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Editorial

Resist the AFP's dirty war against civilians

Attacks against civilians by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have become more frequent, more cruel and more brutal as it intensifies its military operations under Oplan Bayanihan.

The AFP is fast running out of time in its self-imposed deadline for rendering the New People's Army (NPA) inconsequential. The AFP is desperate to show off as the NPA continue to advance and seize initiatives in launching tactical offensives.

More and more civilians are indiscriminately hit by the rampaging military operations. The AFP attacks those it consider as supporters of the NPA and charged as armed combatants. Civilians are often targets of AFP retaliation when it suffers from defeats.

The AFP contemptuously disregards international rules of war that protect the welfare of civilians. They continue to encamp in the middle of civilian communities, make use of civilian infrastructure, restrict the people's movements and livelihood, carry out physical and psychological abuse against residents and endanger their lives and homes.

They shamelessly deceive the public by declaring that the civilians who are victims of

its dirty war are "NPA members".

The terrorist violence unleashed by the AFP over the past months in the Masbate province islands must be exposed and denounced. In San Jacinto, Monreal, Cataingan, Cawayan, Palanas, Placer and other towns, attacks against civilians are relentless. Just this August 2, father and son Ariel and Allan Bartulay were brutally murdered. The following day, four commuter motorcycle drivers were massacred and declared "NPA members."

Attacks of the AFP against the people's human rights in Matuguinao, Samar have been wreaking havoc for months. Three members of the Loberando family were massacred in December 2014.

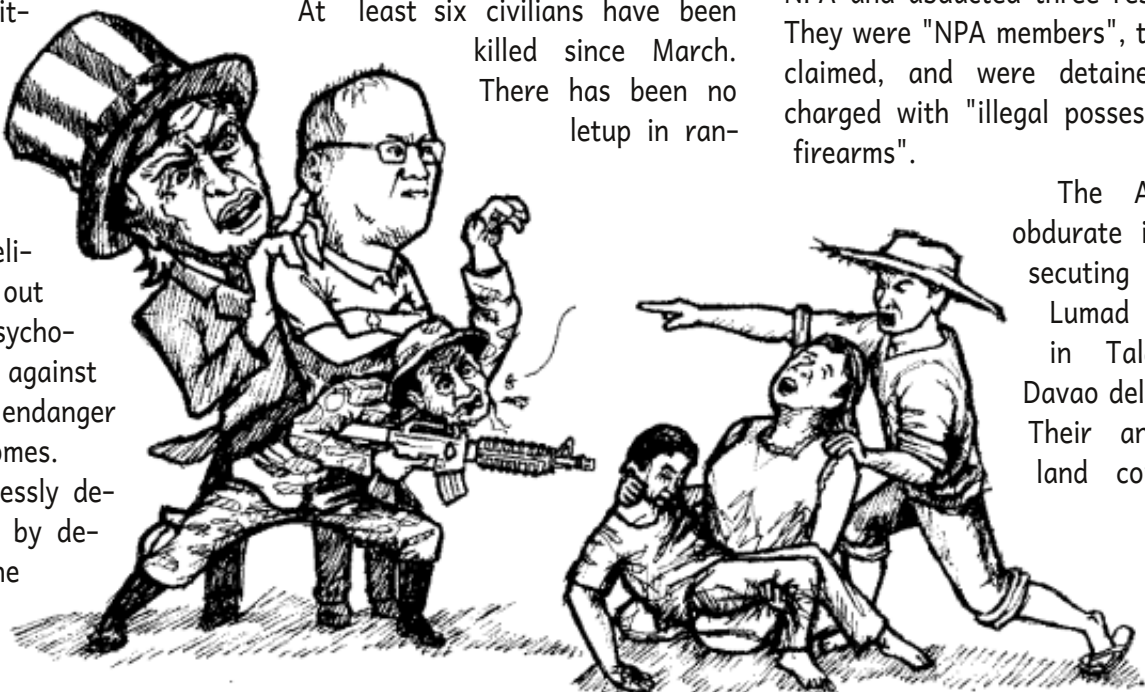
At least six civilians have been killed since March. There has been no letup in ran-

sacking homes and stealing the resident's animals. People are forced to join meetings where they are compelled to admit that they are "NPA members".

Another stark example is the Paquibato Massacre last June 14. Three peasants were killed and a child wounded when AFP soldiers surrounded and strafed the hut of Aida Seisa, a known peasant leader in Davao City. The AFP concocted a story and claimed the the indigenous leader and peasants killed were "NPA members".

The attack of the fascist troops of the 17th IB in Sitio Dalingan, San Juan, Rizal in Cagayan province last July 20 is another clear example. The soldiers tore through the community of Aggay minorities, entered and ransacked the homes of those they claimed to be supporters of the NPA and abducted three residents. They were "NPA members", the AFP claimed, and were detained and charged with "illegal possession of firearms".

The AFP is obdurate in persecuting the Lumad people in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Their ancestral land continues



to be occupied. The school they have built with the help of religious groups is being forced shut because the people running these are "NPA members." The Lumad evacuees are being hounded up to Davao City where even the groups who gave them refuge have been criminally charged.

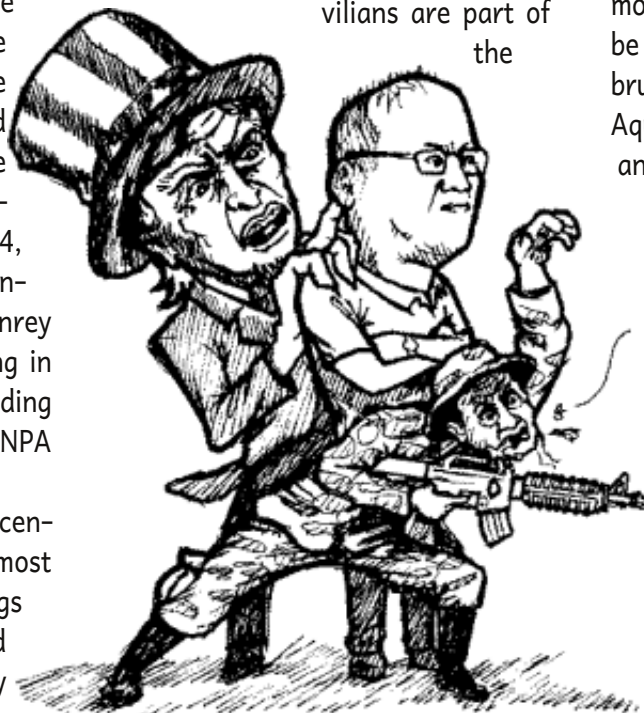
Last April 5, the AFP arrested the Anlagan family of Libona, Bukidnon, while travelling to Cagayan de Oro City. Among the arrested are six children of the Anlagans (five of whom are minors), the Eslao family and several of their friends. All are "NPA members" and were criminally charged. Last March 14, soldiers tortured Henry Omandam, Vergil Pitogo and Johnrey Flores—all poor peasants resting in the house of their aunt. According to the AFP, they all were "NPA members".

Aquino's all-out war is concentrated in the countryside. In almost 300 cases of extra-judicial killings by state armed forces, around 70% are peasants and minority

people. They too are the main victims of abductions and enforced disappearances.

While carrying out all-out war in the countryside, the AFP conducts surveillance and suppression in the cities against various groups and activists leading anti-Aquino protests. They are made to face various criminal charges and suffer prolonged detention.

Attacks of the AFP against civilians are part of the



dirty war of the US-Aquino regime against the Filipino people. All these show that Aquino's claim that the people are his "boss" is pure chicanery. The AFP itself is showing that its "peace and development" rhetoric is but a big lie. Oplan Bayanihan is plain and simple a war against the people.

The AFP's dirty war against the people must be exposed and opposed with full might. The strongest and most powerful condemnation must be made against the fascist and brutal crimes of the AFP. The US-Aquino regime and its Oplan Bayanihan war of suppression must be made responsible and hounded.

Use all means of quick and effective means of disseminating information about cases of fascist violence and violations of human rights. Extend all-out assistance to all victims in the different parts of the country. Work together to bring national and international attention to each and every case.

Flood the AFP and the US-Aquino regime with condemnations in the mass media, social media, academe, church and in the streets. Draw in support from lawyers, religious groups, advocates of human rights and civil rights, international groups and institutions for victims of the AFP's fascist crimes.

All units of the NPA must give further effort to launching tactical offensives across the country. Raise the capability of the people's militias in dealing blows against AFP units which trample on the peace and order in the localities. Target, in particular, those units of the AFP that have major crimes against the people.

Frustrate the US-Aquino regime and the AFP in its objective of terrorizing the people. Raise the people's determination to collectively defend their rights. Further raise their courage. Fan the flames of struggle.

AB



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AFP massacres 4 motorcycle drivers in Masbate

Four *habal-habal* (commuter motorcycles) drivers were massacred by troops of the 9th IB in Barangay Mactan, Cawayan, Masbate last August 3. The reprehensible crime is the latest in the widespread and extreme killings and other human rights violations perpetrated by military units against the residents of Masbate.

Gary Bisnar, Adam Fajardo, Joe-bert Badillo and Rogelio Abelida Jr. were driving their motorcycles when they were flagged at a 9th IB checkpoint in Barangay Mactan, Cawayan. From the checkpoint, they were brought to a location surrounded with tall cogon grass and shot at close range. The soldiers then announced in the mass media that the four were members of the NPA who were killed in an ambush that occurred on the same day. (See related news article on page 6.)

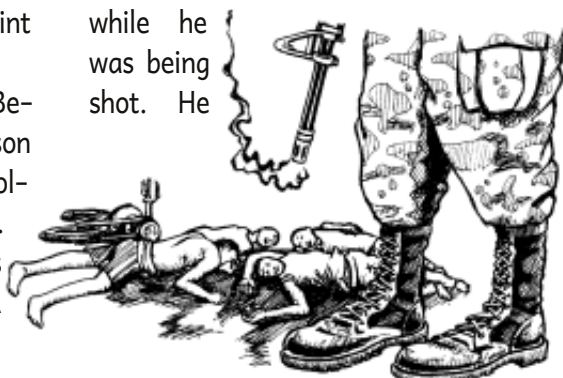
The military brought the corpses to Barangay Del Carmen, Uson for identification by the barangay officials. Del Carmen is more than three kilometers or two villages away from Mactan. Relatives, friends, barriomates and passengers of the victims condemned the massacre. They said the four were residents of Mactan and legitimate drivers who plied the route where the checkpoint was established.

On the same day, old Vicente Berallo and his adolescent grandson Dodong Berallo were taken by soldiers from their house in Mactan. Guns were planted on their persons and they were presented as NPA members captured in battle.

The soldiers have been sowing terror in Cataingan, Palanas, Cawayan and Placer for three days prior to the incident. They have been arbitrarily destroying property, ransacking homes, mauling people, slapping women, accusing villagers, and planting firearms and bombs in houses of civilians.

Killing and abuse in Ticao


A day before the massacre of the drivers, two farmers of Sitio Palopino, Barangay Bartolabac, San Jacinto, Ticao Island were killed by soldiers. At around 3:00 a.m., combined forces of the 93rd Division Reconnaissance Company and Charlie Company of the 9th IB under 1st Lt. Alfren Flores, 1st Lieutenant Branias and Corporal Boralya abducted father and son, Ariel and Allan Bartulay. Ariel was taken some 500 meters from their house and told to run while he was being shot. He



sustained 36 bullet wounds on his body. Allan Bartulay's head was shattered by three bullets shot at close range.

Ticao Island has been subjected to military operations by Peace and Development Teams (PDT) of the 9th IB. These soldiers launched operations jointly with units of the 42nd IB, 31st IB, 9th IB and 93rd DRC. Last March 14, farmers Jomar Escurrel and Riando Almozara were abducted from their homes in Sitio Calaw-anan in Barangay Tuguron, Monreal. They were severely tortured before being shot to death near their homes.

The NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command or CMC) condemned the series of massacres and murders. According to Samuel Guerrero, spokesperson of CMC, "it is clear that the massacre of the four *habal-habal* drivers is a military retaliation against civilians to obscure their human rights violations and the humiliating defeat they got from the NPA offensive. This tactic is not new because the fascist military has been doing this in Sorsogon province and other parts of Bicol."

According to Ka Maria Roja Banua, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-Bicol: "There is only one message, suppress the struggle in the face of the people's poverty and oppression and promote the certainty of 'progress' for the foreign and domestic mining corporations and other neoliberal projects that bleed our country's natural resources and extract the labor of the working people." 

Paquibato massacre survivor surfaces

On August 4, Aida Seisa, peasant leader of Paquibato District Peasant Alliance (Padipa), surfaced. Seisa testified in the regular session of the Davao City council about the massacre that occurred in her house last June 14.

Seisa was in tears as she narrated the woeful circumstances her family now faces and disputed the stories being peddled by the soldiers

that it was a legitimate encounter when they carried out the attack and strafing of her house in Purok 7, Barangay Paradise Embac, Pa-

quibato District in Davao City.

According to Seisa, even as they were shouting that civilians were inside the house, the soldiers did not stop shooting. When she managed to get out, she heard that the soldiers were out to kill her so she decided to go into hiding with her husband and children. Seisa has been threatened by the military several times before the massacre.

During the council's session, military officers insisted that what

happened was an encounter while they were serving a warrant of arrest for Leoncio Pitao (Ka Parago.) But they could not produce evidence that gunfire came from inside the house.

According to Karlo Bello, chairman of the human rights committee of the city council: "This puts in serious doubt the real intention of the military" in serving a warrant unaccompanied by the police, and informing the police that an encounter happened many hours after the incident. It took nine hours before the police came to Seisa's house to investigate.

On August 11, the city council approved three resolutions about the massacre. Among the contents of the resolution were a message to the AFP "to recall" 1Lt. Christopher Santos and the soldiers under his command during the June 14 Paquibato incident "due to the Council's lack of trust confidence" in the officer and that his unit's "continued presence may cause fear, distrust and possibly harm to the other residents of Davao City".

The next day, Seisa filed charges of robbery, multiple frustrated murder, attempted murder and the murder of Datu Ruben Enlog, Randy Carnasa, Oligario Quimbo against Santos and several others before the City Prosecutor's Office.

Meanwhile, a Benedictine nun who helped secure Seisa's family after the massacre was honored for "engaging herself extraordinarily" in human rights work. On July 8, the Weimar City Council in Germany decided to confer an award to Sr. Stella Matutina for her contributions in defending human rights. She will receive the Weimar Award for Human Rights for 2015.

Sr. Matutina is one the respondents in the AFP's trumped-up charges of kidnapping, illegal detention and human trafficking for helping the Lumad victims of militarization who sought refuge in the Haran Compound.

The Weimar Award for Human Rights has been awarded by the Weimar City Council every year since 1995 to defenders of human rights "in memory of its special historical responsibility and as symbol of all the anonymous victims of dictatorships and tyrannies throughout the world." AB

Harassment of Lumad teachers worsens

ON August 9, AFP-supported paramilitary groups Magahat and Bagani attacked Purok 16, Sitio Nalindog, Brgy. Bolhoon in Surigao del Sur. Twelve uniformed paramilitary men armed with M16 rifles forced people out of their homes. The residents were ordered to gather at the village waiting shed, where they were interrogated and threatened. Para-teacher Regine Tejero and Angel Vocales who was five months pregnant were accused of being members of the NPA. They also threatened to burn down the Nalindog Tribal Community School and its volunteer teachers. This led to the evacuation of some 45 families and the closure of the school. The Nalindog Tribal Community School is operated by the Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur and the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development.

A few days prior to this, elements of the 58th IB arrested Daniel Lampusay and his brother Ejun in Sitio Kibungkol, Barangay Hindangan, Gingoog City last August 3. Lampusay was a former volunteer teacher of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines literacy and numeracy program. They were wrongfully accused of being members of the NPA and arrested without warrants. They were detained for some time at the Day Care Center of the Barangay Hall where the military was illegally encamped before being transferred to the Medina Police Station. Later, they were brought to the Misamis Oriental Provincial Jail. Both Lampusays are Higaonon residents of Sitio Minalwang in Barangay Bal-ason, Gingoog City. AB

UN Investigator blasts Eastmincom

DR. Chaloka Beyani, United Nations Special Rapporteur (UN-SR) for Internally Displaced Persons, angrily criticized the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for grossly distorting his views on the Lumad evacuees in Haran Compound.

What the AFP did to his report, Beyani said, "is incorrect, unacceptable, and a gross misrepresentation" of his views on the issue. "It is not true that he said the evacuees were "victims of human trafficking" and that they are being "manipulated." He denied the AFP's declaration that he called the evacuees "trafficked persons" because the Lumad themselves have told him that they voluntarily went to Davao City, said Dr. Beyani.

In saying the situation was "manipulated," Dr. Beyani was alluding to the attempt to forcibly move them out of the UCCP facility without proper and adequate consultation with them. He was referring to the violent

attack of the police on the Haran Compound last July 23.

The Eastmincom's gross distortion of Dr. Beyani's report is nothing new, according to Karapatan. The AFP has routinely used lies to cover up its serious human rights violations. This includes the use of professional witnesses in filing false criminal charges against activists and progressives, and planting firearms and explosives to fabricate evidence against them.

Last August 13, Eastmincom spokesperson Col. Eduardo was forced to resign after he apologized to Beyani. However, to justify the trumped up charges they have filed, AFP officers insist that Beyani mentioned that the evacuees were being "manipulated" by church

people, human rights advocates and their supporters.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Rolando Tirona condemned the US-Aquino regime, through the offices of the local Department of Social Welfare and Development, for concealing hundreds of evacuees in Zamboanga City, four days before Dr. Beyani visited the city. More than 120,000 evacuees moved to the city's stadium in September 2013 when the military bombed their communities in what has been called the "Zamboanga Seige."

Beyani was in the country last July 21-31 to investigate the situation of people who have been displaced by disasters, armed conflict and "development" projects. He visited victims of super-typhoon Yolanda in Tacloban and victims of violence in Zamboanga, South Cotabato and Maguindanao. **AB**

MILF will not take accept watered down BBL

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has expressed opposition to the watered down versions of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in the house and senate.

MILF Chief Negotiator Mohagher Iqbal described House Bill 5811, the BBL version which approval was rushed at the committee level last May, as "50 percent bad" and "lower than the ARMM". Meanwhile, the version proposed by Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Senate Bill 2408, was criticized by Iqbal for having removed provisions in the original BBL document by "more than 100 percent".

The BBL is to serve as the law for the Bangsamoro state to be established in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement in the Bangsamoro (CAB) signed by the MILF and the Aquino regime. The BBL will take effect once approved by the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) congress.

Iqbal faced a forum organized by the Moro Christian People's Alliance (MCPA) and the Pilgrims for Peace held at the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) in

Quezon City last August 12.

"Very clearly, we will not accept it, if it's lower than ARMM", was Iqbal's response to someone asking what the MILF will do if the congress will approve a watered-down version.

Iqbal identified the removal of the provisions on wealth sharing as one of the unacceptable changes made by congress in the BBL. In the original draft, it was provided that 100% of non-mineral resources will go the Bangsamoro government; 75-25 sharing in favor of the Bangsamoro of mineral wealth; and 50-50 sharing of oil, gas, coal and uranium.

In the amendments made to the Congress version, all resources in the Moro people's domain is considered "strategic minerals" and under the control of the GPH.

"We will blame and shame the GPH for not complying with agreements signed by both parties," said Iqbal.

According to Rep. Neri Colmenares of Bayan Muna, "the treatment of the BBL is one such example that shows there are no serious efforts to achieve peace in the country today." **AB**



NPA launches armed actions against 4th ID in NCMR

The New People's Army-North Central Mindanao Region launched successive harassment operations against operating units under the 4th IB from August 6-10. Up to 11 soldiers were killed and many wounded in NPA armed actions in mountainous areas of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental and Agusan del Norte.

Bukidnon. A unit from the South Central Bukidnon Subregional Command harassed operating troops of the 8th IB and Division Reconnaissance Company in Barangay Indasa, Malaybalay City three times last August 6. Three soldiers were killed and five wounded.

On August 8, two harassment operations were launched in the said barangay. Five soldiers were killed and many wounded. In retaliation, the military dropped bombs during most of the entire afternoon. Helicopters

also made several trips to evacuate their wounded.

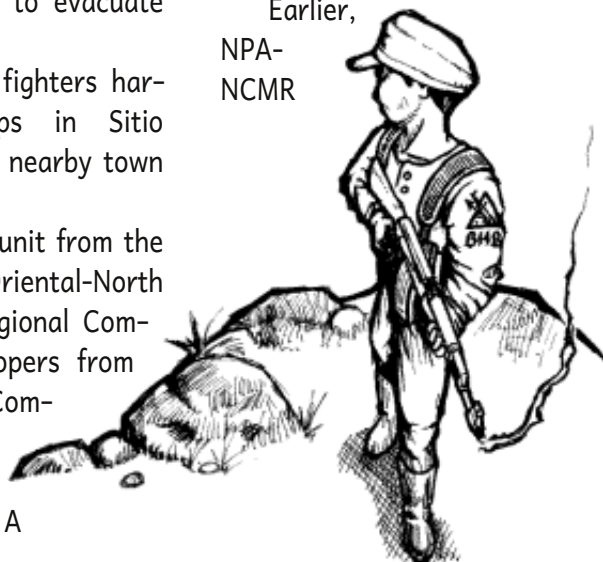
On August 11, Red fighters harassed operating troops in Sitio Magawa, Bolunay in the nearby town of Impasug-ong.

Misamis Oriental. A unit from the NPA-Eastern Misamis Oriental-North Eastern Bukidnon Subregional Command clashed with troopers from the 1st Special Forces Company and CAFGU in Barangay Farbugas, Claveria on August 8. A

CAFGU element was killed and a soldier wounded.

Agusan del Norte. Red fighters from the Western Agusan North-Agusan Sur Subregional Command harassed 29th IB troopers in Sitio Afga, Olave, Buenavista. Two soldiers were killed while many were wounded.

Earlier, NPA-NCMR



units launched 21 armed actions against military and police units in the region from June 5 to July 25. Up to 16 arms were seized from NPA harassment operations, raids and ambushes. These include the San Fernando, Bukidnon raid on June 14, the Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental raid on July 11 and various harassment operations in Barangay Banglay in Lagonlong, Misamis Oriental; in barangays Bit-os, Bitan-agan, San Mateo and Tungao in Butuan City; Barangay Imbayao in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon; in Barangay Sangay in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte; Barangay Hindangon in Gingoog City; and in Barangay Bulahan in Claveria, Misamis Oriental. On July 22, the NPA attacked the notorious 1st Special Forces Battalion in Barangay Lilingayon, Valencia City in Bukidnon.

Within this period, the AFP and PNP suffered casualties with 20 killed and 12 wounded while two Red fighters were martyred. AB

Victorious Masbate ambushade

NPA-MASBATE (Jose Rapsing Command) Red fighters ambushed troopers from the 9th IB Bravo Company and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Barangay Mactan, Cawayan last August 3. SSgt. Fernandon Leynes Jr. was killed while Corporals Razalo, Abonita and Umdap were wounded. A member of the CIDG was also wounded.

The operating troops have been terrorizing the barangays in the towns of Cataingan, Palanas, Cawayan and Placer for three days prior to the ambush. This runs counter to the military's claim that the troopers were only in Tuburan, Cawayan to serve a criminal his warrant of arrest and that they were ambushed on their way back. The soldiers even hitched a ride on a dump truck with civilian passengers.

Meanwhile, the NPA in Albay and Quezon also launched armed actions.

Albay. Four 2nd IB troopers were killed and two wounded in Barangay Rawis, Pioduran last August 7 when NPA-Albay (Santos Binamera Command) fighters detonated a bomb against the operating troops. The soldiers have been undertaking military operations in Pio Duran's seven barrios (Rawis, Matanglad, Buyo, Sukip, Salvacion, Sto. Cristo at Sinagaran) for two weeks when they were ambushed.

Quezon. An NPA-Quezon (Apolonio Mendoza Command) team launched harassment operations against elements of the 85th IB encamped in the barangay hall of Malabahay, Macalelon on the night of July 26. AB

NPA holds medical training in Samar

Early this year, the New People's Army-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command), together with peasants and their families, celebrated the completion of the medical training of more than 30 Red fighters and members of mass organizations in the hinterlands of Samar.

Initiated by the New People's Army-Eastern Visayas (NPA-EV), an integrated Level 1 and 2 training was held during a period of three weeks. The training aimed to kick-start medical work within platoons and their areas of responsibility.

According to its main instructor, Ka Tina, the training is part of the efforts to strengthen the NPA in the region to raise higher its capacity to launch tactical offensives. Medics boost the Red fighters' courage when they launch armed actions, she says.

Together with three more instructors, Ka Tina taught the basic principles in taking greater care of the Red fighters' health. The in-

structors likewise taught scientific and simple methods in preventing diseases in the community. This is part of the health campaign that is being waged in the barrios alongside other mass campaigns. They hope that the barrio youth who participated in the training will lead in organizing barrio medical groups. This is in line with ensuring basic medical services in the barrios, in contrast to the reactionary state's criminal neglect in providing public services and the widespread privatization of medical

services and facilities.

Ka Tina lauded the graduates. Despite difficulties in memorizing symptoms, appropriate medicines and other medical concepts, they persevered in the study of theory and practice. Most of the students were from the peasant class and only reached elementary level in formal schooling. They found it hard to remember medical dosages, such as "miligrams of penicillin," and to read medical literature, such as those found in medical labels, since most of these are in English.

To facilitate instruction, the trainers simplified the theories and emphasized the need for practice. They held practical exercises in every



topic so students can gain deeper conceptual understanding. They investigated superstitions and old wives' tales prevalent in the barrios. They also studied closely particular diseases in the region, such as schistosomiasis and "tugsik," a disease which exhibits similar symptoms as leptospirosis.

Members of local Party branches from the surrounding barrios welcomed the new medics. According to Ka Auring, a local Party member, hundreds of peasants are already waiting for the care of NPA medics and the barrio medical groups. The peasants have long suffered from high doctor's fees, expensive medicines and distant hospitals and facilities. When they get sick, she says, they are forced to borrow from "5-6" (a local lending system with usurious rates) since they have long given up on the local government and its agencies.

In concurrence, a barrio youth graduate says they are ready to rise to the challenge of caring for their barriomates. One of first things they will do is solicit the necessary medical equipment so they can

start immediately. Front representatives likewise looked on the training as a big success, since it was completed despite various limitations and other activities. The knowledge will serve the Red army immensely, they say, while consolidating mass organizations and helping in the organization of revolutionary committees at the barrio level, and later on, at the municipal level.

Part of the completion exercises was the two-day mass clinic that peasants took part in despite its considerable distance. After extensive consultations, a simple feast and dance was held.

Says Ka Tina, the training is just one in a series of trainings to be launched by the regional medical staff. Last October 2014, a Level 3 training was held in a nearby province. Representatives from different medical groups came to participate.

Aside from trainings, Ka Tina and her unit are also campaigning for massive immunizations, the return to widespread practice of acupuncture, popularization of herbal and local remedies, and prevention of schistosomiasis. AB

Vendors protest market privatization

Market vendors from seven major public markets in the city of Manila staged a protest before the State of the Nation Address of Benigno Aquino III. They rallied against the privatization of their livelihood under the privatization scheme of the local government.

Last July 23, vendors closed their shops and demonstrated in front of the Manila City Hall to denounce the Joint Venture Ordinance passed by the city council. Under said ordinance, all markets will be shut down and new structures will be constructed and placed under the administration of private corporations.. The vendors are from seven public markets covered by the Joint Venture--Quinta Market

which has already started demolition work, and the public markets in Trabajo, Sampaloc, San Andres, Sta. Ana, New Antipolo and Pritil.

According to Franciso Chico, president of the Vendor's Cooperative in Quiapo's Quinta Market, aside from the demolition of the old market, they are also against the planned construction of parking lots in the vicinity which would reduce the number and size of the stalls available. He added, the "joint venture" entered into by the

local government is clearly privatization. The Quinta Market would remain in name under the city of Manila,

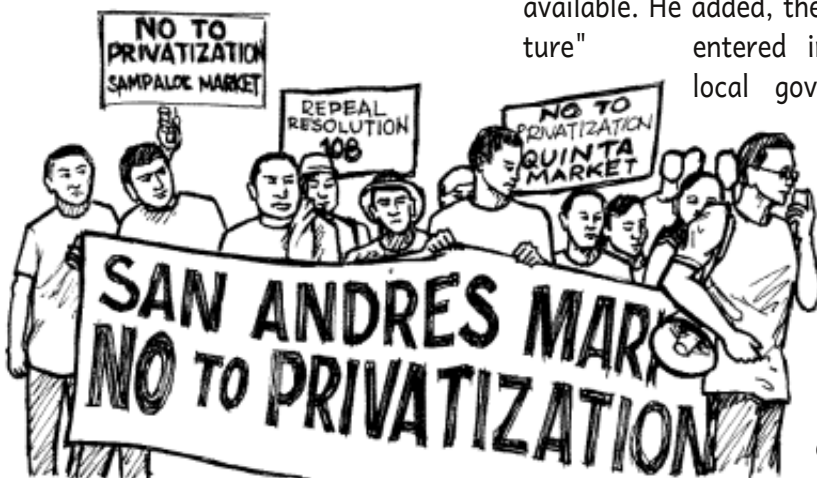
but the whole operation would be controlled by one private company. The vendors have serious doubts about the Marketlife Management and Leasing Corporation, the company that was awarded the contract, whose listed office address is nonexistent.

The privatization cost of Quinta Market will reach P250 million.

According to the director and treasurer of Marketlife himself, they will charge from P70 to P80 per square meter, double the present fee of P40. The government will receive 20% of the profits. They estimate some P6 million each year would be passed as revenues to the government, so that P24 million would be left, or P600 million for a period of 25 years. The reconstruction of the Quinta market would only cost P90 million.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Manila's Francisco Mariazeta added that "this will start the wholesale dealing not only of the markets but also of all public utilities and services in the city of Manila."

Slogans calling for "No to Joint Venture" and "No to Privatization" were posted on the closed shops of the markets on the day of the rally. AB



Protest against PPP project in Laguna Lake

HUNDREDS of fisherfolk launched a fluvial parade of fishing *bancas* last July 26 along the coast of Muntinlupa to protest the Laguna Lakeshore Expressway Dike, a Public-Private Partnership project set to be awarded before the end of Aquino's term.

Among the protesters were the Save Laguna Lake Movement and the Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda sa Muntinlupa (Nagsama). Others affected by the project were the small fish vendors.

The project will cost P123 billion. Under this project, a road dike will be built allegedly to control the flooding. Passing motorists will be charged toll fees.

"We are wondering, why include seven islets that

will reach 700 hectares in all," the spokesperson of Nagsama said. "A hundred hectares for each islet, two in Taguig and five in Muntinlupa."

In addition, three of the islets will be made into residential areas while five would be commercial. "For the residential, condominiums, high-rise buildings and townhouses will be constructed. For the commercial areas, there will be resorts, malls and a casino."

"Of course," he added, "they will profit, (this is) business of course... While they earn, we will die."

No clear public consultations were made, he added. "They called for barangay hearings, made stories, but the people did not understand." AB

2016 budget: an appropriation for corruption and election

Even before Congress deliberations started last August 10, the Aquino regime's proposed national budget has already been getting a lot of flak from progressive parties and organizations, the opposition and even from its own allies.

The budget is filled with lump sums or huge funds that lack details on how they would be spent. These are no different from the past Priority Development Assistance Funds (PDAF), more known as pork barrel, and the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) that was used by the regime as bribe funds in 2013. The funds that lack itemizations are hidden in various departments and put under Aquino's discretion. In 2014, the Supreme Court declared that the DAP, PDAF and other forms of the pork barrel fund violate the 1987 constitution.

For 2016, the submitted National Expenditure Program (NEP) amounts to P3.002 trillion. This is 15% more than the 2015 budget and triple the national budget when Aquino came to power in 2010.

As in the past years, borrowings will cover government expenses. The Bureau of Treasury under the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) estimates that only some P2.7 trillion can be raised by the regime from taxes and the sale of public properties in 2016.

Thus, it has to borrow no less than P678.4 billion to cover the budget deficit. It also needs to borrow an additional P347.7 billion to pay for some of its old debts. The Kabataan Partylist (KPL) estimates that every Filipino adult and child would have an outstanding debt of P62,209 by the end of 2016. This is 25% more compared to the P49,817 in 2010.

Since Aquino came to power, the country's national debt has reached P6.2 trillion in 2015 from P4.63 trillion in 2010. For 2016, it is estimated to increase further to P6.4 trillion. This is equivalent to 45% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Budget for corruption and election

As in the past year, the NEP 2016 has been called a budget for corruption and election. Aside from containing pork funds, it is also clearly evident in its stress on projects and districts dominated by partymates and allies of the ruling faction.

In an initial scrutiny by pro-

gressive organizations and parties, no less than P648.2 billion worth of pork funds were discovered inserted in the proposed budget. Of this amount, P430.4 billion is contained in various "special purpose funds" (SPF) while P217.8 billion is inserted as lump sums in 38 government agencies and offices. This is 75% more compared to the P245.7 billion in 2015. Lump sums inside the SPFs will also increase by 102% -- from P48.3 billion to P97.4 billion.

The largest allocation increase for the SPF can be found in the local governments under the budget of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). In past elections, this fund was the key for the machinery from the barrio level up to ensure the victory of ruling party candidates. At present, the DILG is headed by Mar Roxas, who has been personally endorsed by Aquino for the 2016 presidential election.

From P23.1 billion in 2015, an additional P56.5 billion (or a 69% increase) will be allocated to local governments. Under this is the 500% increase in what is called the Local Government Support Fund, which grew from P3.1 billion to P18.4 billion. An additional P8.3 billion is also allocated to the DILG budget for the installation of water systems, housing in the National Capital Region and other community projects under the "bottom-up budgeting" (BUB) scheme. The DILG

is not mandated to run these projects.

Aside from the DILG, billions of pesos in lump sums are also inserted in the budget for traditional milking cows of officials in the bureaucracy and military. Among these are the Department of Public Works and Highways (P83.8 billion), National Housing Authority (P29.9 billion), Department of National Defense (P25 billion), Department of Agriculture (P21 billion), Department of Social Welfare and Development (P12.2 billion) and others.

In the past, the regime has used the SPF to project "savings" incurred by the government in the first half of the year and then placed these "savings" directly under the control of the President. The BUB, in the meantime, has been exposed as a measure to heap favors on allies of the ruling faction through the budget.

These funds are aside from the P28 billion lump sum directly under the president. Among these are the yearly allocations for calamity funds (P19

billion), contingency fund (P4 billion) and local government (P5 billion).

PPP-favored budgeting

The regime also increased funds for private contractors involved in the Public-Private Partnership program. From P52.7 billion, the allocation for big bourgeois compradors who cornered privatization contracts for infrastructure, schools and hospitals increased to P65.9 billion.

It retained the P30 billion fund for the "risk management program" that ensures the contractor profits in cases where the government is obliged to lower fees for their services. It maintained the P1.6 billion amortization and lease payments for Henry Sy for the construction of school buildings by his Megawide Construction Corpora-

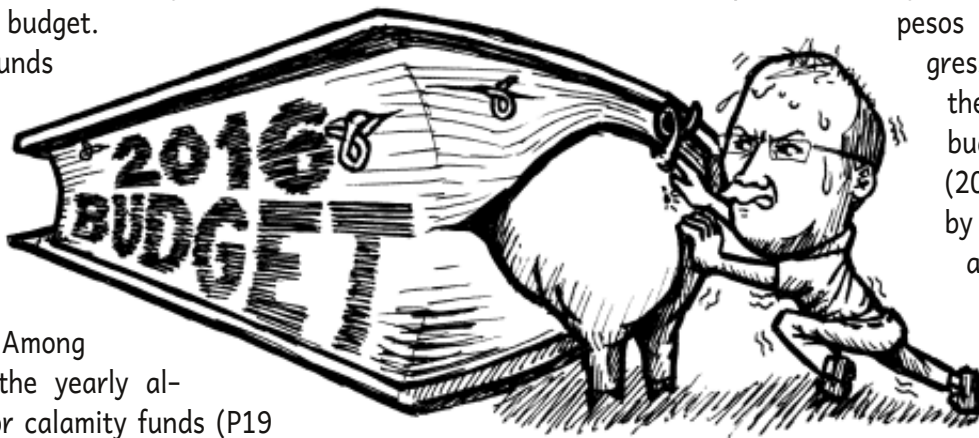
tion. The "strategic support fund" for private corporations will also be doubled. The allocation for the purchase of "right of way" that is nothing but the demolition of hundreds of poor communities affected by 13 road projects and expressways of the Ayala Corporation, San Miguel Corporation, Metro Pacific, Megawide, Aboitiz Equity, JG Summit and others was raised to P24.8 billion. The Light Rail Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), companies in the process of privatization, will also receive P9.5 billion.

Unending "good fortune"

The Aquino regime's manipulation to insert pork barrel funds for his partymates and allies is not new.

Recently, the DBM revealed in its expense report submitted to the Congress and Senate that billions of pesos were inserted by congressmen and senators for their "pork" funds in the budget for the current year (2015). The funds disbursed by the DBM for the programs and projects of Aquino allies that lacked details and not included in the

continued on p. 10



UP students assail lack of dormitories

STUDENTS, concerned professors and staff of the University of the Philippines (UP) assailed the grave shortage of dormitories within its campus in Diliman, Quezon City. In a protest action last August 6, they blamed the administration for its failure to provide adequate and affordable accommodations for poor students and those coming from far-flung regions.

They also criticized the university's decision to accept more students for the schoolyear 2015-16 without adequate preparations. This has resulted in the lack of classes to enroll in and confusion at the start of the schoolyear.

According to the Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights in UP (Stand UP), at least 320 students have not been given dormitory accommodations since classes started in August 3.

Because of this, some slept at the Sunken Garden while others camped out in front of the Kalayaan Residence Hall, the dormitory for new students. Others were

temporarily housed at the All UP Workers' Union Office and at the Office of the Student Regent.

More than a hundred students were assigned by the administration to Acacia, Centennial I and Centennial II. These dormitories are semi-private with rates ranging from P1,500 to P3,000 per month, beyond the reach of many students. These dormitories were built using tuition fees of students but are being run by private corporations.

UP has only 13 dormitories, including the semi-private ones. UP was forced to look for private sources of funds in the face of yearly cuts in its budget.

Under the Aquino regime, the UP budget has been slashed four times - in 2011, 2012, 2014 and in the 2016 proposed budget. In 2013, of the P18.4 billion requested by UP, only P9.5 billion was approved. Last 2014, only P9.4 billion of its proposed P17 billion was allotted. From the P13.1 billion budget this year, the proposed 2016 budget will allocate only P10.9 billion.

approved budget reached P495.7 billion.

These include the P4.8 billion allocated for the projects called "congressional initiative". Two of those who benefitted from this were Rep. Edgar Erice (P294 million) and Enrico Echiverri (P167.5 million), who are both from Caloocan City and rabid supporters of Aquino. Erice is a partner of Mar Roxas in his mining business venture.

It also includes the additional lump sum for projects that lack details in the Department of National Defense (P455.5 million), Department of Social Welfare and Development (P401.5 million) and the Department of Energy (P150 million).

In 2014, the DBM purposely did not disburse 13% of the entire budget (P303 billion) so that these can be declared as government "savings" of the government at the end of the year. In the past, fund "savings" were used to bribe Aquino allies in the Senate for the impeachment of then Supreme Court chief justice Renato Corona. This was done under the guise of the DAP. This year, fund savings will be disbursed to the departments headed by allies who will run as candidates. Among these are the DILG (which will receive P16 billion), the Department of Transportation and Communications (P20.7 billion) and the Department of Agriculture (P13 billion.) AB

Defense budget: War budget against the people

THE Aquino regime raised the 2016 budget for the Department of National Defense to P172.7 billion, up by 20% compared to the current year.

This is twice the 2014 DND budget of P82.2 billion. Included in the proposed budget is P78.9 billion allegedly for "external defense," or territorial defense, security and stability services of the army, navy and air force. The budget of the Philippine National Police (PNP) under the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) will be raised to P154.5 billion from P71.9 billion last year.

For the alleged modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the US-Aquino regime allocated P25 billion while P88.3 billion will be given for the modernization of the PNP. The DND budget is P27.5 billion or 19.5% more than the 2015 allocation.

"Counter-insurgency" fund

The regime has long made a scapegoat of the Philippine-China dispute to give credence to its increasing "modernization" budget. However, even Aquino's military officials confirm that it is not China, but rather the Filipino people that is the real target of the AFP's modernization.

In April 2015, then Philippine Army chief and now AFP chief of staff Gen. Hernando Eriberrri cancelled an order for shore-based missile systems by the Philippines from Israel costing P6.5 billion. Instead, the AFP will use the funds to purchase additional designated marksmen rifles, chemical-

biological-radiological gear, and long-range sniper weapons system. Aquino himself boasted during his State of the Nation Address last July of the number of arms purchased for the AFP and PNP. These will allegedly be used against "criminals" and "terrorists" inside the country.

Meanwhile the budget for the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (Pamana) under the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) also more than doubled. It will be from P5.5 billion this year to P12.8 billion. The funds lack detail and are directly handled by Aquino. In past years, these served as pork barrel for military officials. AFP generals select the projects and municipalities that will be allocated Pamana funds.

PPP fund

The DND budget includes expenses for the Government Arsenal, wherein its facility in Camp Gen. Antonio Luna in Limay, Bataan will be converted into an economic processing zone under the General Arsenal Master Development Plan approved recently by DND secretary Voltaire Gazmin. A special enclave to be called a Government Arsenal Defense Industrial Estate (GADIE) will be constructed as a special Public Private Partnership project. The project covers a land area of 340 hectares.

The construction of GADIE was

awarded to CPI Total Corp. and Filipinas Dravo Corporation (FDC). The FDC was formerly a subsidiary of Dravo Corporation, a defunct shipyard and steel fabricator with a long history of defense contracting for the US Navy. Its other local partner for the Defense Industrial Estate, CPI Total Corporation, specializes in energy projects. FDC was also involved in constructing military facilities in the Saudi Arabia and Subic.

The estate is divided into two main areas, the explosive and non-explosive zone. The former houses facilities for medium and high caliber ordnance and explosives production as well as a metal loading facility of the Philippine Air Force; the latter is for small-arms manufacture.

When the estate become fully operational by 2016, its occupants would be the Philippines' top defense partners: the US, South Korea, and Israel. The Government Arsenal's zoning plans include a KIA Motor plant. South Korea's KIA Motors is a supplier of trucks to the AFP.

The Defense Industrial Estate is an effort to centralize arms industry that produces weapons and equipment in one place, wherein "any excess in the local requirements will be sold in the global markets." AB

Global hegemony is the US imperialists' "national security"



Last February 2015, US Pres. Barrack Obama released the new National Security Strategy (NSS) of the US government. As in the similar document release by Obama in 2010, the NSS 2015 is a blueprint to impose US hegemony on the entire world.

The US imperialist issued the NSS at a time that powers are emerging to challenge the unipolar rule of the US. The US recognizes the emergence of strong economic and military powers. It is "alert to China's military modernization" and "Russian aggression".

Still, the US asserts that "we (must) influence the trajectory of (events) today". The US trains its attention to different countries and regions because it is "appropriate for the world's leading global power with interests in every part" of the world.

The US imposes its power on the world using different means. These include diplomacy, arm-twisting, economic sanctions (using the system of trade restrictions), subversion, political intervention and surveillance.

But underneath all these means is the use of a military force "whose might, technology, and geostrategic reach is unrivaled in human history". US military strength is used to threaten and actually carry out armed aggression. It also provides military assistance to puppet states or pro-US anti-government groups.

Obama's NSS must be thoroughly exposed and opposed. It lays claim to the right to use military power to require countries to follow the order imposed by US imperialism. The NSS outrightly sets aside the principle of "non-interference" and equal sovereignty of countries which has been at the core of modern international law.

The widespread reach of American "security"

The NSS defines US national in-

terest and security as the line that divides the world into two big camps: the side of the US and its allies and the anti-US side. "It sets out the principles and priorities to guide the use of American power and influence in the world."

The US consider intervention around the world as part of its defense of its "national security". According to the NSS, "our obligations do not end at our borders. We embrace our responsibilities for underwriting international security because it serves our interests..."

The US has also overly broadened its definition of "strategic threats" that serve as basis for its intervention in different parts of the world: "violent extremism and evolving terrorist threats", "escalating challenges to cybersecurity", "Russian aggression", "accelerating impact of climate change", proliferation of nuclear weapons, pandemic, international economic crisis and disruptions in energy markets and weak and failing states.

In short, the US is using every possible reason to intervene, and in many cases, to deploy military forces across the globe.

The "threat of terrorism" is used by the US to justify the imposition of its power around the world. The NSS asserts that the US will "conduct counterterrorism operations... and will deter aggression through forward presence and engagement". US forces "will be ready to project power globally to defeat and deny aggression in multiple theaters."

Aside from threats within its borders, the NSS also identifies as

threats to the US security conflicts and wars in different countries and between countries, including what it calls "aggression" by Russia and its violation of Ukraine sovereignty.

To justify US intervention in different parts of the world, Obama's NSS starts on the distorted premise of "American exceptionalism". To make the American people accept intervention by the US government in the entire world, the Obama regime fans their ultra-nationalism. Said the NSS: "...what unites us is the national consensus that American global leadership remains indispensable."

"Any successful strategy to ensure the safety of the American people and advance our national security interests must begin with an undeniable truth—America must lead."

The US imperialists weave populist rhetoric to draw support for its intervention. Among Obama's rhetoric are "defending democracy and human rights". Under the slogan of "democracy", the NSS justifies interference in different countries as "support (for) peaceful democratic change" that only means intervening to cause the overthrow or replacement of a regime that is independent and does not follow US dictates.

To cover up the brutality of US political and military intervention, Obama supports reformist groups that espouse issues of women, children, the disabled, LGBT, refugees and migrants in order to portray the US as supportive of the interests of various sectors. The US seeks to organize, fund, support and use these groups to extend its influence in its target countries.

Market for US products

The expansion of markets for US commodities is one of the most

important objective and is at the core of the NSS. It said, "the American consumer cannot sustain global demand" and thus must push for "the (creation of) demand for American exports."

Under the NSS, Obama plans to use US economic domination "to set new rules of the road, strengthen our partnerships, and promote inclusive development."

The NSS is direct in stating that the new rules being pushed by the US will serve its own interests. Said Obama: " We will ensure tomorrow's global trading system is consistent with our interests and values..."

In dealing with other countries and entities, the US holds on to the "trade agenda (that) is focused on lowering tariffs on American products, breaking down barriers to our goods and services."

One target of the US is the expansion of its oil markets. After pointing out its advantage of being the leading producer of oil and gas, the NSS sets the aim of expanding US markets. "Increasing global access to reliable and affordable energy is one of the most powerful ways to support social and econom-

ic development and to help build new markets for U.S. technology and investment."

The US gives special attention to "Ukrainian and European dependence on Russian energy supplies". According to the NSS, the US must promote "diversification of energy fuels, sources, and routes, as well as encourage indigenous sources of energy supply" not only to strengthen markets for US energy products, but also to weaken Russian influence.

In line with the objective of expanding markets and fields of investments, the US is pushing for the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. These seek to remove "barriers to U.S. exports and put(s)... the United States at the center of a free trade zone covering two-thirds of the global economy".

While the US gives primary at-

tention to Russia and China, it also covets and desires the expansive markets of African countries. The NSS promised to "continue to support U.S. companies to deepen investment in (Africa that) can be the world's next major center of global growth"

(To be continued in the next issue.)



World condemns ISIS, Turkey attack on Kurds

The International League of People's Struggles (ILPS) condemned the terrorist attack on the Amara Culture Center in Suruç last July 20. Thirty-one members of the Federation of Socialist Youth Associations were martyred in the attack, while more than 100 were wounded in a suicide bombing carried out by an identified member of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

The martyrs were among 300 youths who have been assembling to draw up plans and set up projects to help rebuild war-torn Kobane. They came from both Kurdish and Turkish background. Among their plans were to build a library, a children's park, and a small hospital. Kobane was destroyed by ISIS attacks last 2014.

There is preponderant evidence

that the Erdogan regime of Turkey allowed entry of the suicide bomber to Suruç. Suruç is governed by the Halkların Demoratik Partisi (Democratic People's Party), a progressive party supporting Kurdish struggle in Syria and opposes Turkey's support on ISIS and other terrorist groups.

Both the Erdogan and ISIS have long sought to wreak vengeance on

the Kurdish forces in Northern Syria. In the previous six months, the Kurds made important advances against ISIS in their move to strengthen themselves by taking away important towns and border crossings from ISIS control.

The Erdogan regime has been coddling ISIS forces for a long time. It has allowed the terrorist organization to build training bases inside Turkey. The regime collaborates with ISIS in order to suppress the Kurdistan Worker's Party-led Kurdish liberation movement.

The Kurdish people continue to struggle for self-determination to

establish their own nation and towards racial recognition. Their ancestral lands are divided among four countries: Syria (North East), Turkey (South East), Iraq (North), and Iran (North West).

Attacks by the Erdogan regime against the Kurdish Liberation Movement escalated to air strikes in the past months.. Turkish air forces have practically served as an ISIS air force by striking at Kurdish strongholds in Iraq and Turkey.

Resistance of the Kurdish fighters of the YPG (People's Defense Forces) against ISIS in Kobane has inspired the world. They were able to overcome ISIS forces using inferior weapons. Since ISIS expansion of influence and territory, the strongest and most effective armed force that has opposed it is the YPG.

ISIS is financed, armed, and trained by the Central Intelligence Agency, other imperialists intelligence agencies, and by US puppet regimes in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Their goal is to destabilize, weaken or overthrow states opposing US policies, NATO allies, and the Israeli regime in the middle East. This is no different from the US intervention in Syria, which seeks to overthrow



the Assad regime. The mercenaries pose as Islamic fundamentalists and Jihadists to justify their terrorist stance and show that their war is in accordance with Islamic principles.

The never ending social disorder, terrorism and war in the Middle East countries are caused by the US, its NATO allies, Zionist Israeli regime and puppet Arab regimes. It is the ardent task of every revolutionary to expose, condemn, and fight against their crimes against humanity and win over everyone who aspires and advocates peace.

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