



Ang Kalihukan

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NORTH CENTRAL MINDANAO

Year 11

Second Issue

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ELITE TROOPS OF 4ID ROUTED BY THE NPA

Early in the afternoon of August 4 at Manawang, Guinabsan,¹ Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, NPA units belonging to Julito Tiro and Cesar Cayon Commands were busy rehearsing for the next day's *Paranga*² program in honor of comrades who were martyred in an NPA offensive raid on a Caggu detachment in San Pedro, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. Unknown to them their noise was clearly monitored by an enemy platoon who were already positioned in the opposite hills continuously viewing them with their telescopes. Their plan was to raid said unit of the NPA in the early dawn.

Troops of the 41st and 42nd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) were the ones who would conduct the raid. This is one of the elite troops of the 4th Infantry Division based in 401st Brigade conducting military operations in Caraga and Region X.

But contrary to the enemy's expectation the opposite happened. Instead they were ambushed by the NPA who were alerted by their plan and presence due to widespread and deep support of the revolutionary people's militias in the area. The NPAs immediately positioned themselves in a favorable terrain sliced by a solitary path leading to their position.

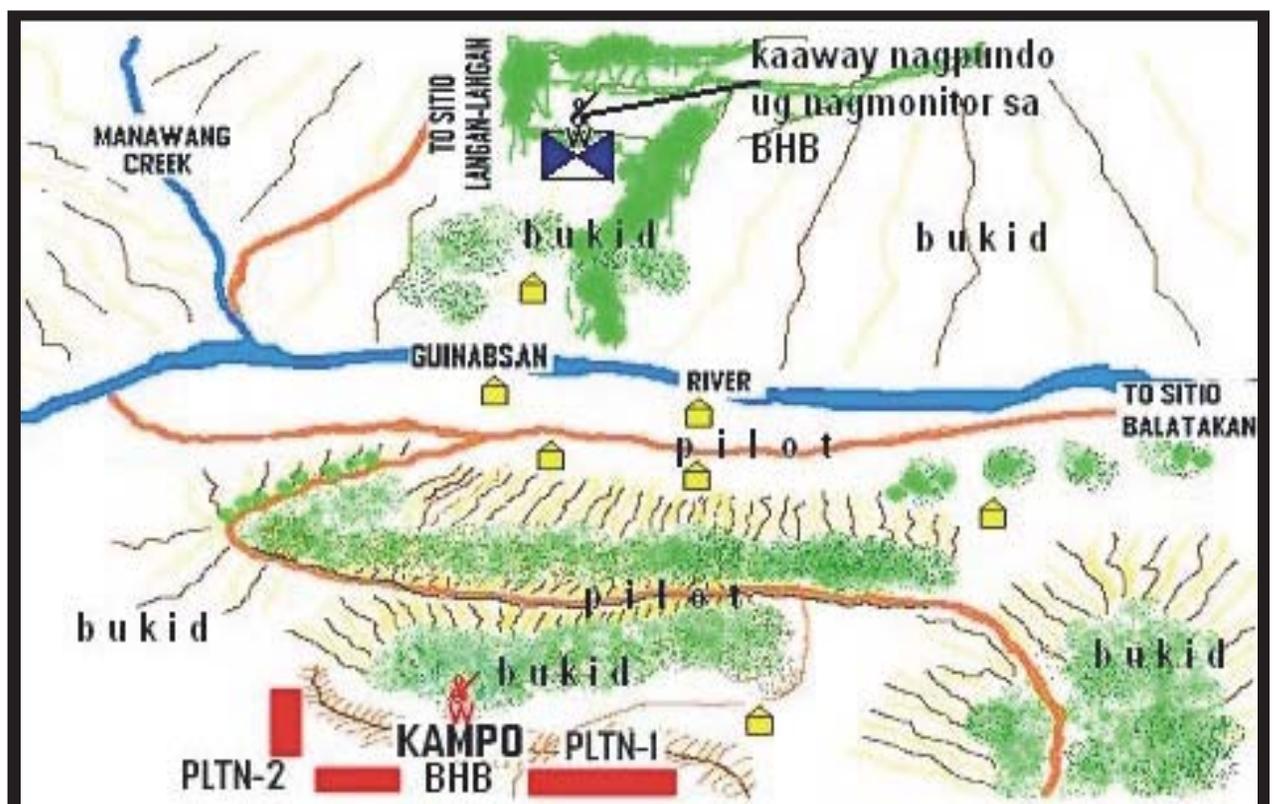
Comrades were without sleep the whole night. The command positioned the forces. They laid *command-detonated explosives* on the trail. Stricter orientation was done. They moved and placed their packs and

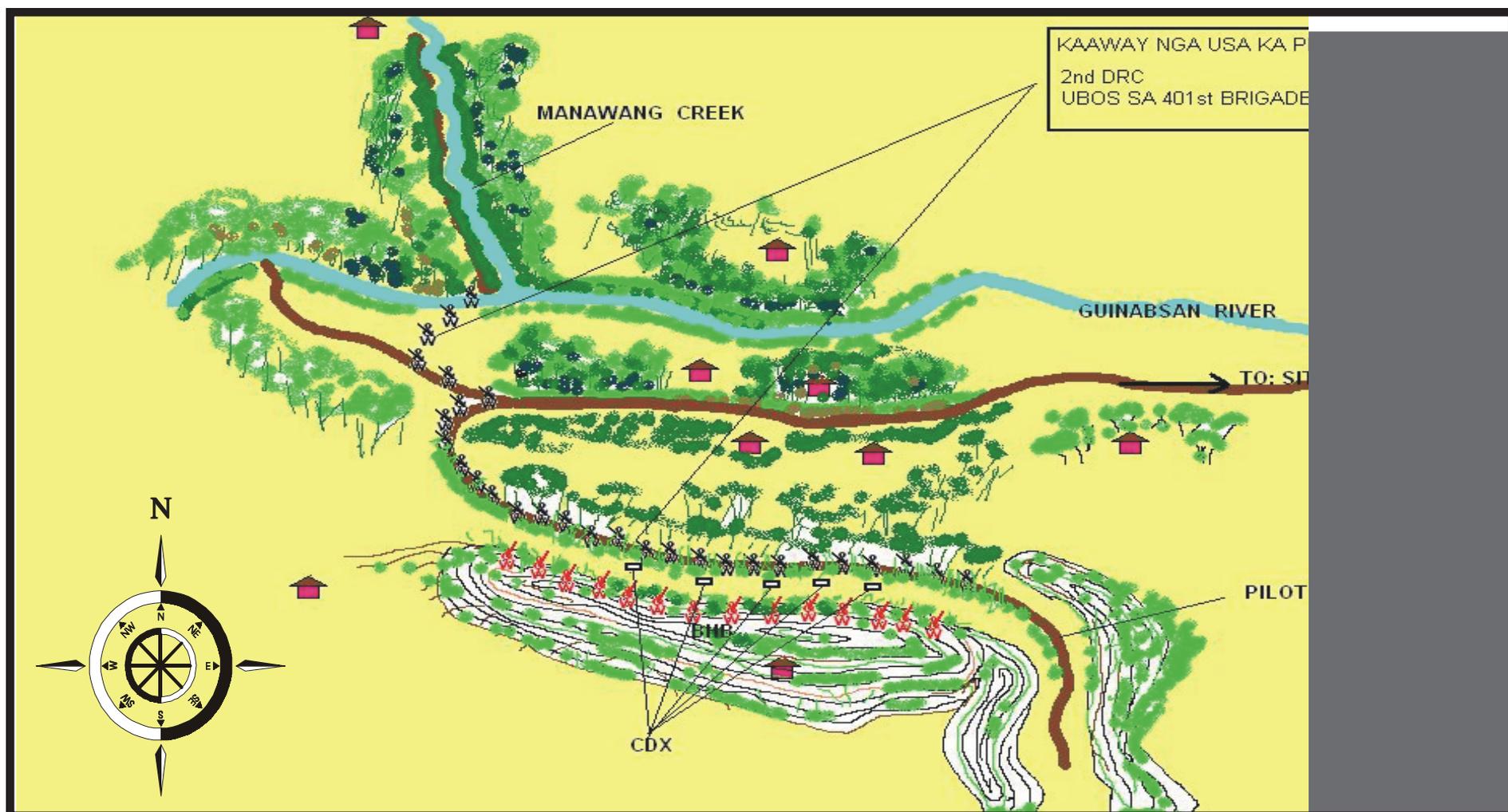
other equipments to a distant and safer portion of the sitio.³ After the forces were

positioned at their respective points silence ruled in the darkness.

Dawn comes as relayed by the crowing of cocks. Its still dark but moving objects could already be noticed. Tension gripped on all comrades. It was 5:00 in the morning. True to expectations, and not a long while, they already heard the craggy sounds of combat boots. Comrades controlled their breath, fingers fixed on the trigger. They waited for the first volley of fire of the triggerman.

Exactly 5:30 a.m. The deafening silence of the early morn was broken by the bursts of fire of the triggerman followed by the huge explosion of anti-personnel mines. Exchanges of fires followed. Machine guns of the NPAs whirred in unison. The enemy scampered in panic. Others jumped in the deep ravine leaving their rifles behind. Instantly, enemy troops of the 42nd DRC who served as advance unit felled like banana trunks. But there was still one enemy troop who continue to fire at the NPAs position. But as it was already daybreak this was easily targeted by the NPAs sniper's fire until the enemy





was felled. The battle lasted for almost two hours.

On the spot eight enemy troops were killed in action.⁴ Approximately 12 were wounded.⁵ The CO commanded to assault and seized all firearms. Jumping like cats from their positions, the assault team seized all firearms and other equipments of military value like 4 SSB radios, 5 cellphones, 1 GPS phone, ammunitions and military packs. Eight high powered

rifles were seized consisting of 4 M16s, 3 M14s and 1 carbine.

On the part of the NPA a Red fighter was martyred and three were slightly wounded which were quickly attended to by the NPA medics.

Out of rage, the 401st Brigade went wild considering that the scene of battle is in the proximity of the 4ID Training Area located at Mayapay, Buenavista and this is a big insult to them. Thus they sent two MG 520 helicopters on a bombing sortie for 2 days in Manawang and adjacent areas prompting the residents to evacuate en masse. **AK**

(Footnotes)

¹ Guinabsan is 8 kms distant from the town of Buenavista and Manawang is a 3-hour trek from Guinabsan.

² A form of highest tribute to revolutionary martyrs

³ A sitio is the basic unit of a barrio. Several sitios comprised a barrio. Others call it Purok.

⁴ Killed in Action were 2nd Lt Jovie Alleria, Tsg Felipe Miral, Cpl Edgardo Bautista, Pfc Erwin Pabualan, Pfc Eleazar Gules, Pfc Cebbie Verdon and Pvt Antonio Abutanmo. One Cafgu was also killed.

⁵ Wounded in action were: 2nd Lt Ruel Ramoroso, Sgt Española, Cpl Glenn Abu, Cpl Rey Cañete, Pfc Ceciliano Butron.

According to the media and the recovered ID's, the following are the casualties:

1. 2nd Lt. Jovie Alleria
2. Tsg Felipe Miral
3. Cpl Edgardo Bautista
4. Pfc. Erwin Pabualan
5. Pfc. Eleazar Gules
6. Pvt. Cebbie Verdon
7. Pvt. Antonio Abutanmo

Wounded are the following:

1. 2nd Lt Ruel Ramoroso
2. Sgt. Española
3. Cpl Glenn Abu
4. Cpl Rey Cañete
5. Pfc Ceciliano Butron
6. Pfc Jovelito Jimenez
7. Pvt Brando Barlozo
8. Pvt Alberto Balo
9. Pvt Clint John Kuizon
10. Pvt Allan Mirar
11. Pvt Joy Manggubat
12. Pvt Roberto Bajaro



Ang Kalihukan

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Editorial

NDF Regional Executive Council

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HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF THE 4ID-AFP OF THE CARHRIHL AND THE PROTOCOLS¹ OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

As a consequence of the bombing sortie by the 401st Brigade on August 5 of sitio Manawang and adjacent areas 15 families comprising 55 individuals evacuated to Langan-langan and Balatakan² all sitios of Guinabsan.

With no food to eat several farmers returned to Manawang but they were confronted by many soldiers and were the ones vented upon by their ired. Andot, 28 years old, married with 4 children was kicked by a soldier on the hips; Nerio, 25 years old, married was intimidated by dropping a huge rock on his front thus splashing water on his face; Armando also 25 years old, married, and a resident of Balatakan was hit with the barrel of an armalite rifle causing a welt on his stomach and his shirt to shear. After this they were ordered to carry the wounded to Guinabsan.

On August 8, 2004, 5 helicopters continued to hover above the barangays adjacent to Guinabsan including the

forested areas. On August 9 at sitio Linao-linao, Sangay, Buenavista one Poryan Main-in, 20 years old, single, and a lumad was snatched by soldiers of 30

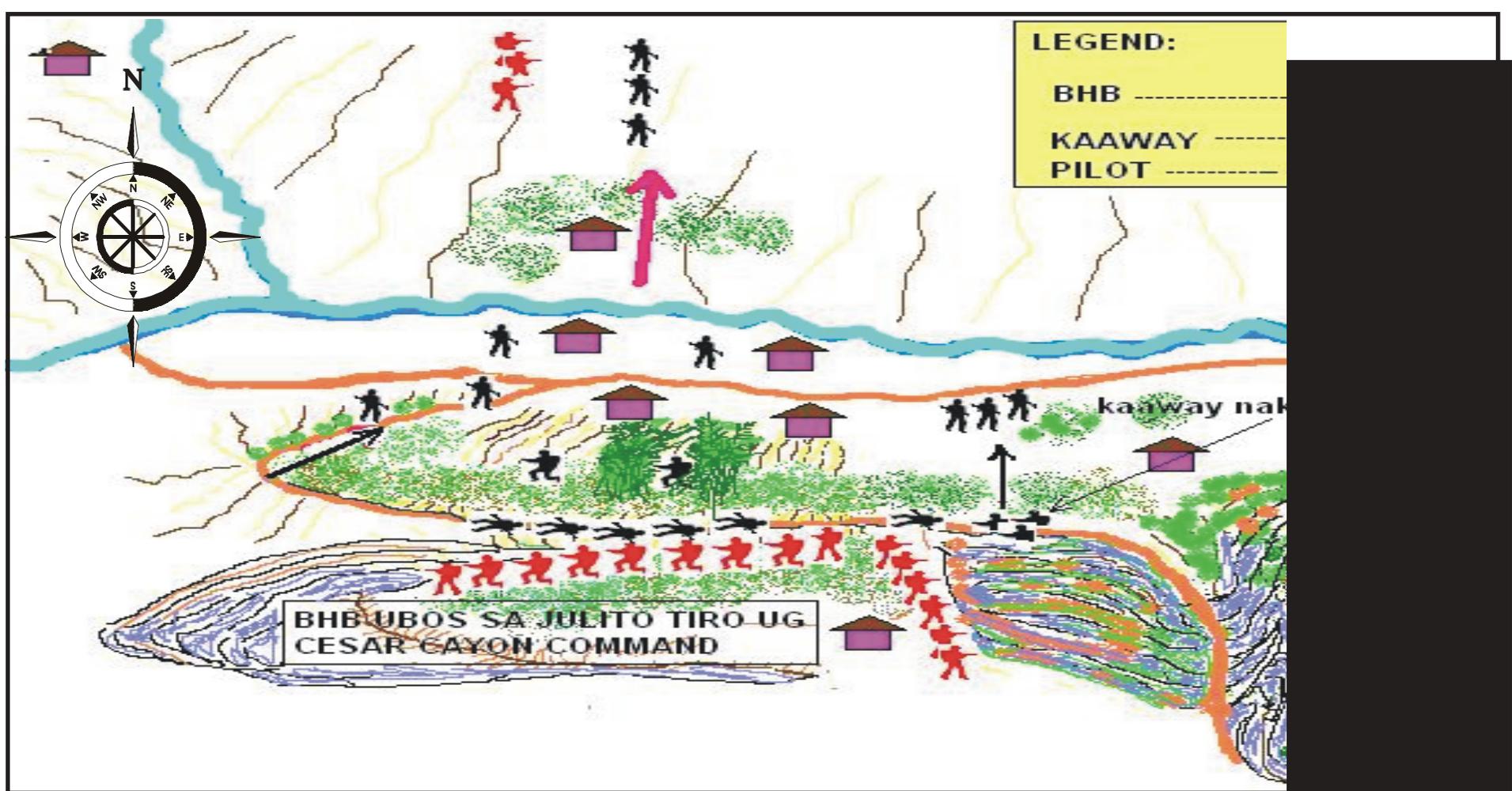


IB, was boxed, rope-tied and squeezed his testicles causing great pain. There were also blankets lost in the abandoned houses and it was believed this were used as hammocks in carrying the wounded.

Another AFP violations of the CARHRIHL and the Protocol 2 was the "supra-killing" of a wounded NPA who was already a

hors d'combat. Ka Jaypee (Ronald Manlapas, 21 years of age), a resident of Coalisyon, San Luis, Agusan del Sur was mercilessly "supra-killed" by two Cafgus (Tammy Flores and Sammy Argedon) who was mortally wounded and already yelling for help. Next they trained their guns on Danilo Lozada (Ka Bito) who was also mortally wounded. But this was foiled with the advent of residents who came on time to help. This happened at an encounter at San Pedro, San Luis, Agusan del Sur last July 14, 2004.

On the other hand, the contrary has been experienced by two POWs— 2nd Lt Fidelino and Cpl Nemeño,³ detained by Romulo Jallores Command following in an encounter at Tinambac, Camarines Sur last April 1. They were treated humanely until their release recently on August 18. Their impression of the New People's Army is that it is the genuine army of the people. **AK**





JULITO TIRO COMMAND

Amihanang Sentral Mindanaw

Statement on a Successful Offensive

Allan Juanito

Spokeperson

August 21, 2004

THE tactical offensive launched by the New People's Army under the Julito Tiro Command-North Central Mindanao last August 5, at Sityo Manawang, Guinabsan, Buenavista was one of the measures to further protect the land of the farmers in the area on the impending grab threat through the PNP led by Gen. Alberto Olario. About 1,200 hectares of the area in Barangay Guinabsan will be placed under the Community Integrated Forest Management Agreement. The said area targetted for the plantation of commercial trees clearly violates the right of famers to till their lands.

Earlier, Gen. Olario threatened to cleanse the area of the presence of the NPA by deploying Scout Rangers to allow the entry of the project. But the NPA is always ready to protect the interest of the peasants. Thus, with the support of the masses, it foiled and will continue to frustrate Olario's impending selfish plan.

For once, we hail and encourage the residents under the democratic government of the people to strongly oppose the evil design of the AFP. It is only just that we oppose their deception to use money and promises for civilians to become members of the reactionary AFP and become guides in military operations, serving as intelligence agents in order to locate NPA areas, and be victims of counterrevolutionary intrigues in order to create division within your ranks and destroy your unity and invariably destroy your united strength. Amidst attacks by the enemy, let us hold on to the victories we gained from our organized revolutionary actions. If our unity shatters, no one would stand to gain but the egotistical promotions of the officers of the AFP like Col. Rosete, Lt. Col. Guru, and Lt. Col. Macanas. The plan of Gen. Olario to take away the land you tilled will also succeed.

Let us not emulate the fates of Salomeo de la Pena, Pabling Mag-asin and But-ol *alyas* Aba, who were wounded and nearly killed because they acted as guides of the AFP. To run after small change as bribe and aim to enter the military will not solve poverty.

This is mainly to divide us, the poor people, in order to delay our victory while the ruling elite and oppressors will continue to enjoy from this rotten system that they've ruled. The solution to the problem of impoverishness in the countryside is still the continued struggle to implement genuine land reform. Thus, the civil war in the Philippines is continuously growing in strength because more Filipinos have accepted the revolutionary solution.

The bankrupt US-Arroyo regime cannot stop the revolutionary aspirations to achieve genuine societal change by increasing the number of military soldiers and CAFGU while it is currently facing a severe financial crisis and the surging resistance of the people brought about by intolerable hardships that the people bear.

On the other hand, the AFP's tactics in using civilians as guides, the use of torture, bombings and strafings within civilian areas using their helicopters are concrete cases of their disrespect on the Comprehensive Agreement for the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), Protocols of the Geneva Convention and violations of the AFP Rules of Engagement regarding the handling of civilians during operations.

Related to this, we urge the junior officials and regular enlisted personnel of the AFP, especially those under the 401st Infantry Brigade, to reflect on whom should they rightfully serve.

Is service mean following the orders of their officials who are mainly serving their personal interests and the ruling system even if it is anti-people? According to an open statement by Ka Roger to the AFP:

"You are the ones ordered to bomb the ricefields and communities of farmers, search their houses illegally, indiscriminately fire at them, burn their houses, torture those who are suspected as rebels among other human rights violations against innocent civilians. Daily, the list of innocent civilians victimized by your abuses on human rights, continue to mount. Your uniforms have been sullied by the blood of the people-workers and farmers who also came from the same womb that you came from while the stars of your generals remain unsullied as they receive promotions as reward for those who were killed because they were suspected as NPA guerillas or supporters. You are turned into a monster of the people while your superiors pretend that they have not erred.

There's nary a single concern from the high officials of the AFP given to you, junior officers and the low-ranking soldiers. You are used as pawns in the war versus the NPA and the MILF even if you are in a disadvantaged position thus many soldiers like you have died.

Deaths continue to mount because of the useless deployment in encounters where defeat is definite. To conceal this, your officials distort the real events. No exact recognition and assistance were given to your comrades who died in these hostilities.

The biggest traitor of the people are the ones who ordered you to point your gun against the people who is fighting for democracy and sovereignty for the nation."

In the end, we wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and relatives of the officials and troops of the 41st and 42nd DRC, who died in the encounter last August 5, 2004. We are victims of the divide and rule tactic of the current regime; that we fight each other while you defend the businesses and interests of foreign capitalists and rich comparadors like Cojuangco, Tan, Lopez, Ayala, Marcos, Floreindo, Enrile, and many others.

It is now time to rise up. Rise against corruption! Rise against the canine subservience of Arroyo to the US! Stand for the liberation of the nation from the clutches of foreign domination! Stand for the people!





Arroyo Regime Liable to Media Slaying

SEVENTY-NINE media practitioners nationwide have been murdered since 1986 (**Inquirer Research, August 16, 2004**). This is part of the *orchestrated* plan of the State to silence the people. If the *intelligence community* of the AFP/PNP claims to have no direct hand to these assassinations, they indirectly planned these because they encouraged it through their minions in the criminal syndicates and the absence of genuine attempt

to stop these killings. Such double-faced stature was even aggravated by the pronouncement of Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane blaming the media for its critical revelations against government irregularities thus the reason they were killed. He even suggested that they arm themselves. But based on *command* *Ir to* and almost daily many people died due to illness and hunger, caused by militarization and forced evacuations in the countryside. Just

because they were poor and oppressed that they die without a single word of condolence or apology from the government. They are victims of neglect by a government exceedingly subservient to its foreign capitalist masters than its own people whom they took oath to serve and protect. They are victims of a government that is only after its personal interests and gains. **AK**

APOLOGIES

The Editorial Board sincerely extend its apology to Ms. Lizanilla Amarga, reporter of SunStar Cagayan de Oro and president of the Diamond Press Corps of the 4th Infantry Division (4ID) whose name was included in the article "Updates sa Kaaway" (Enemy Updates) in the previous issue of **Ang Kalihukan**. We regret the error that may have caused misunderstanding and its consequent negative effects.

We would like to make it clear that Ms. Amarga and/or other media practitioners covering the AFP and PNP beats, are not considered enemies of the movement, while we also maintain our openness for them to cover activities and issues regarding the revolutionary movement. Only those who have personal liabilities against the people and actively participating in counterrevolutionary activities are considered enemies.

Amid the growing threats on numerous media practitioners in exposing irregularities in the government, articulating the plight of the poor against tyranny by those in power and exposing the truth, the revolutionary movement vigorously stand and support their struggle for their rights and freedom of the press.

Mindanao Peace Forum a Success with the Presence of Ka. Luis Jalandoni and Ka. Connie Ledesma of the NDFP Peace Panel

Ivan Kasilak

The second Mindanao Peace Forum held last August 30, 2004 at Dynasty Court Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City attended by Luis Jalandoni, chairman of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Peace panel and Connie Ledesma, member of the NDFP Peace Panel, was a success.

Also present were members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) led by Dr. Bobby Alonto, a member of the MILF Peace panel and Bayan Muna Party-List Representative from Mindanao Joel Virador.

About 250 peace advocates from Region 10 and other parts of Mindanao attended the activity including the peasant and workers sector, lumad, businessmen, lawyers and the tri-media. To recall, the first Mindanao Peace Forum was held in May 2004 in Davao City.

It was a historical event held in the city of Cagayan de Oro since it was the first time that the peace panels of the two revolutionary groups in the country, the NDFP and the MILF, met in a public arena.

Ka. Luis Jalandoni clarified that the current

peace negotiations between the NDFP and GRP scheduled this August was not cancelled but merely postponed to allow the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to honor the NDFP-GRP joint communique signed during earlier talks in Oslo.

The said communique contained the steps seeking the delisting of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army, and NDFP Chief Political Consultant Prof. Jose Ma. Sison from the terrorist list by the United States and the European Union, the release of political prisoners, and indemnification

for the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

According to Ka Jalandoni, "one of the main issues in talking about peace is national sovereignty and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime has wantonly allowed imperialist powers like the United States and the European Union to intervene in the internal affairs of the country. The issue tagging the CPP-NPA and Prof. Sison as terrorists, the Balikatan exercises, the entry of foreign corporations and the exploitation of our human



*Mindanao Peace Forum
Just and Lasting Peace Education Series*



*Sovereignty and Peace : The View from the NDFP
Connie Ledesma, Luis Jalandoni, Dr. Bobby Alonto*



*KA Luis Jalandoni
Chairman sa NDFP
Peace Panel*



250 advocates for JUST AND LASTING PEACE from other part of Mindanao



Open Forum



Signing of Unity Statement



*Connie Ledesma
Certificate of Appreciation
from Convenor of In Peace
Mindanao*



*Dr. Bobby Alonto
MILF Peace Panel member*



Press Conference

and natural resources are issues that directly trample on our national sovereignty."

Ka Jalandoni also clarified the presence of two existing governments: first, the reactionary puppet government of the US-Arroyo regime, and second the revolutionary government led by the CPP-NPA which is based in the countryside. The revolutionary government has continually worked for genuine land reform for the landless peasantry, workers, lumad and all marginalized sectors in the country.

"The existence of these two governments provides the basis why negotiations for peace continue between the

GRP and the NDFP," Ka Jalandoni said.

Ledesma, a member of the NDFP peace panel and the Joint Monitoring Committee, added that "one of the major gains in the peace talks was the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement for the Respect on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and the implementation of the agreement through the creation of the JMC."

Meanwhile, Dr. Alonto of the MILF peace panel said "since the Spanish and American colonization, the MILF has long undertaken the armed struggle and up to the

present, has fought for the genuine aspiration of claiming the Bangsamoro's right to self determination."

"The economic crisis in the Philippines has gone worse with the deepening fiscal crisis wherein the budget deficit has already reached P200 billion. Corruption in the GMA regime has already gone worse," Rep. Virador said.

In the said activity, participants also listened to reactions from representatives of the church sector issued by Sister John of the Religious of Good Shepherd (RGS), Wildon Barros of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (*May First Movement*) and Jerry Orcullo,

president of the Cagayan de Oro Press Club or COPC.

The Peace Forum ended with the signing of a Unity Statement signed by Ka Jalandoni, for the NDFP, Dr. Alonto for the MILF, Rep. Virador, Sis. John Dumaog for the religious sector and Wildon Barros for the labor sector.

The Statement carried its strong opposition against the conduct of the Balikatan exercises in Mindanao and the call to delist Prof. Sison and the CPP-NPA from the terrorist tag.

A press conference was held after the Forum attended by the local tri-media. **AK**



Tribute

Tribute to our Revolutionary Martyrs



Ka Kadie
Jerry Paña, 27 yrs old
Cagayan de Oro City

Ka. Yoyon, 18 yrs old
Arnel Cacayan; Nakan-an, Sangay,
Buenavista, Agusan Norte

Ka. Jaypee
Ronald Manlapas; 21 yrs old, Coalisyon, San Luis, AS

Ka Payon; 21 yrs old
Payon Lozada, Tago, Surigao Sur

Ka Johnny
Roland Montes; 20 yrs old
Magbuya, Comuta, Lapaz, AS

Ka Ariel
Jani Sagwitan; 19 yrs old
Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur

In the name of our Red commanders and fighters, all the revolutionary forces in North Central Mindanao extend our highest salute to Ka Yoyon¹, Ka Kadie², Ka Payong, Ka Johnny, Ka Jaypee and Ka Ariel for their bravery and unconditional sacrifice of their lives in the struggle for national liberation and democracy.

Death comes to all men alike. But each death has its own weight. A death tendered for the people and the revolution is heavier than any mountain but death in defense of the interest of the oppressors and exploiters is lighter than a feather.

The death of these Red fighters who offered their lives in two recent encounters is even heavier than Mt. Mayapay because theirs is a death to destroy imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism that has long caused the sufferings of the Filipino people. Thus, all



revolutionaries must reflect and emulate this sacrifice at the highest level.

Let us also extend our heartfelt condolences to their respective families and friends in this moment of bereavement. It is but only natural that we feel saddened and at a loss for the death of a good comrade, son, brother, friend and most of all for these Red Fighters who offered their lives for national liberation and democracy.

Footnote

¹ Ka Yoyon died in an encounter last August 5, 2004 in Manawang, Guinabsan, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte.

² Ka Kadie, Ka Payong, Ka Johnny, Ka Ariel, Ka Jaypee are the red fighters who died during an encounter at San Pedro,



BUTUAN CITY. In a radio interview over Bombo Radyo Butuan last August of the first week, Lt. Col. Pendatun Guru spokesperson of the 401st Brigade disclosed that the Davao Death Squad is a creation of Mayor Duterte and the latter ordered the killings of criminals and drug users. It is not surprising that the killings in Davao could not be solved because its brain is the highest official of the city. Yet, they have put the blame to the NPA alleging that the revolutionary movement employs the KANGAROO COURT to punish criminals! With Lt. Col. Guru's disclosure, who is actually employing the KANGAROO COURT?

He also admitted in the same interview that it is the military that has armed Lumadnong Pakigbisog sa Caraga or LUPACA. The admission contradicted Lt. Col. Macanas' (of the 29th IB) statement denying that the military arms civilian groups such as the LUPACA. Now, whose lying?

SALAY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL. A partisan action was launched by the Eking Balacuit Command on August 20, 2004 against a police officer known for his womanizing. He was also noted to extort from fish vendors within the area. The death penalty was imposed at the strike of midnight in a disco in Salay. The NPA was able to take a M16 rifle and bullets.



August 2004

CABANGLASAN, BUKIDNON. A criminal and asset of the army and PNP was meted out capital punishment by the NPA of the Rexan Perez Command last July 6, 2004 at about 2 p.m. The death sentence on Dioscoro Gabunada was done in an ambush. Gabunada is a noted criminal in the boundary of Taguikan, Umayam in Canaangan, Kabanglasan, Bukidnon. Gabunada died on the spot while his companion Popoy Hancod was wounded. Taken from them was one M1 carbine, one .38 rebolber and one .3516 pistol.

His crimes include:

1. The killing of NPA couple Ka Sanag and Ka Joy last Feb. 8, 2000 wherein their head was cut off, their bodies chopped and later burned.
2. The brain behind a marijuana plantation in Takokon, Kanangaan, Kabanglasan, Bukidnon.
3. The brain in the illegal confiscation of cows, carabaos and horses within the barrios of Malaybalay, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon.
4. Land grabbings in Lumad areas.

NASIPIT, AGUSAN DEL NORTE. Last January 17, 2004 at about 8:30 pm, one Rochelo Repolidon Felisilda was meted death by a team of NPA in Purok 3, Kamagong.

Felisilda is a noted drug user in the area. He was also known to harass his neighbors with his bolo and even threatened to kill them if they report to the NPA. His other crimes include being a known thief ransacking several stores within the area. He is also an active informer. He has three attempted rape cases but was not indicted because of his connections.

The action was received with jubilation by the masses especially those who have witnessed and were victims of his wrongdoings. His death is seen to reduce criminality in the area as well as the presence of criminals.

LAST June 1, 2004, the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) in Upper Olave earned victory in seeking for an increase in the wages of coconut farm workers. From a mere P1.50 per coconut tree wage, this was increased to P2.50 per coconut tree. The farmer's action was attended by all coconut farm workers in the area. Six families who are mainly dependent on coco gatherings as their livelihood directly benefited from the peasant struggle.

CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION WORK A SUCCESS

August 10-12, 2004. A regional consultation on education work held recently was hailed a success. This was attended by the officers of the education departments of all fronts in the region. Delegates of the Party Primary School were also present and they provided fresh inputs to further improve the courses on education work. According to the PPS the Basic Party Course should give emphasis on studying Philippine Society and Revolution. Through the said consultation, the problem facing the region in education work was identified. A resolution was made on the importance or need of a full time instructor for the region and also for all the fronts. The need to establish a cultural group was also pointed out. **AK**



Ang Kalihukan

Landlord Punished

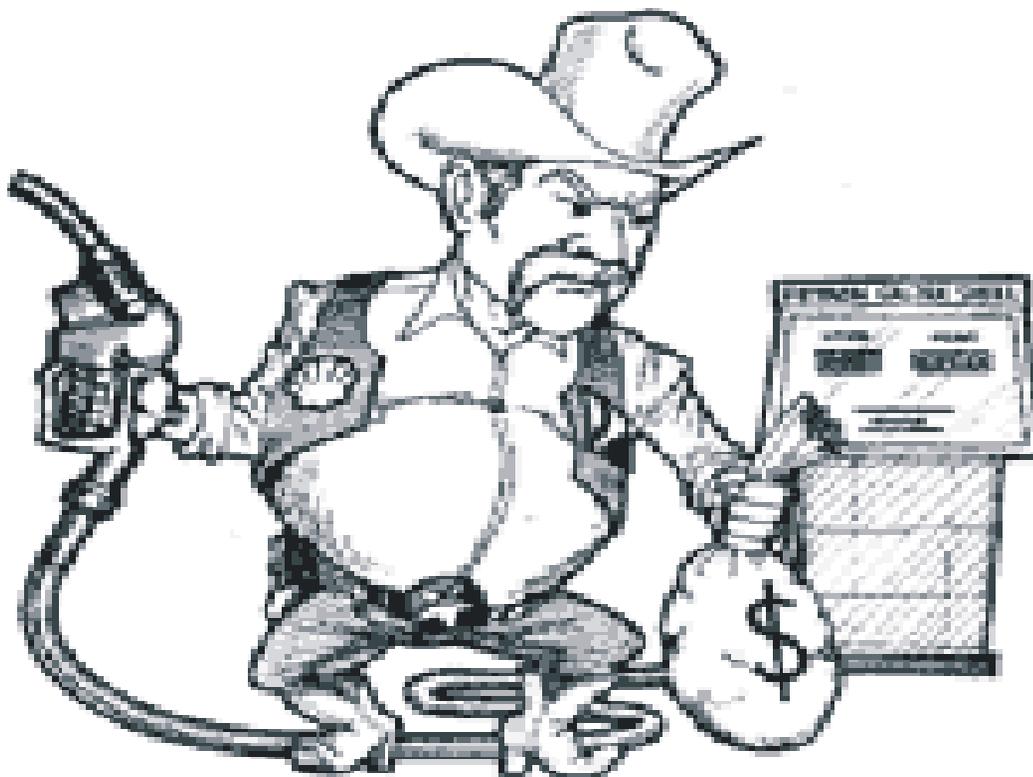
Carmen, Agusan del Norte. A despotic landlord in Carmen, Agusan del Norte was meted out punishment by the NPA after failing to comply with the agreement reached between him and the farm workers. Mr. Felicisimo "Cocoy" Kho did not fulfill his promise to rehire five of the farmworkers who were out of work after he suspended operations in the plantation. Last April 2004, Mr. Kho (through his representative) signed a memorandum of agreement with farmworkers for an increase in their daily minimum wage from P80.00 to P130.00. Mr. Kho only agreed for a P10.00 hike. The agreement also allowed an increase of P2.00 for every fruit tree planted. He also promised not to dismiss any worker. But a month have passed and Mr. Kho failed in his promise. Five of the regular farmworkers were not rehired and instead he employed other farmers in the area to work in the plantation. His despotic and insincere action angered the farmers who then asked the help of the NPA to punish him.

On May 29, the NPA confiscated Mr. Kho's 4 horses and 4 cows, and burnt a motorbike.

Two days earlier, a separate team confiscated a transit (a survey equipment) and 2 VHF transceiver in Nasipit.

"For the information of Mr. Kho, now that the NPA is here in the area, the climate has already changed. It won't be easy for him to instantaneously trample on the rights of farmers," a comrade said in explaining to the masses the reason for the punitive action.

"All other landlords who are despotic and do not respect the rights of farmers and the power of the people will face the same penalty."



Lain Na Usab Nga Sunod-sunod Nga Pagsaka Sa Presyo Sa Lana

Oil companies effected a new round of oil price increase of P0.30 last August 18, 2004. A few days later another round of increase of P0.35 was implemented. Every year, the cost of oil increased at an average by seven to eight times. This further confirms that the entry of "New Players" will not lower the cost of oil. Our experience tells us that instead of lowering the cost of oil, the events proved otherwise. The price of petroleum and its products continue to double even triple as days rolled on.

In essence, this "New Players" are mere "tinderos" (small traders) of the giant oil companies. Like a dry goods business, the giant oil companies are the wholesalers while the "New Players" are the retailers. As retailers, it automatically charge a mark up for the products they bought from the wholesalers. Thus, when it goes down to the local market, the cost of oil and its products is much higher.

The domination of the giant oil companies from the UPSTREAM and DOWNSTREAM level in the worldwide oil industry is the basic reason for this trend of increases. Exxon Mobil, Royal Dutch Shell, British Petroleum, Total, Chevron Texaco and Connoco Phillips decide the price of oil because they



own all oil concessions worldwide. They operate as a cartel and are thus decisive in dictating the price of crude oil in order for them to amass huge profits.

In the Philippines, the three oil companies namely Shell, Petroleum and Caltex operate as the local cartel in the petroleum industry. These oil companies are subsidiaries and or owned by the international cartel and control the importation, stock, refinery and in large part the distribution and retailing of petroleum products. Figures would show that more than 90% of the local markets in the selling of petroleum products is controlled by this three. The presence of the "Big Three" is a concrete example of how the imperialists led by the US control the economy of our country. The Philippine government's canine subservience to the dictates and policies of its unquenchable masters is a concrete example of this when it deregulated the country's oil industry.

With the increase in the prices of gasoline, transport fees and services

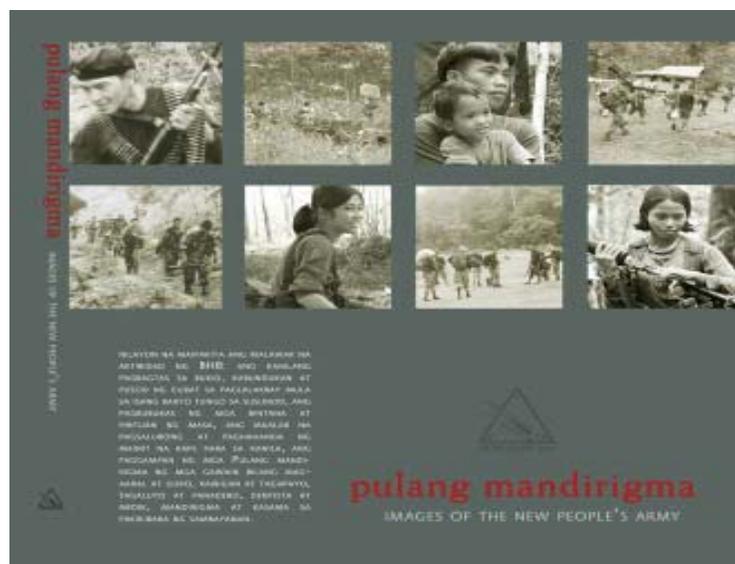
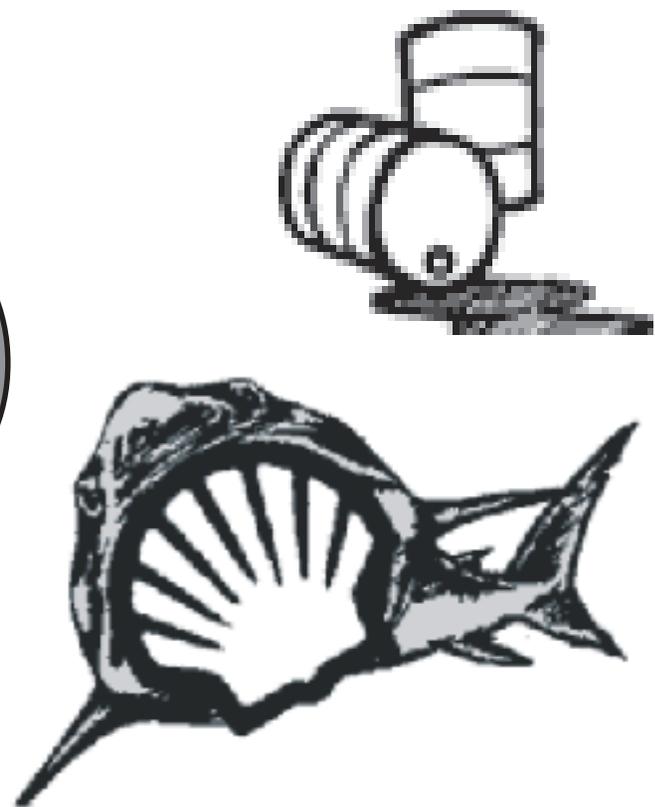
also increased. Products and people who are end-users of the transport industry will be affected as well while services are also affected. The ripple effect goes on further when prices of basic commodities start to shoot up because of the continuing oil price hikes.

Thus, it is only just that the people continue to demand a rollback in the cost of petroleum products to put an end to the never-ending oil increases occurring for years now.

With vigilance, continue the struggle to junk the deregulation law and vehemently oppose the continued practice of oil companies in imposing the series of oil price increases. The state should centralize the importation, stock and refining of crude oil and in large part the distribution of refined petroleum products. **AK**



Make it a habit reading
Ang Kalihukan



Pulang Mandirigma :
Images of the New
Peoples Army

Have a copy.
Make some order to the
organizers
in your community



Have copy of the latest issue
of Ang Bayan.
Support our Revolutionary
newsletter!

The presented tactical offensive happened within the month of July to August.



CHALLENGE TO THE BEST SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE PEOPLE!

IF YOU

Are 18 years old and above
physically healthy and mentally stable
a patriot who loves our country
who loves freedom, equality and genuine peace
who envisions genuine change in our society
ready to serve the oppressed and exploited

JOIN THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY!

Just contact revolutionary activists and cadres in your barangays, communities and or schools

Bring the following:

- Recommendation from your organization
- Several pairs of clothing
- Pack, malong and hammock
- Lunchbox, spoon and flashlight

SEE YOU IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

