



EDITORIAL

Raise high the red flag on the Party's 55th anniversary!

On December 26th, the Communist Party of the Philippines will celebrate the 55th anniversary of its establishment. One of the biggest task of the Party today is to strengthen itself ideologically, politically and organizationally to fully frustrate the enemy's suppression campaign, lead the masses in fighting the puppet, oppressive and fascist US-Marcos regime and advance the people's democratic revolution.

On the occasion of the anniversary, let us restrengthen the commitment of every cadre and member, whether old or new, to promote Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the basic principles of the Party as stated in its constitution and program. Let us again raise our fists and vow to do our utmost to raise our proletarian revolutionary consciousness, and serve and fight for the people's interests at all times, as each of us pledged when we

joined the Party.

Let us also celebrate on December 16 the revolutionary life of Jose Maria Sison, the Party's founding chair, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death. Let us firmly uphold his legacy of teachings in advancing the revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people.

Let us remember all the martyrs and heroes of the Philippine revolution. The highest tribute we can give them is the sustained growth and

invigoration of the armed struggle and mass struggles. This has completely belied the enemy's prediction that the Party, the people's army and the united front is on the road to decay and disintegration.

There exists favorable conditions for further arousing, organizing and mobilizing the Filipino people. The ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines is rapidly decaying. It is being clobbered simultaneously by economic and political crises caused by the rotten, oppressive, puppet and fascist rule of the Marcos regime.

It brings worse suffering to the Filipino people. It is the crucial duty of the Party to lead the broad masses of the people who strongly

desire to fight for their livelihood and well-being, and to defend their democratic rights.

Amid vast social unrest, the Party is in a position to lead the invigoration of mass struggles, and expand and strengthen the revolutionary mass movement both in the cities and countryside, along with the overall task of advancing the people's democratic revolution.

With all-out energy, let us expand and strengthen the Party and the organized masses. Rectify errors and overcome all weaknesses and vacillation. Bring together the collective anger of the masses, and lead their resistance especially in the face of grave oppression and exploitation. For new tasks, we need new forces who are full of enthusiasm, vitality and militance. Replace those who have left or have become passive.

The Party welcomed the joint statement of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) on November 23 to reopen peace talks.

We do battle on the negotiating table, as we wage armed struggle to achieve the same aim of a just and lasting peace. This is achieved through genuine land reform, na-

tional industrialization, national independence and genuine democracy.

Resist schemes of the reactionary state to use the talks as an instrument for deception to lure the NPA to surrender its arms, and take away its revolutionary strength. Reject the fake "amnesty" proclamation of the Marcos regime issued for the deceptive purpose of surrender. It only serves the self-interests of the renegade few who have turned their backs and betrayed the people's interests. They should be rejected, denounced and cast into the trashbin of history.

Worldwide, the correctness of rising up against foreign aggression




and fascism is being highlighted in heroic armed resistance of the Palestinian people, as well as the people of Myanmar and other countries. The NDFP timely launched an international theoretical conference on imperialism and war that served as occasion to strengthen the cooperation of various proletarian, anti-imperialist and liberation movements around the world, and to amplify the call to wage a just war and armed struggle against imperialist war.

Filipino communists are part of the global proletarian revolution against imperialism, the final moribund stage of capitalism. They represent the revolutionary liberation struggle of the Filipino people. They contribute to the global anti-imperialist movement by waging resistance against intensifying US hegemonism in the country in the form of increasing number of military bases and more frequent and bigger wargames in Philippine land and seas. The entire people should fight US schemes to use the country for its geopolitical interests in the Asia-Pacific, and link up with the global struggle to prevent the outbreak of inter-imperialist war.

In the cities and countryside, the Party and the revolutionary forces continue to grow in strength. The revolutionary mass movement of all democratic classes and sectors fighting for their interests are advancing vigorously. The antifascist, anti-imperialist and antifeudal united front is being strengthened and expanded as the broadest people's unity is being established to isolate the ruling Marcos regime. Most importantly, the NPA continues to strengthen along the path of armed struggle as the main weapon of resistance.

The Party is confident that, with all-out efforts of all its cadres and members, it will steadfastly lead the strengthening of the revolution in all fields of struggle, and succeed in advancing the national-democratic revolution in the Philippines towards its socialist future.



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Contents

Editorial: Raise high the red flag on the
Party's 55th anniversary!1

NDFP and GRP agree to reopen peace talks3

NPA-Iloilo twice attacks 82nd IB3

KM strengthens in universities4

21-gun salute for the Party's martyrs5

NPA-ST launches military trainings5

Youth in people's militia5

Military and NTF-Elcac corruption5

In short6

Massacre in Sitio Canada7

88th IB fire at 3 lumads7


Protests7

Dredging in Misamis Oriental halted8

Police arrests 7 anti-demolition activists8

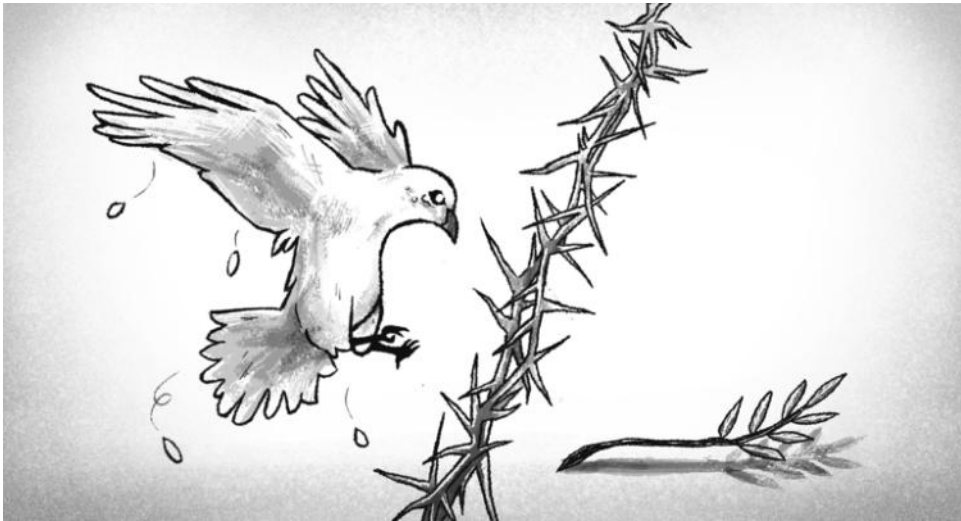
Genocide, made in America10

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NDFP and GRP agree to reopen peace talks

The Negotiating Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and senior cabinet and military officials of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) separately announced on November 28 plans to reopen peace talks. They publicized the joint statement signed by the NDFP Negotiating Panel and the GRP last November 23 in Oslo, Norway.



Comrade Julie de Lima, head of the NDF Negotiating Panel, addressed the public and read statements together with other members Comrade Coni Ledesma, and Nonoy Palima, and Ka Luis Jalandoni, senior adviser.

The Oslo Joint Statement is a declaration of intent or desire to reopen the talks and on how it will be carried out. It is a general declaration that combined the aspirations of both sides: the resolution of “deep-rooted socio-economic and political issues” and “resolving the roots of the armed conflict,” on the part of the NDFP; and on the other side, the “end of the armed struggle” and “transformation of the CPP-NPA-NDFP,” which the GRP aims for.

“The Joint Declaration signed by both the NDFP and the GRP is

significant in itself and opens doors to many potentials and futures in the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in our homeland and for the welfare of our people,” said Ka Luis Jalandoni, member of the NDFP National Executive Council, on the day the joint statement was signed. He said, both parties are ready to continue negotiations while “adhering to the successes and learning from the lessons of the past.”

The joint statement is the product of a series of informal discussions held in the Netherlands and Norway. These started as early as 2022 between emissaries of the GRP and the NDFP with the help of the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG). It was signed for the GRP side by Special Assistant to the President Antonio Ernesto F. Lagdameo Jr., the emissary Gen. Emmanuel T. Bautista (Ret) and Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. On the NDFP side, Ka Julie, Ka Luis, Ka Coni, and Ka Nonoy signed. The signing was witnessed by RNG Special Envoy Christina Lie Revheim.

The NDFP thanked the RNG for its steadfast support and persistent efforts to bring the two parties together for renewed talks. Norway’s foreign minister Espen Barth Eide and other officials attended the signing ceremony in Oslo.

Full of thorns and spikes

While the CPP welcomed the negotiating panel’s signing of the joint statement, it said the path to opening the talks, and especially towards a just and lasting peace, is filled with thorns and spikes.

This is only the first half step to reopening negotiations. It may lead to the actual reopening of peace talks, and also possibly not.

“There are peace talks because there is a war,” explained Marco Valbuena, chief information officer of the CPP. “The NDFP and GRP represent two co-belligerent sides of the civil war in the Philippines. They are adversaries and represent diametrically opposed interests and goals, but meet in negotiations under the declared objective of achieving a just and lasting peace.”

According to Ka Julie, the talks are confronted with practical matters such as the terrorist designation of the GRP to CPP, NPA, NDFP and also Ka Luis. Also, the NDFP will find it difficult to negotiate if its consultants who have been illegally arrested and imprisoned by the GRP for the past six years remain in jail.

NPA-Iloilo twice attacks 82nd IB

TWO ARMED OFFENSIVES were carried out by units of the New People’s Army (NPA)-Central Panay (Jose Percival Estocada Jr Command) against 82nd IB troopers on November 12 and November 21.

On November 12, the NPA-Central Panay attacked a unit of the 82nd IB at the border of Barangay Atimonan and Barasalon in Janiway. The NPA hit the 82nd IB unit operating in Sityo Matagsim, Barangay Aglobong, Janiway, Iloilo on November 21, around 2 pm.

Civilians bore the brunt of the 82nd IB’s retaliation when it indiscriminately fired at three houses in the area on November 21. One resident was injured in the shooting.

Kabataang Makabayan strengthens in universities

The strengthening of various Kabataang Makabayan (KM) chapters in several key private and public universities in Metro Manila were successfully announced recently. On November 30, they launched various activities to celebrate the 59th anniversary of their organization.

KM in the universities

The KM-Armando Mendoza announced on November 20 the re-establishment of their chapter on October 10. They held a discussion on the orientation and constitution of the KM, paid honor and tribute to the martyrs, planned activities and elected a new executive committee. The chapter was named after Armando Mendoza, a University of Santo Tomas student in the 1970s.

"At a time when the reactionaries are shameless in their crimes against and oppression of the Filipino people, KM's response is still the people's democratic revolution," said the chapter.

At the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) in Sta. Mesa, Manila, KM-Balangay Kira Mindoro members held a lightning rally on November 29. Before the rally, chapter members carried out OP-OD (*oplan pinta-oplan dikit* or operation graffiti and poster) inside the campus and painted the calls "Advance the people's war!" "KM@59" and others.

Chapters of KM in the University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman and UP-Los Baños also conducted OP-OD in their campuses. The KM-Eduardo Aquino chapter posted announcements around the campus of UP-Manila about its establishment last November. KM revitalization in another private university and a state university in Metro Manila for the last half of the year was also reported.

Issues of the youth

KM's role within the universities and colleges is key to encourage the youth to take the path of the people's democratic revolution and advance mass struggles. In Ang Bayan's interview with Rose, a KM member at a university in Cavite, she said oppressive conditions in their school persist. She said that these are some of the issues that arouse the patriotic spirit of the youth.

"The government's funding for the basic needs of students is unfair," Rose said. They complain of

severe shortages of classrooms and facilities affecting class schedules and the quality of teaching.

University fees are burdensome for someone like her despite free tuition. Her family's meager monthly income of ₱15,000 is not enough to support her education and family expenses. Rose added, the state of education in the country is far from the proper service she expects.

KM to the people's army

These problems and issues encouraged Ka Andrea to leave the university and join the New People's Army (NPA).

She said she witnessed the inaction to such issues under the current rotten system and government and the limitations of struggling within the prevailing system. "They (reactionary government officials) are indifferent to the legitimate calls of the people." She knows armed resistance will achieve a society that will truly respond to the needs of the youth.

Before she took up arms, Ka Andrea participated in organizing KM among young farmers. "Even when there was a threat of military encampment and state surveillance in our organizing, we successfully built the KM chapter in the area, we moved with caution and secrecy."

In the NPA, she has assisted well in the unit's formation of a municipality-level chapter of KM in its area of responsibility. They had 50 youth from 12 barangays attend the gathering. "The youth who attended were full of hope and enthusiasm. That was my first experience in building a large KM chapter at a higher level," she said. **AB**



**Revolutionaries in EV and ST hold
21-gun salute for Party martyrs**

UNITS OF THE New People's Army (NPA) in Eastern Visayas and Southern Tagalog performed a 21-gun salute for martyrs of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the revolutionary movement in their respective regions.

On November 30, the NPA-Southern Tagalog conducted a 21-gun salute for Josephine Mendoza (Ka Sandy), one of the region's Party leader. At the same time, Party units here also launched secret gatherings and honors for her.

On November 23, the NPA-Eastern Visayas gave a silent 21-gun salute for the Imelda 6, the six comrades who were martyred in the bombing of the 8th ID in Barangay Imelda, Las Navas, Northern Samar on November 23, 2022. They saluted Ka Helenita Pardalis (Ka Elay), Ka Gil Giray (Ka Biboy), Ka Mamoy, Ka Mela, Ka Mike and Ka Joshua.

The National Democratic Front-EV also honored the martyrs of Dolores 22, Catbalogan 10 and Bobon 7, all victims of the terrorist bombing of the 8th ID, and all the martyrs of the Philippine revolution.

Youth in people's militia

IN A VILLAGE in Southern Tagalog, two Kabataang Makabayan (KM) members now serving the people's militia make great contributions. They assist in ensuring the security of the residents and the New People's Army (NPA) unit when it encamps temporarily near their community.

Ka Maki, 23, and Ka Aja, 21, are enthusiastic, resourceful and brave in performing the work of the people's militia. The two are farm workers who work on a daily basis in the coconut and rice fields. They occasionally go out to town to work in construction or as guards in piggeries, poultry or duck farms.

In one series of operations by soldiers, they served the NPA as eyes and reporters. They regularly patrol mountains to gather information. They also deliver food support from mass organization and Party branches to the NPA.

One time, Ka Maki boldly went to a farmer's house which the military passed by earlier. He calmed the terrified farmers down and gathered details from them about the soldiers and as to which direction they were heading. He immediately reported these to the NPA unit.

Ka Aja, meanwhile, regularly does reconnaissance. He assists in erasing traces of Red warriors footprints and encampment. He also joins the unit from time to time for trainings and studies, and helps Red fighters move to neighboring villages. He became more active after being given medical attention by comrades.

**NPA-Southern Tagalog
launches 2 military trainings**

TWO UNITS OF Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) completed consecutive military trainings in November in Southern Tagalog guerrilla fronts. The exercises were conducted amid focused military operations by military and police forces in guerrilla fronts across the region.

The training lasted 7-10 days. Primary and secondary NPA officers, fighters, as well as people's militia forces attended.

According to Ka Guillen, political officer of one unit, "Our training was a success despite intense operations of the enemy. We have raised the capacity and determination of the Red fighters to fight and defeat the arrogant enemy."

The training covers the study of basic tactics and techniques in hand-to-hand combat, familiarization with their weapons to actual firing of guns. Secondary and primary command officers were trained.

Led by officers, organized movement was ensured through maneuvers in both offensive and defensive combat scenarios. Increasing the level of strength and resistance of each fighter was also achieved through daily exercises.

The training further strengthened the support and cooperation between each member of the NPA unit. Ka Guillen concluded, "We are sure that our unity will be further strengthened as we coordinately move forward in our struggle."

**NTF-Elcac and military defraud
BDP's pig and carabao program**

NO PIGS NOR carabaos promised by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the National Task Force-Elcac to farmers and indigenous minorities arrived in the barangays of Abra. Not even a piglet, residents said. These commitments are part of the "agricultural support" with funds from the Support to Barangay Development Program (SBDP) of NTF-Elcac.

The residents angrily said the expenses they incurred for building the cages for the promised animals have gone to waste. Instead of carabaos, they were provided with a few plants. Instead of pigs, every resident were given four chicks.

People were made to appear stupid when the AFP gave out feeds for pigs even when no piglets were given. NTF-Elcac also distributed feeds for fish when there are no fishponds in the area, and neither were fingerlings provided.

In Abra province, NTF-Elcac placed 28 barangays under the SBDP project starting in 2021. A staggering ₱236.7 million was allocated for it. Despite this, the barangays did not benefit from the livelihood and development projects that the program supposedly funded.

According to the New People's Army (NPA)-Abra, "The people of the province know that the SBDP has become a milking cow of AFP officials. They have pocketed its billions of funds and has provided no benefit to the barangays."

Human Rights Violations

(December 1, 2022 – December 1, 2023)

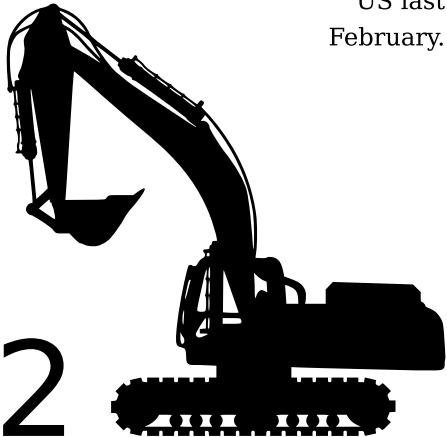
Number of victims:		Number of cases:
127,386		957
Killing	Abduction	Coercion
79	87	898
Frustrated Killing	Arrest and detention	Forcible evacuation and displacement
28	155	4,524
Torture	Assault	Threats, harassment, intimidation
44	58	103,736

Source: Special Report, Vicious repression of the US-Marcos regime, Ang Bayan, December 2, 2023

₱4.5M



Jollibee's settlement in the form of back pay for the 9 workers it illegally terminated in a branch in the US last February.



2 reclamation projects permitted to continue operations despite the supposed suspension of activities in Manila Bay. These are owned by Duterte crony Dennis Uy and its Chinese partner companies.

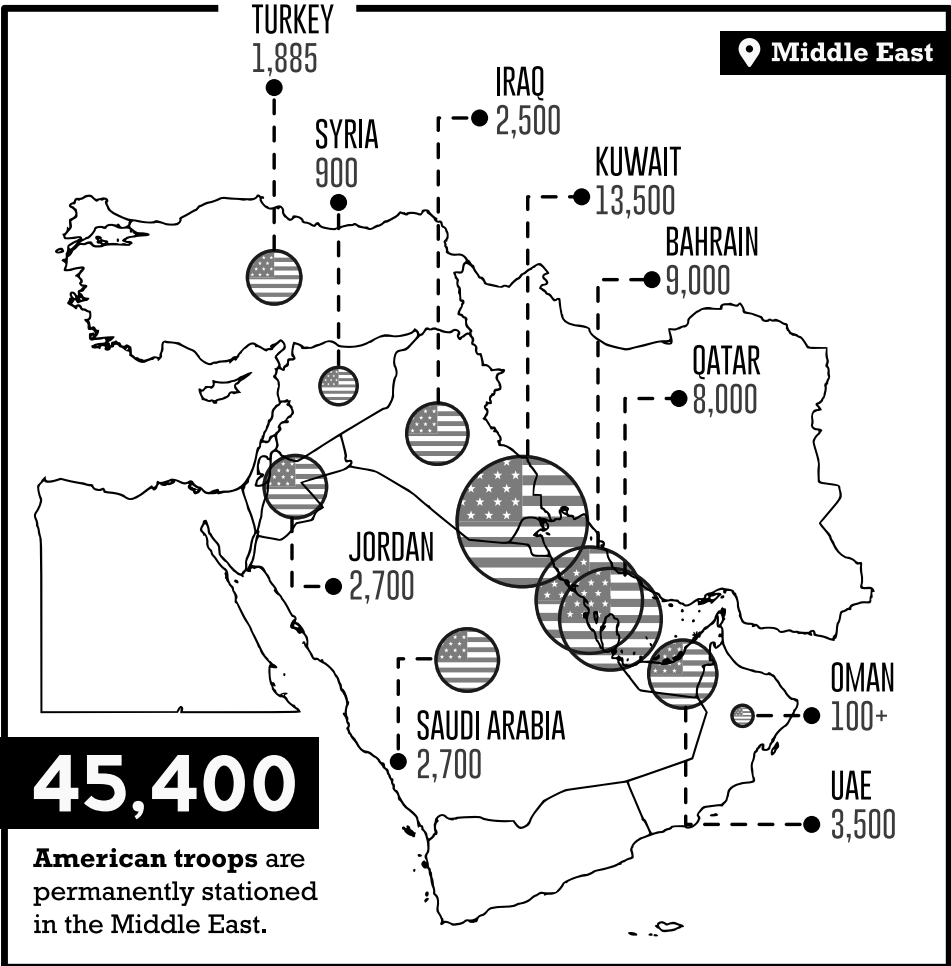
90,000

US- and Europe-made artillery shells used monthly by Ukraine in its war against Russia, twice the number the US and Europe can manufacture for the same period.

3 MILLION

killed in the US genocide in Vietnam, Cambodia, East Timor, Bangladesh, and South Africa which were sponsored by Henry Kissinger, known war criminal, who served as US secretary of state.

This is one of the reasons why the people from various parts of the world celebrated his death at the age of 100 last November 29.



Rodrigo Duterte's hands are drenched in Lumad people's blood

Spectres of fascist past and crimes against humanity endlessly haunt Rodrigo Duterte. As doors are reopened for International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate cases against Duterte and his clique, new information has surfaced surrounding a massacre of Lumads in Agusan del Sur.

On March 15, 2020, 88th IB troopers massacred five Higaonons in cold-blood in Sityo Canada, Barangay San Vicente, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. Among them are two minors. Relatives said Jellyboy Hagayhay (12), Ryan Lumista (16), Emon Hagayhay (18), Man-apyagan Lumista (19), Nieto Pasandigon (21), and Pablo Angkamping (40) where chanced upon and accosted by soldiers in their community. They were on their way to the town center to sell their produce.

The six were bound and tortured the entire day. By nightfall, five were killed by soldiers. Jellyboy was kept alive. Soldiers dumped the victims bodies in a shallow grave and the family without informing their families. A month passed before the family located the grave and the still tied-up bullet-riddled remains.

Jellyboy, witness to the heinous

crime, is kept hostage at the 8th IB camp in Impasug-ong, Bukidnon. He has been treated like a slave for three years in the military camp. The fascist demons refuse to release the child. They even threaten Jellyboy's family.

When the crime was discovered, the community, along with their datu, confronted the soldiers. To settle and pacify the people, the soldiers forced relatives of the massacre victims to each accept ₱5,000. The barangay captain kept silent, being a paid agent of the National Task Force-Elcac.

Beside the massacre, the PNP Special Action Forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) burned down the school and all the houses in Sitio Canada three days after the massacre. Fifteen houses



in the village were reduced to ashes and almost nothing was left of the Lumad school built by religious groups and the community. The butchers burned books, papers, and other school materials.

Unsatisfied, soldiers and police additionally knocked down fruit trees and cleared an area in the community to make way for a helicopter landing pad. The 88th IB was then led by Lt Col Franklin Fabic (now a colonel of the Unified Command Staff for Intelligence of the AFP WestMinCom).

Since 2019, Ang Bayan has recorded at least 22 cases of human rights violations directly involving the 88th IB. More than 3,500 farmers and Lumads are victims of these cases.

AB

88th IB fires at 3 lumads

SOLDIERS OF THE 88th IB rained bullets on Lumads Levi, Jemboy and an unnamed person in Sitio Takukon, Barangay Indalasa, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon last November 17 in the morning. The three were in the forest to collect durian when soldiers suddenly shot at them.

The victims suffered bruises, wounds and trauma from scurrying and passing though a cliff just to survive. After the incident, the 88th IB boasted of seizing a weapon in its false claim of an encounter with the New People's Army.

The next day, the indigenous leader of the area, Datu Andihal, complained to the barangay and confronted the soldiers of the 88th IB encamped in Barangay Indalasa but was brushed off.



Bonfacio's 160th day commemorated. Bonifacio Day was commemorated by national-democratic forces in Metro Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao on November 30. They called for higher wages, jobs, public services, rights and independence. Young members of Anakbayan, who celebrated their 25th founding anniversary on the same day, joined the march.

March for Palestine. Hundreds of activists and Moros marched in Manila on the afternoon of November 25 to demand a just peace in Palestine and an immediate halt to the genocidal campaign and bombing by Zionist Israel in Gaza. They planned to pass by the US embassy but were blocked by the police. They marched from Luneta to the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Roxas Boulevard where they continued their program.

Residents stop dredging operations in Misamis Oriental

Residents of a barangay in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental won an initial victory when an order to temporarily halt sand mining operations was issued against a company involved in the Dolomite Beach project in Manila Bay of the previous Duterte regime. A local residents' association in Barangay San Nicolas in the said town stopped the destructive dredging operation of the Premium Megastructure, Inc. (PMI) on September 7.

Residents of Barangay San Nicolas and its neighboring barangays are full of dread. The Mindanao Energy (Minergy) company's hydropower plant has been operating in the upper part of the Kabulig River since 2013. Residents fear that the dam might collapse and submerge their communities. The PMI operation exacerbated this threat.

Apart from endangering the community, the company's quarrying and dredging destroys the environment.

What is PMI?

PMI started as a construction company in Leyte in 2012. Its operations grew after being awarded a public contract to build a highway in Leyte. But the company grew fastest under the Duterte regime where it

expanded to reclamation and dredging operations. It is owned by Alfredo Comendador Jr.

In Region 10, sand dredging is its main operation. In addition to causing damage to the region, the company is also embroiled in destructive infrastructure projects elsewhere in the country. Aside from Dolomite Beach, the company is a contractor for the Cebu-Cordoba Link Expressway and Bataan Transshipment Hub (BTH) projects, both among the largest state infrastructure projects. BTH is a port project that will dump 235 hectares of land into Mariveles Bay.

Destructive dredging

In 2021, PMI submitted an application for quarrying in the Kabulig River located in Barangay San Juan

and its neighboring barangays San Isidro and Solana in Jasaan. PMI plans to haul excavated gravel from Barangay Los Banzon, in the same town, and bring it to Manila Bay for reclamation. The residents immediately opposed it.

Residents fear for their lives because four barangay sub-villages could be swept away by flood. Residents near the coast of Barangay Bubuntugan and Lower Jasaan will also be affected.

Members of the association gathered signatures in their respective barangays to petition PMI operations to stop. They brought it before the Jasaan municipal hall. They also swiftly submitted a petition to the municipal and provincial Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) offices.

On March 13, 2022, PMI operations resumed. San Nicolas former barangay captain, Warren Manggo, allowed the company to lease the 15-hectare land of resident Sabas Tagarda. He justified this by saying

Continue on page 9

Police arrests 7 anti-demolition activists

State forces violently arrested seven anti-demolition activists and residents of Sitio Casia, Barangay Bangkal, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu while they were protesting against the illegal demolition of 39 houses last November 28-29. The police arrested four residents, Marjhun Amoroto, Belt Sasar, Lito Padillon and Cris Gabutan as well as Anakbayan-Cebu leader Kei Galon, Deviemar Opo of Anakbayan-Lapu-Lapu, and Howell Villacrucis of AMA-Sugbo-KMU. They were released after two days.

According to the groups, the demolition was illegal because no court document was presented by the police. The two groups disclosed that authorities themselves admitted that they carried out a "secret demolition" because they had no legal basis.

The struggle of the people in Sitio Casia for their housing rights began even in 2006. The land is claimed by the Mangura family.

Extrajudicial killing. A platoon of the 62nd IB summarily killed farmer Bunny Tubalado in a brazen shooting in Sitio Karanawan, Barangay Amuntay, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental on December 6. Soldiers stormed his house around 5 a.m. and shot him in a falsely claimed "encounter."

Abduction. State forces abducted Mar Silos, an organizer of

fishermen and farmers, in Barangay Montecillo, Sariaya, Quezon on November 29. He is a member of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Magsasaka at Tagapagtaguyod sa Ikalawang Distrito-Quezon. He is known as an ardent defender of the rights of fishermen and farmers in Central Quezon.

Shooting. The 50th IB indiscriminately opened fire in Barangay Mataragan, Malibcong, Abra on November 20. The 50th IB claimed an "encounter" occurred in that area which was immediately denied by the New People's Army-Abra. The alleged seizure of an M14, 3 M16, 1 K3 Light Machinegun, and two bandoliers by the 50th IB is also fabricated. **AB**

Genocide, made in America

From November 24 to 30, Israel temporarily stopped bombing Gaza to carry out a "prisoner swap" in which Hamas released 105 of the 345 it captured in the Al Aqsa Flood operation in exchange for 240 of the nearly 10,000 Palestinians imprisoned in Israel. Among those released by Hamas were two Filipino migrant workers.

After a 6-day "humanitarian pause," at 7 a.m. Palestinian time of December 1, Israel again sent warplanes over Gaza. Within 24-hours, 184 Palestinians were killed, 589 were injured and 20 houses were destroyed in the bombardment. Before this, more than 15,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli bombing. More than 5,300 of them are children.

All the aircraft Israel uses are from the US and all the bombs these drop are American bombs. In total, 80% of Israel's weapons are US-made.

Funding Zionism

The US imperialist created and maintains the evil Zionist state of Israel. Since World War II, Israel has received \$146 billion, the largest aid the US has ever granted to its allies and colonies. It was almost entirely in the form of military aid, except for a few years when US provided economic aid to "industrialize" the country.

This huge fund is key to developing the Zionist fascist machinery. Before launching the Al Aqsa Flood, in which Palestinian forces invaded

various camps and locations in Israel, it was touted as "the most technologically sophisticated military in the world." This aid was also used to establish and develop the Israeli arms industry in partnerships with monopoly American arms makers. Some of the largest companies are Elbit Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries and Rafael.

With its current genocide in Gaza, the US Congress has adopted an urgent proposal to add \$14.3 billion to the previous \$3.3 billion annual military aid to Israel. This aid comes in the form of Hellfire missiles, 55mm cannon artillery, night-vision, bunker-buster (anti-tunnel) munitions and new military vehicles. These are in addition to the Iron Dome missiles and aerial bombs the US already supplies. US also supplies Israel with chemical and biological war matériel.

It is estimated that Israel has poured \$48 billion into the two-month genocidal campaign. One third of this amount was shouldered by the US.

Special role in the Middle East

At its core, Israel's Zionist state



and fascist machinery exist to maintain US hegemony in the Middle East. Since the 1980s, the US has maintained here the largest weapons stockpile outside its own country, to ensure that weapons can be quickly deployed in the event of any "regional conflict." Hidden inside the country is the so-called War Reserve Stockpile Allies-Israel or WRSA-I controlled by the US. Annually, the US allocates \$200 million to fill the armory. Similar storage exists in South Korea and Japan, and same facilities are now being set up by the US in the Philippines.

In October, US president Joseph Biden pushed to remove restrictions on Israel's use of weapons from this stockpile so that it could freely use US weapons in the genocide in Gaza.

The US awarded Israel the status of a "major non-NATO ally" and tightly aligned its fascist army with the American armed forces. Since 1983, the US and Israel have jointly developed the Israel Defense Forces, which is essentially an offensive force for the bloody occupation campaign of the Palestinian territories.

The US also maintains its own forces inside Israel, in addition to the hundreds of thousands stationed in various countries in the Middle East. In 2017, the US publicized the construction of a permanent American base inside an Israeli military camp in the Negev desert, 20 kilometers from Gaza. Two months before the Al Aqsa Flood, the US poured \$35.8 million into expanding this secret base, codenamed "Site 512" and dubbed "a base within a base."

From page 8

that "no resident objected to the entry of PMI." Because of this, the residents filed a case of "falsification of public documents" before the Ombudsman against Manggo.

Worse, PMI's permit stipulates they would be doing dredging in San Nicolas, but the company actually did black sand mining.

Because of this, the residents' resistance grew stronger. They expanded their signature campaign to other barangays that will be affected by the project, and

protested in front of the ongoing PMI operation. The residents' demands include PMI's violation of the prescribed amount of gravel to be taken.

The residents of San Nicolas know their fight is not over. The temporary restraining order (TRO) imposed on the company will expire this December. Also, its quarrying continues in the nearby barrios of San Isidro and Solana. They vow to continue to stand up for their land and the environment.

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