



ANG

# Bayan

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas  
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

English Edition  
Vol. XXXVI No. 1  
January 7, 2005  
www.philippinerevolution.org

Editorial

## People's protests and NPA armed offensives will rock the Arroyo regime in 2005

**I**ntense protests and armed offensives will rock the antipeople Arroyo regime in 2005. Ever spiralling mass struggles and escalating armed offensives of the New People's Army (NPA) are the Filipino people's response to the relentless suffering wrought by the Arroyo regime.

The Arroyo regime is even more rapidly disintegrating from within because of furious conflicts among rival factions inside the reactionary state's armed forces. More and more forces are ready to join an anti-Arroyo united front.

This further weakens and isolates the Arroyo regime and may eventually lead to its downfall. The overthrow of the Arroyo regime is the only just response to four years of suffering for the broad masses of the people, especially the toiling masses.

It is the Arroyo regime itself that accelerates the process of its own collapse. The puppet regime is subservient to the dictates of US imperialism and the international agencies under the latter's control. It incites the widespread anger of the masses because laws, policies and programs favorable to big foreign businesses and their local partners have wrought unprecedented suffering on the people.

The Arroyo regime plans to further punish the people with a slew of new onerous taxes that come on top of incessant increases in the prices of petroleum products and other basic goods and services. The intense unemployment problem and wages of workers and salaries of government employees pegged at miserably low levels are intolerable to the people.

Amid the people's abject poverty, the Arroyo regime's foreign imperialist masters indulge themselves, extracting superprofits, interest and loan payments. The ruling Arroyo regime itself rakes in hundreds of millions worth of ill-gotten wealth from the national treasury and projects of the reactionary government.

Any opposition to these shameless and oppressive acts is met with further state repression, using the



*This issue's highlights...*

**A fruitful year of revolutionary struggle in CL**

PAGE 3

**Revolutionary victories in Western Mindanao**

PAGE 7

**Tsunami kills 155,000 in Indian Ocean**

PAGE 9

"war against terrorism" as a pretext. The past year has been stained with the blood of scores of victims of massacres and summary executions, whose targets have been unarmed civilians in the countryside. Brutal military operations, torture, bombings, ransacking of homes, forced evacuations and other serious human rights violations go on unabated.

There is even a plan to raise the level of the antipeople war by inviting intensified US military intervention in the Philippines. The political and material support that the regime receives from its imperialist master emboldens it to carry out more dastardly violations of human rights.

The merciless massacre of strikers and their supporters in Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) on November 16, the murder of peasant leader Marcelino Beltran in December, and the renewed attack on the HLI picket line this January where two strikers were shot are but the latest of the Arroyo regime's most despicable and cruel crimes.

Arroyo's hands are bloodied with the massacre in Hacienda

Luisita. In the final analysis, Arroyo and her slogans "strong republic" and "anti-terrorism" actually incite military and police officials and personnel to shoot down workers and poor peasants. Arroyo is determined to suppress the struggle for genuine land reform.

In response, peasant mass campaigns and struggles are being boldly expanded and strengthened in the face of further repression, such as the massacre perpetrated in Hacienda Luisita. The call for genuine land reform reverberates throughout the Philippines.

The legal democratic movement is being boldly expanded in the cities and countryside. The worker masses are in the forefront, struggling for wage hikes, higher salaries of government employees, jobs for the unemployed, housing for the poor, and a decent and humane life for all. They wage resistance against policies and measures that cause widespread unemployment, casualization, violation of democratic rights and other hardships on the workers.

The broad masses oppose the unabated increases in oil prices

and commodities. They seethe in anger over attempts to impose additional tax burdens and to trample on their social welfare. They invigorate their struggles to defend the livelihood, welfare and democratic rights of workers, peasants, other urban poor, professionals and intellectuals, small businesspeople and other classes and strata aggrieved by imperialism, reaction and fascism.

All these stoke the anger of the exploited and oppressed masses, raising their readiness to wage resistance. They are overcoming their fear of state coercion and violence. The people's widespread and intense discontent must be harnessed and given direction, and their anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist struggles boldly expanded and strengthened.

They deliver their most powerful blows on the reactionary US-Arroyo regime to isolate and overthrow it.

The revolutionary forces expand linkages and alliances with groups and elements among the ranks of the ruling classes and reactionary armed forces that stand ready to cooperate to further the welfare of the masses of the people and to put an end to the Arroyo regime.

The Red fighters of the New People's Army are ready to boldly expand and intensify the revolutionary guerrilla war. The people's army is being expanded and strengthened. It will launch more frequent and more widespread winnable tactical offensives this year to further weaken the Arroyo regime and contribute to the efforts of the people to overthrow it.

We will turn 2005 red with the banners of a people in protest and the flames of the people's army's intensified armed offensives. **AB**

 <p>Vol. XXXVI No. 1 January 7, 2005</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.</p> <p>It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at: <a href="http://www.philippinerevolution.org">www.philippinerevolution.org</a>.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at: <a href="mailto:angbayan@yahoo.com">angbayan@yahoo.com</a></p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Contents</h2> <hr/> <p><b>Editorial</b></p> <p>People's protests and NPA armed offensives to rock Arroyo regime in 2005 <b>3</b></p> <p>Fruitful year for Central Luzon <b>4</b></p> <p>NPA offensive in San Ildefonso <b>5</b></p> <p>Violence in Hacienda Luisita <b>6</b></p> <p>Victories in Western Mindanao <b>7</b></p> <p>Bush's hollow electoral victory <b>8</b></p> <p>Tsunami kills 155,000 <b>9</b></p> <p>AFP violates own ceasefire <b>10</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

# A fruitful year of revolutionary struggle in Central Luzon

The year 2004 was a fruitful year for revolutionary struggle in Central Luzon. Consequently, the revolutionary forces in the region have entered the 37th year of revolutionary struggle with much enthusiasm.

**Armed struggle.** Victories in the field of armed struggle show a determination to advance revolution even in an area composed of vast plains, with no thickets to use for cover, and that lies at the threshold of the center of reaction in Manila. Most striking was the series of victorious NPA tactical offensives from November 30 to December 15, when the Arroyo regime's armed troops were battered in various guerrilla fronts of the region. Overall, 52 soldiers and policemen were killed in tactical offensives launched in Central Luzon in 2004.

The NPA's tactical offensives succeeded because of the active participation and support of the masses who served as the people's army's eyes and ears, the Red fighters' tremendous fighting spirit, and the improvement of fighting tactics and techniques due to continuing politico-military training.

Not a single civilian was harmed in the offensives launched by the NPA. Soldiers who had already surrendered and were hors de combat were likewise not harmed in compliance with international laws of war and out of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. "This is the complete opposite of the counterrevolutionary and antipeople violence of the AFP that led to the massacre of unarmed mill and farm workers in Hacienda Luisita who were merely asserting their legitimate demands and rights," said the Regional Committee of the CPP in Central Luzon.

Even in defensive battles, Red fighters displayed skill and firm resolve, said the CPP-CL, citing firefights in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija on

October 3 and Pura, Tarlac on October 11. In Peñaranda, the NPA killed and wounded an estimated 10 soldiers when they encountered the 56th and the 71st IBs. The military reported the opposite and boasted of having killed eight Red fighters. In truth, not a single Red fighter was harmed.

Meanwhile, in Pura, over a battalion of soldiers and policemen tried to annihilate an NPA platoon in Sitio Umangan, Barangay Balite. Instead, nine reactionary troops were killed after three hours of fighting in a sugar cane field. Units from Tarlac, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija reinforced their embattled comrades in this firefight. Timely information regarding the enemy provided by the masses greatly helped the comrades in their retreat.

**Agrarian revolution and other mobilizations.** In a guerrilla front in Nueva Ecija, over 4,000 farm workers benefited when wages were raised for rice planting. Another thousand farm workers who were paid a smaller percentage of the harvest for reaping benefited

when the system of sharing was shifted in favor of the sharecroppers. Thousands also benefited when farmgate prices were raised for unhusked rice (*palay*) and onions in many towns and usurious leding rates were reduced.

Even legal agrarian struggles are advancing. The most prominent among them is the militant struggle of the toiling masses in Hacienda Luisita. The strike that began on November 6 reverberated with cries for job security, higher wages and benefits, the scrapping of the Stock Distribution Option (SDO) and calls for genuine land reform. The strike is supported by thousands of relatives and sympathizers. At the core of this struggle lies the tillers' longstanding assertion of their right to the land that the Cojuangcos continue to claim, said the CPP-CL.

"The Cojuangcos and the fascist Arroyo regime responded to the legitimate demands and struggle of the toiling masses in the hacienda with a massacre," said the CPP-CL. Killing 14 strikers and demonstrators, the massacre has further in-



flamed the anger of the worker, peasant and farm-worker masses in Hacienda Luisita. It has reaped widespread condemnation from both the toiling masses and some sections of the ruling class who hold the Cojuangcos and the Arroyo regime accountable for their dastardly crime.

**Urban mass movement.** People's struggles in the region are advancing vigorously. Local struggles that have occasionally been linked by provincial and regional mobilizations have advanced. They have kept pace with the national mass movement and in certain instances have shown great initiative in addressing burning issues early on. The transport strikes launched against continuing oil price hikes are one example.

On November 29 and 30, a "Lakbay Riles" (railroad march) was launched from Meycauayan to Malolos in Bulacan, from Sto. Tomas to Clark in Pampanga and from Tarlac City to Bamban in Tarlac to oppose the North Rail Transit Project. The \$503 million project that began on November 3 will evict hundreds of thousands of urban poor families from Caloocan City to Tarlac.

Workers continue to struggle for higher wages and against contractualization and the suppression of their right to form unions and to strike. Militant youth oppose tuition fee increases and the imposition of unjustified fees, as well as the corporatization of colleges and universities consequent to drastic cuts in funds for education.

The teachers' mass movement is on the verge of resurgence due to the delay in the teachers' already low salaries.

Meanwhile, the urban poor are opposing the demolition of their homes.

**The strengthening of the Party.** The Party's membership in the region continues to grow, and now comes to several thousand. Its growth rate is expected to accelerate because of the mass movement's vigor in both city and countryside. Comrades in the white areas contributed the most to the growth of the Party's membership from the end of 2003 to 2004.

The Party paid tribute to revolutionary martyrs like Ka Jojo Talens (Boyet or Von), a member of the Regional Committee who was among the seven killed in a firefight in San Felipe, Zambales on March 9. The CPP-CL likewise honored the 14 martyrs of Hacienda Luisita and Marcelino (Ka Marcing) Beltran, a peasant leader killed by the military in San Isidro, Tarlac City on December 8. **AB**

*Drawn from the CPP-CL anniversary message*

## Excellent planning, advantageous terrain and firm links with the masses

### Events during the victorious NPA offensive in San Ildefonso, Bulacan

On November 30, a 20-strong NPA unit staged a successful ambush in Barangay Pasong Bangkal, San Ildefonso, Bulacan on 20 soldiers belonging to the 56th IB's "C" Company, killing 14 troops and wounding five. The NPA seized 18 high-powered firearms.



The military took pains in claiming that the ambushed military unit was engaged in relief operations for typhoon victims. No less than the soldiers who survived the ambush, however, admitted that they were on a combat mission. Documents detailing the mission order and the scope, duration, the command and the units involved in their operation were likewise seized from 1Lt. Ben Puyao, the commanding officer. In addition, none of the soldiers caught in the firefight brought any relief items. Above all, the gunbattle took place in an area far from those affected by the flooding.

In a report, comrades from Central Luzon said that it was around 9 a.m. on November 30 when barriofolk sent word that the enemy was conducting operations. The comrades were still in the process of preparing for the day's tasks and decided to avoid an encounter with the enemy. At the same time, though, they made sure that they were on higher ground. They positioned themselves along a row of mango trees lining a road, far from the masses' houses. The mango trees were about 60 meters away from the highway. The place they chose also lay at the edge of the area still covered by thickets. If they went any farther than this, they would likely be spotted.

While lying in wait, the Red fighters constantly re-

While lying in wait, the Red fighters constantly re-

ceived information from the barriofolk. According to the courier, based on their experience, the soldiers usually passed along this roadway whenever they conducted operations. It was around 3 p.m. when he quickly conveyed the information. "They're here, comrades!" he reported.

The guerrillas readied themselves. A few moments later, they saw the enemy walking single file. When all of the troops had entered the place of ambush, a gunshot shattered the silence. The other Red fighters followed suit, and the enemy responded with heavy fire. The NPA command gave clear orders: no one was to fire unless he or she had a clear target. This is to ensure that bullets are not wasted. The Red fighters fixed their sights on the enemy, making sure that every shot counted.

While exchanging fire, the NPA command noticed that the enemy had not moved and remained right where they were first fired upon. The soldiers lay huddled inside an excavation.

"Flank right!" "Take the road!" The CO of the NPA unit gave successive commands. Not long after, the guerrillas enveloped the paralyzed enemy. The fighting lasted one and a half hours.

Five wounded soldiers surrendered. The comrades gathered them and talked to them. Their wounds were treated to the extent possible. Comrades recounted that a soldier pleaded for them to simply take the money in his possession. "My wife is giving birth. The money for her childbirth is there in the bag." But the comrades simply told him to get the bag. To his happy surprise, they had him keep it. After ascertaining the wounded soldiers' condition, the Red fighters released the captives.

A Red fighter, Comrade Anacleto Butuan Jr. was martyred in this battle. Two other comrades were also wounded.

The guerrillas proved that an offensive against an enemy unit conducting operations can succeed through excellent tactics and techniques, the use of advantageous terrain and firm links with the masses. Despite the equal number of NPA troops and the enemy, the NPA had the advantage because of the firm support of the masses.

With these advantages, the NPA can defeat Philippine Army soldiers or even Scout Rangers who have supposedly undergone special training. The San Ildefonso offensive also showed the NPA's capability to quickly come up with an effective plan for an offensive that can assure victory. **AB**

## Relentless violence at the Hacienda Luisita picket line

**V**iolence at the Hacienda Luisita Inc. picket line continues without letup. The latest attack occurred this month, when armed men shot at close range two strikers, George Loveland and Ernesto Ramos, who were manning the picket line at the hacienda's West Gate at around 11 p.m. on January 5. Loveland and Ramos are both in critical condition in a hospital due to serious bullet wounds in the chest. Policemen surrounding the picket line did not lift a finger when the shooting took place.

Earlier, peasant leader Marcelino "Ka Marcing" Beltran, a key witness to the Hacienda Luisita Massacre in November, was killed in his own home on December 8. Ka Marcing chaired the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Tarlak (AMT), was vice president of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) and was the Anakpawis party representative for Tarlac.

CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal strongly condemned the slaying of Ka Marcing and the shooting of Loveland and Ramos, saying it was a desperate measure on the part of the Arroyo regime, the Cojuangco clan and the fascist AFP and PNP to dampen the determination of HLI workers to fight for just wages and job security and obtain justice for the victims of the Hacienda Luisita massacre.

The CPP in Central Luzon also strongly condemned the murder and declared that the New People's Army in the region will punish bloodthirsty military and police units mercilessly victimizing people peacefully asserting their rights.

In December, an NPA team disarmed the tactical command post of the 69th IB in Mexico, Pampanga. The 69th IB was directly responsible for the massacre of strikers and demonstrators at HLI on November 16 and the murder of Ka Marcing the following month.

On December 26, Jose Agtalon, spokesperson of the Josepino Corpuz Command of the NPA in Central Luzon also stated that those guilty of the massacre in Hacienda Luisita will be arrested and tried before a people's court. They include Gloria Arroyo, some members of the Cojuangco clan and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who issued an assumption of jurisdiction order which served as basis for successive violent attacks on the HLI picket line. **AB**

# Victories of the revolutionary people and movement in Western Mindanao

The people and the revolutionary movement in Western Mindanao have many reasons to celebrate the Party's 36th anniversary. In the past year, the region effectively carried out its revolutionary tasks and contributed to the national call to intensify and expand people's war. It launched mass struggles, further expanded and consolidated its guerrilla base and raised the NPA's armed strength in the region.

Hundreds of families benefited from the minimum land reform program led by the Party. Farm workers in rice and coconut lands enjoyed wage hikes. Usury was reduced by 50%. Transportation costs for agricultural products were also reduced. And the unjust practice of subtracting a certain percentage from the weight of copra (supposedly to allow for moisture loss) was eliminated. Prices of basic commodities in village stores have also been reduced, and production through cooperation developed.

These were attained through the collective action of poor peasants, farm workers and lower-middle peasants who launched democratic consultations and dialogues and conducted alliance work. Also launched were campaigns to defend human rights as well as education, literacy, culture, health, production and other campaigns to promote the people's welfare.

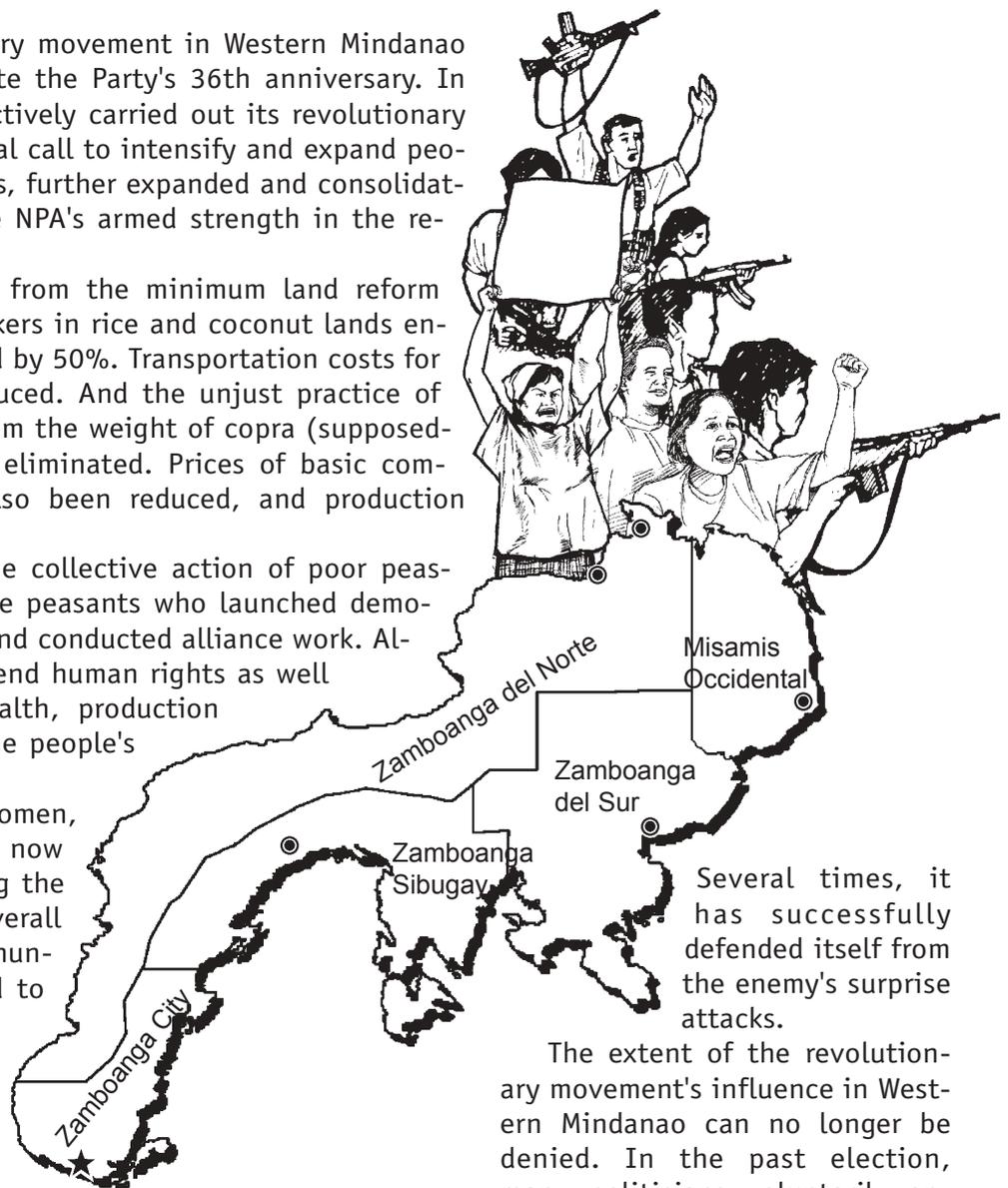
The memberships of peasant, women, youth and other organizations are now in the tens of thousands, expanding the people's organized strength. The overall mass base now comes to several hundreds of thousands and is expected to grow even more in 2005.

The support and participation of peasant organizations in the armed struggle has grown more vigorous, encouraging many peasants to join the New People's Army, thereby further strengthening the latter's armed capability.

The reactionary army has failed to defeat the platoon formations built in the guerrilla fronts. The NPA's experience refutes AFP claims that the NPA will never be able to recover its mass base in Western Mindanao after it was demolished in the 1980s as a result of grave deviations. The NPA has successfully returned and resumed operations in strategic areas of the region's five provinces. It has overcome the military's intense psy-war campaigns and intrigues, including the deceptive schemes of the RPA-ABB which poses as a revolutionary group.

The NPA in the region confiscated 30 high-powered firearms in the past year. Up to 41 soldiers were killed and 21 wounded in ambushes, raids and disarming actions and in encounters with the AFP and CAFGU.

*Drawn from the CPP-Western Mindanao anniversary statement*



Several times, it has successfully defended itself from the enemy's surprise attacks.

The extent of the revolutionary movement's influence in Western Mindanao can no longer be denied. In the past election, many politicians voluntarily approached the revolutionary movement to seek its permission to campaign in areas under the revolutionary government.

There has been renewed vigor in revolutionary work in the cities. As in the countryside, anti-imperialist, antifederal and antifascist campaigns have been systematically launched, including struggles against imperialist globalization and the entry of US troops into the country. Cam-

paings for land reform and against the National Integrated Protected Areas (NIPA) and other anti-lumad projects were also launched. The urban mass movement also supported struggles in the countryside.

The Party organization expanded and consolidated in both city and countryside. The Party's overall membership grew by 45%, with new members mostly coming from mass organizations in the barrios.

In the face of these victories, the CPP-Western Mindanao laid down its tasks for the coming years to further strengthen the revolutionary movement in the region. AB

## ... In Mindanao

The Party is rooted at present in five regions in Mindanao. Under these regions are guerrilla front committees and a number of interregional and municipal committees. Hundreds of Party branches may be found in barrios, urban poor communities, schools, factories and offices. The Party now has thousands of members in the island. Membership grew by 33% in the past year.

The Party firmly leads the advance of armed struggle in the island. Last year, the NPA launched 60 tactical offensives, seizing 150 high-powered firearms. It operates in 20 provinces, 200 towns and 1,500 barrios.

The NPA has established the democratic people's government in many localities. Thousands have benefited from successful mass struggles for the minimum land reform program. The Party has led various mass campaigns and struggles in the cities and the countryside.

The Party and the revolutionary organizations in the island have also maintained their alliances with other progressive organizations. They continue to enjoy excellent relations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and expanded alliances with progressive elements from the church, schools, with government employees and even with elements within the reactionary military. AB

*Drawn from the CPP-Mindanao Commission anniversary statement*

# The next four years under George W. Bush

On January 20, George W. Bush will be embarking on a new four-year term as president of US imperialism. His clique has been straining to portray his victory in the November elections as a demonstration of the American people's support for his regime's conservatism, militarism and unilateralism. Bush considers his victory political capital to continue his overall policy of military intervention and aggression and the unjust war on Iraq in particular.

Bush's narrow margin (3%) over his principal electoral opponent, however, indicates his failure to secure decisive support for his administration's policies. Garnering 51% of the votes to John Kerry's 48%, Bush was unable to deceive over 55 million Americans despite the relentless "anti-terrorist" hysteria he whipped up and his control over the government's machinery, funds and other resources in the last four years.

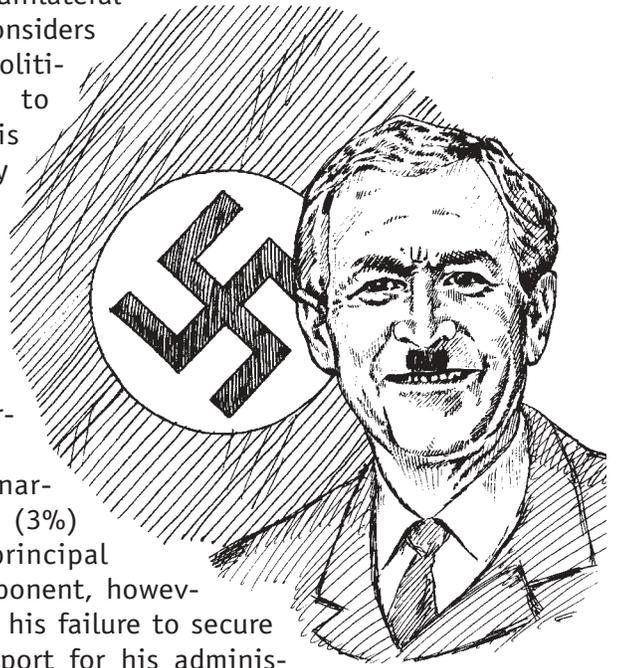
On the one hand, the Bush regime is more stubborn than ever in pursuing the US occupation of Iraq and pressuring and attacking other countries it regards as threats. Leading the list of these countries are Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea.

It is also determined to punish all those that opposed the US war on Iraq, including the heads of certain United Nations (UN) agencies who questioned the war's legitimacy. The US has already initiated moves to oust UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed el-Baradei.

On the other hand, the Bush government could not pursue these measures without reaping criticism and opposition from both the American people and the people of the affected countries.

First of all, there is no stopping the growing number of

*"Bush..."*, continued on page 8



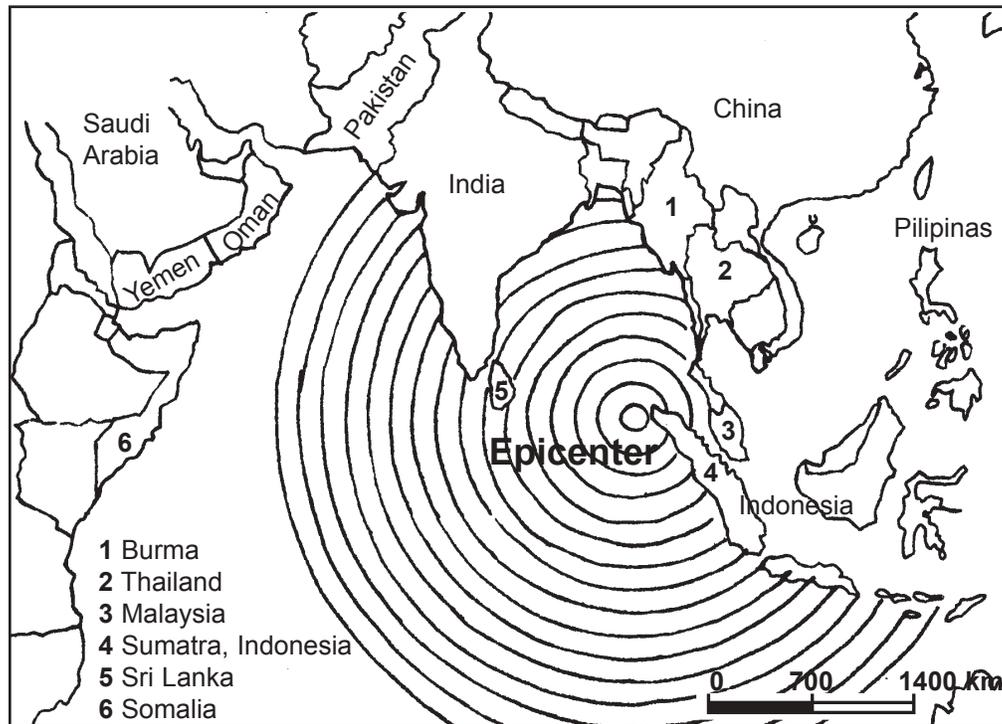
# Tsunami kills 155,000 in Indian Ocean

Up to 155,000 died when tsunami struck the eastern and western shores of the Indian Ocean. Hundreds of thousands more were injured and up to five million people lost their homes and their livelihood.

Most of the victims were fisherfolk and other poor residents of coastal communities.

The tsunami were brought about by an earthquake under the eastern part of the Indian Ocean that measured 8.9 on the Richter Scale—the strongest in the last 40 years.

Most badly hit was Aceh, a province at the northern tip of Sumatra in Indonesia. Up to 80,000 people



are estimated to have died in Aceh, including 40,000 or 80% of the population of the town of Meulaboh. Aceh is only a little over 160 kilometers from the earthquake's epicenter.

Towering waves also battered the western part of Sumatra, Indonesia's largest island. Overall, more than 100,000 people are estimated to have died in Indonesia. Meanwhile, up to 30,000 died in Sri Lanka; 9,500 in India; and 5,000 in Thailand. Deaths have also been reported in Myanmar, Maldives, Somalia and Kenya.

The Communist Party of the Philippines has extended its condolences.

## *"Bush...", from page 8*

American soldiers killed and wounded in the fighting in Iraq. Among other issues surrounding the war on Iraq, it is mounting American casualties that will expand and strengthen the anti-war movement in the US. For a greater number of Americans, the colossal sums Bush pours into the war is unacceptable in the face of the onerous social security and tax reforms pursued by his regime.

Secondly, the growing number of Iraqis killed and their intensified suffering in the hands of foreign occupation forces can only lead to the escalation of the Iraqi people's armed resistance as well

as that of many other groups in the Middle East sympathetic to them. This likewise fuels the expansion and strengthening of the international united front against the war in Iraq and the US' militarist policies in general. The US now faces growing isolation from the international community.

Thirdly, the US' unilateral actions further stoke the anger of the other imperialist powers that it has run roughshod over. The tensions between the US and Britain on the one hand and Germany, Russia and China on the other that surfaced at the start of the war will likely intensify in the

face of the Bush regime's obstinacy.

In the end, the Bush regime will be forced to choose between two options: to go after the much-coveted spoils from its wars of aggression and military interventions or face the extensive damage wrought by growing opposition to the war both in the US and the rest of the world.

Should Bush still refuse to yield at that time of reckoning, his much-vaunted "capital" will be of no benefit to his regime, and he will be all the more isolated from the American people and the rest of the world's peoples. AB

So many were killed by the tsunami because there was no means of forewarning people living along the coastlines. Although "tsunameters" are relatively inexpensive and have already been in use for over 50 years, the countries that were hardest hit did not possess such instruments.

It is the governments of these countries that bear the brunt of responsibility for the large number of casualties. The failure of these governments to use "tsunami early warning devices" constitutes criminal negligence and proves their lack of concern for the hundreds of thousands of their people who live and earn their living along the coastlines.

The US imperialists have been especially callous. Even as US agencies already suspected the formation of tsunami in the Indian Ocean, no information was relayed to the affected countries. A warning, however, was sent forthwith to the US military base in Diego Garcia.

In the face of this gigantic tragedy, the US announced that it would extend a mere \$18 million

## What is a tsunami?

Tsunami (pronounced su-na-mi) are a series of gigantic and rapid waves resulting from strong movements under or near the ocean as a consequence of earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. A tsunami usually consists of a rapid series of ebbs and flows along the coastlines. One or more of these waves may become gigantic, depending on the shore's distance from the tectonic plate movement. Also depending on the strength of the tremor or volcanic eruption, a tsunami may last up to a few hours. Tsunami usually occur in the Pacific Ocean which is surrounded by about 1,150 volcanoes on land and underwater, in what is called the "Pacific Ring of Fire".

AB

in assistance to the devastated countries. An angered international community has assailed the niggardly amount shelled out by the US for the victims, especially since it pales in comparison to the US' daily \$1.5 billion budget for the war in, and occupation of, Iraq.

The Arroyo regime once again showed its outright opportunism and utter lack of concern for the fate of millions of tsunami victims when it boasted of benefits to Philip-

pine tourism in view of the closure of many tourist destinations in the affected areas.

In contrast, the communists and revolutionary forces, especially in Sri Lanka, India and Aceh, immediately undertook operations to coordinate assistance and ensure that aid reaches the remotest areas hit by the tsunami. In recognition of their authority, international humanitarian agencies have coordinated and cooperated with them.

AB

---

## Military violates GRP unilateral ceasefire

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) violated the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Arroyo regime from December 16, 2004 to January 4, 2005.

Reports reaching *Ang Bayan* said that soldiers launched operations on December 16 in Sitio Palompon, Barangay San Isidro, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur. Two Scout Ranger troops were killed

in an ensuing clash with the NPA.

That same day, the troops of the Philippine Army's 23rd, 30th and 58th IB launched offensives in the town of Buenavista, Agusan del Norte.

On the other hand, contrary to AFP claims, all NPA units strictly complied with the ceasefire declared by the CPP Central Committee from December 23, 2004 to January 2, 2005.