



EDITORIAL:

Impeachment raps vs Marcos and Duterte reflect Filipino people's desire for genuine change

Read on page 2

Dupax del Norte residents resist mining exploration project (p. 2)

Robust NPA armed actions in Samar province wipe out 7 fascist troops; AFP turns to targeting children (p. 3)

Marcos Jr. regime "weaponizes law" to suppress dissent (p. 4)

EDITORIAL:

Impeachment raps vs Marcos and Duterte reflect Filipino people's desire for genuine change

The impeachment complaints filed against the country's top officials – Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte – in the past week are but expressions of the Filipino people's growing outcry for genuine social change. The corruption scandals that have unfolded in recent months, the continuing landlessness of the peasant class, low wages amid rising prices of basic goods, have further revealed the deep rot of bureaucrat capitalism embedded in the workings of the Philippine reactionary government.

Marcos Jr. assumed office on promises of economic relief and stability for the ordinary Filipino. Chief among these was his pledge to lower the price of rice to P20 per kilo. Today, rice prices remain high, frequently breaching P45-P55 per kilo in many areas, while inflation continues to eat away at household incomes which have remained stagnant.


Despite his attempts to isolate himself from the massive corruption scandals in government, Marcos Jr. has been laid bare as the king of corruption. In 2025 alone, estimates suggest that more than P545 billion in flood control funds have been siphoned off into private pockets. Under Marcos' term, unprogrammed funds in the national budget have also ballooned from P251.6 billion in 2022 to a peak of P800 billion in 2024, triggering public outrage on how large portions of the national coffers are being parked in opaque projects that can only be released through presidential approval. Marcos Jr. himself was also embroiled in Zaldy Co's expose that revealed how Marcos approved of congressional insertions reaching roughly P100 billion worth of dubious projects during bicameral negotiations.

On the other hand, the impeachment complaints against Sara Duterte stem from her misuse of P150 million in confidential and intelligence funds (CIFs) during her tenure as secretary of education, funds that, by design, evade public scrutiny and were disbursed despite the DepEd (Department of Education) having no mandate for so-called "intelligence operations." Her role as political heir to Rodrigo Duterte also ties her directly to the legacy of extrajudicial killings and widespread impunity that marked her father's so-called "war on drugs."

On top of the failed promises and corruption-ridden rule of Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte, their term thus far has been marked by a sharp rise in state-sponsored violence against activists, farmers, indigenous leaders, and community organizers. At least 134 people have been killed and 15 forcible disappeared since they took office in 2022, with thousands more have been arbitrarily arrested, forced into surrender, or driven from their homes by indiscriminate military operations and aerial bombings in the countryside.

At the same time, Marcos Jr. has served as a loyal lapdog of US imperialism. Under his administration, the US has been given expanded access to nine EDCA (Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement) sites across the archipelago including locations in Palawan and Northern Luzon that are strategically positioned near Taiwan and the South China Sea. This increased military presence and the pre-positioning of war materiel in the islands have turned the Philippines into a staging ground for US war provocations against China.

With so much blood debt already incurred, the impeachment complaints against Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte represent only the tip of the iceberg in a long and damning record of crimes against the Filipino people. The unfolding scale of corruption in government, the intensifying repression of basic rights and civil liberties, and the blatant subservience to US imperialist interests are forcing ever more broader sections of Philippine society to confront the fundamental truth that the system itself is the problem.

Because of their crimes, more and more Filipinos are coming to understand that genuine change cannot be expected within the same rotten semicolonial and semifeudal system. The solution lies in revolutionary change through the victory of the national democratic revolution which is a struggle to dismantle imperialist domination, feudal exploitation, and bureaucrat capitalism; and the establishment of a people's democratic government that truly represents the interests of the democratic majority of the Filipino people. 

Dupax del Norte residents resist mining exploration project

The inhabitants of the municipality of Dupax del Norte in Nueva Viscaya have been living off the abundant natural resources: gold-rich mountains, clean rivers, fertile agricultural lands and thick forests. But the area is seen as a treasure trove for imperialist plunder, with the government's bureaucrat capitalists promoting the sale of the country's resources to the highest bidders and lining their pockets in the process.

In August 2025, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau granted an exploration permit to Woggle Mining Corp to study the minerals that could be extracted from the town. The company, which is a subsidiary of the British company Metals Exploration Plc. planned to cover 3,102 hectares in their exploration project, which includes land tilled by small farmers and indigenous families. As early as August 4, the company began excavating without permission or consultation with the community regarding its activities.

For five months, since September 2025, the residents of Dupax del Norte have put up a fierce struggle against the exploitation of their land and livelihood. They put up barricades on their land to block the company's large machines from passing through, temporarily halting the planned operations.

A court order issued in October 2025 called for the dismantling of the barricades, but residents resisted, asserting that the company's exploration permit was invalid as it failed to comply with the required conducting of consultations with the residents.

On December 12, 2025 Woggle Corp personnel stormed the barricades. Colluding with the Philippine National Police, they threatened, harrassed, and insulted the residents manning the barricade and destroyed their belongings, even attempting to force two female residents to undress. They seized cellphones and IDs of the residents, and attempted to steal a generator, two gas tanks, a solar panel, a stove and various other items. When the residents tried to assert their rights, police officers aimed their guns at them.

On January 23, 2026 the Philippine National Police once again violently

stormed the barricade and dismantled it, arresting seven residents in the process.

Church leaders, environmental groups, human rights advocates and indigenous peoples' organizations spoke up in solidarity with the residents, criticizing not just the violent dispersal by the police, but also the allowance of an operation that would destroy the environment and livelihood of the residents. "Despite their pleas for help from those in power, despite their repeated appeals to the court for what they are fighting for, what they received was silence, indifference, and favor given to Woggle Mining Corporation," said Catholic Bishop Jose Elmer I. Mangalinao.

Environmental coalition Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment staged a protest outside the Department of Environment and Natural Resources central office in Quezon City, denouncing the agency's complicity in mining operations and linking the Dupax del Norte case to the mining projects in nearby towns that have resulted in water depletion, environmental damage, and social conflict.

Thanks to the bravery of the residents and the widespread condemnation of the planned mining explorations, including a protest organized by Migrant United Kingdom, International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP)-Britain, and London Philippine Solidarity at the office of Woggle Corp's parent company in London, the case against the seven arrested residents has been dismissed.


However, the struggle against Woggle Corp project is far from over, and as long as our country continues to be exploited and abused by foreign capital, as long as the Philippine government continues to pander to imperialist interests, it will never be over. 



image: altermidya.net

Robust NPA armed actions in Samar province wipe out 7 fascist troops; AFP turns to targeting children

Despite the declaration of the fascist AFP's 8th Infantry Division in October 2025 that it would end the revolutionary movement throughout Eastern Visayas by the end of 2025 through "Operation Clean Eastern Visayas", the New People's Army (NPA) wiped out at least seven fascist troops in several armed offensives.

On December 15, 2025, an NPA unit ambushed 19th IB troopers operating in Barangay Poponton, Las Navas killing two fascist soldiers and wounding several others. Another NPA-Northern Samar unit earlier thwarted the 19th IB's attempt to overrun the guerrilla army's camp in Barangay Gusaran, Silvino Lobos on December 10, 2025 killing a fascist soldier while a Red fighter was martyred in the battle. Earlier last year, the NPA provincial command reported its active defense against a 37-man 19th IB unit that attempted to attack the NPA camp in Barangay L. Empon, Las Navas on July 22, 2025. In the battle, at least four 19th IB troopers were killed, while the NPA unit suffered no casualties.

NPA Northern Samar spokesperson Ka Amado Pesante stressed that these military actions prove the NPA's continuous foiling of the fascist military's all-out war

and added that these victories had the peasant masses' indispensable deep support.

Unable to destroy the revolutionary movement in the region, fascist troops of the AFP continue to heap abuses and other human rights violations against the peasant masses in Samar. They train their weapons against unarmed civilians, particularly children. In a village in San Jose de Buan town, fascist soldiers from the 46th IB fired an M203 grenade and shot two young siblings. The two were hauling charcoal to sell when they encountered three soldiers who suddenly opened fire at them.


The younger sibling was hit in the chest, hand, and foot and was left at the scene of the shooting. The family never knew of the still missing child's condition. The older sibling managed to escape unharmed. 



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Marcos Jr. regime “weaponizes law” to suppress dissent

Local and overseas journalists’ groups, church people, academics, and progressive organizations, strongly condemned the conviction of journalist Frenchie Mae Cumpio and church worker Marielle Domequil in the “terrorism financing” case by the RTC Branch 45 in Tacloban City on January 22, 2026. The court ruled that the accused were guilty of “terrorism financing” and sentenced them to 18 years in prison and fined PHP 500,000 each.

“We are outraged by the clear injustice of the court decision amid glaring evidence that the charges against Frenchie Mae, Marielle Domequil, and the rest of Tacloban 5 are all fabricated,” Altermidya said on the day the verdict was handed down.

It said the decision affirms the Marcos regime’s duplicity for repeatedly promising to uphold press freedom but continues to weaponize the law against journalists and other dissenting voices.

Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said, “The decision legitimizes the use, abuse, and misuse of anti-terror laws against civilians.”

Sixteen foreign embassies, those of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom on Friday expressed outrage over Cumpio’s conviction, the first Filipino journalist to be punished by the 2012 law on terrorism financing.

The embassies, which make up the Media Freedom Coalition Embassy Network, said in a joint statement that the Cumpio case decision was a “stark reminder of the challenges faced by journalists in pursuit of their vital work.”

Six years earlier, in 2020, Cumpio and Domequil were arrested in Tacloban city on the police’s allegation of illegal possession of firearms and membership in the New People’s Army.

During the raid, the police seized a box containing P557,360. The Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) ruled that there was sufficient reason to believe the seized funds were linked to unlawful activity under the Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012.

A Court of Appeals reversed the Manila RTC’s decision, saying that the Anti-Money Laundering Council failed to designate the two accused as terrorists. Despite this, the RTC Branch 45 in Tacloban still pronounced them guilty of “terrorism financing”.

The National Union of People’s Lawyers said, “The appellate court expressly cautioned against the hasty labeling of human rights advocates as terrorists and emphasized that due process cannot be set aside in the name of national security. That ruling directly undermines the narrative used to justify the terrorism financing charge and raises serious questions about the basis of the terrorism financing charge,” the NUPL said.

“This and similar cases thus demonstrate how counter-terrorism laws can be stretched and weaponized to criminalize lawful, civilian work—turning journalism, humanitarian work, and advocacy into alleged acts of terrorism financing. From this injustice flow the grave implications that cannot be ignored,” it added.

Both Amnesty International Philippines and the International Press Institute said that the court ruling illustrates the weaponization of counterinsurgency laws in the country to silence members of the media, human rights defenders, and development workers.

The Tacloban court ruled that the Cumpio and Domequil were not guilty of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. 