

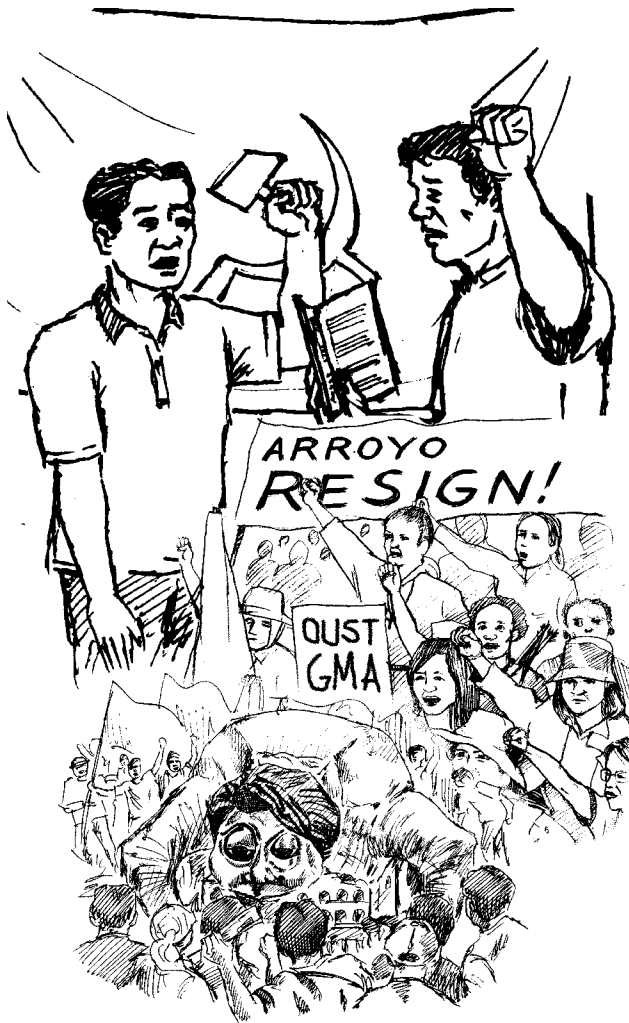
**ANG****Bayan**

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Editorial

Strengthen the Party and the revolutionary movement amid efforts to oust Arroyo



THE Arroyo regime is mired in a crisis unprecedented in gravity in its four-year rule. Long before this, the regime had already been wracked by intense crisis due to its antipeople and antinational policies and measures. Things took a turn for the worse as the regime's isolation intensified and public hatred for it mounted due to exposés on jueteng and Arroyo's involvement in rigging the 2004 polls.

Widespread disgust for the Arroyo regime has been translated into a stronger and bigger anti-Arroyo movement and worsening rifts within the ruling clique. Various means and forms of protest are emerging and huge and powerful street mobilizations are advancing, all seeking Arroyo's ouster. Linked with these protests are various sectoral economic and political struggles. Large numbers of government employees as well as soldiers and policemen are openly airing their seething anger at the regime and their readiness to withdraw support. This confluence of events and developments is building up towards a powerful storm of protest leading to the overthrow of the Arroyo regime.

Unlike the broad people's movement that ousted Marcos in 1986 and Estrada in 2001, militant, patriotic and democratic forces comprise a far bigger and more significant part of the present anti-Arroyo united front. They have demonstrated the strength and breadth of their forces and influence, and are firmly at the forefront of the broad anti-Arroyo movement, vigorously pursuing the people's most urgent demands and crucial, concrete reforms that can never be realized so long as Arroyo remains in power.

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The militant and democratic anti-Arroyo forces are pushing for the formation of a transitional democratic council or some other form of government in place of Arroyo's corrupt and puppet rule. Progressive parties and democratic mass organizations are expected to have a significant role in the post-Arroyo government because of the sizeable role they play in advancing the people's interests and the struggle to topple the Arroyo regime. They are aware that radical and fundamental changes in society will not be immediately realized with the Arroyo regime's mere ouster.

As the Filipino people actively struggle to bring an end to the Arroyo regime, the revolutionary forces conduct propaganda to make them aware that fundamental changes in society will only be achieved with the complete victory of the new-democratic revolution that will overthrow the entire reactionary and puppet state and system and establish a genuine revolutionary government and system. All throughout this process, the people must continuously wield the weapon of militant struggle. They must broadly and actively immerse

themselves in economic, political and social issues until total victory is achieved.

The legal and democratic forces and the entire people are now confronted with the challenge of how to decisively advance the legal and open mass movement to oust the Arroyo regime in the face of its obstinate insistence on clinging to power, and of how to maintain vigilance and persist in the struggle even after Arroyo's ouster.

Arroyo's minions in congress are brazenly maneuvering to bog down the impeachment process by filibustering and raising all sorts of technicalities. Malacañang has likewise ordered a raid on a house where documents and other evidence regarding Arroyo's poll rigging and her other crimes were being kept. Witnesses have been threatened if not bribed with huge amounts to have them withdraw testimony implicating the Arroyo family in jueteng and election pay-offs.

Malacañang has also been relentless in its scheme to use character change (cha-cha) to obscure Arroyo's huge criminal liabilities and derail mass actions seeking her ouster. Her minions have likewise maliciously released their own fake audio tapes and presented them as genuine to make it appear that it was her opponents who fabricated the Gloriagate tapes.

All these, however, are being effectively put to the lie. They have succeeded only in demonstrating Arroyo's deceit, worsened the regime's isolation from the people and deepened the public's disgust for the ruling clique.

The revolutionary movement must thoroughly take advantage of current conditions favorable to waging revolution. The mass movement is vigorously advancing and the people's revolutionary fervor burns ever brightly as the ruling regime is on an inexorable decline. Even Arroyo's insistence on clinging to power despite widespread anger and calls for her ouster creates favorable conditions for the Party and the revolutionary movement to further expand and gain strength.

We can accelerate the pace of advance in various fields of revolutionary work, proceed faster to the next substage of people's war and hasten the realization of complete victory for the national-democratic revolution.

In recent years, the Party has



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grown by an average of 20% annually. This rate of growth can be stepped up even further in the face of favorable conditions obtaining at the present. We must likewise develop, train and deploy even more cadres to lead the rapidly growing organization; carry out tasks in various areas of Party work that are ever expanding; expand, strengthen, mobilize and consolidate the people's army and the revolutionary mass movement more effectively; and ensure the consolidation of the revolutionary movement and all Party units and forces even as we put emphasis on political struggles and other political tasks.

We must further step up recruitment for the New People's Army (NPA) and be more aggressive in recruiting Red fighters from the ranks of mass activists in both countryside and city, and from mass organizations and active contacts. We must train military cadres and fighters.

We must ensure the formation of platoons as the basic formation and excel in their operations. We must launch even more tactical offensives that can easily be won against the beleaguered regime's armed forces, further weaken and demoralize the enemy, and procure more weapons for the NPA. Aside from numerous small and regular-sized attacks on the AFP-PNP, we must also launch powerful headblows on the enemy.

We must strengthen revolutionary organizing work both in the countryside and cities. Now more than ever, the revolutionary forces must exert all-out effort to hasten the process of arousing, mobilizing and organizing the broad masses of the people to launch ever bigger protests that would lead to a gigantic people's uprising. This is what will draw the people in their numbers to tread the path of revolutionary struggle.

We must build more company-size guerrilla fronts and set them as the standard. We must rapidly expand the revolutionary mass base in the countryside, raise the level of organizing and form local organs of people's democratic government in as many consolidated guerrilla bases as possible. We must launch widespread agrarian struggles and other mass struggles. We must actively coordinate and combine mass struggles in the countryside with those in the cities.

We must further expand the anti-Arroyo united front from the national down to the local levels. We must win over a bigger number of tactical allies. We must exacerbate contradictions among reactionary factions and within the ruling clique.

We must form unities with allies (including tactical allies from the ruling classes) that would lead to more favorable conditions for the revolutionary movement and the peace negotiations and advance the interests of the broad masses of the people under the new regime. **AB**

Sinister means to stay in power



THE Arroyo regime is persistently scheming and resorting to sinister means in its desperate bid to stay in power.

It has even seized evidence in the impeachment case against the president. On Malacañang's orders, the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) raided on August 17 a room being rented by Segundo Tabayoyong, an expert on fraudulent documents. He was a former department chief at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The results of Tabayoyong's analysis are potential evidence in an impeachment trial—thus, the preemptive strike. Instead of gaining points, however, the regime drew more flak when the raiders' discovery of 40 boxes of documents detailing the Arroyo camp's involvement in electoral fraud was disclosed in the mass media. The documents seized confirmed what Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who ran for president, and former Sen. Loren Legarda, who ran for vice president, have long disclosed—that the regime manufactured electoral returns even before the election.

Failing to present a search warrant and unable

to cite any justification for the raid, the ISAFP and the PNP merely planted a home-made revolver and magazines for bullets of assorted caliber in Tabayoyong's room.

Tabayoyong is now in hiding but has indicated his readiness to disclose all of his findings.

Meanwhile, on August 12, DENR Secretary Mike Defensor attempted to discredit the "Hello Garci" tapes before the public. He had portions of the recording analyzed by an

American expert, who found "anomalies" but said that he was not in a position to determine whether they were manipulated. Defensor used the expert's findings to lend credence to a dubious study made by a local "expert" he had hired, who claimed that instead of "*Yung dagdag, yung dagdag...*" (the vote padding, the vote padding) Arroyo was uttering the nonsensical words "*Galban, binalbag...*" in that part of the recording.

The sections in question are among the most damning portions of the recorded conversations indicating Arroyo's engagement in blatant electoral fraud.

Defensor's attempt to confuse and mollify an outraged public was an absolute failure. No less than the American expert who analyzed the tapes denied ever saying that the recordings were manipulated. Only the local "expert" Defensor had hired held a different view from all the other local audio experts who studied the tapes.

Defensor had attempted to make his "findings" serve as basis for the pro-Arroyo congressmen to kill the impeachment process at the justice committee level in congress. He was worried that the tapes may be admitted in evidence in an impeachment trial. Arroyo and company are deathly afraid of the fact that many witnesses have already expressed readiness to reveal much bigger and more detailed cases of fraud, plunder and other crimes committed by her family and regime in the event that the process culminates in a trial.

The regime has also been threatening and bribing witnesses who have already come out in the open and those who have yet to testify in the senate hearing on the jueteng case. Arroyo has already managed to make two witnesses withdraw. Two more have been prevailed upon to refrain from appearing before the senate. Mike Arroyo even returned from the United States to personally take care of shaking up and bribing witnesses in an operation dubbed "*balik-loob*" (back to the fold). Among those he has tried to convince to withdraw is former Isabela governor Faustino Dy, Jr., who had earlier been reported as a witness against Arroyo both on electoral fraud and jueteng.

More witnesses continue to

Mailed fist

Arroyo is exploiting the crisis wrought by excessive oil price hikes to justify open fascist rule. She has asked congress to grant her "emergency powers" purportedly to control oil distribution and consumption. Malacañang has also declared that uncontrolled oil



price increases have become a matter of "national security," saying "terrorists" and "criminals" may exploit the situation. The regime is panic-stricken at the prospect of bigger protest actions should it fail to control local oil prices. Arroyo has thus ordered security agencies and the police to be ready and take steps to thwart supposed threats to security.

Malacañang's proposals and measures have been drawing flak from all sides. Progressive parties and organizations, Arroyo's political opponents and even her own allies condemned her regime's attempts to use the crisis as a pretext to violently suppress growing protests and calls for Arroyo's ouster. The regime has also been pelted with criticism for desiring more powers to step up its corruption and impose further suffering on the people.

Arroyo has likewise arrogantly insisted on going ahead with the expanded value-added tax (E-VAT) as soon as the Supreme Court does away with all legal obstacles to its implementation. The regime claims that the additional tax is in the interest of the poor. Pro-imperialist institutions have warned the Arroyo regime many times against reneging on its commitment to impose the new taxes especially since they would be used to service the country's debts. This merely shows that the regime's call for austerity is sheer hypocrisy as it cruelly and callously raises taxes and as prices of goods and services soar in the face of the people's worsening poverty.

Arroyo also seized the opportunity to call for sham unity and divert the public's attention from her numerous crimes. Sowing panic about an "impending energy crisis" in the country, she has harped on the need to stop attacks on her government.

AB

emerge and expose the Arroyos' criminal activities. On August 10, Capt. Marlon Mendoza, Garcillano's chief of security during the election, disclosed that he personally witnessed the bribery during Arroyo's electoral campaign. Mendoza corroborated certain portions of Michaelangelo Zuce's account. Zuce, an operator and nephew of Garcillano's, had earlier come out in August.

Meanwhile, details of how the regime colluded with other government agencies to help Garcillano flee finally came to light after officials feigned ignorance on his whereabouts for months. Congress had already issued an arrest warrant for Garcillano as early as August 4, but the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) waited till the congressional hearings ended before disclosing information from the Singapore government that Garcillano had landed in the island-state on July 14 before heading for London.

The five committees jointly investigating the wiretapping controversy are preparing criminal cases against those suspected of being responsible for Garcillano's escape. Charges of obstruction of justice will be filed against Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez and Air Transportation Office officials for their failure to report the information they received on Garcillano's movements and whereabouts. Also being investigated is Subic Air after disclosures that Garcillano used a Lear jet owned by the company in his flight to Singapore. Subic Air is owned by the Alvarezes, close allies of Arroyo. **AB**

Regime tramples on the peace talks

THE resumption of formal peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) depends ultimately on the Arroyo regime's fulfillment of its obligations under previous agreements.

In the Oslo Agreement of April 2004, the GRP agreed to carry out effective measures to have the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People's Army (NPA) and NDFP chief political consultant on the peace talks Jose Maria Sison dropped from the "terrorist" listing drawn up by the US and its close allies. It also agreed to free political prisoners and indemnify victims of the Marcos dictatorship.

But with the GRP's failure to fulfill its obligations, the NDF decided to suspend the resumption of formal talks set in June 2004 to provide the GRP the opportunity to make good its word.

More than a year later, the Arroyo regime still stubbornly refuses to carry out its obligations, which runs counter to its avowed intention to advance the peace negotiations. The possibility that the Arroyo government could fulfill its obligations has grown even dimmer in the face of the political crisis rocking the regime. As the Filipino people's clamor for Arroyo's resignation or ouster grows stronger, the regime has increasingly resorted to militarist, pro-imperialist, corrupt and repressive policies.

The NDF was compelled to declare on August 2 another suspen-

sion of the formal talks between the two sides to give the GRP another opportunity to carry out its obligations. The NDF has not closed the door on negotiations with the GRP even as it sees peace talks progressing only after the assumption of a new regime more prepared than a regime on the verge of collapse. At the same time, the NDF has kept

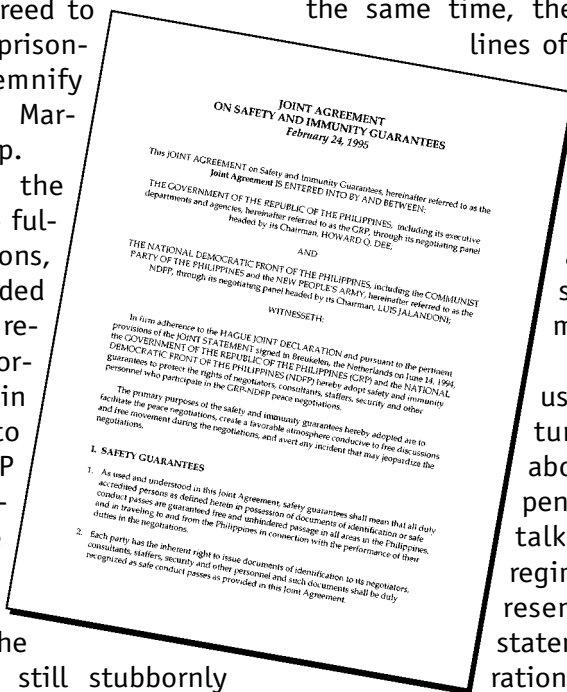
lines of communication open to continue informal talks with GRP representatives and to strive to arrange the resumption of formal negotiations.

But instead of using the opportunity brought about by the suspension of formal talks, the Arroyo regime has misrepresented the NDF statement as a declaration to end the ne-

gotiations.

The regime has used this as a pretext to unilaterally and invalidly "suspend" the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and threaten the arrest of NDF officials, consultants and others involved in the peace negotiations.

These measures show the GRP's lack of interest in saving and pursuing the peace negotiations. The Arroyo regime has demonstrated that its only interest at the moment is to



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Guilty as charged

Gloria Arroyo was found guilty of widespread human rights violations and crimes against humanity in an international people's trial on August 19. The International People's Tribunal (IPT) based its judgment on cases filed against her as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Also found guilty was her co-accused, US President George W. Bush for his military support to the Arroyo government and his use of the Philippines as the "second front" in his "war against terrorism." This, said the IPT, has resulted in the perpetration of brutal crimes against humanity.

Foreign delegates to the IPT have called on the international community to support the Filipino people in

AFP, PNP arbitrarily arrest mass leaders in Panay

Threats and human rights violations against democratic forces continued without letup this month. Police and military forces illegally arrested and detained Aklan Bayan Muna provincial coordinator Fernando Baldomero on August 18. He was accused of having links with the New People's Army and arbitrarily charged.

Progressive parties and organizations immediately condemned the arrest, saying it amounted to harassment of former political prisoners.

Also illegally arrested on the same charges were Romeo Capalla and Modesto Estupido. Capalla, 56, manages the Panay Fair Trade Center (PFTC), a private enterprise that purchases muscovado (raw sugar) and bananas and exports them to Europe. He was arbitrarily arrested by operatives of the Iloilo Provincial Police Office and Army Intelligence Team on August 3 at a checkpoint in Barangay San Antonio, Oton, Iloilo.

The military had earlier picked up Estupido, a peasant leader and councilor of Barangay Indaluyon, Igaras, Iloilo. He is now imprisoned in San Jose, Antique.

their call for Arroyo's resignation. They also called on foreign governments to withdraw their recognition of Arroyo as president of the Philippines, saying she has lost all right to govern because of the accusations filed against her, which include serious violations of human rights.

Lennox Hinds, an American law professor from Rutgers University, headed the panel of judges. With him were Nobel Peace Prize nominee Irene Fernandez of Malaysia and lawyer Hakan Karakus of Turkey. United Nations ad litem judge Romeo Capulong served as lead prosecutor.

The one-day trial was attended by 1,500 delegates from 15 countries, including the Philippines. The IPT based its decision on investigations conducted by the International Solidarity Mission (ISM) from August 14 to 18 in the provinces of Tarlac, Mindoro, Samar, Surigao del Sur and Sulu island. The delegates hailed from Australia, Belgium, The Netherlands, Great Britain, the US, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, India, Malaysia, China, Taiwan and Turkey. The results of their investigation will also be used to impeach Arroyo in congress, said Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, and will likewise form the basis for pursuing an earlier case against the Arroyo government filed with the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The IPT found a total of 4,207 cases of human rights violations from the time Arroyo assumed power in January 2001 up to June 2004. The cases include summary killings, the assassination of mass leaders, massacres, torture, illegal arrests and detention and other crimes against humanity. A total of 232,796 individuals, 24,299 families and 237 communities were reported affected. There were 400 victims of summary execution and 110 victims of involuntary disappearance. Twenty officers and members of human rights advocacy groups were murdered.

The Arroyo regime's soldiers, policemen and other armed forces had violated the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Constitution, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) signed by the GRP and the NDFP and the 1996 GRP-MNLF peace accord.

AB

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save itself by relying on US imperialism and the military and by resorting to repressive and deceptive measures. Nevertheless, the regime is desperately groping for anything

that would improve its image and avoid anything that would hasten its collapse.

The NDF has warned the Arroyo regime against arresting or threatening violence against those entitled to the JASIG's protection. The

NDF has maintained that the JASIG remains in effect and cannot be unilaterally suspended without going through a formal process. Terminating the JASIG puts the very life of the peace negotiations in jeopardy.

AB

Agrarian revolution campaigns in times of calamity

The advance of campaigns to alleviate the masses' added suffering due to successive calamities counts among the victories of agrarian revolution in Cagayan Valley.

When landslides buried crops in a guerrilla base in 2004, revolutionary mass organizations in two barrio clusters launched a campaign to have the masses' debts written off for one harvest season in cases where 50% or more of the crops were damaged. In cases where less than half of the crops were damaged, the value of the crops lost would be deducted from the principal. (The peasants confined their demands to asking for a reduction in the principal because they had already succeeded in a previous campaign to have the interest wiped out during times of calamity). The peasant organizations immediately planned the Debt Writeoff Campaign.

The peasant organizations also campaigned for a suspension in irrigation payments for one harvest season, and a moratorium on land rent payments for one or two harvest seasons, depending on the damage sustained by the crops or farms. For farms hit by rocks and boulders, the associations launched *bayanihan* (co-operative) efforts to make the land productive once again. Even if the peasants had restored the farms with the help of comrades, they still came to agreement with the landlords not to pay land rent for several more harvest seasons.

At first, peasants who sustained damage to 50% or more of their crops did not negotiate to have their debts written off but merely made an outright declaration of the extent to which their farms were damaged. The only ones who resorted to negotiations to have their debt payments reduced were those who suffered less than 50% crop damage. The associations also agreed to sell their corn only to merchants who consented to the debt writeoff and pay higher farmgate prices.

The peasants explained the justness of their demand to have their debts written off. They explained to the usurers that they no longer had the capacity to pay the entire principal and that it would be better to eliminate or to reduce their debts and extend credit to them at reduced interest rates so they could sustain production and be able to pay their previous debts. If the usurers stopped extending credit, they said, production would plummet even more and they would not be able to collect all of the peasants' previous debts.



The campaign resulted in a 50-centavo increase in the price of *palay* (unmilled rice). A number of usurers in the two barrio clusters also agreed to do away with the interest in exchange for the peasants' agreement to make gradual payments on the principal in succeeding harvests.

Campaigns to demand the elimination of interest payments when crop damage was at least 50% had already been launched in 2003 and 2004. But it bore fruit only in a few barrios. Usurers in other barrios did not fully comply with the agreement.

There are plans to advance the campaign anew this year due to widespread damage sustained by the peasants from successive typhoons, floods and landslides and the added damage they have suffered from the drought that followed.

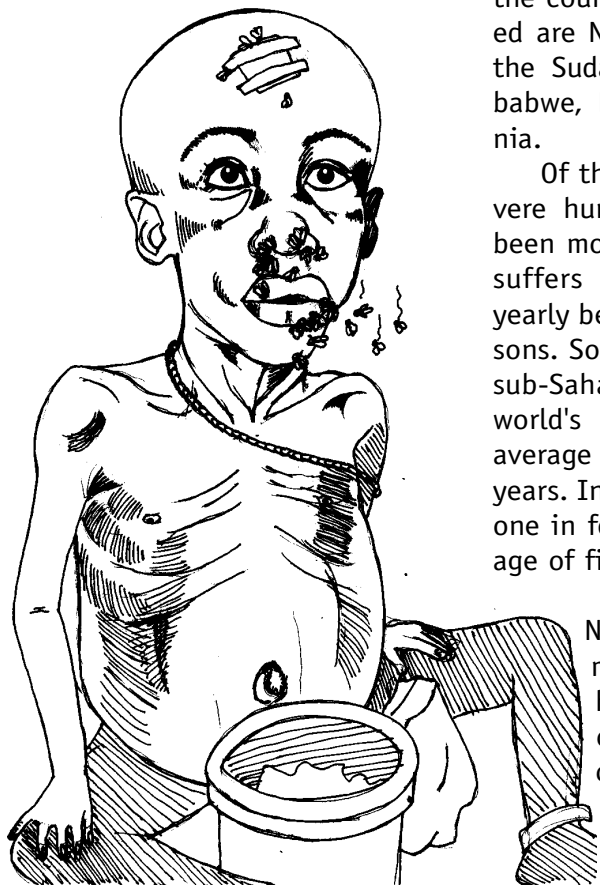
In preparation, lessons from

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Widespread hunger wreaks havoc anew in Africa

THE lives of millions of people in Africa are repeatedly endangered due to the widespread hunger that frequently ravages the continent.

Up to 33% or 300 million of



Africa's population of 900 million do not have enough food to eat daily. According to the United Nations, 25 million need immediate assistance: infants and children are the main victims of hunger. Among the countries most severely affected are Niger, Mali, Ethiopia, Chad, the Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

Of the countries ravaged by severe hunger, it is Niger that has been most in the public eye. Niger suffers massive food shortages yearly between its two harvest seasons. So do Mali and Chad, both of sub-Saharan Africa. One of the world's poorest countries, Niger's average life expectancy is only 42 years. In some parts of the country, one in four children die before the age of five.

Up to four million of Niger's population of 12 million are victims of hunger. Thirty-three percent (33%) of them are children. According to the United Nations, 800,000 of them are five years of age or less, and 150,000

of them suffer from severe malnutrition.

Emaciated infants, children and women are a common sight in Niger today. There are hardly any men left in the communities as most of them have gone elsewhere to look for work. Those left behind in the communities subsist on boiled grass. In feeding centers set up by relief organizations, one sees the terrible sight of wasted children with feeding tubes stuck into their mouths and nostrils. Hardly able to sit up, they stare blankly into space. In many places can be found rows of graves of people who have already died of hunger.

Imperialist policy. Contrary to claims in the Western media, drought and locust swarms are not the roots of widespread famine in Niger. While drought and pests did cause an 11% reduction in the food supply from the last five years' average harvest, Niger's harvest in 2004 was even higher than that in 2001-02, when the country's crisis was less severe. It is the imperialist powers' insatiable plunder of

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earlier campaigns to eliminate debt in a guerrilla front were reviewed. The campaigns were successful as a whole, although the line to merely "declare (the extent of crop damage), and not to negotiate" was deemed erroneous or "left." The need to engage the merchant-usurers in dialogue was emphasized, to encourage them to implement more favor-

able credit policies. Dialogues would also win widespread sympathy from the people in times of calamity and would better demonstrate the justness of the demand to have the peasants' debts written off.

Calls, such as reducing interest payments when crop damage is less than 50%, eliminating interest when crop damage is more than 50%, reducing land rent by one-fourth of the peasant's net

income, raising the wages of farm workers, and defending the peasants' right to the land they have toiled for and developed, were deemed correct as a whole. They were upheld not just because they were in accord with revolutionary principles but because they were based on a correct grasp of the broad masses' sentiments. They have resulted in militant mobilizations and victories for the masses in Cagayan Valley. **AB**

Niger's economy and that of other African countries that is the real reason behind the intensified poverty and persistent hunger stalking the continent.

When a number of international organizations warned in November 2004 about impending mass starvation in Niger, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union ((EU) immediately forbade Niger's government from distributing free food to its hungry citizens. These rapacious entities claimed that distributing free food would depress food prices in the market. Instead of seeing to the people's health and saving lives, they were more concerned with safeguarding the market to support the interests of speculators and big businessmen.

In addition, the IMF pressured Niger President Mamadou Tandjang last spring to implement a value added tax (VAT) on food products, among others. The VAT is an added burden on the people, especially since food prices in the country had already risen 75% in the last five years.

Especially hard hit are Niger's livestock raising tribes, as a 25% plunge in their income due to VAT has greatly reduced their ability to buy food.

Not all areas in Niger have been struck by famine. In fact, areas suffering from starvation exist side by side with towns whose markets are lined with all kinds of foodstuff. Ironically, the poverty stricken people simply could not afford to buy any of it because of exorbitant food prices.

Imperialist intervention in agriculture is taking place not only in Niger but throughout Africa. The World Bank has been pushing the privatization of agriculture and calling for a stop to all government

A history of hunger

1997. Two million people are affected by severe drought. One hundred and fifty thousand people need food aid.

1996. According to the United Nations, 22 million people are starving in sub-Saharan Africa.

1994. Up to 2.5 million need food aid in February because of the civil war. Meanwhile, seven million people suffer food shortages in Ethiopia and an estimated 5,000-10,000 die.

1992. Over two million people are in danger of dying of starvation in Somalia.

1988. Six million in Ethiopia are in danger of dying due to lack of food.

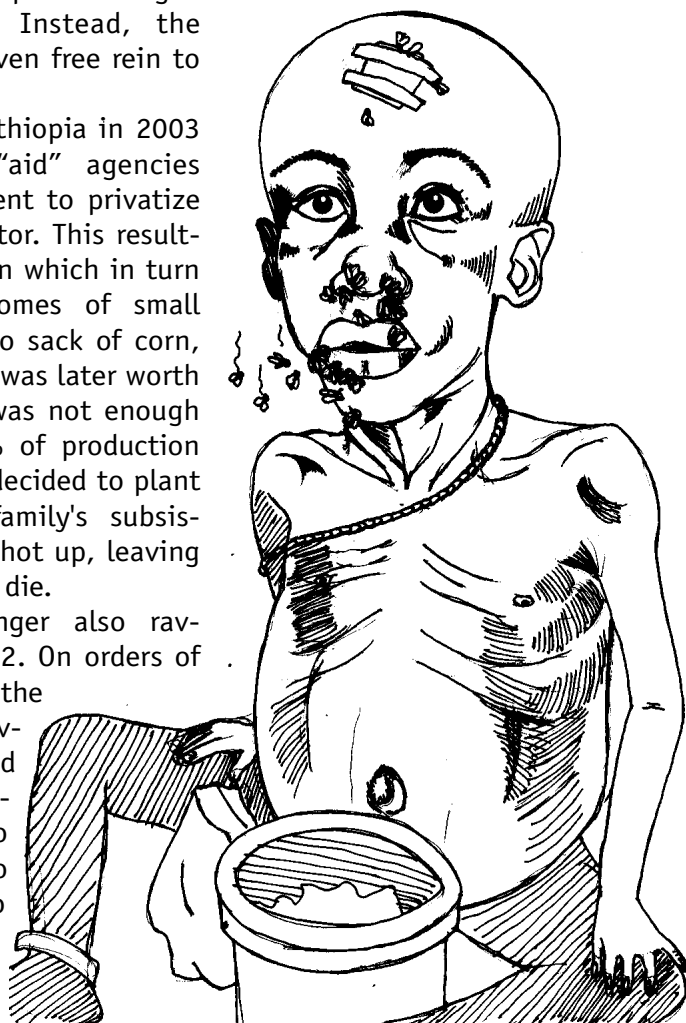
1984-1985. Almost a million die of starvation in Ethiopia.

subsidies to peasants, no matter how grave the need for direct government assistance to stave off hunger. The deregulation of the agricultural sector was implemented by abolishing public agencies tasked with setting prices of agricultural products. Instead, the market has been given free rein to determine prices.

Famine swept Ethiopia in 2003 after imperialist "aid" agencies forced its government to privatize the agricultural sector. This resulted in overproduction which in turn depressed the incomes of small peasants. A 100-kilo sack of corn, then priced at \$10, was later worth a mere \$2, which was not enough to cover even 50% of production costs. As peasants decided to plant merely for their family's subsistence, food prices shot up, leaving many to starve and die.

Widespread hunger also ravaged Malawi in 2002. On orders of the World Bank and the IMF, the Malawi government reduced seedling and pesticide subsidies to peasants for two years. The two agencies downgraded government's role to pave

the way for privatization. However, Malawi's soil type necessitates the use of pesticides in the cultivation of corn, the country's staple crop. Interference from the two international institutions, on top of



drought, severely affected the people of Malawi.

Millions of victims. Aside from the four million people starving in Niger, there are millions of others in dire need of immediate relief in Africa.

In Ethiopia, four million people have been added to the five million who have long been victims of starvation and depend only on food aid and work-for-food or cash programs.

In Mali at present, especially in the western part of the country, 1.5 million people suffer from a severe food crisis. A survey has revealed that up to 16% of people in Mali's Gao and Kidal regions are victims of severe malnutrition.

In Kenya, 1.5 million people live on food aid up to now.

In Mauritania, up to 800,000 people or over 25% of the population need food assistance.

In Burkina Faso, over 500,000 people are starving because they cannot afford to buy exorbitantly priced food.

In Sudan, refugees returning to their villages in the southern region of Darfur, and who find it difficult to start anew, are in greatest danger of falling victim to starvation. Darfur is in the throes of a civil war instigated by imperialists who covet the region's rich oil deposits. **AB**

NPA condemns AFP, PNP for summary killing of wounded guerrillas

THE New People's Army strongly denounced the merciless killing by police and military forces of wounded Red fighters rendered hors de combat in two separate encounters in Benguet and Misamis Occidental.

According to Comrade Martin Montana, spokesman of the Chadli Molintas Command of the New People's Army-Cordillera, troops of the Philippine National Police (PNP) killed Antonio (Ka Leyap) Licawen and Brando (Ka Tub-on) Banasan on August 17 in Barangay Sebang, Bugulas, Benguet.

Ka Leyap was wounded and suffered a broken ankle in an encounter involving his unit in Baculongan Sur, Buguias on August 14. The firefight resulted in the death of two comrades—William (Ka Suktan) Gansel and Ryan (Ka Rudy) Alladog—and the capture of five others. The other comrades were able to retreat, including Ka Leyap and Ka Brando who found it difficult to walk because of the wounds they sustained. To facilitate their medical treatment, their unit left them in the care of the masses in a house where they were to wait for a vehicle that would bring them to a hospital. They were no

longer armed and were not in a position to fight back when enemy forces found them in the house on the afternoon of August 17.

The two Red fighters' bodies bore tell-tale signs that they were severely tortured by the fascists before being killed. Ka Leyap's arm was broken and his armpit had puncture marks. Their bodies were peppered with bullet wounds and Ka Tub-on's body was hardly recognizable. The PNP indiscriminately strafed the peasants' houses with no regard whatsoever for the safety of civilians.

Meanwhile, NDF-Western Mindanao spokesman Ka Adan Sindapan strongly condemned the killing of an hors de combat by troops of the First Infantry Division of the Philippine Army. Soldiers of the 1st ID shot Flacion Sarangena (Ka Jovan) after he was wounded and captured in an encounter in Barangay Prensa, Tangub, Misamis Occidental on August 8. Five other fighters were captured after the firefight and are now imprisoned in Zamboanga del Sur.

International rules of war strongly forbid the killing of hors de combat. **AB**