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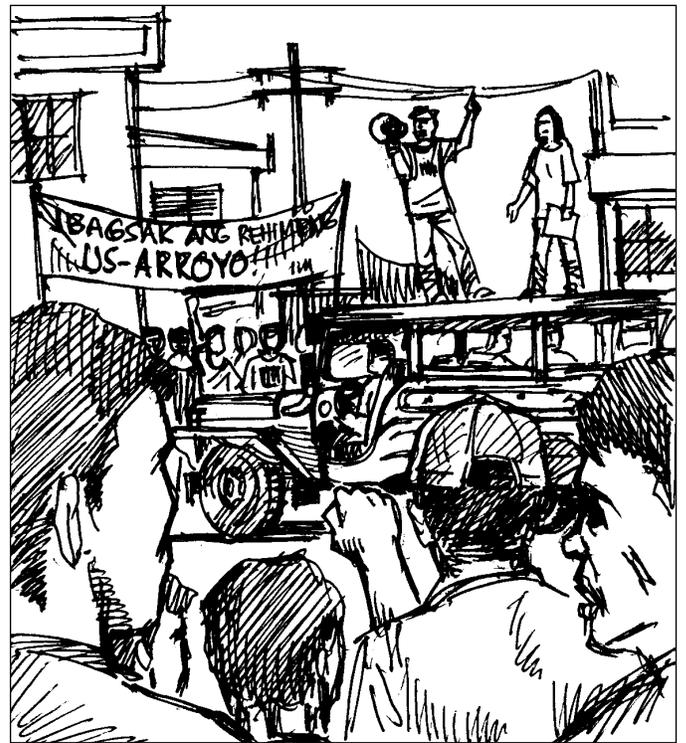
Editorial

Strengthen the protest movement against corruption and the US-Arroyo regime

Executive Committee-Central Committee
Communist Party of the Philippines

The Jose Pidal issue has kindled the question of the First Family's corruption in a situation where the entire puppet state and country are riveted on the issue of plunder and corruption in the government and the AFP. This issue may even branch off and connect with the bribery cases in IMPSA, Macapagal Blvd. and Piatco, among others, and further explode, causing the ruling reactionary clique's complete isolation and overthrow in an EDSA-type uprising. There is need for an even more widespread protest movement and even stronger evidence than what has been presented for many of the regime's supporters in congress, the AFP-PNP, the church and mass media to turn their backs on or distance themselves from Malacañang. But this early, the issue has already intensified the vulnerability of the ruling faction which is in a mad scramble to bolster its grip on power. It has caused a stir among the broad masses of the people who are already restive because of the state's unbridled corruption and fascist terrorism, US intervention and the accelerated deterioration of their living conditions under the reactionary and puppet US-Arroyo regime.

It is our task to lead the people in expanding and



strengthening the protest movement against corruption and the ruling reactionary puppet clique. The broad mass movement is the most important element for the struggle against corruption to be a truly powerful one. The Jose Pidal issue will remain a narrow issue and will likely lead merely to further mudslinging for the forthcoming election if it remains within the Senate and relies on what Lacson and the reactionary opposition spew out. It is also wrong to

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wait for the case to progress, allow the masses' intense interest to wane and let the issue and the struggle get bogged down in legal technicalities and maneuvers in congress.

The potential to topple the puppet regime along with other reactionary factions in the civil and military bureaucracy is what gives the present issue and struggle against corruption its extraordinary sharpness and significance. This is a particular advantage that the revolutionary and progressive forces must firmly bear in mind. It is but fitting for the issue of Jose Pidal and the corruption of the First Family to take precedence now among the issues of corruption. We can firmly link them to the simmering issues of AFP-PNP corruption like the cases exposed by the Oakwood uprising, as well as to efforts to advance the campaign against corruption within the Arroyo cabinet and in Customs, the BIR, DPWH and other government agencies. As we advance the protest movement and campaign against these elements, we must

neither absolve nor allow other big plunderers and detested fascist criminals among the anti-Arroyo reactionaries to act as if they were blameless.

So as not to get bogged down in reformism and be silenced by piecemeal and token concessions from those in power, the struggle against corruption in the civil and military bureaucracy must be firmly linked with the struggle against the far bigger corruption in national policy—the fascist terrorism of the state, US military intervention, imperialist globalization, and the unbridled extortion of the masses and depletion of the country's natural resources by foreign monopoly capital and the local comprador-big bourgeoisie and landlord classes. The struggle against corruption must push for the ouster of the plundering ruling reactionary clique and the appropriate punishment for all proven plunderers. We must advance the struggle to uphold genuine and fundamental changes in the country and society.

The most important of our

urgent tasks is to strengthen mass protests and expand the ranks of the democratic classes and forces participating in the struggle against corruption in government. Following are some of the particular steps that must be taken in this regard:

Take a firm stand on the issue of Jose Pidal and the ruling Arroyo clique's corruption. Call for the thorough investigation of the Jose Pidal bank accounts and other cases of corruption of the First Family. Push for the continuation and further expansion of the Senate investigation as well as the independent and public disclosure and prosecution of cases of corruption in the government, military and police leadership.

Broaden and increase mobilizations and mass protests. Combine several and decentralized gatherings and protest actions on different levels and various scales with huge and concentrated protests at the national and regional levels. In this regard, we must brace for and frustrate the puppet regime's preemptive attacks and dispersals in its effort to prevent mass protests from gathering momentum.

Form, expand and promote alliances of religious and professional groups, middle elements and youth against corruption, and project their leaders. They may initially focus on corruption alone or on corruption along with calling for the ouster of the puppet Arroyo regime. In varying degrees, they may also focus on other prominent issues such as the bombings in Mindanao, US military intervention and imperialist globalization, among others. Aside from street rallies, they may also launch other types of gatherings to encourage the participation of the people in their

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numbers. The point is to draw in the the broadest number of people, enable them to participate in this endeavor and strengthen the voice of the progressive and democratic forces.

In order to continue advancing this issue and struggle, select organizations may link up with the reactionary opposition. But priority must be given to linking up with and cooperating with oppositionists who are neither among the notorious plunderers and fascist criminals nor among those closest to them, as well as with EDSA 2 allies who are now distancing themselves from the Arroyo clique or else are interested in a thorough investigation of the Jose Pidal case. Aside from linking up with Malacañang stooges and despicable oppositionists, it would be best if we could encourage congressional leaders who can better forge links and cooperate with the mass movement to take the initiative and make an independent stand.

Organize and encourage the investigation and disclosure in the mass media and the public of cases of corruption involving the ruling puppet regime, like the exposés during the struggle against the Marcos fascist dictatorship and the campaign against the puppet Estrada regime.

Continue paying particular attention to exposing and criticizing corruption among the AFP and PNP high command and encouraging all sincere officers and soldiers not to allow themselves to be used but to take a stand instead against their corrupt, puppet and antipeople leaders.

As mass protests against corruption gain strength, so will the protests against the Bush visit grow more vigorous. AB

Prospects of Macapagal-Arroyo before the 2004 elections

**By Armando Liwanag
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Communist Party of the
Philippines
12 September 2003**



The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is the revolutionary party of the proletariat building the organs of the people's democratic government and waging the people's war against US imperialism and the local exploiting classes.

The main objective of the CPP, the New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is to smash and destroy the counterrevolutionary state of big compradors and landlords. But the revolutionary forces must look into the crisis of the system and the internal contradictions among the reactionaries in order to push the disintegration of such state in complementation with the main effort to annihilate that state.

It is within the revolutionary context that the CPP observes the gravity of the current crisis and contradictions within the ruling system and recognizes the possibility that a broad united front can cause the ouster or resignation of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her replacement by Vice Pres. Teofisto Guingona instead of by a military junta, a civilian-military junta or whatever formation that is unacceptable to the broad united front and the broad masses of the people.

By recognizing the possible succession of Guingona to Macapagal-Arroyo, the CPP does not by any degree or in any way give up its revolutionary mission of building the organs of the people's democratic government and ultimately doing away completely with the counterrevolutionary state. The CPP has repeatedly clarified that if it cannot as yet destroy this reactionary state, it can weaken it by letting the reactionary factions fight each other and by letting one reactionary ruling clique fall after another under the pounding of the revolutionary mass movement.

The objective conditions are favorable for waging people's war. But the strength of the revolutionary forces is not yet enough to overthrow the reactionary state. So far, the revolutionary forces and the legal democratic forces have been able to encourage, promote and help realize the broad united front that overthrew Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in 2001. The two rascals would not have been overthrown if not for the consensus in the broad united front that Aquino would replace Marcos and Macapagal-Arroyo would replace Estrada.

It is wrong not to overthrow the ruling system when the strength of the revolutionary forces is already sufficient for overthrowing it. But when such strength is not yet available, it is also wrong to try, like the Trotskyites and other muddleheads do, to mislead the people into believing that the overthrow of the ruling system is immediately realizable and that the replacement of Marcos by Aquino, Estrada by Macapagal-Arroyo and Macapagal-Arroyo by Guingona ought to be opposed as a preemption of, or detraction from, the impending victory of the armed revolution.

As matters stand now, the strength of the revolutionary forces is not yet sufficient for overthrowing the ruling system. The legal democratic forces can try to form a broad united front and to remove the Macapagal-Arroyo ruling clique before the 2004 elections. But if one takes into account the current strength of the revolutionary forces, the armed revolution cannot yet succeed in overthrowing the entire ruling system before, during or soon after the ouster of Macapagal-Arroyo.

Under the current circumstances, it would be better for Guingona to replace Macapagal-Arroyo than keep her ruling clique in power or empower a military junta, civilian-military junta or some other improvised formation unacceptable to the broad united front. However, at this moment, the ouster of Macapagal-Arroyo from power is still easier said than done.

There is yet no formidable array of political forces that is comparable to the broad united front against Marcos in 1986 and against Estrada in 2001 and that is determined to oust Macapagal-Arroyo. Let us scan the landscape quickly.

1. The US proconsul, Ambassador Ricciardone, has proclaimed that Macapagal-Arroyo must be kept by all means. Cardinal Sin and other church leaders, former presidents Aquino and Ramos, the business organizations and the "social democrats" of Kompil still prefer to keep Arroyo in power up to the end of her term. They have

Time is in favor of the revolutionary movement no matter how hard the US imperialists and the local reactionaries try to unite against the revolutionary movement and the broad masses of the people.

repeatedly expressed fears of frequent regime change outside of the reactionary electoral process.

2. Some officers and members of the Council of Philippine Affairs and the People's Consultative Assembly criticize the current regime severely but still vacillate on the question of ousting Macapagal-Arroyo. They seem to be extracting certain concessions from the regime and also trying to weaken it in favor of certain presidential hopefuls.

3. There are reports that a group of military officers far bigger than the Magdalo group of July 27 is campaigning in the military for the withdrawal of support from the current regime in conjunction with protest mass actions. The reports have been used by the regime to frighten the public with the spectre of a coup d'etat, while the opposition uses the same reports to frighten the regime.

4. The current major opposition forces loyal to the ruling system

are intensifying their campaigns against the regime. But by all indications, they are interested in deflecting attention from their criminal liabilities, protecting their ill-gotten wealth and discrediting the regime for their own electoral advantage in 2004. They face tremendous odds in seeking the political destruction of Macapagal-Arroyo.

5. The legal democratic forces are determined to cause the ouster of Macapagal-Arroyo but are careful about having any direct, open and formal alliance with the most unsavory oppositionists that they fought in the past. They are interested in developing their own mass strength and carrying out mass actions independent of, even if parallel to or coincident with, those of the reactionary opposition.

6. The forces of the armed revolutionary movement persevere in people's war and thereby grow in strength through revolutionary armed struggle and the united front for armed struggle, come what may in the legal arena. The intensification of tactical offensives can inspire and add strength to a broad legal united front against an incumbent regime.

But the CPP has also the latitude to opt for letting the reactionaries fight each other and for taking advantage of their conflicts without as yet having to support a broad legal united front that is powerful enough to oust the incumbent regime.

This is not the first time that the national-democratic movement is taking a well-calculated position like the current one. The movement sided neither with the Aquino regime nor with the Enrile-RAM opposition after the Olalia murder in November 1986 and the peasant massacre in January 1987.

GMA: Desperately clinging to power

"**L**ike a monitor lizard's refusal to be pulled out of its burrow" was how Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal described Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's tenacity and desperation to cling to power in the face of the widespread and growing call for her ouster.

In an interview with *Ang Bayan*, Ka Roger assailed the Marcosian dispersal of protest actions pushing for the truth to be brought out regarding the multi-million peso "Jose Pidal" deposits and calling for Arroyo's ouster from Malacañang.

There is an ongoing senate investigation of the case involving Gloria's husband Miguel Arroyo, who is suspected of having used the name "Jose Pidal" to hide the millions plundered by the Arroyo couple from corrupt practices and from contributions in previous elections. Two weeks after Sen. Panfilo Lacson exposed the case, Miguel Arroyo's brother Ignacio came out in public, claiming he was "Jose Pidal" to cover up for his brother.

"Gloria's knees tremble at the sound of people marching and out of fear that the anti-corruption movement will lead to a gigantic uprising to oust her from power." Ka Roger said that the "minimum tolerance" policy of not giving vent to any demonstration is now being implemented. The police also plan

to use rubber bullets against the demonstrators, according to Gen. Ricardo de Leon of the PNP Community Relations Office. "The police's unrestrained use of truncheons against demonstrators is on Malacañang's direct orders," said Ka Roger. In the past few days, almost all rallies in Makati and Manila were brutally dispersed by the police, injuring many demonstrators.

"Arroyo is mistaken in assuming that the harsh repression of demonstrations will stop the anti-corruption movement from growing stronger and more widespread. The people's determination to oust Arroyo from power will intensify as she steps up the repression of the people's democratic rights to assembly and free expression," said Ka Roger.

He also assailed Arroyo's measures and maneuvers to muzzle the investigation being conducted on the corruption cases involving the First Couple. In the previous week, some senators disclosed that they were being pressured by Malacañang to stop their investigation of the "Jose Pidal" case. The senators, however, are resisting such pressure from Malacañang in the face of an even stronger call to continue the investigation and the people's desire to know the truth regarding the "Jose Pidal" issue.

Prior to this, Ignacio Arroyo had asserted his right to "privacy".



Since it was so apparent to everyone who Ignacio Arroyo was covering up for, it has all the more become obvious that Mike Arroyo, his wife and brother were concealing many anomalies.

Meanwhile, Gloria Arroyo is scrambling to secure the US' support and preparing an extravagant welcome for US President George W. Bush's visit on October 18. Arroyo has once again prominently displayed her shameless puppetry to the US and her blind support for US aggression in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as for deepening and broadening US armed intervention in the Philippines.

According to Ka Roger, Arroyo would like to use Bush's forthcoming visit get his blessing for maintaining herself in power and to firm up her plan to run in the forthcoming election. "Arroyo wants to show Bush that of all the puppets of US imperialism, she is still the one most worthy of US imperialist support." ■

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As matters stand now, Macapagal-Arroyo might be able to remain in power up to the end of her term. But she can no longer win the presidential elections in 2004. If by some dirty tricks she manages to win, she will face insurmountable odds and powerful challenges to her rule because the crisis shall have

become far worse than now and she shall have become even more reprehensible to the broad masses of the people.

Time is in favor of the revolutionary movement no matter how hard the US imperialists and the local reactionaries try to unite against the revolutionary movement and the broad masses of the people. ■

Intensifying media repression



The Philippines is one of the most dangerous places in the world for media practitioners. The September 6 murder of broadcaster Juan "Jun" Pala placed the Philippines on the number one slot (along with Colombia) in this year's list of countries with the most number of journalists killed. Pala, formerly one of the country's most active anti-communists and one of the leaders of the paramilitary Alsa Masa, was a changed man and had become a staunch critic of vigilantism before his murder.

The murders bely claims by those who opt to turn a blind eye to the truth, that the Philippines has among the freest mass media in Asia and that it is the continent's most democratic country. The six journalists killed in the country this year is but a handful of the 49 media people killed since 1986. Thirteen of them were slain during the Arroyo regime. They were victims of the military, police, private armies of fascist and corrupt politicians, criminal syndicates and vigilantes.

Up to now, none of these cases has seen justice, proving the reactionary government's utter lack of interest in solving these crimes and eradicating media repression.

In January, Amnesty International (AI) expressed concern about the violation of the rights of journalists in the country. In particular, the AI called on the Arroyo regime to investigate the murders of Benjaline Hernandez, Edgar Damalerio and Sonny Alcantara, and not to harrass the victims' relatives and friends and witnesses willing to help solve these cases.

Media repression has long been an instrument of the ruling reac-

tionary state and system to deny journalists the right to expose and criticize the evils taking place in the country and to deny the people the right to know the truth. The state and the fascists realize that once people become aware of the truth, their next step would be to undertake decisive action to achieve change.

One of the most prominent means of repressing the media is filing libel cases against any reporter or editor who exposes cases of corruption, swindling, violence and other anomalies. Recently, eight members of the media were slapped libel charges by Agriculture Sec. Luis "Cito" Lorenzo, a friend of the owner of Tagum Development Co. (TADECO), for publishing a series of articles in 2000 against the harmful effects of pesticides used by the company. The court had earlier dismissed the case filed by TADECO against the journalists but Lorenzo revived the case this year using his position as agriculture secretary.

A radio station known for criticizing corrupt and repressive officials has also been ordered closed. In February 2002, the Dy dynasty ordered the closure of Bombo Radyo in Cauayan, Isabela because of its constant disclosure of, and objection to, the dynasty's anti-people projects. Even worse was the fate that befell three peasant leaders who were attacked with machetes by elements of the 41st IB on July 1 in Baggao, Cagayan. They had just come from the groundbreaking ceremonies for a

community radio station managed by CAGUIMO-

NGAN, a progressive peasant alliance in the province.

The military and police are particularly keen on harassing media people who file reports on statements by enemies of the state to deprive the latter of any opportunity to express their views on important issues. One of the latest cases of harassment occurred when Gloria Arroyo harangued and threatened Channel 7 reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez because she interviewed Sen. Gregorio Honasan who is accused of masterminding the July 27 failed coup d'état.

These cases have revealed anew the close surveillance by the police and military of all journalists suspected of having links to enemies of the state. Police Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. himself admitted thus. When media people asserted their right to know who among them were being subjected to surveillance, Ebdane replied, "Ask yourselves, do you have contacts with New People's Army rebels?"

The harassment and murder of journalists are bound to intensify as the ruling system desperately tries to surmount its crisis and preserve itself. The media must confront this militantly and in an organized way.

Because media repression is but a reflection of the reactionary state and system's broader repression of the struggling people, journalists must link their struggle with that of the majority of the people who are being denied their political and economic rights. ■

Growing list of victims

Benjaline Hernandez headed the Southern Mindanao chapter of the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) when she was killed in April 2002 by elements of the Philippine Army 12th Special Forces in North Cotabato. She was then doing research on military abuses. The government has since acquitted her killers. Edgar Damalerio was a radio commentator and editor of the weekly *Zamboanga Scribe* when he was shot in May 2002 by a police officer. The official has been at large since his escape. In August 2002, Sonny Alcantara was shot after criticizing a local official in San Pablo, Laguna. His case has not gotten anywhere.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has called on Arroyo four times this year to obtain justice for the murders of journalists in the country, but she has merely turned a deaf ear to the IFJ. The IFJ particularly mentioned the murder on August 20 of Rico Ramirez, reporter, cameraman and spinner of DXSF, a radio station in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. Ramirez was well known for his intense criticisms against crime and drug syndicates in his area. He was found sprawled and fighting for his life a few hundred meters from the station he worked in. Two days earlier, Noel Villarante, a radio commentator in Laguna known for his sharp criticism of corrupt practices, was slain. On July 8, at the same time as the inauguration of the Garden of Heaven Memorial Park in La Paz, Tarlac, Bonifacio Gregorio, columnist of *Dyaryo Banat* of Tarlac, was killed. Among the things he criticized in the newspaper were corruption in government, the drug business, and the illegal conversion of peasants' farmlands into the commercial memorial park owned by the town mayor. On April 28, the progressive and fesity broadcaster Johnny Villanueva Jr. was killed in Camalig, Albay. 

Running around in circles

Anti-Marcos cases filed in reactionary courts are going nowhere

Millions of people are now observing the 31st anniversary of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines. Thirty-one years have passed but the thousands of victims of human rights violations by the dictatorship continue to be denied the indemnification they and their families deserve.

These past few months, maneuvers by the Marcos family and their collaborators in congress to water down the bill that would ensure the victims' recovery of the dictator's stolen wealth have been the focus of intense criticism. Among the Marcoses' shameless collaborators is Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales of the reformist Akbayan who formally filed a bill allotting the Marcoses' stolen wealth not only to victims of the dictatorship but also to those of subsequent regimes.

Such a confluence in the antipeople interests of the Marcos family and the reformists has further dimmed any hope that the Marcoses' stolen wealth can be recovered and justice attained for the victims of the fascist dictatorship any time soon. This is on top of the sluggish pace taken by the cases filed against the Marcoses which can be attributed to the reactionary government's lack of resolve to pursue the recovery

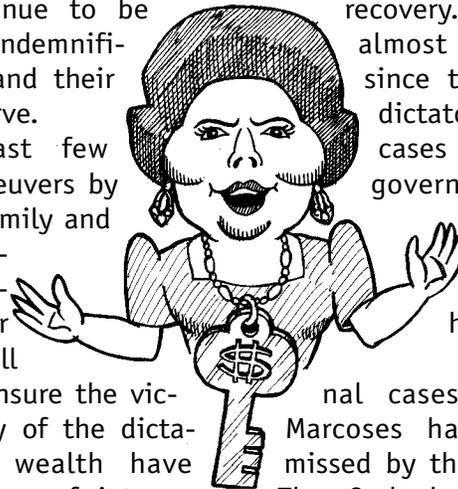
of the stolen wealth.

Not one of Aquino, Ramos, Estrada and Arroyo regimes ever seriously sought to give back the Marcoses' loot to the people. On the contrary, these successive regimes have even obstructed the process of recovery. It has been almost two decades since the fall of the dictatorship but the cases filed by the government against the Marcoses have hardly made any headway.

Several criminal cases against the Marcoses have been dismissed by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has also filed several motions to withdraw some of the cases already filed in court. The Sandiganbayan has already dismissed some of them.

So far, 11 cases have been dismissed, four are leading to the acquittal of the Marcoses and eight more are pending. In 1993, Imelda Marcos was found guilty in two cases, but the Supreme Court reversed the decisions in 1998.

Four cases filed in 1995 concerning wealth hidden by the Marcoses in five foundations acting as fronts were dismissed by the Sandiganbayan supposedly for lack of evidence. When ordered by the court to gather and present their evidence, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the



Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of the Solicitor General "agreed" to withdraw three of the cases instead.

As this circus went on in the reactionary court, the government in recent years has been shamelessly bargaining with the family of the late dictator, resulting in various compromise agreements that have been concealed from the public. Thirty-seven compromise agreements have been forged between the reactionary government and the Marcoses, according to the PCGG in 2001.

The Marcoses and their accomplices continue to maneuver to retain control over their stolen wealth. On August 19, Patrick Foetish, the Marcoses' Swiss lawyer, arrived in the country to appeal the Supreme Court decision to forfeit in favor of the Philippine government \$683 million deposited in Swiss bank accounts owned by the Marcoses. On September 2, their attorneys, in collusion with Robert Swift, the opportunist lawyer of Claimants 1081, succeeded in derailing the cases involving human rights violations under the dictatorship. They found an ally in Judge Manuel Real of the Hawaii District Court who ordered an injunction against the implementation of the Supreme Court decision. This same American court ordered the Marcoses in 1994 to compensate their victims.

The democratic and progressive forces are determined to pursue the fight to bring the criminals to justice even in the face of the deliberate inutility of successive regimes and the schemes hatched by the Marcos family. The collusion of antipeople forces to reverse the verdict of history must never be allowed.

What the victims demand, however, is beyond the pale of the legal arena. No amount of money can compensate for it. In the end, it is only the revolutionary movement that can mete punishment on the Marcos family and its cronies thoroughly and with finality. ■

Ka Amado V. Hernandez

Communist, labor leader, poet, novelist and journalist



The 100th birth anniversary of Ka Amado V. Hernandez was celebrated on September 13. He was an outstanding communist, journalist, poet and novelist. He was a great hero and leader of the labor movement in the country.

Ka Amado was born in Tondo, Manila in 1903. He became the editor of the newspaper *Mabuhay* at the age of 32. He also became the editor of the newspapers *Pilipino*, *Sampagita*, *Weekly* and *Mabuhay Extra*.

Most of Ka Amado's writings realistically dealt with the oppression and struggle of the working class because he himself was a labor leader who militantly stood at the frontline of the workers' struggle.

Ka Amado joined the guerrilla forces in the Sierra Madre when World War II broke out. After the war, Ka Amado, together with Cipriano Cid (a writer, lawyer and labor leader), formed the Philippine Newspaper League (PNL)—a union of journalists—in 1945. That same year, the Congress of Labor Organizations (CLO), the largest and most militant federation of labor unions from 1945-1951, was established. Ka Amado organized the CLO together with Mariano Balgos, Guillermo Capadocia, Pedro Castro, Feixberto Olalia and Cipriano Cid.

Ka Amado was elected as one of the vice presidents of the CLO in 1945 and served as its president from 1947 until his capture by the military in 1951. He effectively led the federation by advancing the struggles and the welfare of workers and by fighting US imperialism.

The Roxas and Quirino regimes suppressed the workers' newly formed solidarity and struggle. In a widespread campaign against militant unionism by the reactionary state, Ka Amado was one of the labor leaders arrested and charged with rebellion. From January 26, 1951, Ka Amado was held incommunicado for five months at Camp Murphy (now Camp Aguinaldo) before being charged with "rebellion complexed with other crimes." He was sentenced to a prison term of five years and six months.

His unjust imprisonment failed to suppress Ka Amado's his class-conscious writing. It was in the prison where Ka Amado said that "the living had ceased to live" that he penned two of what is regarded as his greatest masterpieces—"Isang Dipang Langit" (A

Patch of Sky) and "Panata sa Kalayaan" (Pledge to Freedom).

Ka Amado was temporarily released in 1956. After a six-year court battle, the Supreme Court dismissed the case against him on May 31, 1964. The decision came to be known as the "Hernandez Doctrine."

Ka Amado continued to write after his release. He became editor of *Taliba* (1962-1967) and the progressive newspapers *Makabayan* and *Ang Masa* (1969-1970).

He wrote different literary forms—novels, plays, short stories, essays, poetry and reportage. *Ibong Mandaragit* (Bird of Prey, 1969) and *Luha ng Buwaya* (Crocodile Tears, 1963) are among his noted novels. They were products of his experiences in prison.

His works not only related the events of his time, but also reflected the intense desire of the oppressed and exploited classes for genuine freedom and democracy. Said Ka Amado in "Bartolina": "*Sa aking piita'y hindi pumupurul ang lumang panulat,/ bawat isang titik, may tunog ng punlo at talim ng tabak.*" ["In my prison, an old pen never goes blunt/ every letter written bears the sound of a bullet and a cutlass' sharp edge."]

Ka Amado received numerous awards as proof of his excellence in writing. He was given the Commonwealth Award (1939 and 1940) for *Kayumanggi*, a collection of poems. The National Press Club awarded him a Certificate of Merit (1958) for 25 years of service in the field of journalism. He also won acclaim for the poem "Isang Dipang Langit" in receiving the Cultural Heritage Award. Like his wife Honorata "Ka Atang" de la Rama—the Queen of Filipino Zarzuelas—Ka Amado was bestowed the National Artist Award posthumously.

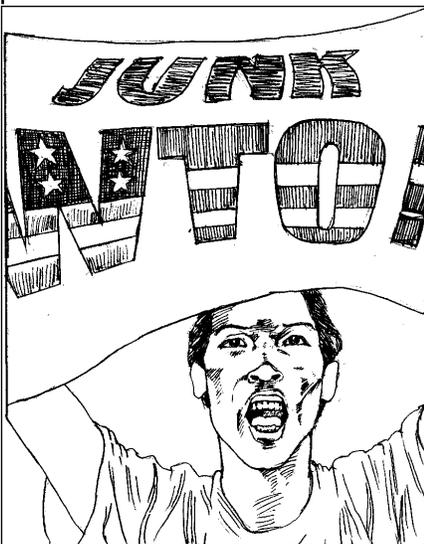
As a member of the old Party, Ka Amado was among those who helped launch the First Rectification Campaign against the errors of the Lava and Taruc leadership, and the reestablishment of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on December 26, 1968.

On September 13, at the initiative and direction of the Amado V. Hernandez Resource Center, a memorial night for Ka Amado was held where his poems were read and patriotic songs were sung.

For being a militant artist and organizer of the toiling masses, Ka Amado continues to be an inspiration to communist writers. ✠

WTO summit in Cancun collapses

In the face of the worsening crisis of the world capitalist system, imperialist countries are increasingly desperate to further the exploitation and oppression of peoples and countries worldwide. At the same time, proletarian and people's struggles against imperialist globalization and its onslaught on their lives and livelihood are intensifying.



The Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was held in Cancun, Mexico from September 10-14 and attended by representatives from 149 member-countries. As in earlier meetings held in Seattle, USA (1999) and Doha, Qatar (2001), the Cancun summit achieved nothing.

The meeting in Cancun was intensely criticized and condemned by people who were sick and tired of being coerced by the imperialist countries. When the meeting's collapse was declared, protesters hailed it as a victory for the international anti-globalization movement and an indication of the intensifying crisis and contradictions besetting imperialism.

One-sided liberalization. During the meeting, the imperialist countries shamelessly pushed for the further reduction of tariffs on agricultural products in "developing countries" even as they strongly protected their own economies. The US and the European Union (EU) were adamantly against any reduction in the huge agricultural subsidies they allotted and used to give their products a trade advantage.

Governments of capitalist countries subsidize more than 10% of agricultural production costs. A glaring example is Japan whose government provides the owners of rice plantations and businesses more than 700% of their production costs. The EU sets aside \$100 billion annually for farms producing sugar, flour and milk. Taken altogether, the US and Europe provided up to \$320 billion in subsidies to their respective agricultural sectors.

Imperialist agrcorporations are the chief beneficiaries of these subsidies. In 2002, over 65% of these subsidies were gobbled up by the 10 largest plantations and agrcorporations in the US.

This has resulted in a \$40 billion annual decline in the exports of backward countries. In addition, peasants lose more than \$24 billion every year as a result of the destruction of productive forces caused by importations from imperialist countries. In the face of all this, the imperialist countries still have the gall to insist on completely eradicating the scant and insignificant subsidies for peasants in backward countries.

If the enormous subsidies given by the capitalist countries to their respective agricultural sectors were to be removed, peasants from backward countries would earn an additional \$120 billion, which is three times bigger than the capitalist countries' token annual aid budget.

Liberalization in the Philippines. The US and the EU continue to dictate the liberalization of agriculture despite the glaring truth that backward countries gain nothing from it but the destruction of their economies and forces of production.

In just a year after the Philippines joined the WTO, agricultural trade took an immediate dive and the deficit ballooned to \$5.2 billion from the \$1.3 billion surplus recorded in 1994. Instead of new jobs being created, over 719,000 were immediately lost. This went on until 2000 when over two million people lost their jobs in the countryside. Just in the last two years, 1.3 million peasants, fisherfolk and other impoverished sectors in the countryside lost their livelihoods as a result of the liberalization of agriculture.

Liberalization is killing local agricultural production with the unrestrained dumping by imperialist countries of their surplus products. Hence, the Philippines ended up importing more even as its agricultural exports continue to decline. In 1995, corn prices dropped by a third as corn imports rose by 520%. Rice prices and production fell as rice importation rose by 540%. From 1995-2000, the importation of vegetables and other agricultural products grew by 300%.

As expected, the Philippines is among the countries that strictly comply with US imperialist dictates. The Arroyo regime's stand to "renegotiate" certain provisions of signed agreements is mainly just for show. In pretending to stand firmly against the reduction of tariffs and for the reduction of subsidies provided by imperialist countries to their agricultural sectors, the Aquino regime went along with the G20—an alliance of 20 countries strongly opposed to US and EU dictates. On the other hand, the regime has also sharply felt a decline in its income resulting from a premature and dramatic reduction in tariff collections after it stupidly volunteered to cut down its tariffs earlier than other countries. This is one of the reasons behind the country's mounting budget deficit and the exacerbation of the country's debt crisis.

Ultimately, the regime continues to rely more on concessions and crumbs that fall from its imperialist master's table. It continues to implement all of the WTO's dictates despite all the rhetoric it spouted in Cancun. This is demonstrated by its continuing push to amend the constitution to make it even easier for foreign monopoly capital and trade to penetrate and dominate the country. AB

Protests against Cancun agenda succeed

Thousands of demonstrators danced, sang and celebrated in Cancun, Mexico after the WTO conference failed to reach any agreement. For four days, they bravely faced thousands of military and police forces deployed by the Mexican government to keep them away from the conference site. Up to 10,000 anti-globalization activists gathered in the area.

On the second day of protest, anti-riot policemen mercilessly truncheoned and teargassed several hundred demonstrators who were trying to break through the ten-kilometer barricade and thick cordon of security forces at the center of the conference site. Two of the protesters were injured.

On September 13, the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-International Chapter launched a "global uprising" against the WTO. That same day, 31 groups and organizations from various parts of the world participated in the "Worldwide Day of Action Against Corporate Globalization and War."

Lee Kyang Hae, 55-year-old leader of the Federation of Farmers and Fishermen of South Korea stabbed himself to death in a grim act of protest. Lee's sacrifice of his own life, according to another Korean peasant leader, reflected the struggle of South Korea's 3.5 million farmers. AB



NPA attacks Ilocos Sur police station

RED fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) seized at least seven M16 rifles when they attacked the municipal police station of Santa Lucia, Ilocos Sur before midnight on September 15.

The eight policemen in the station returned fire but were forced to surrender to the NPA after a 20-minute firefight. Two of them were killed, five wounded and one escaped. The NPA torched the station and a police vehicle after raiding the police armory.

Meanwhile, the NPA raided the municipal hall of Esperanza, Masbate and seized a computer on the night of September 6.

Soldiers ambushed in Isabela

THREE soldiers of the 45th IB "A" Coy were killed and many more were wounded in an ambush by forces of the NPA-Venerando Villacillo Command on September 7 in Palacian, San Agustin, Isabela.

Benito Tesorio Front spokesperson Ka Delio Balagon issued this clarification to refute the false claims made by Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commander of the 5th ID, that the AFP sustained no casualties in what he said was not an ambush but an encounter. Baladon said that civilians from the area themselves witnessed the soldiers carrying three of their dead and many more wounded.

Fake surrenders in Negros condemned

The Roger Mahinay Front (RMF, the NPA guerrilla front in southwestern Negros) denied reports that eleven of its fighters surrendered to the enemy on September 12. In a statement issued September 14, RMF spokesperson Nilo Magtanggol said the so-called surrenderees presented at the provincial capitol in Bacolod City by Col. Jeffrey Sodusta of the 303rd Bde and Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon were ordinary peasants.

This was not the first time the enemy distorted the real events, said Magtanggol. He disclosed that two elements of a composite team of Scout Rangers, Philippine Army and RPA-ABB elements were killed and two wounded in an encounter with Red fighters on August 17 in Sitio Mambut-oy, Barangay Locotan, Kabankalan City. The NPA suffered no casualties. The enemy reported the opposite, claiming that many NPA guerrillas were killed and that the military troops sustained no casualties.

Earlier, the military also reported a strafing incident by soldiers against civilians in Sitio Buyog, Barangay Nabulao, Sipalay City on June 22 as an encounter.

Comrades pay tribute to martyr in Cagayan Valley

The revolutionary forces and the masses in Cagayan Valley honored Valeriano "Nonoy" Susa, a regional Communist Party cadre who died of leukemia on August 30.

Susa, who was known by his nom de guerres Ka Gani, Ka Diego and Ka Dasig, was a member of the Regional Party Committee in Northeastern Luzon and the leading cadre of the NPA Venerando Villacillo Command and the Benito Tesorio Front before he passed away.

Susa was captured by elements of the 5th ID and PNP in July while undergoing treatment at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center in Tuguegarao City. He was subjected to 24 hours of interrogation, forced to stay seated, deprived of sleep and denied his medication even if the enemy knew that he was suffering from a terminal illness.

Despite this, Susa remained steadfast. He escaped after a few days and reestablished contact with comrades. He was transferred to a medical facility in Metro Manila where he spent his last moments with comrades and relatives.

NDFP pays tribute to Bishop Mercado

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) negotiating panel honored the memory of Bishop La Verne Mercado, Secretary General of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) who died in July.

In a statement on July 24, the NDFP hailed Bishop Mercado for his courageous opposition to the Marcos dictatorship and the warm support he extended to political prisoners and other victims of human rights violations.

The NDFP said Bishop Mercado showed that church people should take a stand on the side of the oppressed and exploited and join them in their struggle against injustice.