

EDITORIAL

Fight the war-obsessed US imperialists

More than 100 days since February 28, when US imperialism and the Zionist state of Israel launched an invasion and weeks-long bombing of Iran, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on June 17 after complicated negotiations in Islamabad, Pakistan. The understanding sets out a 60-day "ceasefire" to discuss the details of a future final agreement.

The US entered this agreement after failing to force Iran to surrender its oil and sovereignty and submit to its dictates. Despite superior military strength and its madman president's repeated declarations of victory, the US was forced to temporarily restrain its aggression against Iran amid deep political rifts within its ruling class and strong public outrage over continuously rising oil prices.

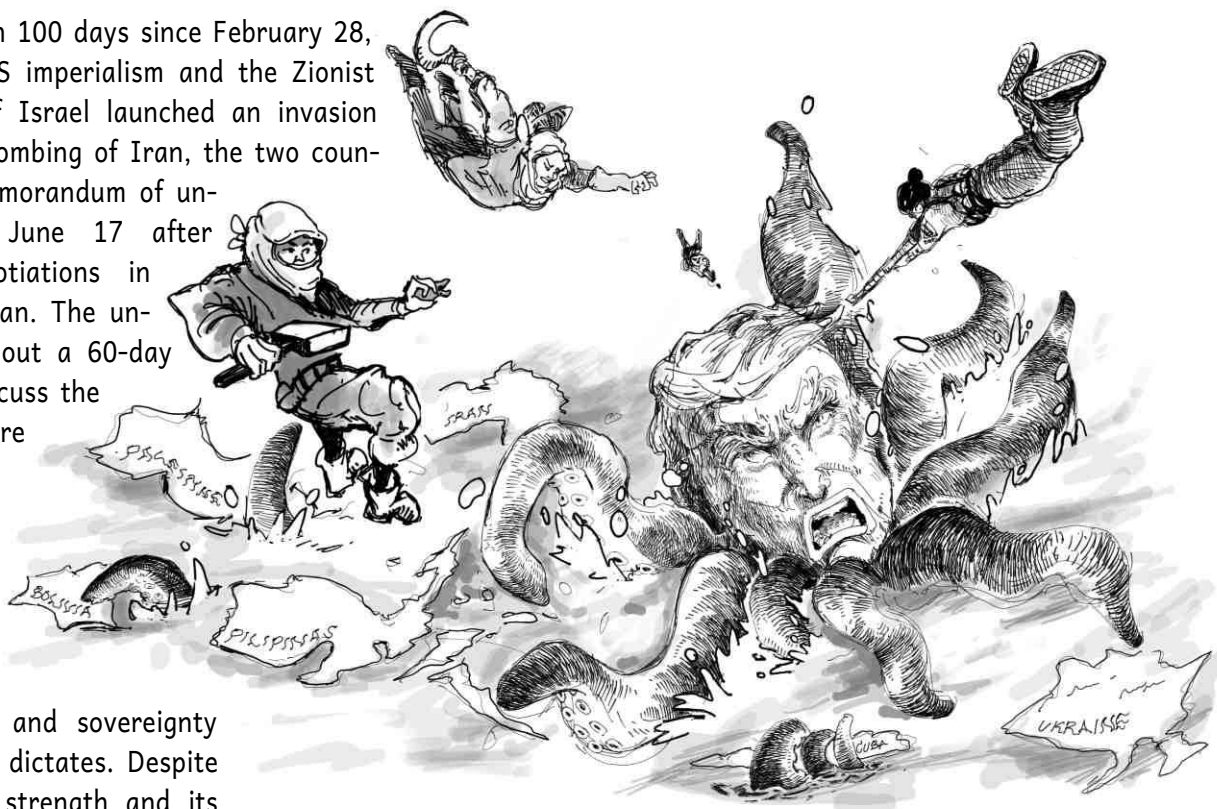
The agreement also proves that a smaller and weaker sovereign country can defend its independence against a more powerful imperialist. Iran remained determined to defend its independence despite relentless bombing by the US and Israel. Contrary to the hopes of Trump and Netanyahu that the people would rise against their government, the whole of Iran united under the banner of national defense. Millions took to the streets to collectively denounce US imperialist aggression.

The signed agreement remains unstable. Trump continues to provoke, declaring that he will "return to war" and "drop bombs on their heads" if his demands are not met in the agreement. Israel's bombing and seizure of territory in Lebanon continue unabated. Around 20 US military bases remain in Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Oman and Iraq, surrounding Iran.

While the US has temporarily restrained its aggression against Iran, it continues to intensify its interference in Latin America. After invading Venezuela and abducting its president Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, it relentlessly pressures the Venezuelan government to follow US dictates and serve the interests of big American

capitalists, especially major oil corporations.

It uses the "war on narcotics" pretext to justify its interference and threats against Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, and other countries. It continues bombing small vessels in the Caribbean despite having no proof of their involvement in drugs. It continues to pressure and threaten Cuba to dismantle state control and planning of the economy, and open it to foreign big banks and capitalists. It incites the Bolivian government to suppress weeks-long marches and uprisings of millions of workers against the puppet government and its plans to surrender the country's resources to the US. It directly intervenes to ensure the victory of its pro-US candidate in Colombia.



The US continues deploying tens of thousands of troops, weapons, war equipment, and naval forces in the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and other Asian countries to "encircle" and "contain the rise" of China. It goads and supports Japan's shift toward militarism and abandonment of its pacifist constitution, which has been met with widespread protests. It also incites Taiwan to strengthen its military and prepare "against aggression."

The US continues to strengthen its control and domination over the Philippines. It conducts successive and overlapping military exercises, no longer limited to northern Luzon but also across the Visayas and Mindanao. Prodded by the US, the AFP is conducting so-called "territorial defense exercises" across various islands to mask the maneuver rehearsals of American troops throughout the country. The US is beginning to build a fuel depot in Davao Gulf and facil-

ities in Cebu and Cagayan de Oro for the repair and docking of its naval ships.

Under the cover of the Salaknib Exercises, Kasangga, and similar activities, the US military intervenes in counter guerrilla operations in the country through training, funding, and arming the AFP in its war against the New People's Army. In Camarines Sur, American and Australian troops were seen participating in AFP operations against peasant masses in villages.

The US is aggressively pushing the construction of a 1,200-hectare "economic security zone" in Central


Luzon under the framework of Pax Silica. This forms part of the US scheme to seize exclusive control over key sources of critical minerals needed for producing technology for its weapons of war.

Amid US imperialism's continuing military and economic aggression, the Filipino people must continuously strengthen and expand their unity to assert national sovereignty and resist dragging the Philippines into US instigated wars. The Marcos puppet regime must be denounced and opposed, especially its military and defense officials who are agents of US imperialism and foremost traitors to the nation. They blindly follow the dictates of their American master and collude in the expansion of US military forces in the Philippines at the expense of the people's livelihood, safety, and the country's freedom.

Continue intensifying mass struggles against growing US military presence in the Philippines. Strengthen educational, propaganda, and cultural movements to rouse the Filipino people, who are continuously blinded to the reality of US imperialist domination and oppression in the country. Broaden people's actions against US military bases and facilities, unequal military agreements, war exercises, the presence of American troops, and stockpiled US military equipment in the country.

Strengthen recruitment to the New People's Army as the principal weapon of the Filipino people in fighting US imperialist oppression in the country. History has shown that genuine national freedom is achieved through the path of armed revolution. Until the Philippines has not truly broken free from the grip of US imperialism, the Filipino people will continue armed resistance to achieve the nation's long-sought liberation.






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NPA-Negros mounts ambush and harassment operations

UNITS OF THE New People's Army (NPA) mounted successive tactical offensives on Negros Island on June 12 and 14. It also carried out an active defense in Northern Samar.

On June 14, the NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) ambushed Regional Mobile Force Battalion-Negros Island Region troopers conducting counterinsurgency operations in Sitio Alimposan, Barangay Lalong, Calatrava, Negros Occidental. Red fighters ceased fire when they noticed civilians accompanying the police. The Red fighters withdrew the assault to ensure the civilians' safety.

The ambushed police unit was in the area to continue the 79th IB's Re-tooled Community Support Program (RCSP). The RCSP is a hypocritical program to camouflage the further intensification of militarization in the countryside.

An NPA-Central Negros (Leonardo Panaligan Command) harassment operation on June 12 disrupted 62nd IB soldiers at a detachment in Barangay Sikatuna, Isabela, Negros Occidental. The armed action killed one fascist soldier and wounded another.

The NPA-Northern Samar (Rodante Urtal Command) launched an armed action against the 20th IB in Barangay Catotoogan, Las Navas on the afternoon of June 4. The Red army initiated fire and actively defended against the operating soldiers. Six 20th IB troopers were killed and many others were wounded. Two more died later in the hospital.

Makibaka establishes Central Negros chapter

WOMEN OF CENTRAL Negros established the local chapter of Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Makibaka) on June 12. They held the gathering within a guerrilla zone area amid intense military operations.

Makibaka-Central Negros spokesperson Ka Inday Gemodo introduced herself in honor and tribute to NPA-Central Negros Red fighter Juliana Arculo Gemodo, 63, who was martyred in January. The NPA rendered a 21-gun salute for Gemodo and other martyrs. They also offered songs and speeches. Women of Central Negros pledged to persevere and traverse Gemodo's path as a revolutionary.

The hollow SIPS declaration in Calabarzon

The Southern Tagalog revolutionary movement ridiculed the Marcos regime and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for declaring a Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) in the Calabarzon region (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) on June 12. The AFP declared the region "peaceful" and claimed the region free of the revolutionary movement's influence.

Ka Cleo del Mundo, spokesperson of the New People's Army (NPA)-Southern Tagalog (Melito Glor Command) said the US-Marcos regime is daydreaming with this declaration. "While it pretends that Calabarzon no longer has revolutionary forces, military operations across various parts of the region are in full swing and relentless," she said. The forces of the AFP Southern Luzon Command and the 2nd ID continue to scour the mountains and rural areas.

Del Mundo added that the "peace" sought by SIPS benefits the imperialists, big businesses and corporations. The regime gives them immense freedom to plunder natural resources, drive out peasants, sup-

press farmworkers' wages, and deprive the people of social services.

She also said the declaration serves as an offering to US imperialism, to demonstrate its loyalty and guarantee that the region can freely be used for its war of aggression and other economic interests. The imperialists can now "freely" position their troops in any part of the region because the "obstacles" have been removed.

This is significant since Calabarzon is an area used for Balikatan Exercises and part of the Luzon Economic Corridor that is integrated with the imperialist war, which the US is provoking against China. It also plans to build an airport in San-

gley Point, Cavite, with both military and commercial functions.

Thus, del Mundo said, as oppression and exploitation intensify, the people's resistance will continue and they will remain on the side of the revolutionary movement, which they see as their only ally amid these conditions. "The people's army never disappeared in Southern Tagalog. Units of the NPA under the Melito Glor Command are prepared to persevere in armed revolution and advance it through to victory," she said.

As proof of the Calabarzon revolutionary movement's continuing perseverance, NPA units in Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon, and the National Democratic Front in Cavite and Laguna, released their respective statements. They declared their resolve to persevere and advance, especially under the beacon of the rectification movement. AB

Treachery of US and Israel impedes peace in Iran, Middle East

Ending the US and Israel's war of aggression against Iran and the Middle East remains uncertain despite the US and Iran government signing a "memorandum of understanding" or MOU for peace (Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding) on June 17.

Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian and US President Donald Trump signed the memorandum electronically. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who mediated the negotiations between the two sides, also signed as endorser of the memorandum.

The memorandum contains 14 points. It will allow a 60-day ceasefire to pave the way for forging a "final agreement." The ceasefire covers Israel's attacks on Lebanon.

Despite this, the US repeatedly threatens to return to war "if Iran does not comply" with the terms, while the US refuses to decisively compel Zionist Israel to comply with the ceasefire in Lebanon. Israel attacked Lebanon less than 24 hours after the memorandum was signed.

The agreement also includes Iran's reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the US withdrawal of its blockade on Iran's ports. At the same time, Iran asserted its sovereign right to administer the strait and to impose fees for services on passing oil tankers. Following Israel's attack on Lebanon, Iran announced the reclosure of the strait on June 20.

Iran also secured a US commitment to push "partner countries in the region" to raise a \$300 billion fund for the country's re-

construction. The US also pledged to lift the sanctions it imposed on Iran and to issue "permits" for oil exports. The two sides also concurred on the issue of Iran creating or acquiring nuclear weapons, which the US used as pretext for war.

The memorandum also states that the two countries will "respect" each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and avoid interference in each other's internal affairs.

The signing of the memorandum is a victory for Iran. The US' entry into a memorandum clearly showed it failed in its declared objectives in

its war of aggression against Iran.

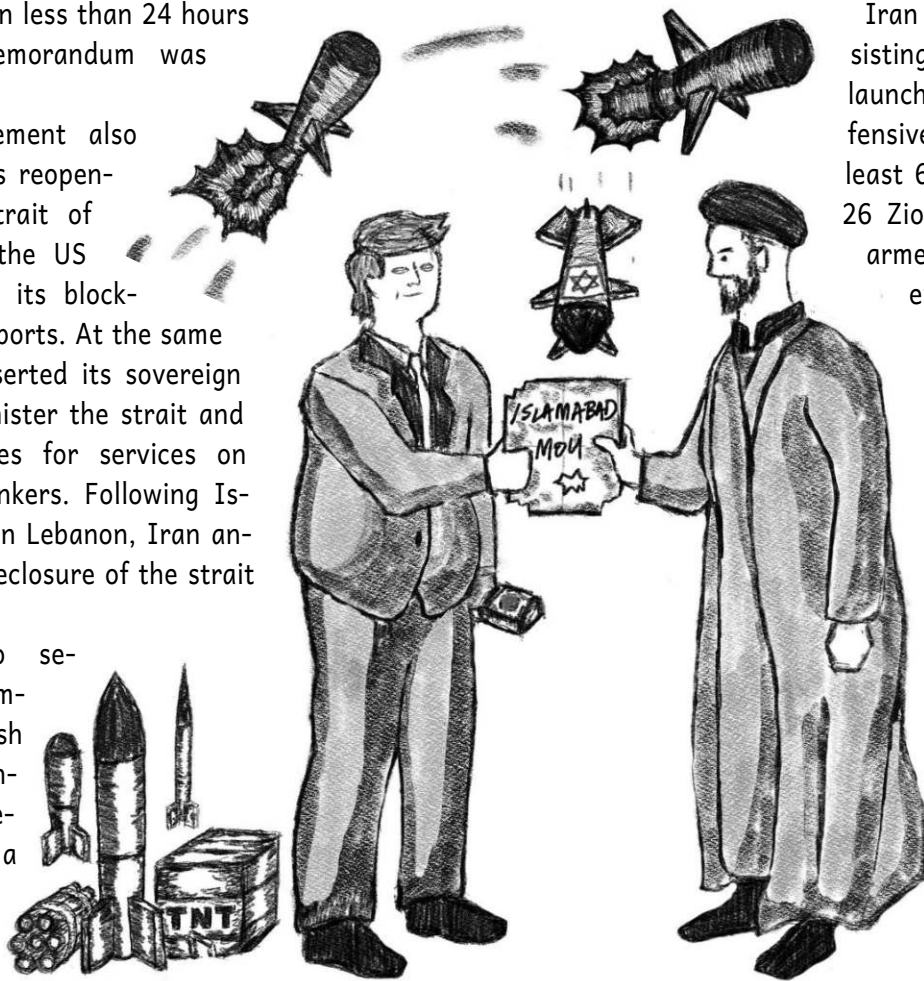
War damages

The war of aggression by the US and Israel against Iran and the Middle East began on February 28 and took more than 100 days before the memorandum was signed. The war took a temporary lull when the parties agreed to a two-week ceasefire starting April 8, which Trump unilaterally extended on April 21 while attacks continued.

On the 100th day of the war of aggression on June 7, US-Israel killed at least 3,468 people in Iran, including its Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The war killed eight infants, 376 children, and 496 women, while 26,500 individuals were wounded. In the US-Israel attacks on neighboring Lebanon, deaths reached 3,593 and the wounded 10,990.

Iran and other armed forces resisting the war of aggression launched counterattacks and defensive actions. They killed at least 68, including 13 US troops, 26 Zionist Israel forces, and 26 armed personnel of puppet governments in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Zionist Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip and other parts of occupied Palestinian land continues. This despite the US-brokered "cease-fire" agreement between Hamas and Israel signed in October 2025. Israel killed at least 1,005 Palestinians since the agreement was signed. Israel has killed more than 71,000 Palestinians since October 2023, including 20,179 children.



Protests against US imperialism greet fake independence day

THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS marched to the US embassy in Manila on June 12, the 128th anniversary of “Independence Day,” to denounce the continuing US imperialist domination in the country. Led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), they condemned the fake independence, especially amid the increasing and overlapping war games, the construction of a “Pax Silica hub,” and the installation of US bases and weapons in the Philippines.

Hundreds of police confronted and blocked the protesters on Kalaw Avenue. Barbed wire barricades were set up on the road to stop the march, but protesters dismantled them. They held a program at the site where police blocked them.

Protest actions were held in Kawit and Bacoor, Cavite, where police thrice attempted to stop the rallyists. Suspected state agents slashed the tires of protesters’ vehicles. Actions were also held in the cities of Cebu, Iloilo, and Davao.

Filipinos abroad also staged protests. In New York, Bayan USA and Migrante USA joined a parade carrying calls for justice for caregivers and the Negros 19. In California, they called for the release of Kuya Richard at the Otay Mesa Detention Center. Actions were also held in Australia and Hong Kong, where US militarism and the lack of genuine freedom in the Philippines were denounced.



Residents expel encamped soldiers

RESIDENTS OF SITIO Green Valley, Barangay Nalus, Kiamba, Sarangani successfully drove out on June 2 the 105th IB troops that had been encamped for months and implementing the counterinsurgency Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) in their community. The military’s encampment at the center of the barangay violates international humanitarian law.

United residents took action and steps to drive out the soldiers. Among these was their collective evacuation from the barangay center to live in the lower part of the community. They also defied soldiers’ orders such as buying supplies, fetching water, and others. Sitio leaders and some barangay officials joined these actions.

Appointed only last February, Lt. Col. Erikzen Dacoco serves as 105th IB commander. The battalion was formed just over three years ago by the 6th ID in February 2023.



Transfer of Jovito Palparan denounced.

Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empeño, mothers of the disappeared activists Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño, went to the Supreme Court on June 15 to demand disclosure of the whereabouts of former general Jovito Palparan. Palparan was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole in 2018 for kidnapping and serious illegal detention of the two activists. Together with Karapatan, the mothers questioned Palparan’s disappearance from New Bilibid Prison after legal notices were returned marked “transferred to BuCor-Baguio” and “PMA Baguio.” The NBP, however, claimed he is merely in a “hospital.”

Navotas City fisherfolk protest anew against reclamation.

Fisherfolk in Navotas City again protested on June 8 to mark World Oceans Day and denounce reclamation projects in Manila Bay. Pamalakaya-Navotas sharply criticized the 650-hectare Navotas Coastal Bay Reclamation Project pushed by the local government and San Miguel Corporation subsidiary Argonbay Construction. The group said the project endangers the livelihoods, rights, and lives of residents, including threats of eviction, flooding, and environmental destruction.

Clamor for justice for deceased ADMU student basketball players.

Students and faculty of Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) in Quezon City staged a walkout on June 19 to demand justice for basketball players Rene Baterbonia and Divine Adili. The two died after drowning in Dipaculao, Aurora on June 8 during a team training activity. ADMU students, teachers, and professors called on the university administration for transparency, responsibility, apology, and justice to the victims’ families. Progressive groups and students held a program and candle-lighting earlier on June 10.

Freedom for Mary Jane Veloso demanded anew.

Led by Migrante International, various groups protested at the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong City on June 19 to demand the immediate release of Mary Jane Veloso. The action coincided with Veloso’s statement regarding the human trafficking, illegal recruitment, and estafa case she filed in 2015 against her recruiter. It marked the first time she was able to give her testimony.

Dragging local governments into the US imperialist war in Asia

The puppet Marcos regime is dragging local governments into the danger and peril of the US imperialist war by launching the Inter-Agency Territorial Defense Operations Exercise (ITDOEx). This is a war game of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) disguised as "civil-military cooperation" amid severe crisis and disasters.

Under this, local governments (from barangay to province), civilian agencies, and the regime's uniformed forces such as the AFP, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Air Force, and Office of Civil Defense will "work together." It supposedly prepares for responding to external threats including coastal assault, counter-infiltration and missile attacks, and complex disasters and crises. This tightens US control down to the level of local government.

The ITDOEx is framed within the AFP's Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC). The AFP promotes the CADC supposedly to protect the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in Palawan (where US and Chinese ships are constantly present), and in Batanes (which the US plans to turn into a base because of its proximity to Taiwan).

The CADC is framed within the broader US "archipelagic defense strategy" that pushed to deploy missile and artillery systems along what it calls the "first-island chain." This is covered by the more aggressive and expansive Indo-Pacific Security Strategy.

In the Zamboanga Peninsula and Panay

The US-Marcos regime first launched the ITDOEx in the Zamboanga Peninsula, followed recently by exercises on Panay island. These

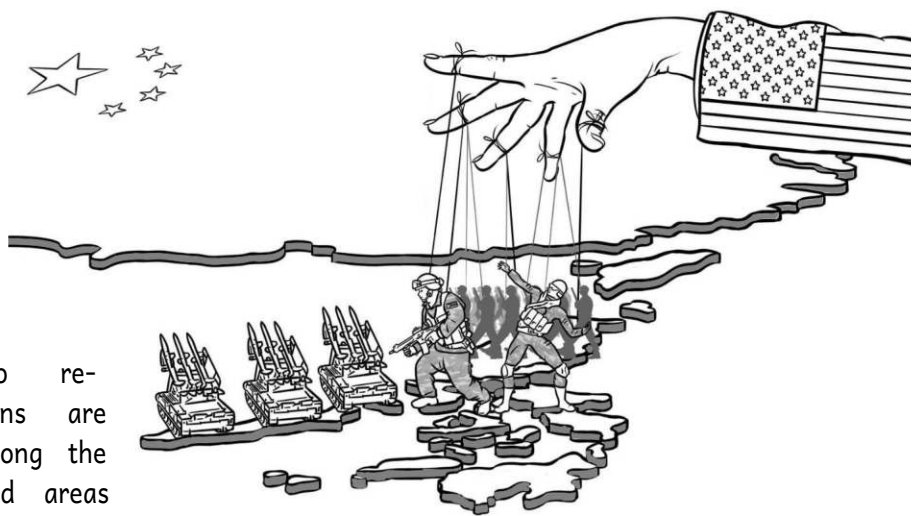
two regions are among the land areas closest to Palawan, which will support the province once a US imperialist war against China breaks out.

Called Exercise Kalazamsur 01-2025, the first ITDOEx was launched in Zamboanga del Sur on December 12, 2025. It was carried out on Igat Island in the town of Margosatubig, where civilian agencies and local governments from six towns participated.

The Regional Peace and Order Council of the Zamboanga Peninsula then issued a resolution in January to launch the ITDOEx in other provinces and to frame a regional-level war game under Kalasag Zampen. Related war games were conducted in Zamboanga del Norte in February, Zamboanga Sibugay in March, and a regional level war game is scheduled for the third quarter of 2026.

ITDOEx Pag-uyon 2026 was launched on June 16-17 in Iloilo under the cover of Executive Order No. 2025-111 issued by the local government. The war games were conducted in the towns of Miag-ao and San Joaquin in Iloilo, but the disruption it caused extended to Guimbal, and to Anini-y and Hamtic in Antique.

The AFP used military vehicles and warships, helicopters, artillery, and other weapons in these war



games. Loud sounds of "simulated" or realistic attack scenarios echoed, terrorizing the people. Thousands of individuals were mobilized in each activity, and millions of pesos were spent on them.

Fear and concern

The ITDOEx is causing widespread fear and concern in communities. The war games rehearse scenarios of war outbreak, now being provoked by US imperialism in the Asia-Pacific against its rival China.

Instead of addressing the worsening economic crisis, the US-Marcos regime is conducting costly and wasteful war games that disrupt the lives and livelihoods of the people. In one exercise, the AFP violated students' rights when it used a university in Iloilo as a helicopter landing zone and evacuation center.

The war games are also shaping Filipinos' mindset that war against China is the only way to defend the country's rights in the West Philippine Sea. The people must reject the ITDOEx and defend Philippine national sovereignty by demanding the repeal of unequal military agreements, the expulsion of US troops, and the dismantling of US military bases (EDCA sites) in the country. **AB**

RGRL, not CARP, is the answer to the peasants' land problem

Peasant protests met the 38th year of the bankrupt Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) on June 10. They described the program as the “longest-running, most expensive and bloodiest fake land reform” implemented by the reactionary state.

For over four decades, the program did not dismantle the monopoly control of landlords and capitalists over vast haciendas, plantations, and large tracts of land. Instead, it served as an instrument of foreign companies and local landlords to expand their plantations for export crops, real estate and “development” projects, and recently, renewable energy projects on agricultural lands.

The Marcos regime further worsened this arrangement when it implemented the World Bank’s Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling or SPLIT. It aims to break up peasant associations’ collective ownership over land parcels to facilitate selling individual parcels to foreign companies. It was paired with the so-called “Emancipation Act” supposedly to “erase” farmers’ debts, so buyers would no longer have to pay.

While land is denied to peasants, foreign companies and landlords exploit the cheap labor of millions of farmers who enter irregular jobs to survive. They receive wages even lower than the national minimum, far below a living wage.

Advance the struggle for land reform

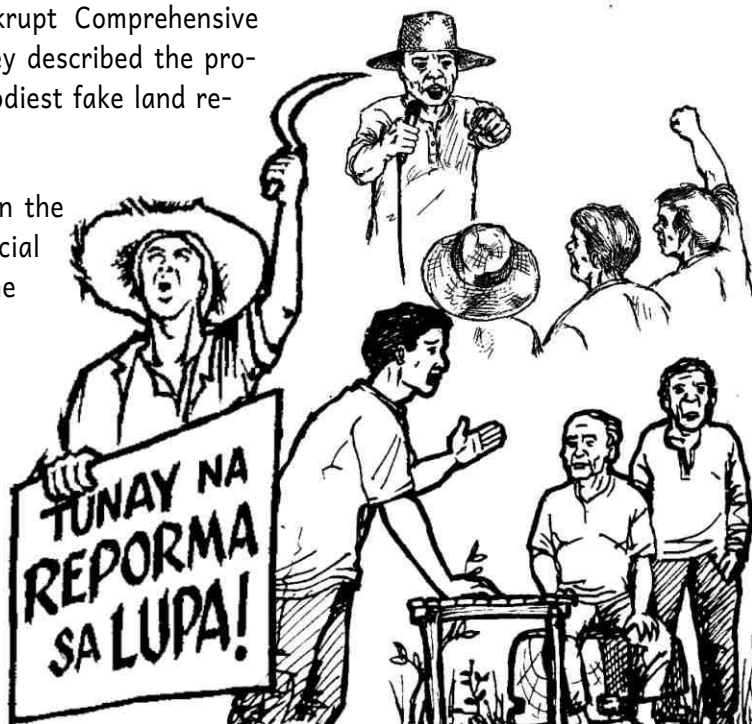
In contrast to CARP’s commodification of land, the revolutionary movement regards it as a right of those who till it. The main democratic content of the program for a people’s democratic revolution is to fulfill the peasants’ demand to own the land they cultivate and to abolish various forms of feudal and semifeudal exploitation. Only by transforming conditions in the

countryside can the semifeudal social system in the Philippines be changed.

In line with the Revolutionary Guide to Land Reform (RGRL) of the Communist Party of the Philippines,

the principal task of the people’s democratic government is to “achieve this goal through the implementation of comprehensive land reform.” At its core is the free distribution of land to poor and lower-to middle-peasant classes. This goes with advancing programs for cooperation in production and strengthening the political power of peasants against the ruling classes and their armed agents in the countryside.

Even before achieving the nationwide victory of the people’s democratic revolution, the Party and revolutionary forces are already implementing the RGRL, particularly its minimum program of reducing land rent, eliminating usury, and raising farmworkers’ wages. Programs are also carried out to increase peasants’ income, and to advance the demand for the best possible prices for their products. Anti-feudal struggles within the framework of the RGRL are launched to achieve social justice for millions of peasants and mobilize them for the people’s democratic revolution. The maximum program of free land distribution to tillers



will be carried out across the country the very moment of the downfall of the reactionary state and the establishment of a people’s democratic government.

The central task is to build and strengthen peasant organizations under the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM, or National Peasant Association). The PKM’s call is thus correct: strengthen anti-feudal struggles, expand mass organizations in the countryside, form thousands of organizing groups, and vigorously launch mass anti-feudal, anti-fascist, and anti-imperialist campaigns. It also calls for contributing thousands of Red fighters to the New People’s Army (NPA).

“The highest form of struggle of the peasant masses is the taking up of arms itself,” the PKM said in its June 10 statement. It added that the strengthening of the NPA in the fronts, in areas with imperialist projects, and in farms where peasants are dispossessed and driven out, will gradually smash the political and economic power of the puppet state and US imperialism. AB

Collective farming, response of the masses and people's army to crisis and hunger

Peasants in a guerrilla zone in Eastern Visayas, Marilyn's family is busy planting upland rice with the arrival of another rainy season. In the past, only her family bore the heavy work of land preparation up to planting rice so they would have something to eat. But this year, an entire unit of the New People's Army (NPA) will work alongside them.

Upland rice production takes longer and is meticulous. Swidden clearing must begin in March or April, long before seeds can be planted. Forest trees must be cut several times then burned. Only after the plot of land is cleared of re-grown grass can actual planting proceed. The five-month planting cycle will allow Marilyn's family to harvest in September or October. Due to its dependence on rain, planting cycles are limited to two per year.

None of these hard work would be necessary had Marilyn's family owned their farm. The local landlord's monopoly over land forces people like them to frontier areas which necessitate practicing swidden just to have land to till. If they choose to become tenants to the landlord, they would suffer losses due to high production costs.

"Feudalism is truly oppressive because production is backward. Rice is manually harvested piecemeal and is time consuming," Ka Lean, one of the Red fighters who joined the planting, explained. Meanwhile, the landlord profits, harvest or not.

Cooperative farming is most effective in this entire process. The region calls this araglayon or tiklos. It aims to expedite the meticulous process of rice

production.

This monsoon season, Ka Lean's unit plans to assist the production of six poor peasant families to demonstrate the effectiveness of collective labor. This will also encourage them to form an association that will manage various forms of cooperation and division of labor and harvest.

"The army is not constantly present. We also need to be deployed to other areas. The association will perpetuate their cooperation," Ka Lean explained.

But he emphasized that forming the association has a more important aim. The peasant masses' must directly challenge the landlord's power through anti-feudal struggle. This arena allows them to assert lower land rent, higher wages for farm workers, the elimination of

usury, higher prices for agricultural products, and more. Doing so gives them crucial experience and skills in confronting the class enemy, asserting their rights, exposing the enemy, and pressing their demands.

The peasant masses must also participate in armed struggle, the principal form of the people's democratic revolution. Only through this can the army and the masses defend the gains of the anti-feudal struggle. Above all, the landlord's monopoly over land and power in the countryside can only be dismantled if armed masses fight.

As a mercenary army of the ruling class, the reactionary state's fascist military and police forces are extremely repressive against peasant organizations. In fact, militarization has severely affected production in Marilyn's village. This further limited farmers' working hours in the fields, and they are afraid to go there during operations. This adds to their burden amid the oil crisis, while the fascists in the village merely enjoy themselves gambling and drinking, yet receive high salaries.

"They are paid by the people, but they only threaten and burden us," Marilyn said. "The NPA is the one helping us develop our production."

Her family is overjoyed to have the people's army as a partner in boosting production and strengthening the peasant organization in their village. AB



Contributed by Larab, June 13, 2026

78 people died and 5,000 displaced from their homes after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Sarangani and nearby provinces on June 8. Damage reached an estimated ₱1.2 billion in infrastructure, and ₱29.8 million in agriculture.



₱700 million in public funds reported wasted during the 28-day leadership of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, due to Senate maneuverings and power struggle. Cayetano was replaced and the new majority installed Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate president on June 17.

154 groups from 30 countries called for scrapping the Pax Silica hub in the Philippines in a manifesto entitled "SHUT THE PAX DOWN! A Global Call to Reject Pax Silica's Economic Security Zone in the Philippines." Source: International League of Peoples' Struggle

62% of all medicine in the Philippines are imported, not yet including those labeled "local" but are in fact imported and merely repackaged in the country.



300+ Filipino workers lost their jobs when the Department of Defense illegally shut down Chinese company Philippine Sanjia-Steel Corporation in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. The company was shuttered for being adjacent to the 300-hectare naval dry dock the AFP is building for the US in Macajalar Bay.

126 riders of Food Panda in Eastern Visayas were declared regular employees in a landmark ruling by the NLRC recognizing job tenure of gig workers.



\$19.2 BILLION

revenues of Israel in 2025 from the sale of weapons "battle-tested" for genocide. Most came from Europe (largest share from Germany) and Asia, including the Philippines. Missiles, anti-missile systems, and rockets account for the biggest share, followed by surveillance equipment and optoelectronics.



1 out of 4 Filipino children is stunted due to malnutrition and insufficient nutrients in the first two years of life.

EPIRA: 25-year burden on the Filipino masses

Progressive groups marched to Mendiola on June 8 to condemn the 25 years of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) for burdening millions of Filipinos. This law made the Philippines the third-highest in electricity prices in all of Asia.

EPIRA was passed on June 8, 2001 amid then-high electricity prices and an unstable supply. It allegedly aimed to lower prices through competition, the unbundling of generation, transmission, distribution, and supply, and the resolution of the massive debt of the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR).

NAPOCOR was established as a government corporation in 1936 to build and operate power facilities, especially in remote areas. Its debt reached ₱900 billion by December 2000, as it entered into agreements favorable to private companies (called independent power producers) during the Ramos regime. These contracts required NAPOCOR to pay for 70–100% of electricity even if only 20–40% was actually used. It also shouldered oil costs and peso-dollar exchange fluctuations, which further worsened its losses.

Widespread protests forced Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to revise these contracts in 2002. This, along with massive debt and pressure from the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation, pushed EPIRA's full enactment.

The law allowed large corporations to own companies for electricity generation and distribution. Most power plants are controlled by big comprador bourgeoisie such as Ramon Ang, Enrique Razon, Manny Pangilinan, the Aboitiz group, Ayala, and Lopez. San

Miguel Corporation leads with 22.4% of the national grid, followed by Aboitiz with 21.75 percent.

While private companies profit, NAPOCOR's debt remains high at ₱262 billion in June 2025. Electricity rates keep rising amid an unstable power supply in the country.

Multi-layered charges

EPIRA established the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) where distributors buy electricity. Distributors, such as Meralco, are allowed to pass their costs on to consumers. These include the system loss charge, or fees for electricity lost due to old and damaged infrastructure, theft, and management failures. This system forced consumers to pay for electricity they did not use.

Consumers also bear the added burden of the 12% Value-Added Tax (VAT), imposed not just once but separately on each component of the bill—generation, transmission, distribution, metering, supply, and even the system loss charge.

EPIRA also reinforced the cross-subsidy scheme where consumers, instead of the government, shoulder subsidies for the poor and other obligations that should be covered by the state, such as senior citizen discounts, NAPOCOR debt payments, and others. These are passed on as “pass-through charges” or fees collected by distribution companies like Meralco for various agencies and power suppliers.

Struggle for pro-people service

Continue to expose and struggle to scrap EPIRA as it has brought nothing but suffering and damage to the people and the economy over the past 25 years. As long as big bourgeois corporations control this strategic industry, people will continue to suffer from expensive and unreliable electricity service. The struggle to scrap EPIRA is part of the broader fight against privatization, deregulation, and liberalization imposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for decades.

Only through the victory of the people's democratic revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat can an electricity industry truly serving the people be built. A new democratic government will advance national industrial-

ization, where all social services including electricity will serve the people's interests. The monopoly of bureaucrat capitalists, comprador bourgeoisie, and foreign capitalists over industries will be dismantled and placed under the management of a government of the people.



Marcos family completes recovery of stolen wealth

The Sandiganbayan Special Division junked Civil Case 0141 on June 2, the remaining case on the Marcos family's stolen wealth, citing significant delays in the prosecution's submission of evidence. The case was filed on December 17, 1991 and had been pending for more than 30 years. It involves ₱50 billion in Marcos ill-gotten wealth. The court ruled after the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) declared it would no longer present additional evidence.

The PCGG was established in February 1986 after Ferdinand Marcos Sr was ousted. As the first order and agency set up by the Corazon Aquino government, it declared its aim to recover all stolen wealth of the Marcos family and its cronies, estimated at around ₱589 billion (\$10 billion).

For four decades, the agency recovered only around ₱280 billion in cash and assets, including \$658 million in Swiss deposits, \$3.37 million hidden in New York, Imelda Marcos' jewelry, proceeds from the sale of paintings worth \$17 million, and 57.68 hectares of land in Palawan declared ill-gotten wealth in 2024.

However, the PCGG failed to pursue many cases, while courts dismissed others for lack of evidence or after the agency stopped gathering evidence and taking necessary legal actions.

Recovery of stolen wealth

Successive regimes did not vigorously pursue the recovery of the Marcoses' stolen wealth for nearly four decades. Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Imelda Marcos struck a deal with the Ramos administration in 1992 to split their wealth and shield it from sequestration—a move the court declared “prejudicial.” The court cited them for contempt and imposed a \$353 million fine, which has ballooned to an estimated \$18 billion as the mother and son ig-

nored the ruling.

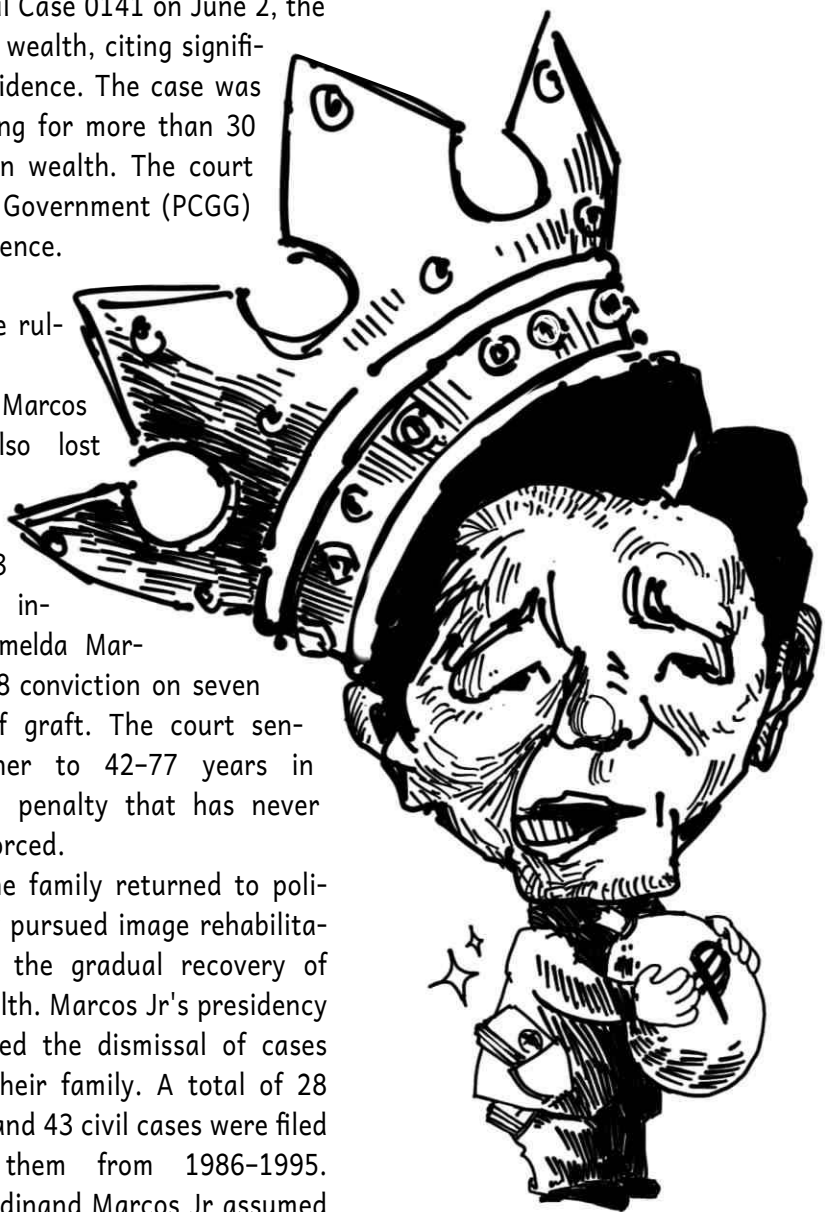
The Marcos family also lost several cases from 2013 to 2021, including Imelda Marcos's 2018 conviction on seven counts of graft. The court sentenced her to 42–77 years in prison, a penalty that has never been enforced.

As the family returned to politics, they pursued image rehabilitation and the gradual recovery of their wealth. Marcos Jr's presidency accelerated the dismissal of cases against their family. A total of 28 criminal and 43 civil cases were filed against them from 1986–1995. Since Ferdinand Marcos Jr assumed power in 2022, the Sandiganbayan has dismissed at least nine cases involving around ₱400 billion in wealth.

The people do not forget

The Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law (CARMMA) condemned the Sandiganbayan's dismissal of the forfeiture case covering ₱50 billion in Marcos ill-gotten wealth. It said Marcos Jr has fulfilled his aim of reclaiming properties confiscated by the state while continuing to benefit from ongoing corruption.

The Communist Party of the



Philippines (CPP) joined the Filipino people in denouncing the Sandiganbayan's decision. It said the ruling is one in a series of earlier court decisions favoring the Marcoses.

CPP chief information officer Marco Valbuena said past Sandiganbayan and Supreme Court rulings show how the Marcoses use political power to amass vast wealth from public funds. He said these moves pave way for further privilege and corruption, intensifying the anger of a people who do not forget the billions in stolen wealth and the thousands of victims of the dictatorship's abuses. AB

Rampant human rights violations of the AFP

Human rights violations against farmers, fisherfolk, and student youth by elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the local government have been recorded in recent weeks.

Demolition. Pamalakaya-Cavite (National Federation of Small Fisherfolk Organizations in the Philippines) condemned the Bacoor City local government demolition team for its illegal demolition of fisherfolk's homes in Barangay Talaba 2 on June 15. The personnel carried no documents, only a "verbal order." Based on the group's dialogue with Mayor Strike Revilla in May, the fisherfolk were supposed to stay until July and those most affected would be provided a fisherman's dorm or housing.

Pieceland Corporation personnel forcibly evicted residents and destroyed around 14 remaining houses of indigenous Mangyan-Iraya on June 1 in Sitio Malatabako, Barangay San Vicente, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro. The incident followed the April 8 decision of the Abra de Ilog Municipal Trial Court

that found nine Mangyan-Iraya guilty of "other forms of trespass."

Abduction and torture. Plainclothes 5th ID agents forcibly abducted Angel Lopez, a councilor of the UP Diliman University Student Council and a volunteer of Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines, on June 13 while conducting an information and education campaign in Barangay Kakiduguen, Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. They subjected him to psychological and emotional torture while in military custody. He was in the area to support the campaign of communities that will be affected by the operations of North Luzon Mineral Resources Corporation. The 86th IB is encamped at the Kakiduguen barangay hall to suppress residents' resistance to mining in their community.



Militarization. Communities in Central Negros remain under the 62nd IB's militarization since June 7. On June 8, soldiers illegally searched homes in the sitios of Punong, Nabakalan, Anahaw, Tribu, Laos, and Agpapataw located along the boundary of the barangays of Trinidad, Sandayao, and Binobohan in Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental. Meanwhile, troops encamped at Agogolo Elementary School in Barangay Macagahay, Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, terrorizing and disrupting teachers and students. Residents' livelihoods are also severely affected. AB

CPP greets FRSO on its 10th congress in the US

The US group Freedom Road Socialist Organization (FRSO) successfully held its 10th Congress in May at a critical time when people's struggles are advancing and the crisis of monopoly capitalism in the US is rapidly worsening. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) conveyed its greetings to the FRSO congress.

FRSO is a national organization of revolutionaries fighting for socialism in the US. According to the group, it has achieved extraordinary expansion and growth in membership across cities and towns since it held its last congress in 2022. The congress gathered 185 delegates and 101 alternate members, the largest in its history. They came from all US states. A large majority of delegates were under 35 years old, and more than 40% came from oppressed nationalities. Nearly half of the entire

congress were women and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

FRSO has led several protests in recent years that drew hundreds of thousands of people and has become a force in the mass movement. The group reported advances in work within the labor movement, active building of national movements, and solidarity with international struggles such as in Palestine and the Philippines. Its entire membership also mobilized to fight Trump's reactionary attacks. "We are advancing

on the path toward the goal of building a new communist party that can challenge power," FRSO stated.

"Your gathering is an important victory for the working class and all exploited and oppressed people in the belly of the imperialist beast," the CPP said. The Party added that the congress is highly timely as contradictions in the US and across the world rapidly intensify.

"We look forward to continued mutual learning and struggle, to achieve greater victories for the people, and to march together in attaining freedom, justice, and a bright socialist future, and an even more radiant communist future," the CPP said. AB