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EDITORIAL:

US imperialist warmongering vs China threatens the lives & independence of Filipinos

The warmongering of US imperialism, particularly its provocation of a military confrontation with China on the issue of Taiwan, including its goading of the strengthening of operations of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard in the West Philippine Sea, brings great danger to the lives of Filipinos and to the country's independence.

The establishment of US military bases as part of the US' "theatre of war" against China directly tramples on the rights of the Philippines to self-determination. Using the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) as support to the US war machinery violates the independence of the country.

In 2023, the construction of US military bases began in nine "agreed location" in the country. Among the completed projects were the jetfuel depot and command center at the Lal-lo Airport in Cagayan (a civilian airport); expansion of the runway and construction of warehouse and airplane hangar in Basa Airbase in Pampanga; jetfuel storage depot in Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu; and huge buildings and barracks at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. Construction has started in deepening the port, construction of an airport and military camp in Balabac Island in Palawan and other EDCA (Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement) sites for the exclusive use of US troops. In September 2023, the US announced its desire to establish more military bases in addition to existing ones.

The US tightens its grip of the operational control of the AFP through its control of the latter's arsenal. Increasing volumes of bombs, arms and used military equipment are stockpiled on the pretext of the "modernization" of the reactionary armed forces. The US uses these weapons and munitions in its aggressive intervention in the "counter-insurgency" campaigns of the AFP and the Marcos regime against the Philippine revolutionary movement that remains the strongest and biggest obstacle to its imperialist ambitions in Asia. This deepens the AFP's dependence on US financial and military aid, making it subservient to US dictates.

Notwithstanding official pronouncements that the AFP is now concentrating on "external defence", the vast majority of its battalions are still deployed in guerrilla fronts of the New People's Army (NPA), many of which they have repeatedly declared "insurgency free".

The so-called Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC) of the AFP purportedly for the protection of the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines in Palawan (where American and Chinese ships are always present), and in Batanes (where the US plans to establish their camp because of its proximity to Taiwan); is in fact an extension of the US "archipelagic defense strategy" that lays down a missile and artillery network in its "first-island chain". This promotes the scheme of containment of China. This strategy provides the mainland US a "deep defense" in the event of war against China.

In reality, this "archipelagic defense strategy" is an offensive plan. It is part of the broader US Indo-Pacific Security Strategy. Together with this is the strengthening of the US military alliances in Asia, like the AUKUS (Australia-United Kingdom-United States) and the QUAD (US, UK, India and Japan).

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Marcos Jr.'s Germany visit met with militant protests

Protests met Marcos Jr. as he visited Germany last 12 March.

"It is wrong to welcome this Marcos junket, the main purpose of which is to deodorize the stinking image of Marcos and his family in the international community," according to the BAYAN-Europe, which organized the protests together with Alpas Pilipinas, Gabriela-Germany and German solidarity organizations. The Filipino and solidarity activists mounted a rally in front of the posh Ritz-Carlton Hotel where Marcos Jr. and his entourage stayed. Among the organizations that joined the rally were Solidarity International, ARARAT Armenian Collective, MLPD, German Filipino Friendship, Kurdish Women, Resbak, Philippinen Buro, Interburo. They carried posters and slogans, among them: stop the killings!, return the stolen wealth, justice for the martial law victims, stop violations of international laws, and called on human rights defenders in Germany and Europe to demand that the Marcos Jr. regime be held accountable for its gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL).


Solidarity organizations in Germany have been among the most committed supporters of the movement against the Marcos fascist dictatorship in the 70s and 80s.

Marcos Jr.' visit in Germany and the Czech Republic was also denounced by the NDFP International Office as a "display of warmongering disguised as diplomacy, and of political frivolity and extravagance". It said that the visit, which solicited more military aid from Germany and Europe, further stokes tensions in the West Philippine Sea threatening Philippine territorial sovereignty, and enables more violations of international humanitarian laws by the Marcos Jr. regime.



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Activists also called on the European Union to stop supporting the Marcos Jr regime by ending military aid. Germany and the EU are both signatories to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which supplies military aid, weapons and other military equipment to the Philippines. Activists called on the Germany government and the European Union to stop military aid to the Philippines.

They reminded the EU about its strong condemnation of the war on drugs and human rights violations, and the February 2022 EU Parliament issued a resolution to withdraw the Philippines' GSP+ and other incentives, such as the benefit of zero tariff (no layer tax) on goods from the EU, if human rights violations did not stop. Germany is the largest trading partner of the Philippines in Europe. 

On 26th year of CARHRIHL, NDFP calls out GRP's mounting IHL violations

On the 26th year of signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), the National Democratic Front of the Philippines International Office (NDFP IO) called out Marcos Jr's "mounting cases of violations of international humanitarian law."

The CARHRIHL is a landmark agreement signed by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the NDFP on March 16, 1998. In a statement, the NDFP IO condemned the Marcos regime's "recent spate of killings, indiscriminate killings, cases of torture, and aerial bombing campaigns on civilian areas."

"The deliberate targeting of civilian areas via successive aerial bombing campaigns demonstrates the US-Marcos regime's callous disregard for CARHRIHL and the sanctity of human life. International humanitarian laws exist precisely to protect civilians in times of conflict, yet Marcos has chosen to ignore these laws with reckless abandon, leaving a trail of death and destruction in its wake," the NDFP IO added.

The statement cited recent aerial bombing campaigns by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) last March 4 when the 81st Infantry Battalion (IB) dropped explosives and mounted artillery shelling in areas between Quezon and Camarines Sur; last February 22 in Negros Occidental when more than 10 bombs were dropped followed by machine gun strafing nearby residential areas; and on January 6 when the AFP dropped bombs and fired rockets in areas near Lumad communities in Bukidnon.

The NDFP IO condemned the Marcos regime's violation of the rule of "proportionality" in international laws that govern the rules of war. "Marcos Jr's nationwide bombing spree in the last two months demonstrate a clear disregard for the fundamental principle of minimizing harm to non-combatants during armed conflict, leading to unnecessary suffering and destruction," said the NDFP IO.

In addition, the statement pointed out the Biden administration's culpability for Marcos' war crimes "for continuously supplying weapons, bombs, war planes, and even directly supervising special military operations of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines)."


"These mounting cases of IHL violations and the complicity of US imperialism in these heinous crimes against humanity present the most compelling basis to indict and prosecute the US-Marcos war criminal state," the statement concluded. 




image: philippinerevolution.nu

(Continued from page 2..)

The NDFP supports the people of Taiwan in their militant struggle against using the country as a pawn in the US geopolitical strategy. The NDFP condemns US interventionism in the internal affairs of China. At the same time, the NDFP also condemns China's militaristic response towards Taiwan. The NDFP supports the proletariat and the peoples of China and Taiwan in their desire for a peaceful and orderly resolution of their reunification.

The NDFP, the proletariat and people of the Philippines, and the whole world stand against the US warmongering and using the Philippines as staging-point in its aggression in Taiwan and against China.

As the US provocation against China intensifies, the possibility of war increases. This is a manifestation of their increasing rivalry amidst the deepening crisis of the world capitalist system.

The NDFP calls on the Filipino people to stand up and defend their lives and the independence of their country. A powerful anti-imperialist movement should be generated to prevent the Philippines from being unnecessarily dragged into an inter-imperialist war, and suffer the consequences thereof. 

Another Filipino activist detained, deported by Marcos Jr. regime



image: Bayan Europe

Marikit Saturay, a young Filipino migrant, was returning to the Philippines last March 7, 2024 to join the celebrations of her grandmother's 100th birthday. When she arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, she was stopped, questioned and then denied entry by Immigration officers. She was questioned about her supposed involvement in "anti-government" activities which is why she has been put on the Philippine immigration's "Black List".

Marikit was detained in immigration for three nights without proper sleeping arrangements before being deported back to the Netherlands. She was even denied access to legal services.

Two lawyers who went to see her were given the run around by immigration officials.

Marikit's family left the Philippines in 2006 to join their father who had asked for political asylum in the Netherlands. She is a member of Migrante-Netherlands, is an accomplished singer and song writer, and, is well known in the hip-hop community in the Netherlands.

Her deportation is the second incident since December 2023, when Filipino-Swiss Edna Becher was detained and deported upon arrival in the Philippines. Becher was also questioned on her involvement in so-called "anti-government" activities.

A statement issued by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan – Europe (BAYAN-Europe) on Marikit Saturay's deportation, expressed the pattern of political repression of the current Marcos Jr. regime to criminalize dissent, which the organization argues "deserves the condemnation of the international community."

The statement also stated that... "this campaign against Filipino migrant activists exposes the Marcos Jr. regime's hypocrisy in milking profits from OFW remittances while at the same time barring migrants from returning to their homeland.

The statement also notes that the unjust detention and deportation of Marikit "comes a few days before Marcos Jr. arrives in Europe to sign maritime security agreements with Germany and the Czech Republic."

"Marcos Jr. himself should be declared persona non-grata in Europe," the statement added. 