



EDITORIAL:

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In pursuit of its oft-lapsed deadline to end the armed revolution and upon the prodding of its US imperialist master, the Marcos Jr. regime has escalated its attacks against the Filipino people. Last April 19, reports indicate aerial strafing operations by the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines in Toboso, Negros Occidental resulting in the massacre of 19 individuals including 9 civilian non-combatants two of which were minors.

A drone video surfaced recently showing NPA Northern Negros commander Roger Fabillar still alive but struggling, and yet he was still killed by blood-thirsty mercenaries of the AFP. One of the Red fighters killed was pregnant. The AFP did not even bother to check that they were shooting at two minors who lived in the area. Included in those massacred were a journalist, a student leader, peasant advocates, and two Filipino-American activists who were integrating with peasant communities. The killing of civilians and the conduct of military operations with complete disregard for the principles of distinction, proportionality, and humane treatment reveal the criminal character of the reactionary state's counterinsurgency campaign.

Even in the midst of war, there are rules that must be respected. The NDFP, representing the revolutionary movement including its armed forces the New People's Army, strictly adheres to the Geneva Conventions, otherwise known as International Humanitarian Law (IHL) as governing rules in the conduct of the civil war in the Philippines.

It can be recalled that in 1991, the NDFP issued its formal declaration to reinforce its commitment to abide by IHL. In 1996, the NDFP further explicitly undertook to respect the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977, filing a declaration on July 5, 1996, to this effect. In 2012, the NDFP adopted its declaration and program of action for the rights, protection and welfare of children as mandated under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Geneva Conventions' provisions regarding children.


This adherence to the laws of war is codified into the rules of the NPA which operates under the absolute leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines. In complete contrast, the AFP under the leadership of their commander-in-chief Marcos Jr., despite being party to IHL and having ratified all four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and 1952, have brazenly disregarded all these laws when they massacred civilians, a pregnant woman, and two minors in Toboso.

IHL exists to protect civilians, the wounded, prisoners of war, and all those unable to take part in hostilities. It prohibits deliberate attacks on non-combatants, collective punishment, executions and the indiscriminate use of excessive force. Marcos Jr. and the AFP trampled on these basic principles proving their contempt not only for the struggling Filipino masses, but for universally recognized standards of humanity.

And instead of owning up to their responsibility, the AFP mounted a propaganda campaign to dehumanize the victims of their massacre in Toboso, denying them dignity even in death. The AFP's propaganda machinery deliberately sought to blur the line between combatant and non-combatant in order to justify their war crimes and conceal the political roots of the armed conflict. They have also used their war crimes in Toboso to fuel their grandiose claims that the armed revolution is over.

But what the AFP says cannot be farther from the truth. The revolutionary struggle in the countryside remains alive and continues to draw strength from the Filipino masses who confront on a daily basis the unresolved crises of landlessness, poverty, exploitation and escalating repression. The blood of the Toboso martyrs is bound to ignite a greater wave of resistance among Negrenses and the entire Filipino people against a regime that is increasingly isolated from the masses.

No matter how the AFP lies to slander the slain martyrs of Toboso, the masses know the truth. They know that those who offered their lives in the struggle to liberate the people from oppression and exploitation are among the best sons and daughters of the motherland. In fact, despite military intimidation, Roger Fabillar's funeral was attended by hundreds of Negrenses who honored his memory and had nothing but unending gratitude for his service to the Filipino people.

Together with the Filipino masses, the NDFP mourns the fallen of Toboso and extends its deepest solidarity to their families, to their communities, and their comrades. Let their memory serve as an inspiration to continue the struggle and advance the national democratic revolution to total victory. 

NDFP marks 53rd anniversary amid global tensions

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) marked its 53rd founding anniversary on April 24 with renewed calls to advance its revolutionary program, citing intensifying global conflicts and domestic socio-economic challenges.

In statements issued by NDFP leaders and founding figures, the organization emphasized that worsening international tensions—particularly those linked to U.S. military activity—are aggravating economic hardships in the Philippines and heightening threats to national sovereignty.

NDFP Secretary General Elias Dipasupil said the national democratic revolution “continues to advance nationwide,” pointing to ongoing armed and mass struggles in both rural and urban areas. He claimed that despite sustained counterinsurgency campaigns, the New People's Army (NPA) retains support in the countryside, while protest actions and organizing efforts persist in cities.

The NDFP reiterated its 12-point program as the framework guiding its political objectives, including calls for agrarian reform, national industrialization, expanded democratic rights, and an independent foreign policy. These aims address longstanding issues such as landlessness, low wages, and limited access to social services.

Founding chair Jose Maria Sison highlighted the historical role of the NDFP as a “broad united front” bringing together various sectors opposed to dictatorship and foreign domination. He traced its origins to the early 1970s, when organizations were forced underground during martial law, and underscored its continued role in mobilizing workers, peasants, and middle sectors.

Sison also stressed the strategic importance of the united front in revolutionary theory, alongside armed struggle and political leadership, describing it as essential for consolidating support across different social classes.

Meanwhile, the CPP statement tied the anniversary to growing geopolitical tensions, caused by increased U.S. military presence and economic influence in the Philippines. It warned that expanded military agreements and joint exercises could draw the country into broader conflicts, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

The NDFP called on its allied organizations and supporters to “strengthen unity and

determination” in the face of these developments, framing its struggle as part of a broader global movement against imperialism.

The anniversary statements project continuity and resilience while situating its campaign within both national and international contexts marked by economic uncertainty and geopolitical rivalry. 



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Salaknib and Balikatan is an outright betrayal of the country's history and sovereignty. Their participation in war maneuvers at the 'invitation' of the puppet state is a slap in the face of the millions of Filipinos who were killed, tortured, oppressed, and exploited under the Japanese occupation from 1942 to 1945”.

Additionally, the Human rights group KARAPATAN deplored the planned construction of a munitions factory in Subic and Bataan in the Philippines that will load, assemble and package 30-millimeter cannon rounds for the US military and its allied countries. Through its Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience involving 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the US

Marcos Jr. complicit in U.S. build up of war of aggression in West Asia

The progressive umbrella group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) denounced Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for expanding the scope and scale of Balikatan exercises, which started on April 20, amid the ongoing U.S.' acts of aggression in West Asia and the economic and energy crisis it has caused. The group said the joint military exercise reflect the expanding intervention of the US military and the subservient foreign policy of the Marcos administration.

Balikatan 2026, the 41st in the annual bilateral exercise between the Philippines and the US is their largest joint military exercise. House Assistant Minority Leader and Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Sarah Elago slammed the Marcos Jr administration: “The Marcos Jr. administration is acting as if the United States is not waging wars and escalating military tensions abroad. Pushing through with the largest Balikatan yet, with over 17,000 troops, only deepens the Philippines' alignment with these conflicts and places our people on the frontlines”.

BAYAN continued, “It is costly, disruptive to local communities, and endangers the local population by recklessly allowing foreign troops to use our land and water territories as war playground... We should not allow war criminals and our former colonizers to preposition their war materiel and conduct drills in various parts of the country to train their troops and test their weapons. The Philippines should not be made into a training and staging ground of the US to attack other nations.”

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena declared that “The Marcos regime's allowing the presence of Japanese soldiers in the war games



image: philippinerevolution.nu

plans to outsource the manufacture of solid rocket motors (used to power guided missiles) as well as drones and ammunition for use in its wars of aggression.

The construction of a US munitions factory in the Philippines makes the Marcos Jr. regime complicit in the Trump regime's criminal attacks against states that have shown independence against imperialist impositions. It will also make the country a target of retaliatory or preemptive strikes by the US' enemies, and irresponsibly drag the Filipino people into a conflict not of their own making.

Worse, the munitions to be manufactured in the Philippines will likely be used also against Filipinos in the Marcos Jr. regime's brutal counter-insurgency war.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) criticized the Philippine government's commitment to "Pax Silica," a multinational initiative spearheaded by the US International Trade Administration designed to secure supply chains for critical minerals, advanced electronics and strategic technologies.

The protest centers on a proposed 1,619-hectare economic security zone within the Luzon Economic Corridor, which the KMP claims will prioritize foreign industrial needs over local food security and environmental safety. KMP views the project as a move that "integrates the country into supply chains led by the United States" at the expense of local autonomy. [△](#)

DDS: Double Duterte Setback



image: philippinerevolution.nu

Two main figures in the Duterte clan suffered double setbacks within a few days in April 2026, when the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague, the Netherlands, affirmed the jurisdiction of the ICC over the crimes against humanity case against the former president, while the Philippines' Lower House's Committee on Justice exposed bank transactions in the billions of pesos of Vice President Sara Duterte, Rodrigo's daughter, in the course of impeachment proceedings against her.

The Makabayan bloc in the Lower House composed of ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio, Kabataan party-list Rep. Renee Co and Gabriela party-list Rep. Sarah Elago said that the Dutertes suffering a "double whammy" indicates that accountability is coming for the two.

The five-member ICC Appeals Chamber rejected the defense's appeal to nullify the court's jurisdiction over Duterte's case. Rodrigo Duterte was charged with three counts of murder as an indirect co-perpetrator in the killings under the "drug war" implemented during his term of office as mayor of Davao City and then as president until March 2019, when the Philippines withdrew from the ICC.

Human rights lawyer Maria Sol Taule said that ICC's ruling is a major win for the victims and it will bring the victims' long struggle for justice closer to accountability.

The ICC Appeals Chamber's decision paved the way for the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber to declare on the next day the Confirmation of Charges against Rodrigo Duterte. The Chamber reiterated the earlier finding that there are substantial grounds to believe that Duterte was responsible for the

crimes against humanity of murder and attempted murder, committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against a civilian population between November 1, 2011, and March 16, 2019 while the Philippines was a member of the ICC.

In the Philippines, at the House of Congress's Committee on Justice, different government offices and individuals submitted documents and testimonies, with allegations on the Vice President's unexplained wealth and that she failed to fully disclose her assets in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN).

Karen Batu of the Ombudsman's Central Records Division confirmed Rep. Terry Ridon's earlier statement that the Sara Duterte's net worth from 2007 to 2024 rose by 1,000 percent, or from P7.2 million to P88.51 million.

Ronel Buenaventura, Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) Executive Director, said that they saw 630 covered transactions and 33 suspicious transactions, totaling to P6.77 billion, that were made by the Vice President and her family. About P4.4 billion flowed into the accounts, P1.5 billion were transferred out, and around P791 million could not be classified as an inflow or outflow.

Buenaventura also confirmed that all of the 18 financial transactions randomly-picked by Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima from the documents provided by former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV matched their records.

If the impeachment passes in the House of Representatives, it will be submitted to the Senate for judgement. [△](#)