



EDITORIAL:

Corruption Without Consequence, Revolution Without Illusions

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**Corruption Without Consequence,
Revolution Without Illusions**

Corruption in the Philippines is no longer an aberration. It has become policy, practice, and protection racket rolled into one. Under the Marcos Jr. administration, corruption is not merely exposed—it is normalized, insulated, and defended by the full machinery of the state.

Recent information circulated among opposition parties, civil society groups, religious institutions, and even foreign diplomatic circles points to documentary and testimonial evidence directly implicating the highest levels of power in a massive kickback scheme tied to flood-control and infrastructure projects. The materials reportedly include records of kickback transactions, screenshots of encrypted communications with the president himself, and sworn affidavits held as political insurance by those involved. At the center of the allegations is a network linking Malacañang officials, politically connected business elites, and senior bureaucrats—an arrangement that siphoned at least 8 billion in public funds.

These revelations are not isolated claims. They align with earlier disclosures made in Senate hearings by a former Department of Public Works and Highways undersecretary, who identified Marcos-era officials as operators of entrenched corruption schemes in public infrastructure. Taken together, they sketch a coherent picture: corruption emanating from the very top, protected by silence, threats, and mutual guarantees.

Yet despite the scale and gravity of these allegations, the state's response has been predictable. No independent investigation. No meaningful accountability. Impeachment complaints are dismissed. "Big fish" remain untouchable. Accountability ends precisely where power begins.

This impunity does not merely drain public coffers—it produces mass injustice. Communities are flooded while funds disappear. Social services are gutted while elites feast. Disaster becomes routine, suffering normalized, and public anger steadily accumulates.

Over the past year, Filipino youth have emerged as a decisive force against this system of plunder. Walkouts, campus strikes, and nationwide protests—some mobilizing tens of thousands—have erupted in response to unpunished corruption, pork-laden budgets, and policies rammed through for elite benefit. These actions are not spontaneous. They are the political awakening of a generation that sees its future being systematically stolen.


Rather than address the roots of this outrage, the regime has turned to repression. State forces have intensified red-tagging, surveillance, arrests, and harassment against students, researchers, journalists, and protest leaders. Even online denunciations of corruption have been met with sedition and cyber crime charges. In the eyes of the regime, dissent itself has become the crime.

The cost has been severe. The killing of young researcher Jerlyn Rose Doydora during military operations, the detention of youth activists, and reports of civilian and indigenous casualties reveal the true function of repression: not security, but silence.

Confronted with this reality, many young Filipinos are shedding illusions about reform from within a rotten system. Corruption is no longer seen as the result of individual greed, but as structural—rooted in a semicolonial and semifeudal order that serves foreign interests and local elites while condemning the majority to exploitation and permanent crisis.

The regime derides this awakening as "ideological grooming." In truth, it is self-radicalization born of betrayal: of watching public wealth looted, accountability mocked, and repression unleashed to protect privilege. History teaches that repression does not extinguish resistance—it clarifies its necessity.

By clinging to corruption and ruling through fear, the Marcos government is pushing an entire generation to the conclusion that genuine change will not come from institutions designed to preserve injustice.

Corruption steals more than money. It steals the future. And when a future is denied with such arrogance and violence, resistance does not remain a choice—it becomes a necessity. 

**US lackeys attack
China, deflects
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against US imperialism**

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) exposed the mounting attacks against China by American stooges, invoking defense of Philippine sovereignty, as having the effect of deflecting the people's attention from the mounting global outrage against US imperialism. The CPP Chief Information officer Marco Valbuena said these lackeys "hope to perpetuate the false American narrative that US military presence is needed to protect the country".

Commodore Jay Tarriela, spokesperson of the Philippine Coast Guard for the West Philippine Sea, using mock images of Chinese leader Xi Jinping in a forum, provoked a strong reaction from Guo Wei, deputy spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Manila. Guo, denouncing Tarriela for violating China's political dignity and stepping on the bounds of diplomatic relations, demanded disciplinary measures.

Senator Risa Hontiveros -who is pandering to the US to advance her 2028 presidential ambitions- denounced Guo as "very undiplomatic" and "a bad guest". A Senate resolution she initiated denounced China, further heightening tensions.

Tarriela is a mouthpiece of US policy. Prior to his present appointment, he underwent a training program in the East-West Center in Washington in 2021, given the task of portraying China as an aggressor in the South China Sea and divert attention away from US build-up of military presence in the South China Sea. He works in close collaboration with US psywar agent Raymond Powell, who established the SeaLight Foundation on the same year.

Diehard US supporter Hontiveros, other senators and representatives in Congress hypocritically act as guardians of Philippine sovereignty by allowing the US to use the country in its "first island strategy" to contain China. On Aug. 7 and 8, the Philippines and the United States have approved more than 500 joint military activities for 2026 during the recent Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB).

The escalation of anti-Chinese tirades by Philippine officials and politicians coincides with a period of growing international isolation for US

imperialism. This comes after its military aggression in Venezuela and abduction of its president Nicolas Maduro, declarations of taking over Greenland, threats against Mexico, Colombia, Panama, increased aggression against Cuba, and subversive activities in Iran accompanied by threats of an invasion. These have roused global indignation even among US traditional allies who, ironically, have responded by strengthening their ties with China.

There are patriotic groups in Congress who opposed the US lackeys. ACT-Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio expressed the Makabayan Bloc's condemnation over the US' military aggression against Venezuela—tagging it as “yet another chapter in US imperialism's long history of violating the sovereignty of nations that refuse to submit to its diktat.”

Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima said the US “throws the global order back to a barbaric ‘might makes right’ regime, discarding all the progress achieved by the UN, 80 years after the end of World War II”.


The CPP asserts, “It is the growing threat of full-scale US military aggression in Asia, in collaboration with junior imperialist partners Japan and Australia, that the Philippines need to protect itself from. The Filipino people must stand firm for national sovereignty and demand that the country be free from the presence of all foreign military troops. With the US expansion of its military presence in the country, the greater the likelihood that the Philippines will be dragged into a devastating war that will serve only US hegemonic interests.” 



image: philippinerevolution.nu



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Fascist AFP officer's killing by CAFGU exposes AFP rottenness and abuses

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

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

NPA Northern Samar spokesperson Ka Amado Pesante stressed that these military actions prove the NPA's continuous foiling of the fascist military's all-out war and added that these victories had the peasant masses' indispensable deep support.

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


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



image: bulatlat.com

Co-perpetrators in Duterte's War on Drugs named by ICC

On 13 February 2026, the International Criminal Court (ICC) reissued the Document Containing the Charges. This new, less redacted version of the document identifies eight co-perpetrators in former President Rodrigo Duterte's crimes against humanity. However, no further arrest warrants have been issued yet.

Among these eight individuals are current members of the senate, such as Ronaldo "Bato" Dela Rosa, who also served as Chief of Davao Police from January 2012 to October 2013 while Duterte was Mayor of Davao. During Duterte's presidency, he served as the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), which was the main instrument in the War on Drugs, from July 2016 to April 2018. Dela Rosa issued the memorandum known as Project "Double Barrel" which formalized the drug war.

Another current member of the senate that was named is Christopher "Bong" Go, who served as Special Assistant to the President and Chief of Presidential Management Staff from June 2016 to October 2018. Previously, he had been an assistant to Duterte while he was Davao Mayor. Go was among the core group in the Davao Death Squad (DDS) to whom handlers reported to. He was also tasked to provide financial incentives for these killings.

Vitaliano Aguirre II is another co-perpetrator who had previously been the legal counsel for the DDS in Davao and later served as Secretary of Justice from July 2016 to April 2018. He was in the position to dismiss and minimize reports of extrajudicial killings, as well as control any efforts to hold the physical perpetrators of the killings accountable, ensuring their protection.

Former Chief of the Davao City Police Vicente Danao Counterintelligence Chief of the PNP Directorate for Intelligens and Manila Police District Director. He was reportedly also a

member of the DDS and reported directly to Duterte on the execution of targets.

Camilo Cascolan had been Finance Chief of the Davao Region Police Office, helped draft Project "Double Barrel" and was responsible for directing police operations during the anti-illegal drugs campaign.

Oscar Albayalde was responsible for directing the anti-illegal drugs campaign. He was forced to resign after being linked to the "ninja cops" scandal involving police officers that reportedly resold confiscated illegal drugs.

Dante Gierran was raised from a regional to national Director of the NBI nationwide from 2016 by Duterte to exercise control over physical perpetrators, making him another co-perpetrator from the Department of Justice.

The eighth named co-perpetrator, Isidro Lapena, was elevated to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency to direct operations against "High Value Targets" and oversee the drug watch lists that were used to identify individuals for "neutralization".

"This shows that the plan was not only to implement the killings, but also to ensure impunity," Atty. Kristina Conti, lawyer for the victims, said upon the release of the document. Additional details may be revealed during the confirmation of charges hearing set for this February 23. Several Filipino organizations based in Europe have launched the "Bantay Katarungan Week" in The Hague to conduct actions to ensure justice for the victims, including a protest action in front of the ICC at February 22 and a demonstration on February 23. Another big event of the week will be the protest to commemorate the 40th anniversary of EDSA on February 25. They are not just calling for Duterte and the co-perpetrators to be held accountable, but for all bureaucrat capitalists that have been lining their pockets with state funds. 