



Publication of the Revolutionary Movement - Central Visayas

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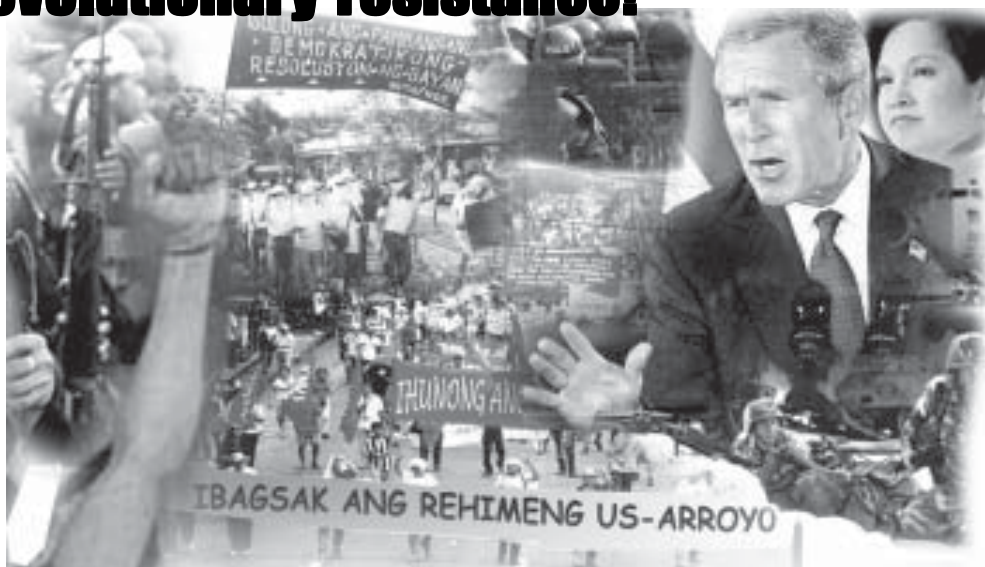
January-February 2003

EDITORIAL

Frustrate the US-Arroyo regime's fascist desperation! Build and intensify the people's patriotic and revolutionary resistance!

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is using its power to perpetrate state terrorism, all the while taking its cue from the world's number one terrorist—US imperialism. The world capitalist order is a ticking timebomb and the US is futilely trying to defuse it. It is presently mired in an economic recession characteristic of capitalism in its death throes. Due to high-technology overproduction and the bursting of the high-tech financial bubble, the biggest corporate bankruptcies in history has been triggered, sending millions of workers into joblessness among other degrees of unprecedented economic and financial destruction on a global scale. Its neo-liberal policies cut back budget for education and welfare, alienating the intelligentsia and generating their criticism and resistance.

Capitalizing on the series of terrorist attacks carried out by monsters it once reared, the US found an excuse for stepping-up military aggression against nations who continue to assert on their sovereignty, against legitimate revolutionary organizations, and against the peoples of the world who oppose imperialist plunder. By stoking the embers of war, it pressures so-called "rogue states" into bowing down to its hegemonic aims. Furthermore, its "global war on terrorism" increases arms production, pumps prime its gigantic military industrial monopolies and alleviates, albeit temporarily, a terminally-ill economy. The current Bush administration's much-flaunted obsession with military build-up and aggression is, there-



In less than two years in office, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has surpassed the records of fascist tyranny that marked the previous puppet regimes. A total of 1,545 human rights violations were recorded, 83% of which constitute military and police abuses. The numbers alone put the reactionary chieftain in the ranks of the world's most vicious terrorists. They also betray the ruling class' and the imperialists' desperation in the face of severe economic recession and rising global anti-imperialist resistance.

fore, not a measure of its strength but a gauge of a crisis brewing into catastrophic proportions within and outside the US.

US imperialism has found a fanatical ally and puppet in the current reactionary regime. In her effort

to cling on to power beyond 2004, Macapagal-Arroyo has outshone her predecessors in the field of outright subservience to her imperialist masters. Despite the heavy toll her regime's all-out war policy has

In response to the fascist regime's all-out war policy, the Central Visayas Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines calls on the Filipino people to resist and frustrate the US-Arroyo regime's policy of terror. It urges the broad masses to intensify the people's revolutionary resistance to state terrorism. The Party calls for a broader and stronger patriotic united front against US imperialism and its intensifying military aggression.

exacted on the people, she persistently toes the line of the Bush regime's military interventionism. She leads her retinue of mercenary generals and traitorous cabinet officials in harping the "anti-terrorism" excuse to step-up counter-revolutionary warfare and commit human rights violations.

Politically-weakened by scandals and charges of corruption such as the cases of her own husband Mike Arroyo and her henchman in the Justice department, Nani Perez, Macapagal-Arroyo finds in the US her only means of surviving the factional strife among the predators of the ruling class. She deems heightened fascist attacks against the people and the revolutionary movement as her ticket to ensure US-backing in her insatiable thirst for power beyond 2004.

What appears to be grim determination of the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime in stamping out every sign of terrorism is, in fact, a futile attempt to conceal its inherent weaknesses and despondency. As it parrots the "strong republic" line, a slogan originally coined by Latin American dictators, the country's economy is actually in shambles. The vast masses of

peasants and workers bear the brunt of a rapidly deteriorating economy even as the rest of the populace, the middle class particularly, strives to survive the crisis only to face an uncertain and bleak future. The US-Arroyo regime, given its comprador-landlord composition and conformity to foreign dictates, is not in a position to solve the crisis sired by the semi-feudal and semi-colonial social set up.

Without hesitation, it unsheathes the sword of war against those struggling for national liberation and democracy. But its efforts have been proven ineffective and futile. After the successful tactical offensives in Bohol and the overall growth of the revolutionary forces in the region, the AFP made Central Visayas a national priority in its counterinsurgency operations. Early last year, there were 15 companies of enemy troops in Bohol alone. Despite such size and concentration, the enemy troops has failed to fulfil its promised "death blow" to the revolutionary movement. The last three years saw the revolutionary forces frustrate and counter enemy attacks. By pursuing the specific line of extensive and intensive guerilla warfare based on an ever widening and ever deepening mass base and its commensurate force structure within the people's army, the revolutionary forces were able to grow in strength, even surpassing its peak in 1986-87.

In response to the fascist regime's all-out war policy, the Central Visayas Regional Party Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines calls on the Filipino people to resist and frustrate the US-Arroyo regime's policy of terror. It urges the broad masses to intensify the people's revolutionary resistance to state terrorism. The Party calls for a broader and stronger patriotic united front against US imperialism and its intensifying military aggression.

The revolutionary forces must persevere in the fight to uphold and defend national sovereignty. We must stand our ground and fight for the national liberation of 75 million oppressed Filipinos. Through this just revolutionary war, we must seek justice for





the 1.4 million Filipinos slaughtered by the US colonists from 1899 to 1916 and the millions more they continue to victimize through semi-feudal exploitation and plunder.

We must give importance to building the patriotic united front. We must unite the widest array of forces and mobilize them for the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement and Mutual Logistics Support Agreement. We should lead the people's resistance against the US-Arroyo regime's all-out war policy and campaign for a resumption of the peace talks between the NDFP and the GRP. We must extensively call for an end to US warmongering and aggression against Iraq. As we strengthen the patriotic united front, we must encourage patriotic allies to oppose Arroyo's rising fascism and pro-imperialist economic policies, and ultimately her very rule itself.

We have never succumbed to fear and resignation in the face of US military might because the revolutionary forces and the Filipino people have their own army, the New People's Army, led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, waging guerilla warfare consistent with the strategic line of protracted

people's war.

The revolutionary forces and the people have a long and rich experience in people's war. They have grown in strength and advanced no matter how much assistance US imperialism

has given to the local reactionaries. They can never be coerced or fooled by any threat of US intervention or aggression under the pretext of anti-terrorism. They are prepared to engage the enemy in whatever war it wishes to launch.

The objective conditions of a society in terminal crisis provide the revolutionary movement a fertile ground where it could gain strength comprehensively. The Communist Party of the Philippines, armed with the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, is in a position to seize these favorable opportunities that would serve in the development of the New People's Army and the revolutionary united front. Under the leadership of a Party reinvigorated by a successful rectification movement, victory of the national-democratic revolution and the commencement of socialist construction is attainable in the near future.



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To Our Readers

The Editorial Staff of **PAKIGBISOG** calls on its readers to contribute to the improvement of our publication through comments and suggestions, news items, or sharing of revolutionary experiences.

Terrorism US-Arroyo Style



Betraying the millions of people who braved the odds and ousted the US-Estrada regime, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her minions are flaunting their own brand of state terrorism. The US-Arroyo regime, though only two-years old, is fast gaining notoriety as human rights violator comparable to the Marcos regime. As it remains obsessed with its "all-out war" policy, cases of state abuses can only be expected to swell. The people's blood is being shed to nourish Macapagal-Arroyo's "strong republic".

In Central Visayas, the reactionary regime unleashed more or less five battalions of its fascist troopers to pursue its counter-revolutionary war. By the end of 2002, numerous human rights violations had been committed by the AFP and PNP as well as local government agencies in the region.

Individuals actively participating in the anti-feudal, anti-fascist, anti-imperialist legal mass movement became the target of harassment. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, commander of the 78th IB, threatened

to shoot any member of legal democratic mass organizations who would rally or otherwise visit their headquarters to protest human rights violations.

Armed men believed to be military intelligence agents abducted youth leader and human rights worker Loyd Wilson Sato last 01 November 2002 in Cebu City. Loyd was held at gunpoint and interrogated at the North Reclamation Area. Later, his arm was slashed as a "warning", and was told to quit the movement.

Branded as traitors allegedly for being NPA sympathizers, ordinary farmers in both Cebu and Bohol were coerced and threatened to discourage them from getting involved in the anti-feudal movement. Several peasants from Catmon and Carmen, Cebu, were picked up for interrogation for

being "NPA supporters and spies". Those peasants whom they discovered to be active supporters in the armed revolutionary movement suffered worse. One farmer from Buenavista, Bohol, was forced by enemy troops to torch his own house for failing to give correct information on the size and strength of an NPA camp nearby. The soldiers earlier decided not to attack the camp after the farmer told them that there were a considerable number of NPA troops with several machine guns in the area.

The most serious HRV's include torture and murder, as documented in the much-publicized cases of Roel Concha and Nestor Lumbab. Roel Concha was interrogated and tortured for being an active NPA supporter. After the fascists beat him, he found his beloved wife dead from three stab wounds in the stomach, chest and neck, respectively. Her death was claimed to be a suicide by the military though there were no witnesses. As if this wasn't enough, Roel was brought to the battalion headquarters and detained for weeks without charges.

Meanwhile, Nestor Lumbab was severely tortured to force him to admit he was a member of the NPA. He was tied to the coconut tree while the enemy troops interrogated him. Nestor was later brought to the 78th IB's headquarters where his torture was continued. In a hearing for habeas corpus months after his arrest, he divulged everything that he went through despite dire warnings from the enemy. Judge Paderanga of the RTC was thus forced to order Col. Jonas Sumagaysay to release Lumbab.

The 78th IB's Marcosian-style campaign, under the leadership of Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, shows us the essential feature of Arroyo's "strong republic". Chanting their mantra of anti-terrorism, the fascist 78th IB instead are sowing terror into the hearts of poor peasants of mid-north Cebu. Clearly, fascist troops are taking out their paranoia on innocent civilians. One drunk soldier indiscriminately fired his issued firearm, hitting an elderly couple in Danao City. After that incident, troops mauled a truck driver for "bumping" their military vehicle. Earlier, a team of their troops assigned in Tabuelan shot to death a mentally unstable man on suspicion that he was a "rebel". For these reasons, the legal democratic mass movement have called for the pull-out of Sumagaysay and his troops from Cebu.

Mounting human rights cases are like skeletons about to spill out of Macapagal-Arroyo's stinking closet. Being the reactionary classes' chief representative, she can never do anything better than to persist in whipping the people's backs at the flick of the imperialist's finger. The moment she took over the top puppet position in the land, she already pledged to her "class" mates among the comprador bourgeoisie and

Date	Town/Province	Type of HRV	Perpetrator
June 2002	Maitom, Catigbian, Bohol	Harassment	Special Forces
July 2002	Buangan, Clarin, Bohol	Harassment, Violation of Liberty of Abode	302nd Brigade
11 July 2002	Caorasan, Carmen, Cebu	Violation of Domicile	78th IB
26 August 2002	Guinabucan, Catmon, Cebu	Arbitrary Arrest & Detention, Grave Threats	78th IB
24-27 August 2002	Guinabucan, Catmon, Cebu	Warrantless Arrest, Arbitrary Detention	78th IB
27 August 2002	Minglanilla, Cebu	Arbitrary Arrest, Grave Threats	PNP
17 September 2002	Cebu City	Destruction and Divestment of Property	SWAT PNP LGA's
30 September 2002	Pili, Danao City, Cebu	Harassment	78th IB
18 October 2002	On a bus from Carcar to Aloguinsan, Cebu	Physical Assault & Grave Threats	PNP
20 October 2002	Bongon, Tabuelan, Cebu	Murder	78th IB
26-29 October 2002	Cabungahan, Catmon, Cebu	Torture, Arbitrary Arrest & Detention	78th IB
01 November 2002	Cebu City	Abduction, Divestment of Property	MIG 7agents
02 November 2002	Santican, Danao City, Cebu	Physical Assault	78th IB
24 November 2002	Montana, Buenavista, Bohol	Illegal Arrest	78th IB
26 November 2002	Binaliw, Danao City, Cebu	Physical Assault	78th IB
27 November 2002	Suba, Danao City, Cebu	Indiscriminate Firing, Grave Threats	78th IB

landlords and to her imperialist patron, the US, her adherence to domestic feudalism and monopoly capitalist "globalization".

It is the semi-colonial and semi-feudal system that sires violations of basic human rights. The various reactionary regimes, then and now, are its able midwives. The current exploitative social system is a fertile ground for HRV's to abound. When the productive forces of workers and peasants are denied of their rightful share to their products by capitalists and landlords, the human right of almost 90% of the population is already violated. When the petty bour-

geoisie and the rest of the middle class are deprived of occasions to utilize their education, skills, and capital for the interest of society and the individual, their right to better opportunities is abused. Furthermore, when a country's human and natural resources are subjected to foreign interests and its sovereignty subjugated by a foreign military power, the freedom of its people as a nation is trampled.

The rapid degeneration of Philippine society and worsening
(continued on next page)



The December 11 Danao Ambush

A Report of the NPA Francisco Dagohoy Front Command



Planning and Preparation

In early December, the Front Committee of the Francisco Dagohoy Command decided to hold a politico-military training as preparation for a possible tactical offensive. Some comrades were assigned to gather data in this regard. It has been observed that enemy troops, especially those in the nearby detachments in barangays Estaca (Dagohoy), Sta. Fe (Danao), and Canmaya Diot (Sagbayan), pass by the area usually in a 6x6 truck, $\frac{3}{4}$ vehicle or sometimes in motorcycles. The enemy troops were further observed to leave their detachments to attend barrio fiestas.

In retrospect, various units of the NPA in the guerilla fronts of Bohol experienced many defensive actions particularly in the past two years. Because of this, the Party and revolutionary masses suffered losses in terms of life, weapons, property, and mass base. Since the March 2000 ambush in Sta. Catalina, Sagbayan, no major tactical offensive was launched in the island, although there were punitive actions against selected targets in connection with revolutionary taxation.

There was a prior agreement that anytime it becomes timely to launch the T.O., the training would be set aside immediately. This flexibility is necessary if data clearly reveals the weak spot of the enemy troop movement.

As expected, on December 10, peasants passed information that enemy troops had arrived in the barrio to attend the fiesta celebrations. Some troops were

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oppression fuels the people's democratic revolution and pushes people's war to new heights. But as the people intensifies the revolutionary struggle for their human and social rights, the reactionary state is sure to step up its counter-revolutionary war, creating a pogrom of human rights violations in the process. Since it is people's war that is being waged by the national democratic revolutionary movement, led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, the reactionary state inflicts savage attacks on the struggling people, combatant or not.

In response to the upsurge of fascist attacks on the people by the US-Arroyo regime, the Party and

the national democratic mass movement is mobilizing its forces to expose further abuses and building the anti-fascist united front. At the same time, the Party directs the New People's Army to punish the most notorious human rights violators in the reactionary government and its armed forces. It is also necessary for the Party, the NPA, and the National Democratic Front to strengthen further its ranks and achieve victories in the military and political arenas. Only when class emancipation and national liberation is attained can human and social rights be finally respected.



also seen on their way to the detachment at Estaca, Dagohoy.

After some deliberation, some comrades saw that there is a good chance that we could launch a tactical offensive that same night or most certainly the next day, especially as the vehicle used by the enemy did not pass by the same route again. The FC thus decided to launch the tactical offensive and the Red fighters were then briefed about the plan.

From 6:00 o'clock that night until 1:00 early the next morning, the power supply for the radios to be used, food supplies, route, ambush site, troops, look-out, etc. were prepared. The FC collectively discussed the conduct of the ambush. The troops were briefed, among other points, not to fire on enemy soldiers in case a civilian was present. The overall guidelines for the conduct of the ambush were made in consideration of the capacity and limitations of our troops and the type of terrain in the area.

Implementation

Because we were able to gather solid data, the tactical offensive was a success. Three CAFGUs were killed in the operation namely Dorico Payosan, Pedro Panglimutan, and Vincent Rey Bom, along with their civilian informer Oliver Canino. All four were on board a motorcycle.

There was a slight weakness in determining the exact number of Cafgus on board the motorcycle as it sped by the look-out and approached the killing zone. Thus, after the gunfight, the red fighters failed to retrieve one vest for an M14 rifle as one of bodies was far from the road and was not seen by anybody. However, we were able to confiscate 2 M14's and 1 vest with 90 bullets and 1 garand rifle with 88 bullets.

Analysis

In guerilla warfare, implementation of tactical offensives should not be constrained by rigid and elaborately structured plans. We should always be flexible and ready to seize opportunities, especially if we have concrete data to base our decisions on.



This was shown in the planning, preparation and actual implementation stages of the ambush. However, we do not lightly dismiss our weaknesses in the conduct of the said T.O. Improvements are needed regarding planning and implementation of future tactical offensives.

The December 11 tactical offensive served as a training ground and provided valuable experience for our Red fighters. It was a big victory for the entire revolutionary movement in Bohol especially as no basic T.O. had been launched in the island in a long time. It proved that as enemy troops intrudes into guerilla territory, they become more vulnerable to our tactical offensives, given our advantage in familiarity of the physical and social terrain. The fact that we could effectively wipe out smaller units, as proven by the said tactical offensive, effected changes in enemy troop movement. The enemy troops are forced to use bigger formations which allow them a limited radius of operation and maneuver. Lastly, as shown by their active participation, it proved that there would be no people's war without the masses.

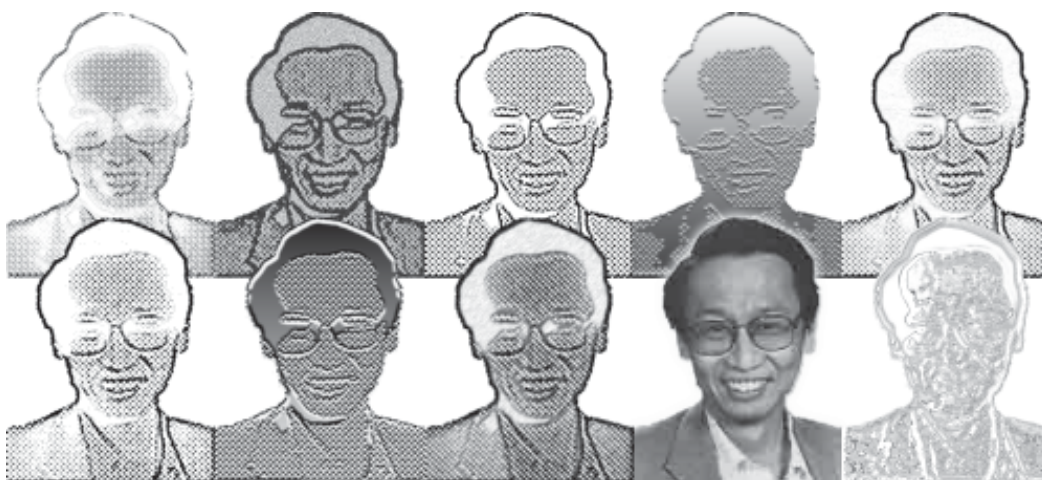


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On 12 August 2002, the imperialist US tagged Comrade Jose Maria Sison as an international terrorist after designating the New People's Army as a "foreign terrorist organization". The Dutch government followed suit and issued the "Sanction Regulation on Terrorism 2002 III" which identified Comrade Sison as a terrorist and ruled to freeze his small joint bank account with Comrade Juliet Delima Sison. It also deprived the Sison family of all state subsidies for food, housing, and health insurance.

The World Speaks:

"Internationalist, not terrorist!"



killed US citizens there." Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs de Hoop Scheffer further explained, "The US regards the activities of the CPP-NPA and Sison as a threat for

On 28 October 2002, the Council of the European Union decided to add Comrade Joema's name to the European list of terrorists. Comrade Joema is one of only nine individuals on the said list and the only one to come from a legitimate revolutionary organization fighting for national liberation. It didn't end there; National Security Adviser Roilo Golez could hardly contain his glee when he claimed that the US is set to request Comrade Joema's extradition to the US.

It is obvious that the imperialist US and its allies have singled out Comrade Joema for harassment and persecution. US Secretary of State Colin Powell admitted: "The Communist Party of the Philippines' military wing, the New People's Army, strongly opposes any US presence in the Philippines and has

American national security and foreign policy. The CPP-NPA...is a fervent opponent of the pro-American policy of the current Philippine government and of the presence of American troops in the Philippines."

A civil war exists in the Philippines. The CPP, NPA, NDF and revolutionary masses in the Philippines are waging armed revolution against US imperialism, domestic feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism that perpetuate semi-colonial and semi-feudal oppression and exploitation. The Filipino masses aspire for the establishment of genuinely sovereign and democratic state. The vicious attack of the US on the CPP, NPA, NDF, and Comrade Jose Maria Sison is a vain attempt to decapitate the revolutionary movement in the Philippines and impede the resurgence of

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Oppose the US imperialists' move to extradite Comrade Jose Ma. Sison from the Netherlands! Strengthen the peoples' resistance in the Philippines and worldwide to defeat the dying capitalist world order!

**Statement of the NDFP Regional Council—Central Visayas
23 November 2002**

Reflecting its own desperation, the US imperialists continue to persecute and harass the ranks of revolutionaries and progressives in the world. Since August 2002, they have designated Comrade Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army as international terrorists. Through economic and fascist coercion, they induced the Dutch government and the European Union to support this claim, hence freezing Comrade Sison's measly bank account and removing state subsidies for his food, housing and other necessities. Lately, local lackeys spilled the beans that the American imperialists are set to trump up criminal charges against him to extradite him from the Netherlands to the US.

It is not hard to see why the US has singled out Comrade Joema for such a vicious attack.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, which Comrade Joema founded from the ashes of the old Party, has been waging protracted people's war since 1968 to liberate the Filipino nation from US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. It managed to survive the effects of the great IPO errors of the 80's. Since the Second Great Rectification Movement, it has reaffirmed its principles and commitment to uphold and defend the rights and interests of the oppressed Filipino nation. Through all these, Comrade Joema has remained a steadfast and true leader of the revolution of the Filipino people.

The imperialist US is threatened by the rising strength of the revolutionary resistance in the Philippines. Being one of its most valuable neo-colonies, it cannot afford to lose the Philippines as it did Vietnam. It is well aware that Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, which guides people's war, strives to put an end to its imperialist domination over the Philippines. Victory of the Philippine revolution will be one step forward towards the dawn of a socialist world order.

Comrade Joema has a leading influence and voice in the international communist movement. His sharp analyses and subsequent exposure of imperialist exploitation has always been consistent. The

International League of People's Struggles, of which he is the general consultant, poses a big threat to imperialist interests. This is much more so in the light of the fact that the US is presently in a deep economic recession, a sign that monopoly capitalism has reached its terminal stage. The US knows that if its imperialist domination over the rest of the world is weakened further, its own economy would fall into shambles.

The National Democratic Front Central Visayas Regional Council recognizes the exemplary contributions Comrade Joema has made to the Party, the people's army and revolutionary movement. He is a true revolutionary, committed to serve and free the oppressed masses from the exploitation of the local ruling classes and imperialists.

Since they declared him a terrorist, protests greeted American, Dutch and European Union representatives in different parts of the world. From Greece to Canada, and even in the US itself, petitions and statements of protest against the injustice done to Comrade Joema were submitted. This is the proof and testimony to Comrade Sison's invaluable service and dedication to the oppressed peoples of the world.

Together with the thousands of patriotic and freedom-loving people in the Philippines and worldwide, we strongly condemn the US imperialists' machinations and dirty tricks to hunt and harass revolutionary leaders and organizations. In solidarity, we oppose the continuing imperialist domination and exploitation. As one, we commit ourselves to further advance and strengthen the Filipino people's revolutionary resistance to hasten the death and destruction of imperialism in the world.

**The National Democratic Front Central Visayas
Regional Council recognizes the
exemplary contributions Comrade Joema has made
to the Party, the people's army and revolutionary
movement.**

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the anti-imperialist and proletarian revolutionary movement to a higher level worldwide. Comrade Joema unquestionably has performed an outstanding revolutionary role and devotion to the oppressed people.

Unfortunately for the US and its allies, voices of protest echoed from all over the globe. "Prof. Sison

"It is the word 'liberation' that the US hates the most, because it would mean freedom from its imperialist exploitation".

-Jose Maria Sison

is a revolutionary!", shouted the Forum Against Imperialist Globalisation (FAIG) while the International Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) pointed out that the CPP-

NPA is a "highly responsible and principled political organization fighting for national liberation". Both accuse the US of tagging anyone who opposes their domination terrorist.

On 17 September 2002, Filipino and Canadian human rights organizations trooped to the Dutch Consulate and protested against the terrorist tag on Comrade Joema and the US political witch hunt. Meanwhile, peoples' organizations in Hongkong and Japan declared "Joema is an internationalist, not terrorist!"

On 25 September 2002, a "sleep-in" picket was held at the Dutch embassy in Brussels, Belgium. The next day, 26 September 2002, New Delhi police arrested 100 activists who gathered at the Dutch embassy protesting over the Dutch government's treatment of Comrade Joema. The protesters, who belonged to the All India Peoples' Resistance Forum and the Communist Party of India ML (New Democracy), vowed to defend the rights of Comrade Joema and oppose any possible demand for his extradition from the Netherlands.

During the forum on "Human Rights and Bush's War on Terror" last 6-13 October 2002, various European groups vowed to support Comrade Joema all the way. A few days after, on 16 October 2002, Australian and Filipino activists held a picket at the Dutch Consulate in Sydney, Australia. They submit-

ted a letter of protest to be transmitted to the government officials in the Netherlands.

On 24 October 2002, twenty-seven Swedish parliamentarians expressed opposition to listing of Jose Maria Sison and the CPP-NPA as terrorist. They pointed out that this listing seriously jeopardizes the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

After the CPP-NPA-NDF condemned the machinations of the US imperialists, statements of support and solidarity poured in from the *Solidaire*, Workers' Party of Belgium, International Network of Philippine Studies (INPS), Communist Party of Canada, Marxist A/synechia of Greece, Philippine Cultural Studies Center in the USA, and the International League of Peoples' Struggles, of which Comrade Joema is the General Consultant.

In an interview with Comrade Joema, Bert de Belder of *Solidaire*, noted that the CPP-NPA-NDF has been waging an exemplary revolutionary struggle for national liberation for more than 30 years now. Comrade Joema told him, "it is the word 'liberation' that the US hates the most, because it would mean freedom from its imperialist exploitation".

Around the world, people fighting against imperialism have unanimously honoured Comrade Joema as a true revolutionary leader. Meanwhile, just by looking at the imperialist exploitation around us, it is not hard to spot the real terrorists. ✈



Four 78th IB Elements Punished

Last December 12, Red fighters of the Vicente Padayao Command raided an enemy detachment in barangay Siotes, Carmen, Cebu. Four soldiers belonging to the 78th Infantry Battalion (IB) were killed, and a similar number of high-powered firearms (HPRs) were seized from the barangay hall used as detachment by the enemy troops. The NPA suffered no casualty in the said tactical offensive.

The raid was prompted by widespread calls for the pull-out of the 78th IB, headed by the abrasive Army Col. Jonas Sumagaysay. Among those who earlier condemned military abuses committed against the peasant population in mid-north Cebu were Provincial Board Member Victor Maambong and Danao City Mayor Nito Durano.

Aumentado: Protector of Abusive Military and Promoter of Anti-People Projects

The revolutionary movement in Central Visayas denounced Bohol Governor Erico Aumentado for shamelessly imposing the US-Arroyo government's fascist and anti-people policies upon Boholanos.

Last July, NPA regional spokesperson Ka Bino Clamucha said Aumentado vigorously implemented so-called "plunder-projects" of US and Japanese imperialism which has resulted in the unparalleled extraction and destruction of the natural resources, displacement of thousands of peasants and denial of decent livelihood to their families. He even stepped up the implementation of programs and decrees which worsen the plight of majority of Boholanos, including Presidential Proclamation (PP) 1037 (which severely limits the farmers' land-use rights within the Chocolate Hills area), PP 129 (which prohibits various economic activities in seven towns within the so-called Rajah Sikatuna National Park), PP 468 (which denies tilling rights in parts of towns covered by the Wahig-Inabanga Watershed Area) and the Mining Act of 1995 (which opens Bohol's natural resources to unrestrained exploitation by foreign multinational corporations).

Ka Bino also noted that under Aumentado, Bohol became one of the most militarized provinces in the country, playing host to more than 17 enemy companies. Under the Oplan Balanghai and Oplan Gordian Knot counter-revolutionary campaigns, Task Group Bohol is now composed of the 302nd Infantry Brigade, 6th Special Forces Company, 7th Special Forces Company, 17th Special Forces Company, 15th IB, 78th IB, 1st and 2nd Regional Mobile Groups, 701st and 702nd Provincial Mobile Groups, two companies of the 53rd Engineering Brigade, and two companies of Cagay Auxiliaries. As a result, human



rights and international humanitarian law violations have been mounting, Ka Bino added.

Last month, the revolutionary leadership in the region also chided Aumentado for "relishing on a false sense of achievement over former NPA Eptacio Ramirez' surrender brouhaha." Ka Bino said Ramirez has long ago left the NPA and exercises no influence, much less authority, over any segment of

the revolutionary forces and mass base in Bohol or anywhere else in southern Philippines. It is obvious that Aumentado intends to use Ramirez for his and the Task Group Bohol's foolish and deadly psywar campaign, Ka Bino concluded.

RMG Chief, 3 Others Wounded in Ambush

In August 15, a squad of NPA Vicente Padayao Command ambushed a team of the Regional Mobile Group (RMG) in brgy. Pansoy in Sogod town, wounding two RMG elements including RMG commanding officer P/Inspector Richard Caballero. Seized from the 4-man RMG unit were two M-16 rifles and other military paraphernalia. The Red army suffered no casualty in the said ambush.

The punitive action came after the RMG, the now-pulled out Army Special Forces and its replacement 78th IB committed a series of human rights violations against the peasant population of mid-north Cebu. These included illegal arrest and detention, illegal search and seizure, mauling, torture and damage to crops and property from 2000 up to the present.

Inspector Caballero was the former commanding officer of the RMG Combat Support Company once based in barangay Rizal, Batuan, Bohol. This unit was successfully raided by the NPA Chocolate Hills Command in June 11, 1999, where a mortar and more than 60 high-powered firearms were seized from the said enemy troops.

5 Scout Rangers Punished in Leyte

Last September 20, the NPA Evelyn Dublin Command in Southern Leyte ambushed elements of the 3rd Scout Rangers Company along the national highway in barangay Mabuhay, Mahaplag, Leyte. Seized from the five killed enemy troops were two M-16, one M-203, one M-14, one Baby M-16, five hand grenades, hundreds of ammunitions and other paraphernalia. Minutes after the ambush, a 10-man unit of the responding 43rd IB was also waylaid, wounding an Army soldier. The NPA suffered no casualty in the twin ambushes.

The 3rd Scout Rangers Company was sent in Leyte to help the abusive 43rd IB in its counter-revolutionary campaign. The latter unit, based in barangay Hibod-hibod in Sogod town, is noted for its brutality, committing bombing and hamletting operations, torture and salvaging, arson, looting and attempted rape against the peasant population in Southern Leyte.

The ambush coincided with the visit of then AFP Chief-of-Staff General Defensor at the Central Command (CentCom) headquarters in Cebu City. The NPA unit which undertook the tactical offensive was named after a University of San Carlos professor who joined the Red army in the early 80's.



Despotic Landlords in Bohol Punished

Two despotic landlords in Bohol were recently punished by the NPA Francisco Dagohoy Command. Last September 13, a notorious landlord based in Inabanga was punished for ignoring the farmers' call to improve their tenancy relations. His dumptruck was burned by Red fighters at barangay Bugtong, Inabanga, Bohol. A month after, a despotic landlord based in barangay San Miguel, Danao was meted the death sentence for conniving with the military in its brutal counter-revolutionary campaign. The NPA punitive actions came after decisions to impose punishment against the said landlords were made by the appropriate Front Committee, revolutionary peasant organizations and organs of political power in the area.

15th IB Violates SOMO

One Cafgu was wounded when elements of the 15th IB attempted to raid Red fighters belonging to the Francisco Dagohoy Command in sitio Incasag, barangay Concepcion, Danao, Bohol last Christmas day. Moments before the enemy opened fire on a group of Red fighters, the NPA arrested a civilian informer conducting last minute G2 on the NPA position. The NPA suffered no casualty in the failed raid.

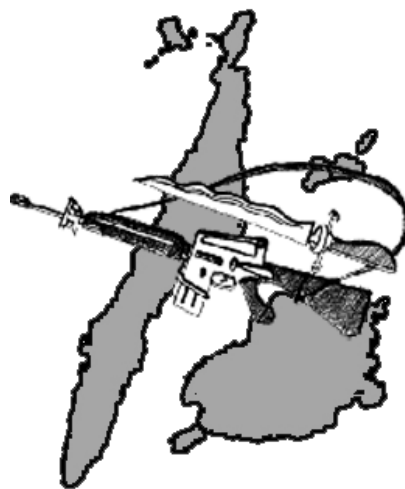
The Decemer 25 incident once again showed that Arroyo's so-called unilateral suspension of offensive military operations (SOMO) supposedly in effect last December 24, 25, 31 and January 1 was fake. Barangay Concepcion is more than 10 kilometers away from the 15th IB's detachment in barangay Estaca, Dagohoy, Bohol.

Globe Cellsite Burned

Last October 23, Red fighters belonging to the Alfonso Alban Command burned the Globe cellsite facilities, including its control room and generator, in barangay Sung-on, Loon, Bohol. During the 30-minute operation, the NPA confiscated the .38 caliber pistol of the lone security guard. The said special tactical offensive is part of a nationwide punitive campaign against Globe Telecom for its refusal to settle its tax obligation to the people's democratic government. It was successfully launched despite the enemy's boast that it can protect foreign monopoly and big comprador interests all over the country.

Aboitiz Firm Punished

In August 27, a team of the NPA Vicente Padayao Command punished the construction firm Gorones Development Corp. by setting fire to several of its heavy equipments in sitio Tan-awan, brgy. Guadalupe, Carcar, Cebu. The Aboitiz-owned company was punished for its arrogance and bad faith in refusing to abide by the tax policy of the people's democratic government.



Cafgus Killed in NPA Ambush

In December 11, the NPA Francisco Dagohoy Command ambushed three Cafgus in barangay Taming, Danao, Bohol. Seized from the Cafgus, who were under the operational control of the 15th IB based in barangay Estaca, Dagohoy, Bohol, were two M-14 rifles and a Garand rifle. They were punished for their anti-people activities, which include harassing the revolutionary peasant movement, beating ordinary civilians when drunk and promoting illegal gambling. The NPA suffered no casualty in the said ambush.

revolutionary

SUNRISE:

A rebel's portrait

The dark hides the
Magic and colour,
Its eeriness mutes the marching cadence
Of the encroaching drama and grandeur;

One sharp cry
Breaks the serenity
Of the inky skies,
A signal
Kindling the bottle
'Tween this reigning gloom.
And the dawning saga,
From beyond the towering distance
The burning rage a million torches
Bursts heavenward.
Lo! The brightness of the rising sun
Has stormed to conquer motherland;

On your feet and rise
From the shadows of the dark ages,
Catch the deluge of rays glittering
Through your crying eyes.
Herald the triumph of
A red painted morning.
Behold, the day
Of liberation.

SUNSET:

A rebel's portrait

The fierceness
Of its reign
Only marks the
Apex of her glory;
The fading guile,
The swelling dimness
Usher the end of its
Traverse;
Like the promise of
A new morn
This grandiose day
Is bound to fall into
The calloused palms
Of fatherland.

Mel

Aug '96

literature

Liberation Grows on Tombs

*There are monsters entrenched in palaces
Built with the blood and bones of serfs and slaves.*

*They feast on the fruits of the underfed
The spoon on one hand, the whip on the other.
In revelry, with their bountiful wealth
The exploited are made objects to nourish
An orgy of parasites in coats and ties.
But they breathe death, the foulness of decay
With pungent fumes that awaken the senses
Of the toiling and abused multitude.
An awakening that bears potent seeds
Of class consciousness and revolution.
There is little sand left in the hourglass
Of the oppressive few but there is
Eternity of freedom for the enslaved.*

*Liberation grows on tombs
Of the oligarchs and aristocrats.*

Ka Nico



An Open Letter to Parents of Tibak-turned-NPA's

Panamilit

Mama and Papa,

Fiery revolutionary greetings! How are you all? I hope all of you are in fine health.

By the way, do you remember Ka Arlo who was wounded and captured in an encounter in Bohol? You must have heard how he told media, with proud defiance, that the youth are going to the mountains to take part in the armed revolution. He spoke the truth. Generation after generation, the youth has been at the forefront of the revolution and never wavered in its dedication to uphold the democratic interests of the Filipino people. More than ever, amidst the worst crisis of the local ruling elite and imperialist superpowers, their fire to serve the people's revolution rages on!

I wrote to tell you that I have decided to stay with the Hukbo, to take up arms paid for in sweat and blood of countless revolutionary martyrs, to affirm the goals and aspirations for which they offered their lives to.

Mother, I know what you're thinking now: "Why? Why must you face such danger and sacrifice when you have other options to choose from in order to change the system?"

As other sons and daughters must have told their parents, I say to you now, with utter conviction, that there is no other choice. You once told me, Papa, that mine was just youthful idealism. You told me I was naïve to think that we can solve the world's problems. I DID listen to you, Pa, but being objective, I tested your theory. I read all sides of the story and looked at all angles...and I remain convinced.

Every day that dawns does not end without one Filipino child dying in starvation. Almost everyday, the prices of oil and basic commodities rise. Meanwhile, our workers continue to be bound in the chains of near inhuman working conditions and below-minimum wages. How can you expect the government to address this deprivation when they are the ones, with their imperialist masters, facilitating and actually perpetrating anti-people policies? I discovered quickly that they don't serve the people and they have no genuine intention to do so. In the streets we shouted the demands of the oppressed and fell under the blows of clubs and spray of water cannons. Their answer is always the same: fascism.

So when I integrated into the lives of the toiling peasant masses in the countrysides, I saw that the most exploited sector of our society has long seen the only solution to smash the anti-people system. In the bosom of the hills and mountains, I realized why the fires of 33-year-old armed revolution never went out. Wherever we went, the farmers welcomed us with smiles and open arms. We are—and will always be—their only Hukbo.

You see, Pa, this is not a revolution of the CPP-NPA-NDF. This is a revolution of the people, of the oppressed against the oppressors, of the exploited against the bureaucrat capitalists and imperialist US. This is why the masses, from the peasants and workers to the students, urban professionals, and church people take up the torch of the revolution!

It has to be an armed revolution. History would teach us that the ruling class, after stealing the people's wealth and power, would never hesitate to eliminate all who challenges their monopoly. Take the militant farmers who fight to till their own lands, the workers who shout for fair wages—their leaders are invariably found riddled with bullet holes in the ditches. Obviously, the AFP is the ruling class' private army. The oppressed classes must have their own Army or just helplessly watch their chances at a decent life drift away.

You know, Ma, I had a hard time adjusting to the Hukbo's way of life. With our packs, vests, and rifles, we trudge through the lasang and negotiate narrow trails that with a wrong step would guarantee falling down to rocks of instant death. One time, after a long trek across difficult terrain, I fainted before we could reach camp. And it's so cold here! But in spite of all of the hardships, none of us put up our hands in defeat. The masses affirm that we made the right choice and infuse us with more vigor and determination to carry on and advance the revolution until victory!

I don't know when I could get to visit you. Don't worry about me; the masses are there always to take care of their Hukbo. Then again, this is war and I have pledged my life to the revolution. Just remember that this is all for you and for our children's future. I love you.

For the people,

Marilla

"The road less traveled by we've taken
And that has made all the difference...
Here among the workers and the peasants
Our lost generation has found its true and only home."
—Ka Eman Lacaba

