

EDITORIAL

# Advance the people's interests amid bureaucrat-capitalist rivalries

**T**he successive and interconnected events of this past week mark a new level of intensification of the conflict between the rival factions of the ruling class of bureaucratic capitalists: the impeachment of the Lower House against Vice President Sara Duterte and the start of the Senate trial, the coup in the Senate accompanied by the appearance of Sen. Bato dela Rosa, and his subsequent disappearance to evade the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Politicians performed acrobatics like clowns in a circus as they maneuvered, counter-maneuvered, and clashed with one another. Sen. dela Rosa suddenly surfaced after six months in hiding to form a new majority and install a new Senate leadership. But faced with the threat of arrest and transfer to The Hague after the ICC's warrant against him became public, he swiftly went again into hiding.

The change in the Senate leadership is seen as part of a plan to derail Sara Duterte's trial. The vice president was impeached for the misuse of ₱500 million in "confidential funds," for the unexplained growth of her personal wealth, and other charges. A large majority (257 votes) in the Lower House favored the impeachment, the second in just over a year. Unlike during the first, the Senate quickly convened itself as an im-

peachment court that will try Duterte, though it remains unclear where this will actually lead to.

This chapter of the struggle between rival factions is bound to continue in the coming weeks, and will further intensify and erupt again with the approach of the 2028 elections. The Marcos camp and various parties are pushing hard to remove Sara Duterte from office to block her presidential bid.

The conflict between Marcos and Duterte reflects the intense, and at times, violent

struggle between rival factions of the ruling classes—bureaucrat-capitalists racing to enrich themselves through power. This conflict is heating up amid the economic downslide of the semicolonial and semifeudal system.

The spoils of power that bureaucrat-capitalists could once partake of amicably are shrinking, driving their greed for wealth and power into open contest and clash. Once in power, they compete over how fast and how big they could plunder from the people's money, while vying to appear clean before the public. Corruption and plunder by the bureaucrat-capitalists grow more brazen and massive.

While bureaucrat-capitalists wallow in wealth and fight over power, the broad masses sink deeper into poverty and toil daily to survive. The people's burden has grown heavier in the past two months with the continuous rise in the prices of food and basic needs, and cost of basic services. This followed the US war on Iran that profit-hungry oil companies took advantage of to spike the prices of diesel, gasoline and other petroleum product (50-100% higher compared to some Southeast Asian countries). Prices are expected to keep rising in the coming months.



Hunger and desperation fuels the people's anger against the US-Marcos regime and the bureaucrat-capitalists who not only have done nothing to ease their suffering, but have also worsened their burden. After colluding with oil companies to deepen the people's hardship, the Marcos regime turn people into mendicants by making them line up for meager aid and rice distributions that last only a few days.

The Filipino people's contempt for the US-Marcos regime and the ruling classes deepen in the face of impunity by corrupt officials who pocketed billions in ghost and botched flood control projects exposed since last year, among other major government scandals. While trampling on the rights and welfare of the Filipino people, Marcos obediently follows the dictates of his US imperialist master, in the plan to open a 1,620-hectare "economic security zone" in Pampanga and Tarlac for exclusive use by American companies.

They are outraged fur-

ther with the unleashing of violence by the Marcos regime against people rising up and fighting for their rights. This is linked to their search for justice for thousands of victims of both the drug war and the political repression against mass organizations.

Faced with the economic crisis, there is growing peoples' clamor for living wages, decent jobs and job security, land reform, lower prices of goods and oil price rollbacks,

housing rights, and other urgent democratic demands.

"Hold Marcos accountable, prosecute Duterte" remains the people's continuing clamor. Linked to this is the demand to proceed with the trial of Sara Duterte to hold her accountable for her crimes. The clamor also demands the arrest and trial at the ICC of Bato dela Rosa and other co-perpetrators of Rodrigo Duterte in the bloody drug war. They likewise demand accountability of Marcos and his officials for the billions pocketed in flood control projects and other major corruption.

The people are deeply dismayed by the brazen indulgence of some in the rotten government while the broad masses' suffering worsen. Though bureaucrat-capitalists compete with one another, they are united in perpetuating the oppressive system that cause people's sufferings.

The people persevere in holding bureaucrat-capitalists and fascists to account for their crimes and for inflicting grave

suffering on the masses. We must make clear to the people that genuine justice cannot be attained under the ruling reactionary state which, from the start, has been a haven of fascists and plunderers of the people's money.

It is a major challenge for national-democratic forces to carry out painstaking mass work to raise the people's consciousness and understanding of the historical and social roots of corruption in the country. Waste no time and spare no effort to do propaganda work among the masses, build their organizations, and strengthen clandestine work. Amplify the call to put an end to bureaucrat-capitalism, imperialism and feudalism, and to advance national democratic change.



# ANG Bayan

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## Contents

<b>Editorial:</b> Advance the people's interest amid bureaucrat-capitalist rivalry	1
People's clamor: Hold Sara Duterte accountable!	3
The people demand: Arrest "Bato"	3
Planned military camp in N. Samar foiled	3
Workers struggle for CBA	3
Fight for land and livelihood rights!	4
105th IB kills T'boli peasant	4
The truth about the Toboso massacre	5
Negros 19 honored	6
Tribute to the heroes of Negros and ICR!	6
In short	7
ASEAN 2026: Puppet of US interests	8
Al Nakba 78: the Palestinian people's resistance	9
US military presence expands	10
Filipinos in solidarity with Palestine	10
Military kills 2 hors de combat while in custody	10

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AB

## People's clamor: hold Sara Duterte accountable!

LED BY BAGONG Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), progressive groups launched continuous protests in recent weeks demanding a thorough trial and accountability for Vice President Sara Duterte. The impeachment complaint against Duterte proceeded after the congressional majority voted to impeach her and senators convened to form an impeachment court.

By a 257-25 vote, the House of Representatives impeached Duterte for a second time on May 11 on charges of betrayal of public trust, corruption, bribery and grave threats. The impeachment passed despite threats from the Duterte camp, through the PDP Laban party, against lawmakers.

Senators convened the impeachment court on May 18 that will try Duterte. The process was led by newly elected Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, a known Duterte ally. The House's 11-member prosecution team was formally registered with the impeachment court.

National-democratic organizations have staged successive actions since May 11 to push for Duterte's trial. Besides Metro Manila, protests took place in the cities of Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao.



## People demand the arrest of "Bato"

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS WIDELY condemned the Senate's accommodation and defense of Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa after an attempt to execute the publicized International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant of arrest against him on the afternoon of May 11.

Dela Rosa faces charges as an "indirect co-perpetrator" in crimes against humanity for killings linked to the "war on drugs." This covers killings from July 3, 2016 to April 2018, when he was chief of the Philippine National Police.

"Bato" showed up that day to facilitate a coup installing Sen. Cayetano as the new Senate president. He spent six months in hiding, fearing arrest and transfer to the Netherlands.

The Senate placed him under protective custody to block his arrest. Allied senators staged a drama on May 13 to help him escape and return to hiding.

The Supreme Court issued a decision on May 20 denying dela Rosa's petition to stop the serving of the ICC's arrest warrant against him. He is currently considered a fugitive.

## Residents thwart planned military camp in Northern Samar village

RESIDENTS OF BARANGAY Imelda, Las Navas, Northern Samar blocked the 20th IB troops' plan to build a military camp near their community. Residents strongly opposed the plan at an assembly in March.

Troops planned to build the camp on a hill less than 50 meters from the sitio's last house. Residents said this violates international humanitarian law's minimum distance of 500 meters from civilian communities.

At the assembly, residents each took turns wrestling the microphone from soldiers to voice opposition to the camp. Only three residents ultimately "agreed" to the construction.

Armed troops defied this and still occupied civilian homes in the barangay. They continued building a camp outside the barangay but still close to the road leading to town.

## Workers struggle for CBA

WORKERS AND THEIR unions launched various levels of collective actions this May to fight for their rights and welfare through collective bargaining agreements (CBA).

Workers of Day 1 Craft Philippines Inc., Laguna won after more than two weeks on strike to press for a just CBA. They secured demands for higher wages and other rights. The company produces high-grade fish lures.

Workers of LBC Express Metro Manila filed a notice of strike amid a seven-month deadlock in CBA talks. The capitalist offered ₱32 wage increase over three years, far from their ₱72 demand. They denounced the use of contractualization to break the union and deny workers their rights.

PLDT Supervisors marched under GUTS-PLDT leadership on May 15 at the company headquarters in Makati City. Actions were also held in Quezon City, Cebu City, and Davao City. This is their response to stalled talks for the 2026-2028 CBA and condemned management's deliberate delays and wage suppression during negotiations.

Workers of Philippine Span Asia Carrier Corp. Manila picketed to support the union that has been negotiating a CBA for nearly seven months. They are pressing for wage increases and other rights.

Peasants, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples:

## Fight for land and livelihood rights!

Peasants, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples across the country are taking action for their rights to land, livelihood and homes against local and foreign corporations and amid the Marcos regime's neglect and fascism.

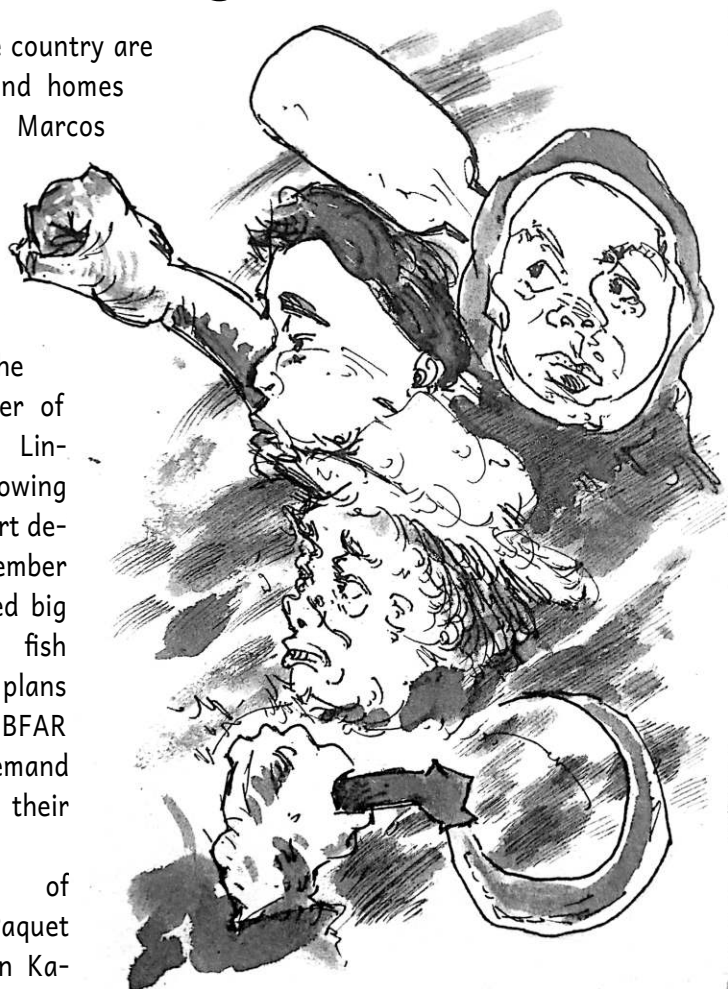
Porters, vendors and residents in Benguet held a prayer vigil at La Trinidad Vegetable Trading Post on May 13 to condemn the Department of Agriculture's importation of carrots. The department announced plans to import 6,000 metric tons of carrots for April, May and June to allegedly address supply shortages and lower market prices.

Ten farmers from different towns in Isabela gathered at the assembly of Danggayan Dagiti Mananlon ti Isabela (Dagami, or Association of Peasants of Isabela) and marched in Santiago City on May 11 to call for genuine land reform, production support, and defense of farmers' rights. The assembly drafted a one-year plan of action and announced newly elected officers and leaders who will strengthen the organization amid the rural crisis.

Small-scale fisherfolk in Dagupan City, Pangasinan convened at a consultation led by Pamalakaya on May 11 to oppose commercial fishing

within the 15-kilometer municipal waters. They fear the increasing number of large vessels in Lingayen Gulf following the Supreme Court decision in December 2024 that allowed big companies to fish there. The group plans to dialog with BFAR Region 1 to demand protection for their livelihoods.

Residents of barangays Pao, Paquet and Kakidugen in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya erected barricades on May 9 to oppose the exploration project of the North Luzon Mineral Resources Corporation. They aim to block the entry of the company's equipment and fuel, and to stop the removal of mineral samples. The exploration covers 4,456 hectares of Bugkalot/Ilongot



ancestral land for gold and copper mining.

Residents and farmers of Pook Malantik, Barangay UP Campus, Quezon City barricaded on May 20 to stop the entry of materials for construction of the UP-DSHUD Housing Project, part of the proposed UP SDG Wellness Park. Megawide Construction Corporation's construction will displace residents. A separate rally was held on May 12 by the neighboring Pook Aguinaldo community against the project.

Indigenous Manobos in Bukidnon condemned Green Arrow Agriventures Inc-Kennemer Foods International for the fencing off and grabbing of their ancestral land in Don Carlos. The company intends to expand its banana plantation on the seized land. The World Bank's Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project is being used to grab the land. AB

### 105th IB kills T'boli peasant

MORE THAN A month without justice has passed for the family and relatives of T'boli farmer Jonathan Kubot who was murdered by soldiers of the 105th IB last March 25 in Sitio Lam-afus, Barangay Lambangan, T'boli, South Cotabato.

Kubot had reportedly just finished clearing a rice field when soldiers saw him. They abducted him, subjected him to torture, and forced him to confess of being a New People's Army (NPA) fighter. They killed him after extracting no information from him.

Meanwhile, Dumagat political prisoners Rocky Torres and Abelardo "Dandoy" Avellaneda were released on May 9 after nearly eight years of detention. The court dismissed the fabricated charges of murder and illegal possession of firearms and explosives filed against them.

The military abducted them on May 14, 2018 in General Nakar, Quezon, after an encounter with the NPA. While imprisoned, the two suffered severe torture, physical beatings, and health deterioration.

# The truth about the Toboso massacre

The National Fact-Finding and Solidarity Mission (NFFSM) launched by progressive groups confirmed the 79th IB's multiple violation of human-rights and international humanitarian law in the Toboso massacre during its visit to Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental on May 14. It investigated the military killing of 10 Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) and nine unarmed individuals on April 19 in Barangay Salamanca and related incidents..

At least 117 delegates participated in the mission, composed of local and foreign human-rights defenders, legislators, activists, church people, student leaders and journalists. Led by Manindigan-Negros, groups from Negros Island welcomed the mission.

With its size and breadth, the delegation was unfazed by the heavy militarization and military harassment in Toboso and across the island. The delegation compelled local governments and officials to allow the activity. San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminza also gave support and a blessing. "Your courage to seek the truth amid fear and intimidation is concrete proof that truth, justice, and peace still matter," he said.

The delegation specifically visited Sitio Sinugmawan and Sitio Plaringding where residents reported hearing gunshots. Delegates went to each incident location and saw bullet marks on trees, shell casings and other traces of shooting.

They held focused group discussions and house-to-house interviews to speak with residents. They interviewed at least 30 residents whom they considered "key informants" for having direct experience of the events.

Residents recounted how soldiers "visited" and searched at least 18 houses looking for alleged NPA fighters. In Sitio Plaringding, the 79th IB abducted a mother and child who were going to

the fishpond to gather shellfish. They were taken to and interrogated on a hill where they witnessed the soldiers relentlessly shooting at the fishpond. The 79th IB also used drones.

The delegation confirmed the 79th IB's forced displacement of 653 individuals from April 19 to April 22. They were thus not able to interview anyone who could verify the 79th IB's claim of an intense firefight at the fishpond where the 19 bodies were allegedly found.

Residents verified that at least

six of the 19 massacred were civilians. They said they personally mingled with student leader Alyssa Alano, peasant organizers Maureen Santuyo and Errol Wendel, journalist RJ Ledesma, and Filipino-American activists Kai Sorem and Lyle Prijoles. Residents said they never saw those six carrying weapons during their presence in the community.

According to the Unyon ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA, or Union of Agricultural Workers), the residents' statements corroborate progressive groups' assertion of having sent civilians to Barangay Salamanca to conduct research. They were in the barangay to help organize and conduct social investigation and studies on the conditions of peasants and farmworkers, particularly in Hacienda Bedonia. The hacienda covers 18 hectares, which

should have been granted to 16 farmworker families who have long tilled the land.

The delegation's gathered data confirmed the 79th IB's crimes. These include the military's encampment in civilian homes, harassment and intimidation of residents, restrictions on farming activities, indiscriminate firing near homes, illegal detention, and using a farmer as a human shield.

The delegation also found evidence tampering or movement and planting of evidence (weapons, bandoliers and personal items) to support the 79th IB's false narrative. Forensic pathologist Dr. Fortun also reported gun-



*Continue to page 6*

# Negros 19 honored as the finest sons and daughters of the people

About 2,000 relatives, comrades, friends, and guests gathered at the University of the Philippines (UP)-Diliman Theater in Quezon City on May 11 to honor the martyrs of Toboso, known as the Negros 19. The martyrs consist of nine unarmed individuals and 10 New People's Army (NPA) Red fighters whom the 79th IB massacred on April 19 in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental.

The tribute was led by the UP Diliman University Student Council, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), and Karapatan. Organizers reportedly launched the event to collectively recognize the courage, intelligence, and love for the people shown by all of the Negros 19.

The tribute filled more than two hours of speeches, testimonies, videos, and performances of revolutionary songs, poems, and dances. These highlighted the Negros 19's life of service to the masses and the Negrosanon poor communities' enduring struggle amid ongoing poverty, exploitation, and militarization on the island of Negros.

Relatives and friends of Alano, Ledesma, Santuyo, Errol Wendel, Prijoles, and Sorem attended and

delivered messages at the tribute. Their remarks brimmed with life stories, jokes and warmth, militancy, and the blazing fire of struggle.

The message of Alano's mother Shiela expressed hope that her surviving comrades would carry on Alano's dream for the nation. "Let us not allow her to be forgotten... I call on everyone to continue the struggle they began. Because we all know, that is what they wanted: to change the system, to help the poor of Negros," she said.

Communist Party of the Philippines chief information officer Marco Valbuena sent a tribute message. "The Party and the New People's Army take pride that, for a long or short time, we got to know



the martyrs and heroes of Toboso as they walked the path of the national-democratic revolution. We vow to give justice to their deaths," he said.

"From the land nurtured by their blood, thousands more sons and daughters of the people will rise, stand up, revolt and traverse the long and winding road of the people's war towards the Red day of victory," Valbuena added. The gathering ended with the singing of the Internationale. AB

From page 5

shot entries in the back on three of the dead opposing the military-distributed photos where the bodies are all lying on their backs. Some victims were also discovered to have possibly died from excessive bleeding.

The soldiers also clearly desecrated the victims' bodies. They left the bodies exposed to the sun and soaked in the fishpond water for two days and "recovered" them only on April 21. Two of the slain's remains were even switched.

The mission ended with the delegation calling to hold the 79th IB and the 303rd IBde accountable, along with an end to militarization on Negros Island. They demand justice for the massacred and for all the victims' families.

Meanwhile, state forces repressed the delegation. Soldiers tailed the investigating teams and photographed them. The 79th IB soldiers also swarmed Barangay Salamanca on May 13, one day before the mission. An American delegate from the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines was prevented from entering the Philippines on the grounds that she was "blacklisted" in the country.

## Tribute to the heroes of Negros and ICR!

REVOLUTIONARY FORCES NATIONWIDE held weapons salute and raised their fists for the martyrs of the New People's Army (BHB) who died this May.

In Negros Occidental, five NPA-Southwest Negros (Armando Sumayang Jr Command) Red warriors were killed in combat with the 15th IB in Barangay Abaca, Cauayan on May 16. Those killed were front Party committee secretary Vince Francis Dingding (Ka Poy/Moymoy); NPA-Southwest Negros commander Rolando Dantes Jr. (Ka Anyo); Jobert Casipong (Ka Robi); Gilbert Tingson (Ka Kolintong/Ka Downy); and Alex Languita (Ka Kaya).

In the Ilocos-Cordillera region, Red warrior Inocencio Sibud (Ka Maki) died of cancer on May 14. Sibud was first recruited as a member of the people's militia unit in Barangay Bayao, Pinukpuk, Kalinga in the 1980s. He continued his revolutionary duties and took on various responsibilities for 37 years of service in the NPA.

The Party gave the martyrs of the people's army its highest recognition and honor, calling them "the finest sons and daughters of the people."



32

**cases of extrajudicial killings** are listed in the ICC arrest warrant for Ronaldo "Bato" de la Rosa. He is charged with crimes against humanity of murder as an indirect co-perpetrator in the sham drug war.

54%

**growth in the wealth** of the five richest billionaires in the Philippines, from ₱1.1 trillion in June 2022 to ₱1.7 trillion in March 2026.



**16** votes (2/3 of the current 24 senators) **are needed to convict Sara Duterte**; only 9 are needed to acquit her and let her remain in office.

2 ▶

Type 88 surface-to-ship missiles were **launched by Japan within Philippine territory** on May 6. This is the first time Japan conducted a missile launch since World War II, violating its own antiwar constitution.



617

trees along Quirino Avenue in Manila were **hastily allowed by the DENR-NCR to be cut down** to make way for the construction of San Miguel Corporation's 4-km Southern Access Link Expressway.



**17** **Philippine locations** used by the US 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment as launch sites for war games during Balikatan 2026. Most of these were kept secret from the public and community residents.



9 days

days of **continuous general strike** were launched by workers and indigenous people in Bolivia to oust the US puppet president Rodrigo Paz Pereira.

The general strike also blocked a reported US armed operation to capture the anti-imperialist and former president Evo Morales.

100,000+

US citizen children, including infants, **were separated from parents** who were arrested, detained, or deported by the Trump regime in its anti-immigrant operations.

Source: Brookings Institution



# ASEAN 2026: puppet of US imperialist interests

The Philippines hosted the 48th ASEAN Summit on May 6–8 in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, with the theme “Navigating our Future, Together.” The declared aim of the meeting was to advance cooperation, economic resilience, and national food and energy security amid rising global tensions. The summit focused on the impact of the war in the Middle East, which destabilized energy prices, delayed supplies, and raised food and transport costs burdening ASEAN countries.

ASEAN is a political and economic bloc founded in 1967 during the Vietnam War as an anti-communist front and instrument of neo-colonialism. Ever since, the US strongly influences it as a “comprehensive strategic partner” in the region. The US maintains a stranglehold using military alliances and economic ties, even as China is the main trading partner of many of its member states.

Delegates produced no concrete program to address the region’s crisis after several days of meetings. They agreed on several measures to lessen the impact of US aggression in Iran, but admitted these would take long to implement.

One proposal was a “Regional Fuel Sharing Framework” that contained no mechanism for implementation, distribution priorities, or use for rapid response to the current crisis.

The leaders generally focused on coordinating during emergencies, oil prices, food security, and maritime operations. The framework of discussion stayed narrow and management-focused. The plenary recognized US aggression in the Middle East as a major blow but did not condemn it. The ASEAN issued no unified statement against the genocide of Israel and the US in Palestine, despite several member states openly supporting the Palestinian struggle.

Amid failure to address the economic crises, Marcos agreed to long-term rice imports from Viet-

nam, disregarding the damage imports cause to local palay production and the further impoverishment of peasants.

## Militarization in ASEAN

Prior to the ASEAN Summit, the Philippines hosted the largest Balikatan war exercises in its history. The drills featured US and Japanese missile flights and detonations on May 5 and 6. These operations sharpened contradictions between regional states and the Philippines. While ASEAN proclaims goals of peace and diplomacy, the Philippine puppet state opened the country as a playground and “unsinkable” US military base.

To allegedly prevent the South China Sea from becoming another Strait of Hormuz and to ensure freedom of navigation there, the US-Marcos regime pushed to strengthen the Declaration on Maritime Cooperation. A key component of this proposal is establishing an ASEAN Maritime Center in the Philippines, which they claim will be the main council for maritime issues to be applied to ASEAN member states. These measures will further inflame conflict in the South China Sea instead of calming tensions.



## Fascism and covering up poverty

Progressive groups held the forum “Imperialist Crisis and War: A People’s Alternative to the ASEAN Summit” on May 6 and staged protests against the summit at the University of the Philippines–Cebu. About 200 police inside and outside the campus were visibly carrying out surveillance during activities.

Greenpeace Philippines members protested outside the summit that same day to demand action on plastic pollution, to denounce excessive reliance on oil, and to highlight the climate crisis in the region. Four of its members were arrested even before the protest began.

To hide Cebu’s poor from the delegates, the local government moved 66 families living behind the Mactan Expo, where the summit opened, to a resort in the neighboring town of Cordova. They remained there from April 27 to May 9. Large tarpaulins covered their shanties. **AB**

# The Palestinian people's steadfast resistance for national liberation

The Palestinian people marked the 78th anniversary of Al Nakba (The Catastrophe) on May 15 amid the escalating genocidal war of the US-Israel. Al Nakba was the bloody expulsion from Palestine in 1948 by the Zionist forces to establish the state of "Israel" backed by the British empire.

The Palestinian people regard the ongoing genocide as "a new and more brutal phase of Al Nakba." As in the past, it is marked by massive massacres, deliberate starvation, the destruction of homes and infrastructure, and forced expulsions intended to exterminate the Palestinian people.

Since October 2023, the Zionists have pulverized all of Gaza with bullets and bombs made and supplied by the US. Official tallies record 75,000 directly killed, and hundreds of thousands more who died indirectly from hunger, disease, buried in collapsed buildings, and those not recovered. The Zionists have persisted in their attacks even after agreeing to a ceasefire on October 2025.

The Zionist state drew a "yellow line" inside Gaza to set a new land seizure. It established 13 new military detachments to bring 53-58% of the territory under its control. It seized 50-60% of farmlands while confining Palestinians to cramped evacuation centers far from productive lands and their livelihoods.

Along with the genocide in Gaza, Israel is gradually occupying the entire West Bank and East Jerusalem, where Palestinians suffer daily harassment, surveillance, and evictions. Over 700,000 Zionist settlers are living in more than 250 illegal settlements inside those areas by the end of 2025.

## They will persist

Defying the occupation's cruelty and terror, the Palestinian people stand resolutely to remain in their

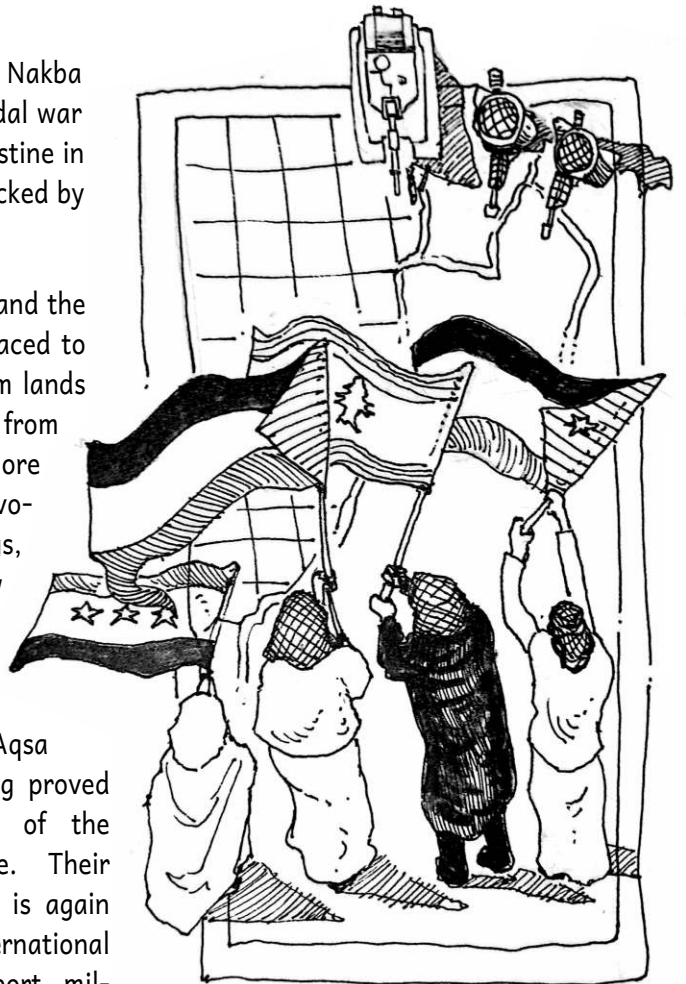
country, and to demand the right of all the displaced to return and to reclaim lands and territories taken from them. Bearing more than a century of revolutions and uprisings, they will not allow another catastrophe, or "Al Nakba 2.0."

The 2023 Al Aqsa Flood armed uprising proved anew the justness of the Palestinian struggle. Their righteous resistance is again at the center of international institutions. In support, millions poured into the streets across Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. The world recognized the struggle as a fight for freedom, justice, dignity, and humanity—not merely a border dispute, and certainly not related to Israel's "self-defense."

Most importantly, it exposed the horrific crimes of Zionist Israel, long considered "normal" even by many Arab states. The illusion of Israel as the "only democracy" in the Middle East collapsed, and has been exposed as modern "Nazism," loathed worldwide. The scale and gravity of its war crimes and crimes against humanity were recognized at the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

## US driven expansion

The Zionists are seizing other parts of the Middle East beyond Palestine under the Greater Israel



campaign. It mainly aims to encompass rich territories and routes from Egypt's Nile River to Iraq's Euphrates River.

It began laying a "yellow line" in Lebanon extending 10 kilometers into the southern part after its relentless bombing of the area since March. Israel has illegally occupied the Golan Heights, Syria since 1967. Despite United Nations resolutions ordering the return of the territory, it continues building illegal communities and industries in water-rich, fertile areas.

US imperialism is behind these aggressions, using billions of dollars in military funds and weapons to maintain control over the Middle East. The territories Israel occupies serve as a major strategic military base to put pressure on Arab countries and control natural resources, particularly oil and trade routes. **AB**

# Continuous expansion of US military presence in the Philippines

The US conducts uninterrupted military operations in the Philippines under the cover of large-scale war games. After Balikatan 2026 ended on May 8, it immediately launched Salaknib 2 with 7,000 troops participating, including forces from Japan, Australia and New Zealand. These war games aim to hone troops for conducting counter-guerrilla operations in archipelagic conditions. Salaknib 2 ended on May 20, but the troops and equipment it used will remain for other war games until July.

Salaknib 2 trains primarily the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center-Exportable. It featured large-scale combat operations, small unit tactics, integrated live-fire exercises, night airborne assaults, missile firings, and forest fighting, all in “realistic scenarios.” As in Balikatan, many of these venues are concealed from the public and kept secret.

## Expansion of dual-use facilities

Along with the war

games, the US is expanding a network of civilian facilities it can use for military purposes. The latest includes clinching the rehabilitation project for Sangley Point International Airport, a



civilian airport in Cavite. The US Trade and Development Agency announced on May 12 it will fund a study to transform the airport into a dual-use (civilian and military) facility. The US partners with the Virata family's Cavite Holdings, Inc.

Meanwhile, Marcos regime officials went to Jerusalem on May 1 to arrange investments by Israeli companies in the US “Golden Node” in New Clark City, Pampanga. This “Golden Node” will be established as a US “economic security zone” to serve as a weapons factory within the framework of Pax Silica. The entry and dominance of Israeli capital and technology here directly implicate the Marcos regime in the heinous genocidal wars and aggressions of the US and Israel in Palestine and the Middle East. **AB**

## Filipinos in solidarity with Palestine

VARIOUS GROUPS GATHERED at Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City on May 15 in solidarity with Palestinian people's marking of the Al Nakba 78th anniversary. They called for Palestine's liberation from Zionist Israel's violent occupation. The Philippines-Palestine Friendship Association led the action. Protesters carried Palestinian flags and placards supporting the Palestinians.

**Drive out the Israeli soldiers.** Residents of General Luna in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte demanded justice and accountability after a series of crimes and violence against them by Israeli soldiers who swarmed the island. They held a meeting with local officials, police, business owners and other sectors on May 12 to discuss successive incidents of violence, harassment and humiliation by the Israeli soldiers.

Most recent, and worst, was an Israeli group's attack on Cartoon Cafe in General Luna on May 11. The soldiers reportedly vandalized the establishment after seeing a Palestinian flag hanging outside. The soldiers reportedly destroyed CCTV cameras and mauled the business-owning couple in front of their small child. These soldiers were reported to have just returned from “service” in the Zionist state's genocide against Palestine.

## Military kills 2 hors de combat while in custody

TWO HORS DE combat from Negros Oriental and Masbate were reported killed while in custody of bloodthirsty military forces, a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

The 62nd IB arrested, tortured and deliberately killed New People's Army (BHB)-Central Negros Red fighter Dino Pane (Ka Yulo) on April 23 in Sitio Nabulan, Barangay Bucalan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental. Pane was recovering from pneumonia and suffering from very high fever and weakness. He was unarmed at the time.

In Masbate, hors de combat Raul Luding Tolingin died in the custody of the 2nd IB on May 14 due to “complications and other ailments.” The military captured the wounded Tolingin on May 10 in Barangay Miabas, Palanas following an alleged encounter. Tolingin had long suffered from diabetes, high blood pressure and rheumatism, and was undergoing treatment while staying at a house in the barangay. The military hid him from his family for three days until he died.

Reports from both provinces also recorded the military's cases of physical assault, intimidation and threat against farmers in April. All of these are framed within the military's campaign to pursue the people's army.