

EDITORIAL

Steel the people and firmly resist

In times of brutal suppression, the people are called to steel themselves, gather all courage and wage utmost resistance. They should firmly demand genuine change to end oppression and all sufferings.

The Duterte regime's abuse of power is relentless. It uses the military and police and absolute powers under undeclared martial law in the form of Executive Order 70, Memorandum Order 32 and open military rule in Mindanao. Killings and rights abuses are rampant.

Last October 31, 57 activists and mass leaders of workers, peasants, women and media practitioners were arrested en masse in Bacolod and Escalante in Negros. This is now the worst case in the ongoing nationwide crackdown. At almost the same time, five other mass leaders were arrested in Manila, while a working class leader was shot dead in Laguna. There are now

at least 266 victims of killings and 545 political prisoners.

Democratic organizations are being targeted because they militantly uphold the interests of the masses. Across the country, there are threats of arrests and murder, especially against mass leaders, key officers and organizers of mass-oriented groups.

State-sponsored killings and terrorism have no other aim but to drive fear into the hearts of the people. Duterte seeks "peace." To him, it is peaceful if no one denounces low wages and salaries. When no one opposes contractualization. When no one protests land grabbing, high land rent and usury.

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AFP-PNP sustains 39 casualties

AT LEAST 19 elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) were killed and 20 were wounded in various military offensives launched by the New People's Army amid intensified military operations this October. These military actions took place in Mindoro, Masbate, Samar, Negros and Mt. Province.

In Occidental Mindoro, Red fighters blasted two military trucks of the 4th IB in Sitio Amaling, Barangay Manoot, Rizal last October 28. About 60 soldiers were aboard in the said vehicles. At least 10 AFP troopers were wounded.

Prior to this, a soldier was killed while two elements of the 4th IB were wounded in an ambush by NPA fighters last October 23. The offensive was conducted

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When no one resists the construction of destructive dams, mines, infrastructure and tourism projects, and the expansion of plantations to the detriment of peasants and minorities. When no one raises a howl amid rising prices and joblessness. When no one exposes corruption and crime perpetrated by the military and police.

Duterte wants peace for big bourgeois compradors, landlords and bureaucrat capitalists. So they can accumulate wealth in peace, wring the blood of workers and peasants, plunder the public coffers, rape the environment and give up the country's sovereignty. Duterte wants everyone to remain silent in the face of his scheme to perpetuate himself in power. He does not even want to hear mumbblings over his failing health.

The people must not let fear and silence reign. Everyone must persist in the arena of struggle. Never allow terror and tyranny to rule. Unite the broadest ranks of the people to fight for democracy. Raise

the people's voices to shatter the silence.

Everyone must persevere in defending and exercising their right to organize and free expression. They must hold Duterte and his armed minions accountable for abuse of law and for trampling on the people's freedoms, including those guaranteed by the reactionary 1987 constitution.

There is still space for legal struggle albeit reduced by the fascist state. All democratic mass-oriented organizations must assert their legal rights. The struggles of various sectors for their well-being must be advanced assiduously:



higher wages, scrapping rice import liberalization, genuine land reform, subsidy for education, public health and other social services, funds for calamity relief, and others.

While persevering in legal struggle, mass leaders, officers and organizers must be good at using clandestine methods to frustrate the enemy's campaign of murder and imprisonment. Learn to keep secret one's day-to-day activities to keep the enemy blind and deaf. Creatively adopt methods to reach, arouse, organize and mobilize the people. The broad masses will serve as their thick forest of protection and support.


Mass leaders and activists being persecuted by the tyrannical regime face difficulties and great sacrifices. They must draw inspiration and courage from the masses and their aspirations for justice and freedom. On the other hand, they must serve as models of courage and perseverance.

The Duterte regime's campaign of all-out suppression will fail. As it intensifies, more and more are roused and are encouraged to join mass-oriented organizations and take part in democratic struggles. They overcome their fear and are determined to resist and put an end to the brutal, traitor, corrupt and criminal regime.

All those being persecuted by the fascist regime are always welcome in the guerrilla base areas where they can be protected by the peasant masses under the people's democratic government. All units of the New People's Army (NPA) are ready to provide them their needed protection.

Because of fascist state repression, more and more people seek to join the NPA and wage armed struggle. The NPA must persevere in waging people's war. Victorious tactical offensives strengthen the people's determination because they know they have an army they can rely on.

AB

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in Sitio Mantay, Barangay Montecarlo, San Jose, in the same province.

Since April, AFP and PNP forces have been conducting focused military operations in the towns of Rizal, San Jose, Magsaysay in Occidental Mindoro, and Victoria and Socorro in Oriental Mindoro. These operations gravely affect the livelihood of Mangyan people and peasants in the area.

In Masbate, NPA fighters ambushed elements of the 2nd IB operating on the border of barangays Mabiton and Taguilid in Claveria last November 1, at 11:00 a.m.. Five AFP troopers were killed while one was wounded. Subsequently, another unit of the NPA-Masbate harassed a detachment of the 2nd IB in Barangay Togoron, Monreal, at around 3 p.m.. Last October 31, Red fighters ambushed a truck carrying troops of the 2nd IB in Barangay Panisijan, Uson.

In Northern Samar, NPA units successfully overcame intense military operations of the 20th IB and 81st Division Reconnaissance Company in Las Navas since the first week of October. During the armed actions launched by the NPA last October 6-16, 11 AFP troopers were killed while three were wounded.

NPA-Northern Samar paid tribute to Roger Pajenado Cocoya (Ka Uno) who was killed during an en-

counter last October 12. The NPA recognized Ka Uno as a tireless organizer among fellow youth and farmers. He was an active member of a militia unit before joining as a fulltime member of the people's army.

During the span of the military operations in the area, several human rights violations were reported in Barangay Epaw, and residents of Barangay Sag-od were forcibly displaced and many cases of harassment and intrusions into the peaceful lives of peasants in the area were recorded.

In Negros Occidental, a soldier was killed while three were wounded as Red fighters fired on the combined forces of the 62nd IB and PNP in Sitio Basak, Barangay Tan-awan, Kabankalan City. Before this, NPA units fired upon patrolling troops of the 62nd IB in Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan City last October 6. Red fighters also attacked troops of the 94th IB in Sitio Cabangahan, Barangay Bantolinao, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental last October 3.

In Mt. Province, members of the NPA successfully defended themselves against the operating troops of the 5th ID last October 24 in Suquib, Besao. A soldier of the 5th ID reconnaissance company was killed while another was wounded. After the armed encounter, soldiers strafed residents' farms and mortared the area. AB

Activist leader murdered

REYNALDO MALABORBOR, 64, was shot dead in front of his house in Katapatan Subdivision, Cabuyao City, Laguna last November 4, at 9:00 p.m..

Malaborbor was a member of Pagkakaisa at Ugnayan ng Magsasaka sa Laguna (Pumalag) and Makabayang Koalisyon ng Mamamayan-Timog Katagalugan. He was a former political prisoner who was arrested last October 5, 2010 and was released on 2015.

Malaborbor was known in Laguna as a veteran activist. Before he was murdered, he assisted in organizing the labor strike in NutriAsia in Cabuyao last July. He was also Makabayan's coordinator during the May elections. AB

Military bombs barrio in Samar

ON OCTOBER 26, at six in the morning, the Philippine Air Force's FA-50s dropped three 227-kilo bombs in Barangay Caputoan, Las Navas, Northern Samar.

These landed at around a kilometer away from the barangay center. The airstrikes damaged farms of at least 13 families, as well as their their homes, harvested rice and other personal belongings. The operation was ordered by the Joint Task Force Storm of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Central Command and 8th ID.

After the airstrikes, a helicopter indiscriminately fired at the area. Troops of the 8th ID bragged about the photos they took showing destroyed coconut trees and civilian homes. MGen Pio Diñoso heads the fascist 8th ID.

Fearing for their lives, more than 24 families fled their homes and evacuated to Barangay L. Empon and Barangay Paco and to the town proper. According to the residents, more than 140 soldiers patrolled their barrio and conducted intense military operations. These troops are part of the 500-strong combined forces of the 20th IB and 81st Recon Coy treacherously lurking in the area. Farmers were prohibited from visiting their farms affected by these operations. These operations by the 8th ID have been going on for almost a month now, costing some P6 million of public funds. AB



Barangay Ekserya's continuing struggle

Residents of Ekserya, a barangay in Negros, have long been fighting for their right to land amid the intense campaign of suppression in the island. They continue to defend their victories, along with their militia unit and local Party branch.

Comrade Dereba was one of those who witnessed the development of the revolutionary movement in their barrio since 1983. She narrated the beginnings of the revolutionary movement and how the residents immediately came together. The people of Ekserya swiftly understood and practiced the essence and principles of the revolution, she added. They immediately launched mass struggles against despotic landlords in their area. At first, their fight was focused on lowering land rent. Eventually, they were able to win in the struggle to acquire lands without sharing their harvests to the landlord.

Ka Dereba said that the barrio is one with the twists and turns experienced by the revolution. In the 1980s, they suffered problems as a result of several errors and weaknesses in ideology, politics and organization. Between 1985 to 1992, they also encountered defeats. At this time, the residents and fellow comrades faced great difficulties. The landlord took advantage of the

confusion among the ranks of Party cadres and the low morale of Party members and the people to regain control over the lands. Militarization and killings worsened.

After the Party called for rectification and reaffirmation of basic principles, reconstruction of the mass base in Negros began. During the mid-1990s, mass campaigns against mining and land grabbing in Ekserya began. At the onset, 500 residents joined the campaign.

From hereon, the Party branch was reconstituted to implement the tasks under the rectification movement. They organized Party groups and committees and hastened recruitment to the New People's Army. The local Party branch covers 300 families.

In the middle of all these, the reactionary state has been relentless in its attacks. Ka Dereba recalls the onslaught of Oplan Bantay Laya of the US-Arroyo regime and Oplan Bayanihan of the US-Aquino regime. Along with intense military operations are human rights abuses

committed by the AFP, killings, arrests, suppression and other human



rights violations. All of these attacks were confronted and defeated by the people of Ekserya.

The organization, along with the militia unit, ensured the security of the barrio residents. They launch military actions as active defense against the enemy and also as support to the tactical offensives launched by the New People's Army. The Party branch empowers committees of mass organizations, particularly the committee on production. They regularly extend support to the Red fighters.

Duterte currently placed Negros under de facto martial law. In the face of all these, Ekserya perseveres in defending their land and the victories which its residents have achieved. The local Party branch continue to function independently. Therefore, supporting the advancement of the NPA's comprehensive work in the area. AB

Evidence planted against 57 activists

Combined forces of the police and 3rd IB soldiers illegally arrested 57 activists in Negros in the evening of October 31 and on November 1. This is considered as the third wave of the bloody and illegal Oplan Sauron in the island. In the attempt to legitimize the operation, soldiers and police planted guns as evidence in the offices of the arrested activists in Bacolod and Escalante.

The police also planted explosives as evidence to prevent the victims from posting bail. More than 30 pistols and various ammunitions were placed in different areas of the office and were presented as evidence against the activists. One member of an alternative media outfit was able to get a footage of the police while pretending to obtain a bag filled with firearms and

ammunition planted in the vicinity.

Among those illegally arrested were leaders and members of Bayan Muna, Gabriela, National Federation of Sugar Workers, and Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). Included among the arrested are 21 workers of Ceres Bus Line who were in consultations with KMU at the time.

Members of Teatro Obrero and Teatro Bungkal were also arrested.

Most of their members are children and youth who were rehearsing for an upcoming event in the province. A member of the alternative media Paghimutad was also arrested. They were all accused members of the New People's Army and were charged with trumped-up cases.

Karapatan said that the mass illegal arrest signals the intensifying repression not only in the island but throughout the country. It aims to silence progressives, activists and critics of the Duterte regime. The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines and Am-

"Evidence..." continued on page 5

Crackdown in Metro Manila

THE POLICE ILLEGALLY arrested activist couple Cora Agovida and Michael Tan Bartolome inside their home in Paco, Manila last October 31, at 5:00 a.m.. The arresting unit came from the Manila Police District and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The PNP planted explosives as evidence in filing trumped-up charges and to prevent the victims from posting bail. Agovida chairs Gabriela-Metro Manila while Bartolome is currently the campaign officer of Kadamay-Metro Manila.

Afterwards, police forces raided Bayan-Manila office in Clemente St., Barangay 183 in Tondo, Manila last November 5, at 1:00 a.m.. Elements of the PNP also planted evidences and illegally arrested Ram Carlo Bautista, campaign director of Bayan-Manila, Alma Moran, member of the secretariat of Manila Workers Unity and Ina Nacino, coordinator of Kadamay-Manila. AB

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nesty International also condemned the mass arrest.

Consecutive actions condemning the arrests were launched by national democratic organizations in Negros and Metro Manila. Progressive groups picketed Camp Crame in Quezon City last November 4. Progressive organizations based in Melbourne, Australia and in Los Angeles, California and New York in the US also denounced the illegal arrests.

On November 6, Makabayan and other activist groups spearheaded in Bacolod #PadayonNegros: National Solidarity Mission. They visited the arrested activists and condemned the state's harassment of progressives and its critics. Karapatan on its part went to the Quezon City Hall of Justice to question Judge Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert's issuance of similar warrants used by the PNP in Bacolod and Manila.

Similar protests were held in Cebu and Iloilo. AB

Inhumane treatment of prisoners condemned

MEMBERS OF KAPATID described conditions of prisoners inside the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa as being "critical." Kapatid is an organization of families and supporters of political prisoners. Twenty nine inmates died as a result of a lockdown in NBP. They died due to pneumonia and other diseases.

The lockdown prohibited visitors and demolished makeshift homes of NBP inmates which served as their sleeping quarters. Eduardo Sarmiento, NDFP consultant imprisoned in the NBP, said that after the demolition of the shanties, inmates are now cramped in tiny spaces inside the maximum compound. Most of them are sick and elderly. Some are forced to sleep on the grounds or seek shelter anywhere with a roof. There are at least 27,821 inmates in the NBP.

In a media conference last Oc-

tober 25, Kapatid said Bureau of Corrections officials purposely denied the inmates of medical attention. The group also slammed various fees in the NBP, including electricity cost in each prison cell. Drinking water is also sold at P150 while a can of sardines costs P100.

Sarmiento also demanded for the transfer of political prisoners in one building inside the maximum compound. There are more than 60 political prisoners housed in many buildings of the NBP. AB

CPP slams militarization in earthquake-affected areas

After the tragedy brought by several earthquakes in Mindanao last October, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its regional units in Southern Mindanao and Far South Mindanao called on to the people to frustrate the US-Duterte regime's militarism. The island was shaken by at least five successive earthquakes last October 16-31. Gravely affected by the tremors were Davao del Sur and North Cotabato.

According to the CPP, Department of National Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana's order to set up checkpoints in most affected areas is unacceptable. "Lorenzana imposes his counterinsurgency mindset in distributing immediate relief," the CPP said. Lorenzana makes it difficult for those who want to extend help. This will also result in massive corruption and pilferage of relief supplies. Worse, he may even order the arrest of relief workers on the pretext that they are not "authorized".

Rubi del Mundo of the NDF-SMR reported that in the hardest hit areas, victims are being forced to validate and justify their status as victims, or else be subjected to distressing searches and interrogations that makes it difficult for them to seek help and refuge.

Ka Gary Angeles of NPA-FSMR

said that victims are already complaining of the AFP's surveillance of relief and services provided by humanitarian groups and civilian organizations, and is slowing down the process of relief distribution.

Despite the reactionary regime's militarism, underground mass organizations especially NPA units continue to extend aid and conduct rehabilitation among the victims, according to the NDF-SMR. Mass organizations and allies extend food relief and other materials to the victims. Red fighters, on the other hand, assist in the repair of homes and farms and in salvaging crops of farmers in hinterland areas.

Del Mundo urged organizations and individuals to challenge the regime's militarism in the face of the crisis and investigate the situation of victims in evacuation centers. AB

From the regions

Living democracy in resolving conflicts among tribes

Amid the reign of fascist tyranny, democracy flourishes in the people's struggles. It is found in mass organizations, organs of political power and the people's government, the Communist Party and New People's Army.



In Cordillera, democracy thrives between its indigenous peoples and the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army. This is found in situations wherein cadres of the Party and the people's army mediate in conflicts that occasionally rise between tribes in the region. In these cases, revolutionaries firmly abide by the mass line which unites the oppressed and exploited people and settles contradictions among them in a non-antagonistic manner.

Red fighters serve as mediators in order to avoid the eruption of tribal wars and solve misunderstandings in a peaceful way. The call "Revolutionary people's war, not tribal war" is given highest importance.

One featured experience was when an NPA unit was confronted with a case of murder of three Agawa natives by Baclingayan natives last May. The Baclingayans are from the Belwang tribe of Sadanga, Mountain Province while the Agawas are from Barangay Nabang, Besao of the same province. The incident occurred in the forest boundary of Besao and Tubo, Abra.

After learning of the incident, the NPA unit covering the area promptly took action to help in the swift resolution of the incident. To prevent a tribal war from erupting, the comrades urged the *panglakayens* (tribal leaders) to stand for a quick and peaceful solution to the issue. The NPA's investigation showed that the incident is based on disputed resources and territory. Both the Agawa and Baclingayan tribes consider the forest as their territory.

With the result of the NPA's investigation as basis, the Cordillera People's Democratic Front called on the *panglakayens* to avoid war. Cadres and fighters sought ways for both sides to meet in order to resolve the conflict as soon as possible. A few days after the incident,

panglakayens from both tribes agreed to a dialogue to be mediated by the NPA. Here, the NPA's initial investigation on the incident was reported and statements from the accused were heard. The Baclingayans agreed to surrender the convicts and submit them to the *bagta* or the laws of *bodong*. *Bodong* refers to the peace pact of the Cordillera tribes.

This is just one of the many incidents confronted and resolved by the NPA in Cordillera. In cases where there are witnesses, their statements are collected. All of these are heard by the *panglakayens* of both tribes. The tribes agree upon the reasonable damages to give justice to the victims. In these relations, unity of the tribes is upheld under the traditional *bagta*.

For more than four decades of revolutionary work, the NPA continues to develop the practice in dealing with contradictions between tribes. Application of mass line and integration with the communities are the comrades' methods. As a result of principled resolution to conflicts, the tribes have respects and recognizes the revolutionary movement.

The comrades' lengthy practice in resolving contradictions have proven that they are impartial. The resolutions they offer are likewise fair and just. Because of this, the tribes themselves seek the participation of the Party and the NPA in dialogues.

With the help of the tribes, the comrades persevere in opposing the enemy's perversion of indigenous culture and tribal structures. Hence, the defense of the right to self-determination and democracy in Cordillera. AB

AFP's coercion of tribes

IN CONTRAST TO the revolutionary movement's practice, the AFP and the reactionary state exploit indigenous culture and institutions like the *bodong* to compound misunderstandings between the tribes in the Cordillera. During military operations, soldiers often incite conflicts to cause disputes among tribes. The AFP and the state exploit discord among them to push for burdensome and anti-people projects in their ancestral lands such as dams, energy plants and others.

History demonstrates how the AFP's coercion has led to its arming of tribes. In the 1980's, it armed the Basao tribe to break up the unity of the tribes against the Chico River Dam Project. This is also the primary objective of the Duterte regime's "IP-centric" counterinsurgency program.

Journalists face danger in the Philippines

FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE years, the Philippines remains 5th in countries with the highest Global Impunity Index (GII), according to a report by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) last October 29. The GII calculates the number of unresolved cases of extrajudicial killings of journalists. The CPJ recorded 41 cases in the Philippines, which is considered the largest in the world.

Included in the list are war-torn countries Syria and Iraq. Also included are Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Pakistan and Brazil.

Under the Duterte regime, 13 journalists have been killed as reported by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. Duterte has threatened the journalists many times and even encouraged state forces to kill them.

In October, three cases of murder and harassment of journalists were recorded. In Arayat, Pampanga, Jupiter Gonzales, a writer for

Remate, was killed after being shot by unidentified suspects on October 20. Benjie Caballero, president of Sultan Kudarat Provincial Task Force on Media Security and manager of Radyo ni Juan, was shot multiple times on October 30.

Anne Kreuger, journalist for Paghimutad, was among the 57 activists illegally arrested by the PNP last October 31 in Bacolod City.

These cases occurred a few days before the commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists last November 2. AB

Protests on Peasants' Month

HUNDREDS OF MEMBERS of peasant organizations and their supporters trooped to Mendiola last October 21 to commemorate Peasants' Month. Farmers from Central Luzon, Ilocos, Mt. Province and Southern Tagalog joined the protest action.

They demanded the junking of rice liberalization law or RA 11203 because of its failure to lower rice prices. Instead, palay farmgate prices dropped to P7 due to the increase of imported rice.

Aside from this, thousands of farmers were displaced due to the continuing land conversion and land grabbing. An example of which is the New Clark City which covers 9,450 hectares of lands in Pampanga and Tarlac, and the Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport Authority which covers 12,953 hectares.

The farmers also opposed militarization in their communities. In Southern Tagalog, 15 AFP battalions were deployed in the region. Cordillera farmers' livelihoods were affected by the presence of the military in their farms.

The rally paid tribute to peasant leaders who were murdered for defending their right to genuine land reform. Karapatan said that 216 farmers were murdered under Duterte. AB

Gap between rich and poor widens

ANOTHER INCREASE OF wealth by the richest bourgeois compradors in the country was reported by Forbes last October.

The article revealed that the net worth of nine out of 10 richest billionaires in the country increased altogether. Hans Sy, son of the late capitalist Henry Sy, tops the list (16%, up to P140 billion). This explains why the Philippines ranked 9th among the countries with the widest gap between the rich and poor, a report released by Credit

Suisse last October said.

Under Duterte, the value of properties of the ten richest compradors rose to 14%, from P2.5 trillion last 2016 to P2.7 trillion in 2018. On the other hand, conservative data of the reactionary state reveals that almost 28.8 million Filipinos (3 out of 10) live on below P70 everyday. AB

Corruption in BOC widespread

MORE THAN P234 billion in taxes were not transferred to the public coffers in 2016-2017 because of corruption in the Bureau of Customs (BoC). This was exposed by House Deputy Speaker Rep. Rodante Marcoleta in a resolution he filed in October. He said falsification of lists inside the BoC to defraud the accounting of taxes to be payed by customs brokers is widespread.

Corruption is chronic in the BoC. "Benchmarking" and "tara" systems have been pervasive in the agency. "Benchmarking" pertains to the swiftest way of clearing and releasing shipment at the port of entry. "Tara" on the other hand is

the bribe from importers or their brokers.

In every change of reactionary regime, a "cleanup" is undertaken. In reality, the ruling clique rearranges the agency to place its own personnel and monopolize the



billions in funds from the BoC's anomalous transactions. AB

Millions march in streets worldwide

Millions upon millions of peoples took to the streets and continue to surge in different parts of the world to call for an end to oppressive policies in their countries. These past weeks, huge protests were launched in Latin America, Europe, Middle East and Africa to oppose neoliberal economic policies, severe inequality, corruption and national oppression amid worsening crisis of the world capitalist system.

Protests erupted in Chile, Ecuador and Lebanon. These were aimed at policies imposed by the IMF-World Bank such as price and tax hikes, and budget cuts on social services. In Guinea and Iraq, the people rose up against the obscene corruption of the ruling classes who live lavishly in the face of widespread poverty, joblessness and hunger. People's protests also erupted in Spain condemning the detention of 12 activist leaders for merely participating in a 2017 referendum and Catalan's subsequent declaration of independence.

Largest of these was in Chile's capital Santiago last October 25 with more than 1.2 million protesters. Demonstrations broke out last October 7 in a campaign against the 4% increase in railway fare (\$.04 or P2). With the protest movement quickly spreading, Pres. Sebastian Piñera was forced to declare a state of emergency on October 18 to allow the entry of the Chilean Army in the country's major regions and to suppress the people's struggle. This resulted in the death of at least 20 civilians, with 2,500 others wounded and 2,840 arrested. Hundreds were abducted and are yet to be surfaced.

In the face of suppression, the people persist with their protests and have achieved great victories. In Lebanon, Prime Minister Saad Hariri was ousted last October 29. Other regimes were likewise pushed to withdraw neoliberal reforms they have implemented. Before the protests started in October, gigantic demonstrations have already been staged in France (Yellow Vests), Iraq, Russia and Algeria. Protests in Hongkong are now on the sixth month.

Apart from the massive numbers, most of these protests rose from the people's anger against one or two particular policy. But in a short time, the demands expand and an increasing number of sectors, organizations and parties launch their own actions. A broad united front is built and their activities become more organized. These groups mobilize through sustained calls, discussions and motivations to urge people to get involved, participate and take action for their rights and welfare. Using internet channels particularly social media, calls are made widespread, intensified and relentless. Alongside this, traditional forms of propaganda among the people are widespread, including leaflets, statements, artworks and others. The protests, initiated mostly by students, grew larger after workers and professionals joined in.

These protest movements face many challenges. Historically, movements such as these are difficult to sustain, as they seemingly lack a central leadership. While the movements are able to persuade the broad section of the people, these also attract small anarchist groups and saboteurs. While the majority protest in peace, violent forms by the few are highlighted. The ruling states exploit violent incidents to strike on the protesters and retaliate with intensified violence. Moreover, foreign powers ride on the legitimate struggles of the people in order to intervene in the country.

The Communist Party of the Philippines expressed unity with the protest movements. The Party said that the wave of protest actions serve as inspiration to the peoples



of the world in launching their own democratic struggles and advance the fight for social justice and national liberation. The Party said that the proletariat must persevere in leading these popular struggles and pave the way for the resurgence of the international proletarian revolution. AB

Anti-imperialist conference launched in Cuba

THE CUBAN ANTI-IMPERIALIST Solidarity Conference for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism was held in Havana, Cuba in November 1-3. The conference was organized by the Communist Party of Cuba and was attended by more than 1,200 delegates from 95 countries.

The conference served as the expression of the global peoples' struggle against imperialism. The activity was marked by discussions on the worsening crisis of the world capitalist system and the intensifying attacks by imperialism on ideology, politics, economy and culture. Discussions were also held on neocolonialism, racism and other forms of oppression.

The conference was divided into five groups which outlined concrete steps in combating neoliberal policies imposed by the US and preventing wars that it launches. Also, steps were taken to oppose US violations of international laws, human rights and policies on trade and navigation. AB