

EDITORIAL

## FIGHT DUTERTE'S NEW MARTIAL LAW! OUST THE DICTATORSHIP!

It is through militant resolve and the masses' yearning for democracy and justice that they were able to gallantly face the state's intensified harassment and intimidation tactics, as people from all over the country flock the streets to remember the declaration of Marcos' martial law 48 years ago today.

In the guise of a Covid-19 response, Duterte exploited the pandemic and the worsening condition of the Filipino people through total state abandonment and escalated fascism. He used the crisis to further attacks against the people and strengthen his dictatorial rule.

Rodrigo Duterte's tactics are no different than Marcos' before. The people remember how Marcos boasted of a "stellar" fiscal performance with a competitive peso rate and global economic influence, while caging in and veiling urban poor communities to hide the ever-exacerbating economic status of the Filipino people. His cronies continue to gloat about the beautiful infrastructure that the days of the martial law left the country with, but never fail to neglect mentioning how big of a debt the masses are burdened with now because of it.

In a disturbingly similar way, Duterte's administration continues to stress how laudable the economic trajectory has been since Duterte took over but

have done nothing but pass more neoliberal policies that have only pushed the people into unparalleled poverty. Ever since the early stages of Duterte's reign, he

has done nothing but fill his pockets and those of his cohorts'. From his TRAIN law which sucked the masses' pockets dry and left their tables emptier than before, his EO 51 and DO 174 that legitimized contractualization despite growing clamor from workers, to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) that only promised drastic losses and greater struggle for Filipino farmers, Duterte has proved to be as Marcosian as he could get.

Now, Duterte is stepping up his game by playing exactly as Marcos did — use absurd infrastructure or rehabilitation projects, like that of Manila Bay, in the hopes of distracting the people from demanding accountability for the corruption, neglect, and fascism. No doubt, Duterte is swimming in the billions he and his allies have stolen in kickbacks.

An even more splitting image of the martial law of the past is the killings and state terrorism of today. Even without an outright declaration of martial law in

the entire nation, Duterte was able to kill, torture, intimidate, terrorize, and do damage as much as, if not way more than, Marcos did.

Even under a lockdown due to Covid-19, the Duterte regime did not miss a beat in trying to turn the country into a military state. From beefed up police and military presence all over the country to social media surveillance and monitoring against the youth, Duterte has appointed himself and his blood-thirsty goons as the kings of the land. Now through the Anti-Terror Act, these fascist men in uniform can only get more pompous — an omen for more human rights abuses and state terrorism in full swing.

Even at the early stage of the ATA, Duterte's mercenaries were never once timid about revealing the true purpose of the new law. In a span of one week, two beloved activists were tortured and killed. Ka Randy Echanis was a 72-year old peace consultant who devoted his life to fighting for the democratic interests of peasants; Zara Alvarez was a dedicated human rights activist and community health worker. And they are just two among many in the growing list of victims of this murderous regime.

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Meanwhile in the countryside, farmers and the national minority are growing ever more restless with relentless militarization, bombing, forced surrenders, psychological warfare, and bloody and destructive counterinsurgency operations.

The pictures of poverty, corruption, fascism, and state terrorism that the people see today are all too familiar. These are the same scenes from the dark days of martial law that have painted themselves as tableau's in the nation's collective memory.

Yet, with the intensifying state terrorism and dictatorship comes also the burgeoning struggle and resistance of the people. The masses' unrest has reached boiling point and agitation is at an all-time high with different sectors eagerly joining in the growing call for Duterte's ouster. The youth's militancy matches that which was demonstrated during the First Quarter Storm that paved the way for the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship.

The crisis the pandemic brought forth worldwide is unseen in recent history, moving people from all over the globe to resist strengthening fascist and neoliberal attacks from their government. International solidarity is stronger than ever due to the shared struggle that is being felt not only in semi-colonial and semi-feudal third-world nations but also immensely by the working class population in imperialist countries.

No time will be as ripe as now. Amid the global crisis, the Duterte administration has proven that no response or solution can be expected of them. The masses have become immune to their lies and promises. No alleviation of the crisis will be felt so long as Duterte remains in power. The precedent for ouster is unparalleled.

Kabataang Makabayan calls on all democratic and patriotic youth to continue to persevere in revolutionary rage and agitation. The youth, alongside the basic masses, had been in the forefront of the fight against the Marcos

dictatorship. In the face of a new martial law under Duterte's dictatorship, the youth must again courageously take its place in history and strive for national democracy.

The streets and the countryside await the youth and masses. Advance the people's war to attain true justice and democracy! Oust the dictatorship, resist the fascist! ▲



## ON TERRORIZING THE YOUTH'S DIGITAL SPACE

· Kabataang Makabayan calls on all patriotic youth to resist the PNP's renewed attempts at curtailing the masses' democracy and freedom of speech through social media surveillance, and predictably, psywar.

Under the pretense of enforcing quarantine regulations, the PNP announced that it will be monitoring activity on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to spot potential violators. It is peak irony for the PNP to claim that social media monitoring will merely be their tool to penalize caught lockdown offenders when it is through social media that high-ranking fascists like Metro Manila chief Debold Sinas and PNP chief Archie Gamboa were exposed breaking their own rules but managed to get away scott-free through outright denial and power play.

Indubitably, this is but another desperate measure to try to control the youth and masses as it grows ever more restless with the negligence and apathy the Duterte administration is brazenly exhibiting.

This comes not long after a series of attacks on youth and mass leaders all over the country — raging from blatant and ceaseless red-tagging accusations by government and military officials, to actual threats and murders of activists and human rights workers.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Duterte regime has tried desperately to isolate the youth and students from the wider masses who are dying everyday—

either by being gunned down by state forces, or by succumbing to hunger and poverty—by forcing the lot of them to embrace the digital space as its only reality.

Still, despite the government's vain efforts, the militant and patriotic youth refused to be bullied by fascist lapdogs. Instead, they decisively faced the threat of state backlash and integrated with the masses and organized even more of the youth and students.

Now, with amplifying demands for the Duterte administration's accountability for the crisis the country is experiencing, and defeating clamor from the youth and masses, Duterte's paid goons are moving to the digital space to try to crack down on the growing number of government dissenters and critics.

It is without a doubt that the PNP will use this new "project" to hand-pick more youth leaders to harass and red-tag, while attempting to scare or threaten the rest.

In the face of intensifying attacks by an ever-decaying regime, Kabataang Makabayan stands with all patriotic youth. The youth must now, more than ever, resolutely oppose Duterte's tyrant tricks and expose its utter uselessness and gross criminality! ▲

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## Highest revolutionary salutes to masses' beloved Ka Fidel

Ka Fidel's life in the revolution is an exemplary of the life all revolutionary and patriotic youth strive to live.

The recent passing of Ka Fidel Agcaoili of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) brings grief to all Filipino revolutionaries.

But at the same time, we remember ("Highest revolutionary..." continued on page 4)



**FEATURE: Duterte is using Covid-19 as a smokescreen to pursue his anti-poor jeepney phaseout.**

Since the beginning of the pandemic and the subsequent country-wide lockdown, Duterte, in his late-night ramblings, has declared and threatened “war” on more than a couple of things. He called “war” against the virus (to which there has been no visible improvement even 5 months in) and he also threatened a bigger “war” on communists following his cheap attempts at blaming the CPP-NPA for the government’s failures to efficiently distribute aid in the countryside and handle the Covid-19 crisis.

But more than these highly-sensationalized (but never really successful) mutterings of the Malacañang alpha fascist, a more sinister war has been going on in the sidelines.

The first day of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon marks the day the streets in the island came to a standstill. People lined up for hours in

regulations outlining that only 6,002 traditional jeepneys would be allowed to travel — leaving a startling 67,998 or 92% of drivers and operators still jobless. But, what’s the catch? Alongside the 6,002 traditional units, e-jeepneys will be allowed to resume their routes as usual — the same e-jeepneys that were first rolled out as part of Duterte’s jeepney phaseout scheme.

And so it is once again revealed what the Duterte administration’s true inhumane intent really is — to use the pandemic to conduct a blanket implementation of the PUV Modernization Program that promises to rid hundreds of thousands of jeepney drivers and small operators of their only source of income.

If before the pandemic, jeepney drivers and small operators scratched their heads when told that they would need to pay Php2.4 million for a “modernized” jeepney unit if they wanted to continue working,

comprador cohorts. Billions more have been squandered in foreign debt while the Filipino people are only falling deeper into poverty and adversity during this crisis.

Undoubtedly, the Duterte administration is steadfast in its aim to railroad the jeepney phaseout because of the immense profits it will bring for Duterte’s foreign investors. While Duterte and his allies are swimming in the billions made from e-jeepney purchases, thousands of jeepney drivers and their families will be left with nothing.

In the end, Duterte’s goal is clear: take advantage of the crisis brought forth by the pandemic to engage in a sweeping war against the people — the progressive students and professionals, the militant urban poor, the agitated peasants, the critical scholars and academics, the dissenting media practitioners, and the hungry working class Filipinos.

But, Duterte couldn’t have picked a worse



## a Covid-19 prognosis of the **FILIPINO JEEPNEY**

groceries, roads were emptied, vehicles were garaged, small stores were closed, classes were suspended, the masses stopped working. Amid all the chaos, jeepney drivers and operators were one of the first groups forced out of their livelihood.

Naturally, their transition to a “temporary” jobless life was difficult enough. Even harder to bear for these industrious drivers was the thought of not being able to provide for their families. But the government said, “this is temporary! We will go back to work!” And so, that was that. After all, with no public rushing to get from point A to point B, there really wouldn’t be any passengers at all, right?

And so two months passed before the strict lockdown rules were eventually watered down. And alas! — this time, the government said, “public transportation can resume.” — something the jeepneydrivers and operators have been waiting for! “But,” the apathetic fools continued, “jeepneys, UV expresses, and buses are not allowed.”

Immediately, the Duterte’s Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) released its transportation

now, in the middle of a crisis, they are furious.

All around the NCR, jeepney drivers and operators are organizing to demand the lifting of travel suspensions for the traditional jeepney. According to them, they are no longer waiting for the government’s aid, certain that none will arrive. What they need, and what the majority working population of the country needs, is a secure return to their work — one that is free from neoliberal aggression and the attacks of big bourgeois comprador criminals.

The Covid-19 crisis has revealed the system’s rotten core. What started out as a public health problem highlighted every other issue inherent in our semi-colonial, semi-feudal society — a society battered by the ever-intensifying and worsening effects of neoliberalism, even amid a pandemic.

In spite of the government’s alleged lack of funds for cash aid, mass testing, and personal protective equipment for health workers, profits of the foreign monopoly capitalists are constantly being prioritized. Duterte’s Bayanihan Acts 1 and 2 have only ascertained his control on how to distribute wealth and gains among his bourgeois

time to attack the masses. For right now, the people’s resolve is clearer: the only thing that’s left to do is resist and topple the regime that leaves its people for dead in exchange for deeper pockets and political power.

What the Filipino masses need and deserve is national industrialization that will pave the way for a better transportation system — for drivers and the riding public alike. Not only will this put forward the democratic interests of the people over that of foreign capitalists’, it will also answer the problem of instability of wage and income for our country’s semi-proletariat whose jobs are currently always at the mercy of foreign capitalists. Only through the national democratic revolution can the masses claim this victory.

The jeepney drivers and operators, alongside the youth and other sectors of the basic masses, will write history as they once again join arms to oust the dictator and be one step closer to the people’s triumph in the national democratic revolution. This war that Duterte is waging can only backfire.

And when it does, it will ricochet with the strength of the united toiling masses. ▲

# Frustrate Duterte's rabid attempts to seal his dictatorship!

The Duterte administration's sensationalized commemoration of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos' birthday today is a denial of the atrocities of his fascist rule and a betrayal of the struggle of the Filipino people then and now. To celebrate and memorialize this day is to attack the masses' efforts to topple the murderous tyrant—it is an outright disrespect and dismissal of the suffering and pain this day means for the victims of Martial Law.

It is just like Rodrigo Duterte to pull this kind of foolish and callous antic as the country grapples with the worsening crisis due to Covid-19. It shows not only how much of a blood-thirsty dictator he is too, but also how desperate he and his cronies are to distract the masses from and veil the countless failures and misdeeds of this administration in handling the pandemic.

Indeed, since the start of the lockdown, Duterte never paid heed to the issues that needed tackling. Instead, he channeled all his government's efforts and money into funding war, militarization, and state terrorism in whole.

While the Filipino people are down in the sewers in trying to make ends meet, Rodrigo Duterte is on a blithe shopping binge for new weapons to further excite his absurd yet vicious counterinsurgency and all-out war.

On May 12, the government spent ₱2.4 billion on artillery systems from an Israeli company (Elbit Systems). This comes after the April 30 approval of the purchase of ₱75-billion worth of helicopters, missiles, and other war equipment.



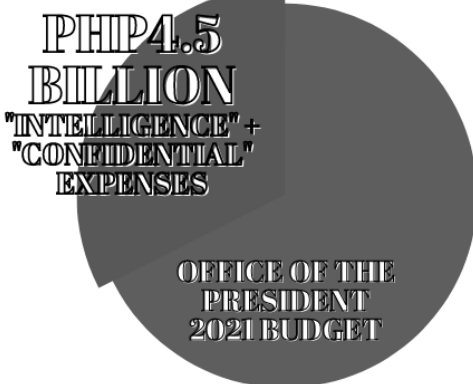
The ₱75-billion package includes AGM-114 Hellfire II missiles costing ₱5.08 million apiece. Duterte's administration, looking to secure 200 payloads, would thus have to conjure up ₱1.02 billion — enough to purchase around 408,000 sacks of rice and feed approximately 1.09 million people for an entire month.

To add salt to the masses' wound, and contrary to statements made by NCRPO chief Debold Sinas, Duterte's bloody war on drugs did not stop even during the pandemic. 53 drug-related killings were recorded between March 15 to May 5, and 42 of those murders were confirmed to have been carried out by the PNP, occasionally alongside the AFP and PDEA.

As if the worsening hunger and poverty

brought about by the economic fallout from the pandemic isn't good enough for him, Duterte is urgently seeking more and more ways to wage his deadly war against the people and fasten his dictatorial rule.

Even greater amounts have been squandered by this regime in the way of corruption. From the PhilHealth controversy, to the PCOO or Presidential Communications Operations Office and the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), no amount of being exposed pushed Duterte and his moneygrubbing cohorts to shy away from their criminal activities.



It took a public health crisis to totally expose the utter rottenness of the state's peddled healthcare system. The PhilHealth corruption issue revealed billions being pocketed by government officials in fake surgeries and operations, on top of a hefty sum being dissipated by unnecessary travel, accommodation, and leisure activities by PhilHealth stakeholders. But, Duterte does not seem keen on demanding accountability from the officials involved. Instead, he carries on defending Health Secretary and PhilHealth ex-officio chairman Francisco Duque III while the government's Covid-19 response remains a phantom to the masses.

On the other hand, the NTF-ELCAC, in conjunction with the PCOO or Palace communications team, has done nothing but falsely quote youth leaders and accuse them of being members of the CPP-NPA-NDF, thus making civilians targets for overzealous fascist state forces and putting their lives at risk.

It was under Duterte's EO 70 that this task force was launched in what turned out to be a spree of red-tagging, harassment, and spreading of false

information. Since its formation, this task force which is directly under the Office of the President has done nothing but harass, persecute, and terrorize civilians and militant leaders and groups to intimidate and threaten those who dare speak up against the regime. No sooner was it clear that the NTF-ELCAC is but a cash pool for Duterte and his allies that

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him not only as the NDFP negotiating panel chairperson we knew him as today—more than that, Ka Fidel was a student, an organizer, a militant, and a comrade.

Ka Fidel was one of the founding members of the Kabataang Makabayan (KM). Like the scores of patriotic youth we know as KM today, Ka Fidel was a student when he was first drawn to the struggle of the masses. From there, he grew, alongside his comrades, to better and deepen his theory and practice of waging the people's national democratic revolution. His family's opposition to his activism did not stop him from integrating with the masses and organizing. He devoted all the privileges he had and the skills he developed to further the movement.

Marcos' rule did not scare Ka Fidel from the fight. He faced the dangers of resisting the dictatorship head-on and found himself in prison. Yet, neither an unimaginable amount of torture nor over a decade of imprisonment pushed him to turn his back on the people's revolution. On the contrary, he decisively returned to the struggle and he waged bigger fights for the masses since.

Today, as we face intensified state terrorism and attacks not unlike those experienced by the militants from Marcos' time, we look at Ka Fidel's life with renewed strength and determination. Ka Fidel's sacrifices for the movement is one with the sacrifices of all Filipino revolutionaries —then, now, and those to come.

Highest revolutionary salutes to the masses' beloved Ka Fidel! 🚩



("Frustrate Duterte's..." from page 4)

also conveniently legitimizes war crimes and human rights violations.

Just this year, ₱622.3 billion has been allotted for the operations of the NTF-ELCAC—an astounding amount of money just for spreading fake news online and cultivating social media troll farms.

Yet, notwithstanding the pandemic and the continuous and growing clamor from the Filipino people, the Duterte regime is proposing a 2,969% budget increase for NTF-ELCAC —from ₱622.3 million in 2020 to ₱19.1 billion next year.

Also part of the budget request of the Office

of the President is ₱2.25 billion each for unfathomable, inexplicable "confidential expenses" and "intelligence expenses". This is on top of "billions of pesos" in remittances it receives annually from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). An infuriating manifestation of unabashed corruption in the face of a global crisis that's leaving the country in shambles.

Meanwhile, expecting aid beneficiaries were forced to make do with what little food they have left as they waited for government help that never came. Mass testing still costs thousands to avail—an amount alien to the working class Filipinos who merely want to get a ticket back to their minimum wage jobs. Duterte preoccupies the entire nation weekly with his useless jabber—spewing lie after lie about revolutionary organizations and confounding the people with his ill-planned adjustments regarding quarantine conditions everywhere.

All the while, his military let loose their barbarous tactics in the countryside.

Just during the first half of the year, 30% of recorded political Killings and torture were committed against farmers in different regions, as well as 63% of illegal arrest and Detention cases. There Have been mass

arrests of up to 100 civilians in rural areas, and at least 625 barangays in 54 provinces suffered attacks from the military ranging from community militarization to unrestrained aerial bombing.

The second half of the year brought an onslaught of intensified attacks against the national minority from all over the entire country—mass destruction of schools, murder of a tribe leader in Southern Mindanao, massacre of nine Moro peasants, and the brutal torture and

the violation of the rights of Aeta communities in Zambales. Now, no matter how good these fascist hounds are at lying through their teeth, there is no way one can

spin the narrative to erase the facts. Duterte's sadistic game of terrorizing the masses in the countryside is a hopeless attempt to flush out the revolutionary forces and damage their convictions.

What Duterte and his lapdogs fail to understand—as did the many dictators and fascists before them—is that they cannot force the masses and revolutionary forces to cower at them through their brutal tactics.

In the same manner Duterte and his trigger-happy gofers relentlessly kidnap, torture, murder, and violate the masses, the masses will strike back with the determination and strength of a united toiling people yearning for national democracy and freedom from the chains that imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism have put on them for as long as history remembers.

Every drop of blood that's spilled from their bullets; every land and home that's decimated by their bombs; every child that's traumatized by the overkill cannons they shell; and every life that's destroyed by their inhumane psychological warfare

—these all just lead to another warm body decisively joining the New People's Army to fight to restore the dignities and rights they were deprived of so long ago. ▲



## Siyang Walang Pangalan

(Isang handog sa mga bayani ng masa)

Ngalan niya'y lumisan,  
Siyang pinili ang mamamayan  
Bagama't walang tahanan,  
Masa ang kanyang kanlungan

Ngalan niya'y lumaban,  
Siyang armas ang tinanganan  
Sa gitna ng takot at kahirapan,  
Paninindigan niya ang sandigan

Ngalan niya'y rebolusyonaryo,  
Siyang humarap sa bangis ng estado  
Hindi alintana ang panahon at peligro,  
Tagumpay ang kanyang pangako

Ngalan niya'y martir,  
Siyang nakibaka at nasawi  
Buong-lakas na inalay ang sarili,  
Lumaban sa mga mapang-api

Sila ang mga walang pangalan—

Ngalan nila'y bayani,  
Silang hinubog ng tunggalian ng uri  
Ang kanilang diwang di magagapi,  
Gagabay sa magpapatuloy sa gabi

—Pangalan nila'y di malilimutan.

**Tandaan na ibayong lumalaban at hindi natatakot ang KM sa harap ng tumitinding karahasan ng kaaway. Lalu pang lumalakas ang KM at masang anakpawis sa pamamagitan ng pakikibaka.**

Mula sa "Mensahe sa Kabataang Makabayan sa panahon ng Covid-19" ni Jose Maria Sison

# RESIST THE FASCIST

