

**ANG****Bayan**

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

English Edition
Vol. XXXVII No. 10
May 21, 2006
www.philippinerevolution.org

Editorial

Bloody intrigues, bloody repression

Gloria Arroyo's order to the police to investigate the successive killings of propeople personalities, leaders and members of progressive organizations is malicious and deceptive.

Small wonder the investigation is just for show. Widespread criticism being levelled against the military and her regime for being the brains behind the rampant killings has compelled Arroyo to express a semblance of concern.

Along with the "investigation," Malacañang is

spreading a monstrous lie: that the victims of the Arroyo regime's violent attacks are victims of an alleged purge of suspected government agents within the CPP and NPA. Afterwards, Malacañang also said that Arroyo and two cabinet officials surnamed "Gonzalez" are targets for assassination by the NPA. It added that several leaders of the political opposition are also targets for assassination.

Malacañang has resorted to weaving fantastic tales in a desperate attempt to conceal the truth and shirk responsibility for killing hundreds of progressive activists. It has maliciously passed on the blame to the CPP and the NPA to sow intrigue and malign the revolutionary movement. It tries to sow division within the anti-Arroyo unified front and weaken the mass movement for the ouster of the Arroyo regime. It also wants to terrorize the people and condition their minds for more repressive measures in the future.

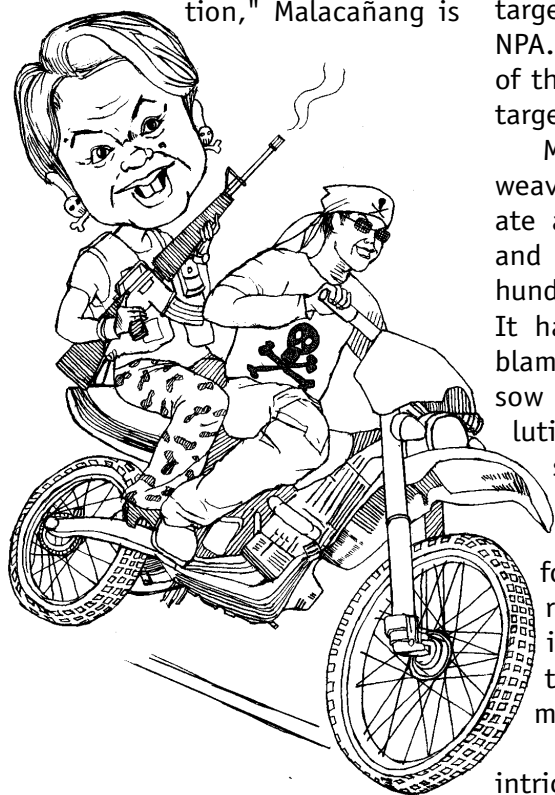
The Arroyo regime's bloody intrigues include implicating six

progressive party list representatives in Congress in the murder and abduction of progressives. The regime insists on the illogical and baseless line that it is the victimized organizations that are behind the killings of their own leaders and members.

Justice Sec. Raul Gonzalez also plans to implicate the six progressive congressional representatives in the 1980s murder of suspected infiltrators in the revolutionary movement. Fabricated evidence will be used in a trumped up rebellion case that links them to the CPP and NPA, and in an alleged conspiracy between the latter and rebel military forces to launch a coup d'état.

Aside from sowing intrigue, the hypocritical regime is intensifying its bloody persecution of progressive forces. To date, five-hundred and eighty-five leaders and members of progressive parties and organizations have fallen victim to the death squads since Arroyo assumed power in 2001. These death squads have started operating in Metro Manila with a Bayan Muna member in Makati City as their first victim.

Arroyo's death squads are dis-



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tributed among various units of the AFP and are under the command of Arroyo's most loyal fascist officers such as Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. Known in the AFP as the "black army," they are directly supervised in Malacañang by Norberto Gonzales and the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (COC-IS) that he heads.

The regime expects these killings and forcible disappearances to weaken or crush the forces most active in the fight against Arroyo. The regime's chief executioner General Palparan has termed murdered unarmed activists "collateral damage"—unavoidable casualties in the bigger and longer-term objective of crushing the revolutionary armed movement.

But the regime is wrong in assuming that fascist attacks will crush the revolutionary movement and terrorize and weaken the open and legal anti-Arroyo movement. The rampant killings of progressive forces and anti-communist hysteria are desperate steps of a regime extremely isolated due to the continued exposure of its fascist atrocities, corruption, electoral fraud and many other crimes

against the people.

Contrary to its expectations, the regime's repressiveness and brutality fuel the people's growing anger. Despite the regime's terror tactics, the leaders, organizations and forces it wishes to suppress continue to fight on. Many are taking up arms against the Arroyo government and the revolutionary armed movement is growing bigger and stronger. The Arroyo regime's killings and fascist violence only serve to show the correctness of, and need to, crush this much despised regime.

The regime grows weaker from the intensified tactical offensives of the NPA, the growth of the anti-Arroyo united front, street protests and other political actions of anti-Arroyo forces. Even within the ranks of the armed forces that serve as the regime's primary defense, there is increasing unrest, with many ready to withdraw support for the regime and directly fight for its ouster.

It won't be long before the Arroyo regime comes crashing down from the sheer weight of its crimes and the people's burning desire to see justice done. **AB**

Abductions, killings continue unabated

The Arroyo regime is guilty of a growing list of heinous crimes against the people. In ten days, four leaders or members of progressive organizations have been killed, one seriously injured and two others abducted. Members of other anti-Arroyo groups have also been murdered.

Motorcycle-riding gunmen ambushed brothers Jose, 62 and Diosdado Doton, 57, in Camangaan, San Nicolas, Pangasinan on May 16. Jose died on the spot while Diosdado remains in critical condition. Jose was secretary general of BAYAN-Pangasinan and president of the Tignay dagiti Mannalon a Mangwayawaya iti Agno (TIMMAWA) that actively campaigned against the San Roque Dam and fearlessly calls for Gloria Arroyo's ouster. BAYAN-Central Luzon secretary general Roman Polintan said Doton is the 27th BAYAN member to be killed by the regime this year.

Bayan Muna (BM) member Roland Ralla Porter was abducted in Makati City on May 16 by armed men who introduced themselves as police. Witnesses said Porter was forced into a van. He remains missing. Porter is the 15th activist abducted this year and the 148th since Arroyo assumed office in 2001.

Unidentified armed men aboard a motorcycle shot and killed on May 13 Manuel Nardo, BM coordinator in Barangay Quebiawan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Couple Elena "Baby" Mendiola,



Vol XXXVII No. 10 May 21, 2006

Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.

It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:

www.philippinerevolution.org

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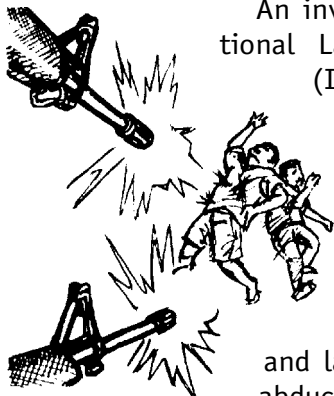
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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

54, and Ricardo Balauag, 61, were shot and killed May 10 in Barangay Garit Sur, Echague, Isabela. Mendiola was the secretary general of Bayan Muna-Isabela while her husband was an active BM member. Mendiola survived an assassination attempt last March 11.

Armed men ambushed couple Rev. Jeremias Tinambacan and Rev. Marilou Tinambacan on May 9 in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental. Jeremias was killed on the spot while his wife remains in critical condition. Jeremias headed BM-Misamis Occidental. The couple served as pastors for the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Marilou identified one of their assailants as Mamay Guimalan, an AFP intelligence agent.

Five-hundred eighty-five leaders and members of progressive organizations have been assassinated since Arroyo assumed power in 2001, with 57 of them killed since January 2006.



An investigation by the International Labor Solidarity Movement (ILSM) from May 2-6 shows the Arroyo regime's "widespread and systematic" violation of human and labor rights. The ILSM criticized the regime for the Hacienda Luisita massacre, the assassination of peasant and labor activists and cases of abduction and harrassment.

The ILSM said that it is the Arroyo regime and its minions that are behind widespread violations of human rights. It listed 874 cases of human rights violations in 2005 whose victims included 99,011 individuals, 14,302 families and 288 communities.

Meanwhile, there are increasing reports of assassinations of leaders and members of other anti-Arroyo organizations.

In Bataan, unidentified gunmen shot and killed Anna Gandia, a women organizer. Prior to her murder, mass leader Irma "Cathy" Alcantara and youth leader Audie Lucero were also killed.

In Davao del Norte, peasant leader Eric Cabanit was killed in Panabo City last April 24.

Four peasant leaders were killed from March to May in Negros. Mario Domingo was shot and killed in La Castellana, Negros Occidental on May 17. Porfirio Maglasang was murdered in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental on April 22. Rico Adeva was slain in Silay City on April 15. And Vicente Denila was killed in Tanjay City on March 27.

AB

Persecution of Batasan 6 continues

Five progressive congressional representatives dubbed the "Batasan 5" left the building and protection of the House of Representatives on May 8 after seeking sanctuary there for more than two months to evade warrantless arrest by the Arroyo regime.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was forced to lift the arrest order after the Makati Regional Trial Court ruled against the Justice Department's move to include the "Batasan 5" and 40 other personalities in rebellion charges filed against arrested Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

The "Batasan 5" met more than 1,000 supporters outside of the Batasan grounds and marched to the University of the Philippines in Diliman to celebrate their victory and their return to the mass movement against the regime.

The regime is evidently intent on arresting, prosecuting and persecuting the six progressive lawmakers. A few days after they left the Batasan Complex, the DOJ again filed charges against them and Lieutenant San Juan at the Makati Regional Trial Court under a different judge.

It remains clear that the new case likewise stands on flimsy ground. Like the first, it is based on fabricated accounts. This time around, the sto-



ries have been spiced with newly made-up evidence. The DOJ insists that the "Batasan 5" are directly linked to the armed movement and an alleged coup against the regime. In addition, they have been repeatedly maligned by Malacañang's main fascists National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Justice Sec. Raul Gonzalez.

A new plot

Norberto Gonzales' newest scheme implicates the "Batasan 5" in an alleged NPA plot to assassinate Gloria Arroyo, several members of her cabinet and some personalities in the legal opposition. For this scheme, Malacañang intends to use Philip Limjoco who was abducted by AFP intelligence in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga on May 7. Limjoco, one of more than 40 people including the "Batasan 5" falsely charged with rebellion, is accused by the military of being an NPA member. He will likely be presented as an NPA operative tasked to implement the fictitious assassination plot concocted by Gonzales.

Limjoco is currently being held incommunicado by the Intelligence Security Unit of the AFP. He may be presented later as proof that the Batasan 5 were involved in an assassination plot.

In the face of all this, there is a growing clamor against the persecution of the progressive party representatives. Statements of concern on their continued persecution continue to pour in from local and international groups that uphold justice, democracy, human rights and parliamentary and civil rights, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union which called on the Arroyo regime on May 12 to release Congressman Beltran.

Cha-cha faces more obstacles

Malacañang grows more desperate as more obstacles stand in the way of charter change ("chacha"). It is stymied by the continued refusal of most senators to convene the Senate and Congress as a Constituent Assembly. On the other hand, widespread protests and legal obstacles impede "people's initiative," the regime's second means of pursuing charter change.

The regime desperately needs "chacha" to be in place by July to derail the filing of new impeachment charges against Arroyo when Congress convenes. Thus, the regime tried to win over to its side the senators who joined the May 16 Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting attended by Arroyo, members of her cabinet and a number of congressmen. Nothing, however, was achieved during the meeting except for a promise to hold a dialogue on charter change.

Senators and congressmen were already trading barbs even before the LEDAC meeting. Majority of the senators stood firm in their view that convening a constituent assembly would be illegal. They asserted that changes to the constitution may be implemented through legislated amendments that would require a 3/4 majority vote each in the Senate and Congress. Malacañang objects to this procedure due to the long period of time required as well as

expected Senate opposition to the regime's proposed amendments. The only other remaining option is a constitutional convention.

Meanwhile, the Committee for the Defense of Lawyers (CODAL) and other anti-chacha groups won successive victories against the "people's initiative" campaign launched by the pro-Arroyo Sigaw ng Bayan. Temporary restraining orders (TRO) against the "people's initiative" have been issued by Regional Trial Courts in Roxas and General Santos cities blocking the COMELEC from verifying signatures allegedly solicited by

Sigaw ng Bayan pending the Supreme Court's ruling on the issue. Besides, in other areas, many of the signatures have already been proven fake.

This is a major stumbling block to the so-called "people's initiative" because the reactionary state's constitution requires the verified signatures of 3% of voters in each district.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has moreover been relentlessly campaigning against "people's initiative." In a statement last May 11, it expressed grave concern over the continuing deceptive campaign to solicit signatures for the "people's initiative." A CBCP survey at the diocesan level showed popular opposition



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CCTA finds Arroyo guilty

The Citizen's Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA) has found Gloria Arroyo guilty of manipulation and cheating in the 2004 election, massive corruption and human rights violations.

The CCTA's 203-page verdict was made public on May 10. A panel of 15 judges undertook a five-month study of the sworn statements of 22 witnesses in five public hearings last November.

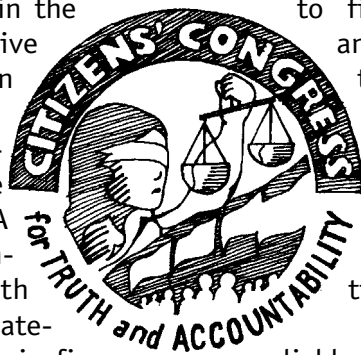
The CCTA proved that Arroyo and her running mate Noli de Castro cheated in the provinces of Cebu,

Pampanga, Iloilo, Bohol and in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao; that she stole public funds to finance her campaign; and that she attempted to conceal her crimes through repressive edicts such as the calibrated preemptive response, Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017.

Arroyo was also held liable for the rampant and systematic campaign of murder, abduction, political persecution and other grave abuses since she assumed power in 2001.

The CCTA likewise called "chacha" Arroyo's most ambitious scheme to conceal her crimes by consolidating her power, crushing the opposition and sweeping aside all issues against her.

Former Vice President and current CCTA chairman Teofisto Guingona said that the CCTA has recommended that Arroyo immediately vacate the office of the president to answer for her crimes; that the international community withdraw support from the Arroyo regime; that charges be filed against Arroyo at the United Nations Human Rights Commission; and that all repressive and abusive laws be repealed. **AB**



CBCP assails Arroyo regime

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines strongly assailed the Arroyo regime this May for unresolved issues of electoral fraud.

In its May 11 statement, the CBCP demanded that the Arroyo regime shed light on various issues all related to fraud during the 2004 elections such as the "Hello, Garci" tapes, the hundreds of millions of pesos plundered from the "fertilizer scam" to fund the Arroyo campaign, the full disclosure of the Mayuga report and anomalies involving Comelec officials.

The CBCP demanded the continuation of Senate and Congressional investigations into the "Hello, Garci" controversy and the "fertilizer scam" and the public disclosure of the results. The CBCP also demanded that the results of Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga's investigation on the involvement of high ranking military officers in massive fraud during the 2004 elections especially in Mindanao be made known to the public. It reiterated its demand for a revamp of the COMELEC

and the punishment of officials involved in fraudulent contracts entered into by the commission. The CBCP assailed the "people's initiative" for not having been truly initiated by the people.

The regime intentionally ended Senate and Congressional investigations into the "Hello Garci" tapes last January to conceal details of its involvement in electoral fraud during the May 2004 polls. It has been hiding Department of Agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, one of the key figures who could shed light on how money intended for the purchase of fertilizer was illegally diverted to finance the Arroyo campaign. The results of Mayuga's investigation which ended last November remain undisclosed to this day. Arroyo has yet to act on recommendations for a thorough COMELEC revamp.

The CBCP said that unless the Arroyo regime comes clean on these issues, the Catholic Church will continue to excoriate the regime's lack of moral basis to govern and corruption in Arroyo's government. **AB**

"Cha-cha," from page 4

to the "people's initiative."

Meantime, oppositionists in Congress have been quietly meeting and planning with BAYAN, Bayan Muna and other anti-Arroyo groups in preparation for the new

impeachment case to be filed against Gloria Arroyo. They have likewise been ascertaining the loyalty and commitment of their members. Aside from the evidence they had previously prepared, they will be including evidence culled from the CCTA hearings on the

charges of electoral fraud, the murder of activists and other forms of fascist abuse and culpable violations of the constitution through the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 1017, Executive Order 464 and the calibrated preemptive response. **AB**



Red fighters in Negros seize 2 M16 rifles

A New People's Army (NPA) team seized two M16 rifles in an ambush on a unit of the Philippine National Police Regional Mobile Group (PNP-RMG) on May 20 in Barangay Mabini, Escalante City, Negros Occidental. The two policemen killed in the attack were part of a four-man team of the 602nd RMG. They were watching a village dance when four Red fighters took them by surprise at around 1 a.m. The guerrillas had already withdrawn by the time police reinforcements arrived.

Isabela ambush

SEVEN soldiers were killed and nine others wounded when NPA Red fighters ambushed 45th IB troops along the boundary of Barangays Ueg and Panninan in San Mariano, Isabela on April 2.

The soldiers were entering Barangay Panninan when sighted by an NPA unit in the area. A guerrilla team pursued the soldiers and overtook them while they were resting on a hill. The NPA swiftly took position, opened fire on the soldiers and later fired a rifle grenade.

Helicopter gunships arrived two hours later but the Red fighters had long withdrawn from the battle site.

Earlier, the soldiers abducted and beat up two peasants of Barangay Ueg. The fascist troops barred the peasants from going to their swidden farms. They guarded river crossings and demanded all barriofolk to show their residence certificates.

The ambush served as a punitive action for the 45th IB's violence against the people and as the NPA's contribution toward speeding up the Arroyo regime's downfall.

Interview with Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos

Revolution in Mindanao continues to gain momentum

The revolutionary movement and the people continue to reap brilliant victories in Mindanao. *Ang Bayan* interviewed National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson Comrade Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, and he revealed that the revolutionary movement now covers 19 of the island's 25 provinces, with the NPA's 35 guerrilla fronts now covering 200 cities and municipalities.

"Mindanao is a rich island," Ka Oris said, "but majority of the more than 17 million population are poor, oppressed and exploited by big im-

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Guerrillas cart away 10 firearms in Samar and Leyte

THE NPA seized ten firearms in tactical offensives in Samar and Leyte on May 5 and 6, according to the latest field reports.

The NPA confiscated four M16 rifles, two 9 mm pistols and a .357 pistol in an ambush on six policemen in Bonghon, Dolores, Eastern Samar on May 6, the Sergio Lobina Command said. *AB* had earlier reported five M16s seized in this ambush.

A policeman was killed and two others wounded in the ambush, while another surrendered and two others ran away. The NPA applied first aid on the wounded policemen and treated the surrenderee well, contrary to the enemy's twisted version of events.

In Leyte, the NPA seized two M16s in an ambush on 19th IB troopers in Sandayong, Hibala-ngan, Villaba on May 5. Two soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in the 15-minute ambush, the Mt. Amandewin Command (MAC) of NPA-Leyte Island reported. The NPA-MAC disputed 19th IB Lt. Col. Lope Dagoy's claim that the NPA violated international rules of war by burning

the remains of one of the dead soldiers. The body was burned when gasoline aboard the soldiers' vehicle ignited after the latter hit a command-detonated land mine, the NPA-MAC said.

The 19th IB is the real human rights violator for having killed Jessie Talaboc, a civilian the military accused of being a Red fighter, the NPA-MAC further said. The 19th IB troopers abducted, tortured and killed Talaboc, a resident of Sitio Can-ili, Barangay Dunghol, Ormoc City on May 7 and claimed that he was an NPA casualty.

The killing occurred after the 19th IB failed to kill or capture a single Red fighter when it raided an NPA camp in Sitio Pikas in the same barangay that day. The guerrillas blew up command-detonated land mines they had earlier planted in the camp perimeter, casting fear and shock and wounding several soldiers who were then forced to abandon their pursuit of the Red fighters. The guerrillas retreated without suffering any casualties. NPA snipers also fired on two blocking enemy forces that were unable to fight back. **AB**

perialist corporations, big bourgeois compradors and big landlords."

It is no surprise then that both the open and armed struggle are strong in Mindanao. "We have here the Moro people's legitimate struggle through the MILF and MNLF. We also have the much more widespread people's struggle under the leadership of the CPP-NPA-NDF."

The revolution's strength has been proven by the 412 big and small tactical offensives launched by the NPA in the last 16 months. Most of them were launched in the latter part of 2005. The Red fighters



seized more than 300 firearms of various caliber. More than 300 reactionary troopers, equivalent to a battalion, were killed. Almost 300 enemy troops were also wounded in the same period. "We achieved these victories with almost zero casualties on our forces," Ka Oris added.

Noteworthy among the tactical offensives were the successful raids on six municipal PNP stations where the NPA seized more than 80 firearms of various caliber and raids on two big AFP-CAFGU detachments. Also remarkable were five big ambushes and two special operations.

This is the Mindanao revolutionary forces' response to the reactionary army's increased presence in the island. In the past seven years, the Arroyo regime has unleashed on NPA guerrilla fronts 70% of three Mindanao-based divisions, including Marines and Special Forces, Ka Oris added.

Under Oplan Bantay Laya, the AFP has launched increasingly vicious military operations in the Mindanao countryside and wide-

spread assassinations of leaders and members of legitimate mass organizations and the Party. These have failed, however, to stop the momentum not only of the broad mass movement against Arroyo's rule but the revolutionary movement's comprehensive advance in the entire island.

"I am still alive"

A few days before Ka Oris' interview in an NPA encampment in the Caraga region in late April, the AFP spread the news that he had died. The AFP first claimed that he was killed in a gunbattle in Paquibato District in Southern Mindanao. When it could not provide evidence for such claim, it said that he died of a grave illness.

Ka Oris laughingly belied such claims and declared, "I am still alive!" The military's tall tale was obviously a vain attempt to demoralize and confuse the revolutionary forces and the people, he said. The military is ignorant of his true condition and location and thus tried to determine his whereabouts through the mass media. AB

Combating RSOT and AFP strike operations in Northeastern Mindanao

Shrewd and creative tactics

The New People's Army (NPA) and the people in Northeastern Mindanao Region's Front 14 both possess a high level of capability and readiness to thwart the reactionary armed forces' military operations and launch tactical offensives. Such is due to firm unity on the armed revolution's principles and spirit, to the Red commanders and fighters' prowess and the people's towering militancy and fortitude.

Ever since Front 14 was established in 1998, it has consistently reaped victories in armed struggle, mass base building and agrarian revolution. Its NPA units have never suffered a defensive battle. The people and the NPA have always found ways to disrupt or openly frustrate enemy operations of whatever size or nature. In all battles, the Red fighters are assisted by the people's militia—from preparations (intelligence

gathering, surveillance, ambush site selection) up to actual enemy engagements.

Combating strike operations

A brilliant example is the NPA's success against a large-scale AFP operation from March 2 to 12 that attempted to drive out the Red fighters from PICOP's logging area. About 500 soldiers from the Military Intelligence Battalion, 36th IB and other military units launched clearing operations in some 20 adjacent barrios along the boundaries of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.

The NPA swiftly carried out preparations for the enemy's massive entry. It identified and studied the enemy's expected routes and selected favorable ambush sites. It planted command-detonated land mines

on these sites and posted units there to lie in wait.

From the roadsides up to the interior villages, the people's intelligence network monitored and reported the AFP's every move. Upon verifying troop movements, the NPA central command directed one or two teams to launch harassment operations. Sniper teams consisting of four or five Red fighters armed with high-powered rifles were directed to trail incoming enemy troops. In such manner, the NPA not only effectively blocked the soldiers but also wrought casualties on the enemy.

One such harassment operation was conducted on March 5 when an NPA team encountered its target, a platoon of Scout Rangers that unexpectedly entered a sitio in Surigao del Sur. The enemy troops were in position and fired the first volley, forcing the NPA team to retreat. The enemy troops took cover inside a house and used the resident family as human shields. The villagers acted quickly, rescuing the family and leaving the soldiers open to NPA attack. That afternoon, the guerrilla fighters crept towards the village and fired on the soldiers to expel them from the barrio. Two soldiers were instantly killed and others were wounded.

Enemy troops kept on suffering casualties even before they could enter the area. On January 29, Red fighters ambushed six soldiers acting as the 36th IB's advance scouting team in a barrio of Bislig City, killing one on the spot and wounding several others.

Combating the RSOT

The people and the NPA have also successfully repelled RSOT operations in the area. From August 15 to September last year, the 36th IB launched RSOT operations in five adjacent barrios of Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur. The military intended to stay for six months so as to establish a counterrevolutionary Barrio Intelligence Network (BIN), recruit CAFGU elements and eventually set up a detachment. The soldiers were able to stay for only 45 days, however, when the people and the NPA drove them out successfully.

Even before RSOT troops could enter, the people in the area already expressed their opposition to the planned military operations. They sought the help of the local government, institutions and the church in pushing for the enemy's immediate withdrawal.

The military had long been victimizing the people in the area. The AFP and PICOP's paid goons had been demolishing the people's houses, uprooting their plants and burning their properties in an attempt to evict them from the area. Such abuses have earned



the people's wrath.

In September, the people in a sitio of Rosario, Agusan del Sur were able to systematically and swiftly evacuate a few days after enemy troops arrived. Hundreds of families camped in the town center while church and local officials provided them with aid. They refused to return home as long as the soldiers remained in their village. Supported by other sectors, they asked help from the mayor and other government officials to demand the RSOT's immediate pullout from their barrio.

In another instance, a 36th IB platoon entered a sitio in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur with the villagers failing to monitor their movements toward the area. Upon noticing the soldiers' arrival, however, the people immediately gathered in the village center and prepared to evacuate. Seeing this, the enemy soldiers immediately left the village. The people then dropped their evacuation plan.

The NPA has been intensifying tactical offensives in the face of AFP operations. Even at the very start of an RSOT operation, the Red fighters would launch harassment operations, sniping and ambushes to strike at and repel the enemy.

The NPA launched four harassment operations against the RSOT during this period. Paralyzed by fear, the soldiers confined themselves in their target villages and refrained from stepping beyond borders. They virtually imprisoned themselves for days on end before realizing the need to retreat.

It was the people's creative maneuvers and fortitude, coupled with the NPA's persistence and prowess in launching tactical offensives that defeated the RSOT operations. These experiences have heightened the people's militancy and honed the NPA's battle skills. These have also prepared them to face whatever operations the AFP may unleash in the future. **AB**

A Tribute to Daniel Boone Schirmer

Anti-imperialist fighter and friend of the Filipino people

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) joins various organizations and individuals in the USA, the Philippines and the world over in paying the highest tribute to Daniel Boone Schirmer—a genuine American patriot, a revolutionary internationalist, a staunch anti-imperialist and a devoted advocate of the struggle of the Filipino people and of all oppressed peoples. The CPP recognizes the life-long dedication of Daniel Boone Schirmer to fight US imperialism and its oppression of peoples around the world. Schirmer died in the US on April 21 at the age of 91.

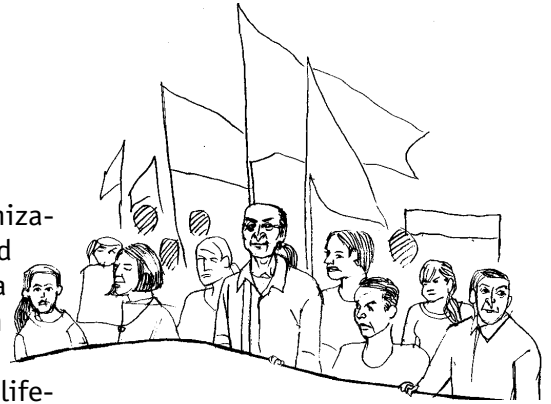
Daniel Boone Schirmer helped to arouse, organize and mobilize students and workers to struggle for their rights during the Great Depression. He became a member of the Communist Party of the USA in the 1930s and was forced to go underground and hounded for four years, until he was arrested and incarcerated by the US government in 1954 at the height of the McCarthyist anticommunist hysteria. Upon returning to university life in the 1960s, he actively campaigned against the US war of aggression and occupation in Vietnam.

In 1969, Daniel Boone Schirmer wrote his doctoral thesis "Republic or Empire: American Resistance to the Philippine War," later published as a book. His thesis dwelt on the Anti-Imperialist League, an organization of American patriots led by American novelist Mark Twain, that opposed the US war to annex the Philippines as a colony at the turn of the 20th century. He asserted that the US could not claim to be a truly democratic country as long as it oppresses other peoples. In the tradition of the league and Mark Twain, Schirmer became a consistent champion of anti-imperialist international solidarity and, until his final hours, an ardent supporter of the struggle of the Filipino people against imperialism, fascism and reaction.

The Filipino people had a true friend in Daniel Boone Schirmer. Together with US-based Filipinos, Filipino-Americans and other progressive American friends of the Filipino people, he helped organize the Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) in response to the imposition of a US-instigated fascist dictatorship in the Philippines and in support of the Filipino people's anti-imperialist and antifascist struggle. He followed closely developments in the Philippines and wrote volumes about the situation here, helping expose to the American people and to the world Marcos' puppetry to the US and the US-Marcos dictatorship's fascist abuses.

Together with his comrades in the FFP, Schirmer made significant contributions in the US in assailing US collaboration with and support for the Marcos dictatorship, generating support for the Philippine struggle from among the American people and invigorating the struggle of US-based Filipinos. Their work helped in the exposure, isolation and eventual downfall of the fascist dictatorship.

The presence of US military bases in the Philippines was a key issue that Schirmer focused on for three decades. He wrote numerous articles and spoke in rallies, symposia and other fora to call for the dismantling of US military bases in



the Philippines. In the historic Senate vote that ended a half-century old treaty allowing permanent US military basing in the country, Schirmer was honored by the Philippine Senate as among the prime influences for the termination of the treaty.

After the US bases were dismantled, Schirmer would continue to denounce every scheme of the US and Philippine governments to further US violations of Philippine sovereignty by sending interventionist combat troops to the country and transforming the entire country into a virtual military base through various treaties and agreements such as the "Mutual Logistics Support Agreement," the "Status of Forces Agreement," the "Access and Cross-Servicing Agreement" and the "Visiting Forces Agreement."

Daniel Boone Schirmer's well-researched and incisive writings, talks and other valuable contributions to the struggle against US imperialism, the US-Marcos dictatorship and further collaboration between the US and succeeding puppet regimes in the Philippines now serve as his legacy and an inspiration to many Americans and Filipinos alike and other revolutionary and progressive forces to continue advancing the revolutionary struggle in the home country, promote revolutionary internationalism and support revolutionary struggles in other countries. **AB**

US espionage and intervention in Philippine politics

After nine months of detention, an agent of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) admitted in May that he illegally took out classified documents from his FBI workplace and gave them to certain big-time politicians in the Philippines. Leandro Aragoncillo, a Fil-Am, was a former FBI intelligence analyst on the Philippines and a former military adviser to two successive US vice presidents. He also served as a soldier in the US Marines for 21 years. He was arrested in September 2005 and charged with spying for certain Filipino personalities.

In truth, however, Aragoncillo is a US agent spying on the Philippines. He was employed to gather country information that could be used for intervening in Philippine internal affairs and protecting and advancing US interests. Emphasis is now focused on his links with ex-President Joseph Estrada and other oppositionists, but it is no secret that he also actively liaised with key government officials and allies like Mike Defensor and Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano.

Aragoncillo's work confirms that the US has long been spying and gathering intelligence on sensitive and internal affairs and events, government officials, opposition and key personalities in its client state.

In fact, the US spies on all countries, both friendly and rival states. Its espionage activities in the Philippines as well as in other countries are meant not just for knowing and studying important events and internal affairs. The US uses information primarily for interfering in and manipulating events and issues to suit its interests and for influencing, bribing, manipulat-

ing and even coercing or blackmailing various government officials and personalities, oppositionists and other sectors in the country.

The country "analyses" released by US government and embassy officials regarding the political situation of countries contain direct or indirect orders, warnings and clues of what the US wants to happen. The greater bulk of information is of course kept from the public and used in the myriad ways of US intervention.

The US always ensures that it holds all the aces in dealing with any reactionary political camp. Aragoncillo's case and the intelligence he gathered clearly illustrate this.

On the one hand, the US has exposed Aragoncillo and the Estrada camp's complicity to insinuate its control over them. But even as the US maintains Estrada and other reactionary politicians as "spare

horses", it deviously dishes to the Arroyo regime information regarding the Estrada camp.

On the other hand, the US also uses intelligence information to threaten and keep Arroyo off-balance. The US allowed classified reports from the US State Department and former US charge d'affaires in the Philippines Joseph Mussomeli leaked out to the public in July 2005. The reports dealt with Arroyo's election-rigging, corruption, abuse of authority, declining popularity and her alleged lameness in dealing with the country's "terrorism" problem.

As added pressure, the US allowed rumors to spread that it had obtained evidence of plunder by Gloria Arroyo's family. It used this to insinuate to the regime that it holds information that could destroy Arroyo and impress upon it who holds the ultimate power. Thus, the US has doubly ensured that the current regime remains loyal as its principal puppet obedient to its dictates, and squeezed from her the maximum possible concessions for US profit. **AB**

US spies on its own citizens

The Bush regime is spying on its own citizens. An exposé in May revealed that since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the regime has ordered and implemented massive espionage activities against American citizens by collecting information on their phone records and email.

The National Security Agency, an intelligence group specializing in electronic communications has ordered three giant US telecommunications companies to provide the government with phone tap recordings of their millions of clients. The NSA has also obtained information regarding private emails passing through these companies. It used these records to continuously monitor the people's electronic communications on the pretext of "identifying possible terrorist actions".

US laws expressly forbid spying on citizens without court orders. Immediate and widespread protests were launched against what is considered the most widespread violation of the American people's civil rights. The issue is now being investigated by the US Senate. A class action suit for violation of civil rights and privacy has also been filed against AT&T, one of the giant telecommunications companies collaborating with the NSA.

AB

Malacañang desecrates civil service

MALACAÑANG is now turning the heat on Karina Constantino-David, head of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Career Executive Service Board (CESB) because of recent declarations issued by Constantino and the CESB that the Arroyo regime has violated the law and civil service interests through a number of its acts and decisions. The CESB cited in particular Malacañang's removal of Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz from office in September 2005 after Luz refused to

honor three checks amounting to P15 million as bribe money for Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz in exchange for his opposition to the impeachment complaint against Gloria Arroyo.

With Arroyo controlling two of its three members, the CSC sided early on with Malacañang's removal of Luz from DepEd despite David's opposition. In May, however, the CESB issued a resolution castigating Malacañang's transgression of civil service laws. The CESB is a government agency that has juris-

diction over executive positions in the national government and state-owned corporations.

For defying Malacañang, Arroyo removed all pro-Luz employees in the CESB and replaced them with loyal lackeys.

Arroyo is also punishing the CSC for David's defiance by deliberately refusing to fill up vacant positions in the commission, thus rendering the agency incapable of making any decisions. Malacañang is now plotting David's removal from both the CESB and the CSC.

Lafayette fine and closure demanded

THE Rapu-Rapu Fact-finding Commission headed by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes recommended on May 19 that Lafayette Mining Ltd., an Australian company, pay damages for wreaking environmental havoc on Rapu-Rapu island in Albay and endangering the people's health and livelihood. Malacañang formed the commission a year ago.

The commission stated that Lafayette irresponsibly started its mining operations even without completing the required environmental protection infrastructure. It also denounced the Arroyo government for neglecting and failing to monitor mining operations in Rapu-Rapu.

The Bastes Commission's investigations uncovered Lafayette's irresponsible disposal of mine tailings into two creeks. The mine tailings contained cyanide and other toxic chemicals from gold processing and caused fish kills and the death of other aquatic life in Rapu-Rapu. Severe illnesses such as skin diseases have also began afflicting the people. Worse, the mine wastes could also lead to cancer, brain defects, birth abnormalities and other grave illnesses.

The commission recommended the cancellation of Lafayette's Environment Compliance Certificate that allowed it to operate in the Philippines and the cancellation of government incentives including tax exemptions. It also recommended a halt to mining in Rapu-Rapu.

The commission further recommended the immediate cancellation of Lafayette's mining operations and a halt to mining altogether in the island municipality. It proposed a review of the 1995 Mining Act itself, especially provisions allowing foreign ownership and management of mining operations in the Philippines.

As expected, Malacañang ignored these recommendations. Lafayette is among the first companies that began mining operations when the Supreme Court declared the Mining Act's legality in December 2004.

Bolivia nationalizes natural gas industry

THE new Bolivian government under Pres. Evo Morales has shown its determination to pursue the path of freedom from imperialism. Morales declared on May 1 the nationalization of Bolivia's natural gas industry as a step towards the eventual nationalization of its entire energy industry. The state-owned Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos now manages the country's natural gas industry.

Twenty foreign companies control Bolivia's energy industry, including British Gas, British Petroleum, ExxonMobil and Total. The Bolivian government has given them six months to renegotiate their contracts. The state will take 82% of their profits within this period. Bolivia expects \$780 million in revenues from gas production by next year, up from \$460 million in 2005. Bolivia has threatened to evict the companies and confiscate their assets if they refuse to negotiate.

Bolivia has the second richest natural gas reserves in Latin America.