

Ang Bayan Ngayon Compilation

Ang Bayan

January 2026

***Ang Bayan** is the official publication of the Communist Party of the Philippines. AB is published by the CPP Central Committee fortnightly. It is originally published in Pilipino and then translated to English, Bisaya, Hiligaynon, Waray, and Iloko.*

*In the face of the fast-changing political and economic situation in the Philippines, as well as across the world, Ang Bayan releases daily news and analyses on key issues faced by the Filipino proletariat and people, as well as the oppressed in different parts of the world. Below are the latest news and articles by **Ang Bayan Ngayon**.*

These articles are translations of the original Pilipino articles.

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AFP mercilessly bombs and strafes Occidental Mindoro community

January 1, 2026

The Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Timog-Katagalugan (KASAMA-TK) strongly condemned the 203rd IB for relentlessly bombing and strafing the community of Sitio Mamara, barangay Caracao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on January 1.

The bombing and strafing began around 9 a.m. while farmers and indigenous people were peacefully working in their fields after celebrating the new year.

Videos and posts of the helicopters's bombings and strafing spread on Facebook. The voices of residents living near the site revealed terror and anxiety. Residents spotted four attack helicopters dropping bombs near the communities.

According to KASAMA-TK, the military sowed terror following an encounter between the AFP and a revolutionary group. The group said the 203rd IBde's bombing and indiscriminate strafing were "overkill" for using excessive force against the opposing troops. It could also harm civilians and their livestock, as well as damage crops and houses.

"This incident in Abra de Ilog is not separate from the ordeal of the entire island of Mindoro and rural areas of Southern Tagalog. Overkill operations in the region's rural areas continue despite the US-Marcos Jr regime and the butcher AFP declaration that no guerrilla fronts remain in the country," the group explained.

Prior to this incident, the Abra de Ilog community gained prominence because of the successive human rights violations by the AFP against residents and indigenous peoples in the area. The abduction and torture of Dolores Marinao Solangon by 76th IB elements were first reported on December 2. Former mayoral candidate and indigenous peoples' rights advocate Ramon

Alcantara was arrested and charged with fabricated cases on December 23.

In October, 80th IB elements harassed, surveilled, and spied on delegates and participants of an international solidarity and fact-finding mission in Abra de Ilog.

KASAMA-TK called for a comprehensive and independent humanitarian mission in Abra de Ilog community and the immediate withdrawal of all AFP, PNP, and CAFGU forces from Mindoro island.

Inter-imperialist conflicts set to intensify in 2026—CPP

January 1, 2026

Inter-imperialist conflicts will further intensify in the coming 2026, according to the Communist Party of the Philippines in the statement of its Central Committee for its 57th anniversary.

“At present, the intensifying political, financial, economic, trade, and military conflicts among the biggest imperialist countries form the principal contradiction, especially amid the unceasing imposition of US imperialist hegemony across the world,” the statement said. “This is the principal contradiction that shapes the current situation throughout the world.”

Armed conflicts already occur in different parts of the world under the initiation of the US.

“This is closely connected to the prolonged economic stagnation of the major capitalist countries that the monopoly bourgeoisie cannot resolve,” the CPP stated. It explained in the statement the continuing crisis of overproduction in the capitalist system, which results in the destruction of productive forces and widespread suffering of workers and peoples worldwide.

In 2025, US military spending reached \$1 trillion. Under its new National Security Strategy (2025) (focused mainly on China and Russia), the US declared its goal to develop the “most powerful, most intense, and most technologically advanced” military force.

“The US supposedly aims to ‘avoid confrontation,’ but it only further increases the likelihood of igniting armed conflicts and wars,” the CPP stated.

At present, it leads wars and armed conflicts in Venezuela, Ukraine, Palestine, Iran, and many others.

Indigenous groups and human rights defenders mark Tumandok Massacre’s 5th year

January 2, 2026

Members of progressive groups gathered and lit candles in Quezon City on December 30 to mark the fifth anniversary of the Tumandok Massacre.

Led by Katribu Kalipunan ng Katutubong Mamamayan ng Pilipinas, they called for justice for the Tumandok leaders in Capiz and Iloilo killed on December 30, 2020.

Police and military forces massacred Tumandok leaders and farmers who opposed the destructive Jalaur Mega Dam project in Panay. They also arrested 16 other mass leaders that day.

State forces conducted the coordinated operation under the framework of the then Synchronized Enhanced Management of Police Operations (SEMPO). The then Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Director Debold Sinas and former PNP Chief Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa were identified as the operators behind it. To justify the massacre and mass arrests, the PNP and military portrayed their victims as New People’s Army (NPA) members.

Indigenous groups and human rights defenders also condemned the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the National Task Force-Elcac for their involvement in the crime. They said that instead of defending the indigenous people and their rights, the NCIP fostered Red-tagging and the militarization of indigenous communities.

The groups and the Tumandok people also declared December 30 as Tumandok Day. “Tumandok Day is a collective declaration that the people will not be silenced or driven away from their ancestral land,” Katribu’s Beverly Longid said. She added that the struggle of the Tumandok

and all Indigenous peoples in the country for land, life, and self-determination continues amid repression.

In Iloilo City, progressive groups launched a memorial activity on that day at St. Clements Church. A documentary about the struggle of the communities and families of the victims of the Tumandok Massacre was also shown at the National Museum of the Philippines-Western Visayas in Iloilo City on December 27. Defend Panay Network led these commemorations.

Local group opposes Pasay City market closure

January 2, 2026

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Pasay joined the vendors and workers of Wowie Market on Taft Avenue, Barangay 97, Pasay City in opposing the closure of the market by the local government. According to the group, vendors and workers began the new year with terror and loss of livelihood when the market was abruptly shut down.

On December 19, the Pasay City Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) ordered the closure of Wowie Market because of alleged violations and lack of permits. The market is owned by Yok Tin Tan So.

The office said that it had repeatedly notified the market owner to submit the required permits, but

had received no response. The market can reopen only if its management submits the necessary permits.

According to Bayan-Pasay, although it understands the need to comply with regulations, this should not become a reason to deprive poor Pasayenos of their livelihood and push them deeper into poverty. “Beyond the vendors and workers, the closure of Wowee Market will greatly affect the communities that rely on it as one of the city’s affordable marketplaces,” it said.

The local government also warned the vendors and workers. It said that the local government is serious and will enforce its decision to stop any operations in the market.

Bayan-Pasay expressed disappointment that Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto chose to take away the source of income and affordable marketplace from thousands of Pasayenos amid the worsening economic crisis and lack of services. The group called for giving Wowee Market vendors the chance to defend their right to a stable livelihood.

It added that the poor, vendors, and consumers should not be caught in the bureaucracy and intricacies of local politics in the city. In front of the market, the vendors and workers displayed calls to protect and reopen Wowee Market.

Migrants stop plan to deport a Filipino immigrant in the US

January 2, 2026

Led by Tanggol Migrante Movement (TMM), the Filipino community in the US successfully stopped the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)'s deportation plan against Filipino immigrant "Tita Rebecca" on January 2.

The coordinated phone calls, emails, and testimonies about Tita Rebecca's health forced United Airlines to cancel her flight from Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The company required her to undergo a medical examination before allowing her to travel.

Tita Rebecca, 71 years old, has lived in the US for four decades. ICE detained her after she "checked in" at the Department of Homeland Security in March. She suffered several months of inhumane conditions while confined at the ICE facility in Clay County, Indiana. The facility ignored and neglected her medical needs. She did not receive her maintenance medication for her liver and blood pressure for three months. The facility also prohibited her from leaving her cell or getting sunlight.

"One of our major concerns is her uncontrolled blood pressure. Tita Rebecca faces a high risk of venous thromboembolism (blood clotting) from prolonged immobility for such as a long flight. This could lead to lung failure or even sudden death. She also has Stage 4 liver disease," TMM member Dr. Dominic Robolino explained.

On December 30, TMM launched a “National Unity Call” to demand the suspension of the deportation plan, as well as proper medical evaluation and treatment for Tita Rebecca. More than 300 people from different parts of the US participated in the online event. Unions members supporting migrant rights, healthcare workers, and Filipino community members joined the activity.

TMM has repeatedly organized actions, phone calls, and emails to the Philippine Consulate in Chicago to urge it to fulfill its duty to protect Tita Rebecca and provide her medical attention. However, as with other detained Filipinos, the consulate remained indifferent to her condition and illnesses.

According to TMM, the postponement of Tita Rebecca’s flight demonstrates the strength of the mass movement. The group continues to call for her comprehensive medical examination, proper medication, and release from detention.

Student youth dies from ruthless AFP bombing in Occidental Mindoro

January 2, 2026

The National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindoro expressed heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Jerlyn Rose Doydora after she died from an illness caused by the 203rd Infantry Brigade’s ruthless bombing in Sitio

Mamara, Barangay Cabacao, Abra De Ilog,
Occidental Mindoro on January 1.

Doydora was among the youth who expressed the desire to interview the indigenous people and farmers in Mindoro and the New People's Army (NPA) Red fighters. They wanted to learn the masses' concrete situation, the reasons for the armed conflict, and the genuine solution to achieve peace. The NDF-Mindoro facilitated the reception of the visitors in Abra de Ilog before the new year. The indigenous people and farmers in the area guided them, and the NPA unit welcomed them.

NDF-Mindoro spokesperson Ka Ma. Patricia Andal said the youth were caught in the treacherous attack of the AFP-PNP while the NPA was under a ceasefire. The unit managed to defend itself and safely retreat despite the ruthless bombing and strafing by at least four AFP attack helicopters. One youth got separated during the retreat and is currently being searched for by residents in the area. Amid the bombing and strafing, Jerlyn's illness struck her, which ultimately led to her death.

To ensure that Jerlyn's family could retrieve her remains, the NPA unit decided to lay her body to rest in the place where she passed away.

"Jerlyn is a martyr of the present generation of youth who seek genuine change in this rotten and corrupt system. We must raise our fists high to honor her daring and courage to live among the masses and their Red army... she wholeheartedly

offered her life for the people and their aspiration to be free from poverty,” Ka Patricia stated.

The NDF-Southern Tagalog also condemned the 203rd IBde for spreading terrorism in Abra de Ilog communities. They likewise denounced the blatant exposure of IDs and photos taken from the encounter without regard for the privacy of the youth.

The NDF-Mindoro calls on human rights advocates and civic groups to assist Jerlyn’s family and push for the opening of a humanitarian corridor to retrieve her remains. Alongside this, it also seeks to facilitate the rescue of another youth who was unable to retreat.

Al-Qassam honors Palestinian resistance’s spokesperson, other martyrs

January 3, 2026

The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades honored its late spokesperson Abu Obeida, 40, and four other commanders who were martyred in 2025.

Al-Qassam released a statement on Telegram on December 29, 2025 confirming that Abu Obeida died as early as August 30, 2025 in a Zionist Israeli air strike in Rimal, Gaza City. He was for the first time introduced by his real name, Hudhaifa Samir Abdullah al-Kahlout. He served as al-Qassam’s spokesperson for almost two decades.

The new spokesperson of al-Qassam, who inherited the name Abu Obeida, read the tribute.

“We mourn the great commander and martyr, the al-Qassam Brigades spokesperson, Abu Obeida—the strong voice of the nation, a man of word and conviction, the heartbeat of Palestine, of its Jerusalem, of its people and its struggle, and the head of Qassam’s media agency,” the new spokesperson said.

“He (al-Kahlout) was the masked figure loved by millions, awaited with eagerness and drawn upon for inspiration... his red keffiyeh became a symbol for free peoples around the world.”

Al-Kahlout was born in the Jaballa refugee camp in 1985. He joined the Second Intifada at age 15, using the kunya (war name) Abu Obeida. It is believed to have come from the name Abu Ubayda ibn al-Jarrah, a companion of the Prophet Mohammad and a renowned military commander.

Abu Obeida formally appeared as spokesperson in 2004–2005 and continuously fulfilled his duties as the “voice of the people.” He delivered reports on battles, responded to Zionist Israel’s allegations, and gave courage to the Palestinian resistance. His face was always covered with a red keffiyeh during his public statements.

In addition to Al-Kahlout, the new spokesperson also honored other martyred al-Qassam commanders: Mohammad Sinwar (Abu Ibrahim), Mohammad Shabanah (Abu Anas), Hakam Al-Issa (Abu Omar), and Raed Saad (Abu Mouath).

“The blood of our people, our fighters, and our leaders that was shed on the soil of Gaza...calls for the nation to rise, shake off complacency, and mobilize in support of Palestine and Al-Aqsa,” the new Abu Obeida said.

NDF chapters and allied organizations salute the CPP on its 57th anniversary

January 3, 2026

The National Democratic Front (NDF), its regional and provincial chapters, and allied organizations saluted the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on its 57th anniversary on December 26, 2025. NDF chapters and allies held their own gatherings and activities in various areas nationwide.

The NDF is the most consolidated underground united front organization of the basic revolutionary forces, which explicitly operates under the leadership of the working class and advances the armed struggle based on the general line of the national democratic revolution. It has 18 allied organizations representing the workers and semi-proletariat, peasants, youth, women, church people, teachers, health workers, science and technology, lawyers, artists and writers, government employees, migrant Filipinos, and minority peoples.

NDF secretary general Ka Elias Dipasupil’s statement honored the Party’s nearly six decades

of leadership of the revolutionary movement in the Philippines and the Filipino masses' struggle against US imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. "Its perseverance and dedication in fulfilling its historic duty of advancing the people's cause have inspired and continue to inspire the masses to rise up," he said.

He added that the Party continues to strengthen its leadership of the Filipino masses through its efforts in the ongoing rectification movement via education campaigns. The Party leadership launched a rectification movement starting in December 2023.

"Under the CPP leadership, the NDF allied revolutionary mass organizations in the urban and rural areas continue to expand their work in propaganda and organizing," Ka Elias stated. The secretary general also reported that in line with the 12-point program of the NDF, they continue to call on the youth to join the New People's Army (NPA) or serve the revolutionary peasant movement in the countryside.

Marches, gatherings, and OP-OD for the anniversary

NDF chapters and allies held marches, clandestine gatherings, painting operations and poster operations (OP-OD), and other activities to celebrate the Party's anniversary. They boldly carried these out in urban centers and rural areas defying the US-Marcos regime's heightened watch aimed at preventing the celebrations.

In Metro Manila, consecutive marches were held in Manila and Pasay City on December 21 and 22, 2025. Among the groups that joined the protest were Kabataang Makabayan, Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan, Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan, Revolutionary Council of Trade Unions, Makabayang Kawaning Pilipino, and Compatriots.

In Central Luzon, a gathering took place on December 26, 2025 at an undisclosed location. The gathering of groups and the toiling masses became historic as they expressed their firm resolve to continue and advance the people's war amid intensifying fascism and oppression.

In Rizal, the provincial chapter of the NDF held a gathering on December 30, 2025. They then hung two giant streamers at midnight on January 2 in Antipolo City. The streamers contained tributes to the CPP, to the revolution, and the call to overthrow the US-Marcos regime.

Led by Compatriots Philippines, more than 100 people attended the celebration and cultural night organized for the Party's anniversary at a location in Southern Tagalog on December 26, 2025. Members from Rizal, Bulacan, and Metro Manila attended the gathering. Members of KM, Makibaka, Kasama, and families of the martyrs of the people also joined the activity.

A few days earlier, Compatriots Philippines hung streamers along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. The streamers contained calls for migrant workers and their families to join the

people's war to end poverty and corruption in the country.

In Australia, Compatriots-NDFP-Australia held a gathering together with Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS) and fraternal parties. Members of Compatriots-Kabataang Makabayan Narm in Melbourne also conducted a poster operation in tribute to the CPP's anniversary. These were held in the last week of December 2025.

The NDFP International Office gathered nearly 300 participants in its online broadcast featuring the reading of the CPP Central Committee's statement on December 26, 2025. The activity streamed through Zoom and Discord, and the Filipino and English versions of the statement reading were later uploaded on YouTube. Because of repressive censorship, YouTube immediately deleted the uploaded video.

Meanwhile, various NDF organizations conducted OP-OD in Baguio City, Laguna, Metro Manila, and Cebu City.

Different NDF chapters and allies issued their own statements honoring the Party. These included NDF chapters in Cavite, Laguna, Eastern Visayas, and Metro Manila; KM from Southern Tagalog, Quezon, Cavite, Laguna, and Metro Manila; Armas-Metro Manila, the national office of RCTU and its regional chapter in Southern Tagalog; Kaguma-Jessica Sales Chapter from Southern Tagalog; the national offices of the Pambansang

Samahan ng Makabayang Tsuper (PSMT), Kasama, and PKM.

NPA units nationwide held arm salutes for the CPP's 57th anniversary

January 3, 2026

New People's Army (NPA) units in various guerrilla fronts across the country held simple activities and gatherings to mark the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)'s 57th anniversary on December 26, 2025. Red fighters held arm salutes to honor the Party amid Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) combat operations which intensify every anniversary.

The NPA recently reported the celebrations of its units in Cagayan Valley, Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, and North Central Mindanao. Some units also reported holding their respective activities in the coming days.

In Southern Tagalog, the NPA launched a series of gatherings in the guerrilla fronts of Batangas, Quezon, and the island of Mindoro. NPA-Southern Tagalog (Melitor Glor Command) spokesperson Ka Cleo del Mundo led one of the celebrations. "The situation is very favorable for advancing the people's democratic revolution," he said.

NPA-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command) spokesperson Ka Madaay Gasic said that the people's army remains steadfast because of the Party's leadership. He said contrary to the Marcos

regime's and its AFP's goal of crippling and destroying the people's army, NPA-Mindoro units are effectively resisting and fighting military, paramilitary, and police attacks. The regime uses far superior war weaponry against the NPA, including helicopters, drones, rockets, cannons, and others.

Facing these, Ka Madaay called on Red commanders and fighters to draw inspiration from one another as they take on greater responsibilities in 2026. "Let us uphold the guiding theory of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the firm leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines over the entire Philippine revolution and the people," he said.

In Eastern Visayas, the NPA-Leyte Island (Mt. Amandewin Command) launched a celebration. "Exactly on the day of the anniversary, the unit successfully held its activity in a location hidden from the US-Marcos regime's armed forces," unit spokesperson Ka Dodong Malaya said.

In North Central Mindanao, an NPA unit celebrated the anniversary. Its leadership used the opportunity to consolidate Red fighters and hold a cultural program. The unit's activity concluded near midnight.

According to the unit, the positive effect of the activity and the study of the Central Committee's anniversary statement was evident among the Red fighters. They said it helped them overcome burdens that had weighed down and slowed the significant progress of the unit's tasks.

These NPA unit gatherings honored fallen Party leaders and cadres within their respective areas and at the national level. They also paid tribute to Red fighters and commanders who gave their lives over the past year.

Other NPA commands also released statements to honor the Party in solidarity with its anniversary. NPA-Masbate (Jose Rapsing Command) spokesperson Ka Luz del Mar said the Party leadership has enabled over four decades of advancing armed struggle in Masbate.

“Under the Party’s leadership, the NPA is the people’s staunch ally and is relied upon to render genuine justice to all victims of state violence and killings. The people must reclaim what rightfully belongs to them and enjoy it in freedom and justice,” she said.

The NPA-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) declared doubling its efforts in waging intensive and expanded guerrilla warfare under the Party’s leadership. The unit said it will persevere in launching tactical offensives against the US-Marcos regime’s armed forces.

The NPA operates under the absolute leadership of the Party’s Central Committee through its Military Commission and through its cadres at every level. The Party guides the people’s army in studying and applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and develops its most advanced fighters to become Party members. The NPA serves as the Party’s principal weapon for seizing and consolidating political power.

Parties and groups abroad greet the CPP on its 57th anniversary

January 3, 2026

Parties and organizations from other countries greeted the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on the occasion of its 57th anniversary on December 26, 2025. They recognized the Party's nearly six decades of leadership of the Filipino people's national democratic revolution.

Well wishers included the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist), Anti-Imperialist Action (AIA) Ireland, and Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS).

"We congratulate you on another year of steadfast commitments, struggle and bold actions to uphold the cause of the Filipino people at home and also abroad," CPC (ML) national leader Anna Di Carlo said. She recognized the CPP's efforts despite extremely difficult conditions to achieve victories toward the Filipino nation's full liberation.

According to AIA Ireland, the CPP-led struggle can now be regarded as one of the world's most advanced revolutionary movements. "The cadres of the CPP and their comrades have stood undefeated in the face of intense encirclement and suppression campaigns by the comprador US-Marcos regime, and heavy foreign intervention from imperialist troops," the group stated.

The CPA (ML) noted the surge of protests in the Philippines in recent months. The party said the CPP's efforts is part of this surge as it leads the Filipino masses' call for accountability and justice for the US-Marcos regime's rampant corruption.

"Under the US-Marcos regime, the Filipino people experience worsening conditions with no way out but to pursue the struggle for national democracy and win national and social liberation," the CPA (ML) stated.

For the FFPS, the CPP's perseverance is praiseworthy, especially amid the severe counterrevolutionary wars waged by successive US puppet regimes in the Philippines. "In the face of these circumstances the CPP has distinguished itself for self-critically analyzing the situation, adapting to repression and rectifying errors," FFPS chairperson Robert Reid said.

They also recognized the role the CPP now plays in resisting US imperialism, particularly in the war it is fomenting in the Asia-Pacific region. The US and the puppet Marcos regime are now using the Philippines to ignite a war against rival imperialist China. The US is pouring billions of dollars in military aid into the Philippines and conducting frequent and large-scale war games.

Messages from these parties and organizations also honored the cadres and leaders of the Party who have been martyred in recent years. They said the martyrs of the Philippine revolution must be remembered, and their legacy deserves celebration.

According to the FFPS, the Philippine revolution is significant not only to the Filipino people but also to the oppressed peoples of all nations. “As supporters of the Philippine Revolution, we in FFPS shall continue our efforts to expose the fascist repression of the Filipino government internationally, to campaign against foreign intervention in the Philippines, and to give direct support,” Reid of FFPS said.

The group also stated that it will match this determination and strengthen the flame of unity worldwide as the Filipino people and their revolutionary movement rebuild and reinvigorate themselves.

The CPP’s effort to strengthen relations with fraternal proletarian parties and friendly parties in other countries is in line with its program in the field of foreign relations as outlined in the Program for the National Democratic Revolution (PPDR).

Baguio City residents stop public market privatization plan

January 4, 2026

The residents and organizations that supported their struggle successfully stopped the plan to privatize and “mallify” the public market in Baguio City.

On January 3, the Baguio City Public Information Office announced that SM Prime Holdings

Inc. (SMPHI) had sent a letter to city mayor Benjamin Magalong's office withdrawing its plan to develop the market.

The city council is set to vote on January 9 on whether to accept or reject SM's proposed plan.

According to the Save Baguio Market Movement, the withdrawal is a historic victory for Baguio residents. They achieved it through organizing, collective research and discussions, expressing opposition, engaging with the local government, and upholding high standards for elected officials. When people unite and stand together, they can face even giants—and this is what Baguio residents did.

The group also called on the city councilors to formally accept SMPHI's withdrawal or reject its proposed plan before January 9. It said the project could still proceed without the council's decision. The group also urged the council to revoke City Resolution 399 of 2020, which specified using Public-Private Partnership to develop the public market.

Tongtongan Ti Umili called on the public to remain alert about updates. "While we celebrate this victory, we remain vigilant. There will surely be attempts to change the narrative, divert responsibility, or revive the same plan under a different name. We will continue to demand accountability from the local government and insist that the public market should be developed by the people for whom it was created," the group said.

The group added that what Baguio needs is development that prioritizes public welfare, comes from public funds, is transparent and accountable, and does not depend on corporations that run counter to public service.

Groups launch humanitarian mission to investigate AFP bombing in Mindoro

January 4, 2026

Karapatan-Southern Tagalog (ST) traveled to Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro to carry out a humanitarian mission to investigate the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s aerial bombing and strafing on January 1 in Barangay Cabacao. The humanitarian mission began on January 3 and continues up to date.

The bombing and strafing in Barangay Cabacao on January 1 occurred at around 9 a.m. Videos and posts about the incident spread on Facebook, revealing the terror and anxiety in the voices of residents living near the site.

According to the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindoro, the victims of the incident included a young researcher named Jerlyn Rose Doydora. She died from her illness triggered by the intense bombing and strafing. Aside from Doydora's ordeal, NDF-Mindoro reported that another young student remains missing after being separated during the AFP attack.

The two were among the youths who expressed their desire to interview indigenous peoples and farmers in Mindoro and the Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA). They wanted to learn about the concrete situation of the masses, the causes of the armed conflict, and the real solution to achieve peace. NDF-Mindoro facilitated receiving the visitors in Abra de Ilog before the new year.

The humanitarian mission primarily aimed to locate Doydora's body, search for the other youth, and investigate the condition of the Mindoreños affected by the bombing and strafing. Upon arriving in Abra de Ilog, Karapatan-ST immediately approached the local government to formally launch the humanitarian mission.

The team then went to the evacuation center at Cabacao High School, where displaced indigenous peoples and farmers were taking refuge. Police officers were stationed at the school, which frightened the evacuees.

Despite Karapatan-ST's insistence on conducting an independent investigation, barangay personnel kept asserting that the indigenous peoples were in good condition and that there were allegedly no cases of military abuse. The team was forbidden to investigate within the school.

That same day, the group also visited funeral homes in Abra de Ilog and nearby areas to search for Doydora's body. The team also went to the Municipal Police Station of Abra de Ilog to inquire,

but the police reportedly had no information about Doydora's body or the other missing youth.

By nighttime, soldiers spread threats warning people not to allow the Karapatan-ST humanitarian team entry into Mindoro's churches. "The church is a refuge for the people—a hall that should remain open to everyone in need of shelter; above all, it is a Zone of Peace that must not be disturbed by the military," the group stated.

On January 4, Karapatan-ST reported continuing surveillance by the police and military of their humanitarian mission. "The military clearly fears the presence of the humanitarian team which only aims to uncover and expose the truth. This shows that the AFP-PNP are hiding something and are desperately trying to obstruct the humanitarian mission," the group said.

The humanitarian mission of Karapatan-ST will continue in the coming days. Other groups and mass leaders are expected to join the mission soon.

NDF-Mindoro reports AFP bombing in Occidental Mindoro killed 3 children, 2 youth

January 4, 2026

The National Democratic Front (NDF)-Mindoro reported on the afternoon of January 4 the deaths of three Mangyan children and two young

students from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s relentless bombing and strafing in Barangay Cabacao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on January 1. Another civilian was seriously injured.

NDF-Mindoro earlier reported that the deaths included young researcher Jerlyn Rose Doydora, who suffered a fatal attack from her illness at the height of the AFP bombing. NDF-Mindoro received initial reports that another youth researcher got lost and also died in the bombing.

Two days after the bombing, villagers found the remains of three killed Mangyan children and their injured mother.

This belies the 203rd IBde's claim that the bombing in Barangay Cabacao was for the welfare of the Mindoreño masses, according to NDF-Mindoro.

The two youth were among the group that earnestly requested to NDF-Mindoro an opportunity to interview and engage with farmers, indigenous people, and the New People's Army. They wanted to understand the conditions of farmers and indigenous peoples and why they take up armed struggle.

According to NDF-Mindoro, AFP forces have custody of Doydora's remains and are preventing the humanitarian mission of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog (ST) from conducting an investigation since January 3. Police and military are surveilling and harassing the Karapatan-ST team.

NDF-Mindoro again called on all human rights advocates and civic groups to help the families of Doydora and the other youth to recover their remains for proper wake and burial. NDF-Mindoro also urged groups to push for justice for the deaths of the three Mangyan-Iraya children and their mother's injury.

Meanwhile, the AFP's bombing and strafing also damaged the livelihoods of the indigenous people and farmers in the area. Reports mentioned that the bombing killed at least two cows and three pigs. It forced the evacuation of a total of 188 families, composed of 769 individuals, to Cabacao High School. In addition, 15 families or 59 people fled and are temporarily staying with relatives.

"The families and community of Abra De Ilog people who fell victims to the 203rd Brigade and 2nd IDPA bombing must receive assistance until justice is achieved for their tragic fate," NDF-Mindoro spokesperson Ma. Patricia Andal said. NDF-Mindoro is asserting for the opening of a humanitarian corridor to assist the victims of military terrorism.

"The prevailing de facto Martial Law in Mindoro must end, and civilian authority and the power of the people must prevail on the island," Ka Ma. Patricia urged.

NDF-Rizal hang banners in Antipolo City for revolutionary martyrs

January 4, 2026

The National Democratic Front (NDF)-Rizal and Kabataang Makabayan (KM)-Balangay Jordan Mopon hung two giant banners in Antipolo City at midnight on January 2. The banners bore tributes to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the martyrs of the revolution, and the call to overthrow the US-Marcos regime.

One banner honored Party Central Committee founding chairperson Comrade Jose Maria Sison; exemplary Philippine revolution cadres Comrades Wilma and Benito Tiamzon; and Josephine “Ka Sandy” Mendoza, for her role in strengthening the revolutionary movement in Southern Tagalog.

Another banner honored Jordan “Ka Sy” Mopon, a Rizaleño and valiant commander of the New People’s Army (NPA) who operated in the Sierra Madre mountains. This banner bore the call to support and join the NPA, and “Rizaleño youth, follow in the footsteps of Jordan ‘Ka Sy’ Mopon! Join the NPA!”.

They also paid tribute to the martyrdom of Jerlyn Rose Daydora, a young woman who sacrificed her life while the 203rd Infantry Brigade relentlessly bombed the community of indigenous Mangyan people in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on January 1.

According to the group, its members carefully planned the hanging of the banners as the new year approached, ensuring the security and order of the activity. They strictly implemented security

measures, especially under the intensified surveillance and repression of the US-Marcos regime against the revolutionary movement.

The activity followed the gathering of NDF-Rizal members on December 30, 2025 to celebrate the CPP's 57th anniversary. The banners that were hung had also been used during the same NDF-Rizal assembly.

“The call to further advance the people’s democratic revolution is firmly upheld, as the revolutionary people of Rizal remain steadfast in achieving the people’s great victories against the fascist and plundering US-Marcos regime,” NDF-Rizal said.

NPA-Quezon celebrates CPP anniversary

January 4, 2026

Red commanders and fighters of the New People’s Army (NPA)-Quezon (Apolonio Mendoza Command) and revolutionary forces from the localities and urban centers gathered to collectively celebrate the Communist Party of the Philippines’ (CPP) 57th anniversary. Guests arrived safely, and the gathering took place amid the relentless combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the province.

Resounding applause greeted the march of the NPA before singing the Internationale and beginning the program. After this, the army and

guests offered the highest tribute to Comrades Jose Maria Sison, Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, Luis Jalandoni, Maria Malaya, the martyrs of NPA-Quezon, and all who gave their lives for the liberation of the oppressed people.

With the theme "Further ignite the people's aspiration in the province to end the rotten system!", the program featured solidarity messages and cultural performances from representatives of various revolutionary organizations. These included presentations by the Pambansang Katipunan ng Magbubukid (National Peasants Alliance), Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Patriotic Movement of New Women), Liga ng Agham para sa Bayan (League of Science for the People), Artista at Manunulat ng Sambayanan (People's Artists and Writers), Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth), and Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle.

The Red fighters of NPA-Quezon welcomed the message conveyed by KM members. They said they look forward to KM's response to the resounding call for the mass enlistment of youth in the NPA to serve in the people's war in the countryside.

According to the message sent by the FFPS from North America, the masses eagerly desire change, and we must heed their call by studying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, investigating and analyzing the people's conditions until we achieve a deep grasp, and working tirelessly to earn their trust and

support. “If we heed their call, our efforts will surely bear fruit!” it stated.

Ending the program, participants discussed the Central Committee statement titled “Conditions are excellent for further advancing the people’s democratic revolution.” The program also read the statement of the Regional Committee of the Party in Southern Tagalog titled “Lead the surge of the mass movement toward the overthrow of the US-Marcos regime! Strengthen the Party and establish deep grounding among the masses!”

Before leaving, everyone shared the prepared spaghetti, bread, and chicken afritada. Each one was pleased and full of optimism about facing the coming year, especially the NPA-Quezon Red fighters who, aside from receiving gifts of new uniforms, looked forward to the promise of the visitors to return to the guerrilla zone.#

NDF-Cagayan Valley reports staff as missing

January 6, 2026

The National Democratic Front-Cagayan Valley (NDF-CV) expressed concern over the disappearance of its regional public information team member Scarlet Lyne Gayo. The NDF-CV has been unable to contact her for more than three weeks.

NDF-CV spokesperson Salvador del Pueblo said Gayo was on medical leave and was scheduled to

return to her unit when communication with her was lost. Gayo was last seen in Cavite on December 9, 2025.

“According to relevant information, Gayo was cornered by elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and is being pressured to turn against her revolutionary comrades in exchange for the dismissal of several trumped-up charges against her,” Ka Salvador explained.

Before she went missing, Gayo was conducting research in Region 2 on the impact of droughts, typhoons, and other disasters on poor farming communities.

“The AFP and NTF-ELCAC (National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict) of the US-Marcos regime must be made to answer if Gayo and her family are harmed in anyway, in violation of international humanitarian law and protocols of war,” said del Pueblo.

DLSU Manila administration suppresses student protest

January 8, 2026

De La Salle University (DLSU)-Manila students suffered repression from the administration after launching a protest on campus on January 5. The administration cut short a protest action that denounced anomalies in the 2026 national budget, militarization in the countryside, and the university’s expected tuition increase.

According to Lasallians Against Corruption (LAC), the group that led the protest, the Student Discipline Formation Office (SDFO) prevented students from finishing the supposedly short program. LAC tried to negotiate with officials and the administration to continue the program but was forcibly stopped because of the alleged lack of “permit.”

LAC asserted that their protest and expression of political stance did not violate the Student Handbook. The SDFO and administration ignored the students’ explanations and arguments and repeatedly stopped them.

According to the group, the SDFO even forced them to name protest participants and grabbed a student’s ID. The students, especially those in Senior High School, were threatened with punishment for their “major offense” of participating in the protest.

“We would like to categorically state that the mobilization was a manifestation of our self-evident, legal, and democratic rights protected by the Students’ Charter (Section 44), handbook policies (Section 1b of the Declaration of the Zero Tolerance for All Forms of Violence Policy), and the Philippine Constitution,” LAC said. The group added that the handbook contains no provision requiring students to obtain a permit from the SDFO for any form of protest.

LAC added that the SDFO should explain why it stopped the protest and took the names of participants. The group called for a dialog with

the SDFO and the creators of the student handbook to clarify students' rights according to the document.

"Let us not be afraid as they repress us; rather, find strength in our numbers," LAC urged. The group said that the voices of students and youth are even more crucial now, since Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr signed the ₱6.793-trillion General Appropriations Act or the national budget for 2026 on January 5, which the group described as riddled with anomalies.

Meanwhile, progressive groups on campus expressed solidarity with LAC. Anakbayan Vito Cruz lauded the students' resoluteness amid repression in expressing their stance against systemic corruption and other local issues.

Groups continue to oppose Apayao hydro-power dam

January 8, 2026

The Save Apayao Peoples Organization (SAPO) once again called for the rejection of the Gened 1 hydro-power dam construction plan on the Apayao-Abulog River in Kabugao, Apayao. The project threatens the indigenous community's ancestral land, culture, and safety, the group said.

Pan Pacific Renewable Power Phils. Corp. plans to build seven water reservoirs and a pump storage facility in the province. The dam is only one of

eight hydropower projects planned along the same river.

Research by the Cordillera Peoples Alliance and Aliansa dagiti Pesante iti Kordiliera (Apit Tako) shows that the construction of Gened 1 will submerge several communities. These include the barangays Poblacion, Nacagman, Waga, Bulu, and Madduang in Kabugao and large parts of Santa Marcela, Flora, Pudtol, and Luna in Apayao. It will also damage some nearby towns in Cagayan. The project will destroy river and forests, and threatens residents' livelihoods.

The group condemned the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for granting the company a permit to cut trees. The company also failed to conduct sufficient and proper consultations with the community. This is a dangerous precedent for the continued destruction of ancestral land and ecosystems, the group said.

The community also reported that company personnel have started operating in the nearby town of Pudtol due to strong opposition from the Kabugao community against the dam. There is also information that the company has begun deploying machinery in the barangays of Pudtol near the boundary of Kabugao.

SAPO calls on the residents of Pudtol to oppose the dam project and defend their ancestral land. The group said that protecting the land is an act of justice and respect for the past, present, and future generations.

Pasig City community resists eviction threat

January 8, 2026

Residents of Molave Extension or Leona Compound in Nagpayong, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City reasserted their stand against their eviction by Pasig Action Line (PAL), a local government organization. PAL again intimidated the residents early this year on January 5 in an attempt to drive them out.

Reports say a hospital and a school is set to be constructed in the area. The residents learned about the construction from Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto himself on December 3, 2025. They said the local government did not show any proof that it owns the land they occupy. They are also disappointed at having no relocation plan after their eviction.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Pasig expressed its support for the community's struggle. It also joined the protest organized by the residents at Pasig's Temporary City Hall in November 2025.

At the protest, they called on Mayor Sotto to allow the people to occupy idle lands for their communities. They also urged that the actual landowner issue an "Intent to Sell" in the future or include them among possible beneficiaries of the government's housing projects.

“Until the issue of decent housing for the poor remains unresolved and the law continues to serve only a few, communities like Leona Compound will persist and further expand,” Bayan-Pasig said.

Clark Freeport Zone companies fire around 900 workers

January 9, 2026

A total of 867 workers from the factories Charter Link Clark Inc. and La Rose Noire Philippines, based in Clark Freeport Zone, lost their jobs in December 2025.

La Rose Noire Philippines terminated 390 probationary or contractual workers for allegedly failing to meet the company’s strict standards. The company produces bread such as croissants and chocolate-based products. La Rose is a Swiss bakery with stores in Europe, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, and North America. Its headquarters is in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Charter Link Clark Inc. closed shop, effectively terminating 477 workers. The company manufactures clothing for the brand Lululemon. It is a subsidiary of Charter Link Ltd based in Hong Kong.

The company claimed that orders for clothing had steadily declined for three years, with projected zero sales for 2026. The company promised to ensure the benefits, severance pay, and advance salaries of the workers. At the same time, it forced

workers to sign release papers before Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) officials. The release papers or Release, Waiver, and Quitclaim (RWQ) are documents signed by terminated or resigned employees freeing the employer from liability such as claims or illegal dismissal in exchange for final pay or benefits. The company even threatened detaining the workers in the factory unless they sign the RWQ. The company informed workers of its closure during their Christmas party.

Union president Eric Nalam said that the company's closure is clearly aimed at union busting after it won the illegal dismissal case he and the union vice president filed before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) and the Court of Appeals. He said the company clearly retaliated against workers who dared to fight for their rights.

The group calls on DOLE and Clark Development Corporation to investigate the company's closure and ensure that workers receive proper compensation and benefits.

Filipino workers, peasants, and the poor stand with the Venezuelan people against US imperialism

January 9, 2026

Filipino workers, peasants, and the urban poor firmly stood in solidarity with the Venezuelan

people after the US attacked the country and abducted its president, Nicolas Maduro, and his wife, Cilia Flores, on January 3. They marched to the US embassy in Manila on January 5 carrying the calls “US, hands off Venezuela!”, “Down with imperialism!”, and others. They burned the US flag in front of the embassy and urged all Filipinos who cherish democracy and freedom to stand with the Venezuelan people.

“Filipino workers clearly see that Trump’s so-called ‘war on drugs’ is utter nonsense,” Kilusang Mayo Uno said. “This is the same tactic the United States uses when invading many Asian and Middle East nations under various fabricated pretexts, much like its intervention in the Philippines under the guise of ‘countering terrorism’ and ‘delivering peace’.”

KMU salutes the people of Venezuela for their “courage and determination to resist foreign colonizers.”

“Filipino farmers stand in solidarity [with Venezuelans] as these attacks mirror the broader tactic of US-sanctioned violence imposed on us, and all that resist neoliberal plunder,” Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas said. KMP expressed solidarity with the Venezuelans’ struggle for sovereignty free from foreign coercion.

“As urban poor citizens, we clearly see the root of the attacks on Venezuela. This is not a question of democracy but of the imperialist United States’ greedy desire to control the country’s natural resources and economy,” Kadamay said. It added

that this is the same system that continues to mire the Filipino people into poverty.

“From the Philippines to Venezuela, imperialism poses the same threat to people’s lives, livelihoods, and dignity!” it declared.

Events in Venezuela once again expose the true nature of US imperialism as “a principal source of war, instability, and repression in the world,” Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said.

The attack also starkly reminds the Filipino people of the US’ long and bloody record as a war criminal.

“All US military bases and facilities must be immediately removed from the Philippines,” Bayan said. “The presence of US troops, facilities, and military agreements... only strengthens US capacity to wage wars of aggression and drags the Philippines deeper into imperialist conflict.”

The US bombing of Venezuela killed more than 100 people, caused widespread power outages, and disrupted communication systems.

Groups remember Ka Bel’s proletarian militance

January 9, 2026

On January 8, progressive organizations of workers and the poor commemorated the life of the late labor leader and congressman Crispin “Ka

Bel” Beltran on the celebration of his 93rd birth anniversary. Ka Bel was born on January 7, 1933. He passed away on May 20, 2008, at the age of 75.

The Crispin B. Beltran Resource Center (CBBRC) and Kilusang Mayo Uno led the commemorative program. The speakers traced Ka Bel’s life from being a taxi driver to his service as a representative of Bayan Muna and Anakpawis Partylist.

KMU regards Ka Bel as “a pillar of the labor movement, worker-leader, and patriotic legislator” who left a legacy of “honest, wholehearted, and selfless service to the poor and the oppressed.”

Kadamay’s Mimi Doringo, PISTON’s Mody Floranda, and ANGLO-KMU’s Malou Fabella remembered his life and struggle. Ofel Beltran-Balleta, Ka Bel’s daughter, also shared a personal reflection. She recounted how Ka Bel’s principles continue to live on in their family and in the organizations he founded.

History of proletarian militancy

Ka Bel’s patriotism awakened at a young age. During the Japanese occupation, he served as a courier for guerrilla forces. After the war, he began working as a taxi driver. From 1955 to 1963, he served as president of the Amalgamated Taxi Drivers Association and the Yellow Taxi Drivers’ Union.

He was elected vice president of the Confederation of Labor of the Philippines and the

Philippine Alliance of Nationalist Organizations in the 1960s. There, he helped establish various unions such as KASAMA and PANALO. In 1980, he played a significant role in founding Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). He served as KMU general secretary while Felixberto “Ka Bert” Olalia was elected its chairperson. When Rolando “Ka Lando” Olalia, the succeeding chairperson, was assassinated in 1986, Ka Bel took his place and served until 2001.

In 1987, he ran for senator under Partido ng Bayan, a coalition of progressive forces formed after the EDSA Revolution. He garnered around 1.52 million votes, a substantial tally for a militant candidate, despite widespread electoral fraud (the so-called “dagdag-bawas” or addition-subtraction operation) and repression during Pres. Corazon Aquino’s term.

In the 2000s, he was elected to Congress three times. First, to the 12th Congress as the second nominee of Bayan Muna (2001–2004), second as the representative of Anakpawis Partylist (2004–2007) in the 13th Congress, and third as the representative again of the Anakpawis Partylist (2004–2010) in the 14th Congress. He did not finish his term because of his sudden death after accidentally falling while repairing the roof of his house.

From 2006 to 2007, then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo imprisoned him on fabricated rebellion charges later dismissed by the Supreme Court.

Beyond his patriotism, Ka Bel's anti-imperialist stance stood out. He served as the first chairperson of the International Coordinating Committee of the International League of Peoples' Struggle when it was founded in May 2001 in Zutphen, Netherlands, and continued until his death in 2008.

In 2008, Jose Maria Sison and the National Council of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines honored Ka Bel for his "fearless resistance to all forms of political repression." He was also recognized by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines as a "proletarian internationalist, hero of the working class, and of the Filipino people."

Lumad leader defend Talaingod 13 against renewed wave of red-tagging

January 9, 2026

Former Bayan Muna representative and Lumad leader Eufemia Cullamat strongly condemned the renewed wave of red-tagging against the Talaingod 13 after the Court of Appeals upheld the unjust ruling against them.

"When unable to counter the truth, (the state) weaponizes red-tagging," Cullamat said. The lawmaker made this remark in response to the latest red-tagging campaign by retired general Antonio Parlade, who teamed up with traitor to the revolutionary movement Arianne Jane Ramos.

“No child or parent filed a complaint. No harm was proven. But the teachers were convicted,” Cullamat said. “Red-tagging covers up the truth.”

The lawmaker said red-tagging is not used for discourse but as preparation for violence. It is a counterinsurgency tactic which first vilifies, then expels, and finally indicts and imprisons.

She condemned the NTF-Elcac for its role in filing fabricated cases against the Talaingod 13.

“NTF-Elcac always uses insurgency to justify militarization in rural communities and to suppress people’s initiatives,” she said.

“(C)olluding with NTF-Elcac are warlordism and political dynasties like the Libayao family that has ruled over Talaingod from the Marcos dictatorship up to the present.”

Cullamat named Jose Libayao as the local warlord who gained power through his connection to logging operations. He was previously security guard who was not a local to Talaingod but became the town mayor through his collusion with the company for denuding the forest. Cullamat condemned his family member Pilar Libayao for continuously collaborating with NTF-Elcac to vilify the Talaingod 13.

Tension persists among AFP factions

January 9, 2026

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) senior officer Col. Audie A. Mongao's post condemning the Marcos regime's corruption went "viral."

Mongao's post said Ferdinand Marcos Jr had already lost "moral ascendancy" to lead the AFP as its commander and to govern the Filipino people. He called out, "Enough is enough!", signifying his withdrawal of support for the president.

Mongao, O-10933 INF (MNSA) PA, is the current Director of the Training Development Center under the AFP Training Command (TRACOM). His appeal went viral after Ret. Air Force Maj. Gen. Romeo Poquiz reposted it on January 8. Poquiz is one of the founders of the United People's Initiative, an organization of retired military officers allied with the Duterte family.

On September 21, 2025, UPI held a rally near Camp Crame to urge active generals to "withdraw" their support for Marcos Jr. On January 5, the regime arrested Poquiz on charges of inciting to sedition. He immediately posted bail and was released.

Meanwhile, the AFP has already removed and is pursuing Col. Mongao. It has also launched an investigation against him.

The sudden and viral nature of Mongao's post prove the unresolved discord among factions within the AFP controlled by the rival Marcos and Duterte camps. Periodic flare-ups of this conflict occur despite repeated AFP leadership's

assertions that it firmly “abides by the Constitution and the chain of command.”

46th IB fires at two charcoal-making children in Samar

January 10, 2026

The 46th IB’s soldiers fired an M203 grenade and shot two siblings in Sityo San Pedro, Barangay 3, San Jose de Buan, Samar on the afternoon of January 3. The siblings were hauling charcoal when they encountered three soldiers who suddenly opened fire at them.

Bullets hit the younger child in the chest, hand, and leg and was left at the scene. The family never learned the child’s condition and is still missing to date.

Meanwhile, the older sibling managed to escape the shooting. He said he saved himself by immediately wading and forcing his way across the flooded river.

The victims’ parents said the siblings had been making charcoal from coconut shells in nearby coconut groves since before Christmas. They have been selling charcoal for ₱26 per kilo at San Jose de Buan center. The two were working hard to earn enough money to buy a smartphone.

The family said that when the children crossed paths with the soldiers, they were hauling the last of their charcoal they had planned to deliver

before the New Year. The siblings dared to cross the dangerous flooded river to deliver the charcoal and complete the amount needed to buy the smartphone before the town fiesta.

The family is grieving deeply over the incident. However, they fear coming forward and filing a complaint because of recent cases of peasant killings in their town. They worry that the soldiers will retaliate and kill another family member if they report the incident.

Philippine and US groups call for Chantal Anicoche's release

January 10, 2026

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) USA and Migrante USA are calling for the immediate release of Chantal Anicoche, one of the young researchers who went to Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro during the Christmas season. She is currently under AFP custody and detained at Camp Mateo Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal.

On January 8, Karapatan-led progressive groups protested at the Department of Defense to condemn the military's bombing in Abra de Ilog and to demand Anicoche's immediate release. Progressive groups also held a protest at the Boy Scout Circle in Quezon City on January 9.

On January 10, ACT Teachers Partylist representative Antonio Tinio, Liza Maza, Migrante International members, the National Union of

Peoples' Lawyers, and Karapatan Southern Tagalog went to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal to check her condition, but they were not allowed to enter. At the same time, they held a protest outside the camp.

On the same day in the US, Bayan-USA Northeast members and the Filipino community protested outside the Philippine Consulate office in New York City. They earlier sent a letter to Consul General Senen T. Mangelile to request a meeting with him to urge the Philippine government to release Anicoche from military custody.

Bayan USA and Migrante USA also launched a signature campaign for the immediate release of Anicoche and justice for Jerlyn and all victims of human rights violations in Mindoro.

Anicoche, 24, has a BS in Psychology degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She was a former leader of the Filipino American Student Association, an organization of Filipino student youth in the university. She had been active in the campaign to pass the Philippine Human Rights Act and to advance the rights of Philippines' indigenous peoples and peasants.

The relentless campaign of youth organizations, human rights advocates, and the Filipino community in the US demanding that the AFP surface Anicoche, forced the 203rd IBde to release a video showing that she was "found" in a pit, 500 meters from the bombing site on January 8.

According to the groups, the credibility of the video released by the military is doubtful. The footage shows Anicoche appearing scared, confused, and stressed, surrounded by soldiers “searching” for bombs and guns and asking about her identity. They said the soldiers’ statements in the video are alarming because they could be used as grounds to file fabricated charges such as illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Moreover, if she was indeed found near the site, why did it take a week before she was located? And why is the military preventing human rights organizations from conducting their own fact-finding mission? At present, the military refuses to release her, claiming she is a “person of interest” in the insurgency.

The possibility that the military had been holding Anicoche all along should not be dismissed, and that the video was staged and released only because of the widespread international attention to her disappearance. Their concern for Anicoche’s safety is valid, especially since the AFP has decades of recorded human rights violations. These include planting evidence to fabricate charges, said Bayan USA and Migrante USA.

According to Migrante International, the AFP must stop pretending to be Anicoche’s “rescuer” and respect her right to consult a lawyer regarding her detention. “She must not be subjected to any form of torture, interrogation, threats, coercion, or intimidation by any AFP unit.”

Karapatan, on the other hand, called on the Commission on Human Rights and independent and international organizations to conduct an independent investigation into Anicoche's situation and the human rights violations that occurred at the start of the new year in Abra de Ilog.

Progressive groups condemn Provincial Task Force-Elcac formation in Cebu

January 10, 2026

Progressive groups in Central Visayas denounced the Cebu local government's formation of the Provincial Task Force-Elcac during the last week of December 2025. The agency was created under Executive Order No. 61, Series of 2025, issued by Cebu Gov. Pamela Baricuatro.

Like its national counterpart, the National Task Force-Elcac, the agency declares its goal to implement coordinated efforts to address "insurgency" in Cebu. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) declared the province "insurgency-free" as far back as March 2010, nearly two decades ago.

According to Karapatan-Central Visayas, the creation of the said agency by the local government in Cebu is seriously alarming for human rights concerns. It also threatens communities, especially amid the intensifying

militarization and repression of civil liberties, the group said.

Since its establishment in 2018, the NTF-Elcac has gained notoriety for profiling activists, red-tagging civilians, harassing communities, and forcing individuals to “surrender” as “rebels.” Karapatan-CV is certain that its Cebu local branch will further aggravate the people’s long-standing suffering from human rights violations in the province.

Since 2025, the group has recorded heightened military presence and accompanying repression in communities where residents continue to assert their rights. These include the farming and fishing communities in Toledo City, Minglanilla, Pinamungaran, and Aloguinsan. “We fear that the task force will only intensify these abuses under the guise of ‘peace and order’,” the group said.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Central Visayas also believes that the PTF-Elcac will not help the Cebuanos since the crisis in the province is not a matter of security. According to the group, the province’s crisis involves hunger, unemployment, rising prices of goods, unsafe workplaces, lack of affordable housing, poor health services, and worsening environmental destruction.

“Creating another Elcac body will not solve these problems. It only diverts public funds away from the people’s real needs,” Bayan-Central Visayas said. The group urged the local government to revoke the order that established the PTF-Elcac.

Gov. Baricuatro will lead as chairperson and Vice Gov. Glenn Anthony Soco as vice chairperson of the newly formed agency. High-ranking officials from the security and justice sectors, the local government, and representatives from civil society organizations will also join the agency.

The Special Action Committee of the Provincial Peace and Order Council and representatives of religious groups, including the Archbishop of Cebu, will reportedly serve as “advisers” to the PTF-Elcac. The Office of the Governor is set to fund agency.

Progressive teacher-leaders commiserate with Muntinlupa City teacher’s death

January 10, 2026

Progressive teacher-leaders commiserated with the family and relatives of Agnes Buenaflor, 59 years old, a teacher at Pedro E. Diaz High School in Muntinlupa City who died on January 7.

Leaders of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT)-Philippines and its affiliated unions visited Buenaflor’s wake in Dasmariñas City, Cavite on January 9.

Buenaflor hit her head after fainting while conducting a “classroom observation” exercise. She was rushed to a hospital but later passed away. ACT Muntinlupa Union called Buenaflor’s

death “a tragedy that shook the entire education sector.”

The union said that the incident once again exposed the heavy burden and danger faced by teachers inside classrooms. “Despite the stated aim of classroom observation to improve teaching, teachers have long considered it as a source of intense stress, pressure, and anxiety,” the union stated.

Classroom observation is an evaluation conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd) to assess teachers’ teaching competence. It is implemented under DepEd Memorandum No. 89, s. 2025, which laid out periodic walkthroughs and extended classroom observations.

According to the union, Buenaflor’s long experience as a teacher clearly showed that she should no longer have been subjected to such a “repressive evaluation.” The union urged DepEd to immediately suspend classroom observations and instead establish a humane and teacher-centered support system.

ACT Philippines said that aside from classroom observation, there are other standards and requirements that measure teachers’ performance, which further burden them, including the Result-based Management System (RPMS).

These are used to determine teachers’ benefits and promotions. “ACT asserts that these requirements are excessive, inhumane, and drain

teachers' time and energy that should primarily go toward teaching," the group said.

"In solidarity with grieving fellow teachers and staff, we collectively call for decent and livable wages, adequate benefits, and sufficient funding for education, health, and social services that will uphold the rights and well-being of teachers, staff, and students," ACT Philippines declared.

ACT Teachers Party-list Representative Antonio Tinio also extended his condolences and visited Buenaflor's wake. "We express our sympathies to Ms. Buenaflor's family and colleagues. Her dedication to teaching must be honored and remembered," he said. The congressman urged DepEd to promptly review its policies, saying that Buenaflor's ordeal should raise the agency's concern.

Meanwhile, DepEd Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Fatima Panontongan visited the wake alongside ACT and ACT Teachers Party-list leaders. The teacher-leaders held a dialogue with the DepEd official and presented their demands. The teachers raised their major concerns about classroom observation.

Among their appeals was to prohibit the use of classroom observation as a basis for teachers' performance ratings, Performance-Based Bonus, promotions, or other purposes. They also insisted that the process should not be treated as a showing-off and should serve only as a means to provide teachers with technical support.

They further suggested that the observation should last only 10–15 minutes instead of covering the entire class period. They urged the agency to exempt veteran or long-serving teachers from classroom observation and to consider their years of service.

The teacher-leaders reiterated their call to completely abolish classroom observation and overhaul the burdensome teacher evaluation system.

Groups condemn reauthorization of dredging operations in Ilocos Sur

January 11, 2026

Defend Ilocos Sur and Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment (KPNE) condemned the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 1 (DENR-1) for renewing Isla Verde Mining Development Corporation (IVMDC)’s dredging operation permit. The renewal was granted despite the company’s repeated violations of the law. According to the groups, the agency’s decision lacked clear and legitimate basis and contradicted its very mandate to protect the environment.

On December 23, the DENR-1 upheld IVMDC’s appeal to revoke the December 22 cancellation of its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which allows the company to sell the excavated materials from the designated zone in the river.

IVMDC's suspension was discussed in a dialogue between the company, local government, and residents on November 19. The company failed to provide the necessary documents to continue its operations. These included a clear technical description of its dredging operations and proof that the operations covered only the specified dredging zone, as well as renewal of its permit to transport minerals. DENR-1 still reinstated the MOA despite the absence of these documents.

"In just 24 hours, DENR-1 revoked the cancellation and issued a letter of reconsideration. The agency is clearly loyal to plundering corporations and not to the people," Kalikasan explained.

The dredged materials are transported to Pasay City and Bulacan, contrary to the company's claim that this aims to prevent flooding in Vigan City.

Former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, and current governor Jerry Singson defended the dredging, calling it an important project supposedly for flood control.

Defend Ilocos Sur called on DENR-1 to explain why it reinstated the MOA and to release all documents related to IVMDC's operations. It also urged consulting with the affected community before allowing the project to resume.

The group likewise demanded accountability from the company and from government officials who permitted the operations despite the company's violations of the law. It also demanded proper

compensation for the fisherfolk and the immediate rehabilitation of the damaged coastline.

Labor group calls for investigation to Cebu City garbage dump collapse

January 11, 2026

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) called to immediately investigate the garbage dump collapse at the Binaliw Landfill in Cebu City on January 8. The landfill is run by Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc (PIWSI), a subsidiary of Prime Infrastructure Capital Inc, owned by the comprador bourgeoisie Enrique Razon Jr.

The Cebu City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported on January 11 that the collapse had killed six, injured 12, as 34 people went missing. The victims were mostly landfill workers.

“(The company) must be investigated if it complied to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Law standards, and if so, be held immediately accountable,” KMU said. The group also demanded that the company shoulder all expenses for the burial of the deceased and the medical treatment of the injured.

KMU noted that the Razon is responsible for the incident, especially if the company deliberately ignored workplace safety and health standards to cut costs and maximize profit. The group also said

that this incident proves the OSH Law's inutility in criminalizing OSH standards violations.

"This tragedy must not be allowed to pass. Workers doing honorable work should never experience this again," the group said.

KMU called for increasing the number of search and rescue teams to swiftly locate and save the missing, and to ensure the safety of the workers participating in the search and rescue as they perform their duties.

According to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Central Visayas, workers and residents had long warned about the precarious height of the garbage dump, the toxic air, contaminated water, and the absence of safety measures at the landfill. "Their calls were ignored until the tragedy happened," the group said.

The environmental group Greenpeace Philippines compared the incident to the tragedy in Payatas, Quezon City on July 10, 2000, which reportedly killed hundreds. The group said this reflects a grim picture of the country's broken waste management system.

Students reiterate call for repeal of ADMU-AFP "declaration of cooperation"

January 11, 2026

Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) students again urged its administration to revoke its signed Declaration of Cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a protest held on January 8. This followed recent reports of bombing and terrorism by the AFP in Sitio Mamara, Barangay Cabacao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on January 1.

According to One Big Fight for Human Rights and Democracy (OBFHRD), the AFP's campaign of fascist repression against the people, especially in rural communities, has only intensified since the agreement was signed. The group said that no good can come from ADMU's partnership with an institution that bombs indigenous communities and kills civilians in the countryside.

The group had earlier criticized the declaration of cooperation, calling it contrary to the principles of democracy and academic freedom. According to OBFHRD, this military intrusion into ADMU is clearly part of the Marcos regime's National Action Plan for Unity, Peace, and Development (NAP-UPD), which is closely linked to the counter-insurgency campaign.

Military terrorism in Mindoro

On January 1, the AFP mobilized four battalions of soldiers and used four helicopters to bomb and attack Abra de Ilog. Human rights groups reported that it killed three Mangyan-Iraya children and injured their mother.

At the height of the bombing, young researcher Jerlyn Rose Doydora also died after being stricken with her illness. Doydora was with a group of youths who had expressed interest in interviewing indigenous people and farmers in Mindoro, and the Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA). They sought to understand the concrete conditions of the masses, the root of the armed conflict, and the genuine solutions to achieve peace. Doydora was a student of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila.

Meanwhile, another young researcher, Chantal Anicoche, went missing after being separated from her companions during the bombing. On January 8, the 203rd IBde announced that it had "found" Anicoche after persistent pressure from human rights groups to surface her, confirming suspicions that she was being held by the military. Anicoche is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the US and a former leader of the Filipino American Student Association, an organization of Filipino students at the university.

According to OBFHRD, AFP's terrorism in Mindoro is not a new tactic on the island and nationwide. The group said that these fascist attacks are carried out under the Marcos regime's orders with the support of major mining and real estate corporations that seek to seize the indigenous peoples' ancestral lands.

In the protest, the group called for justice for the victims of the massacre and the AFP's intensified

militarization in Abra de Ilog and the whole of Mindoro.

TaskUs Clark employees file complaint at NLRC

January 11, 2026

BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN) Philippines reported on January 8 that quality assurance (QA) analysts at the company TaskUS in Clark, Pampanga filed a complaint at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC). QAs complained against the company for terminating them after designating them to “floating status” under the pretext of “automation.”

QAs monitor and ensure BPO agents’ optimal performance. They push agents to reach the company leadership mandated quotas. TaskUs Clark holds clients and accounts that manage food delivery and e-commerce up to finance technology and “trust and safety” or content moderation.

The terminated employees have been with the company for 5-7 years. BIEN Philippines reported that the terminated employees were forced into a “redeployment” program which interviews and evaluates them for a lower position without guarantee of maintaining current wage levels.

Bien emphasized that the TaskUs Clark employees’ ordeal is a manifestation of a broader industry crisis. Bien has received similar reports of violations of worker rights in BPOs since

November 2025. It has gathered complaints from at least 245 employees put on “floating status”, illegally dismissed, or subjected to poor working conditions.

The group said that uncertainty and extreme pressure forced many of these employees to resign and sacrifice their regular employment and years of experience.

The group urged fellow BPO employees to report to them their grievances and unite. “The system will not change unless we get organized,” BIEN Philippines said. The group continues to boost its campaign for job security and dignity for employees.

Dismissed Ninja Van riders successfully assert reinstatement

January 12, 2026

The Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) congratulated the Ninja Van riders for successfully defending their job security and right to unionize. After nearly five months, the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) issued a decision in December ordering the reinstatement of 131 riders Ninja Van dismissed last year. These workers are members of the Ninja Van Riders’ Union (NVRU-FFW). Ninja Van is one of the largest logistics providers in Southeast Asia. Its headquarters is based in Singapore.

The company dismissed the said workers between April and May 2025, citing their alleged absence without leave (AWOL), use of different names in accounts, and performance issues. Using the company's own records, the union proved to the NLRC that the riders did not go AWOL. Using different names in the app did not interfere with their work, and they fulfilled their assigned tasks.

Based on these reasons, the NLRC ordered Ninja Van to reinstate the dismissed riders. The commission also declared the company's hiring of other riders as retaliation against union activities as an "unfair labor practice."

"No spear can deter the continuing struggle to achieve workers' rights. Victory is achieved with principle and dignity," NVRU-FFW president Dick Pacioles said.

"The NLRC decision is a boost to (advancing) the right to security of tenure and to freedom of association that should be enjoyed by all platform industry workers and all workers," CTUHR stated.

"It sheds light on the new but essentially old means by which companies in the platform industry try to subvert workers' rights." These methods include treating them as "independent contractors" and not employees, dismissing them when they unionize, and using seemingly legitimate reasons to justify the retrenchment.

Land grabber illegally fences off land in Taytay Rizal

January 12, 2026

Various homeowners' associations under Taytay Urban Poor Alliance (TUPA) and Kadamay-Rizal protested at the Baltao gate, Ortigas Avenue on January 11 to condemn the widespread demolitions in Taytay, Rizal. They called for the immediate halt to the illegal confinement of residents by Baltao Corporation in Sitio Igiban. A total of 129 people joined the action.

In collusion with the Philippine National Police, goons hired by Baltao Corporation forcibly closed the passageway of residents in Sitio Igiban, Barangay San Isidro, Taytay, Rizal starting January 7. Around 60 families were affected by the company's violent act. Residents still cannot enter or exit their community to date.

The closure of the passageway severely disrupts the daily lives of residents. Many students cannot attend school, and workers cannot reach their jobs. Some who fell ill did not get medical treatment because of the blockage.

The company first fenced off the passageway on December 4. It was forced to open the gate after a municipal staff member intervened. However, Taytay mayor Allan De Leon remains idle and unresponsive to the situation.

Igiban is just one of several communities facing the threat of demolition in Taytay. Sitios Siwang, Sapang Gody, Bato-bato, Batong Dalig, Halaman Uno, Halaman Dos, Pugad Lawin, and PCSO also face demolition. Residents in these communities have no access to water and electricity because of the harassment from land grabbers.

According to TUPA, the widespread demolitions only prove the state's bias toward private companies' interests instead of upholding the urban poor's right to shelter.

Sitio Igiban Neighborhood Association Inc. calls for immediate action to address their problem and demands the eviction and accountability of Baltao Corporation for the violence it inflicted on residents.

Pasay City vendors call for the reopening of Wowie Market

January 12, 2026

Around 200 Wowie Market Vendors Association members protested at the Pasay City Hall on January 12 to demand the reopening of their market.

The vendors and workers marched from the market to Pasay City Hall. Instead of facing the vendors, city mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano hid inside her office. Worse, City Hall played loud music to drown out the vendors' calls. Police even threatened to water-cannon the protesters.

On December 19, 2025, the local government closed Wowee Market without giving the vendors prior notice. According to the local government, the market committed violations and lacked proper operating permits. However, the vendors said the closure resulted from the political feud between Calixto and former councilor Editha “Wowee” Manguera who ran for mayor in the 2025 elections. Manguera’s relative owns the said market.

The closure deprived more than 200 vendors and over 500 workers, porters, and tricycle drivers of their livelihood. Thousands of Pasay residents also lost access to an affordable marketplace.

The vendors considered the local government’s expensive relocation and push to sell their wares on sidewalks as unreasonable.

The honest and dignified livelihood of vendors should not be jeopardized in warring political factions, they said.

Urban poor residents demand compensation from DSWD for disaster victims

January 12, 2026

Urban poor community residents affected by the recent typhoons trooped to the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) national office on January 12 to demand compensation that

should've been distributed. Led by Kadamay, they sought to hold a dialogue with DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian but was refused.

"More than six months have passed since typhoons Crising, Dante, and Emong struck, along with the successive floods caused by the southwest monsoon," said Kadamay. "But until now, millions of Filipinos remain neglected and have not received fair compensation."

The disasters devastated about 1.85 million families or 6.6 million individuals in 17 regions and damaged more than 15,000 homes.

"Temporary aid or relief goods is not enough compensation for these damages," the group said. This was the urban poor residents' response to Gatchalian's letter on January 8, which stated that the department's response of distributing relief food packs was "sufficient".

Kadamay noted that DSWD has a ₱270 billion fund in the proposed 2026 national budget, including ₱63.9 billion for Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS).

"This fund in practice becomes an instrument of patronage politics and new form of vote-buying, instead of direct and immediate assistance to those truly in need," Kadamay said.

The urban poor called the prolonged delay and lack of state response as "criminal neglect."

Call for Chantal's release broadens

January 13, 2026

Various chapters of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Migrante joined the global campaign for the immediate release of Chantal Anicoche, a Fil-Am activist illegally detained by the military. She is currently under the 2nd ID's custody and detained at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. The military claimed they "found" Anicoche in a pit near the area where a unit of the New People's Army and the military clashed in Abra de Ilog, Mindoro, on January 1.

Aside from demanding Anicoche's immediate release, the groups called for justice for the victims of bombings in the indigenous community in Abra de Ilog and for the AFP to be held accountable for its crimes in the countryside.

In the US, over 50 Filipinos held protests in Seattle and at the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC on January 8. Filipino groups also staged a protest at the Philippine Consulate office in New York City on January 10. Bayan Northeast earlier sent a letter to Consul General Senen T. Mangelile requesting a dialogue and urging the Philippine government to release Anicoche from military custody. Instead of conducting the dialogue, the consulate simply forwarded the letter to the Philippines.

In Canada, groups protested at the Joyce Skytrain station in Vancouver on January 11, and outside the Philippine Consulate offices in Toronto, Alberta, and Vancouver, as well as the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, Ontario on January 12. Groups from Vancouver, BC also submitted a petition for Anicoche's release to Deputy Consul General Uy for transmission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Office of The President.

In the UK, Filipinos led by Migrante-UK and the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP)-Britain protested outside the Philippine Embassy in London on January 12. Anakbayan-UK, London-Philippine Solidarity, and the International League of Peoples Struggle-UK also joined the action. Before the protest, representatives from Migrante, Anakbayan, and ICHRP attempted to deliver a letter to Teodoro Locsin Jr., the Philippine ambassador to the UK, but only one person was allowed to enter, and staff simply received their letter.

In the Philippines, Migrante International protested anew at the Department of National Defense on January 12. Prior to the protest, the group twice attempted to visit Chantal at Camp Capinpin but was kept out. Instead, the camp positioned intelligence agents to surveil, harass, and threaten the group.

The organization also condemned the 2nd ID's coercion of Anicoche to sign a document for her continued stay in the camp. It stated that the military must stop the harassment, intimidation, threats, or torture against her.

“The AFP has kept Anicoche under custody beyond the legally mandated period. They feel no shame for the bombing in Abra de Ilog, where they killed three Mangyan children and a young researcher. They now baselessly imprison Chantal. She must be released,” Migrante International chairperson Joanna Concepcion said.

Migrante chapters in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Europe, and Thailand, along with the Asia Pacific Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines and ICHRP-USA, also called for Anicoche’s release.

Over 1,000 Filipino nurses join US nurses’ strike

January 13, 2026

Over 1,000 Filipino nurses joined the the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) strike launched on January 12 in New York City. They were among the 15,000 nurses from ten private hospitals in New York (Presbyterian, Mount Sinai, and Montefiore) who went on strike that day.

The strike resulted from a deadlock in several months of negotiations for increased wages, benefits, and protection from workplace violence.

The last major strike in the city happened in 2023. Nurses at Mount Sinai and Montefiore stopped working for three days and won a 19% salary increase over three years.

The hospital strikes occurred simultaneously but the unions negotiated independently and separately with their respective hospitals. The unions first gained partial victories at Richmond University Medical Center, Northwell/Plainview Hospital in Long Island, Bronxcare Health System, Flushing Hospital Medical Center, Maimonides Medical Center, One Brooklyn Health Interfaith Medical Center and One Brooklyn Health Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Wyckoff Height Medical Center, and The Brooklyn Hospital.

According to NYSNA, the officials of Mount Sinai, New York-Presbyterian, and Montefiore responded with retaliation, intimidation, and delays while nurses fought for everyone's rights. The management of these hospitals even boasted about spending US\$100 million to hire temporary replacement nurses instead of addressing the union's demands.

"Mount Sinai, New York-Presbyterian, and Montefiore, the wealthiest private hospitals in New York City, claim they cannot afford a fair contract for the safety of patients and nurses, yet they have enough funds to fight their own workers," NYSNA said.

The strike forced New York City governor Kathy Hochul to declare a state of emergency.

Residents' barricade against Woggle Corporation dismantled anew

January 14, 2026

The residents' barricade against Woggle Corporation was dismantled again on January 13 by order of the Bambang Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Barangay Bitnong, Dupax del Norte. The court also ordered the arrest of those who would defy its ruling. To ensure the order is enforced, PNP Bayombong deployed over a hundred police personnel armed with riot shields and assisted by Bureau of Fire Protection personnel on board a fire truck.

Residents sang "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" as Woggle Corporation workers tore down the metal gate erected at the barricade's entrance. The company's personnel failed to advance further after the gate was destroyed when more than 50 residents blocked the road. Church people and environmental defenders stood with the resisting residents.

The residents asserted blocking Woggle's entry into their community even after the removal of the gate they built.

Prior to the incident, Bayombong Diocese Bishop Jose Elmer Mangalino held a mass on January 12 for the residents and those maintaining the barricade. The diocese also called on local government officials to protect and defend the people. On January 9, the diocese sent a formal appeal to Nueva Vizcaya Governor Jose Gambito to issue an order directing Woggle Corporation to stop its operations. Separate appeals were also sent to Vice Governor Eufemia Dacayo, Vice

Mayor RR Asuncion, and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and Sangguniang Bayan of Dupax del Norte, urging them to support the call and take the side of the affected communities.

The residents' lawyer filed motions to reconsider the nullification of the dismantling order but the RTC Branch 30 denied these on January 6.

Kalikasan People's Network expressed solidarity with the people of Dupax del Norte in their struggle. The group joined the residents' call for Judge Paul Attolba Jr. to inhibit from the case. Judge Attolba Jr. of RTC Branch 30 in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya is the same judge who dismissed the petition for a temporary environmental protection order against OceanaGold Philippines Inc. in April 2024.

Students in Caloocan condemn use of cash aid for politicking

January 14, 2026

Kabataan Partylist-North Caloocan condemned the use of Caloocan City's local government aid to threaten and control University of Caloocan City (UCC) students.

Student reported that the incident happened in the first week of December 2025 at North City Hall. City employees publicly harangued and intimidated the students, delaying the distribution of ₱5,000 financial assistance for over an hour. They reprimanded those who had complained on

social media about the delayed payout. Employees also told students they should “be thankful” to the city major for the cash aid as a “debt of gratitude.”

“Why? He’s free to run for a position. We don’t see any reason to thank him for the aid...it is from the people’s taxes,” one reprimanded student said.

Students also expressed disappointment and distrust toward the local government.

“We don’t get any update (about the aid)... it’s like they have forgotten (it), or worse, already pocketed,” another student said.

Worse than the delayed release was the dishonesty and the feeling of being punished for asking questions, another student said.

“If this aid is really meant for students, why do they seemingly have to silence us first before releasing it?”

Students were barred from bringing cellphones to the event to prevent videos from reaching the public. City representative Congressman Oscar Malapitan was also present and promised a second batch of aid by the second week of January. There has been no update since.

Last month, the issue of the delay and confusion about the release of the promised ₱5,000 financial assistance for UCC graduating students spread on the Facebook page “Batang NorCal.” Students from UCC South also reportedly received their aid

first, while others would only be given windbreakers instead of cash.

Kabataan Partylist-North Caloocan said the financial aid anomaly is only one among the heap of issues UCC students face. This also manifests the Caloocan City local government's rotten and corrupt governance.

The group urged UCC students to stand for their democratic rights and fight for genuinely free and accessible education.

CA grants amparo and habeas data petition of abducted activist's family in Bicol

January 15, 2026

The Court of Appeals (CA) granted the writ of amparo and habeas data to Cora Jazmines, wife of missing activist James Jazmines, on January 14. According to the CA, her husband was proven a victim of enforced disappearance and suffered grave violations of his right to life, liberty, and security.

The court also found AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr, former PNP Chief Gen. Rommel Marbil, and former CIDG Chief Gen. Nicolas Torre III accountable and liable for Jazmines's disappearance for failing to perform their duty to exert extraordinary efforts to

prevent, investigate, document, and resolve the case.

The National Union of People's Lawyers said the latest legal victory is an important decision for truth and justice. However, the group continues to demand the immediate surfacing of Jazmines and fellow activist Felix Salaveria.

Jazmines is an information technology consultant and younger brother of National Democratic Front of the Philippines peace consultant Alan Jazmines. He was last seen on August 23, 2024, in Tabaco City, Albay. His friend Felix Salaveria was also abducted five days later.

Church people and residents unite against proposed nuclear plant in Pangasinan

January 15, 2026

Pangasinan residents resolutely stood against the plan to build a nuclear power plant in Labrador. On January 4, various groups and church people gathered for a mass opposing the project. A protest in the town followed.

Alaminos Diocese Most Rev. Napoleon Sipalay Jr officiated the mass held at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish. In December 2025, at least 30 Catholic Church leaders declared their opposition to the nuclear plant construction in the province.

Residents rejected the project because of safety issues, environmental risks, and its harmful impact on future generations. Those who joined the action included the Pangasinan People's Strike for the Environment (PPSE).

The proposed 1,000-megawatt nuclear plant costs ₱255 billion and will cover 120 hectares. The plant could later be expanded to produce up to 6,000 megawatts of electricity.

Pushing the project is the province's second district representative Mark Cojuangco, who also heads the House of Representatives special committee on nuclear energy. The congressman claims the project will help lower electricity rates in the province.

According to PPSE, nuclear plants will not solve the power crisis and poverty. The group said the people's past experience shows that electricity never becomes free or cheap under the control of big corporations. Instead, it becomes more expensive and results in massive profits for the elite.

The group added that the project poses danger to the lives, environment, and livelihood of residents, as a nuclear plant failure could devastate a disaster-prone area. Labrador lies along the East Zambales Fault, part of the Lingayen Gulf Fault System.

Another problem is nuclear waste which would remain radioactive and toxic to human health for hundreds of thousands of years. PPSE said nuclear

power is not “renewable energy,” contrary to the its proponents’ claims, since the nuclear fuel required to run it comes from mines abroad.

Instead of a nuclear plant, PPSE called for developing local alternative and renewable energy sources, alongside support for Filipino scientists, researchers, and engineers in pursuit of genuine national industrialization.

“We also firmly assert that people have the fundamental right to adequate and truthful information, especially on projects that affect their future,” the group said. This was their response to claims of “public support” for the nuclear project.

“The people’s consent or opposition to such projects must undergo genuine democratic consultations and should not be tied to aid or the exchange of basic services they rightfully deserve,” the group added.

The Philippine government approves nuclear plant construction using the newly formed Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (PhilATOM). The agency will be responsible for granting licenses, supervision, and enforcing regulations on nuclear energy use.

Court acquits and releases Cagayan political prisoner and peasant organizer

January 15, 2026

After five years in prison, a court in Cagayan acquitted and released political prisoner Amanda Echanis on January 14. State forces arrested peasant organizer and writer Echanis on December 2, 2020 in Baggao, Cagayan, on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Police raided the house hosting Echanis in Barangay Carupian and claimed to have found an M16 rifle, ammunition, and a grenade. She was immediately arrested along with her newborn infant.

The Tuguegarao City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 10 decided on the basis that prosecutors failed to prove the crime charged against Echanis. The court added that the prosecutors' speculations were not enough to fully establish her guilt.

Echanis's family, friends, colleagues, lawyers, and progressive organizations warmly welcomed her release. They maintained that her five-year imprisonment was an injustice and a period stolen from her by the state.

"This proves that the case filed against Amanda was fabricated to silence activists and advocates of farmers' and people's rights in Cagayan Valley. She should never have been jailed and separated from her child," Amihan national chairperson Zenaida Soriano said. Echanis belongs to Amihan, a federation of peasant women.

Echanis was represented by the lawyers group Sentro Para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo (Sentra, or Center for Genuine Agrarian Reform), which said that her prolonged detention by state forces on baseless allegations is a “disturbing pattern.” The group said this pattern erodes due process and public trust in institutions, and terrorizes those engaged in legitimate struggle.

The group added that while the court’s decision marks a step toward justice, accountability remains necessary. “True accountability requires a broader review of the circumstances that led to this wrongful prosecution and detention,” Sentra said.

The group urged authorities to immediately review similar cases and free others like Echanis. They added that officials responsible for abuses of power must be held to account, and that policies weaponizing the justice system against human rights defenders must be dismantled.

Karapatan shared the same view. “Those who ordered her arrest, planted evidence, lied in court, and prolonged her detention must be held criminally and administratively accountable,” Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said. She added that such abuses will continue without accountability.

Those who welcomed Echanis’s release from the Cagayan Provincial Jail in Tuguegarao City included her University of the Philippines-Diliman University Student Council (UPD USC) fellow

officers. While in detention, Echanis was elected as the top councilor of the UPD USC in May 2025.

“The release of Amanda Echanis is a victory of collective action and an important step in defending academic freedom and advancing genuine social justice,” the student council declared.

Upon her release, Echanis vowed to continue organizing and advancing the rights of farmers. She also said she will keep demanding justice for her father, Randall Echanis, who was killed by state forces on August 10, 2020.

Court dismisses fabricated case against UMC pastor

January 15, 2026

On December 8, 2025, the Branch 43 of the Regional Trial Court in Oriental Mindoro dismissed the attempted murder charge filed by the military against United Methodist Church (UMC) Reverend Glofie Baluntong. The military based the case on an armed encounter in March 2021.

The court had earlier junked the “terrorism” charge also filed against her in October 2025.

The court said the complainant failed to prove that he was hit by a bullet in the armed clash where he alleged Baluntong was present. Baluntong was merely named a suspect because her name

appeared on the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) "order of battle."

At the time of the alleged encounter, Baluntong was officiating a funeral Mass for a deceased UMC member in another area.

The UMC condemned the soldier for falsely accusing Baluntong of being part of the revolutionary movement.

Baluntong previously served as the UMC District Superintendent for the Oriental Mindoro-Romblon-Marinduque district. She was forced to leave Mindoro Island because of AFP harassment and persecution. The military's hostility toward her intensified after she provided sanctuary to Mangyan indigenous people defending their ancestral land rights and to members of Karapatan conducting a fact-finding mission. She was repeatedly accused of aiding the revolutionary movement.

The UMC called on the Philippine government to stop filing fabricated charges against church people who merely advocate peace, human rights, and environmental justice. The church also demanded the repeal of the Anti-Terror Law and the abolition of the National Task Force-Elcac, which it said are weaponized to persecute critics of the state.

Downward trend of Philippine economy to worsen in 2026

January 15, 2026

Behind the Marcos regime's rosy pronouncements about the state of the economy, problems of sluggish growth, joblessness, and inflation persist.

The Marcos regime is expected to fail in meeting its ambitious target of 6%-8% gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2025, even after figures were revised to 5.5%-6.5% in June 2025. The average growth in the first three quarters reached only 5%, with GDP growth slowing to 4% in the third quarter. By the end of 2025, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development itself admitted that GDP might grow by only 4.8%-5.0% for the entire year. This is slower than the 5.6% rate recorded for 2024.

The regime blamed the slowdown on the corruption scandal from the exposed in flood control projects, particularly for the third quarter. But according to Ibon Foundation, the downward GDP trend began long before the outrage over corruption erupted; in fact, it started as early as 2017. The seeming increase in GDP growth reflected only a rebound after the sharp decline in production and the economy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Employment rates have fallen, Ibon reported. In November 2025, 277,000 workers lost their jobs. Even in the state's heavily under-estimated data, the official unemployment rate rose from 3.2% to 4.4%. The real unemployment rate is far higher if the 3.52 million "unpaid family workers" and millions of workers failing to find jobs are

included. Worse, 62% of those the state counts as “employed” are in irregular work in sectors like agriculture, retail, and services.

Despite the decline in inflation, Filipinos remain mired in poverty. Many continue to describe themselves as poor, with 63% self-identifying as “vulnerable.”

“Because joblessness worsened, easing inflation has not prevented millions more Filipinos from becoming poor and hungry since the Marcos Jr administration came to power,” Ibon said.

There were no meaningful job gains, and people’s income did not rise enough for them to feel the slower inflation, it added.

“Jobs need to be anchored in expanding formal enterprises and rising productivity to reduce poverty,” Ibon concluded.

Groups renew call for AFP accountability for abduction of two activists in Cebu

January 15, 2026

Progressive groups and human rights defenders protested in Cebu City on January 10 to reiterate their demand for justice and the Armed Forces of the Philippines’ (AFP) accountability in abducting activists Dyan Gumanao and Armand Dayoha. They held the rally in front of the AFP Visayas Command headquarters.

Dayoha and Gumanao joined the rally at the military camp. They expressed deep frustration over the dead-end investigations of the Commission on Human Rights, even after it identified the AFP units' direct involvement in the abduction.

Dayoha denounced the Cebu Provincial Task Force-Elcac's creation in December 2025 as ordered by Gov. Pam Baricuatro. He said it would only intensify the state forces' long-standing practice of Red-tagging, harassment, and attacks against activists.

Abduction amid many witnesses

State forces abducted Gumanao and Dayoha at the Cebu Port on January 10, 2023, and held them incommunicado for five days. Gumanao was the regional Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) coordinator in Region 7, while Dayoha was an Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) Cebu local chapter volunteer. Both are graduates of the University of the Philippines (UP)-Cebu.

Videos of the abduction showed the two activists being seized and forcibly shoved into a vehicle in full view of many people. They were loaded into a gray SUV parked in the port's area where private vehicles were prohibited.

The two were found and reunited with their families on January 16, 2023. Gumanao's father said his daughter called on January 15, 2023, asking to be fetched in Carmen, Cebu, where their captors had abandoned them.

Gumanao and Dayoha said they were blindfolded, separated into different rooms, and subjected to interrogation and torture by state agents.

Months after the incident, the CHR investigation itself confirmed the involvement of Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) units in the abduction. No one has been held accountable for the crime to date.

Independent investigation

Karapatan-Central Visayas reiterated its call for an independent investigation into the abduction of Dayoha and Gumanao, and other cases of abduction and enforced disappearance nationwide. The group said Dyan and Armand are no longer just victims but symbols of resistance against state repression.

At least 19 desaparecidos or victims of enforced disappearance were recorded under the US-Marcos regime. Ang Bayan reported that state forces have abducted nearly 300 people, some of whom were later surfaced dead, imprisoned on fabricated criminal charges, or falsely presented as “surrendered former rebels.”

KMU calls token and staggered wage hike in NMR as RWB’s “disgust” to workers

January 15, 2026

Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) sharply condemned the latest minimum wage increase in Northern Mindanao as the Regional Wage Board's (RWB) "kababuyan" (disgust to workers)" and utter worthlessness.

"Workers' wage increases by a measly ₱39 more, it will even be given in tranches!" the group said. "This is what workers will keep suffering under the Bulok, Barat, at Makupad* (rotten, miserly and sluggish) Regional Wage Board."

According to the group, the RWBs are pulling down workers' wages, forcing them deeper into poverty and indignity.

KMU demanded the abolition of the RWBs and the implementation of a nationwide living wage.

A family of five needs an average daily wage of ₱1,200 to live decently, according to Ibon Foundation. At present, the highest daily minimum wage is only at ₱695.

Workers in Northern Mindanao face even worse conditions. Those under Wage Category I (includes Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Malaybalay, Valencia, Gingoog, El Salvador, Ozamiz, and municipalities such as Tagoloan, Villanueva, Jasaan, Opol, Maramag, Quezon, Manolo Fortich, and Lugait) receive only ₱461 a day, or around ₱12,000 a month. Under Wage Category II, which covers the rest of the region and small establishments with 10 or fewer workers, the rate is ₱446 a day or ₱11,600 a month.

Under Wage Order No. RX-24, the meager ₱39 increase will even be split into two tranches: the ₱25 will be given effective January 16, and the remaining ₱14 to follow on May 11. For now, wages will rise only to ₱486 (Category I) and ₱471 (Category II). Only by May will NMR wages reach ₱500 and ₱485, respectively. This barely reach ₱12,610–₱13,000 a month, which is not even half of the ₱31,200 monthly living wage.

In 2025, the regional wage increased only by ₱23 per day for non-agricultural workers. Agricultural workers's wages increased by ₱35, but this was given in two tranches.

[*] “Bulok, Barat, at Makupad” bears the acronym “BBM” which is Ferdinand Marcos, Jr’s popular nickname.

Land grabber evicts Negros Occidental hacienda farmers with violence

January 15, 2026

Ta-ala Farms, Inc. armed personnel violently drove away peasant-beneficiaries from Hacienda Michaela in Barangay Talotog, Murcia, Negros Occidental on January 12. The company used a backhoe to destroy the peasants’ crops and force them out while they were working the land, injuring several farmers.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP, or Peasant Movement of the Philippines)-Negros denounced the violence against the farmers.

According to the group, the peasants have legitimate ownership of the land since it was granted to them under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Poultry and egg business Ta-ala Farms, Inc. owner Bonnie Ta-ala is claiming the land, saying that former owner Arthur Bayona sold the land to her.

According to KMP-Negros, the land was once owned by Bayona but had long been abandoned and neglected. In 2011, farmers had already complained about Bayona's abuses against farmworkers, including meager wages, absence of benefits, and demolition of homes.

Since Bayona abandoned the property, the farmers have been cultivating it, and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) itself had processed it for distribution to the tillers. However, KMP-Negros denounced the agency's sluggishness, forcing the beneficiaries to collectively farm and defend the land themselves.

"The sudden purchase and claim by Ta-ala Farms, Inc. is questionable and illegal because the land is already set for distribution to the people," KMP-Negros said.

The farmers' group asserted that DAR failed to secure the farmers' ownership of the land. "Instead, it became an instrument to disrupt the farmers' peaceful cultivation of their fields," the group said. This, they added, clearly shows who DAR favors.

Progressive groups and youth organizations expressed support for Hacienda Michaela peasants.

Anakbayan described the hacienda incident as a collusion between the state and landlords with big business interests. “This is a systematic exploitation that relies on violence, intimidation, and harassment to displace the real tillers of the land,” the group stated.

The group added that the incident is not isolated but integral to the broader rural crisis rooted in the absence of genuine land reform, militarization, and the culture of impunity. “This [continues to] compel farmers to fight,” Anakbayan declared.

Meanwhile, Kabataan Party-list (KPL)-Negros urged the DAR to act immediately and decisively enforce the land distribution to farmers. “DAR must not remain a passive bystander while agrarian reform beneficiaries are threatened and driven off their land by armed goons acting for corporate interests,” KPL Vice President for the Visayas Florence Guzon said.

COA flags AFP anomalies

January 16, 2026

The Commission on Audit (COA) recently exposed the Armed Forces of the Philippines’ (AFP) failure to return unused funds and its deposit of these in unauthorized bank accounts controlled by military officers.

COA reported that the AFP holds six “unauthorized” bank accounts with a total balance of ₱72.86 million. COA said the AFP should have remitted this amount to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr). The balances came from unspent or undistributed funds intended for the AFP Medical Center (₱68.167 million), Presidential Security Command (₱4.358 million), and Eastmincom (₱335,386.40). The AFP had been ordered as early as December 2022 to close these accounts and return the funds to the BTr, as mandated by law. The AFP did not comply.

Meanwhile, COA demanded that the AFP General Headquarters account for ₱201.86 million in “unliquidated” funds—or expenses without submitted reports—for 2024. Part of this sum has remained unliquidated since as far back as 1981, or 43 years since the money was spent.

Irregularities involving illegal bank accounts and unliquidated funds in the AFP are not new.

In 2021, COA also criticized the AFP for maintaining 20 illegal bank accounts containing ₱1.813 billion. A large portion of this amount (₱1.346 billion) was earmarked for the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund-Central Office. It should have been returned to the national treasury but AFP generals held on to the money.

COA can use the failure to remit unused funds as grounds to disallow further releases to the AFP and to impose administrative sanctions or file criminal charges such as malversation or technical

malversation against the involved military officials.

DOLE's "assumption of jurisdiction" represses CEU strike

January 16, 2026

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) brazenly suppressed Centro Escolar University (CEU) teachers' and employees' right to strike when it issued an "assumption of jurisdiction" or AJ on January 13. The CEU Faculty and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) led and set to begin the strike that day after negotiations for the 2025-2030 collective bargaining agreement (CBA) reached a deadlock.

The AJ prohibited the strike and ordered teachers and employees to return to work. Those who defy the DOLE order may face dismissal, criminal charges, or outright repression, including the violent dispersal of their strike by police and military forces.

The CEU FAWU strongly condemned the DOLE for issuing the AJ. In response, the union called on its members in the Manila, Makati, and Malolos campuses to join daily collective actions in the form of a prayer vigil at CEU Manila. "We will continue the struggle despite the DOLE-imposed AJ," the union declared.

The Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) condemned the DOLE and its secretary

Bienvenido Laguesma for issuing the AJ. “How can workers effectively fight for their labor rights if the strike, one of their most potent weapons for advancing their rights, is always thwarted by the government?” the CTUHR stated.

The group reiterated its demand to junk the DOLE secretary’s power to assume jurisdiction over labor disputes. It said this power is excessively broad, curtails workers’ right to strike, and weakens their collective bargaining rights against the capitalist.

A just demand

In the CBA negotiations, CEU FAWU pushed for a ₱2,500 salary increase, a health card, retirement benefits, a signing bonus, higher financial aid for calamities, emergency financial assistance, and other benefits for teachers and staff. Conversely, the university administration offered only a ₱650 across-the-board increase and minimal benefits during the last meeting on January 12.

The CEU administration and the union had already reached a deadlock in negotiations as early as September 2025. This prompted the union to file a Notice of Strike with the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) in October 2025. In December 2025, 368 union members voted in favor of striking.

“Despite the clear and just stance of union members, the administration remains deaf to the legitimate grievances of CEU’s teachers and personnel,” FAWU stated. It added that the

administration's refusal to offer any concrete proposal clearly disregards the sacrifices, dedication, and continued service of CEU teachers and employees to the university and its students.

Union and CEU administration representatives are set to meet again on January 19 at the DOLE national office in Intramuros, Manila.

CTUHR called on the CEU administration to respect the rights of its teachers and employees. "CEU has a responsibility to advance the labor rights of its faculty and staff, for its students and for improving college education in general," the group said.

PUP campus journalist harassed with sedition, inciting to sedition charges

January 16, 2026

The Marcos regime is again harassing Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) campus journalist Jacob Baluyot. On January 15, Baluyot appeared before the Department of Justice (DOJ) for a preliminary investigation on charges of sedition and inciting to sedition. Baluyot is The Catalyst associate editor and Alyansa ng Kabataang Mamamahayag (AKM) PUP national chairperson.

Baluyot received the subpoena on the afternoon of January 14. He was ordered to return for the second part of the investigation on January 29.

In support of Baluyot as he faced the DOJ, The Catalyst, the PUP campus publication, and progressive groups held a protest outside the office. They also launched a separate rally inside the PUP campus in Sta. Mesa.

“The Bongbong Marcos government has the gall to charge Jacob with sedition when they themselves are the primary traitors to the Filipino people,” The Catalyst editor-in-chief Maxene Marcelo said. She added that she was certain Baluyot would not be the Marcos regime’s last to persecute and harass.

“This is not the time to be paralyzed. Like Jacob and all those victimized by state fascism, we must act even more,” Marcelo continued.

Unrelenting state harassment

The investigation and case are the third in a series of charges Baluyot has faced since September 2025. He was earlier summoned by the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group for “investigation” over alleged leadership in protests. When he refused, he was summoned again for “indirect contempt.”

These moves are linked to the supposed leadership and involvement of youth leaders in anti-corruption protests, particularly during the September 21, 2025 demonstrations in Luneta Park and Mendiola, Manila. Baluyot and his fellow campus journalists were present in those protests to fulfill their duty as student journalists.

The Catalyst, AKM PUP, and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines have earlier stood firm against these cases. They declared that such charges threaten press freedom and the right to participate in peaceful assemblies.

Beyond Baluyot, PNP and the Marcos regime have also targeted UP-Diliman University Student Council Chairperson Joaquin Buenaflor, PUP Central Student Council President Tiffany Brillante, and Kalayaan Kontra Korapsyon organizer and DLS-CSB student Aldrin Kitsune.

According to Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan PUP, the harassment of Baluyot is a clear state attack on youth who resist and demand justice for corruption. “As long as all those involved in corruption—from Marcos Jr to Duterte—remain unpunished, the Iskolar ng Bayan will continue to act,” the alliance asserted.

Youth group slams Ateneo High School field trip to AFP camps

January 16, 2026

An Ateneo High School students group denounced the field trip which took students to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) camps on January 16. The military brought Grade 11 students to Naval Station Pascual Ledesma and Naval Base Heracleo Alano in Cavite City.

According to the Makabayang Pagkakaisa ng mga Atenista-High School (MAPA-HS), this is not the

first time Ateneo High School has partnered with the AFP for field trips. In 2024, the AFP also took high school students to Camp Capinpin, headquarters of the 2nd ID, in Tanay, Rizal.

MAPA-HS expressed deep concern over these field trips, saying the AFP uses its military camps for the illegal detention of activists and other civilians.

The group added that aside from field trips, programs and forums on campus promoting “anti-terror grooming” have become widespread, as these discussions are undertaken supposedly to prevent radicalization and terrorism. MAPA-HS said these talks echo the well-known arguments of state forces such as the AFP and the National Task Force-Elcac, which use such fora to red-tag mass organizations and progressive individuals as terrorists.

The group pointed out that the field trip was held only weeks after the AFP’s violent and brutal bombing of communities in Barangay Cabacao, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro on January 1. Karapatan-Southern Tagalog reported that the bombing killed at least four individuals, including three Mangyan-Iraya children.

MAPA-HS said Ateneo must cancel all activities involving the military in light of these events. Only then can the university reclaim its commitment to academic freedom and social justice, the group said.

The group's call followed just days after Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) students protested to demand the junking of the ADMU-AFP cooperation declaration. One Big Fight for Human Rights and Democracy (OBFHRD) reiterated the call at a campus protest in Quezon City on January 8.

The declaration was signed by ADMU and the AFP on September 19, 2025. According to OBFHRD, the declaration violates the principles of democracy and academic freedom. It added that the AFP's intrusion into the campus is clearly framed within the Marcos regime's National Action Plan for Unity, Peace, and Development (NAP-UPD), which is tightly linked to the counterinsurgency campaign.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan president faces sedition charges before DoJ

January 17, 2026

The Marcos regime's Philippine National Police filed charges of sedition, inciting to sedition, and Cybercrime Law violation against Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) president Renato Reyes Jr. He reported that the Department of Justice (DoJ) summoned him on January 15, and will again on January 29, for a preliminary investigation into the said complaints.

The cases stem from anti-corruption protests and confrontations in Mendiola on September 21, 2025. According to Reyes Jr, the charges are purely based on his attendance at the protest that day and on his being a known activist.

“The accusations against me are outright lies, and the sedition charges are completely fabricated,” he said. He expressed confidence that this latest case of repression against him and the broader mass movement will fail.

Aside from Reyes Jr, two youth activists have reportedly received subpoenas from the DoJ in connection with similar cases. The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) filed the complaints with the DoJ in October 2025.

The PNP-CIDG charged a total of 97 unnamed individuals with conspiracy or intent to launch rebellion or insurrection, sedition, and inciting to sedition. PNP officials then boasted that this was only the first round of cases and that a second wave was already being readied.

Reyes Jr said the PNP’s campaign of intimidation and targeting of the entire anti-corruption movement in the country is deeply alarming. He said the Marcos regime and the PNP are sending a clear threat of prosecution and criminalization to those who dare to speak and stand up.

“This fascist attack aims to break the public’s resolve to join movements demanding accountability from corrupt officials and the rotten

system,” he added. He noted the regime’s particular targeting of student leaders who now stand as the strongest voices against the Marcos regime’s corruption.

Reyes Jr expressed confidence that repression will not break the people’s resolve to demand accountability but continue protesting against systemic plunder of public funds. “Repression only gives the people more reason to participate in collective action,” he said.

Bayan’s allied organizations expressed support for Reyes Jr. “We call on our fellow workers and citizens disgusted with corruption, abuse of power, and impunity: let us support Ka Nato, the student leaders, and all those being slapped with fabricated cases for fighting corruption!” declared the Kilusang Mayo Uno, one of Bayan’s member organizations.

Bayan condemns latest Philippine-Japan military pact

January 17, 2026

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan strongly condemned the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) signed by the Philippines and Japan on January 15. The signing coincided with the visit of Japan’s foreign affairs minister Toshimitsu Motegi in Manila and the donation of ₱341 million to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Bayan called the ACSA a “deepening of imperialist agenda in the Philippines.” The meeting between Moteji and Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro under the guise of a “Strengthened Strategic Partnership” was “nothing less than a brazen push to drag the Filipino people into the U.S.-Japan provocations in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea,” it said.

This (ACSA) is not partnerships of equals but chains binding the Philippines to Tokyo’s re-militarization drive and Washington’s Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at encircling China,” Bayan said.

The group declared that the Philippine seas belong to the Filipino people, not to competing imperialists.

The ACSA allows Japan to store food, fuel, ammunition, and other logistics for its own forces while in the Philippines for war games and other military operations under the guise of disaster response and humanitarian assistance. The agreement stems from the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), which permits Japanese troops to stay in the country. The Philippine Senate ratified the RAA in 2024, taking effect in mid-2025.

Concurrent with the ACSA signing, Japan granted a token ₱341-million Official Security Assistance or military aid package for the AFP. The funds are earmarked for building shelters for boats and ports for rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs)—the type used in heightening tensions between

Philippine and Chinese forces in disputed South China Sea areas.

Japan also allotted ₱617 million aid for telecommunications infrastructure construction in the Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa) region.

Bayan firmly opposes the ACSA and RAA, along with other lopsided military accords such as the EDCA and VFA between the Philippines and the US. It said the two imperialist powers are turning the Philippines into a “forward base of aggression.”

The people will not allow the country to become cannon fodder in imperialist games, Bayan said.

DENR halts a company’s mining operations in Camarines Norte

January 17, 2026

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Mines and Geosciences Bureau–Region V (DENR-MGB V) January 9 order authorized the Camarines Norte Environmental Response Unit (CNERU) to stop all operations of Yinlu Bicol Mining Corporation and its operator, Norsteeste Corporation, in Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte on January 16.

According to the order, the company continued its mining operations without an approved Work Program or Environmental Compliance Certificate. As a result, the agency revoked the

firm's permit to transport and export minerals. Yinlu had planned to export 55,000 metric tons of iron ore to Shandong Xinhai Mining Technology & Equipment Inc. in China.

The MGB confirmed that the company was illegally operating an open-pit mine in Barangay Larap, Jose Panganiban. It also found that Yinlu built a small port in Barangay Larap without clearance from the Philippine Ports Authority. The company ignored an earlier cease-and-desist order issued on October 30, 2024.

The soil used to build the small port was taken from the higher parts of the barangay without permission from barangay officials. The mining activities also severely disrupted the livelihood of local fishers by disrupting the marine environment.

Prior to this, Senator Kiko Pangilinan called for an investigation into the illegal mining operations of Yinlu in the province.

Yinlu Bicol Mining Company was identified in 2012 as among the main Chinese mining investments in the Philippines. The company also owns land in Barangay Larap, Jose Panganiban, bought from Manila Banking Corporation and Banco De Oro in 2007.

Mayon Volcano eruption affects 2,000 Albay farmers

January 17, 2026

Some residents living near the slopes of Mayon Volcano defy danger and continue returning to their villages to tend to their vegetable crops and feed their livestock.

According to Tarabang para sa Bicol Inc. (TABI), evacuees are struggling with their livelihood because of their temporary displacement and distance from their homes.

“While some evacuees are temporarily allowed to return to their communities to check on their crops and livestock, travel is more costly because the evacuation centers are far from their areas,” TABI said.

On January 6, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) elevated the alert status of the Mayon Volcano to Alert Level 3. The agency reported 308 incidents of rockfall events and 68 incidents of ash and rock emissions. Consequently, 3,000 residents living within the 6-kilometer permanent danger zone were evacuated. They are barred from returning while the alert remain in effect. The volcano’s heightened activity may persist for several months, similar to its 2023 eruption which continued for six months.

According to the Albay Provincial Agricultural Office (APAO), Mayon’s persistent unrest has severely affected the agricultural sector in nearby villages and towns. Volcanic ash damaged a total of 1,816.823 hectares of crops across the towns of Malilipot, Bacacay, Legazpi City, Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, and Tabaco City. Over 2,000 hectares

of fishponds, 534 hectares of coconut plantations, 527 hectares of vegetable farms, and 377 hectares of rice fields were destroyed.

In Malilipot, 366 hectares of abaca plantations managed by 386 peasants and vegetable farms in the danger zone were affected. In Guinobatan, 377.91 hectares of rice fields and vegetable and corn farms cultivated by 557 families were damaged. Agricultural lands in Daraga and Camalig were also affected.

The volcanic activity directly hit an estimated 2,279 farmers and plantation workers.

If the volcanic activity persists, evacuees will be forced to stay in evacuation centers for months. Prolonged evacuation brings intense anxiety to families and disrupts daily life. Livelihoods are severely affected, especially for farmers living on the volcano's slopes, TABI explained.

TABI has currently reached 930 families or 3,466 individuals affected by the disaster. They come from five barangays in Malilipot, two barangays in Camalig, and one in Ligao City. The families are temporarily staying at Buang Evacuation Center Covered Court, San Jose Elementary School in Malilipot, and Tagaytay Elementary School in Camalig. They endure shortages of toilets, kitchens, water, and proper sleeping mats.

TABI calls for drinking water, food, hygiene supplies, and medicine for the evacuees.

COA report exposes Duterte’s “ghost assets” and incompetence in Davao City

January 19, 2026

The Commission on Audit’s (COA) annual report released this January again identified Davao City’s anomalous report on local government properties and funds. The agency specifically pointed out the “unreconciled” inventory of property, plant, and equipment (PPE) for 2024. Mayor Sebastian Duterte currently leads city.

COA’s latest audit found that Duterte’s reported ₱8.197 billion worth of PPE did not match the city’s actual physical assets and equipment. As a result, COA deemed the report unreliable, and can be subject to possible questions and anomalies. The unverified and uninspected PPE included flood control systems, power supply networks, telecommunications infrastructure, buildings, educational facilities, and hospitals. Auditors said these could not be found, inspected, or confirmed.

COA criticized Davao City’s inflated PPE report, saying the listed assets might be “ghost” or nonexistent.

According to COA, the city’s reported figures could artificially inflate Davao City’s real value. This could be used to present a false picture to investors, lenders, and the public about the city’s actual financial status.

Dutertes' anomalous actions

Submitting unreconciled PPE inventories is not new for Davao City. It follows the long-standing Duterte family pattern of reporting “ghost” assets and employees.

In 2021, COA already flagged ₱9.489 billion in questionable PPE reporting by the city then ruled by current VP Sara Duterte. In 2024, siblings Sara and Sebastian supposedly formed an “inventory committee” to verify the city’s assets. Reports said inspections began in June 2024 and were supposed to be completed by June 2025. But by February 2025, only 43.74% of assets had been verified as existing. There has been no report that the Dutertes completed the inspections to date. It appears they have willfully neglected the process.

Failed disaster response

The Dutertes’ mishandling of disaster response funds adds to their record of anomalies.

COA reported that only ₱60.79 million, or 13.86%, of Davao City’s ₱438.75 million disaster fund was used in 2024. The agency criticized the lack of implementation of programs and projects meant for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

According to COA’s audit, the Dutertes completed only 7 out of the 31 projects under the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) in 2024. Nineteen projects were left unfinished, while five were not even started.

COA said delays in many projects adversely affected timely and crucial service delivery to target beneficiaries. The agency reminded Davao City that LDRRMF projects are urgent because of their “critical role” in disaster response. It ordered the city to immediately implement the programs, not only those for 2024 but also the previous years that the Dutertes had similarly neglected.

Epidemic of violence against women alarming—Gabriela

January 19, 2026

Gabriela expressed alarm over the continuing and intensifying cases of violence against women and children in the Philippines.

Starting the year alone, reports of violence against women and children have surged nationwide. According to the group, the new incidents making the news are examples of the horrific cases that mark this epidemic. These include the case of a woman from Bacolod shot by her live-in partner; another stabbed by her husband; and a woman killed by her live-in partner, whose body was stuffed into a plastic storage box and thrown into a river in Camarines Norte. Cases of rape were reported involving a 13-year-old girl in Pasig and a 15-year-old girl in Makati. An assistant photographer in Muntinlupa was arrested for acts of lasciviousness. A public school teacher in Tondo is under investigation for

child abuse. Artificial intelligence is also reportedly being used to exploit women and children. Meanwhile, an ongoing investigation involves a Manila police officer accused of rape.

The group said each news report represents a destroyed life—symptoms of a deeply rooted patriarchal and violent system. It exposes a society in crisis under a regime that fails to uphold women’s rights and protect the most vulnerable.

“These incidents do not just emerge without cause. These result from a rotten system that devalues women and children, normalizes misogyny, and allows impunity to prevail, while public funds that should protect and provide services for women are lost to corruption,” Gabriela secretary general Clarice Palce explained. “Violence against women and children clearly continues and intensifies because the state lacks the political will to confront its roots and deliver immediate justice to victims. Worse, the state itself perpetrates these acts of violence.”

The group urged all victims and survivors of abuse to speak out and join the struggle for the rights of women and children.

“We call on all women to unite, organize, and fight. Our collective voice is our strongest weapon. We must stand together and struggle for a society where women and children are free from fear and violence,” Palce said.

PISTON leads mass filing for individual franchises

January 19, 2026

PISTON members protested on January 19 at the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to reiterate their demand to immediately junk the bogus Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program and the restoration of the five-year individual franchise. Concurrent with the protest, drivers and operators who refused to undergo consolidation filed en masse for the renewal of their individual franchises.

According to PISTON's estimate, around 500,000 drivers and operators have already lost their livelihood because of the failed "modernization" program. There were 300,000 PUJs nationwide prior to the program's implementation. Only about 128,000 jeepneys remain operating now, based on DOTr's own figures.

"The program is a failure because it destroyed the supply of transportation," PISTON said. It added that forcing drivers and operators to buy overpriced minibus units to replace their jeeps buried them in debt. Many major cooperatives have already shut down or now operate on a limited scale. PISTON denounced the bogus program as a "quagmire of debt."

"Vince Dizon and Marcos Jr themselves admitted that the modernization is a failure. Yet they

continue it because they are beholden to the interests of foreign auto manufacturers and those seeking to monopolize the transport system,” the group declared.

The protest also denounced the state for its continuing destruction of people’s livelihoods and social services, PISTON said. The group called on all those who refused to consolidate, those forced to consolidate, and those who want to break away from their fake and corrupt cooperatives to come to PISTON and join the mass filing.

Court acquits Caloocan urban poor spokesperson of fabricated charges

January 20, 2026

After more than four years, the Caloocan City Municipal Trial Court Branch 49 acquitted Rex Margallo of the fabricated direct assault charge filed against him on January 20. Margallo is the Caloocan Urban Poor Coordinating Council spokesperson and United People’s Against Corruption-Caloocan convenor.

South Caloocan Police Department’s PSSG Baldev Singh Doal Jr filed the case against Margallo in June 2021 for helping vendors of Barangay Bagong Silang Phase 10 who were then being assaulted during a clearing operation led by the combined forces of the PNP, barangay, and local government. Margallo also suffered Red-tagging, surveillance, and harassment after the incident.

The Caloocan city government planned to forcibly deprive vendors of their livelihood in favor of big businesses like Puregold and Dali.

Margallo said his acquittal is a victory for all activists and human rights defenders also facing fabricated charges. He said it proves that the continuing fight for human rights is just and necessary.

ICE secretly deports Filipina immigrant from the US

January 21, 2026

The Tanggol Migrante Movement-Chicago condemned the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for secretly deporting Filipina immigrant “Tita Rebecca” from the US on January 8. Before this, ICE twice attempted to deport her but failed for having no declaration she was medically fit or physically able to travel. The third deportation attempt succeeded without informing her family.

According to the family, both the Philippine Consulate General (PCG) and ICE refused to disclose information about her trip, including her destination, schedule and health status. The PCG claimed that ICE stopped providing updates about the deportation.

The family believes the agency deliberately withheld information despite their repeated requests. The PCG had the duty to press ICE to

release details, but it consistently refused to defend Filipinos.

The PCG later also stopped giving updates to the family about Tita Rebecca’s condition. She was transferred to at least eight different ICE facilities before being taken to and placed in solitary confinement in a men’s facility in Clay County, Indiana.

According to TMM, the withholding of information by the PCG and ICE was clearly a retaliation for the community’s efforts to block Tita Rebecca’s deportation and demand that she receive proper medical care.

“The PCG and the Philippine Embassy have the responsibility to ensure that Filipinos get their needs and can return home with adequate resources,” explained the TMM.

TMM calls on the PCG to issue a statement of apology for its neglect of Tita Rebecca’s condition and to ensure that she receives proper and sufficient medical services in the Philippines.

Peasants hold protest camp at DAR Negros Island for land and rights

January 21, 2026

The two-day protest campout of peasants and farmworkers of Negros Island at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) regional office in Bacolod City on January 20–21 exposed the

worsening land grabbing, land conversion, and violations of farmers' rights on the island.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP or Peasant Movement of the Philippines)-Negros and the National Federation of Sugar Workers led the protest. The campout primarily highlighted the latest attempted eviction and land grabbing case against farmers cultivating land in Hacienda Michaela in Barangay Talotog, Murcia, Negros Occidental.

Ta-ala Farms, Inc. owner Bonnie Ta-ala claimed the 22-hectare land as his property. Armed guards and company agents have encamped in the area since January 12 to drive out residents from their farms. Ta-ala claimed his company had "purchased" the land from landlord Arthur Bayona.

According to the Hacienda Michaela Farmers and Farmworkers Association, selling the land is illegal since it is covered by government distribution under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. The DAR office in Negros Occidental reportedly issued a Notice of Coverage for the land as early as 2009.

KMP-Negros condemned DAR for its slow and apathetic response to the farmers' grievances. The group said the agency continues to demonstrate its collusion with big corporations and landlords instead of defending the farmers.

Farmers lit candles on the night of January 20 to demand justice for peasant leader Alexander

Ceballos, who was killed by the Duterte regime. The first farmer victim of extrajudicial killing under the Duterte regime, Ceballos was murdered on January 20, 2017.

The group also marked the January 22 Mendiola Massacre anniversary in the campout. Thirteen farmers were massacred on January 22, 1987, in Mendiola, Manila. They were among the thousands who marched to Mendiola to demand that then-President Cory Aquino implement genuine land reform.

UP SDG Park set to displace UP Diliman urban poor communities

January 21, 2026

Poor communities inside and around the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman in Quezon City held two assemblies in recent weeks. In these meetings, residents strengthened their unity against UP's plan to evict them for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Wellness Park project.

Organizations of residents from affected areas Pook Aguinaldo, Area 17, and Malantik attended the meetings on January 11 and 18. Student groups from UP Diliman and progressive organizations in the city joined and expressed support.

The UP SDG Wellness Park is a UP administration project, packaged as a space for learning, a pro-

environment endeavor, and as a service to the students and community. The project includes the construction of a golf driving range, “eco-friendly” facilities, and other structures.

According to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Quezon City, UP began surveying the affected areas as early as 2025. The group said UP gave the residents no explanation about the project and has no clear relocation plan for those to be displaced.

They added that tents have reportedly been set up around the communities to monitor the surveys. In some cases, the Quezon City Police District joined the land measurements, heightening residents’ fears, the group reported.

“This project is clearly without proper knowledge or consultation and runs counter to the mass-oriented spirit of the university,” the UP Diliman University Student Council stated. The council stands with the residents in opposing the project.

According to Bahagui Nating Isko, a youth volunteer group supporting Pook Aguinaldo, students and UP communities must unite against the project. “It only gives way for privatization and commercialization,” the group declared.

The communities assert their right to the land, emphasizing their decades-long of living there. Area 17 resident Kuya Dione said, “We’ve been on this land since our ancestors’ time. The government has the duty to give us decent

housing, but we endure shanties just to survive and have a place to sleep.”

He also urged other residents and nearby communities to join the fight, warning that the UP SDG Wellness Park’s coverage area could further “expand.” “We must now fight and think deeply as residents living here,” he said.

Residents currently continue efforts to stop any direct attempt by UP to evict them. They reported building barricades in their communities to block UP personnel from entering.

Bayan-Quezon City called on its member organizations and city residents to join the struggle against the project. “Stop the SDG Wellness Park, including the planned bike lane and urban farming project! Resist harassment and intimidation of residents!” it declared.

Progressive groups file impeachment complaint against Marcos

January 22, 2026

Progressive groups and sectoral organizations filed an impeachment complaint against Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr on January 22. This is the second impeachment complaint against Marcos submitted to the Office of the Secretary General (OSG) at the House of Representatives.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) led the 36 mass leaders’ filing of the complaint against

Marcos Jr. Among them are youth leaders who became strong voices of the anti-corruption movement since September 2025. The complaint was endorsed by three Makabayan Bloc representatives—ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio, Gabriela Rep. Sarah Elago, and Kabataan Rep. Renee Co.

The complaint is grounded on betrayal of public trust based three reasons: 1) masterminding systematic corruption within government through the so-called “allocables” or Baselined-Balanced-Managed (BBM) Parametric Formula; 2) abuse of unprogrammed funds; and 3) direct involvement in widespread insertions and kickback schemes.

The complainants’ camp were disappointed when the OSG refused to officially receive the document, claiming House Secretary General Cheloy Garafil was not in the office. Bayan Muna Rep. Atty. Neri Colmenares, who is also among the complainants, said Garafil’s presence was not required since the House rules only state that the complaint must be filed at the OSG.

He said their camp had followed the rules, and it was the OSG that violated them by refusing receipt. They left a copy of the complaint at the office asserting that it was already “submitted.”

The groups insist that the House of Representatives should recognize their filing, since a prior impeachment complaint against Marcos Jr has been submitted on January 19. That complaint was filed by lawyer Atty. Andre de Jesus and endorsed by Pusong Pinoy Party-list Rep. Jett

Nisay, also on the grounds of betrayal of public trust.

According to Bayan, they fear their strong complaint might not be included in House Speaker Faustino Dy III's "order of business" on Monday, January 26. The OSG already transmitted the first complaint to the Speaker's office, and he may refer it to the House Committee on Justice for deliberation. If that happens, the one-year ban on filing another impeachment complaint against Marcos Jr would immediately begin.

To ensure inclusion of their complaint, the groups and Makabayan Bloc representatives will meet with Speaker Dy to demand his commitment on the matter. They warned that if their complaint is deliberately blocked, it would mirror the maneuver during Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's term when "weak" impeachment complaints were filed just to trigger the one-year prohibition.

Alongside the filing, progressive organizations launched a protest outside the House of Representatives. "Some officials, lawmakers, and contractors involved in corruption were charged—but no one can steal billions of pesos without the president's knowledge," Bayan secretary general Raymond Palatino said.

He added that Marcos himself signed and implemented the budget and served as the chief architect of the plunder. "We hold Sara Duterte accountable for the ₱125 million anomalous use of confidential funds; we cannot let Marcos off for his multi-billion peso theft," Palatino said.

The groups at the protest declared: “Marcos, Duterte, both corrupt, must be impeached!”

Unions slam NLRC Region 3 for slow action, anti-worker rulings

January 22, 2026

National Federation of Labor Unions–Kilusang Mayo Uno (Naflu-KMU) workers and unionists picketed the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) Region 3 office in San Fernando, Pampanga on January 21. They condemned the agency for its anti-worker rulings and its sluggish handling of other cases filed by workers.

Participants in the protest included workers and unions from SG Farms Processing Plant and Maximus Dressing Plant, both under Naflu-KMU. The two poultry processing plants are located in Barangay San Isidro, San Simon, Pampanga. SG Farms supplies chicken to Jollibee and Wendy’s.

According to Naflu-KMU, the agency’s labor arbiters are “one-sided.” “Arbiters act sluggish when in behalf of workers but move lightning-fast when favoring capitalists.”

One example is the NLRC Region 3’s decision on the case of SG Farms worker Bonifacia Yamuta. The company illegally dismissed its workers in late 2024. The federation said the agency hastily ruled to grant only 13 days of separation pay to the workers—a decision grossly favoring the capitalist.

The company Maximus clearly engaged in union busting when it shut down and illegally terminated workers who formed a union in July 2024. Naflu-KMU said the arbiter made no thorough review of the petitions filed by workers and immediately issued a decision favoring the company.

Beyond these, the federation also denounced the agency's sluggish response to complaints filed by workers from Crimeria Bakery, Hongtai, and Savi Hardware. Crimeria Bakery workers have gone back and forth for three years over the back wages recomputations that dragged on but was only promised to be completed this January 2026.

The arbiter took no action for over a year on a motion filed by Hongtai workers. Savi Hardware illegally dismissed 10 workers. When the workers filed complaints with the NLRC, the arbiter ruled in favor of the management which did not even submit a position paper, the federation said

"Arbiters of NLRC Region 3, your bias for the capitalists is blatant and shameless," Naflu-KMU retorted. It challenged the agency to "do better and side with the workers who are being denied their rights."

The federation called on fellow workers to continue standing firm and fighting for their rights to wages, work, and dignity.

Groups widely condemn unjust ruling against journalist, church worker in “terror financing” case

January 23, 2026

Local and overseas journalists’ groups, along with church people, academics, and progressive organizations, strongly condemned the conviction of Frenchie Mae Cumpio and Marielle Domequil in the “terror financing” case. The two were sentenced on January 22 to 12 to 18 years in prison and fined ₱500,000 each.

Judge Georgina Perez of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 45 in Tacloban City handed down the ruling. Cumpio and Domequil are set to be transferred to the women’s correctional facility in Mandaluyong City. Their lawyers are preparing to file a motion for reconsideration and for bail, and they plan to appeal the unjust verdict at the Court of Appeals.

Cumpio and Domequil were concurrently acquitted in the separate case of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Cumpio is a journalist, an Eastern Vista executive director and an Altermidya contributor, while Domequil is a Rural Missionaries of the Philippines staff member.

“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.

The group called the ruling a “miscarriage of justice” and a “serious peril” to the already dire state of press freedom and free expression in the Philippines.

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.

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

International condemnation

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) called the ruling “absurd” and slammed Ferdinand Marcos Jr for his “hollow promises” on press freedom.

“The Philippines must immediately release Frenchie Mae Cumpio unconditionally and stop criminalizing journalists,” CPJ Asia-Pacific Director Beh Lih Yi said. The decision to convict Cumpio is ominous because she is the world’s first journalist to be found guilty of financing terrorism. It is a dangerous precedent that could be used against journalists in other countries.

Lih Yi traveled to Tacloban to attend the January 22 promulgation. She joined other journalists from the National Union of Journalists of the

Philippines, AlterMidya, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and Free Press Unlimited (FPU). Together they form the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC), which has long been calling for Cumpio's release.

"The sentencing of Frenchie Mae Cumpio is a stark illustration of the authorities' disregard for journalists' most basic rights," the MFC said in its January 22 statement. "As an international NGO coalition, we remain fully committed to securing her release."

Protests

On the day of the promulgation, journalist organizations, human rights defenders, and church people held a protest outside the RTC in Tacloban City. The night before, a candle-lighting activity took place in front of the Redemptorist Church in the city to assert the innocence of the Tacloban 5.

In Quezon City, another protest was held in front of the Commission on Human Rights on January 22 to denounce the unjust verdict. A day earlier, progressive groups marched to the Department of Justice to demand the immediate release of Cumpio, Domequil, and Chakoy Abinguená.

"It's heartbreaking and infuriating, but we will continue the fight. We will continue to serve the poor," Marielle's brother Kyle Domequil said.

"We will continue the struggle for truth," Cumpio and Domequil declared after the verdict was read to them.

Anti-corruption alliance set to relaunch massive protest in February

January 24, 2026

The Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (KBKK, or People's Anti-Corruption Movement) announced on January 19 that it will relaunch a massive anti-corruption protest on February 25, marking the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power uprising. The group led the 100,000-strong protest on September 21, 2025, and the 20,000-strong demonstration on November 30, 2025, both anti-corruption protests held at Luneta Park, Manila.

KBKK announced the participation of various sectors and organizations actively involved in the country's anti-corruption movement. These include Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), youth groups and student councils that led major walkouts in late 2025, along with workers and urban poor communities, women, teachers, health workers, the elderly, and others.

They said that despite persistent pressure from groups and the public on the Marcos regime, only a few and none of the corruption-ridden "big fishes" have faced accountability. They added that the regime once again railroaded the passage of the 2026 national budget, which remains riddled with pork barrel and other insertions.

They are disappointed that instead of heeding the people's voices against corruption, the Marcos

regime is silencing them by filing criminal charges such as sedition. “It is sad that I have never stolen billions from the people’s money, yet I am the one charged with fabricated cases by the Marcos Jr government while no big names or politicians involved in corruption have been made to account,” campus journalist Jacob Baluyot said.

According to KBKK, the upcoming mass action will show that the broad people’s movement demanding accountability for widespread corruption remains alive and strong. It said 2026 will not be a year of silence but a period for sharper vigilance, broader mobilization, and continued mass actions against corruption.

According to Youth Rage Against Corruption (YRAC), Filipino youth this 2026 will exemplify the youth sector’s “spirit and militancy” it demonstrated during the US-Marcos I dictatorship’s Martial Law. “This month marks the First Quarter Storm—the wave of protests led by youth during the Marcos Sr dictatorship,” YRAC’s Tiffany Brillante said. She said the youth must continue today’s fight by holding all the corrupt to account.

KBKK and its allied groups anticipate more people will join the February 25 demonstration and that the different groups that previously launched separate protests will now march together in unity.

Filipino migrants demand investigation on DMW and DFA for ghost projects in the US and Taiwan

January 24, 2026

Filipino migrants have uncovered various “ghost” facilities of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in the US and Taiwan, as non-existent or long non-operational projects still appear in agency records.

In Taiwan, Filipino-American missionary priest Father Joy Tajonera exposed the absence of any government-run shelter or temporary sanctuary for abused Filipino migrants, contradicting DMW’s claim of allocating funds for such programs.

According to the DMW, the agency allots ₱5 million annually for migrant shelters in Taiwan it co-manages with non-government organizations. But Tajonera the shelter Bahay Ugnayan which he ran stopped getting support in 2022. The shelter had earlier received \$2,500 monthly through the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) since 2004. The DMW was also found to have allocated ₱2.9 million for an alleged “MWO shelter” in Taipei—a supposedly government-run facility that is currently closed. Filipino migrants themselves did not know that the said shelter exists, Tajonera said.

These funds and “ghost shelters” aside, more questions arise over how the DMW uses its resources, including its planned construction of an “OWWA Global Center” in Neihu District in Taipei. Migrants criticized the choice of location for its excessively expensive rental rates. A similar question was posed regarding the earlier OFW Global Center project at the United Center, Admiralty Building—one of Hong Kong’s priciest office spaces. The global centers were promoted as “training and rest facilities” for migrants. Migrants said the funds for these costly projects should have gone to direct services and assistance for distressed overseas workers.

In the US, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-USA Washington condemned the Department of Foreign Affairs’ ghost project which supposed established of a Philippine Consulate in Washington DC. Despite ₱83.7 million (\$14 million) allocated for 2025 and ₱88.9 million for 2026, the consulate remains non-existent, and its funds unaccounted for.

The group said Filipinos in Washington have long demanded local consular services. Accessing basic services required Filipino migrants and immigrants to travel from Washington and nearby cities to the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco, California. The National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON) launched a petition in 2022 for a permanent consulate in Washington State. The San Francisco Philippine Consulate General announced in 2023 that one would be

established. The state still has no consulate two years later.

Because of the absence and denial of services from the Philippine consulate and embassy, Filipino communities and organizations in the US took the initiative to provide protection and assistance, especially to Filipinos detained by ICE and their families. They now ask: where did the DFA's Assistance to Nationals (ATN) funds go?

Bayan USA demands that the DFA release a full report on its 2025 and 2026 budgets and the timeline for opening the Washington consulate. The agency must also disclose the budget allocated for the ATN fund. The group further calls for the resignation and accountability of Bernice Santayana, ATN Officer of the San Francisco Philippine Consulate General, for her deliberate neglect of Filipino immigrants' grievances, collusion with ICE, and disregard for the health and safety of detained Filipinos.

Hundreds of sugar workers rally in Passi City against fall of sugar farmgate price

January 24, 2026

Hundreds of sugarcane farmworkers, small millers, and members of various planters' associations collectively protested in Passi City, Iloilo on January 22. They condemned the continued decline of sugar price, which they said

was caused by sugar importation surge into the country and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)'s incompetence.

Led by the Jalasig Sugar Planters Association (JSPA), the workers demanded government intervention to address the falling farmgate price of sugar. They urged the government to duly consider the sugar industry and immediately implement measures to protect farmers and farmworkers.

Sugar farmgate prices fell by 25% or ₱700 per sack compared to last year's ₱2,900-₱2,800 per sack. According to JSPA, peasants are suffering from huge losses as production costs continue to rise. Furthermore, they face pest infestations and overflowing storage facilities due to sluggish sales.

Prior to the protest, JSPA had held several dialogues with local officials and legislators. The group is also preparing a manifesto to gather thousands of signatures nationwide.

The Paghugpong sang mga Mangunguma sa Panay kag Guimaras (Pamanggas, or Peasant Union in Panay and Guimaras), a regional chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP, or Peasant Movement of the Philippines) both support the protest. "The current administration's corruption and undemocratic governance neglects local production and the welfare of affected farmers," Pamanggas declared.

The group said that the government's weak control and regulation of the sugar industry have persisted and worsened since SRA was created in 1986. It added that these government policies portend the complete collapse of the country's local sugar industry.

Led by the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW)-Negros, sugar and farm workers protested at the SRA office in Bacolod City on the same day.

According to the group, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the SRA failed to explain the cause of the sugar price' decline. "The SRA's role has become mere ornamental, serving only to cover up and obey the dictates of big comprador bourgeoisie and giant sugar traders, both foreign and local," NFSW-Negros said.

The deeply disappointed group said the lives and livelihoods of Negros residents—especially those directly dependent on the sugar industry—are at stake. There are around 380,000 sugarcane farmworkers and about 18,000 central workers. Around 80% of planters are small agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The group added that the current miserable condition will arouse peasants to struggle in various forms to defend their lives and livelihood. "This will forge the exploited to confront hardship and sacrifice in pursuit of genuine land reform and national industrialization," it said.

Police arrest 7 residents, dismantle barricade against Woggle Corporation

January 24, 2026

Seven residents of Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya were arrested for opposing the entry of Woggle Corporation's drilling equipment into their barangay on January 23. Assisted by Bureau of Fire Protection personnel, around 400 Nueva Vizcaya police tore down the residents' barricade.

On January 19, the Nueva Vizcaya Regional Trial Court Branch 30 issued an order to demolish the barricade and arrest anyone who may block or resist the order's implementation. On the demolition day itself, hundreds of residents—mostly elderly, women, and church members from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP)—blocked the road. Members of alternative media, church groups, and environmental organizations also went to the barricade for support.

On January 24, indigenous people and peasants protested at the Dupax del Norte Police Station through a kanyaw (ritual) and community dance to condemn the arrest of residents defending the barricade.

Those arrested included six indigenous women and Florentino Daynos, one of the leaders of Defend Dupax del Norte. Four of them were

residents of Barangay Bitnong, and two were from Barangay Macabenga. One of those arrested owns the land targeted by the company for mining. Police dragged the women from the barricade to arrest them. Two women fainted as the police forcibly dismantled the barricade. The police arrested these women when they were brought to the hospital. After arresting the residents, the police violently pushed the barricaders away from the entrance to make way for Woggle's heavy equipment—including a backhoe and a truck—to reach the target site.

Kalikasan members observed that the police lacked proper identification such as nameplates. Most of the arresting team were not wearing body cameras. Those who did turned off their body cameras whenever they clashed with residents.

On the same day, environmental and progressive groups led by Kalikasan protested at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Office in Quezon City to condemn the department's approval of Woggle Corporation's exploration despite the community's clear opposition. Protesters asserted that setting up the barricade was just and that defending the community from the foreign mining company is not a crime. More than fifty riot police blocked the rally.

Various organizations expressed solidarity and condemned the barricade's demolition. These included Caritas Philippines, Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines, National Priest Organization-North Central Luzon of the Iglesia

Filipina Independiente (Philippine Independent Church), Save Cagayan Valley, Taripnong Cagayan Valley (Cagayan Valley Assembly), Alyansa Tigil Mina (Alliance to Stop Mining), Center for Environmental Concerns, Sinagbayan, Bayan, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Peasant Movement of the Philippines), AGHAM (Advocates for Science and Technology for the People), Karapatan, Hustisya, Kabataan Partylist, Gabriela Women's Party, and Alliance of Human Rights Advocates.

State forces renew attacks against Negros Island developmental group

January 24, 2026

Successive cases of assaults and rights violations targeted members of the Paghidaet sa Kauswagan Development Group (PDG) Inc in recent weeks. PDG Inc and Human Rights Advocates Negros (HRAN) condemned the Marcos regime for these attacks.

On January 18, 15th IB forces attempted to abduct Joselito Macapobre, a PDG Inc development worker who has been assisting farmers resisting Hacienda Asia Plantation Inc (HAPI). Macapobre was reportedly traveling by motorcycle in Barangay Caningay, Candoni when a black vehicle suddenly blocked his way.

Macapobre managed to escape and ran toward nearby houses to ask residents for help. Before

the incident, 15th IB soldiers had repeatedly visited him at home, accusing him of being a recruiter for the New People's Army (NPA).

Meanwhile, soldiers also harassed another PDG Inc member Analyñ Merano on January 16 and 17. Merano received cellphone messages from someone claiming to be an National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) agent who threatened to harm her unless she "cooperate" with the agency.

She was accused of working for "an organization linked to the NPA." The agent offered her a ₱30,000 monthly salary and assurances that she and her family would be safe if she "cooperated" with the military.

According to PDG Inc, both victims are active partners of poor farmers and indigenous people and are allies of communities defending the environment. "These incidents constitute grave violations of human rights and threaten the safety, livelihood, and democratic participation of rural communities," the group said.

Before these incidents, several PDG Inc staff members had already been arrested for alleged "terrorism financing" under the Marcos regime. Among them were Perla Pavillar, Federico Salvilla, and former staff members Felipe Levy Gelle Jr and Clarissa Ramos.

The military has also attacked mass leaders and members of organizations that partner with or receive assistance from PDG Inc. These human

rights violations occur amid ongoing military combat operations and the implementation of the Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) in the communities.

Some cases include threats and coercion against a member of a local farmers' association. The military forced him to monitor PDG Inc's activities, particularly those of its staff member Merano.

HRAN condemned the military violence and militarization of farmers' communities. The group also called on the people to defend human rights and denounce the military's repression and harassment, including violations of the freedom of association.

CAFGU member killing of an 80th IB officer exposes AFP rotteness—NPA

January 25, 2026

The New People's Army (NPA)-Rizal (Narciso Antazo Aramil Command) was not surprised by CAFGU (Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit) Active Auxiliary members' shooting and killing of an 80th IB officer on January 20. A certain "Sgt. Mark" was killed after an altercation during a drinking session inside the military detachment in Sitio Macaingalan, Barangay Puray in Rodriguez, Rizal.

The shooting reportedly stemmed from the long-repressed CAFGU member's anger over the

latter's "disciplining" him for his drinking habits while being likewise drunk. The sergeant is the 80th IB detachment's second-in-command. One of the three CAFGU members now faces a murder case, while the other two have been charged with illegal discharge of firearms.

"This proves the mercenary, rotten, and violent culture and tradition of the AFP-PNP-CAFGU that leads to internal disorder within their own ranks—among both officers and ordinary soldiers," NPA-Rizal spokesperson Macario Liwanag (Ka Karyo) said.

He said the 80th IB and CAFGU are notorious in Barangay Puray for their alcoholism and frequent shootings in the community. Similarly in 2024, an 80th IB soldier shot a fellow soldier right in the center of the barangay.

"In fact, residents in the area and neighboring communities have repeatedly complained about the soldiers' habit of drinking and indiscriminate firing during their sprees," the spokesperson added.

Drunkenness and shooting aside, the 80th IB in Rodriguez also created disturbances by occupying a school and disrupting children's classes in Sitio Kwinaw, Barangay Puray, and by encamping for nearly three years beside residents' homes in Sitio Ilas in the same barangay.

"We call on Rizaleños to unite and strengthen the struggle to expel the 80th IB from Rizal," Ka Karyo said. He said it is time for the people to

actively defend civilians from such shootings and human rights violations.

He also urged CAFGU members to abandon their service to the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). “If you truly want to serve the country, join the only army with a long history of defending the people’s interests, practicing internal democracy, and maintaining an iron discipline that binds it tightly with the masses—the New People’s Army,” he said.

NPA’s Southern Tagalog regional command (Melito Glor Command) spokesperson Ka Cleo del Mundo echoed the call. She said many CAFGU members come from poor peasant families who are forced to enlist because of joblessness and the desperate need to earn a living.

“They are turned into traitors to their own class origin, only to sink deeper into poverty and become instruments of repression against the struggle for land, livelihood, and the rights of the toiling masses,” she said. Ka Cleo said CAFGU members must leave their posts and join the peasantry’s just and class-based struggle.

Groups condemn “Learning Tour” of children in military camp

January 25, 2026

The Salinlahi Alliance for Children’s Concerns and the Parent’s Alternative on Early Childhood Care and Development Inc. (PAECCDI) condemned the

89th IB for conducting an “educational tour” for 150 preschoolers (ages 4-6) from the Child Development Centers of Barangay North Poblacion, Maramag, Bukidnon on January 15.

Photos on the battalion’s Facebook page, posted under their activities for “community engagement and youth development,” show a soldier teaching children how to hold different kinds of guns.

While children have the right to age-appropriate information such as awareness about people in their community, PAECCDI questions the appropriateness of exposing them to firearms under the pretense of “youth development” and “community engagement.”

“Promoting ‘nation building’ to children must be carried out in a scientific and sensitive manner with proper measures to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence,” the group explained.

Salinlahi said that contrary to the military’s public performances, the AFP soldiers’ actual interactions with children have never been positive.

It said the AFP has repeatedly violated children’s rights, including abductions, illegal arrests, torture, repression and rape. AFP troops have killed up to 30 minors under the US-Marcos Jr regime.

Cases of AFP’s killings included Kylene Casao, 9 years old, from Batangas; JP Osabel, 14 years old, from Masbate; and Rey Belan, 17 years old from

Masbate. Soldiers shot two children engaged in copra processing in Samar this January alone. One escaped while the other remains missing.

The group said we must not forget that AFP troops bombed Lumad schools and communities in Mindanao. They also bombed a community in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, killing three Mangyan-Iraya children, the group added.

“The 89th IB deserves to be shamed for claiming having the right to teach children about patriotism, discipline, and service. The AFP’s own record proves that it is an instrument of violence and abuse against children,” Salinlahi declared.

NPA-Northern Samar ambush kills 2 19th IB troopers

January 25, 2026

A New People’s Army (NPA)-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) unit ambushed 19th IB troopers operating in Barangay Poponton, Las Navas on December 15, 2025. Two fascist soldiers were killed and several others wounded, while the Red fighters maneuvered to safety.

Another NPA-Northern Samar unit earlier thwarted the 19th IB’s raid and attempt to siege the Red army’s camp in Barangay Gusaran, Silvino Lobos on December 10, 2025. One fascist soldier was killed while a Red fighter was martyred in the battle.

Meanwhile, the provincial command also 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. At least four 19th IB troopers were killed, while the NPA unit suffered no casualties.

The 8th ID's October 2025 statement declared it would end the revolutionary movement throughout Eastern Visayas by the end of 2025 through "Operation Clean Eastern Visayas." NPA-Northern Samar spokesperson Ka Amado Pesante said the people's army's armed actions proved that the 8th ID and the Marcos regime failed in their delusional aim to completely crush the revolutionary movement in the region and the entire country.

"These military actions prove the Northern Samar NPA's continuous foiling of the fascist military's all-out war," Ka Amado said. He added that these victories had the peasant masses' indispensable deep support.

Revolutionary movement celebrates CPP 57th anniversary in Batangas

January 25, 2026

The revolutionary movement and masses of Batangas celebrated the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) 57th anniversary on December 26, 2025. They held it in a guerrilla front in the province under the supervision of the New

People's Army (NPA)-Batangas (Eduardo Dagli Command).

Party cadres, NPA units, and guests from various sectors from the rural and urban areas gathered for the event. The celebration was successfully held amid the fascist military's focused and sustained operations (FSMO).

The gathering carried the theme "Lead the Mass Movement's Surge Toward the Overthrow of the US-Marcos Regime! Strengthen the Party and Deepen Roots among the Masses!" It paid tribute to the Party's history in the province of Batangas, which began in the 1970s and led many Batangueños to join the revolutionary movement.

They honored the sons and daughters of Batangas who offered their lives to advance the people's democratic revolution. These include Ka Roger Rosal, Ka Eduardo Dagli, and many other Party cadres and Red fighters who became the movement's pillars not only in the province but in the whole of Southern Tagalog and the country.

They recalled the victories of the Batangueño masses and their struggles under the Party's leadership. These include the successful distribution of farmland to peasants, the organization of workers' unions, and the strengthening of struggles among women and youth, especially students.

The celebration also emphasized reviewing the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and studying the local and international economic and

political conditions. The program included discussions of the statements from the Party's Central Committee and Regional Committee.

Cultural performances enlivened the program. These included the songs Higit na Matatag (Stronger than Ever), Bandilang Pula (Red Banner), Martsa ng Manggagawang Pangkultura (Cultural Workers' March), and Martsa ng Nagkakaisang Hanay (United Front's March). Red fighters presented a song-and-movement piece depicting a tactical offensive, accompanied by an exhibition of various self-defense techniques against the fascist enemy. The balagtasang (dramatized debate) "Will the Revolution Triumph?" highlighted important lessons against subjectivism and pessimism.

The NPA-Batangas prepared for the gathering throughout December 2025. NPA-Batangas cultural unit Pulang Bandila (Red Flag) was already rehearsing as early as the first half of the month. Concurrent with the preparations, the unit worked hard to bring guests to the site and successfully escorted them to the celebration.

The Party and NPA-Batangas recognized the warm support of the masses without whom the anniversary could not have been held. They expressed deep gratitude to all who cooperated with the people's army for the celebration.

Closing the program, NPA-Batangas and allied forces in the cities declared their determination to further strengthen their deep ties with the masses

they serve. They vowed to steadfastly bear all sacrifices until victory.

ICC sets confirmation hearing for Duterte case on February

January 27, 2026

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has set the hearing to confirm cases against former president Rodrigo Duterte on February 23. The court made the decision after finding Duterte “fit to stand trial,” based on the recommendation of an independent panel of doctors. The confirmation hearing was first scheduled on September 23, 2025.

The hearing was postponed after Duterte’s lawyers filed a petition for indefinite delay, claiming he was mentally unfit to face trial. Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity for his fake war on drugs. The trial will proceed once the confirmation is concluded.

“This should also end the drama about an old and frail man (Duterte); the Court clearly finds that Duterte is a perceptive person who has a broad understanding of what he has been charged with,” said Atty. Krissy Conti, one of the lawyers representing the families of the victims. “(W)e will be ready for that day, and for every day this case is heard in court.”

This also ends Duterte’s attempts over the past five months to block the trial, Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said.

“Duterte and his ilk have been desperate to stop the proceedings because they have absolutely no defense for the crimes he perpetrated,” Palabay said. “Up to now, he is the same murderous and unrepentant tyrant that he was when he was still in power.”

Peasants reiterate demand for distribution of Hacienda Luisita land

January 27, 2026

More than 150 peasants and farmworkers from Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac protested at the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Quezon City on January 26 to denounce its long-delayed land distribution and the landgrabbing by bourgeois compradors. They strongly condemned the large-scale land-use conversion, fascism, and militarization inside the hacienda.

The Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA, or Alliance of Hacienda Luisita Farmworkers) and the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA, or Union of Agricultural Farmworkers) led the protest.

“The Supreme Court decided as early as 2012 to distribute nearly 4,915.75 hectares of the hacienda,” AMBALA vice president Leonarda “Ka

Leoning” Trinidad said. “Nearly 14 years later, will DAR remain the landgrabbers’ tool?”

She assailed the plan of the Cojuangco-Aquino-Lorenzo clan and giant corporations Aboitiz and Ayala to seize the land and dedicate it to a so-called “Master Plan” that will benefit only a few. Under this “master plan,” Ayala Land and Avida Land will build commercial structures and facilities such as parks, roads, and housing projects on 290 hectares of agricultural land. Meanwhile, the Aboitiz Group will take over 384 hectares for so-called “industrial” and commercial use.

“Ayala Land and Aboitiz Group are vultures preying on the hardship of the peasants of Luisita,” UMA’s Ariel “Ka Ayik” Casilao said.

“The US-Marcos Jr regime and its landlord-comprador allies trample not only on our right to land,” Casilao said. “In militarizing, they also trample on the people’s rights to organize, speak, and protest.”

“The looming conversions to non-agricultural use are just the latest landgrabbing crimes against us peasants,” Ka Leoning said. “Even the old issues of land seizure in Luisita continue to this day.”

Prosecutor dismisses case against 7 Dupax del Norte residents

January 27, 2026

Residents of Nueva Vizcaya, environmental groups, church people, and anti-mining advocates welcomed the prosecutor's dismissal of the charges filed against seven residents of Dupax del Norte on January 26. Police illegally arrested the seven while they were manning their barricade and arbitrarily detained them for opposing the Woggle Corporation's entry into their community.

The Nueva Vizcaya Prosecutor's Office ruled that the case of "resistance and disobedience against person in authority" against the seven residents had no basis, as did the added "obstruction of justice" charge against community leader Florentino Daynos. Among those arrested were Kagawad Krislyn Pocda, Adela Modi, Analiza Balliao, Amelia Rabino, Janet Macari, and Sonnette Bullecer.

According to the group Save Cagayan Valley, the fabricated case's dismissal is a slap in the face of the US-Marcos Jr regime. It exposed the state's failure to protect the environment and uphold the rights of communities against destructive mining operations.

Meanwhile, Migrante United Kingdom, International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP)-Britain, and London Philippine Solidarity protested on the same day at the office of Woggle Corporation's parent company Metals Exploration PLC in London. They condemned the corporation for its continuing abuse, terrorism, and violence against farmers and indigenous people in Dupax del Norte.

Groups in the UK launched the campaign “British Mining Out of the Philippines” to demand British companies to dismantle mining operations that continue to plunder and destroy the country’s natural resources and violate human rights.

Protesters emphasized that mining largely impacts communities, threatening the livelihoods of farmers and indigenous people, their homes, agricultural lands, forest ecosystems, and a critical watershed that supports one of the country’s key food-producing regions.

Benguet indigenous people relaunch protest against mining project

January 28, 2026

Indigenous people and residents from two barangays in Itogon, Benguet relaunched their protest on January 27 opposing the expansion of the Sangilo Mines operations owned by Itogon-Suyoc Resources, Inc. (ISRI). They held the action when the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) called a “public scoping” in Barangay Tuding.

The DENR-EMB conducts “public scoping” as an initial step for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project. It is supposedly aimed at hearing the issues, concerns, and

recommendations of those affected by the mining and to define the study's scope.

Instead of joining the DENR-EMB meeting, residents of Barangay Poblacion and Sitio Dalicno in Barangay Ampucao protested to denounce the project. According to the Itogon Interbarangay Alliance (IIB-A), the public consultation was bogus for not sufficiently informing communities.

The local government of Itogon received the DENR-EMB's January 8 document only on January 14. "This gave the public only 13 days to review a highly technical 170-page document, which is unreasonable to expect an ordinary citizen to fully understand," the IIB-A said.

The group added that the public had limited access to the document, as downloading the online public copy was not allowed.

"We call on all concerned regulatory agencies to set and conduct comprehensive and independent (not controlled by the project proponent) hydrogeological studies and dam structure assessments," the group stated. The IIB-A demanded above all to ensure the genuine and proper process of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), respecting the rights of the indigenous people.

The Application for Production Sharing Agreement (APSA) 103 permitted the expansion of Sangilo Mines in Sitio Dalicno. This ISRI and government agreement allows mining within 581 hectares of land covering the barangays of Virac, Poblacion,

and Ampucao. It allowed the company to mine 22 million tons of gold-bearing ore over 25 years.

ISRI has been operating in Benguet since the 1930s. The company is currently owned by Enrique Razon Jr's Apex Mining Corporation Inc.

Indigenous people and residents have been opposing the mining expansion since August 2020. They have exposed irregularities at every stage of the process pursued by ISRI and government agencies. Residents have launched protests, caravans, civil cases, and other forms of collective action to stop and ultimately scrap the project.

Health workers reiterate demand for distribution of allowance

January 28, 2026

Health workers from four major hospitals protested with a noise barrage on January 28 to demand that the government distribute the long-overdue medical allowance for 2025 and 2026. Protest participants included health workers from the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI), Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC), and Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP). The medical allowance amounts to ₱7,000.

The health workers also demanded a ₱36,000 entry-level salary for staff, ₱50,000 entry-level salary for nurses and other health professionals, job security, and the mass hiring of regular health

workers to address the chronic understaffing in public hospitals.

“While we continue to provide quality care to patients, hospital management continues to ignore our rightful demands. Health workers should not be forced to protest just to receive what is rightfully ours. This allowance is not a privilege it is a legally mandated benefit that health workers and other government employees have earned through years of service,” NKTI-Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) president Jocelyn Guinto said.

This is the third protest collectively launched by health workers from government-owned and controlled hospitals. Meanwhile, the hospitals’ management remains silent and unresponsive to their grievances.

GOCC (government-owned and controlled corporation) management claimed that the benefits they receive are already covered under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers—including medical treatment and services—and therefore they are no longer entitled to the allowance under Executive Order No. 64.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), affected health workers may appeal the denial of their benefits to the hospitals’ board of trustees, which has the legal authority to decide on the matter.

Health workers countered that appealing to a higher authority is no longer necessary since the president already approved EO 64. They said the

real issue is why the DOH and the management of GOCC hospitals are not enforcing the provision clearly stating they are entitled to the benefit.

“In our case at PCMC, aside from not releasing our 2025 allowance, even our ₱30,000 incentive under the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) for the same year has not been released, supposedly because of lack of funds. Will it always be like this?” nurse and PCMC Employees Association-AHW president Douglas Tagapulot said. He condemned the government for claiming having no funds when billions are lost to corruption.

He added that workers from other hospitals and civilian agencies are already waiting for their 2026 allowance, while health workers have yet to receive the allowance for both 2025 and 2026.

The protesters called on senators and congress representatives to investigate the issue. They demanded that the allowance be given in cash, not through HMO or health insurance schemes. The benefit should be released in full and without deductions. Health workers and other government employees urgently need the money to meet their medical and personal needs, they said.

Indigenous people establishes new group to oppose Apayao Dam

January 28, 2026

Residents and indigenous people in Kabugao, Apayao gathered on January 16 at the Community Learning Center to form the Kagdu Kabugao Association for the Defence of Community and Environment (Kagdu), a group opposing the Gened Hydropower Dam project. Kagdu means “ally” or “comrade” in the Isneg language.

Kagdu chairperson Jennymar Melad said the group was established to strengthen unity and firm up the community’s decision to resist the dam project. Kagdu is a United Apayao Environmental and Cultural Community Organization Inc. (United Apayao) chapter. Former members formed the group after observing that the leadership had been slacking in convening the communities it once served.

The Alyansa ti Pesante iti Kordillera (Apit Tako, or Cordillera Peasants Alliance) said the reservoir’s completion will submerge 19 barangays in the Isneg ancestral lands. The Gened 1 Hydroelectric Power Plant’s (HEPP) completion will sink about 900 hectares including the barangays of Waga, Bulu, Magabata, Laco, Poblacion, Luttuacan, and Nagbabalayan in Kabugao, and Barangay Lt. Balag in Pudtol. Gened 2 HEPP will adversely affect around 500 hectares including the barangays of Madatag, Dibagat, and Tuyangan in Kabugao. Flooding and submergence of communities along the upper part of the river may worsen. Towns downstream, including Flora, Sta. Marcela, and Luna, face the same danger.

In November 2025, the company launched a survey among residents living along the Gened 2

site's proposed route. Barangay Madatag residents said police-escorted company workers marked trees for cutting.

The Kabugao mayor and the Apayao governor met with residents in November and December 2025 to renegotiate the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Gened 1 and other issues concerning Gened 1 and 2. Residents reported that despite their disagreement over the revised MOA, the company brought in heavy machinery for Gened 2's construction in the last week of December.

The dams are projects of Pan Pacific Renewable Power Philippines Corporation (Pan Pacific), a subsidiary of Ramon Ang's San Miguel Corporation.

Students launch campus-wide protests this January

January 28, 2026

Student councils, progressive groups, and youth formations gathered immediately at the reopening of campuses this January to protest in their respective schools. Hundreds of students assembled to continue defending their democratic rights, hold the Marcos regime accountable for rampant corruption, and resist repression.

Across the University of the Philippines (UP) System, protests erupted from Baguio City to Davao City. Students dubbed these actions as

“first day fight,” or new semester opening-day protests.

According to the UP Office of the Student Regent, students must continue their struggles as the new semester opens. It added that the people’s scholars are determined to confront these challenges this year.

More than 550 students marched in UP Los Baños in Laguna to protest on January 19. They protested again on January 23. Student councils, organizations, fraternities and sororities widely participated in the actions.

Over 100 UP Manila students joined the first campus protest on January 19. On the same day, councils and groups also held protests at UP Visayas Miag-ao and UP Tacloban. On January 20, hundreds mobilized for protest actions at UP Baguio, UP Clark in Pampanga, UP Diliman, and UP Cebu. In UP Diliman, students launched further protests on January 22 and 27.

The UP Open University Student Council also protested at its facility in Quezon City on January 24. In UP Mindanao, students mobilized on January 27 at the Davao City campus.

Polytechnic University of the Philippines student councils and progressive campus groups held local protest actions twice, on January 15 and 21, in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Technological University of the Philippines-Manila students took to protest on January 19.

Actions in private universities

At Saint Louis University in Baguio City, youth and students protested on January 12. The same day, youth from Far Eastern University in Morayta, Manila also mobilized.

On January 19, progressive groups at the University of Santo Tomas held a discussion on the Marcos regime's fascism, red-tagging, and direct attacks on academic freedom in the university. They followed it with a protest that afternoon at the campus gate.

At De La Salle University-Manila on Taft Avenue, students launched a protest on January 5. The administration blatantly suppressed and halted the demonstration.

Ateneo de Manila University student groups protested inside the campus on January 8, 16, and 24.

On January 23, students from the University of San Carlos in Cebu City protested, opposing the proposed tuition fee increase in the university.

Filipino-American activists condemn escalating ICE violence in the US

January 29, 2026

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-USA strongly condemned the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol

(CBP), and all state forces under the Trump government's anti-migrant and anti-immigrant campaign for intensifying impunity and violence against residents of Minnesota. ICE agents implementing Operation Metro Surge have killed two residents and abducted hundreds of immigrants, including their children, in the past weeks.

On January 7, an ICE agent shot writer Renee Good at close range while driving away from a group of agents. On January 24, two CBP agents killed Veterans Affairs Hospital nurse Alex Pretti for defending a woman being attacked by the agents. Both Good and Pretti were among those protesting ICE fascism in the city. Led by Kristi Noem, Domestic Homeland Security openly defended the crimes as legitimate actions and branded the victims as "domestic terrorists."

Public anger and outrage against the Trump regime further flared over the agents' impunity and blatant trampling of people's human rights. On January 24, the people of Minnesota launched a general strike called the "Day of Truth and Freedom." Thousands of businesses closed, and thousands of residents poured into the streets defying freezing temperatures (-29°C/-20°F) to demand the ouster of ICE from their city.

More people joined the protests after Pretti's killing. Rallyists blocked ICE convoys to stop them from abducting residents. They also picketed hotels housing the agents and Target stores for openly supporting ICE operations. At the same time, people from Minneapolis, New York,

Washington, Los Angeles, and Sacramento marched in solidarity and denounced ICE fascism. National-democratic Filipino-American organizations across the US actively joined the protest actions in various cities.

According to Bayan USA, the people must resist ICE, CBP, and all state agents for their impunity, continuing occupation of cities, sowing of terror in communities, and abduction, detention, and deportation of families, including children.

The group also said the Philippine government must end its criminal collusion with the US government, for its complicity and refusal to defend Filipino migrants from illegal detention and deportation.

“Just as we have linked arms with thousands across the country to release our loved ones from detention in 2025, and just as tens of thousands launched a general strike in the Twin Cities despite sub-zero temperatures, we will not back down. We will continue to organize and resist state fascism, from the U.S. to the Philippines, until our people are free,” the group declared.

ADMU students stand firm against tuition hike

January 30, 2026

Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) students stood firm against the proposed tuition hike in a gathering on January 23. Students raised placards

bearing calls against the increase during a meeting called by the Office of the Vice President for Higher Education regarding the proposal.

The said meeting was supposedly held to gather opinions, questions, and appeals on local university issues, including the loss of important campus spaces and the proposed 6% Tuition and Other Fee Increase (TOFI).

League of Filipino Students (LFS)-Katipunan members joined the protest. According to the group, the forum's supposed intent to directly address students' concerns and questions was fake.

"The urgent issues raised in the discussion were only met with excuses and shallow explanations," LFS-Katipunan said, adding that ADMU officials failed to present any concrete steps to address the issues raised by students.

The proposed 6% TOFI topped these issues. According to LFS-Katipunan, the tuition hike reflects the commercialization of education, which has made schooling inaccessible to the people. "The neoliberal system commodifies students who become slaves of big corporations and the government," the group said.

The group rejected the justification that the tuition hike aimed to improve and expand campus buildings and infrastructure. "Behind this, the administration ignores the students' real demands, such as the rehabilitation of online portal AISIS (Ateneo Integrated Student

Information System) and affordable campus food,” said LFS-Katipunan.

Together with other progressive campus formations and parties, the group urged fellow students to stand against the proposed tuition hike and defend their democratic rights. “The Ateneo de Manila University community, especially its students, must unite and continue to voice out the issues we face,” it declared.

Digital privacy defenders denounce plan for forced social media registration

January 30, 2026

Computer Professionals’ Union (CPU) experts condemned the Department of Information and Communication Technology’s (DICT) plan to revive a proposal for mandatory registration of all social media accounts. The DICT first floated the proposal in 2022.

According to the CPU, they have long opposed the measure because it threatens the right to privacy and the people’s right to free expression.

The group likened the proposal to the SIM Registration Law, which claimed to solve fraud and cybercrime but in reality proved useless and only violated user privacy. It also endangers private data collected by telecommunication companies. Cybercrimes clearly did not decline

after the law's implementation. According to police data, cases of scams and reported cybercrimes have even increased.

The CPU said cybercrime requires clearly identified targets and specific solutions such as stronger personal data protection, not the arbitrary removal of the right to privacy in online spaces.

"Instead of helping, forced registration of social media accounts will only produce the same problems caused by the SIM Registration Law," the CPU said. "It did not stop cybercrime, and in fact, did nothing to help ordinary Filipinos."

"The right to privacy is a necessary condition for a people's freedom of expression," the group said. It provides a safe online space for individuals and groups to express their opinions without the threat of interference or coercion.

"We can anticipate that with social media registration, the government under Marcos Jr will weaponize this law to target critics voicing out opinions online, as it has already done in the past," it warned.

GMA employees' association win fight for regularization in Supreme Court

January 30, 2026

The Talents Association of GMA (TAG) announced on January 24 their victory in the 11-year case for

regularization against GMA Network Inc. In its July 16, 2025 decision, the Supreme Court’s Third Division recognized GMA Network’s talents as the company’s regular employees, entitling them to just job security and full benefits.

GMA Network and other media companies hire “talents” as contractual workers under the so-called “talent system.” This has been the standard practice of networks when hiring artists, hosts, and performers. “Talents” are treated as “independent contractors” instead of full-time employees under this scheme.

With TAG’s victory, the court declared that 94 of the association’s members—mostly from the company’s News and Public Affairs Department—are regular employees. They include production assistants, researchers, writers, producers, artists, coordinators, and cameramen.

The decision also declared illegal the termination of 50 TAG members whom the GMA Network denied new contracts or dismissed while the case was ongoing. The court ordered the company to pay the workers’ separation pay and back wages.

TAG filed the case in 2014 before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) because of job insecurity and lack of access to SSS, Pag-IBIG, and PhilHealth benefits as contractuales. The NLRC ruled in favor of TAG in 2015, a decision upheld by the Court of Appeals in 2019, prompting GMA Network to elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

TAG welcomed the Supreme Court's ruling, noting it established a jurisprudence that would protect future generations of media workers in the country. While GMA Network may still file a motion for reconsideration, TAG considers the decision a victory.

The group said the case was challenging for its members, as it was the first of its kind when filed in 2014. "This should not have taken 11 years. It should not have happened at all," TAG stated.

TAG called on media companies, especially broadcast networks, to end longstanding contractualization under the "talent system," saying Filipino media workers should now be protected.

Many labor organizations and progressive parties lauded TAG's triumph, including the Gabriela Women's Party (GWP), which supported GMA employees in pushing for an investigation into GMA Network's labor rights violations.

Former GWP Representative Emmi De Jesus filed House Resolution No. 1893 in 2013 to investigate contractualization in GMA Network. According to GWP, TAG's victory should now warn all employers and companies against contractualization.

Groups condemn anew complaints filed in DoJ against anti-corruption protesters

January 30, 2026

Human rights groups protested at the Department of Justice (DoJ) in Manila on January 29 to again denounce the complaints filed in the agency against anti-corruption protesters. They held the action simultaneous with the submission of counter-affidavits by those charged by the Philippine National Police (PNP) for sedition and incitement to sedition cases linked to the Anti-Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

According to Karapatan, the PNP charged at least 72 individuals, who are among 97 targeted by the DoJ's legal pursuit for participating in the "Flood Protest" in Luneta on September 21, 2025 and for posting anti-corruption calls on social media.

Karapatan added that some of those charged are among the more than 270 the PNP arrested during the rally in Mendiola that same day and charged in court for vandalism, tumults, arson, and assault.

Those the PNP at the DoJ charged included Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) president Renato Reyes Jr, and student leaders from councils, publications, and progressive groups including Tiffany Faith Brillante, Joaquin Buenaflor, Jacob Baluyot, and Aldrin Kitsune.

Karapatan secretary general Cristina Palabay said it is striking that many of those the PNP targeted were the same people pushing for "deep systemic change" to root out corruption. Palabay said this

call goes beyond simply holding corrupt figures from the Marcos and Duterte cliques accountable.

“Doubling down on the persecution of anti-corruption protesters only reinforces our doubts on the sincerity of the government’s drive against bureaucratic corruption,” Palabay said. She added that this is clearly a desperate move to suppress the people’s indignation against corruption and to block the wave of public outrage from breaching the gates of Malacañang.

Youth groups also protested on January 26 at the DoJ led by Kalayaan Kontra Korapsyon, headed by Kitsune. Students from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Sta. Mesa also mounted separate demonstrations in recent weeks to oppose the crackdown on their leaders.

AKAB–Alliance Against Corruption and Police Brutality held a meeting on January 25 to prepare for the legal battle and complaints filed against the anti-corruption protesters. AKAB is composed of victims of police violence during the September 21, 2025 protest in Mendiola, their relatives, lawyers, and human rights groups.

Meanwhile, the Kilusang Bayan Kontra Kurakot (KBKK, or People’s Anti-Corruption Movement) supports those charged by the Marcos regime. The group asserted that people must defy state persecution and continue to shout out their demands, discuss, and expose the roots of corruption. “We will not be cowed by the government’s henchmen acting as protectors of

the corrupt and persecutors of anti-corruption activists,” the group said.

Groups denounce FCF Minerals Corporation for environmental plunder

January 30, 2026

Environmental groups, scientists, farmers, and indigenous peoples protested at the FCF Minerals Corporation office in Makati City on January 28 to denounce its environmental plunder and destruction and its human rights violations in Nueva Vizcaya and elsewhere in the country.

FCF Minerals operates the mine in Barangay Runruno, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya. It covers 3,093 hectares of mountain land for gold and molybdenum (a mineral used in electronics). The company has long been notorious for its destructive mining operations, environmental devastation, displacement of communities, human rights abuses, and seizure of land and livelihood from residents and indigenous peoples.

Woggle Corporation is 60% owned by FCF Minerals Corporation and 40% by Metals Exploration PLC. Both are subsidiaries of British mining company Metals Exploration PLC.

FCF Minerals Corporation subsidiary Yamang Mineral Corporation had an exploration project in Abra province but the lack of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and the widespread opposition of Abra residents stopped its operations in 2024.

It covers 16,187 hectares, spanning the towns of Licuan-Baay, Sallapadan, Lacub, and Malibcong. The company plans to mine gold, copper, molybdenum, and other minerals in the area.

A Metals Exploration PLC document stated its plan to enter Dupax del Norte, through Woggle Corporation, to continue the ore-processing operations of FCF Minerals in Barangay Runruno once the area's mineral reserves are depleted. The firm plans to transport and process whatever may be extracted from Dupax del Norte in Runruno.

"This kind of set-up secures a long-term channel for extracting wealth for British capital, while Nueva Vizcaya faces environmental destruction, land grabbing, and social damage," Kalikasan said.

"The Philippines does not need another foreign corporation stealing our resources. The people demand an end to environmental plunder and call to defend the right to save our environment for the next generation!" the group declared.

Progressive group questions "mass surrender" of "former rebels" in Davao del Norte

January 30, 2026

Kapatid, an organization of families and friends of political prisoners in the Philippines, questioned the recent report from the 10th ID report which

stated that nearly 100 “former rebels surrendered” in Davao del Norte on January 27. The group said the report is suspicious, since the military has repeatedly declared that the New People’s Army (NPA) has already been wiped out or no longer has forces in the province and across Southern Mindanao.

“What’s the big deal about “mass surrenders” when the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) itself has repeatedly announced that the insurgency has all been wiped out?” Kapatid asked. Davao del Norte was declared “insurgency-free” in June 2022, followed by the entire Davao Region in October 2022.

The military said 74 of those who recently surrendered came from the town of Talaingod, while 21 were from Agusan del Sur. They reportedly turned over 29 low-caliber firearms. These individuals allegedly came from dismantled NPA-Southern Mindanao guerrilla fronts and units.

Kapatid also doubted the report that the surrenderers received “food packs and financial assistance” from the local government. “Who verifies that these individuals are genuine former rebels? What standards and mechanisms ensure this?” the group said.

The group also raised concern about those being forced to surrender but refuse to follow the military’s orders. “Are they the ones increasing the number of undocumented political prisoners?” Kapatid asked. The group referred to people

accused of being former rebels and coerced to surrender but instead detained indefinitely in military camps or safe houses.

In the end, Kapatid called for an investigation into this military scheme that violates human rights and is used for kickbacks and corruption. “An investigation is necessary to clarify how public funds are really being used,” the group said.

USC students in Cebu oppose proposed tuition hike

January 30, 2026

Students of the University of San Carlos (USC) in Cebu protested on January 23 to oppose the proposed Tuition and Other Fee Increase (TOFI) in the university. Progressive groups and parties at USC led the action on the campus in Barangay Talamban, Cebu City. The USC Supreme Student Council also joined the protest. The council plans to hold a “consultation” with students and parents regarding the TOFI.

The USC administration informed the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Region VII on December 11, 2025, of its plan to impose a tuition increase. No hike percentage has yet been set under the proposal. The university justifies the move by citing rising educational costs and salaries for USC teachers and staff. In the 2023-2024 academic year alone, USC raised tuition and other fees by 6.95%.

“The looming TOFI worsens the financial burden on students already struggling, especially after the recent calamities in Cebu,” Anakbayan-USC, Gabriela Youth-USC, Kabataan Party-list USC, and the Student Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy-USC jointly stated. The students added that the unjust tuition hike and the questionable, nontransparent university fees violate the right to accessible and humane education.

At the same time, the four organizations and parties clarified that while they support the call of the College Faculty Independent Union (CFIU) for just wage increases for the welfare of the faculty, these should not be taken from students’ pockets. “Salary increases should be granted without passing the burden onto students and with full transparency and accountability on imposed fees,” their statement added.

An Anakbayan-USC member at the protest explained that it is unacceptable that an increasing number of USC students are being forced to drop out because of rising school fees. “Is it right that families struggle each year while school services remain unchanged?” Jañina said.

The groups called on fellow students to resist the TOFI and defend their democratic rights on campus. They also denounced police surveillance during the campus protest and the flight of a drone in the area.

Workers continue to call for justice 25 years after Toyota’s illegal dismissal

January 30, 2026

Led by the Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation Workers’ Association (TMPCWA), Toyota workers picketed the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) office in Intramuros, Manila on January 26. They demanded that the agency resolve with finality the over 25-year case of illegal dismissal and the continuing denial of their right to collective bargaining.

In 2001, Toyota “illegally dismissed” more than 230 union members after asserting the union’s right to negotiate a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the company.

The union mounted a strike in March 2001 following the mass dismissal. The company dismissed four more union members in August that year. The workers came from cities in Metro Manila, Cavite, Batangas, and Laguna.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno-National Capital Region (KMU-NCR) joined the protest and supported the union’s call. The group said that the International Labour Organization (ILO) had already issued recommendations in previous years for the Philippine government to resolve the labor dispute at Toyota.

It added that DOLE had been tasked to act in order to advance settlement of the case and

ensure compliance with labor rights standards. The group expressed dismay that these recommendations remain unimplemented to date.

“The prevailing 25-year labor dispute reflects the absence of genuine protection for workers’ rights, especially against big foreign corporations,” KМУ-NCR said. The group added that the union and Toyota workers will continue their struggle for justice until the issue is resolved.

86th IB protects foreign company Woggle Corporation—Karapatan Cagayan Valley

January 31, 2026

Karapatan-Cagayan Valley (CV) called the 86th IB of the Philippine Army the protector of Woggle Corporation, a foreign mining firm, on January 30. This followed the battalion’s announcement that it would “intensify monitoring” in Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya, after Barangay Bitnong residents launched actions against the destructive company.

The 86th IB Civil-Military Operations Officer 2nd Lt. Donebing Petalcorin said they would stay “on alert” because the revolutionary movement and the New People’s Army (NPA) would “exploit” the issue to recruit. The military officer claimed the people’s army would use the situation to “create anti-government resentment.”

The human rights group responded that the military's statement clearly showed its subservience to the foreign firm in protecting destructive mining. It also followed repeated police attacks and dispersals of the barricade set up by Barangay Bitnong residents against the entry of Woggle Corporation.

Police violence peaked on January 23 when they arrested seven residents for opposing the company's drilling operations. Aided by personnel from the Bureau of Fire Protection, nearly 400 police were deployed to dismantle the residents' barricade.

"The seizure of livelihood and the severe impacts of disasters caused by environmental destruction are compelling the people of Nueva Vizcaya to unite, fight, and defend the environment, their lives, and livelihood," Karapatan-CV said. The group added that the 86th IB's statement "belittles the people's capacity to defend their land and life."

Karapatan-CV expressed concern for the rights and safety of Dupax del Norte residents following the 86th IB's statement. The group said the pronouncement signals intensified repression and terrorizing against residents to allow Woggle Corporation full operation.

The group again called on all environment and human rights sympathizers to join the struggle of the residents of Dupax del Norte. "The people's barricade must continue," the group said.

Meanwhile, the group reported that military threats in Dupax del Norte are also happening in Dinapigue, Isabela. It said the 86th IB and CAFGU are also protecting destructive mining in that town, with one platoon encamped within the mining area itself.

Filipino-American activists join national strike against ICE impunity and fascism in the US

January 31, 2026

US citizens launched a national strike on January 30 to protest the escalating impunity and fascism of agents from the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol, and others. The protest dubbed “National Shutdown: No Work. No School. No Shopping. Stop Funding ICE” called for the closure of schools and the suspension of commercial activity as a way to condemn the continuing violence. The strike also aimed to pressure the federal government to pull ICE agents out of the cities and cut the agency’s funding.

The strike spread across all 50 states and Washington DC. The largest mobilizations were held in Minnesota, California, Washington, Colorado, Illinois, Oregon, Utah, Arizona, and New York. Protesters gathered at ICE offices, airports, and government buildings. Defying sub-zero temperatures (-20°C), thousands of US residents poured into the streets to protest. Thousands of

high school and college students from various cities walked out and held protests outside their schools. Several thousand businesses temporarily shut down and expressed solidarity with the strike.

The protest was organized by a coalition of activist groups opposing ICE operations and mass deportations under the Donald Trump regime. Among those endorsing the action were Anakbayan Hawaii, Malaya Georgia, Malaya San Diego, Anakbayan San Diego, League of Filipino Students-University of California San Diego, Defend Migrants Alliance, and Migrante USA.

The strike was launched amid intensifying violence in Minnesota, where 3,000 state agents were deployed to hunt down immigrants and sow fear among residents. ICE violence peaked when its agents killed writer Renee Goodman on January 7, and nurse Alex Pretti on January 24. Aside from these two victims, ICE agents also killed US citizen Keith Porter on January 1 in Los Angeles, and Mexican immigrant Silverio Villegas González on September 2025 in Illinois.

More than 30 people have died while detained in ICE facilities since Trump took office. Nine deaths were reported in January alone. Most of these deaths resulted from criminal neglect of detainees' health.

Residents of Minnesota first launched a statewide strike on January 30. Around 50,000 people joined the protest, and more than 700 businesses shut down that day. About 80,000 workers from the

Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation joined the action.

PLDT Inc supervisors fight for fair CBA

January 31, 2026

Supervisory employees at the telecommunications company PLDT Inc launched a series of protest actions this January. They demanded a fair collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for 2026-2028 between their union, Gabay ng Unyon sa Telekomunikasyon ng mga Superbisor sa PLDT (GUTS-PLDT), and the PLDT Inc management.

Negotiations between representatives of GUTS and PLDT management for the new CBA began on November 28, 2025. According to GUTS-PLDT, the union has reached no substantial agreement on their proposed measures after fifteen rounds of discussions and negotiations.

To pressure the company's management, the union called on its members nationwide to wear red shirts on January 9 and 16, which the employees enthusiastically answered. Supervisory employees again wore red shirts and held a noise barrage on January 23 in their respective offices across the country.

More than 200 union members gathered for a GUTS-PLDT assembly on January 29. Union officers gave updates on the progress of the CBA 2026-2028 negotiations. After the meeting, they

marched around the PLDT headquarters at the Ramon Cojuangco Building in Makati City.

Union members once again showed unity on January 30 with another red-shirt day. On the same day, GUTS-PLDT representatives and company management resumed negotiations for the CBA.

“The union’s collective actions were successful in pushing for the recognition of the legitimate proposals of the supervisors, grounded on the real conditions and experiences of supervisor-workers,” GUTS-PLDT said.

The BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN) expressed support for GUTS-PLDT’s fight for a new CBA. “To organize, to bargain collectively, and to take collective action are fundamental worker rights,” the group stated.

According to BIEN, the actions of GUTS-PLDT prove that only through unity and collective struggle can workers achieve living wages, decent working conditions, and genuine respect for labor. “We stand with PLDT’s Supervisory Union in their call for a just and meaningful CBA that reflects the value of workers’ labor and upholds their welfare and dignity,” BIEN said.

PLDT Inc is owned by comprador bourgeois Manny V. Pangilinan, who is also the company’s chairperson, president, and chief executive officer. PLDT Inc recorded a net income of ₱32.31 billion in 2024, 21% higher than in 2023 (₱26.61 billion).

The company reported ₱25.1 billion in profits in the first three quarters of 2025.

Progressive group denounces eviction of Ati vendors in Iloilo City

January 31, 2026

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan)-Panay condemned the Iloilo City local government following reports that it was driving away Ati indigenous vendors from the Jaro Plaza in the city. The Ati themselves exposed the eviction last week of January in an interview on local radio.

According to DYRP Life Radio Iloilo, the Ati from Antique complained that they and their goods were ordered removed from the plaza. Michell said In the radio interview that the Iloilo City Hall had repeatedly promised to grant them a permit to sell, but none was granted. They are relentlessly driven out and prohibited from selling their wares in the area.

She said they are striving to sell native products instead of begging to sustain their daily needs. They called on Iloilo City Mayor Raisa Treñas to address their situation and grant them a permit and space to sell. She added their vending would last only until the end of the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria festivities in Jaro District on February 2.

Bayan-Panay said the incident exposed the hypocrisy of the Iloilo City local government,

which had just finished celebrating the Dinagyang Festival from January 23 to 25. The Dinagyang is a festival supposedly honoring and recognizing the culture of the Ati people.

“This action stands in stark contrast to the city’s celebration of Ati culture, exposing the gap between symbolic recognition and the real treatment of Ati communities,” Bayan-Panay said.

The group said the Ati are deprived of dignity, space, and justice in their daily lives.

An Ilonggo and former Kabataan Party-list representative in the 19th Congress, Raoul Manuel also expressed dismay over the incident. He said such events are why, even if he wants to take joy in the Dinagyang Festival, he cannot get rid of the thought of how society treats the Ati community.

Rizal community faces eviction and demolition threats

January 31, 2026

An urban poor group in Rizal exposed the threats, harassment, and eviction of residents in Sitio Pugadlawin, Barangay San Juan, Taytay.

According to reports received by the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay)-Rizal, residents have been barred from entering their community after another party claimed ownership of their land.

On January 29, about 36 guards from Sapijan Star Security Agency entered and took posts in various parts of the community without explanation. Residents said the guards refused to identify themselves and immediately destroyed the community gate.

Residents also reported that the guards fenced off the area, heightening fears of an imminent demolition. They said the guards could not present legitimate land titles or documents, not even the boundaries of the area they plan to fence or cover.

In response, Kadamay-Rizal called for urgent monitoring and support from human rights groups, media, lawyers, and the legal profession. The group urged the public to stand with Sitio Pugadlawin in defending their right to housing and due process.

Pattern of demolitions in Taytay

Communities across Taytay face repeated demolition threats. These included Baltao Corporation workers forcibly closing the passageway used by residents of Sitio Igiban, Barangay San Isidro, starting January 7, affecting around 60 families.

Other communities under threat of demolition include Siwang, Sapang Gody, Bato-bato, Batong Dalig, Halaman Uno, Halaman Dos, and PCSO. Residents of these areas have no access to water and electricity because of the landlords' suppression and land-grabbing.

According to an earlier statement by the Taytay Urban Poor Alliance (TUPA), the waves of demolitions prove the state's siding with private companies' interests instead of upholding the poor's right to housing.

UP student councils slam agreement between PNP-SAF and college

January 31, 2026

Two University of the Philippines-Diliman (UPD) student councils strongly condemned a new agreement between the UPD College of Human Kinetics (CHK) and the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF). The representative of the UPD Office of the Chancellor officially signed the agreement, on behalf of the UPD CHK, on January 27.

The agreement shocked the UPD CHK Student Council because the college administration held no consultation with students about it. In a joint statement of the council and the UPD University Student Council, they branded the deal as not "neutral" and said it endangers the university.

"It legitimizes cooperation with an institution repeatedly implicated in harassment, human rights violations, and the suppression of youth and student activism," they said. The two councils added that this must be denounced, since UP has a duty to defend academic freedom, protect

dissent, and ensure the university remains a safe space for critical thought.

To express their dismay and position against the agreement, the councils held a dialogue with the UPD CHK administration on January 29. The college administration insisted that the collaboration between UPD CHK and PNP-SAF was purely “academic and research-based.”

According to the dialogue, discussions on the possible signing of the agreement began almost three years ago. The college administration also said the training sessions would be held at the PNP-SAF facility in Laguna and not on the UP Diliman campus. The UPD CHK also admitted that it failed to consult students regarding the agreement.

Meanwhile, the dialogue revealed that other state security institutions had previously approached the UPD CHK for similar agreements. Among them were the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, which sought CHK’s expertise in developing training manuals, assessments, and physical programs.

The UPD CHK agreed in the dialogue that it would review and reassess the agreement and issue a clarification statement considering academic freedom and students’ rights. The councils also secured the college’s commitment that they would take part in reviewing the results and implications of the said agreement.

However, the UP Diliman councils and students continue to demand that the agreement be scrapped completely. “As one community, we must remain vigilant in protecting our democratic spaces and ensuring that the welfare of students is never compromised,” the two councils said.

UP students remain doubly wary of the entry of PNP and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) forces on campus, since it has become freely allowed after the government unilaterally terminated the UP-DND Accord on January 15, 2021.

In a statement from the UP Office of the Student Regent on January 15, five years after the accord’s termination, it said their efforts and struggle to reinstate it continue. “The Accord was a collective assertion by iskolars ng Bayan (scholars of the people) that education must never again be militarized,” it declared.

Their concerns also included the recent filing by the PNP of a complaint at the Department of Justice against UP students and leaders who joined anti-corruption protests.

Women denounce PNP’s “rape avoidance tips”

January 31, 2026

Gabriela denounced the Indang Municipal Police Station in Cavite for its “Rape Prevention Tips” social media campaign. According to the group,

the “tips” circulated by the Philippine National Police (PNP) only place the blame on rape victims instead of holding perpetrators accountable.

In its post, PNP Indang advised women to avoid dark places, strangers, and people on social media.

“Instead of pursuing rapists, the PNP spreads backward and dangerous thinking that tells women they should limit their own freedom and movement,” Gabriela secretary general Clarice Palce said.

“With this logic, women are blamed for being raped because of their choice of path, company, or clothing, rather than the perpetrator’s decision to commit rape. This is a grave insult to all survivors and a blatant neglect of the police’s duty.”

The group said the PNP’s advice contradicts data and reality, showing that most rape cases are committed by people known to the victims and often inside their own homes. It is even more alarming that this advice comes from an institution riddled with cases of its own personnel committing sexual abuse and violence against women, such as the recent rape case involving policemen from Manila.

“The Marcos Jr regime and the PNP should first study the roots of violence against women. They should focus on cleaning up their own ranks of rapists and abusers instead of telling women how to live in fear. That way, this rotten mindset that

breeds rapist cops will no longer spread,” Palce added.

The group explained that violence against women stems from the feudal-patriarchal system and culture of impunity, which are further intensified within institutions like the police and military. Campaigns for women’s safety should focus on condemning the actions of perpetrators, advancing consent, and ensuring victims’ immediate access to justice—not on controlling women’s lives and bodies.

“We call on the PNP to immediately withdraw these dangerous and irresponsible advisories. Hold your personnel accountable! Stop blaming women and start arresting rapists—including those within your own institution,” Palce emphasized.