



EDITORIAL:

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## EDITORIAL:

## AFP's plan to buy \$7.1bn-worth of missiles and fighter jets smacks of warmongering

Amid widespread hunger and poverty, Department of Defense secretary Gilbert Teodoro announced the plan for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to buy missiles and 40 jet fighters at the cost of US\$7.11 billion. Teodoro announced the plan after a Congressional hearing related to the 2025 budget. The fighters will be purchased from American arms companies and their subsidiaries in other countries such as South Korea.

Teodoro justified that the jet fighters will be used for "territorial defense." However, the AFP's attack planes and helicopters are used mainly in its 'counterinsurgency' campaign against the revolutionary movement and people resisting in the countryside, and not in the West Philippine Sea. These soon-to-be purchased jet fighters will certainly be for this use as well.

Under the Marcos Jr. regime alone, at least 60 cases of bombing, shelling and strafing were recorded from July 2022 to June 2024, including 32 incidents of aerial bombing. FA-50s and Super Tucanos were frequently used, as well as Agusta Westland AW109 and T129 ATAK- helicopters. The highest number of bombings and strafing was recorded in Bukidnon, followed by Northern Samar, Abra, Kalinga, Cagayan and Aurora. There were also bombings in Oriental Mindoro, Western Samar, Misamis Oriental, Apayao, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Quezon and Camarines Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, Agusan del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Negros Oriental, Masbate and Samar.


These aerial attacks were accompanied by extensive and sustained combat operations by the Philippine Army, often with artillery shelling. During these operations, soldiers commit widespread violations of civilian rights such as zoning, economic and food blockades, limiting mobility, surveillance, harassment and threats, arrests and detentions, and even killings. In contrast, the reactionary Marcos government continues to slash funding for social services.

The international poverty line is set at \$2.15 per person per day using 2017 prices. This means that anyone living on less than \$2.15 a day is in extreme poverty. In order to hide the reality of mass poverty in the country, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) pegged the poverty threshold for a family with five members to PhP13,873 or US\$246.70 per month to meet their minimum basic food and non-food needs in 2023. This is only equivalent to PhP92.5 or US\$1.64 per person per day.

In the midst of mass poverty, hunger, and dire lack of needed funds for health, education and other social services, the PhP400 billion allocation to buy warplanes and missiles is simply scandalous!

Additionally, the Filipino people must vigorously oppose the US-Marcos regime's plan to have US naval vessels escort Philippine maritime patrols in the West Philippine Sea. Such plans increase by severalfold the risks of an armed conflict flaring up between the US and China, in which the Philippines will be caught right in the middle of the clash of superpowers.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) opposes China's exaggerated claims over the South China Sea that cover the Philippine exclusive economic zone, and call on it to exercise restraint in asserting claims that contravene the UNCLOS. These must be settled through open dialogue, negotiations or arbitration.

The Filipino people must be circumspect and repudiate the malicious claims perpetrated by the Marcos regime and its war-obsessed military officers. The Filipino people must criticize and denounce the Marcos government for carrying out equally provocative actions in the West Philippine Sea, mostly prodded by the US, that aim to invite hostile reactions. 

## OVP budget hearings further expose rotten Marcos-Duterte feud

The recent budget hearings for the office of the Philippine vice-president (OVP) has not only turned into a political and entertainment spectacle, but has also exposed the rottenness of the ruling class' mad scramble to get their hands on the people's money, and hold on to power.

The hearing conducted at the Philippine Lower House last 27 August to scrutinize the proposed budget of more than 2B Php (around 35M USD) for the office of the vice president turned ugly as GRP vice president Sara Duterte, according to a political observer was "uncooperative, disrespectful and insulting".

Philippine lawmakers have been asking Duterte about how she spent 73 million pesos out of 125 million of her supposed secret (confidential) funds in 2022, which she used in only 11 days in December 2022, and on items not related to the functions of the office of the vice president. The so-called billions of confidential funds are inserted in the budgets of the GRP president and vice-president, and are discretionary in nature, and are supposed to be beyond the scrutiny of lawmakers and the people. These funds may likely be used for corruption, personal political campaigning, etc.

During the hearing, Duterte, daughter of the deranged former GRP president Rodrigo Duterte (himself facing accusations of mass killings in connection with his "war on drugs"), insulted the presiding officer of the hearing who belong to the progressive Makabayan bloc, and refused to answer further questions from the lawmakers.


Sara Duterte used to be in a political coalition with the Marcoses with the wish to succeed Bongbong Marcos



image: philippinerevolution.nu

when his term ends in June 2028. When it became clear to the Dutertes that the Marcoses have unabashed plans to preserve their billions of dollars of stolen wealth, avoid prosecution for their own war crimes and hold on to power after 2028, the similarly criminal Duterte broke off with the coalition. The consistent red-tagger vice president also resigned as vice chairperson of the much-hated, corrupt and US-sponsored counter revolutionary agency, National Task Force to End Local [sic] Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac).

House lawmakers have called for a reduction and further scrutiny of the proposed budget for the OVP, and Makabayan bloc House Deputy Minority Leader France Castro has brought up the idea of impeaching Sara Duterte. Castro said that Duterte was banking on the supposed veil of secrecy around confidential funds to hide her unlawful use of people's money.

"The misappropriation of confidential funds at a time when we are lacking funds for public services, and her refusal to offer an explanation, are clear bases for impeachment," member of the Makabayan bloc House Deputy Minority Leader France Castro said. 

## Año sabotaging GRP-NDFP peace negotiations - NPA, NDFP units

The Marcos regime's National Security Adviser Eduardo Año is once again sabotaging the ongoing peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Government of the Philippines. He declared in a press conference last week that he does not see the peace talks continuing because the revolutionary movement "is not united in dealing with negotiations."

On 30 August, 2024, the Communist Party of the Philippines through *Ang Bayan* reported NDFP and New People's Army (NPA) units in all levels and areas, in separate public statements by their spokespersons, condemned Año for sowing intrigue in this yet another attempt to derail the peace process.

Patnubay de Guia of NDF-Southern Tagalog, Armando Cienfuego of the NPA Southern Tagalog Regional Operational Command (Melito Glor Command), Cleo del Mundo of the NPA-Quezon (Apolonio Mendoza Command), Dionesio Magbuelas, NPA-South Central Negros (Mt. Cansermon Command), Bayani Obrero, spokesperson of NDF-Negros Island, Cecil Estrella, NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Pelle Command), Madaay Gasic, spokesperson of the NPA-Mindoro (Lucio De Guzman command), Rosa Guidon, spokeswoman of the NDF-Ilocos and Samuel Guerrero, spokesperson of the NPA-Sorsogon (Celso Minguez Command) belied Año's wild assertions.

The entire revolutionary movement of the CPP-NPA through its national leadership is united up to the most basic local organizations in engaging and participating in the peace talks.

"In essence, the fascist general is challenging the armed revolutionary movement to lay down its arms as a condition for reopening negotiations....This tactic of undermining the peace talks to weaken the NPA and destroy the revolutionary movement is overused."



Año has a long record of derailing peace talks. Año's stance was the same 



image: philippinerevolution.nu

in late 2023 after the joint statement of the NDFP and GRP announced the readiness of the two sides to reopen talks. He disseminated false information that the impending talks are “new” and do not stand on previous agreements. But the NDFP and NPA at all levels assert that “only by solving the root causes of conflict and civil war in the country that are hunger, lack of services, corruption, dispossession of land and others, can genuine, just and lasting peace be truly achieved in the Philippines.”

“Perhaps Año forgets that the armed struggle has prevailed for 55 years...No sitting puppet regime has been able to defeat the NPA despite repeated declarations.”

Año’s stance contradicts his own president’s policy. Just a few days later, on 2 September, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (PAPRU) Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. told the Malacañang Press Corps that Marcos is committed to continue the peace process and that exploratory talks between the two parties are still ongoing. 

## Tributes pour in honor of Panay’s August Martyrs



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Several groups and organizations launched tribute programs to honor the August Heroes and Martyrs of Panay on 26 August. Friends, family and former comrades of the 11 fallen Red fighters of the New People’s Army (NPA)-Panay and Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) cadres in the region attended the gathering. Guests offered eulogies and poems to celebrate the life and legacy of the martyrs.

Maria Concepcion Araneta-Bocala (Ka Concha/Ka Minay), Vicente Hinojales (Ka Hadjie/Ka Emil), Aurelio B. Bosque (Ka Zarco/Baijan/Rio), Jose Jerry Tacaisan (Ka Miller/Bronze), Bemjamin Cortel (Ka Amor/Ruby/Mamang), Romulo Iturriaga Gangoso (Ka Reagan/Biboy/Pedik), Jiellmor Gauranoc (Ka Doc/Tango/Baron), Juvylene Silverio (Ka Kaykay/Purang), Armando Savariz (Ka Nene/Kulot), Rewilmar Torrado (Ka Minerva/Mara/Moray) and John Paul Capiro (Ka Ronron) were all given the highest tributes at the gathering.

## FFPS holds simultaneous actions in solidarity with PH revolution


Various chapters of the Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America held simultaneous actions on 26 August in solidarity with the Filipino struggle for national and social liberation. The coordinated activities were timed on the commemoration of the Cry of Pugad Lawin. Two newly established organizations in the United States, Tanod Lupa and Guerrero took part in the global day

The said martyrs fell in a series of armed encounters with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from 5 to 15 August in the towns of Calinog and Lambunao, and on August 24 in Valderrama, Antique.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) International Office and the Ka Joma Lives! Study Movement organized a tribute for the Panay martyrs in time for the launch of the Sison Reader Series 26: Tributes to Revolutionary Heroes and Martyrs. Meanwhile, the NDFP Peace Negotiating Panel read a statement in response to the killing of Ka Concha who was a consultant for the peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the NDFP.

“She dedicated her whole life to serving the masses. Her undying commitment and boundless optimism in victory of the revolution serves as inspiration to all revolutionaries to carry on the struggle and overcome difficulties,” said Ka Julie De Lima, chairperson of the NDFP Peace Negotiating Panel.

The Central Committee honored the other Martyrs of August for their “struggle against the fascist Marcos regime, defense of the rights of the oppressed masses of workers and peasants, and fighting alongside the Filipino people to achieve their centuries-old desire for true freedom and democracy.”

The day of tribute coincided with Ka Concha’s 74th birthday. 

of action. Marco Valbuena, chief information officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines, extended congratulations on their establishment.

“Amid the daily struggle to live and survive amid crisis, and the life-and-death struggle against the US-Marcos fascist regime and for genuine freedom and democracy, the determination of the Filipino people to wage resistance is strengthened knowing that they have friends all over the world supporting their just cause,” Valbuena emphasized.

Member organizations from Canada, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Greece, Austria, and the United Kingdom also took part in the Global Day of Action. The groups also honored the revolutionary martyrs of the Philippine revolution, including the August Heroes and Martyrs of Panay who fell in consecutive armed encounters this month. 