



EDITORIAL:

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On January 3, 2026, the world watched in stunned disbelief as the United States launched a full-scale military operation against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In a direct violation of international law and Venezuela's national sovereignty, US special forces bombed military targets in Caracas, killed scores of Venezuelan soldiers and civilians, and forcibly removed President Nicolás Maduro and his wife from their country, flying them to New York to face trial in a US federal courtroom.

In its own National Security Strategy, the US openly declares its aim to reassert the Monroe Doctrine and restore US dominance over Latin America and the Caribbean. This means denying other powers access to the region's resources and preventing governments assertive of their independence from charting their own course. Venezuela, with its vast oil reserves and refusal to submit to US dictates, stands directly in the way of this goal.

The talk of a "war on narcotics" and "concerns on human rights" are therefore all lies. The real objective is control: control over oil, over territory, over political direction, and over the region as a whole.

This aggression must also be understood in the context of intensifying inter-imperialist rivalry. The US faces growing competition, especially from China, amid long-term economic stagnation and instability in the global imperialist system. To protect its shrinking sphere of influence, Trump is tightening its grip on Latin America and the Caribbean. Any country that seeks alternative economic or political relations becomes a threat. Venezuela's independent stance and potential political alignment that falls outside US control therefore trigger imperialist retaliation.

Despite Trump's attempts to impose his will, Venezuela has not collapsed into a compliant client state as US imperialism initially hoped for. Following the abduction of Maduro, it was interim President Delcy Fernández who assumed leadership, and is recognized by majority of countries worldwide.

President Maduro is correct to assert his status as a prisoner of war. He was seized through military force during an armed attack on his country and as such, it is far too great a stretch for the Trump administration to portray the US aggression against Venezuela as a mere "implementation of American laws."


Across the region, the US has increased pressure on governments that deviate from its interests—through sanctions, election interference, threats, and coercion. This is a coordinated offensive to reassert dominance over a region it still considers its backyard. But this offensive also reveals weakness. US imperialism is rightly called a paper tiger. It has claws and teeth, it can destroy, kill, and terrorize, but it lacks the ability to solve the very crises it creates. It cannot stop the people from resisting.

In the US, the anti-war movement is gaining strength. Large numbers of Americans and immigrants reject endless wars and foreign interventions that serve only the interests of corporations and the ruling elite. Workers, oppressed communities, youth, and anti-war activists increasingly see that imperialism abroad means exploitation and repression at home. This growing pushback is further fueled by Trump's reckless statements floating possible invasions of Greenland and Cuba, revealing a pattern of unhinged and naked violence. These threats deepen fears that the US ruling class is prepared to drag the world into wider conflict in desperate attempts to mask its own crisis.

In the Philippines, this lie is especially dangerous. Pro-US politicians and CIA-trained military bureaucrats use tensions in the West Philippine Sea to justify deeper military integration with the US. They claim this alignment is defensive and necessary. But in reality, it is part of a broader strategy to pull the Philippines into US warmongering against China.

For the Filipino people, this reality is painfully familiar. The same imperialist policy at work in Venezuela is at work in the Philippines. The US has turned the Philippines into a forward military base through missile deployments, war exercises, and basing arrangements tied to its "first island chain" strategy

to contain China. This militarization is paired with support for a brutal "counterinsurgency" war aimed at crushing the national liberation movement. Entire communities are bombed, activists are killed, and children are caught in the crossfire, all to ensure the Philippines remains firmly under US control.

From Caracas to Manila, people are pushing back. Venezuela's resistance, and the solidarity it inspires, are part of a larger historical movement against US imperialism. The crisis of US imperialism is worsening, and it is deepening. And no amount of brute military force can stop that tide. 

Groups Condemn Marcos Jr's Massacre of Children by Bombing

The blatant violation of both Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law by the military forces of the Marcos regime on the first day of the New Year by massive bombing, strafing and relentless battalions-sized attacks resulting in the death of three children and a young researcher has been condemned by progressive groups in the Philippines and abroad.

Coni Ledesma, Head of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Special Office for the Protection of Children stated that "there is no military, legal nor moral justification for the relentless bombardment" that killed children and terrorized entire communities. She said that these are war crimes and held the 203rd IB and Marcos Jr., their commander-in-chief, directly responsible.

Ledesma emphasized, "We demand the immediate cessation of all AFP military operations in Mindoro, including aerial bombings, combat patrols, and so-called "clearing operations" that continue to place Mangyan communities in grave danger. The de facto state of martial law in the island must stop."

At the end of December last year, the 203rd Infantry Brigade of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), local units of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and AFP paramilitary groups launched extensive attacks against a New People's Army (NPA) unit who, taking advantage of the New Year ceasefire, was providing medical and other services to the indigenous

Mangyan-Iraya communities in the municipality of Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro. On New Years Day, January 1, four of the regime's attack helicopters indiscriminately dropped 12 bombs and fired thousands of shots with their machine guns for hours.

Three Mangyan children were killed outright while their mother was severely wounded. A researcher-student, Jerlyn Rose Doydora, separated from her group, died of shock. Another researcher, Chantal Anicoche from the US, went missing. The attack also destroyed the livelihood means of the residents, killed livestock, two cows and three pigs, and forced 203 families to evacuate.

NDFP-Mindoro said that Doydora and Anicoche are among those who expressed their intent to interview the indigenous people and farmers in Mindoro as well as the Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA). They sought to understand the masses' concrete situation, the root causes of the armed conflict, and the genuine path towards peace. Doydora was a student of the Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila, while Anicoche was a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the US.

According to Malaya Movement USA, Anicoche was in the Philippines "to learn from the communities that have been hit the hardest by the economic and social crisis in the Philippines."

According to the NDFP-Mindoro, the regime's terrorism inflicted on Abra de Ilog residents and indigenous people during the new year was only one of the countless human rights violations perpetrated by the AFP, PNP, and paramilitary auxiliaries in their communities over the years.

The Eduardo Dagli Command-NPA Batangas harshly condemned the bombing and strafing events by the military. The command said that they happened after a unit of the Lucio de Guzman Command-NPA Mindoro successfully eluded an attack of several battalions of the 203rd IB and the 5th Scout Ranger Battalion and, in active defense, even caused two deaths and two casualties among the enemy.

It is common practice for the regime's forces to turn to the civilian population and spread terror after every encounter.

The regime's violence perpetuated in Abra de Ilog is a component of the campaign of the reactionary state to push forward and guard anti-people projects with super profits for foreign capitalists by expelling thousands of farmers and indigenous Mangyans from the area.

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) points that the barbaric and overkill military operation of the AFP against a small unit of the NPA in Abra de Ilog further exposes the desperation of its commander-in-chief Marcos Jr. to end the communist rebellion in the island to hasten the entry of huge mining companies and renewable energy projects. This is the reason why widespread militarization persists in Mindoro.

Some of the planned corporate projects in Abra de Ilog are

a) Mining operations of Agusan Petroleum after the government nullified the 25-year moratorium on mining in Occidental Mindoro;

b) The 375-megawatt Abra de Ilog Wind Energy Project planned to operate by 2031; and

c) The privatization of the Luyang Baga Cave in Brgy. Cabacao for ecotourism. The cave stands on ancestral lands of the farmers and the Mangyan-Iraya Indigenous People.

ICHRP calls for justice for all victims of the bombings perpetrated by the AFP in Mindoro. "We condemn the AFP and Marcos Jr. government for grave violations of international humanitarian law and for endangering the lives of hundreds of civilians. We call for an end to the militarization in the island of Mindoro."

On January 14, 2026, NDFP-Southern Tagalog's Spokesperson Patnubay de Guia reported that the regime's 2nd Infantry Division imposed a virtual Martial Law in the community for their continuous operation to pursue the NPA unit and to prevent the entry of the missing Chantal Anicoche's relatives, humanitarian missions, charitable organizations and human rights activists to find her.

On top of this, the 2nd IB averred they "found" Anicoche more than a week after the bombing a few meters away from the gunfight and bombing area. The staged video they made of the incident was obviously an attempt to portray themselves as humanitarians and escape responsibility for their war crimes.

De Guia added, the continued detention of Chantal by the 2nd IB in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, is a violation of her rights and International Humanitarian Law. She was forced to sign for voluntary detention to keep her in prison. There, she will undergo daily intense pressure and mental torture by the AFP. Progressive groups and NGOs held massive demonstrations in front of Camp Capinpin to demand Anicoche's release from illegal detention and condemn the regime's violation of human rights and International Humanitarian Law. [△](http://philippinerevolution.nu)



Massive Corruption in the Marcos Jr Regime Continues

More than half a year has passed since the regime's president Ferdinand Marcos Jr's dramatic State of the Nation Address to the Philippine Congress and to the world that he intended to stop the massive corruption in the government. He projected on screen his list of the biggest anomalous projects and contractors and daringly opened a website "Isumbong mo sa Presidente" where anyone can post information and complaints regarding irregularities in the funding and construction in the nation's flood control and other projects.

The website was immediately flooded with data from the public. Both mainstream and social media, and more effectively the investigative journalists, took the cudgels and the flood currents of protest marches and demonstrations intensified. The contention between the main political factions, the Marcoses and the Dutertes, had risen to existential levels. Committees in both houses of Congress held increasingly damaging investigations into activities of erring top politicians, highly placed bureaucrats, contractors and go-betweens. Political awareness spread to the man on the street.

Many suspected high officials and VIPs fled abroad or just disappeared to escape responsibility. One undersecretary "committed suicide". Rattled, Marcos Jr created the Independent Commission for Infrastructure, fired department Secretaries, Undersecretaries and other officials, reshuffled his Cabinet. He loudly promised weeks before the holidays that big fish will be spending Christmas in jail. Now, middle of January, only small fish, a few of them, are in jail and charged in court.


Worst, Marcos allowed the inclusion in the 2026 budget of large funds, pork barrel style, that can be used by Senators and Congressmen to win elections and discourage them to initiate any impeachment proceedings against him.

So, the unabashed snowball of corruption in the regime rolls on and it's getting bigger.

But rolling a snowball bursts when it reaches the bottom of the hill.

As the crescendo of protests and calls for the downfall of both Marcos Jr and vice president Sara Duterte rises, signs of unrest in the military begin to appear. Despite the AFP leadership's repeated assertions that it firmly "abides (sic) by the Constitution and the chain of command", cracks begin to appear between sections loyal to one or the other political faction.

An Army officer, Col. Audie Mongao, the current Director of the Training Development Centre under the AFP Training Command, posted on his Facebook account his withdrawal of support of Marcos Jr's AFP. He added that Marcos Jr had already lost "moral ascendancy" to lead the armed forces as commander-in-chief. The post went viral.

Earlier, Retired Air Force Major General Romeo Poquis, one of the founders of United People's Initiative (UPI), an organization of retired military officers allied with the Duterte family, was arrested on charges of inciting to rebellion. He led an UPI rally near the national headquarters of the National Police and urged active generals to "withdraw" their support for Marcos Jr. over corruption issues. 

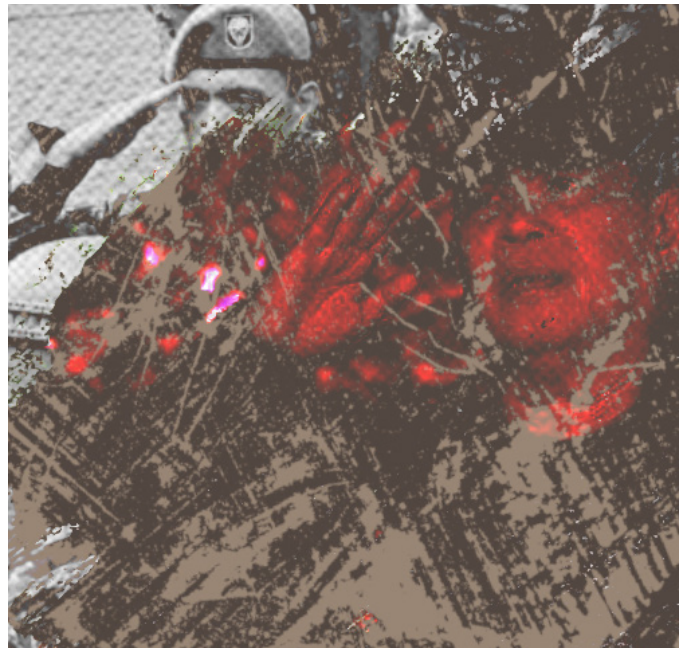


image: philippinerevolution.nu

CNL-Compatriots hold first global assembly

Compatriots - National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), held the first Global Assembly of one of its sub-sectors, the Christians for National Liberation (CNL) - Compatriots. The assembly, which was held end of 2025 was attended by over 120 faith leaders from different parts of the world, together with observers from different Compatriot sub-sector organizations. Among them were Kabataan Makabayan-Compatriots and Makibaka-Compatriots.

The assembly started with the opening remarks from the CNL-Compatriots representative. The representative shared the successful founding congress of Compatriots - NDFP, which was held earlier in 2025.

The development of the revolutionary movement among overseas Filipinos was also brought out. The importance of CNL-Compatriots to arouse, organize and mobilize compatriots coming from the Church sector was also brought out.

A keynote message from the Chair of Compatriots-NDFP was read. It articulated the role of overseas compatriots to take part in the national democratic revolution against the three basic problems and overturn the current semi-colonial and semi-feudal character of the Philippines.

In the evening of the first day, a tribute was paid to Ka Louie Jalandoni. Jalandoni was a founding member of CNL in 1972. He was also the former Chairperson of the NDFP Negotiating Panel. Jalandoni passed away in 2025. The assembly discussed the Compatriots founding Congress which took place early in 2025. They also discussed the progress of the revolutionary movement among Filipino migrants. They studied and discussed organizational documents including the orientation, program, campaigns and three year plan. The assembly elected their officers. Then they discussed their General Program of Action for the next three years.


The Program outlined campaigns, propaganda and education work, organizational expansion, alliance work, and support from the sector in advancing the national democratic revolution. The global assembly concluded with an evening of celebration. 



image: philippinerevolution.nu