



EDITORIAL:

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Political circus in the senate shows necessity of waging revolution

The impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte now unfolding before the Philippine Senate have further exposed the deepening crisis of the country's ruling political system. What the Filipino people are witnessing is a full-blown political circus driven by rival factions of the Duterte and Marcos ruling classes desperately maneuvering to preserve power and position themselves for the 2028 presidential elections.

The Duterte camp, despite suffering many setbacks, and gradually losing ground in parts of their stronghold Mindanao, continues to exercise considerable influence over sections of the military, police, local dynasties, and reactionary political networks nationwide. Their actions to replace the Senate President has also allowed them to consolidate a pro-Duterte majority in the senate which is set to hold an impeachment trial against her. Facing increasing isolation from the Marcos clique and mounting legal and political pressure with the looming ICC arrest warrant against Senator Ronaldo "Bato" dela Rosa, the Dutertes are now fighting to preserve their political machinery and maintain relevance in the shifting balance of ruling class power.

The entire spectacle unfolding in the Senate demonstrates the rotten character of the semicolonial and semifeudal political system in the Philippines. State institutions are repeatedly weaponized and abused not to serve the interests of the Filipino people, but to settle disputes among political dynasties and rival factions of the big comprador bourgeoisie and landlord classes. The masses are expected to watch passively while competing powers claw at one another for access to state power, patronage, and wealth.

Meanwhile, the Filipino people continue to sink deeper into economic hardship. The prices of basic commodities continue to soar. Rice prices surged 13.7% in April while overall food inflation accelerated sharply to 6.1% in the same period. Electricity rates and fuel prices remain punishing for workers and poor households already struggling to survive. Wages remain grossly insufficient while unemployment and precarious labor continue to plague millions. Overseas migration remains one of the few options for survival for countless Filipino families forced to endure separation and insecurity due to the absence of genuine national development.

In the countryside, the crisis is even more severe. Landlessness remains one of the most fundamental problems confronting the peasantry. Land grabbing by landlords, mining corporations, plantations, and real estate interests continues unabated, often backed by militarization and state repression. Peasant communities resisting displacement are harassed, arrested, and attacked while the government protects the interests of large landlords and foreign capital.

Yet despite these worsening conditions, the ruling factions remain consumed by endless political maneuvering and self-serving power struggles.

The Marcos and Duterte camps may be bitter rivals today, but they both represent factions of the same rotten ruling order dominated by big landlords, big comprador bourgeoisie, and bureaucrat capitalists who all serve the interests of their imperialist masters. Their conflict is not over how to solve poverty, landlessness, unemployment, or foreign domination. Rather, it is a struggle over who will dominate the state machinery and control the enormous resources currently wielded by the reactionary puppet government.

The Filipino people cannot place their hopes in one reactionary faction against another. Neither the Marcos nor the Duterte camp offers any genuine solution to the roots of the armed conflict. Regardless of who secures dominance in the 2028 presidential elections, the fundamental structures of exploitation and oppression will remain intact so long as the semicolonial and semifeudal system persists.

The present political circus only demonstrates even more clearly the necessity of waging the national democratic revolution.

Only through revolutionary struggle can the Filipino people establish a government that genuinely serves workers, peasants, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, migrants, youth, and all oppressed sectors of society. Only through revolution can genuine land reform and national industrialization be achieved. Only through revolution can the economy be liberated from imperialist

domination. Only through revolution can the resources of the country be directed toward healthcare, education, housing, food production, and social welfare rather than corruption, militarization, and political patronage.

The crisis now unfolding in the Senate presents an opportunity to deepen the people's understanding that the problem is systemic. The rot lies not simply in individual politicians but in the entire reactionary state that perpetuates dynastic rule, foreign domination, bureaucrat capitalism, and feudal exploitation. As the ruling factions intensify their struggle for Malacañang ahead of 2028, the fighting Filipino masses must intensify their own struggle for genuine democracy, national liberation, and social justice as part of the overall advance of the national democratic revolution. ▲

Thousands mobilize on Labor Day amid deepening economic crisis

Thousands of workers and urban poor marched across the Philippines on May 1, International Labor Day, demanding a PHP 1,200 national living wage and urgent government action against the country's worsening economic crisis.

In Manila, workers led by Kilusang Mayo Uno and allied labor groups marched toward Mendiola under the banner of the National Wage Coalition. Protesters carried calls to "Raise wages! Lower taxes!" and condemned the administration of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for failing to address soaring prices, stagnant wages, and rising unemployment.

According to organizers, as many as 30,000 workers, youth, church people, and professionals joined the mobilization in Manila alone. Parallel actions were also held in Baguio, Pampanga, Laguna, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Tacloban, Davao, and other provinces.

Workers said the current minimum wage covers only 36% to 54% of the actual daily needs of a Filipino family. Labor groups argued that a PHP 1,200 living wage is necessary to cope with the spiraling costs of food, transportation, housing, medicine, and utilities.

The protests erupted as the country faces mounting economic distress. Research group IBON Foundation warned that the Philippines is entering a period of stagflation marked by slowing growth, high inflation, and worsening joblessness. IBON reported that the Philippine

economy grew by only 2.8% in the first quarter of 2026, the slowest among Southeast Asian economies. Inflation climbed to 7.2% in April, the second highest in the region, while unemployment reached 5.0% in March.

The group also pointed to rising fuel and electricity prices as major drivers of hardship. Gasoline prices remained at around PHP 84 per liter and diesel prices at nearly PHP 100 per liter by the end of April despite recent rollbacks. Electricity bills and water rates have likewise increased amid what critics described as weak regulation and corporate profiteering.

Food prices have also sharply risen. IBON noted that food inflation more than doubled from 2.7% in March to 6.1% in April. Rice, vegetables, fish, pork, and poultry all posted significant increases, further straining household budgets.

Labor groups accused the Marcos administration of responding with token measures while refusing to implement meaningful wage hikes or stronger price controls. Protesters criticized the government for merely “studying” proposals for a PHP 200 legislated nationwide wage increase, even as it earlier approved an additional PHP 200 daily allowance for soldiers and police. “The burden of the crisis is being passed onto workers and poor families,” IBON said, noting that over 21 million vulnerable households are absorbing the impact of inflation and oil price shocks.

Agricultural workers also joined the May 1 protests, highlighting severe wage disparities in the countryside. In Eastern Visayas, farm workers reportedly earn only around PHP 390 daily, far below the proposed living wage. Labor advocates also denounced contractualization, attacks on unions, and unsafe working conditions faced by workers in plantations and factories.

Police blocked sections of the Manila march with barricades, barbed wire, and fire trucks, preventing protesters from reaching Mendiola. Labor leaders condemned the deployment as repression and proof of the government’s disregard for

workers’ democratic rights.

Beyond economic demands, sections of the mobilization also condemned foreign military intervention and rising geopolitical tensions. Protesters linked the global oil crisis and worsening poverty to ongoing US-led wars abroad and called for national industrialization, food security, and economic sovereignty.


Despite the repression and deteriorating conditions, labor groups vowed to continue organizing nationwide actions for higher wages, stronger union rights, and structural economic reforms. 



image: philippinerevolution.nu

NPA persists amidst grief and cry for justice to victims of Toboso massacre

Protests have erupted in response to the Toboso massacre, where 19 people, including two Americans, were killed by the Philippine military during a counter-insurgency operation. Human rights organizations and activists are demanding an independent investigation and accountability for the violence against civilians.

Filipino American activists and human rights groups have condemned the military’s actions, calling for an independent investigation into the incident. Reports indicate that 10 of the deceased were members of the New People’s Army (NPA) while 9 were civilians, including student leaders and journalists and minors. KARAPATAN have described the killings as a violation of international humanitarian law, emphasizing the need for accountability.

On May 5, protest were launched in Filipino communities demanding justice for the massacre victims in the United States. These activities and other similar rallies in other parts of the world were led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan–International and the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines.

The recent initial findings on the victims of the Toboso massacre of Dr. Raquel Fortun, a reknowned forensics pathologist and Chairperson of the Department of Pathology at the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila College of Medicine, indicate that many bodies were poorly handled, with some showing gunshot wounds to the back, raising questions about the military’s

claims of an armed encounter. Additionally, there were issues with misidentified bodies and missing clothing, complicating the investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, the New People’s Army (NPA)-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) declared its readiness and determination to continue the people’s war to achieve justice for those massacred in Toboso.


NPA-Northern Negros spokesperson Ka Cecil Estrella said the martyrs played a crucial role. As Red fighters of the people’s army, they directly joined peasants in production, held discussions on the rights of the exploited, and provided social services to Negrense communities.

Estrella said the martyrs’ death weighs as heavy as Mount Kanlaon and their legacy lives on in every drop of tear, sweat, and blood flowing from the masses.

As the Communist Party of the Philippines Northern Negros Committee’s main instrument in advancing the people’s war, the NPA unit helped expand and strengthen mass bases and Party branches. In the committee’s December 2025 report, Party membership grew 30% that year and new branches were formed in broad areas. Membership in secret mass organizations grew nearly 50% while the number of individuals reached by the revolution tripled.

NPA-Northern Negros also doubled the range of its area of operations and launched at least 19 guerrilla offensive and counter-offensive actions. It conducted these operations up to

towns near the provincial capital and populated areas. "As the global crisis worsens, the people face ever more dire conditions where their only choice is to take up revolutionary violence to defend themselves and their fellow," Estrella said. She said this is also why the NPA, founded in Tarlac in 1969, took root and expanded nationwide to Negros Island, and persists and thrives. "Reactionary forces have tried for 57 years to crush the armed resistance but failed to uproot it. Fascist soldiers and their mas-

ters can never grasp that the people's war will surely advance as long as masses remain mired in poverty," Estrella declared. In a related development, according to Armando Sumayang Jr Command (ASJC-NPA), the 47th IB suffered 2 casualties in a counter-offensive action of the NPA in an encounters in Barangay Masaling, Cauayan in the Southwest portion of the Negros Island on May 4. No casualty was suffered by the NPA in this encounter. 

Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law continue unabated

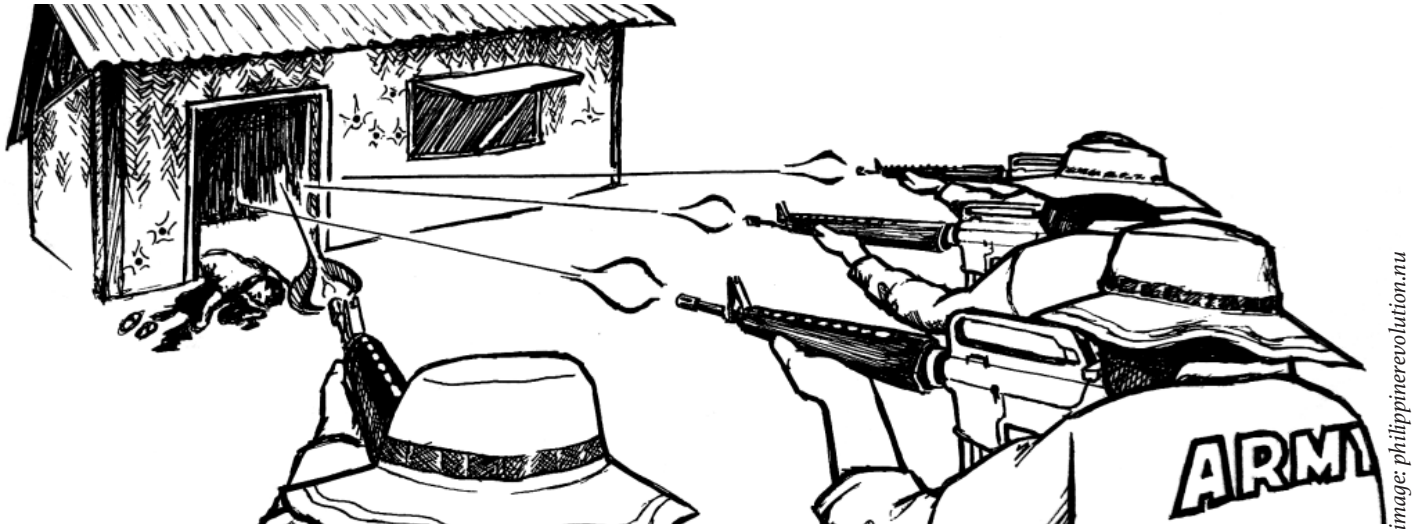


image: philippinerrevolution.nu

Numerous transgressions of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) have been perpetuated by the military and security forces of the Marcos regime, as seen in the previous weeks in separate places in the Philippines.

In Samar province, the 8th Infantry Division captured, tortured and deliberately killed three New People's Army (NPA) Red fighters in two separate incidents in April. In Jiabong town, the 47th IB shot Ka John Paul in the thigh, tortured him for information and getting none, shot him in the chest and killed him.

In Motiong town in the same province, fascist troops captured unarmed Ka Mike and Ka Oking who were casually walking across a vast carabao pasture carrying out mass work. The fascist soldiers tortured them all night then killed them when they got no information. To claim the two died in an encounter, soldiers staged a fake battle and planted M14 rifles on their bodies.

The fascist soldiers tortured them all night upon capture, and having extracted no information, willfully killed them. Manuel said signs on the two remains showed faces battered by beatings and bodies riddled with bullets. The NPA-Western Samar condemned the regime's 8th ID for its violation of IHL in murdering the hors de combat NPA fighters.

In Pantar, in the southern province of Lanao del Sur, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), faked a "prolonged firefight" on April 17 while serving an arrest warrant against Amerol Mangonraka and Benjie Amor Macabato whom they accused of being members of the Dawlah Islamiya-Maute Group. After the alleged firefight, the bodies of the two appeared, along with their wives, and six others the military accused of being "fighters." The dead included Nahara Khairiya S. Hamim, Jamail Ibrahim, Fahmi Aminodin, Sohaile Borud Bato, and Mohaimen Aragon. One of them was a student at

Mindanao State University in Marawi City.

Residents reported that there was no prolonged firefight in the area, at the time the police and soldiers claimed. Those who knew the victims say some of the killed had already surrendered to the government. Evidence shows they were killed while lying down and sleeping.

The Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance (MCPA) secretary general Amirah Lidasan says the discrepancies between police and residents' reports demand a thorough investigation since this involves violations of civilians' rights.

In Palanas, Masbate, the regime's soldiers who settled in the town burned the house of a resident, used the residents sparse drinking water to wash their motorcycles, forced them to pay the electricity consumed by the soldiers and manhandled the young sons of a father who refused the soldiers' orders. The residents were distressed over the army's plans to fire mortars from Barangay Nepa toward Barangay Parina. The plan is set to take place on May 15 despite residents' and barangay officials' opposition. A similar activity is expected in Cataingan town.

In T'boli, South Cotabato, 105th IB soldiers arrested, tortured and killed Jonathan Kubot, a farmer, having failed to make him admit being an NPA fighter. The NPA-Far South Mindanao condemned the soldiers' atrocious deed. It also clarified that he was not a Red fighter.

Rules on respecting the rights of hors de combat and treatment of civilians are stipulated in the IHL and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). The National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines signed this agreement more than a quarter of a century ago. 