



EDITORIAL:

The greatest disaster in the Philippines

Read on page 2

Int'l conference on fascism highlights growing repression in the neocolonies (p. 2)

US "war games" as cover for counterrevolutionary operations (p. 3)

Final case against the Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth dismissed (p. 4)

EDITORIAL:

The greatest disaster in the Philippines

Decades ago, a Filipino statesman remarked, “The Philippines is constantly ravaged by destructive natural events like floods, drought, epidemics, typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. But the worst of all disasters are the politicians.”

In fact, the corrupt politicians that rule the country with an iron hand are a feature of an impoverished semicolonial and semifeudal state that, in spite of very rich natural and human resources in the country, is utterly unable to provide thorough preparation, adequate response and sufficient rehabilitation to several dozen severe natural calamities that hit the archipelago each year. The strong earthquake that hit Sarangani province and surrounding areas in Mindanao is the latest case in point.

At least 60 fatalities have been reported, over a thousand were injured and more than 30 still missing. More than 346,000 people across Mindanao have been affected, while 18,600 houses and structures like schools, hospitals, commercial buildings and roads were damaged or destroyed in General Santos City, South Cotabato and Sarangani.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, while extending firm solidarity to the people of Sarangani and neighboring provinces and condolences to the families of those killed and injured, immediately called on the Filipino people to link arms and deliver needed assistance to those severely affected by the earthquake.

The revolutionary organizations under the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the NDF-Mindanao, together with the Red fighters of the New People’s Army have been working closely to deliver all necessary assistance to the affected masses for their immediate relief and recovery.


But local and international groups criticize the Marcos Jr regime’s lack of attention before calamities and leaving communities vulnerable to precarious living conditions. Amnesty International Philippines section director Ritz Lee Santos III said, “This is not simply a result of natural hazards but unnatural disasters made possible by the lack of commitment of local government units to make certain that communities can thrive despite disasters.”

Carlos Isagani Zarate, former Bayan Muna representative, on the other hand, demanded the Ferdinand Marcos Jr. administration fulfill its mandate to build disaster-resilient evacuation centers. Beyond infrastructure, Zarate called for a comprehensive review of environmental policies that exacerbate disasters.

On July 4, 1946, US imperialism “granted” the Philippines false independence and established a puppet and fascist state, and with the big compradors, big landlords bureaucrat-capitalists, also a semicolonial and semifeudal state.

Since then, the Philippines has been mired in endless economic crisis, preserved the backward feudal system and turned the country into an exporter of cheap raw materials. It forced the country into foreign debt in exchange for imposing neoliberal policies, stripping forests bare, plundering mountains, seizing minerals, and grabbing hundreds of thousands of hectares of land.

The present political battle between the Marcos and Duterte factions reveals unprecedented levels of corruption in all levels of the bureaucracy in the midst of unprecedented depths of poverty and suffering of the masses. That the corruption is centered on plundering the funds for public works projects like flood control exposes the already suffering masses of the people to the onslaught of incoming natural disasters exacerbated by global warming.

We must unite and vigorously advance the struggle for true independence and democracy, get rid of biggest disaster that is the traditional politicians, and ourselves work together to prepare for incoming natural disasters, do rescue and relief work, and realize full rehabilitation of all affected areas. 

Int’l conference on fascism highlights growing repression in the neocolonies

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) successfully led the 6th International Theoretical Conference (ITC) on May 22–23 in Kathmandu, Nepal, bringing together nearly 200 delegates from 17 countries to examine the theme, “Fascism and Imperialism in Neocolonies in the 21st Century.”

The gathering drew representatives from communist parties, workers’ parties, revolutionary organizations, national liberation movements, party-building groups, and progressive organizations. It served as the second of two consecutive international conferences devoted to the study of fascism in the contemporary period, following an earlier conference that focused on fascism in imperialist and industrialized capitalist countries.

Through discussions of 17 theoretical papers, participants deepened their understanding of fascism as a product of the intensifying crisis of imperialism. Delegates analyzed how imperialist powers and their client regimes employ fascist methods, including counterinsurgency programs, militarization, surveillance, and political repression, to preserve exploitative social relations and suppress popular resistance.

The conference drew from the theoretical contributions of Lenin, Stalin, and Georgi Dimitrov, as well as lessons generated from the NDFP’s previous theoretical conferences. Discussions emphasized the need to understand the historical evolution of fascism in neocolonial societies and to build broad united fronts among workers, intellectuals, peasants, national minorities, and other oppressed sectors to confront and defeat fascist rule.

A key contribution came from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which presented the paper “Wage the People’s War to Uproot Fascism and Imperialism in Neocolonies.” The paper traced the development of fascism in the Philippines, distinguishing it from the fascist movements that arose in

imperialist countries. According to the presentation, fascism in the Philippines was imposed through a neocolonial state structure shaped by US imperialism and reinforced through counterinsurgency doctrines, anti-communist campaigns, and repressive legislation. The conference concluded with a synthesis of discussions, tributes to martyrs of revolutionary struggles in neocolonial countries, and the singing of The Internationale.

The conference's analysis finds a striking contemporary example in Bolivia, where a deepening economic crisis has triggered widespread protests by workers, farmers, miners, indigenous communities, transport workers, and teachers. Demonstrators have mobilized against inflation, fuel shortages, austerity measures, and policies perceived as favoring corporate interests at the expense of the people.

Rather than addressing the root causes of the crisis, the government of President Rodrigo Paz has increasingly relied on coercive measures. Authorities deployed thousands of police and military personnel to dismantle road blockades, expanded executive emergency powers, and adopted rhetoric portraying protesters as "narcoterrorists" and agents of destabilization. Trade union leader Mario Argollo faces terrorism charges, while hundreds of protesters have reportedly been arrested. While the Bolivian government has offered limited



image: philippinerevolution.nu

concessions, it has simultaneously intensified militarized responses to popular dissent. For many observers, these developments reflect the very tendencies discussed during the NDFP-led conference: the use of state repression, emergency powers, and criminalization of mass movements to preserve an increasingly unstable social and economic order amid deepening crisis. ⚠️

US "war games" as cover for counterrevolutionary operations

Together with the US, the use of the Philippines of successive "war games" as cover for counterrevolutionary operations marked by brutal violations of human rights was a factor in the Marcos regime's failure to get a seat in the United Nation Security Council seat.

According to Ang Bayan, official publication of the CPP, contrary to claims that the recent war games were conducted for supposed "external defense," these war exercises by the US, Philippines, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Canada, actually carried out counterinsurgency operations in Filipino peasant and fisherfolk communities. This is a disguised direct involvement of US troops in the internal civil war in the Philippines. Ang Bayan reported that after Balikatan 2026 which was conducted last May, the US immediately launched war games Salaknib, Kasangga, and Marine Exercise (MAREX). Salaknib 2026 in Luzon rehearsed moving military equipment between islands under the pretext of "archipelagic defense" and focused on jungle warfare and small unit tactics training under "real time" conditions. "Jungle combat training centers" were set up for this. Kasangga 2026-1 in Camarines Sur launched on May 26 used the coastal and mountainous areas of Pasacao, Balatan, San, Libmanan, and Ragay and intruded into communities and tightened restrictions on the movement and livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk. MAREX 2026, meanwhile, is being conducted with the Philippine Marine Corps in Maguindanao del Norte, Mindanao, and focuses on jungle patrols outside Camp Iranun and artillery firing near populated areas in Datu Blah Sinsuat and Barira. The shelling terrorized residents. "War games by the US have from the outset emphasized



image: philippinerevolution.nu


counterinsurgency operations. Before it became a multinational display of troops and weapons, Balikatan focused on "internal defense" or experimenting with tactics and equipment against the Bangsamoro armed movement and against the New People's Army. Under its cover, the US staged large-scale hypocritical civil-military operations such as building schools, conducting medical missions, digging wells, and other schemes to win the people's "hearts and minds" away from revolution," Ang Bayan said.

According to Ang Bayan, these operations severely affected Filipinos with foreign troops encroaching on peasant and fishing communities, restricting residents' movement, and barring them from their livelihoods. In Bicol, foreign troops were reportedly seen in Barangay Mainit, Pasacao and at least 20 other barangays. Soldiers set up checkpoints along the roads. In Mindanao, shelling and checkpoints on the roads have brought

fear and disrupted residents' movement. In Zambales, the "no sail zone" was imposed to make way for the war games and barred fisherfolk from their livelihood depriving more than 4,840 fisherfolk of their income in Subic alone. Aside from hunger, residents also complain about damaged corals and fish being driven away by the noise and pollution from the giant warships and missile launches, the CPP publication reported.

International and local human rights groups cited these continuous war exercises and warmongering led by the US, the brutal human rights record of Marcos Jr's regime, and brazen corruption in the system of government, as among the reasons why the Philippines failed to secure a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Human rights groups emphasized that this is a victory for

the campaign that exposed the regime's crimes and violations of international humanitarian law. A seat on the UN Security Council could only embolden the US-Marcos regime to intensify repression against the poor and Filipinos fighting for their rights, human rights groups stressed.

"The UN Security Council is widely recognized as a compromised body, where the veto power of a handful of imperialist states routinely paralyzes any form of meaningful action to protect peace. However, even within this deeply discredited framework, Marcos Jr's bid for a non-permanent seat sends a profoundly wrong signal. It suggests that regimes actively complicit in militarization of communities and repression can be elevated as "credible" arbiters of international peace and security," the NDFP International Office pointed out in a separate statement. 

Final case against the Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth dismissed



image: philippinerevolution.nu

On June 2, 2026, the Sandiganbayan (Philippines' anti-graft court) dismissed the remaining asset claims case in the long-running forfeiture case (Civil Case No. 0141) against the Marcos family.

The court did not declare the Marcoses innocent. It dismissed the case due to a mix of procedural surrender by state prosecutors and extreme delays. The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) filed a legal manifestation stating it would no longer present further evidence for the remaining listed properties in this specific case. Because the prosecution formally stopped presenting evidence, the court decided to terminate the proceedings for those specific items.

The PCGG was created by President Corazon Aquino in 1986. Its sole mandate was to recover Marcos' stolen wealth. Decades later, it faced an uphill battle against time, aging records, and the death or retirement of key witnesses and original investigators.

Marcos Jr. brought the PCGG under the executive branch. This means the agency tasked with recovering the Marcos ill-gotten wealth technically reports to the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (who, along with his family, is a named respondent in these very cases).

Earlier, the PCGG has successfully recovered over PHP 170 billion to PHP 200 billion (\$3.6+ billion) of the estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion stolen, much of which legally funded the country's agrarian reform programs and human rights victims' reparations.

Kris Lacaba, spokesperson of the Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law (Carmma), said that the dismissal is Ferdinand Marcos Jr. 's end goal in securing the presidency to regain the Marcos family's ill-gotten wealth sequestered by the government.

The civil suit is among PCGG'S 43 other civil cases and 28 criminal cases filed against the Marcos family from 1986 to 1995.

In 2018 the Sandiganbayan found Imelda Marcos guilty of seven counts of graft. She was convicted of illegally depositing \$200 million in private Switzerland foundations using public funds during her term as then-Metropolitan Manila governor.

The court sentenced the former First Lady to serve from 6 to 11 years in prison for each count and a perpetual disqualification from public office. Despite the conviction, Imelda Marcos was not imprisoned due to her old age. She was 89 years old at the time.

The Sandiganbayan also allowed the Marcos matriarch to post a bail of P150,000 which granted her temporary freedom. Her conviction remains on appeal at the Supreme Court.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and its allied groups argue that the wave of case dismissals since Ferdinand Marcos Jr. took the presidency represents an aggressive whitewashing of the family's past. They contend that the judicial system is failing to hold the family accountable for billions of pesos stolen from the Filipino people during the Martial Law dictatorship. The coalition stresses that no matter how many technical dismissals the Marcoses win in lower anti-graft courts due to procedural lapses, historic truths cannot be erased. They point to prior Supreme Court rulings (such as those in 2003, 2012, and 2017) that legally affirmed the existence of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

Bayan argues that letting the family keep or reclaim multi-million and billion-peso assets is a direct insult to the thousands of victims of human rights violations under the original Marcos regime, whose state-sanctioned compensation was fundamentally tied to the recovery of these stolen funds.

It declares that the legal dismissals underscore a culture of impunity where powerful political dynasties utilize institutional delays and technicalities to shield themselves from absolute accountability, reinforcing the call for continued mass mobilization to protect historical memory. 