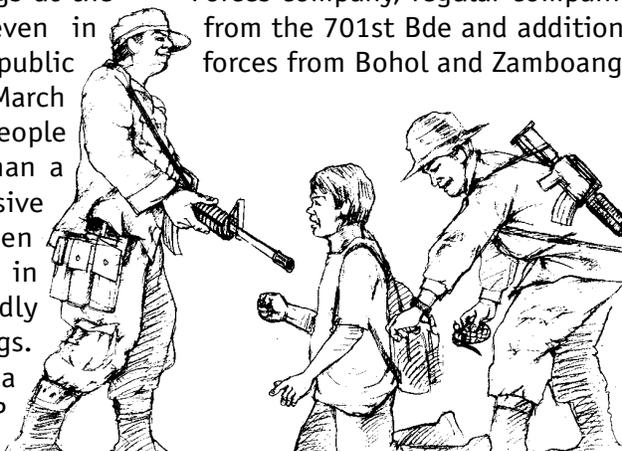
Davao City, a laboratory for fascist measures

The US and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime are now using Davao City as a laboratory for cooking up "terrorism" scenarios and the attendant population "control" measures to try out effective means of suppression that could be used nationwide, among them the enactment and implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Bill and the National ID System.

Since the Macapagal-Arroyo regime masterminded the series of bombings and shootings at the airport, wharf and even in mosques and other public places in the city in March and April, killing 38 people and wounding more than a hundred others, repressive measures have been imposed in Davao City in succession, purportedly to counter the bombings. On the eve of the Sasa wharf bombing, AFP intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus was in Davao City.

Immediately after the bombings, security was tightened in the city. More police and military forces were positioned at the airport, wharf and other public places. Additional military forces were deployed in the

metropolis—two Marine battalions, a Scout Ranger company, a Special Forces company, regular companies from the 701st Bde and additional forces from Bohol and Zamboanga.



Stringent checkpoints were set up along all approaches to the city and in the city center itself. Frisking and warrantless searches became routine. Worse, Macapagal-Arroyo declared a "state of lawless violence" not only in Davao City but in the whole of Regions 10 and 11 to

legitimize such repressive measures.

The repression's immediate targets are the MILF and the Moro people who are both being blamed by the regime for the bombings. Soon after the declaration of a "state of lawless violence," two Moros were abducted by men with bonnets on their faces and wearing military uniforms without name patches. Three other Moros were abducted the next day. Those abducted, who were accused of being members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, remain missing.

More than 50 Moro civilians have been arrested. Saturation drives continue in Moro communities within Davao City. Houses of persons suspected of having links with the MILF and the bombings are marked.

These are means of trying out the more "refined" application in the city of counterrevolutionary tactics now being massively and intensely perpetrated by government military forces against the people in the countryside who support the revolutionary movement—"draining the ocean to catch the fish."

Applied on a nationwide scale, the targets of these repressive measures being experimented on in Davao City are the militant democratic organizations and other people waging struggles. AB

Human rights violations intensifying

The torture and massacre of nine civilians and *hors de combat* on April 16 in Kananga, Leyte and the killing of the two activists Elaine "Eden" Marcellana and Eddie Gumanoy on April 22 in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro signify the further intensification of militarization and military abuses nationwide.

These killings merely add to the list of human rights violations compiled by Amnesty International since Macapagal-Arroyo became president in January 2001, until January 2003. Based on the listing, there have been 172 murder victims, 127 victims of torture, 879 persons arrested and imprisoned, 9,129 victims of bombings and shootings, 11,179 victimized by destruction of property and 17,564 victims of forcible evacuation.

In Southern Tagalog, Karapatan-TK has listed 1,072 cases of human rights violations. The merciless killings of Marcellana and Gumanoy bring to 66 the number of civilians killed by military and paramilitary forces in the region. Thirty-four of them were killed only in the last two years. Thirty cases were recorded in Oriental Mindoro.

According to the Kapulungan Para sa Lupang Ninuno, a Mangyan federation, there have been eight cases of human rights violations against Mangyans, two of them cases of "salvaging" just this March.

The following are but some of the most striking cases from March to April 2003:

April 25. William Masinid and his two-year-old son Wilmore were killed when elements of the 9th Special Forces Battalion peppered

their house with bullets in Barangay Mahan-ub, Baganga, Davao Oriental. Six civilians were also arrested, said Karapatan-Mindanao.

April 16. Nine persons were tortured and massacred in Sitio Mahayahay, Barangay San Isidro, Kananga, Leyte when elements of the 19th IB besieged a suspected NPA camp. The victims were Eugenio Tazan, 54, chairman of the San Isidro Small Farmers' Association; the three months pregnant Rowena Superior, 24, member of the Bagalungon Small Farmers' Association; Rey Corpin, 13, son of the treasurer of the Alyansa sa Mag-uuma ug Mamumuo; Obet Quidlat, 16; Benjie Cabugoy, 17; Randy Potoy, 15; Teofilo Sumaya Jr., 24; Joe Cosenillo; and a certain Louie. The killings were a flagrant violation of Protocol II. Six of the victims were civilians, three of them minors. The three others were Red fighters rendered *hors de combat*. Seven of the victims bore gunshot wounds only in the head. The defenseless victims were also beaten up with a hard object and scalded with boiling water before being killed.

April 15. Three-hundred troops under Task Force Davao (a composite force of elements of the

Philippine Marines and the Philippine Army Special Forces) swooped down on NHA Bangkal, Talomo, Davao City as part of the continued saturation drives and illegal searches of Muslim communities in the city conducted since the first week of April.

Muslimi Maro, a resident of Agdao District, Davao City was likewise abducted. He was the fourth Muslim to be abducted by armed men, according to the Bishops-Ulama League.

April 10. Four armed men picked up Lajmar Jumdail, also from Agdao. Two weeks before, armed men also forcibly took Datu Abdullah Sabdura Ala and Ustadz Zulkifle Alimuddin.

March 31 and 27. Soldiers abducted, on separate occasions Rizal Matri (March 27) and his nephew Dino Matri (March 31) in Puerto Galera. Both Mangyan tribesmen, they were found dead the day after their abduction.

Meanwhile, another Mangyan, Ricky Looy, has been reported missing after being used as a guide by the Philippine Army in its military operations.

March 25. Two teams from the Philippine Army Special Forces and 26 PNP troops created a disturbance during the wake for Florencio "Ka Lerry" de Castro in Barangay Tagbakin, Tiaong, Quezon. The military and police forces were supposedly looking for Red fighters. Prior to this, a Colonel Isles of the PNP forbade members of Karapatan-ST from taking photographs and video footages of Ka Lerry, who was martyred in a clash against the 1st



see "Human rights," page 6

Challenges to the workers' movement

On the First of May, thousands of workers thronged to the streets in various parts of the country to demand anew the just increase in their wages and to defend their rights. Simultaneously, they condemned the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's puppetry to US imperialism and called for its immediate ouster from power. The workers likewise condemned the way the US has been strutting about as the sole superpower and its militarist aggression against independent countries and movements. They also celebrated the centenary of Labor Day in the Philippines.



Instead of raising their wages, the regime offered small benefits that it should long have granted the workers, and insulting "consolation gifts" that angered the workers no end.

Among these "benefits" was a pledge to reduce electricity rates. In fact, the Supreme Court has long ordered Meralco to reimburse the excess charges it has collected from its consumers over the past

nine years. Instead of implementing the order forthwith, Malacañang has been bargaining with the Lopez family, owners of Meralco. Besides this, the regime has yet to discard the purchased power adjustment, which is behind the bloated electricity charges and is an old issue.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) immediately applauded Macapagal-Arroyo's

refusal to raise wages. ECOP wants to implement policies that will further intensify workers' exploitation in the name of "productivity" and "economic recovery."

The regime and its capitalist patrons' rationalizations year after year that it is the workers who have to bear the brunt of economic collapse is unacceptable to the workers. Their P250 daily wage is

"Human rights," from page

IB in Majayjay, Laguna on March 20.

March 21. Midnight, at Sitio Pagturian, Barangay Villaflor, Puerto Galera, armed men wearing masks forcibly entered and ransacked Francisco Rabano's house. Failing to find any firearm, they shot Francisco and his brother Mariano to death. The two brothers were also robbed of P25,000 and other belongings, after which their bodies were burned along with their house. Francisco's wife and son were able to escape and relate the terrible incident.

March 14 and 19. Teodoro Manongsong and Luis Aspeto, both suspected by the military as Red

fighters, have not been seen since they were "summoned" by Col. Jovito Palparan to the 204th Bde's camp in Puerto Galera and are now considered "desaparecido." Manongsong was summoned on March 14 and Aspeto on March 19.

March 12. Michael Santiago, a resident of Barangay Pulong Bayabas, San Rafael, Bulacan, was abducted from his house and summarily executed ("salvaged"). The AFP has made it appear that Santiago was an NPA member killed in an encounter with the military. In fact, he was a mere barangay tanod with no links whatsoever to the revolutionary movement. AB

woefully inadequate to meet their basic needs. According to the government's own agencies, a family of six needs up to P530 for its daily expenses.

Real wages continue to decline in the face of the rising prices of basic needs and services. As a result, Filipino workers' conditions have become more pitiable, and the livelihoods of Filipinos in general have deteriorated. The workers' demand for a P125 increase in their daily wage thus remains just and has become even more urgent.

It was in the year 2000 when a measly wage increase (P12-20 daily) was last granted. In November 2001, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime merely ordered the granting of a P30 emergency cost of living allowance (ECOLA) instead of a wage increase. Besides being an insult to the workers, only a fourth received the ECOLA, as many capitalists refused to grant it.

The regime has not only neglected the interests and welfare of the working class, it has directly attacked their rights and taken away benefits won through more than a decade of struggle.

Contractualization, lack of job security and union busting are rampant. Picket lines are relentlessly attacked and the rights of strikers trampled on.

The regime is now trying to criminalize militant unionism. In 2001, Macapagal-Arroyo herself ranged militant workers along with "terrorists". In her latest "anti-terrorist" proposal, any kind of collective action by workers within and even outside the factory may be considered "terrorist actions". Through this, Macapagal-Arroyo aims to suppress the militant union movement that continuously criticizes her regime's policies and programs.

In addition, the regime wants to worsen the anti-worker provisions of the Philippine Labor Code to make it hew even closer to imperialist globalization. If approved, the proposals will make the implementation of the policy of cheap and flexible labor more systematic. Among the proposed changes are:

- ▶ Limitation of wage increases to once every six years and the further regionalization of wage determination.

- ▶ Extension of the effectivity of collective bargaining agreements from the current two to three years, to six years.

- ▶ Further legalization of

lockouts or the cessation of operations by an enterprise or factory in order to boot out strikers or coerce them into accepting whatever the capitalist offers them.

- ▶ Regulation of labor-only contracting, a widespread practice by large companies like SM where most workers remain contractual for life. Labor-only contracting will likewise no longer be considered a crime.

- ▶ Putting unions and labor organizations under surveillance, especially their sources of funds.

Macapagal-Arroyo's capitalist patrons are also pushing for a 10-year strike moratorium. AB

Thousands of workers troop to the streets on May 1

Twenty-thousand workers gathered at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on May 1, International Workers' Day. Police and military forces blocked delegations from Quezon and Sto. Tomas, Batangas on their way to Manila to join the mass actions.

In Pampanga, more than 2,000 workers from the Cosmos, Pepsi and San Miguel factories rallied against contractualization in front of the Clark Economic Zone. Meanwhile, some 2,000 workers from the Cavite export processing zone (EPZA) assailed EPZA's "no union, no strike" policy. Hundreds of workers also staged mass actions in Baguio and Naga City.

In the Visayas, more than 22,000 workers and government employees rallied in various cities. Significant mass actions waged in Tacloban (5,000), Iloilo (4,000), Bacolod (5,000) and Cebu (3,000) demanded wage increases and assailed the proposed amendments to the labor code.

In Davao, up to 4,000 rallied. In General Santos, more than 4,000 workers, mostly from Dole Philippines, gathered at the city center. Hundreds rallied in Cagayan de Oro.

On April 28, Bayan Muna representatives in congress filed alternative amendments to the labor code that comprehensively addressed workers' demands. Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza called for a congressional investigation of the widespread practice of contractualization in large companies like SM.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran has likewise been relentlessly pushing in congress a proposal for a P125 across-the-board wage increase. AB

In search of greener pastures

Filipino professionals are being siphoned overseas due to lack of employment opportunities in the country

The number of highly skilled Filipino professionals going abroad is rapidly growing. Comprising 25% of those who went abroad in the 1990s, the proportion grew to 31% in 2000.

They comprise, among others, the influx of remittances. nurses, doctors, teachers, engineers and accountants. Most of million Filipinos working in other

billion from April to September last year, 18.3% higher than in the same period the year before.

"Brain drain"

Because professionals, especially from the health sector, have been going abroad in massive numbers, there is now a greater lack of doctors and nurses in hospitals.

According to the Alliance of Health Workers, up to 800 nurses (or 17% of the total) in 11 hospitals surveyed have gone abroad. According to the reactionary government, there are at present up to 300,000 registered nurses abroad.

Despite all this, the regime continues to turn a deaf ear to the struggle of workers in the private and public sector for higher wages and better working conditions.

In a society where government fails to take care that its citizens live decently and prosperously, it is but fitting for workers and professionals to fight for their rights and livelihood. **AB**

Even if they are fortunate enough to find jobs, professionals receive very low wages. For instance, ordinary nurses in the country only receive salaries of up to P5,000 monthly. Nurses in the US receive 43 times this amount (up to P215,000) and 17 times this amount in Canada (P85,000).

them go to the US, Canada, the United Kingdom and other European countries.

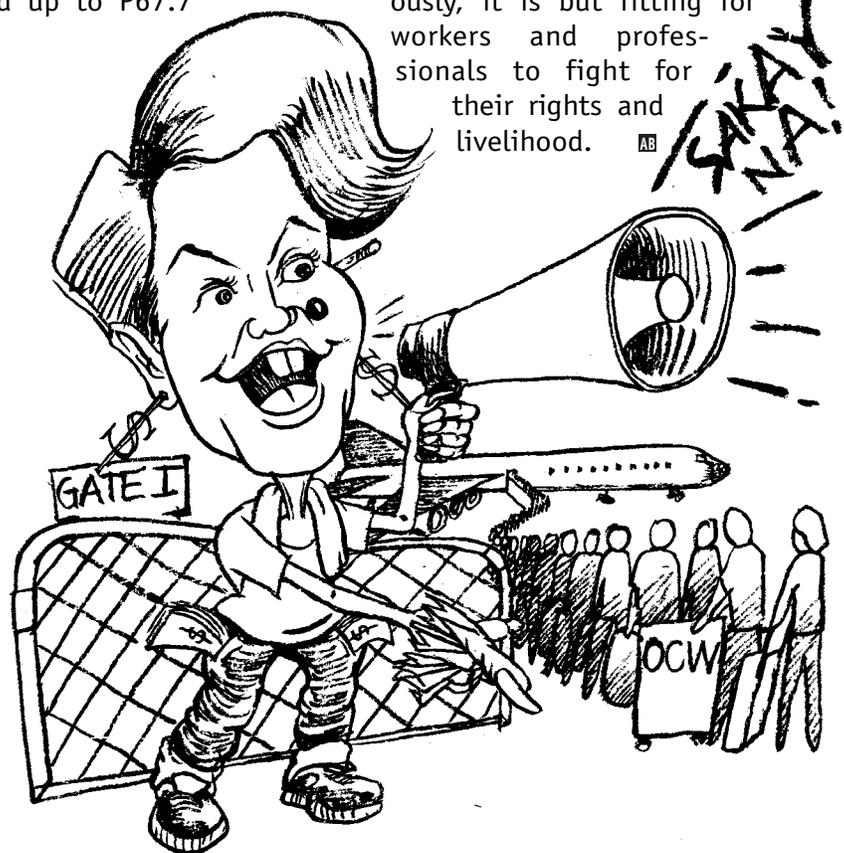
Unemployment and inadequate wages are the foremost reasons why professionals go abroad.

According to the reactionary government's statistics last January, 10.6% were unemployed while 16.1% were underemployed. Their numbers are mounting due to the worsening economic crisis.

Even if they are fortunate enough to find jobs, professionals receive very low wages. For instance, ordinary nurses in the country only receive salaries of up to P5,000 monthly. Nurses in the US receive 43 times this amount (up to P215,000) and 17 times this amount in Canada (P85,000).

The government is currently implementing a labor-export policy. The regime hopes that the massive export of workers and professionals will save the country's prostrate economy through

countries. Their numbers swell by 2,700 daily. According to the National Statistical Office, OCWs remitted up to P67.7



RPA-ABB's corruption further bared

In November 2002, Raul Villar alias Ka Drilon, a commander of the gangster RPA-ABB, surrendered to the New People's Army (NPA) in Negros. Two of his men likewise surrendered with him. Drilon gave himself up after finding out that the RPA-ABB leadership had ordered him killed because he had been criticizing its gangster activities.

Drilon is now under the NPA's custody, is currently under investigation and undergoing thorough reeducation and rectification.

Upon his surrender, Drilon issued a statement and public apology for his and his unit's crimes while they were still under the RPA-ABB. He also exposed the RPA-ABB's crimes, particularly in Negros Oriental.

The most prominent among the crimes exposed by Ka Drilon was a bank holdup in Maninihon, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental on May 8, 2002 that he himself led. Drilon said that Rey Mallari, head of the RPA-ABB regional command, ordered the holdup to raise funds for the support of RPA-ABB units, their front organizations and their families. We were ordered to conduct holdups so our families could eat, said Drilon, while the RPA-ABB leaders led lives of luxury.

Four bank employees were killed in that holdup and P213,000 belonging to the municipality of Sta. Catalina was seized. Ka Drilon and his group used for the holdup weapons issued to them by PNP and AFP officials.

Drilon added that RPA-ABB units under the direct leadership of Lualhati Carapali and Rey Mallari also undertook the following criminal and terrorist activities:

- ▶ the bombing of the Pandacan oil depot in Manila

- ▶ the bombing of the oil depot in Amlan, Negros Oriental

- ▶ threatening the Universal Robina Sugar Milling Company in Negros Oriental and extorting millions of pesos from it

- ▶ swindling and extorting from known personalities in Negros Oriental. Among them were politicians who were asked a monthly sum purportedly for the support of mass organizations. The money went straight to the RPA-ABB leadership. Landlords were also asked to give either money or parcels of land in exchange for the masses' withdrawal of legitimate demands and complaints against the landlords.

- ▶ wheedling money from druglords

- ▶ setting up two clandestine groups to conduct extortion, gangsterism and terrorism against the public. It was one of these groups that held up a bank in Bayawan City. The other group is led by a man who goes by the alias "Rendo" and conducts extortion activities in Siaton, Negros Oriental.

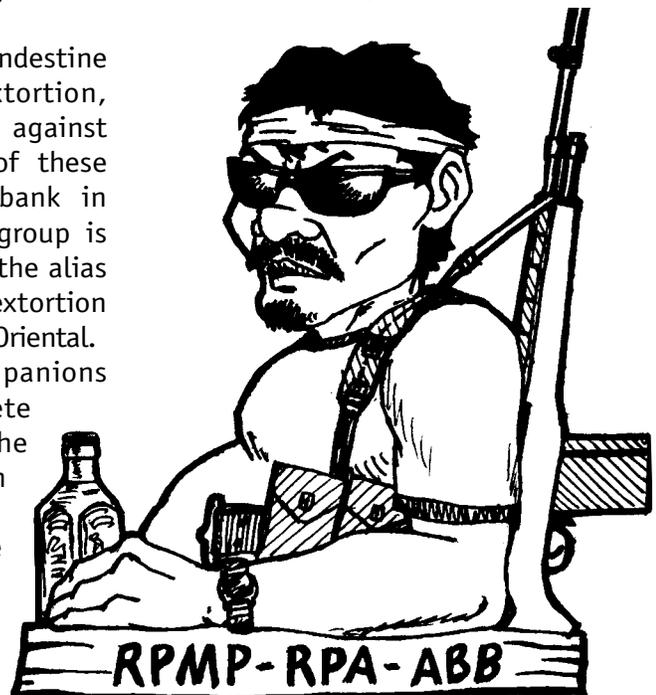
Drilon and his companions have expressed complete remorse, condemned the crimes they had been involved in and criticized themselves. They have declared their readiness to submit themselves to any process that would render justice to all of their

victims.

At the same time, Ka Drilon has called on his former cohorts who are still inside various RPA-ABB units to renounce gangsterism and hold Carapali and Mallari accountable for all their crimes against the people and fellow RPA-ABB members. He encouraged the latter to immediately bolt the group and resume the correct path of service to the masses and the revolution. Drilon is also actively cooperating in recovering areas and NPA units that have strayed and been used by the counter-revolutionary renegades in Negros Oriental since the early part of the 1990s.

With Drilon's departure from the RPA-ABB, the latter's corruption and anomalous activities in Negros Oriental have been further exposed.

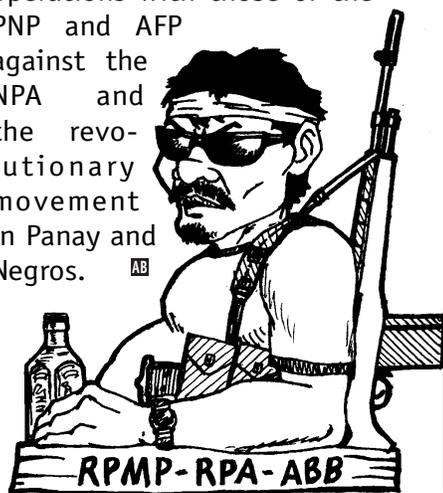
Drilon said that the RPA-ABB leadership, especially Rey Mallari, actively connives with reactionary politicians in Negros. In particular, Mallari and Jake Roxas, another RPA-ABB commander, receive a monthly allowance from



Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz's intelligence fund. Aside from this, Mallari also receives P4,000 monthly from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Worse, Carapali and Mallari also connive with the military and police to capture and summarily execute RPA-ABB members whose involvement in criminal activities has been exposed, especially those who have begun to question their methods. After this, the traitors collect the rewards put up by the military and the regime for the capture of the comrades they had betrayed. This would have been Drilon's fate had he not bolted the RPA-ABB.

The integration of RPA-ABB units into the reactionary military is practically complete. In January, Macapagal-Arroyo issued permits to the RPA-ABB to carry 100 firearms in accordance with the "final peace agreement" signed by the government and RPA-ABB leaders Arturo Tabara and Nilo de la Cruz as far back as February 28, 2002. Through this agreement, Tabara and de la Cruz have completely exposed themselves as paid elements of the reactionary government and military and completely integrated their operations with those of the PNP and AFP against the NPA and the revolutionary movement in Panay and Negros.



Trap

Through the so-called "roadmap" to peace, the US wants to derail the Palestinian struggle and strengthen its control over the Middle East

The US has many times "mediated" between Palestine and Israel, but instead of arriving at a resolution, the conflict that has been going on for more than half a century has further intensified. All past US initiatives failed because they did not resolve the very root of the problem—the Israeli occupation of, and aggression in, Palestine.

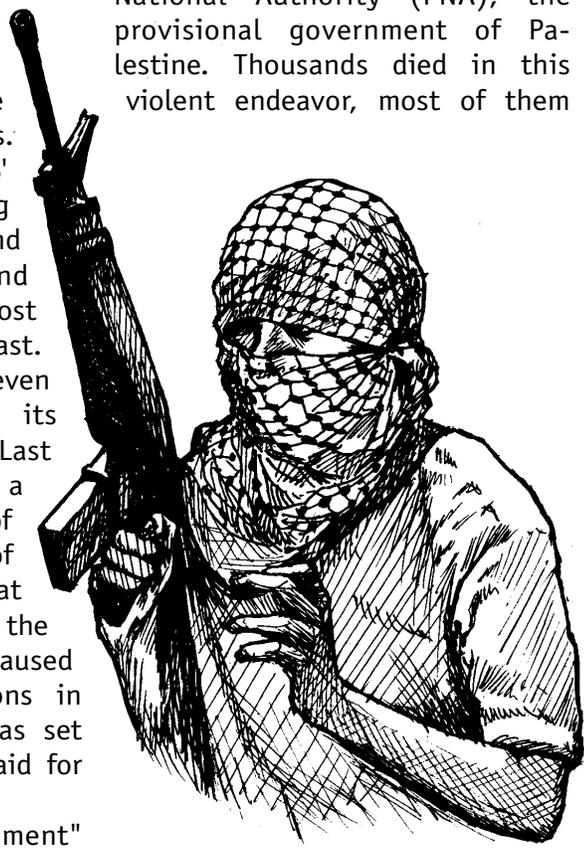
The US has no moral authority to mediate the conflict. The Palestinians are well aware that the US supports Israel. All previous "peace plans" presented by the US have been in favor of the occupation forces' interests. In all these measures, the US' sole aim was to bring Palestine to its knees and ensure the security and preservation of Israel, its most strategic ally in the Middle East.

Lately, the US has not even attempted to conceal its partiality towards Israel. Last year, the US congress passed a law recognizing the city of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, despite the fact that Jerusalem remains one of the key contentious issues and caused the collapse of negotiations in 2000. This time, the US has set aside up to \$55 billion in aid for Israel.

When a "final agreement" failed to materialize in September 2000, Israel stepped up its violent occupation of Palestinian territories. On the other side, the intifada erupted anew.

In the face of a resurgence in Palestinian resistance, Israel has launched a series of all-out attacks, occupying many more areas within Palestine's territory.

The US and Israel plotted attempts to overthrow Yasser Arafat's leadership in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the provisional government of Palestine. Thousands died in this violent endeavor, most of them



Palestinian civilians massacred by Israeli Defense Forces.

The US condemns as terrorism the Palestinians' legitimate and just armed struggle for self-determination, but has not said a single word over Israel's expansionism and violent acts in Palestine.

The US "roadmap"

The US is currently cooking up a new "peace plan" to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The US is more that ever compelled to find a solution to the conflict because it fears the intensification of anti-US sentiments in the Middle East due to its occupation of Iraq. The US hopes that in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Arab anger will subside, creating a more favorable situation for imperialist interests in the region.

The new plan has been dubbed a "roadmap" to peace in Palestine. The US dragged in the United Nations, the European Union and Russia and formed the so-called Quartet to finalize and deodorize the "roadmap" and use them to win over and pressure Palestine.

Like the US' past schemes, the solution proffered by the much-vaunted "roadmap" is a lopsided one. It imposes very onerous conditions on the recognition and establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

First of all, Palestinians must cease all armed attacks and suppress all the armed groups that are at the core of the Palestinian people's struggle. This makes it appear that Israel's violent acts are perpetrated in self-defense. The supposition is that Palestine can only achieve peace and independence if it puts a stop to armed struggle.

Towards this, the assertion is that a new Palestinian government must be set up that will decisively suppress the "terrorists." The US wants to remove Arafat from power because he refuses to suppress militant armed groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Aside from this, the US wants the PNA to cut off all support to militant groups.

There will be no end to the Palestinians' intense anger and armed struggle until Israel is expelled and a truly free Palestinian state is established.

After weeks of coercion by the US and the Quartet, the Palestinian parliament approved the new government led by Mahmoud Abbas as prime minister. The US supports Abbas' appointment along with Mohammed Dahlan's as special minister for security affairs because both of them have expressed readiness to disarm armed militants to give way to the "roadmap."

Arafat has given his blessings to Abbas' appointment and those of others in the new PNA cabinet despite his earlier hesitancy regarding Dahlan's appointment. Nonetheless, Arafat will remain president of the PNA and will still play a decisive role in forming its basic policies and decisions.

Certain failure

Just hours after the new government was approved, a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated an explosive in the Israeli capital of Tel Aviv, killing three and wounding about 40 others.

The militant groups Hamas and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility for the bombing. They said that they will never lay down their arms as long as there is



no solution to the conflict. "We will hit the Zionist enemy in all corners of Palestine until the occupation ends," added the Hamas spokesperson.

Hamas has pointedly rejected the US' "roadmap." "This is a plan to liquidate the Palestinian cause," said its leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

This merely shows that there will be no end to the Palestinians' intense anger and their armed struggle until Israel is expelled and a truly free Palestinian state is established.

Armed and unarmed resistance by the Palestinians and all the Arab people will definitely rock the US-Israeli conspiracy and imperialist rule in the Middle East. The road to peace in Palestine and in the entire region is undoubtedly more complicated than any "roadmap" laid out by the imperialists. AB

NDFP's 30th anniversary commemorated

ON April 24, it was exactly 30 years since the National Democratic Front's (NDF) 10-Point Program was drafted, signalling the birth of the revolutionary alliance. The occasion was commemorated by comrades and allies in the Philippines and Europe through a lightning rally on April 23 in Manila, a forum and photo exhibit on April 24 at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and a *salusalo* (shared meal) in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

More than 60 members of revolutionary underground mass organizations joined the lightning rally at Avenida. As they marched, they waved banners of the NDFP, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army, Makabayang Samahang Pangkalusugan, Christians for National Liberation, Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions, Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan, Kabataang Makabayan, Makabayang Kilusan ng

Bagong Kababaihan, Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan and Makabayang Kawaning Pilipino.

The highlight of the forum at the UP was a telephone call by CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, greeting comrades on the occasion of the NDFP's anniversary. The more than 300 who attended the forum gave Ka Roger thunderous applause. In a statement he read, Ka Roger described the NDFP as an indestructible bastion of the Filipino people's struggle.

Also read during the gathering were statements from the NDFP National Executive Committee, NDFP allied organizations and comrades Jose Ma. Sison and Luis Jalandoni.

Meantime, a photo exhibit portrayed the NDFP's objectives and the various fields of revolutionary work, from military work to international work and diplomacy. A multimedia presentation was also shown on the NDFP's 12-Point Program.

Karl Marx's 185th birth anniversary celebrated

"WITHOUT a revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement," was Prof. Jose Ma. Sison's opening remarks before youth and teachers who had gathered on May 5 to celebrate the 185th birth anniversary of the great communist teacher Karl Marx.

"The most important instrument for a revolutionary movement for it to have a strong foundation are cadres with a comprehensive and in-depth

knowledge of the revolutionary ideology of the proletarian class....," said Prof. Sison. He likewise said that it was the continuing study of Marxism-Leninism that molds activists to become full-fledged cadres.

Sison added that "we must form study circles and increase the number of cadres with a firm grasp of Marxism-Leninism." This will ensure the consolidation of the broad mass movement towards the correct revolutionary direction.

American troops fire at anti-US demonstration in Iraq

US President George W. Bush declared on May 2 that the war in Iraq was over. Thanks to American troops, he said, the Iraqi people are now happy with the restoration of peace and democracy.

This is a far cry from the actual events. Disorder and an intense economic crisis now prevail in Iraq. There is no water, electricity or food in the cities. Criminality and lawlessness are rampant. And a bloody confrontation looms between American troops and the Iraqi people angered at the US occupation.

Up to 13 Iraqis, among them children age seven to 10, were killed and scores wounded when American soldiers opened fire at demonstrators on April 28 and 30 in the town of Falluja. The demonstrators demanded the withdrawal of American troops from a school being used as a barracks by the soldiers.

This is not the first time American troops dealt violently with demonstrations. In the early part of April, more than 10 Iraqis who rallied at Mosul were killed by American troops.

As anti-US demonstrations spread in the various Iraqi towns, the US occupation of the country will remain unstable. The war is supposedly over, but there are plans to send three to four thousand more American troops to Baghdad.