

EDITORIAL

Broaden the people's resistance to the US-Marcos regime

The Filipino people's collective actions to fight for their livelihood, defend their rights, advance justice, and promote national freedom have been steadily intensifying in the past year. In the face of the unresolved crisis of the ruling semicolonial and semifeudal system, the US-Marcos fascist regime has carried out more and more anti-national and anti-democratic policies and measures. These are rousing the masses of the people to unite and fight against its rule.

The number of workers and rank-and-file employees fighting for their right to living wages and salaries are steadily expanding. Jeepney drivers and operators are taking a stronger stand in their defense of their livelihood against the jeepney phaseout. Supporting them are the youth who are also protesting against rising tuition and education costs. Throughout the country, people are defending their rights to land, mountains, rivers and oceans, and resources against the encroachment

and destruction by foreign and local big capitalists and landlords. They are holding the US-Marcos regime to account for its gross failure to prepare and act in the face of the severe damage caused by the El Niño-induced drought, and for its environmentally destructive policies.

Broad ranks of the people rose in opposition to the charter change

scheme of Marcos' minions, which aim to reinforce neoliberal policies in the 1987 constitution, and allow them to extend the term of office of politicians. Also growing is the people's opposition to US military intervention in the Philippines, its war provocations and dragging the country to its imperialist conflict with China, even as people call for a peaceful resolution of the issues between the Philippines and China regarding maritime territories in the West Philippine Sea. Support for the Palestinian people against the genocide of the US-Israeli alliance continues to expand. They are bravely



resisting Marcos' intensifying fascism. They won a victory in the Supreme Court's decision against Red-tagging and in favor of granting *writ of amparo* to its victims.

The left and right militant people's resistance are indicators of the unresolved economic and political crisis of the ruling system. Under the oppressive and ruthless measures of the anti-people and puppet Marcos regime, the masses of the people have no alternative but to unite, act and fight. With Marcos acting oblivious, the people's clamor for urgent and long-term changes must be amplified. To fight effectively, broader ranks of the masses of the people must be mobilized.

Mobilizing the broad masses and unleashing their initiative in struggle must begin at the level of their political consciousness and readiness. In line with the Party's basic principle, the more active and advanced sections of the masses should be mobilized in order to rouse the middle and win over the least active. Accordingly, it is the duty of the leading national-democratic forces to rouse and encourage the masses to action by reaching out and uniting with their various organizations, or building various types of associa-

tions based on the masses' united stand on key issues of the people.

Large numbers of the masses are ready to join national-democratic organizations and are determined to act for comprehensive social change. They must be organized in their numbers. But many more are willing to join and participate on the basis of various progressive, patriotic and humanitarian causes, or on the basis of widespread and common grievances concerning their work or livelihood. They are willing to enter into different forms of organization, and are open to different forms of actions. They must be reached, the appropriate forms of organizations established and guided along the path of militant resistance. Creativity should be encouraged in the methods and forms of organizing and mobilizing



the masses.



To this end, it is the urgent duty of all national-democratic forces to thoroughly immerse themselves among the masses and undertake social investigation, propaganda and organization. They must go and devote full-time in the factories, poor rural and urban communities, as well as in schools, offices, and wherever the masses live or work. Through this, they can determine the appropriate or effective forms, whether old or new, of propaganda and mass organization.

They must be bold, courageous, filled with initiative and creative in conducting mass propaganda and organizing. They must overcome all forms of bureaucratism and liberalism, and guard against populism, tailism, commandism and being content with superficial propaganda. They should do away with old methods and styles of work which prevent the national-democratic forces from knowing the concrete situation of the masses, their various concerns, common aspirations, and the level of their consciousness and readiness to act and fight.

The Filipino people are ardently desirous to wage resistance in the face of the acute crisis and the incessant burden and oppression caused by the anti-people and fascist US-Marcos regime. They are determined to advance their struggle for their welfare, livelihood, and fundamental rights, and for the nation's freedom and security.

The people's fervent desire to fight must be matched by the determination of the national-democratic forces to arouse, organize and mobilize the workers, the peasants, the toiling masses, and all the democratic sectors. Party cadres and members should serve as role models in all-out mass work, rousing and mobilizing the people to deepen and widen the Party's roots among the masses. They must lead the way in nurturing the spirit of relying and trusting the masses, and affirming the belief that only the masses create history.

AB

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IPT finds US, Duterte, and Marcos Jr guilty of war crimes

The International Peoples' Tribunal (IPT) ruled on May 18 that the Duterte and Marcos Jr regimes, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), and the US represented by Joseph Biden, are guilty of violating the human rights of Filipinos, and international humanitarian law.

The IPT is an international court composed of legal experts that conducts investigations into violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in different countries. It was established in 1979 and has conducted 46 sessions, including six on the Philippines.

Séverine de Laveleye, member of the Chamber of Representatives of Belgium, and one of the jurors of this year's IPT, said their hearings determined that systematic violations of human rights of people critical of the government has persisted from the previous Duterte regime to the current Marcos regime, with support from the US.

Evidence include recorded cases of surveillance, intimidation, abduction and forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and massacre of civilian critics of the government all committed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) under the

counterinsurgency program of the two regimes.

Some outstanding cases heard were the AFP massacre of civilians, including the Fausto family in Negros, the Tumandok people in Panay, and the volunteer teachers of Lumad schools in Mindanao.

These also include the aerial bombings of communities that the military linked to the New People's Army (NPA). Record by Karapatan show 378,203 victims of human rights violations are related to the bombings under the Duterte regime, while 22,391 were under the Marcos regime.

The tribunal also heard cases of the military's inhumane treatment of NPA members. The hearing finds that the military continues to extrajudicially kill NPA fighters who are *hors d'combat* or incapable of fighting. Also documented were cases of military desecration of the remains

of slain revolutionary fighters.

"The number and frequency of these cases show that this practice is part of the GRP's policy," the judges added.

In this regard, the IPT also emphasized US support in the Philippine government's counterinsurgency program, which they said is patterned after US strategy.

It can be recalled that one of the Balikatan exercises' objectives is to strengthen the GRP's capability in counterinsurgency. In addition, the US allocated up to \$1.14 billion worth of military equipment to the Philippines.

Meanwhile, human rights groups in the Philippines agreed with the IPT verdict.

"Local mechanisms have failed to address the victim's search for justice here in the Philippines, so the International People's Tribunal is a huge arena and opportunity for the victims to present their cases of human rights violations perpetrated by the Duterte and Marcos Jr. administration," Atty. Sol Taule, lawyer of Karapatan, said in a press conference.

Human rights groups plan to disseminate the IPT's verdict to communities and other organizations, and present it to congress, as part of their action to hold those involved in human rights violations under the two regimes accountable.

"When we take the verdict of the IPT to the communities, we will explain to our people the need for continuous education and action for the protection and promotion of our rights," said Raymond Palatino, general secretary of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan. AB



Who are the top Red-taggers?

In the past years until now, the battalions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, units of the Philippine National Police, as well as officers of the NTF-Elcac and the Anti-Terrorism Council, have led the relentless Red-tagging, vilification and malicious implication of civilians and their organizations in the armed movement. This has long been practiced by the reactionary state but was accelerated and became more systematic under the previous Duterte regime up to the current Marcos regime. This is part of the reactionary state's dirty counterinsurgency war against civilians.

Under Duterte, no sector, industry, organization or individual with just a hint of being critical of his rule, including critics of his criminal "war on drugs," was spared from his threats. In 2018, under the guise of suppressing "Red October," an alleged plot to topple his regime, Duterte carried out a widespread campaign of implicating forces and organizations that oppose his regime. Duterte and his military officers threatened thousands of media personnel, students, leaders and members of national-democratic organizations, athletes and artists.

Over the past years, various military units have conducted countless activities, forums and campaigns in the media, schools and in the countryside to defame and Red-tag. Even at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, these units were busy maliciously linking civilians to the armed

movement in order to force their "surrender" and dismantle their mass organizations. In universities and peasant communities, these same military units launched various "youth summits" that were always anchored in the demonization of progressive institutions and open mass organizations.

The regime used many barrio and town officials to oppress their constituents and cover-up AFP crimes in their respective jurisdictions.

The most blatant representative of this tactic is the NTF-Elcac, which coddles the worst Red-taggers like Hermogenes Esperon Jr, Colonel Harold Cabunoc, Mocha Uson, Lorraine Badoy, Jeffrey Celiz, Salvador Panelo and many others. Recently, Bato de la Rosa led wholesale Red tagging in the senate along with traitors like Noel Legaspi, Joy

Saguin, Kate Raca and others who now serve the AFP. The SMNI Network, owned by Duterte's henchman and now fugitive Apollo Quiboloy, served as platform for the most intense and severe defamation and threats. Facebook, Youtube and other social media sites have also served as platform for their deadly vilification and threats.

Threat to life, liberty and security

In a decision penned as early as July 4, 2023, the Supreme Court declared that Red-tagging or the malicious linking of civilians to the armed movement, is a threat to the life, liberty and security of its target victims. The decision favored the petition for *writ of amparo* by Siegfred Deduro, former Bayan Muna Party-list representative. The decision, written by Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda, was made public only on May 8.

This is the first time a court has given a legal definition to the concept of Red-tagging in the Philippines. "Labeling a person 'Red' often comes with frequent surveillance, direct harassment, and in some instances, eventual death. Since being associated with communists or terrorists makes the Red-tagged person a target of vigilantes, paramilitary groups, or even state agents, it is easy to understand why a person may fear that being Red-tagged puts their life and security at risk," the Supreme Court wrote.

The Supreme Court said the *writ of amparo* can be granted to the victims of Red-tagging, as well as to the victims of "vilification, labeling, and guilt by association because it is "easy to understand" the victim's resulting fear.



US, Australian war games in the Philippines continue

Balikatan 39-24 officially ended on May 10 but thousands of American soldiers remain on Philippine soil and waters for the second series of Salaknib-24 that started back in April. The US will "quietly" launch many more subsequent war games in the country. Australian soldiers are still in the country for the Kasangga exercise.

On May 11, the Salaknib was conducted in the town of Basco, Batanes. Under the guise of a "port improvement project", the US Army and the Philippine Army began hauling stones from the Basco port. The said dock is being touted as a "civilian port" but will in fact serve US warships. The port adds to other facilities being built by the US in Chadpidan, Basco and in San Rafael, Itbayat and Mavulis Island.

At the same time, the Kasangga exercises between the Philippine Army and the Australian Defense Force (ADF) with the participation of 100 Filipino troops and 50 Australian soldiers started on May 13 at the headquarters of the 5th ID in Gamu, Isabela, and will last until June 21.

The war games will include firing of mortars and drone operations

that will surely cause unrest in communities, as well as "anti-terrorism operations" focused mainly against farmers and activists.

Meanwhile, the US will launch the RimPac war games in various parts of Asia and the US from June 29 to August 4. RimPac (Rim of the Pacific) has been described as the world's "largest naval war games". The Philippines will be participating.

Anti-Balikatan 39-24

At the end of Balikatan on May 10, various groups burned the US imperialist flag before the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. They condemned the US for trampling on Philippine sovereignty, its human rights violations, and dragging the Philippines into its war with imperialist rival China. Groups also protested and



hung streamers in Ilocos Norte where the last leg of the Balikatan was held from May 6.

Meanwhile, the Kabataang Makabayan (KM) in Australia and Katipunan ng Gurong Makabayan (Kaguma) launched their respective activities to denounce Balikatan. KM painted graffiti at the US consulate in Melbourne in the first week of May.

Kaguma members hung a large streamer on a bridge in Malibay, Pasay on May 10. It bannered the calls "Fight the imperialist war! Promote the people's democratic revolution!"



Return our 5-year franchise! Hundreds of jeepney drivers and operators protested on May 16 before the LTFRB in Quezon City to condemn the order to apprehend those who refused to submit to the forced consolidation of franchises. The drivers and operators demanded the return of their 5-year individual franchises for their livelihood. On May 14, they also protested before the Supreme Court demanding the court respond to their petition to stop the forced consolidation and implementation of the PUVMP.

Search for KMU-SMR worker leader in military camp.

The relatives of William Lariosa, labor leader abducted in Southern Mindanao, launched a search mission on May 14. They stormed the camp of the 1003rd IBde in Barangay Malagos, Davao City following a tip that Lariosa was being kept there. They also went to the regional offices of the CHR and DOLE in Davao City to appeal the case of the missing leader.

Health Worker's Day commemorated. On May 7, health workers marched in Manila and Baguio City. They demanded living wages, job security, more hospital staff, labor rights and the Filipino people's right to health. They also launched

protests and other activities in the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod, and Cebu, in Camarines Norte, and in the regions of Soccsksargen and BARMM. They were led by Health Workers United for Wage Increase and the Alliance of Health Workers.

PLDT workers to strike. Out of a total of 4,041 PLDT union members, 3,390 voted in favor of launching a strike amid the management's refusal to respond to their call to open CBA negotiations for 2024-2027. They conducted the strike vote on May 14 to 15 in all PLDT branches and offices nationwide. Three months have passed since the union submitted its notice for a negotiation but the company has failed to respond and has deliberately delayed the start of the negotiations. They also held a protest before DOLE in Intramuros, Manila on May 13.

Fight for the 73-hectare land in Angeles City! Farmers and residents from Barangay Anunas, Angeles City, Pampanga picketed DAR and Congress on May 13 and 14. They called for a return of their 73-hectare land in Sitio Balubad taken away by Clark Hills Properties Corporation. A resolution was filed in Congress to investigate the land grabbing.

Oppose the operation of Makilala Mines Corporation Inc in Kalinga

The Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF)-Kalinga called on national minorities and peasants to collectively oppose the operation of Makilala Mines Corporation Inc (MMCI) in the town of Pasil, Kalinga. This company is a subsidiary of Australia's Celsius Resources.

MMCI's investment in Kalinga follows Ferdinand Marcos Jr's pimping of the country's resources during his recent visit to Australia. His regime awarded the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) to the company in March. The MPSA granted to the company is valid for 25 to 50 years.

MMCI will cover the vast land that is part of the ancestral land of the Balatoc people. Its operations will plunder around 2,500 hectares of ancestral land.

MMCI will mine the Maaliano-Caigutan-Biyog (MCB) gold and copper deposits lining the Pasil River. The company will pour ₱13 billion into the MCB Copper Mining Project to start its operations this year. The mine is expected to start earning profits during its second year of operation. The MCB deposit lies next to the Dickson deposit previously mined by Batong-Buhay Gold Mines Inc and its various partners.

In line with the MPSA, the national government will receive a share of the production including the meager excise tax on mineral products and a 4% royalty, as well

as some taxes and fees. MMCI will pay a measly ₱183,000 per year to the local government of Pasil. Meanwhile, MMCI is expected to extract 2.25 million tons of ore at the beginning of the operation, and double it in succeeding years.

Processed gold and copper mined by MMCI in Kalinga will be exported abroad. It will be supplied to imperialist nations for automation and the trending "green technology".

Dangerous and destructive

Mining will bring nothing to the people of Kalinga but disruption and widespread destruction of land and mountains. MMCI will use the sub-level open stoping (SLOS) method digging tunnels up to 600 meters deep. These tunnels will be used for the coordinated extraction of ore.

At the end of the mining operation, 78% of the mine tailings will be dumped in these tunnels. The rest of the remaining waste will be processed to purportedly remove the toxic chemical and convert it into agricultural soil or piles for flood control and construction. A separate dam will be built to

contain water from the tunnels and ore processing by-products that contains copper, acids and various toxic chemicals.

The mine will hog water and electricity supply. A large dam will be built to collect clean water from Kafacrután Creek. It will divert water from the Pasil River which is the main waterway in Kalinga.

This will also affect the power supply in the Cordillera as MMCI will draw 12 megawatts for its operations. In addition to sourcing from the national grid, the company will also draw power from four electrification projects under construction in Kalinga.

Offices, processing plants and other facilities will occupy 31.83 hectares on the surface.

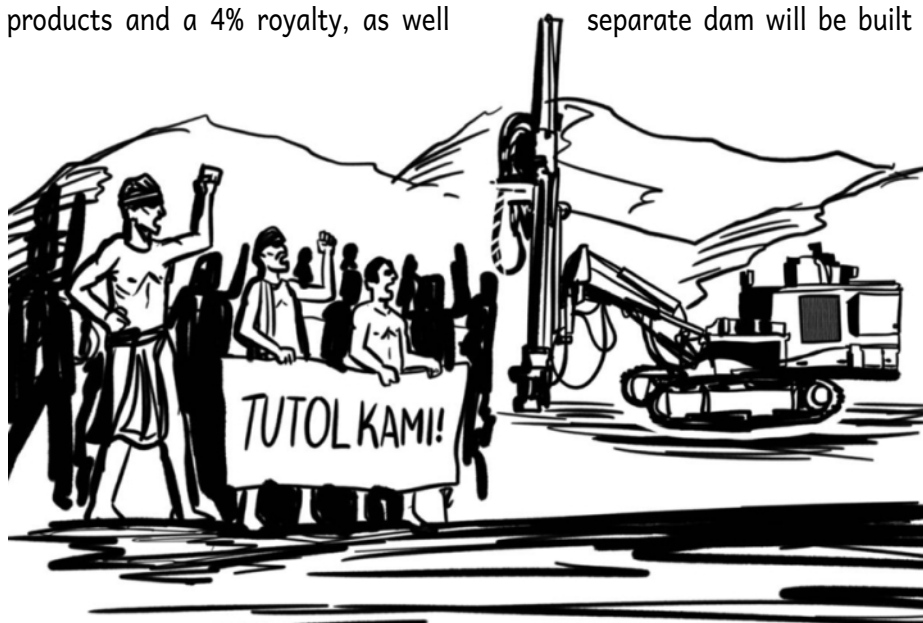
The state will build the Lubuagan-Batong Buhay-Abra Road spanning 85.5 kilometers to serve MMCI. Processed copper will traverse along this road to the ports of Salomague, Cabugao and San Esteban, all in Ilocos Sur.

MMCI colludes with the reactionary government in speeding up the process to open the mine. In tandem with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), it divides the national minorities and incites conflicts to prevent them from uniting and opposing the mine. As in many cases throughout the country, the NCIP manipulated the indigenous people to circumvent the community's Free, Prior, and Informed Consent required by law to allow the company's mining operation.

Military and police units serve as mine guards. A large-scale combat operation disguised as counter-insurgency is being launched in the mountains of Kalinga to suppress the people's opposition to the project.

From CPDF-Kalinga's primer on MMCI.

AB





Justice remains elusive for Marawi City residents

A FEW WEEKS before the 7-year anniversary of the bombing by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Marawi City, residents staged a protest to demand the extremely delayed justice. On May 13, residents who have yet to return to their communities gathered at Rizal Park in the city.

They condemned the Marawi Compensation Board (MCB) for shortchanging the compensation they deserve to rebuild their destroyed houses and properties. Instead of giving them sufficient funds, the MCB came up with a new "method" of calculating damages deducting their properties' depreciation cost (decrease in value of property due to age or damages). The older the house, the greater the deduction and thus lower compensation. In line with this, a claimant's mandated compensation will automatically be slashed by 60% to 85% if the property has been standing for a minimum of 10 years before being bombed by the AFP.

This runs counter to the procedure earlier prescribed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation Act. This law stipulates compensation based on the "fair market value" resulting from consultations with claimants, or the "replacement cost" or "repair cost" of completely destroyed or partially damaged residential, cultural and commercial buildings. The MCB does not have the authority to change the calculation standards already stated in the law, the protesters said.

The national government will need to allocate at least an estimated ₱5 billion per year to compensate all those damaged by the AFP. The MCB will exist for only five years, after which the victims will receive nothing.

Benguet miners barricade

MINERS OF THE Dontog-Manganese Pocket Miners Association (DOMAPMA) barricaded against the big mining company Benguet Corporation, Inc. (BCI) in Sitio Dalicno, Itogon, Benguet on May 13. The barricade is part of their struggle to defend their rights to land and livelihood against BCI's forced seizure of DOMAPMA's pocket mines and unjust increases in mining equipment rentals.

At the behest of the BCI, local agencies imposed a ban against DOMAPMA's small-scale mining operations on the basis of "regulation" and "environmental issues" allegedly caused by the operation. The miners believe that this is just a pretext for the BCI to encroach in the area.

About 500 to 1,000 workers will lose their livelihood due to the illegal stoppage of their livelihood. This will also affect the livelihood of the indigenous people in the community and neighboring barangays, and even in other provinces in the Cordillera and Cagayan Valley who work here.

Even before banning small-scale mining operations, BCI had already tried to operate in DOMAPMA areas, including some parts of the barangays of Ampucao and Virac. The company colluded with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to railroad and falsify documents for a special permit. They aimed to circumvent the process of obtaining a Free, Prior, and Informed Consent from the area's indigenous people.

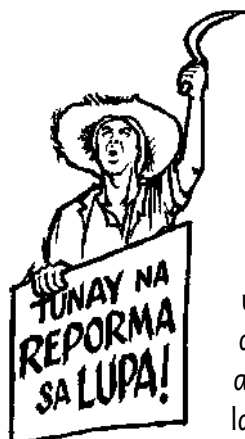
Before this, the residents of Barangay Ampucao built their own barricade against the abusive and plunderous BCI last April. They demanded lower rental costs for mining equipment.

Tinang farmers win 68 hectares of land

THE REACTIONARY GOVERNMENT officially recognized ownership by 90 farmers belonging to the Malayang Kilusang Samahan ng mga Magsasaka ng Tinang (Makisama-Tinang) of the 68 hectares of land in Hacienda Tinang in Concepcion, Tarlac on May 8. This is the result of a three-decade struggle for the land and the relaunching of their land recovery campaign in the form of *bungkalan* (collective land cultivation) on June 2022.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) awarded the Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to the Tinang people after several revocations amid many protests, dialogues and camp-outs.

"We succeeded because of our collective actions to advance our rights and fight for justice. Without our unity and assertion, our right would not have been given voluntarily despite the justness of our demand. We really have to fight for it," according to Alvin Dimarucut, chairman of Makisama-Tinang.



While being awarded their full land title, the 90 Makisama-Tinang farmers also demanded the dismissal of all cases filed against Tinang 83 such as obstruction of justice, usurpation of property rights, human trafficking, and child exploitation. The Tinang 83 are farmers and their supporters who were arrested while launching their *bungkalan* in June 2022.

"Clean" energy in Batangas for dirty profit

Big local and foreign business drool over the province of Batangas because of its natural resources and its vital location in the country and the region.

For several years, the reactionary state has been prating about reducing reliance on fossil fuels (oil and coal) as the country's source of energy. Under the Duterte regime, the country began to allow foreign investors in renewable and clean energy. Under the Marcos regime, it allowed 100% foreign ownership of such facilities.

The demand of many sectors of society for clean energy to protect the environment and save the world from climate change is valid and just. But this is not the goal of foreign companies and their comprador bourgeois partners, as well as bureaucrat-capitalists, who have quickly jumped into the renewable energy bandwagon.

Only a few families and companies nationwide own plants that generate and supply electricity, using wind, water, coal and LNG. The Ayalas and Aboitiz, businessmen Manny V. Pangilinan, Ramon Ang and Enrique Razon Jr. have such facilities in Batangas. Sen Loren

Legarda's son Leandro Leviste who owns Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings Inc (SPPPHI) is also based there. The Tan family operates the Citicore Solar Power Plant in Tuy that supplies electricity to Emperador and Tanduy Distillery in Balayan and Lian.

In 2016, Leviste built SPPPHI's first solar farm on 160 hectares of flat land in Calatagan. In 2023, Leviste and Razon bought two more solar farms in Batangas. They plan to build the widest solar farm covering the province, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.

Also in December 2023, Pangilinan announced the bankruptcy of Roxaco Land Corporation in Nasugbu. At the same time, Central Azucarera Don Pedro Inc (CADPI)—one of the two sugar factories in the province and the second largest in the country—was partially closed.

By the year 2024, the reason for Pangilinan's decision that threatened the livelihood of thousands of Batangueño sugarcane farmers was exposed. He announced in March that he had bought Solar Phil New

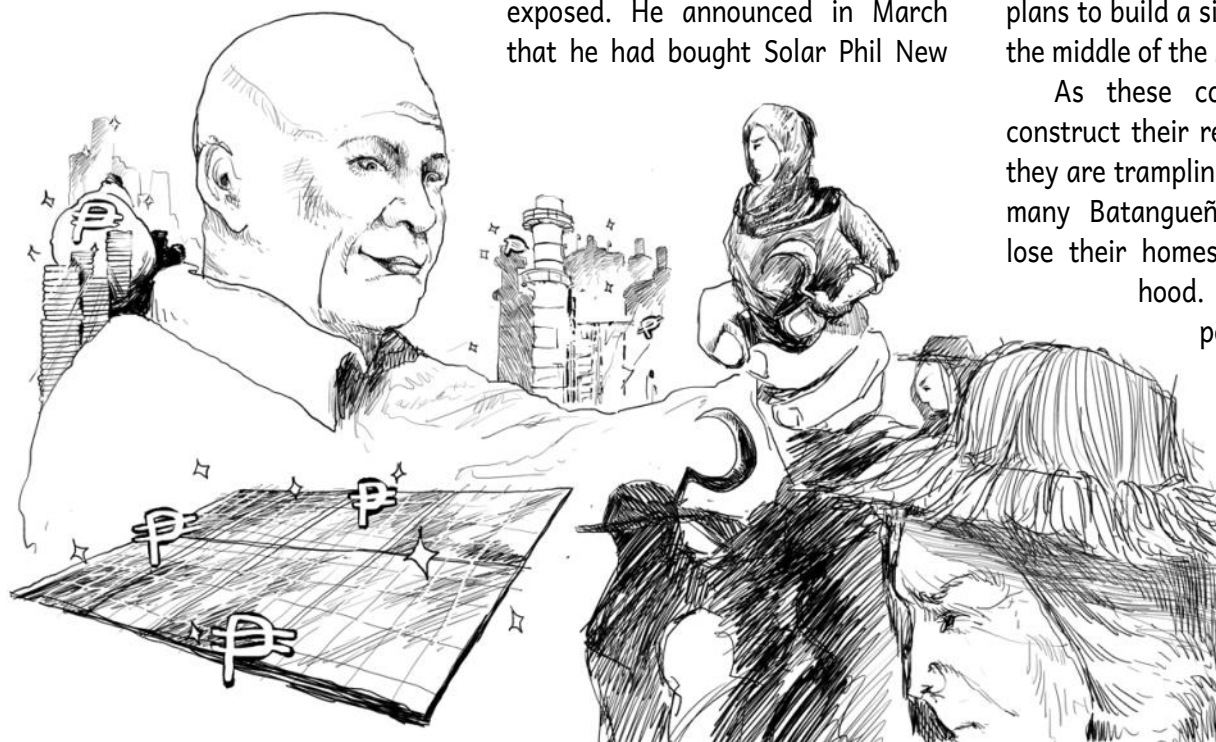
Energy Corporation (SPNEC), a company under Leviste's SPPPHI. In exchange, he sold Roxaco to Leviste. The wide and flat sugarcane field like Hacienda Roxas favors Leviste to easily install thousands of solar panels.

These big capitalists claim that they aim to produce cheap electricity for the country, but the reality is just the opposite. The price of electricity only continues to rise because the market is monopolized by a few. Those who control the supply themselves also control the distribution.

Thousands of farmers and fisherfolk are being evicted from their communities to make way for the plants and facilities. These include the 26,000-hectare geothermal powerplant of Abotiz in San Juan, Lobo, Rosario and Taysan, the 10,000-hectare solar farm of Leviste and Razon in the western part of Batangas.

Basic Energy's wind powerplant will be added to the scene, covering 2,835-hectares of land along the coast of Balayan and Calatagan owned by Ramon Villavicencio. The Philippine National Oil Company plans to build a similar plant right in the middle of the Mabini sea.

As these companies race to construct their respective facilities, they are trampling on the welfare of many Batangueños who stand to lose their homes, land, and livelihood. This is compounded by environmental destruction due to irresponsible coastal development and poisoning of water resources in the Verde Island Passage. **AB**



69%

chance that the current El Niño in the Philippines will transition to **La Niña** from July to September.

It will bring frequent and heavy rains which will cause floods, especially in the eastern part of the country.

Source: PAGASA



63.6%

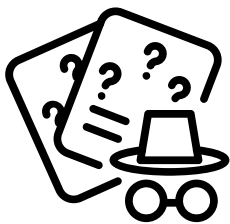
less foreign companies that pledged to invest in export-processing zones in the Philippines during the first quarter of 2024, compared to the same period in 2023.

This runs counter to the "commitments" Marcos boasts of getting from his overseas trips.

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

70%

increase in cybercrime cases in 2023 compared to 2022, contrary to promises of the **SIM Card Registration Law** passed in October 2022.



Cases were mostly online scams, which doubled from 7,203 in 2022 to 14,030 in 2023.

1.6 terabytes



of **data** taken by online hackers this May from **Philippine National Police** computers detailing the personal information of **589,615 registered firearm owners**.

The incident is only the latest in many cases of breaches in state agencies' public databases that expose sensitive private citizen information.



1 IN EVERY 3

Filipino children is **stunted** due to severe malnutrition and lack of access to **quality child services**.

Source: PIDS-Edcom 2

May 27, 1999

when the Philippine Senate ratified the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) allowing the free entry and exit of American troops and the unhindered entry of their planes and warships into the country's land, sea and air.

While considered a treaty by the Philippines, it is only an executive order (EO No. 199) in the US.

May 16, 1966

when the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China was launched under the leadership of Mao Zedong and the Chinese communists. For the next ten years, millions of Chinese youth and citizens rallied to reject modern revisionism, resist the attempts of a few to bring China back to the capitalist road, and fought to strengthen socialism in China.

The GPCR was defeated when center-right elements within the communist party prevailed in 1976. They dismantled the communes, brought back private ownership of land, privatized public assets and opened the economy to US imperialist plunder.

Bombings, arrests and military and police violence

In recent weeks, state terrorism has been rampant under the Marcos regime. Cases of bombings, illegal arrests and harassment by filing charges of "terrorism financing" against democratic organizations and sectors have been recorded.

Bombing. The Philippine Air Force jet fighters dropped 10 bombs on the barangays of Peñablanca, Cagayan on May 10 at 2 a.m. These fell on Sityo Ebi, Lapi and nearby barangays. Shocking explosions, strafing and jet fighter flights were heard as far as Baggao, Enrile, Amulung and Tuguegarao City. The military's terrorist attacks on the communities forced at least 690 families to evacuate.

Arrest. Manilyn dela Cruz, a Dumagat-Remontado, who is 4 months pregnant, was arrested on April 21 by soldiers. She was accused of being a member of the New People's Army (NPA), and charged with multiple criminal cases. Before being arrested, she was hit by a bullet when soldiers indiscriminately fired at the hut where she was staying with her family in Sityo Pinamapayan, Barangay Umiray, Dingalan, Aurora.

In Taguig City, NGO worker Maria Salome Crisostomo-Ujano, 67, was convicted and imprisoned on May 16 on charges of rebellion. Ujano was falsely implicated in an encounter between the NPA and soldiers in Quezon that occurred in November 2005.

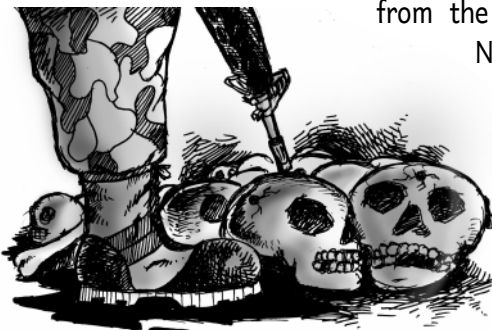
In Cebu City, on May 13, 26 current and former employees of the Community Empowerment Resource Network (Cernet) Inc (three of whom are deceased) and a labor leader were ordered arrested on charges of "terrorism financing." The organization is falsely accused of funding the NPA-South East Negros. The victims posted bail for their temporary release.

Indiscriminate firing. The 94th IB indiscriminately fired their weapons in Barangay Carol-an, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental on May 6, falsely claiming an encounter. The shooting forced more than 480 residents of Sityo Tagoc, Bobon, and Matampa of Barangay Carol-an to flee their homes. Among those forced to evacuate are 146 minors and 14 elderly citizens.

Violence against women. Wives of political detainees who visited the National Bilibid Prison on April 21 were stripped naked. One of them was forced to squat 10 times by a prison official. Under the pretext of searching for illegal drugs, women visiting the jail are routinely forced to squat and to have their private parts searched.

Intimidation. Agents of the 10th ID threatened and harassed Ricardo Baron, 71, organizer of Transmission-Piston on May 9 in Agdao, Davao City. They "talked" to him for two hours and "asked him to surrender."

In Ilocos Norte, local police arbitrarily confiscated questionnaires from the Alliance of Farmers in Ilocos Norte (AMIN) used to survey community conditions during this El Niño season in Barangay Puzol, Pinili on May 10. AMIN said policemen went to a resident's house where the documents were confiscated.



Youths commemorate Al Nakba amid Zionist Israel's brutal genocidal campaign in Palestine

ALONG WITH MILLIONS of people worldwide taking actions in solidarity with the Palestinians, youth and other sectors marched to the Israeli embassy in Bonifacio Global City (BGC) in Taguig City on May 15. They again condemned the US and Israel for their genocide in Gaza, especially their attack on Rafah, dubbed the "final sanctuary" for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Police and BGC guards violently attempted to disperse the protest, injuring 15 rallyists.

Other progressive and national-democratic groups held a separate protest in Quezon City.

The action is in solidarity with the international call to commemorate the 76th anniversary of Al Nakba (The Catastrophe) when the Zionist movement first violently expelled the Palestinians from their land to establish the "Israel" state. Worldwide, people are intensifying actions against Zionist Israel amid its indiscriminate bombing and attacks on Gaza. This includes the students' stepping up their protests at more than 100 major universities in the US, as well as in France and Australia.

Protesters said the genocide happening today at Gaza is worse than the 1948 Nakba, thus people around the world must work earnestly to have it stopped.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has killed more than 38,000 Palestinians in Gaza, with more than 2 million displaced and driven out of their communities.