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*Editorial*

## Resist the Arroyo regime's ruthless savagery

**T**he fascist monster Gloria Arroyo has unrelentingly unleashed violence throughout the land. An undeclared state of martial law exists as evidenced by the number, frequency and brutality of the killings of leaders of progressive organizations, and by the prevalence and magnitude of human rights violations by the state. The regime violently suppresses any opposition to its rule. It crushes with an iron hand any attempt to assert the people's rights against its tyrannical policies.

The hated dictator Marcos has seemingly been reincarnated through Arroyo, with the illegitimate president practically surpassing the deposed dictator's ruthlessness.

Under the Marcos dictatorship, detention centers teemed with thousands of political prisoners. Under the Arroyo regime, many dissenters have likewise been incarcerated, but far more have been brutally killed.

Apparently, Arroyo's policy in dealing with her political enemies is to "take no prisoners." The regime

has unleashed death squads in various parts of the country in a rabid campaign of political assassination.

The AFP and PNP now resort to hunting and killing civilians in retaliation for the casualties they incur in the hands of the NPA and in their failure to vanquish the people's army. In their utter humiliation and impotence, the AFP and PNP train their guns and cannons toward unarmed civilians.

Two days after the AFP suffered huge casualties in Calinog, Iloilo on November

19, elements of the 19th IB mercilessly killed ten farmers in San Agustin, Palo, Leyte. After the PNP sustained casualties from an NPA ambush in Tiaong, Quezon also on November 19, the

military conducted aerial bombardment and strafed communities in Tiaong and adjacent towns. Several townsfolk have also been abducted and summarily executed.

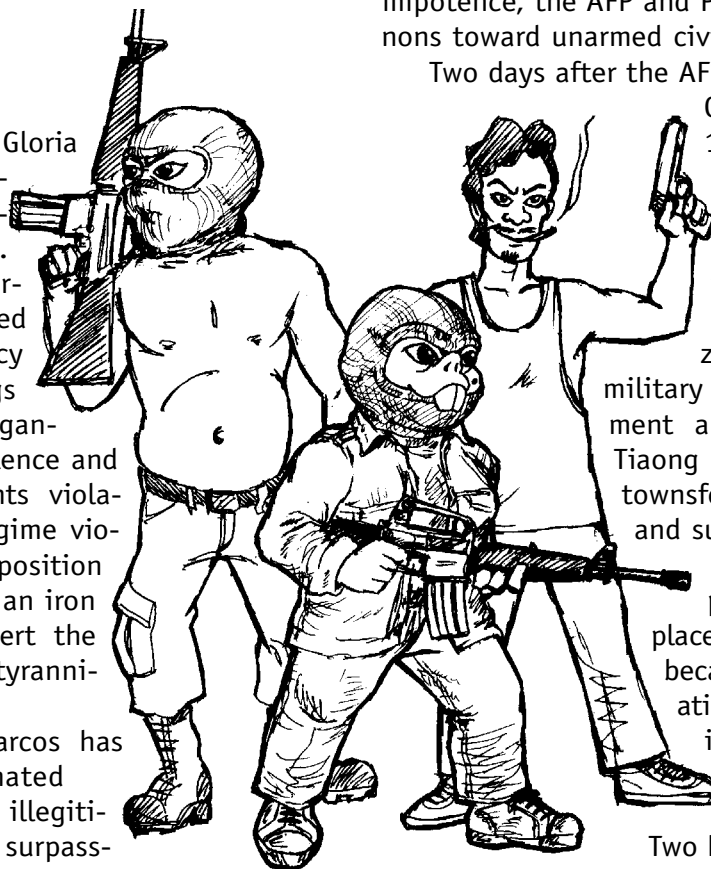
In Quezon alone, 10,000 people have been forcibly displaced or were obliged to evacuate because of vicious military operations. Another 7,000 families in Aurora, Leyte, and Sulu were likewise forcibly evacuated due to AFP operations.

Two human rights advocates were brazenly gunned down in Ilocos Sur and

Abra on November 28 and 29—the latest of 12 members of progressive organizations killed in a month.

The military forces and the fascist regime have targeted for retaliation unarmed civilians at the forefront of efforts to expose and oppose the Arroyo regime.

There have been more than 260,000 individual



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2005 report on human rights violations

# The worst since martial law

Human rights violations have escalated in number and brutality this year under the US-Arroyo regime. Arroyo's fascist fangs have wrought widespread damage in the face of unrelenting calls for her to step down and the grave political and economic crisis pounding her rule.

The Arroyo regime intensified its nationwide campaign of assassinating leaders, activists and supporters of progressive organizations and political parties in 2005. The killings have been planned, systematic and interrelated in a desperate attempt to crush the progressive mass movement. Militarization in the countryside has worsened. In the cities, the state's unbridled use of the military and other instruments in its arsenal to suppress and attack the anti-Arroyo movement goes hand in glove with a web of lies and deceit to cover up Arroyo's crimes.



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The human rights watchdog KARAPATAN has documented 874 cases of human rights violations victimizing 99,011 individuals and 14,302 families in 288 communities this year from January to November—the worst record since martial law.

**Abduction, murder, massacre.** A total of 149 individuals have been killed by the Arroyo regime in the first 11 months of 2005, more than twice the 63 murders in 2004. Of the 149 killed this year, 82 were leaders and activists of the open democratic mass movement, while 67 were merely suspected by the military of supporting, befriending or being relatives of NPA or Moro fighters.

The Arroyo regime's killings had


victims of human rights violations since Arroyo came to power in January 2001. The longer Arroyo clings to power, and the more the clamor for her ouster escalates, the more desperate and malevolent she becomes.

Rising fascist brutality is but an indication of Arroyo and the AFP's extreme isolation from the people and the regime's utter lack of mass support. With their corruption, fascism and subservience to US dictates, the AFP and the Arroyo regime can never win the people's hearts and minds. They are a total abomination to the people. On the other hand, people's support for the revolutionary movement continues to grow in depth and breadth.

The unbridled terrorism of the Arroyo regime and its armed minions rouses the people to the reality of fascism. It stokes the fires of the people's wrath and intensifies their abhorrence for the mercenary military and its reactionary overlord. It is one of the main reasons why the vast majority of the people want to overthrow the rotten, brutal and illegitimate puppet regime.

It has also spurred more and more people to wage resistance, embrace the NPA as their own army, and tread the path of revolutionary change.

Growing numbers desire to join and support the NPA and advance armed revolution. The reactionary state's armed minions will suffer powerful blows as the NPA launches more, bigger and more frequent tactical offensives. Through this, the NPA helps in hastening the downfall of the much-despised Arroyo regime and advances people's war to the next higher substage of the strategic defensive. AB

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a wide range of targets—leaders and members of progressive organizations and parties, human rights advocates, lawyers, journalists, church leaders, local government officials, community leaders and organizers, peasants and workers. Of those killed, 28 were leaders or members of Bayan Muna, 14 from Anakpawis, and eight from KARAPATAN. Aside from them, ten journalists were killed this year, adding to the 26 killed from 2001 to 2004.

Military forces and their death squads and vigilante groups were directly responsible for almost all of the gruesome murders. Not one of these cases has been meted justice.

Most badly hit was Central Luzon (CL) where 41 indi-

viduals were killed. All victims in the first half of the year were involved in the Hacienda Luisita strike in Tarlac.

The killings escalated in number and spread to other provinces in the region with Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr.'s transfer to Central Luzon as chief of the 7th Infantry Division last September. There were 19 killings in CL in the first two months alone of Palparan's term. In a span of only 20 hours on October 26 and 27, Palparan's mercenary forces killed five persons in Bulacan, Tarlac and Pampanga.

In Eastern Visayas (EV), where Palparan served as chief of the 8th Infantry Division, 36 people were killed from February to August, most of them members of Bayan Muna.

Six of the total number killed nationwide were first abducted before being killed. One of the most ghastly cases was the murder of a married couple, Marivel and Danilo Supeña. Marivel, who was

four months pregnant, was a former leader of the League of Filipino Students at the Central Luzon State University. They were seized October 26 by six armed men in combat boots and ski masks. Their bodies were found November 20 stuffed in rice sacks.

There have been 41 involuntary disappearances this year, of which 31 occurred in EV during Palparan's stint. In a related development, Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna filed charges on December 5 before the Ombudsman against Palparan for human rights violations based on testimonies of victims in CL, EV and Mindoro where Palparan was assigned from 2001 to 2004.

Ocampo also demanded Palparan's suspension while undergoing investigation.

There have been 149 cases of involuntary disappearance since Arroyo came to power.

Seven massacre incidents have occurred this year, claiming the lives of innocent civilians. Most of the victims were peasants who were members of progressive organizations or political parties. The latest case occurred in Palo, Leyte on November 21 when ten peasants were massacred and 30 others were wounded.

There have also been 52 victims of frustrated murder who all suffered serious gunshot wounds and trauma.

**Militarization in the countryside.** Many human rights violations have been committed against the people in the name of the "anti-terrorist war" or "counter-insurgency operations." Militarization is intensifying in areas believed to be



NPA, MNLF, and MILF strongholds. Militarization is also intense in areas where there is strong and widespread resistance to the entry of big mining and logging companies. Human rights violations also occur in barangays where AFP Reengineered Special Operations Teams (RSOT) operate.

KARAPATAN has likewise documented 23 cases involving the military's use of schoolhouses as camps or temporary detachments during its operations, adversely affecting 2,703 people and 484 families in four communities.

There have also been 15 cases of strafing, indiscriminate firing and bombing, victimizing 29,191 individuals or 5,210 families in 36 communities.

Most of the killings, involuntary disappearances, forced evacuations, bombing and shooting, torture, harassment, and theft of property occurred in the most militarized areas of the country.

Civilians in Sulu suffered the most from military operations against the MNLF in February, and again in November. Many innocent civilians were killed or wounded, and property destroyed because of aerial and artillery bombings. The military does not distinguish between civilians and armed targets. It also deliberately destroys water sources and schoolhouses to retaliate against and terrorize MNLF supporters.

The first three months alone of Palparan's stint in EV were marked by the forcible evacuation and loss of livelihood of thousands of peasants from 21 barangays in Samar due to ceaseless military operations, bombings, atrocities, and terrorism against the people.

**Suppression of civil liberties.** Arroyo has imposed repressive laws and policies in mortal terror of be-



ing ousted by the mass movement.

She has invoked Batas Pambansa 880 (signed under the Marcos dictatorship) to impose a "no permit, no rally" policy and since September, has enforced a "calibrated preemptive response," resulting in the violent dispersal of demonstrations. Areas around Malacañang have been declared as a "no rally zone," including Mendiola which has been a traditional site for people's protests.

The regime has likewise threatened to file sedition charges against members of the Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) who have been hearing testimonies and examining evidence of Arroyo's involvement in massive electoral fraud, human rights violations and corruption.

In an attempt to stop congressional investigations of government and military officials involved in corruption and suppress potential witnesses against Arroyo, Malacañang issued Executive Order 464 banning witnesses from attending Congressional hearings without Arroyo's prior consent.

Arroyo has likewise been pushing EO 420 calling for the implementation of a National ID System, called for the speedy approval of the Anti-Terrorism Bill which she wants enacted by next year and is in the midst of preparing another EO for the declaration of emergency rule.

**Political detainees.** There is a growing number of political prisoners, among them community organizers, peasants, workers, women and even children. There are at present 285 political prisoners, 18 of whom are minors. Also included are peasants fighting for their right to land, and suspected members or supporters of the NPA, MNLF or MILF. Most of them were illegally arrested.

AB

## Massacre in Palo, Leyte

Ten peasants were killed and 30 others wounded when 20 elements of the 19th IB fired upon them in San Agustin, Palo, Leyte on November 21. Eight peasants were illegally arrested and detained at the Palo Municipal Jail.

The peasants were preparing to launch a protest action that morning to assert their collective right to the land they were tilling. This they announced to neighboring barangays. They also invited members of the mass media to document the mass action. A total of 46 people gathered for the activity.

They were quietly and unwarily having coffee when mercenary troops of the AFP suddenly lobbed grenades at the peasants and sprayed them with gunfire. Among those who died on the spot was a grandmother and a woman who was seven months pregnant. The soldiers shot at those who ran, and brutally kicked the wounded.

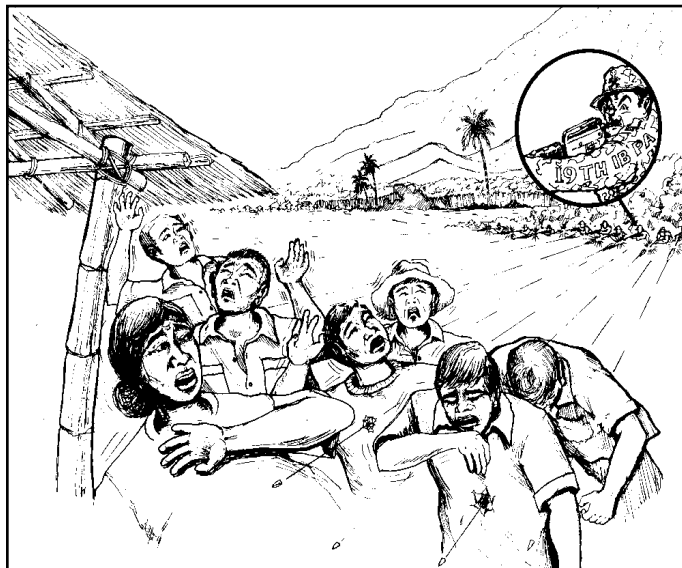
To bolster claims that the victims were NPA members, the military planted an old and defective home-made rifle, a shotgun, an

M16 and "subversive documents" beside the bodies and presented these as evidence.

Richard Margallo, a barangay councilman who survived the massacre, denounced the military for making false allegations. In his testimony before the Citizens' Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) on November 23, Margallo said that all they had in their possession during the massacre were bolos and three hand tractors.

The ten massacre victims were all members of the San Agustin Farmer Beneficiaries Multipurpose Cooperative (SAFaBeMCo) which was conducting a meeting regarding their "Balik Umá" program. "Balik Umá" formed part of their struggle for land rights which they were waging with the help of the Alang-alang Small Farmers Association (ASFA), Bayan Muna, and human rights advocates from the Concerned Citizens for Justice and Peace (CCJP). They had planned on peacefully and collectively reclaiming the land which they have long been tilling. The land had been grabbed by Pedro Margallo, a

local landlord, despite the fact that it was classified as public land and had long been tilled by the peasants. Even the Department of Agrarian Reform has recognized the peasants' right to the land. Margallo vigorously opposed the peasants' claims.





The Palo massacre is the second in Leyte perpetrated by the 19th IB. The same unit was responsible for the brutal torture and murder of six civilians and three Red fighters rendered hors de combat on April 16, 2003 in Kananga town. None of the officers and soldiers involved in the Kananga massacre has been punished to date.

Amid the US-Arroyo regime's continuing fascist atrocities, victims of human rights violations and the people of Eastern Visayas have demanded the arrest, prosecution, and punishment of the officers and soldiers responsible for the Palo and Kananga massacres. Their demands have reverberated throughout the land: Out with the 19th IB! Out with the entire 8th ID, the perpetrator of all fascist crimes in the region!

Progressive organizations, journalists, and even some of Arroyo's allies have denounced the AFP and the Arroyo regime. Progressive congressmen have also called for an investigation into the AFP's heinous crime.

The Communist Party of the Philippines has likewise strongly condemned the massacre. The National Democratic Front in Eastern Visayas has also expressed outrage for the AFP's latest crime.

AB

## Militarization in Baybay, Leyte

Intense military operations by the 43rd IB have been hounding residents of Baybay, Leyte for a month. More than 500 people were forced to evacuate Barangays Plaridel and Maslog in Baybay on November 1-2 after military operations disrupted the people's traditional observance of All Souls' Day.

Residents of two sitios in Plaridel and a sitio in Maslog were at the cemetery November 1 when a firefight ensued between fascist troops and Red fighters under the NPA Mt. Amandewin Command.

Terrorized by the AFP's indiscriminate fire, 91 families evacuated to the barangay center. The next day, countless other families evacuated Maslog seeking shelter in various places due to the continuing military operations.

On November 12, soldiers of the 43rd IB beat up Boriano Limgas, Jimmy Alkosada, and Manvin Managbanag of Barangay Igang while forcing them to admit to being NPA members or supporters. Alfredo Tenarlo and Pablo Barrientos were likewise beaten up on November 18.

The military continues to suppress the peasants. With soldiers closely monitoring their daily movements, the peasants are forced to bring with them documents proving their residency in the barangay even when working in their farms.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte has condemned the military abuses and called for an investigation.

AB



## Offensives in Camarines Sur, Compostela Valley and Kalinga

New People's Army guerrillas launched three separate tactical offensives in November and December in Camarines Sur, Compostela Valley and Kalinga, killing nine enemy soldiers and wounding six others. The Red fighters likewise seized 11 firearms of various caliber.

In Camarines Sur, the NPA raided a Philippine National Police detachment in Barangay San Miguel, Bago at about 12:40 noon on December 5.



The NPA subdued the police and confiscated six M16 rifles and three handguns after several minutes of fighting. Killed during the raid was the detachment team leader, SPO3 Elmer Cangayo. Three other policemen

were wounded.

In Kalinga, three soldiers were killed when Red fighters ambushed elements of the 17th IB on patrol in Barangay Ab-abaaan, Balbalan on November 27.

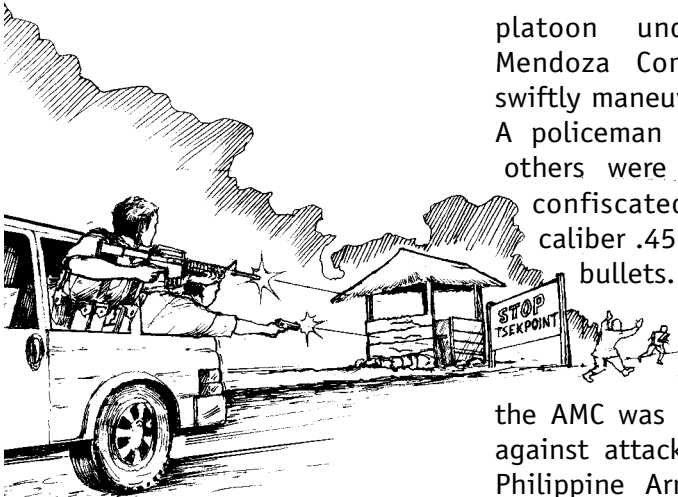
In Compostela Valley, three CAFGU elements were killed and three others were wounded when Red fighters under the NPA Armando Dumandan Command (ADC) in the Southern Mindanao Region's Front 33 ambushed enemy soldiers of the 72nd IB and CAFGU elements on patrol from Barangay New Dalaguete, Montevista also on November 27 at around 10 a.m. The NPA seized two M14 rifles in the 45-minute firefight.

Before this, the ADC had also attacked in October a group of armed anti-Communist fanatics along the boundary of Asuncion and

*Continued on "Offensives..." on page 6*



# Firefights in Quezon



platoon under the Apolonio Mendoza Command (AMC) that swiftly maneuvered and fired back. A policeman was killed and four others were wounded. The NPA confiscated an M16 rifle, a caliber .45 handgun and several bullets.

Later that day at about 5:00 p.m., a platoon under the AMC was able to defend itself against attacking elements of the Philippine Army's 202nd Brigade. Six soldiers were killed and carried away by their fellow troopers, according to reports from residents.

**November 21, Monday,** along the Barangay Lusacan and Barangay Anastacia boundary in Tiaong. Officers of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) reported that three soldiers were killed and nine others were wounded when Red fighters attacked elements of the 2nd Infantry Division conducting pursuit operations against NPA guerrillas at about 5:30 p.m.

**November 22, Tuesday,** along the Tiaong-Candelaria boundary. A lightning ambush was launched by the AMC on elements of the 2nd ID conducting operations in the area at about 5:30 p.m. At least three soldiers were killed during the

firefight which lasted for only a few minutes. The Red fighters had already withdrawn to safety when helicopters came to bomb the area.

Meanwhile, in Barangay Nagsi-namo, Lucban, Red guerrillas killed three soldiers of the 1st IB in a harassment operation.

**November 23, Wednesday,** Candelaria. A misencounter occurred among elements of the Philippine Army. The infighting lasted for an hour.

**November 24, Thursday,** Barangay San Pedro, Lopez. NPA Red fighters in South Quezon harassed the 76th IB Reengineered Special Operations Team, killing two soldiers and wounding several others.

Meanwhile, another misencounter and firefight occurred in Candelaria. The misencounter took place between two units of the 202nd Brigade. At about midnight, Red fighters then engaged in a gunbattle with AFP elements manning a checkpoint in Barangay Mangilag, killing a soldier and wounding three others.

**November 25, Friday,** Barangay Mabini, Mulanay. Two elements of the 74th IB were killed in an ambush by fighters of the Maria Theresa de Leon Command (NPA-South Quezon). A caliber .45 and a 9 mm pistol were confiscated from the military.

In a statement to the media on December 6, Solcom chief Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, Jr., admitted to a casualty count of only 18 soldiers and policemen killed and 35 wounded during gunbattles in the municipalities of Tiaong, Candelaria, and Sariaya. The military mobilized an entire brigade, used high-powered firearms, an armed personnel carrier, tanks and helicopters. Solcom generals themselves directed the military operations. The NPA

**A**t least 25 soldiers and policemen have been killed and more than 40 wounded in a series of gunbattles in Quezon since November 19.

**November 19, Saturday,** Barangay Bataan, Sampaloc. Red fighters harassed a squad of the 76th IB on patrol. An element of the 76th IB was killed and three others were wounded in guerrilla attacks in Barangay Labnig, Gumaca.

**November 20, Sunday,** Barangay Lusacan, Tiaong. Patrolling policemen intercepted and suddenly fired upon a squad of NPA aboard a vehicle at 3:30 a.m.

Unknown to the police, the squad was just a part of a bigger

## "Offensives..." from page 5

Montevista towns in Compostela Valley, killing two of the fanatics. The fanatic group had been revived by the 72nd IB.

Meanwhile, the ADC denied AFP allegations that NPA guerrillas raided the DENR outpost in Barangay Logdeck, Montevista on November 22, killing two civilians. According to initial investigations by the ADC, it was a logger who detested the corruption and extortion activities of some DENR officers who was responsible for the attack. The ADC emphasized that the NPA only attacks legitimate military targets in accordance with the provisions of the CARHRIHL and international rules governing civil wars.

AB



nonetheless valiantly foiled the enemy attacks.

The battles caused widespread demoralization among soldiers of the 2nd ID, as further evidenced by the two misencounters involving terrified military personnel on November 23 and 24 who relentlessly fired at each other for a considerable length of time. According to reports from the masses, six soldiers were killed during these misencounters.

In a desperate bid to stem the tide of demoraliza-

tion among the military troops, General Cabuay has made false claims that ten Red fighters have been killed in these gunbattles. He even had to offer a ₱10,000 reward for anyone who could locate the body any slain NPA guerrilla!

Aside from the battles recorded above, the AFP also incurred casualties in tactical offensives launched earlier by the Maria Theresa de Leon Command on November 10, 16, and 20. AB

## Trapping the "hunter-killer" unit of Panay

**R**ed fighters under the Coronacion "Waling-waling" Chiva Command of the New People's Army (NPA) in Panay ambushed the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) self-acclaimed "hunter-killer" unit in the region composed of troops from the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion (1st SRB) led by Lt. Col. Noel Buan and the 47th IB under Col. Mariano Perez Jr.'s command.

Nine soldiers were instantly killed and 23 others wounded in the ambush launched in Sitio Simadbad, Calinog, Iloilo on the evening of November 19. One other soldier was seriously wounded and died eventually.

Not a single Red fighter was killed or injured. The NPA unit was already in a safe place resting while troops under Task Force Panay (TFP) conducted hot pursuit

operations. Following is the NPA unit's report:

The NPA sufficiently prepared itself to deal blows on troops of the 1st SRB and the 47th IB. For several months, the NPA monitored and studied every movement made by the operating troops to familiarize themselves with them and identify the enemy's weakest link. The Red commanders and fighters learned by heart every ascent, every descent and every single curve in the terrain to determine probable locations for launching a tactical offensive.

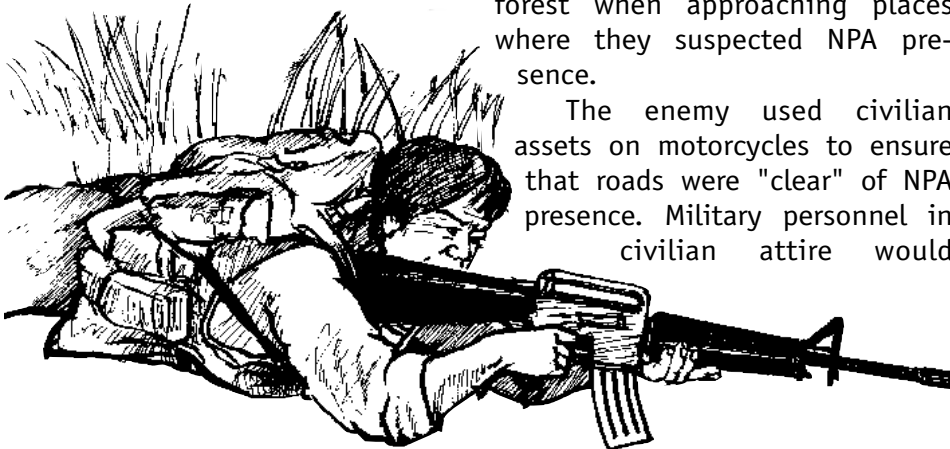
In response to the general call to seize the initiative, the NPA launched sniping, harassment and punitive operations. The enemy thus became extremely cautious in its movements. They would ride vehicles only up to certain points and would walk or hide in the forest when approaching places where they suspected NPA presence.

The enemy used civilian assets on motorcycles to ensure that roads were "clear" of NPA presence. Military personnel in civilian attire would

reconnoiter around the areas targeted for operations. Road security patrols were frequent in areas used for enemy movement and supplies. The enemy ordered both sides of the roads leading to the areas of their operations cleared of all trees and grasses. They appeared in public only in large numbers.

The Red fighters determined that enemy alertness was at its lowest level in the evening, when the soldiers traveled in large groups and were on their way back to camp. They chose a very atypical ambush site for their tactical offensive. It was an open plain devoid of any foliage that could be used for cover except for some small sugarcane fields some 100 meters from the road, and was frequently patrolled by the enemy.

From the onset of the enemy operation, comrades stalked the troops and made preparations to ensure the success of the ambush. The comrades could not approach the ambush site during the day, so all preparations had to be done at night, in the middle of enemy operations. As soon as they knew that the operations were about to end, the NPA seized the very brief opportunity between dusk and 8:00 p.m. to maneuver towards the



*Continued on "Trapping...", on page 8*



## Suntok sa buwan, suntok kay Buan\*

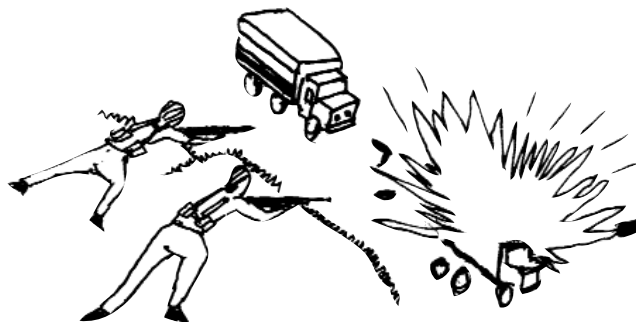
**M**aj. Gen. Alphonsus Crucero, commander of the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3rd ID) was all praises for their so-called "hunter-killer" units and their "ranger tactics." The revolutionary mass base is akin to a forest that protects the Red army, he said. Thus, the military should be highly skilled in moving through the "forest" and hunting down and killing the NPA.

Hunter-killer units operate in groups of 15-18 troops in close proximity with each other. These units move at night and only show themselves when returning to their bases in town centers. In cases when they encounter the NPA, hunter-killer units are immediately supported by mortars and 105mm howitzers pre-targeted at select locations, and by helicopters that rapidly deploy additional troops.

But the enemy cannot hide in the forest of the masses which it oppresses and treats cruelly. Even the best trained enemy troops cannot overcome the determination and unity of the revolutionary masses and their army. Instead of trapping their prey, it was the reactionary troops instead who became the hunted and fell into their own traps.

The 3rd ID began conducting massive and intensive military operations in 2001 in the mountains of Tapaz, Jamindan, and Calinog, areas under the NPA's Central Front in Panay. Task Force Panay (TFP) was established to lead this campaign. The 3rd ID initially claimed that it needed only a year to finish off the NPA in Central Panay. But towards the end of 2003, a few days before it could formally declare the campaign a success, the RSOT control center under Task Force Panay was routed by an NPA platoon in Daan Sur, Tapaz, Capiz.

An intensive military campaign characterized by relentless operations involving close to two battalion-level and four company-level operations monthly has



been going on for four years now. The campaign involves the 12th IB, 47th IB, 32nd DRC, 33rd DRC, and lately, the 1st SRB under Lt. Col. Noel Buan's command. The 1st SRB was deployed to Panay in the latter part of September 2005 to bolster the campaign in the last quarter of the year. The 1st SRB, which has received specialized training, was previously deployed in Sulu. It was later assigned as the AFP Central Visayas Command's "strike force", ostensibly because of its high-level of training. The Central Visayas Command had earlier deployed the 1st SRB to Bohol and Negros, where it earned the people's ire for its gross violations of human rights.

These enemy units have miserably failed in crushing the Red army. Instead, it is the NPA that has gained strength and raised its combat capabilities. The revolutionary mass base which the enemy had wanted to drain has grown in depth and breadth.

The 3rd ID's intention to crush the NPA in Central Panay by next year is nothing more than a pipe dream. It is absurd for the 3rd ID to even fantasize about crushing the masses and the people's army's revolutionary resolve. On the evening of November 19, it was Buan's "special troops" who suffered a crushing blow when they were ambushed by the NPA. **AB**

*\*The title is a play on "Suntok sa buwan," a Tagalog idiom that means "pipe dream"—referring to the AFP's impossible objective of wiping out the NPA—and "suntok kay Buan," a reference to the heavy blows meted by Red fighters on Lt. Col. Noel Buan's so-called elite unit.*

### "Trapping...", from page 7

ambush site under cover of darkness.

On the evening of November 19, enemy troops rode back to their camp in three vehicles: a Kennedy jeep at the front, followed

by an Elf truck, and an M35 truck at the rear. Inside the vehicles were close to a company of troops from the 1st SRB and the 47th IB, vastly superior in number to the comrades who lay in wait at the ambush site.

Comrades allowed the lead

vehicle to pass and used a command-detonated land mine to blow up the Elf truck which carried the most number of Scout Rangers. It was the troops aboard the M35 truck who were able to return fire intensely. But they were failed to hit even a single Red fighter. **AB**



# AFP sheds crocodile tears

The AFP's spokespersons and other officials have been blabbering in unison about how the NPA allegedly violated international rules of war by detonating a land mine on a military convoy in Calinog, Iloilo on November 19.

The AFP's attacks against the NPA are baseless. The military's mouthpieces as well as other officers of the AFP have been distorting the content of international laws in a desperate effort to tarnish the NPA's image and gain the masses' sympathy.

The fascists are shedding crocodile tears. They project the soldiers as objects of pity and go to great lengths to conceal the AFP's brutal and relentless use of powerful weapons that indiscriminately kill, maim, and spread terror among the people. These powerful weapons include 105

mm howitzers, helicopter gunships armed with rockets and machine guns, OV-10 bombers, tanks and armored personnel carriers.

They are among the weapons currently used by the AFP in its



destructive counterrevolutionary suppression campaigns in Quezon, Leyte, Sulu and Aurora provinces and other areas. The primary victims are unarmed civilians, their

communities, and their farms. These past three months, 10,000 peasants in Quezon and 7,000 families in Aurora, Leyte, and Sulu have been forced to evacuate due to the dangers posed by the AFP's powerful weapons which it uses within or close to populated areas.

The AFP flagrantly violates international humanitarian law, including the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), through the irresponsible, reckless and indiscriminate use of powerful bombs, howitzers, and other weapons that cause widespread death, injury, and destruction of livelihood and property. Millions of unarmed and innocent civilians especially in the countryside have been driven from their communities and farms due to the merciless and indiscriminate use by the AFP of powerful weapons.

AB

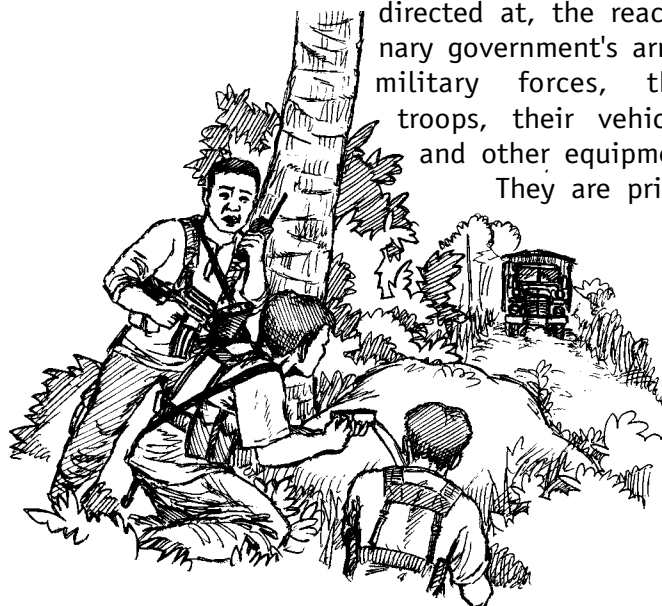
## On the use of land mines by the NPA

The NPA uses land mines as weapons in advancing armed revolution. As with other weapons of the NPA, land mines are intended for, and precisely directed at, the reactionary government's armed military forces, their troops, their vehicles, and other equipment. They are prima-

rily used for tactical offensives.

The people's army regards land mines as a supplementary weapon to overcome its lack of weapons and relative weakness compared to the powerful and numerically superior weapons in the hands of the fascist enemy.

NPA policies on the use of land mines comply with international law on the humane conduct of war. They likewise comply with the provisions of the Ottawa Treaty, the only international law on land mines. The Ottawa Treaty prohibits the use, production, and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines, referring to mines that explode upon contact or in proximity to a victim. The Ottawa Treaty seeks to end civilian casualties caused by land mines buried and irresponsibly left behind in unmarked places. (The Ottawa Treaty, signed in Ottawa, Canada in 1997 is recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. The United States, Russia and China which are among the biggest manufacturers of land mines, have refused to



ratify the treaty.)

The way in which the NPA uses its weapons stands in stark contrast to the manner in which the AFP uses its weapons. The NPA makes precise and responsible use of land mines as legitimate weapons against definite military targets. It uses land mines in the same way it uses rifles and other small arms in its arsenal precisely and responsibly. Each of these weapons has a definite target. The size and power of each land mine are calibrated to suit the specific target. Painstaking efforts are taken to prevent civilian casualties due to the accidental explosion of land mines.

The NPA uses only command-detonated land mines. These are directly controlled and detonated only if a particular military target approaches. NPA Red fighters keep close watch over each land mine they plant. Command-detonated land mines do not explode even when a person steps on or touches them or even when they are run over by other vehicles. Each land mine is likewise calibrated not to inflict excessive damage against its targets. Land mines are immediately removed if there is no direct target.

The NPA will continue to use land mines as legitimate weapons. In its use of land mines and other weapons, the NPA is consciously guided by international laws and conventions on the civilized conduct of war. Moreover, the NPA and the Filipino people will use all possible and permissible weapons, both old and modern, to strengthen the armed revolution. As people's war advances, more types and numbers of weapons will be used by the people and their army to crush and defeat the enemy.

AB

*Arroyo regime's never ending lies and schemes*

## Garci returns, is as deceitful as ever

The Arroyo regime surfaced former COMELEC Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on November 27, after nearly five months. The purpose: for him to spread more lies, clear his name, and in the process get his master Gloria Arroyo off the hook. By bringing Garcillano out in the open, Arroyo intends to bring closure to the issue of the "Hello Garci tapes" that continues to haunt her rule.

Surfacing Garcillano is but part of the regime's continuing attempt to deceive the people and derail the Oust Arroyo Movement.

As expected, Garcillano's statements did not depart from the old line that "no cheating took place" during the 2004 elections. He admitted talking to Gloria Arroyo but insisted there was nothing immoral or illegal about the conversation. He shamelessly portrayed himself as a wiretapping victim in a desperate bid to gain public sympathy. But he immediately withdrew from this tack by claiming that the tapes were fake, spliced, and manipulated to destroy him and bring about Arroyo's collapse. This early, his lawyers are saying that Garcillano will have nothing to reveal about the Gloria-Garci tapes.

Moreover, the regime would like to use the Congressional hearings to reverse the situation and attack the opposition through new lies spewed by Garcillano. To bury the issue of his conversations with Arroyo, Garcillano said he would reveal the names of other politicians he had conversed with. Among the politicians he named were congressmen who were stalwarts of the impeachment case against Arroyo in September. These congressmen have vehemently denied Garcillano's accusations.

Garcillano sought to discredit the testimonies of Michaelangelo Zuce and Capt. Marlon Mendoza, both former operators of his in perpetrating electoral fraud. He accused them of lying and claimed that it was they who were poll fraud operators in Mindanao.

Garcillano's appearance has breathed new life into the Congressional and Senate investigations, and tweaked the people's interest in the matter. The brazen lies he will spew while testifying in Congress will undoubtedly stoke the flames of people's outrage and protest.

The Congressional hearing brought to light the Arroyo regime's schemes last June to hide Garcillano from public view. Garcillano and the Arroyo regime are being trapped in a tangled web of their own lies as they try to explain his disappearance these past months.

Prior to his appearance, Garcillano reportedly first met with Mike Arroyo, some pro-Arroyo congressmen, and local officials in Zamboanga on November 23. Congressmen Ro-



*Continued on "Garci..." on page 11*



## "Inputs" for Arroyo's campaign

"Not one farmer from our 64 chapters received a single centavo from this fund. The fertilizer meant for the peasants ended up as 'inputs' for the administration's campaign in the last election." Thus said Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas officer Danilo Ramos who testified before the Senate and in a later hearing of the Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA). Witnesses in both hearings testified that almost the entire ₱2.8 billion fund for the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani, a program under the Department of Agriculture ostensibly for agricultural

*Continued on "Inputs..." on page 12*

### *"Garci..." from page 10*

naldo Puno and Prospero Pichay, Arroyo's main operators in Congress, reportedly drafted Garcillano's statement and arranged for his interview with a select few reporters. Garcillano's appearance was intentionally timed to coincide with the scheduled summation of the results of the Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA).

Before surfacing Garcillano, the regime made sure that pro-Arroyo congressmen were at the helm of the congressional committees conducting the investigation. Garcillano's lawyer has said that his client would only appear in congress and not at the Senate where majority of the senators were not likely to sympathize with him.

### **Cabinet revamp and appointment of new officials**

As part of Arroyo's continuing effort to consolidate her splintering power base, she is currently revamping her cabinet to give more prominent and powerful positions to her most loyal and worthwhile lackeys.

On December 3, Arroyo assigned to the Office of the Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez,

formerly Malacañang's chief counsel and known to be a close friend and supporter of the Arroyo family. Gutierrez replaced former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo who resigned last month after defying Arroyo's order to rig the corruption case filed against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

Arroyo formed the Presidential Communications Group and assigned it to oversee all of the regime's relations with the media and the public. The Presidential Communications Group's sole task is to deodorize Arroyo's public image, obscure her weaknesses, and prettify her antipeople policies by way of information campaigns. This office is headed by former Press Sec. Ignacio Bunye and has a huge budget.

Arroyo plans to appoint Rep. Ronaldo Puno to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). Puno, reputed to be Arroyo's political strategist in the 2004 elections, is also said to be the brains behind the machinations that killed the impeachment complaint in Congress. He has direct control over funds used to bribe local officials. His appointment to the DILG would merely formalize his long-standing role of "fixing" local governments and officials. Moreover, Puno is known

to head the regime's dirty tactics department, along with Mike Arroyo and Sec. Gabriel Claudio.

### **Continuing protests**

The White Ribbon Movement held a mass on November 25 at the San Miguel Church near Malacañang to challenge Arroyo's prohibition of any mass gathering around the palace. Close to 500 of those who attended the mass marched outside the church where they were met by several thousand other activists and citizens. The marchers were immediately blocked and surrounded by elements of the Presidential Security Group.

Thousands of workers commemorated Andres Bonifacio's 142nd birth anniversary on November 30 by gathering at Plaza Miranda to demand wage increases and call for Arroyo's ouster.

The Black and White Movement (BWM) announced on December 1 that it would campaign for Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro's ouster after de Castro ignored the BWM deadline for him to abandon the regime in exchange for his recognition as Arroyo's rightful successor. The BWM is a group of middle forces led by resigned officials of the regime like Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman. **AB**

development and free distribution of fertilizer to farmers, did not benefit farmers, who failed to receive anything from the fund, in whatever form, and least of all in cash or fertilizer. Instead, the fund ended up in the hands of Arroyo's chief operators and campaign managers as well as congressional and local government allies.

The Commission on Audit (COA) bared that 104 congressmen, 46 governors and 34 mayors benefited from the fund. What makes this anomaly even more brazen is the fact that even officials in districts and cities without agricultural land such as cities in Metro Manila received funds for fertilizer. Congressmen from these places vehemently denied receiving such funds.

COA also stated that it had finished auditing only those funds distributed in Bicol and Central Visayas. It was unable to audit most of the funds disbursed because they were coursed through 15 private non-governmental organizations which were beyond COA's juris-

diction. The NGOs were used by Malacañang as fronts for the scam. More than P120 billion were coursed through these NGOs, which included the Gabay Masa Development Foundation Inc., Peoples' Organization for Progress and Development Foundation Inc. (POPDFI), Mag-sasaka Foundation Inc., Philippine Social Development Foundation Inc., Matatag na Republika Cooperative and Ikaw at Ako Foundation—all bogus organizations established by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to serve as conduits for large sums of stolen government funds.

All cities and regions being audited denied receiving fertilizer funds coursed through and reported by the said NGOs.

Apart from the huge amount of missing funds, the meager amount used to actually purchase fertilizer was further depleted by kickbacks and profiteering. Congressmen demanded commissions of 30-75% from fertilizer suppliers. Prices of purchased fertilizer were jacked up by 800-1,300%. A negligible volume of fertilizers was distributed to farmers, if at all.

There are falsified reports of fertilizer suppliers, as in the case of a small vegetable stall in Caloocan City that allegedly supplied fertilizer to Eastern Samar. There are also falsified reports listing beneficiaries of fertilizer which was never distributed. In some cases, fertilizer that was allegedly distributed to rice farmers was supposed suitable only for orchids.

DA Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante, the main personality directly linked to the scam, was quickly spirited away by Malacañang to elude investigation by the Senate. Bolante is known as a close flunky of Mike Arroyo's. Meanwhile, former DA Secretary Cito Lorenzo, who gave authorization to Bolante, has yet to appear before a Senate hearing.

Former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin has testified that Arroyo rushed the approval and release of the fertilizer fund despite incomplete documentation. Furthermore, processes governing the release of funds to officials were not followed, thus making it impossible to determine the actual farmer's organizations that received fertilizer funds. **AB**

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## **NDFP condemns EU for including CPP-NPA in terrorist listing**

THE National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) assailed the Council of the European Union for its unjustified and malicious inclusion of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People's Army (NPA), and NDFP chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison in its list of terrorists. In a statement December 3, NDFP negotiating panel chair Luis Jalandoni said that the CEU's move constitutes meddling in the Philippines' inter-

nal affairs.

He added that the listing violates the principles stated in the 1977 Protocol I Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The listing also violates the 1950 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the 1957 Refugee Con-

ventions and the 2000 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Jalandoni clarified that the revolutionary movement led by the CPP is a national movement for liberation and its use of armed force to achieve political goals is legally recognized under international law. Jalandoni concluded that in this situation, the CPP, NPA and Jose Maria Sison must be excluded from the list of terrorists. **AB**