



UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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EDITORIAL

US imperialism is the world's number one terrorist

The Filipino people join the American people in remembering the thousands who perished in the deadly acts of terrorism in the United States on September 11th 2001. We reaffirm our condemnation of those acts of terrorism which unleashed violence aimed at countless civilian lives.

The Bush government pointed its fingers at Osama Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda group, who were once themselves allied and served US wars of intervention in Afghanistan and the Middle East. The acts of terror of September 11th marked the start of a bigger and more vicious war of terror.

US imperialists used 9/11 as justification to erode the American people's democratic rights and mount a global war of terror.

'Homeland Security' has become equated with invasion of privacy, infiltration of communities, surveillance on political parties, SWAT raids, violent repressions of protests and war against immigrants and refugees. The USA Patriot Act served as legal cover for unleashing wars of intervention and aggression and the exercise of unilateralism. The US arrested hundreds of 'terror suspects', including children, imprisoned them and subjected to the worst forms of torture, inhuman treatment, illegitimate military trials and murder by apparent suicide.

The US has spent an estimated US\$7.18 trillion in various wars since 2001. It maintains at least 750 military bases in 80 foreign countries with 220,000 troops stationed permanently. It has since carried out 'counterterror operations' in at least 85 countries. Estimates put the number of lives lost at 900,000 and the displacement of 37 million people, as a consequence of US wars since 2001.

Since 2001, the US has regarded the Philippines as its 'second front' in its global war on terror. It has maintained hundreds of military personnel in various bases across the country. In exchange for US military aid, the reactionary Philippine government enacted in 2007 the Human Security Act, recently amended as the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2020, which undermines basic democratic rights and is now being used as a weapon for intimidation and suppression. The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict was conceived in line with the US Counterinsurgency Manual.

The US is the biggest arms supplier of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. American troops directly participate in combat operations and are involved in the killing of civilians. US-supported drone surveillance and aerial bombing campaigns unleash terror among the rural population where these are disproportionately used against guerrilla units of the New People's Army.

Despite its recent defeat in Afghanistan, US imperialists have no plans to put an end to its endless wars across the globe. The past 20 years is a continuum of the US policy of waging war in line with its economic interests and geopolitical strategy – from Vietnam to Kosovo, to Kuwait and Iraq, from the Middle East to the African continent – resulting in the massive loss of lives, destruction of property, socioeconomic crises and outright violations of national sovereignty.

The oppressed and exploited people around the world, including the American people, must firmly stand and demand an end to the US global war of terror. They must demand the dismantling of US military bases around the world, the abrogation of one-sided military treaties, and an end to foreign military support for oppressive regimes, US military intervention, overseas military operations, and drone warfare being conducted by the US in different parts of the world. **UP**

Excerpted from 'End the 20-year global war of terror of the US imperialists', CPP 11 Sept. 2021.

ICC authorizes investigation of Philippines 'drug war' killings

The [International Criminal Court announced on 15 September](#) that its Pre-Trial Chamber I has granted the ICC Prosecutor's request to commence an investigation in relation to crimes committed in the Philippines "in the context of the so-called 'war on drugs' campaign" of the Duterte government.

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Then-ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda [requested the commencement of the investigations on 14 June 2021](#). [Pre-Trial Chamber I Judges Péter Kovács, Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-Gansou and María del Socorro Flores Liera found](#) that “there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation.” They noted that the specific legal element of the crime against humanity of murder has been met with respect to the killings committed in the Philippines between 1 July 2016 and 16 March 2019.

The ICC judges emphasized that “the so-called war on drugs campaign cannot be seen as a legitimate law enforcement operation, and the killings neither as legitimate nor as mere excesses in an otherwise legitimate operation.” The available material indicates, they said, that a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population took place pursuant to, or in furtherance of, State policy. **UP**



Photo: cpp.ph

Revolutionary forces in Southern Mindanao are intact – CPP

The Communist Party of the Philippines on 10 September denied claims by the Armed Forces of the Philippines that the revolutionary forces in Southern Mindanao is “on the brink of collapse”, declaring that “the CPP Southern Mindanao Regional Committee is intact.”

Marco Valbuena, CPP Chief Information Officer said, “All the key leadership duties of the Party in the region are being performed by high-caliber and experienced revolutionary cadres.” He further pointed out that the regional party committee has a deep pool of cadres “who

can be promoted when necessary to take on bigger and heavier tasks of leadership.”

On 7 September, AFP Maj. Gen. Ernesto C. Torres, Jr, bragged about the success of the military operations and community support programs in the Southern Mindanao region, as he presented 12 surrenderers whom he claimed were high-ranking leaders in the area.

Valbuena pointed out that the AFP general is misrepresenting ‘high-ranking’ regional cadres “so they can pocket more funds and boost their credentials.” He said some of the ‘surrenderers’ presented are in fact captives who are being denied legal representation, detained inside AFP camps and have no access to information and communication.

The false declarations of the AFP, Valbuena said, “would not deceive nor demoralize the Red fighters and revolutionary forces in Southern Mindanao.

“Despite the brutal suppression unleashed by the AFP, the peasant masses and Lumad people in the region continue to support and take part in the revolutionary struggle to fight worsening forms of oppression and exploitation.” **UP**



Filipinos call for an end to the Duterte regime.
Photo: Carlo Manalansan | bulatlat.com

CPP sees end to corrupt, inept Duterte regime before 2022 elections

The Communist Party of the Philippines on 7 September called on the Filipino people to “take advantage of the looming political crisis” and push their democratic resistance against the corrupt, terrorist and tyrannical Duterte regime. “More and more are becoming open to the idea of ending the tyranny even before next year’s elections,” the CPP said.

The CPP added, “A political crisis threatens to explode as Duterte clings to power amid the pandemic, destruction of the economy and people’s livelihood and exposure of large-scale corruption under his regime. There are intensifying contradictions within the ruling classes and between the ruling fascist regime and the people which can lead to major showdowns even before the elections.”

Reports by the Commission on Audit and investigations by the Philippine Senate showed that Duterte’s cronies are directly involved in pocketing billions of pesos, in the purchase of overpriced face masks, face shields and personal protective equipment from Chinese companies favored by Duterte.

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The CPP said that corruption under the Duterte government exacerbates the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. “Duterte and his accomplices prioritized their pockets instead of raising the country’s capacity to confront the grave health crisis. While Duterte and the bureaucrat capitalists fattened themselves by robbing and squandering the people’s money, the people suffered from oppressive lockdowns, lack of mass testing, contact tracing and hospitals and medical facilities, slow vaccine roll-out, neglect of nurses and healthcare workers, widespread unemployment, loss of livelihood and income and paltry economic aid”.

The pandemic continues to worsen, with daily new cases of 20,000. Hospitals are overwhelmed and many people sick with covid-19 and other diseases are being denied medical attention.

Meanwhile, the Duterte regime continues with the murder, arrest, red-tagging and ‘forced surrender’ of human rights defenders, activists, dissenters and community leaders. The CPP said, “Billions of pesos are squandered for bombings, shelling and strafing by the AFP, terrorizing the population in the countryside.”

The CPP called on the Filipino people to “take advantage of the situation to tirelessly advance their struggles to defend their rights and welfare. The people’s strength must be built in the factories, hospitals and offices, campus and communities... Let the streams of protest merge into a giant wave of people marching in the streets.”

The CPP also called on the New People’s Army to “intensify its tactical offensives and target the worst of the fascist criminals. Make the thunderclap of the armed victories echo the clamor for the overthrow of the monster Duterte.” **UP**



Communist Party of Peru founder and leader Abimael Guzman. Photo: cpp.ph

CPP, NDFP Honor Comrade Gonzalo

The Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on 12 September issued messages expressing sympathies on the passing of Communist Party of Peru founder and leader Manuel Ruben Abimael Guzman Reynoso, who was also known as Presidente Gonzalo. He died in prison on 11 September 2021 at the age of 86.

The CPP in their message declared that Comrade Gonzalo “deserves recognition for his promotion and defense of

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. He gave the best years of his life and sacrificed for the proletariat and oppressed masses of Peru, and their aspirations for national and social liberation.”

The CPP also acknowledged that Gonzalo “was the first to take initiative in using the term Maoism as a way of declaring higher appreciation for the great Mao Zedong and his epochal accomplishments, and acclaiming his theory and practice as third stage in the development of Marxist theory and practice”.

In their message, the NDFP declared, “The NDFP raises its clenched fist in revolutionary salute to Comrade Gonzalo – revolutionary proletarian intellectual, Communist fighter, thinker and leader; champion of Maoism, people’s war and international solidarity; a hero of the workers and peoples of Peru and the world.”

Comrade Gonzalo was arrested in 1992 and was imprisoned in an underground grave-like prison. He was made to face repeated illegal trials and was sentenced to several life sentences. Despite worldwide campaigns for his release, the Peruvian government refused to release him even when he was already terminally ill. **UP**



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