





THE NEGROS ISLAND REGIONAL PARTY Committee (NIRPC) gives the highest revolutionary tribute to Ericson "Ka Fredo" Acosta, 50, who was a champion of the cause of peasants and farm workers on Negros Island. We regard him in high esteem as he joins the roster of martyrs and heroes of the new democratic revolution like his beloved wife, Kerima "Ka Ella" Tariman-Acosta, succeeding the great heroes of the first Philippine Revolution. We also honor Joseph Jimenez, 52, for his years of service in the peasant movement and resolute commitment in the struggle for genuine agrarian reform.

Comrade Ericson Legaspi Acosta was ruth-lessly butchered by fascist soldiers of the Philippine Army's 94th and 47th Infantry Battalion in the early hours of November 30, 2022, while the whole country was preparing to commemorate the birth anniversary of proletarian hero and father of the Katipunan, Gat Andres Bonifacio. Rabid dogs of the military took Ka Fredo and local peasant organizer Joseph Jimenez from a peasant home in Sitio Makilo, Barangay Camansi, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental and killed them in the most heinous manner possible. They sustained severe in-

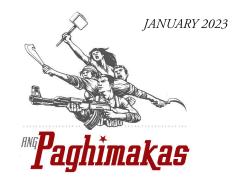
juries from stabbing and hacking, lacerations as a result of intense beating, and gunshot wounds.

We grieve with the family, friends, comrades and all the oppressed and exploited masses whose century-old struggles moulded Ka Fredo into a proletarian luminary. Furthermore, we commit to transform our utmost hatred and grief into militant courage and determination to resist the wicked and counterrevolutionary plan of the US-Marcos II regime to destroy the revolutionary movement in Negros Island and carry the people's war forward inspired by our heroes and martyrs like Comrade Ericson Acosta.

We are gladdened by messages and memories shared by Ka Fredo's closest friends and colleagues recounting his early years in the University of the Philippines-Diliman, his awakening as activist and cultural worker amidst the crucial struggle in the national democratic movement and his ripening into a full-time revolutionary. The unifying message is the legitimacy of the struggles of the Filipino people borne out of the rottenness of a semifeudal and semicolonial society that impelled a poet and artist like Comrade Ericson Acosta to tread the path of revolution.

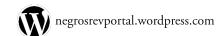
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Nagapasalamat ang *Ang Paghimakas* sa mga kontribusyon agud mangin madinalag-on ang ini nga isyu. Sa pagpauswag sang aton *Ang Paghimakas*, ginapangabay sa tanan nga bumalasa nga padayon nga mag-amot sang mga balita, piktyur, istorya kag iban pa nga sinulat. Nagapangayo man kami sang inyo mga suhestyon kag komentaryo paano pa gid ini pauswagon.





In 2018, Ka Fredo, with Ka Ella, arrived in Negros resolved to take part in the people's war on the island. He became a member of the Secretariat and Executive Committee of the NIRPC. He earnestly promoted the Third Rectification Movement in the NIRPC's five year program and played a vital role in its ideological, political and organizational invigoration amid heightened enemy offensives and counterrevolutionary campaigns.

Ka Fredo was among the leading cadres that facilitated the successful deliberation and drafting of the region's twenty-five year summing-up of its revolutionary experience and Social Investigation and Class Analysis (SICA) documents that served to further strengthen the unity among Party members and cadres.

Ka Fredo personally led several study meetings and conferences on the Advance Party Course and other Party and political courses right in the vicinity of enemy encampments and combat operations. He wrote scores of instructional and theoretical materials and gave timely and correct guidance to improve and further systematize Party and political education work in the region.

Bringing with him a wealth of knowledge, talent and experience in revolutionary cultural and propaganda work, Ka Fredo also spurred the regular release of *Ang Paghimakas*, CPP Negros' publication, and the launch of its literary folio, *Ispading*.

As regional cadre and National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant on the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER), he worked with other Party cadres and local mass organizations in intensifying antifeudal mass struggles on the island and the anti-fascist campaigns, as



well. Ka Fredo and Ka Ella's deployment to Negros Island was coincident with the escalation of Rodrigo Duterte's tyranny in Negros worsened by Memorandum Order 32 and the National Task Force-Elcac.

The peasants' struggle for land is an intense conflict with landlord-hacienderos that has resulted to serious cases of peasant killings and state-sponsored crimes aimed at repressing the resistance of Negrosanon peasants. In Barangay Camansi, where Ka Fredo and Joseph Jimenez were killed, peasant families have been fighting for their land from the Solas, a land grabber family based in Kabankalan City, since the 1940s. The peasants are too familiar with the fascist ways of state forces such as the 47th IB. They have experienced incidents of multiple arson, multiple murder, harassments, grave threats, damage to crops and slaughter of livestock over the years.

A modern-day Bonifacio

Ka Fredo often shared that he

was a late bloomer in the national democratic movement because of a "sickness"—petty-bourgeois arrogance. Giving his life fully to the people's democratic revolution and sharing the daily struggles of the masses were his cure. Indeed, he was unassuming and very approachable. He was modest in ideological and political discussions; always making an effort to give sharp but simple explanations that are easily grasped by comrades. He encouraged comrades to develop their talents and skills and was generous with his constructive critiques and suggestions.

Without question, Comrade Ericson Acosta is a modern-day Andres Bonifacio. Like Bonifacio, his poetry reflected the harsh reality of class oppression and exploitation and foreign domination, and acclaimed the great mass movement of the toiling masses for national liberation and social emancipation. Like Bonifacio, he was killed in dastardly manner by mercenary soldiers under the behest of avaricious foreign power and

local exploiting classes. His brutal murder in the hands of fascist terrorists will only incite greater class hatred for the rotten semicolonial and semifeudal ruling system and drive the people in their greater numbers toward revolutionary resistance and armed struggle.

Ka Fredo's revolutionary life, most of all, highlights the justness of revolution and shatters the reactionary state's malicious claim that revolutionaries are terrorists and to wage revolution against a tyrannical and oppressive system is terrorism.

The entire Party and revolutionary movement in Negros Island commits to the mounting clamour of workers, peasants, youth, women, church people, lawyers, cultural and media workers and many other sectors, organizations, and personages for justice and state accountability for the

murders of Ka Fredo and peasant organizer Joseph Jimenez.

However, to seek justice in a time of fascists and tyrants is to persevere in intensive and extensive guerrilla warfare based on an ever widening and deepening mass base. Blood debts incurred by the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be punished to bring justice to all victims of human rights violations and they must be made to pay dearly for the utter disregard of international humanitarian law and protocols of war.

We urge the finest sons and daughters of the people to emulate Ka Fredo's conviction in serving the people and the revolution to the very last. Join the New People's Army and take part in advancing the people's war to new and greater heights!

PAGHANDURAW SA KAUPOD

ni Ka Greta

Ang imo tingog akon gina-aningal
Malumanay, malig-on kag puno sang kaalam
May pasensiya sa pagpahangup kag pagpamati
Hasta maghiusa sa katuyuan kag handum
nga ginamithi.

May pagkanugon nga wala nagdugay bilang magkaupod
Sa kalipay kag kabudlay sa bukid sang rebolusyon
Magpaambitanay kag magtuon sa aton mga inagahin
Ululupod nga magtrabaho para sa pagbag-o sang katilingban.

Pila pa ka kaupod ang halaran sang luha Hasta malab-ot ang handum nga ginapangita Masakit batyagon nga kita ma-ulila Sang mga kaupod nga sa paghimakas nangin himata. Apang ang aton papel sa kabuhi Padayunon ang ila ginbayaan nga hilikuton May kapagsik kag puno sang entusiasmo Bisan pa mabudlay kag puno sang sakripisyo.

Pareho sang suba nga indi mahubsan sang tubig Bisan madamo pa sang luha nga mag-agas Indi dapat mahubsan sang pagtinguha Magpadayon agud sa pagpamigos kag paghimulos mahaw-as.

