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Editorial

The peasant masses' cry: Land and justice!

Peasants from various areas of the country are marching in the streets towards the national capital to trumpet their cry for land and justice. In their simultaneous observance of the 23rd year of the Mendiola Massacre on January 22, the peasants are demonstrating their determination to fight the anti-peasant state and further advance the struggle to end the oppressive and exploitative ruling system.

The pent-up anger of millions upon millions of peasants who have borne the brunt of an exceedingly backward, exploitative and oppressive system is like a rumbling volcano ready to explode. Under the US-Arroyo regime's nine-year reign, the peasantry has further suffered under the yoke of oppression, poverty and hunger. Landlords of the old and new type, pro-imperialist agribusinesses, real estate speculators and mining companies and their ilk have stepped up land grabbing. State fascism and terrorism reign in the countryside.

The bogus Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) has been shorn of its pretenses after more than 20 years. Not only has it failed to break up the vast estates of big landlords, it has facilitated large-scale landgrabbing and

the concentration of land in the hands of new landlords and big agrocorporations.

Thus, repeatedly extending CARP is an exercise in futility. Under the Arroyo regime, CARP and other support programs for the peasant masses merely serve as milch cows for Arroyo and her cohorts in bureaucratic corruption. From the Fertilizer Fund Scam and the Agriculture & Fisheries Modernization Fund Scam to the Swine Scam, billions of pesos have been pocketed by Arroyo and her officials using funds intended for agricultural services.



Following the imperialist policy of "free market" globalization, CARP encouraged crop conversion and land-use conversion in lands supposedly subjected to land reform. Giant corporations like Dole-Stanfilco, TADECO, Philippine Packing Corporation, Del Monte, Marsman-Drysdale and NDC-Guthrie seized on the opportunities provided by CARP. The production of bananas, pineapples, palm, rubber and other export crops was stepped up. Hybrid varieties needing massive inputs of products made by imperialist companies were propagated.

Agricultural lands especially those planted to food crops continue to dwindle. The pro-

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duction of native varieties is in its death throes. Rice, corn, sugar, meat and other food prices have spiked due to the aggressive promotion of production for export alongside the relentless dumping of surplus agricultural products from big capitalist countries.

In the 1990s, vast tracts of agricultural land were converted to export processing zones and other commercial, tourist and real estate projects. An influx of big foreign and comprador capitalists led to the ruthless plunder of our mountains and forests, despite the trampling of the rights of minority peoples to their ancestral lands this has caused and the environmental havoc this has wrought. The Arroyo regime even has plans to provide up to a million hectares of agricultural land in Mindoro, Mountain Province and various provinces in Mindanao to foreign capitalists in exchange for a billion dollars in investments.

The peasant masses are mired ever deeper in poverty. The proportion of peasants who are landless or who do not have enough land to till has grown. It is estimated that more than 70% of peasants do not

Farmers' caravan

Farmers, agricultural workers and fisherfolk from Southern, Central and Northeastern Mindanao gathered together, marched and traveled to Luzon in a "Caravan for Land and Justice" launched on January 12. They converged in Samar with other toiling masses from Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol and Leyte, crossed over to Bicol and passed through Southern Tagalog on their way to Manila. They are set to gather in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City, where delegations from the North—Cagayan Valley, Ilocos, Cordillera and Central Luzon—are to meet them. From there, they will proceed to Mendiola Bridge on January 22 to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the infamous Mendiola Massacre.

This ten-day caravan is the very first national level protest march in the history of the open legal peasant movement in the Philippines. Indeed, this protest action has such a deep and widespread effect that paid agents of the reactionary state have been relentlessly harassing the protesters.

AFP soldiers stopped farmers from Camarines Norte on their way to Sorsogon City to meet their fellow peasants from Samar. Meanwhile, an AFP intelligence operative took pictures of delegates from the Visayas and Mindanao. Military, police and CAFGU elements have also dotted the caravan route with checkpoints in an attempt to delay the protesters' arrival in Mendiola. AB

have their own land to till.

Peasants who remain tenants renting the land they till suffer intense exploitation. The system where tenants have to pay a fourth to a third of their harvest to landlords who contribute nothing by

way of labor or investment remains prevalent.

Agricultural workers who are only seasonally employed have it worse. They earn a measly P23 to P40 a day at harvest time—not even a tenth of the mandated minimum wage for workers. A huge portion of their income ends up as payment for interest on debts owed to landlords and merchant-usurers.

Feudal, comprador, bureaucrat capitalist and imperialist exploitation in the countryside condemns peasants to lives of even more abject poverty and hunger no matter how much they toil and sweat.

Whenever peasants air their grievances, they are met with violence by despotic rulers who wield the fascist instrumentalities of the puppet and reactionary government and state, aside from employing their own private goons. The reactionary state likewise uses the military to protect big foreign, comprador and bureaucrat capital-



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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

ist companies that plunder our forests and mountains.

Up to 561 peasants have become victims of extrajudicial killings under the Arroyo regime. Many other cases remain unreported. Thousands more are victims of involuntary disappearance, illegal arrest, false charges, torture, grave threats and other violations of human rights. Millions are victims of intense military operations, of bombings, arson and the destruction of their homes and crops, of forced evacuations, food blockades and other forms of terrorism.

The only sure way of resolving the centuries-old land problem and the attendant feudal and semi-feudal exploitation and brutality suffered by the peasantry is to advance agrarian revolution simultaneous to advancing the program of people's democratic revolution against imperialism, feudalism, bureaucrat capitalism and fascist brutality nationwide.

Persevering in armed struggle as the main form of struggle against the bankrupt rule prevailing in the countryside and the entire country provides inspiration to the simultaneous advance of open and legal mass actions for genuine land reform. AB

Persecution of mass leaders and journalists

The severe harassment of progressive mass leaders and media workers top the human rights violations collated by *Ang Bayan* from January 4 to 13.

January 13. Iligan City Councilor Chonilo Ruiz beat up broadcaster Alberto Loyola while he was exposing anomalies pertaining to the council's budget in his radio program. The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines condemned Loyola's harassment.

January 7. Two soldiers in civilian clothes attempted to recruit Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-National Capital Region secretary general Cesar Lopez Dionido. One of the soldiers approached Dionido while his fellow soldier remained aboard a motorcycle. The soldier told Dionido that he was aware of the latter's activities and the fact that he was having a hard time paying his rent. He offered Dionido a job, forced him to accept a cellphone and told him to call the only number in its directory. When Dionido refused the cellphone, the soldier threatened him not to wait for uniformed men to go to his house.

Dionido also revealed that in November, he received a text message saying "I know you and what you have been doing. You must stop all your activities." He added that this is part of the Arroyo regime's harassment of activists and the Filipino people.

January 4. Four soldiers went to the house of Allan Monterde, vice president of the Samahan ng Mamamayan sa Baseco (SMB), a KADAMAY affiliate. The soldiers belonged to the AFP's First Community Development Company that has been deployed at the Baseco compound in Tondo, Manila since January 1.

One of the soldiers who identified himself as a lieutenant demanded a list of the SMB's leaders and members and asked where they could find the rest of its officers. The following day, the soldiers returned to ask Monterde the same questions. AB

Arroyo will not dismantle private armies

The US-Arroyo regime's declaration that it will dismantle private armies in the country is nothing but empty talk, said National Democratic Front-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos in a statement. Ka Oris said that the Anti-Private Army Commission being formed by the US-Arroyo regime will come to nought.

In reality, the Arroyo regime aims to further strengthen loyal private armies which it can benefit from and dismantle only those of the opposition. This way, it can consolidate its hold on power and gain greater leverage in the upcoming elections.

The most vicious and notorious private armies in Mindanao are those that delivered the votes that ensured the Arroyo camp's victory in the past two national elections. The biggest among them is the Ampatuan clan, which is currently under trial for the gruesome Maguindanao Massacre that took place on November 23, 2009.

Aside from the Ampatuan clan, also having their heyday in Mindanao are pro-Arroyo politicians who maintain their own private armies (*see Table*). There are other similar groups scattered in the 24 provinces of Mindanao aside from those in the list.

In order to make the private armies' operations appear legal, they operate as CAFGU, CAA, armed CVO, security guards, LGU task forces or action teams funded by the local government and by intelligence funds that are unaudited. Their firearms and equipment come from military and police arsenals and are either sold or lent out to them.

Illegal loggers, illegal miners, drug syndicates and illegal gamblers, kidnap-for-ransom groups and hired killers also have their own private armies. They either have direct or indirect connections with the military, police and politicians. They are also utilized for elections rigging, terrorism and political assassinations and for the military's counterrevolutionary campaigns.

The AFP, politicians and businessmen also organize and arm the Lumad where the datu and other fake Lumad leaders act as local warlords. They maintain armed personnel to ensure continued operations of various illegal activities. They are also used in counterinsurgency operations under Oplan Bantay Laya, with Task Force Gantangan serving as their umbrella organization and Bagani Force as their armed group.

Some of these Lumad groups include the private armies of Datu Paquito, Datu Kalpet, Datu Napungahan and Datu Behing as well as Mayor Leonida Manpatilan's Wild

Warlords in Mindanao

Abdul and son Khalid Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur

The Jalosjos brothers of Zamboanga del Norte

Reynaldo Parojinog of Misamis Occidental

Roberto Luna of Lingig, Surigao del Sur

Joel Brillantes of Compostella Valley

Claude Bautista of Davao del Sur

Piñol brothers of North Cotabato

The Ecleos of Dinagat, Surigao del Norte

Congressman Guillermo Romarate of Surigao del Norte, also a druglord

Mayor Peter "Boy" Ruaya of Dapa, Surigao del Norte

Mayor Cezar Diaz of Taganaan, Surigao del Norte

Congressman Democrito "Boy Daku" Plaza of Agusan del Norte

Congressman Edelmiro Amante of Agusan del Norte

Mayor Emiliano Rodriguez of Rosario, Agusan del Sur

Mayor Leonida Manpatilan of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur

Gov. Abdusakur Tan of Jolo

Congressman Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur

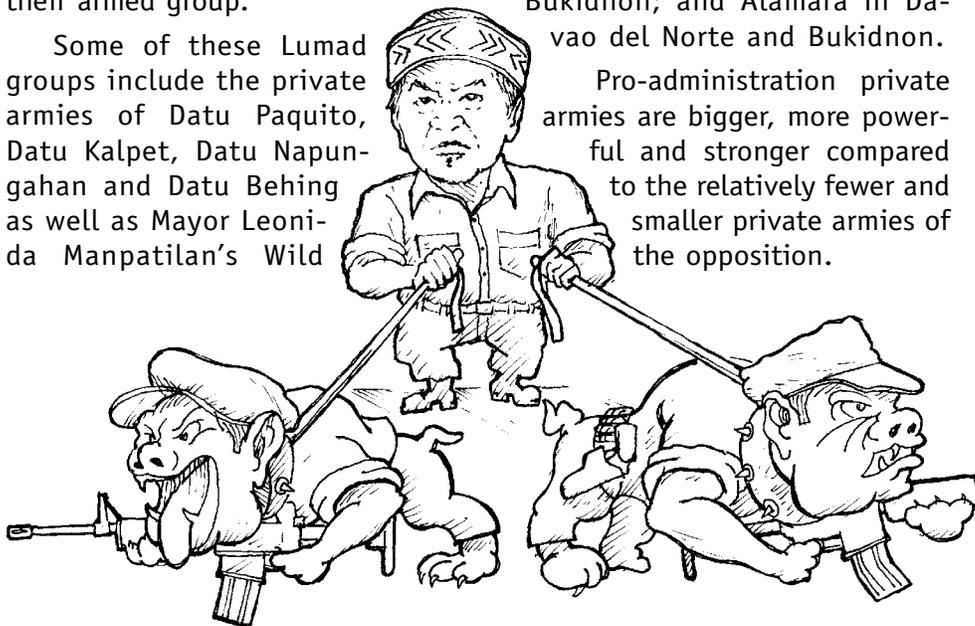
Gov. Jum Akbar of Basilan

Dog, all in Agusan del Sur; Bungkatol Liberation Front (BULIF) of Agusan del Norte and Misamis Oriental; the Dela Mance and Pangayaw Force bandit groups in Bukidnon; and Alamara in Davao del Norte and Bukidnon.

Pro-administration private armies are bigger, more powerful and stronger compared to the relatively fewer and smaller private armies of the opposition.

In the Philippines, the big landlords, comprador-bourgeoisie and bureaucrat capitalists are the new warlords who use the AFP, PNP, CAFGU and other paramilitary groups as their private armies in order to assert their monopolistic control over the economy and politics. All of these serve as private armies of the ruling class that are armed and funded by US imperialism.

Thus, Gloria Arroyo as the AFP's commander-in-chief is the biggest warlord in the country today. Her terrorist machinery continues to wreak havoc through the extrajudicial killings of her critics and opposition members. The Arroyo regime can therefore never be expected to make good on its promise to dismantle private armies.



AFP's so-called victories in Negros are nothing but lies

All purported victories of Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) 2 in Negros are mere lies and deception. This was National Democratic Front-Negros spokesperson Ka Frank Fernandez' response to the victories claimed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the island. The AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) failed miserably to weaken and reduce the New People's Army to a mere police concern by the year 2010.

Proof of their failure is the AFP Central Command (Cencom)'s continued resetting of its deadline from 2008 to 2010, said Ka Frank. As a result, AFP elements deployed in Negros could not leave the island and be transferred to the other islands in the Visayas.

This psywar line of the military and police forces aims to deceive the people of Negros into losing hope in the people's democratic revolution, said Ka Frank. Second, this deception serves as basis for the promotions sought by Lt. Col.

Nemesio Franco Gacal of the 11th IB and Lt. Col. Cesar Yano of the 303rd Brigade and to raise their soldiers' morale.

To cover up their failures, the AFP and PNP always reason out that they lack troops despite the fact that there is an overconcentration of armed troops in the island. In fact, there are up to 9,000 AFP, PNP, CAFGU and CVO forces in Negros aside from the bandit group Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA) and goons of warlord-politicians.

Despite the deception, repression and intense violence perpetrated by the fascist minions of the US-Arroyo regime against the revolutionary forces and the people of Negros, the revolutionary movement in the island has achieved significant victories. According to Ka Frank, the Party, NPA platoons, people's militia and mass bases in the countryside continue to gain strength while mass struggles in urban centers continue to advance. As the revolutionary movement conducts recovery work, guerrilla fronts continue to expand and determinedly implement the minimum program of agrarian revolution that has benefited thousands of people.

One of the NPA's latest victories in the military field was an ambush in Sitio Indangawan, Barangay Manlocahoc, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental on December 9. Four soldiers of the 61st IB were killed and an undetermined number were wounded. To conceal their casualties from the people, the military hid the bodies of the dead soldiers under the benches at the back of a 6x6 truck.

The celebration of the Party's 41st anniversary was also successfully held in a camp inside the Southwest Guerrilla Front. It was attended by over 200 visitors from the cities and interior barangays amid unrelenting enemy operations.

On the other hand, the overconcentration of enemy forces in Negros, added Ka Frank, provided relative relief to the islands of Panay, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas, giving way for their rapid advance. In this regard, the armed revolutionary movement in Negros will strive to respond to the Party's call nationwide to prepare for the people's war's advance from the strategic defensive to the strategic stalemate in the next five years.

Military's psywar

The Merardo Arce Command (MAC) of the NPA-Southern Mindanao vehemently belied the 10th Infantry Division's claims that 83 civilians were killed by the NPA in the region in 2009.

MAC spokesperson Rigoberto F. Sanchez said that the so-called innocent civilians cited by the AFP were actually informers and intelligence operatives who were part of the reactionary state's armed military machinery and thus, were legitimate targets of the NPA.

Sanchez added that the military concocts these lies in order to deflect the people's attention from the intense blows it suffered in 2009 from the NPA's successive annihilative and attritive tactical offensives. The NPA also belied the AFP's claims that only 15 soldiers were killed in the armed clashes between the Red fighters and the AFP. It added that the military has become even more frantic in its efforts to cover up the truth because of the utter failure of the US-Arroyo regime's Oplan Bantay Laya.

Sanchez added that the Red fighters' strong adherence to the rules of war has resulted in decreasing numbers of civilians caught in the crossfire during armed confrontations. The AFP, on the other hand, denies its responsibility for the thousands of extrajudicial killings perpetrated by military troops as proven by no less than the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights.

AB

AB



NPA military actions in Bicol, SMR and EV

Twenty firearms of various caliber were confiscated in different military actions conducted by the New People's Army (NPA) in Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Southern Mindanao in January. Five soldiers were killed and 19 enemy troops were wounded in these military actions.

In Masbate, two Bushmaster rifles, an M16 rifle and a shotgun were seized by a unit of the NPA Jose Rapsing Command from a candidate for vice mayor in Barangay Tanguilid, Claveria on January 16, according to National Democratic Front-Bicol spokesperson Ka Greg Bañares.

Meanwhile, NPA Red fighters confiscated at least 14 firearms from abusive security guards of a banana plantation in Barangay Tagnanan, Mabini, Compostela Valley on January 14. Seized were three AK47s, two M16s, four cal .45 pistols and seven shotguns. The Red guerrillas also seized four radio communications equipment.

In Masbate, two soldiers of the 49th IB were killed

and eight others were wounded from command-detonated explosives (CDEX) set off by Red fighters while the troopers were aboard an Isuzu Elf truck in Barangay Lalaguna, Mobo in the morning of January 15.

A few hours after, two 49th IB troops were killed and nine others were wounded in an ambush by NPA guerrilla fighters along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Palogtok, Irosin, Sorsogon. The Red fighters detonated a CDX on a truck carrying enemy soldiers that resulted in a number of casualties among them. As in the past, the military concealed their casualties from the media.

A day before these clashes, Red fighters ambushed two soldiers of the 2nd IB in Barangay Taplacon, Camalig, Albay. One soldier was killed while the other one was severely wounded.

Elsewhere in the country, a soldier belonging to the 14th IB was wounded in an encounter with the NPA on January 13 in Barangay Rizal, Oras, Eastern Samar. AB

Tribute to Comrades Kimay and Nai

The revolutionary forces honored Kemberly Jul Luna (Kimay) and Ian Maderazo (Nai) as scholars of the people and martyrs of the youth and the revolution. At their young age, they persevered in their struggle and performed organizing work among the youth and the impoverished masses.

Statements of support, grief and tribute flooded their wakes. They were both models for the youth who never succumbed to the difficulties and sacrifices that came with serving the people. Their demise will serve as a call to the youth and students to devote their strength, intellect and skills in the service of the people and the armed revolution.

Comrade Kimay

Comrade Kimay, 21, was born on July 23, 1988 in Surigao del Sur. Her family belongs to one of the richest clans in the province. She graduated as high school valedictorian. Her political awakening

began when she became a member of the League of Filipino Students in 2008 and actively participated in organizing and mobilizing not only within the confines of the school but also among workers and farmers. She became the chairperson of the Student Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy at Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (STAND-MSU-IIT). She was one of the students who spearheaded protests on university issues and against the presence and intervention of American troops in Mindanao; and played an active role in supporting the internal refugees in the Lanao provinces who fled their homes due to

militarization.

In the mid-1980s, Comrade Kimay joined KASAMA-Bukidnon and helped organize farmers. This experience deepened her understanding of the feudal exploitation and oppression of farmers in the countryside. She provided literacy classes to the peasants. She was hailed as "Ma'am Nurse" because she attended to the sick and provided medical services to the people.

In 2009, Comrade Kimay joined the armed revolution and became a member of the New People's Army (NPA). Kimay further tempered her capabilities as a youth who joined the armed struggle and devoted her time to it. It was on December 15 last year that Comrade Kimay died in an encounter with the 8th IB in Sitio Bulacao, Barangay Concepcion, Valencia City, Bukidnon.

Comrade Nai, 26, was born on December 7, 1983 in Vinzons, Camarines Norte. He finished valedictorian from Vinzons Pilot School and graduated with a BS Agricultural Chemistry degree from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB).

In college, he became a member and eventually the leader of Pi Sigma Fraternity from 2001 to 2006. He also represented the college council in 2002 and chaired the biggest party and alliance at the UPLB. He was an effective student leader who spearheaded various campaigns at the university. He also led relief operations for the victims of massive landslides and floods in Real, Quezon, and various protest actions against the Arroyo regime.

According to his family and comrades, Comrade Nai was good with computers, a good public speaker, simple, with no vices, and who always took the initiative. He was also a campus heart-throb.

As soon as he finished college, he immediately embraced the armed struggle in the countryside. There, he became known to the farmers as "Ka Danoy." He was killed on January 9 in a clash between NPA guerrillas and combined units of the 76th IB and Quezon PNP Provincial Mobile Group in Sitio Palo, Barangay Olongtao, Macalelon, Quezon.

In a statement, the Communist Party of the Philippines enjoined the students and the Filipino youth to follow the examples of Comrades Kimay, Nai and thousands of others who turned their backs on personal ambition and embraced the Filipino people's common dream of attaining national and social liberation. AB



Revolutionary armed movement in India advances

Excerpted from the report of the Political Bureau (PB) of the Communist Party of India-Maoist which was released in October 2009.

Six years have passed since the Maoist Communist Center of India and the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (People's War) merged to form the Communist Party of India-Maoist. Since then, armed struggle in India has expanded and gained strength and the mass movement which directly challenged the ruling reactionary regime in India has gained ground. The movement has successfully defeated the attempts of the reactionary forces to crush it. Meanwhile, it continues to consolidate the victories of the revolutionary forces and the people.

Overall, the CPI-M has attained the objectives it set forth such as the expansion of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) and the establishment of bases for the advancement of the armed movement. It also fortified and broadened the organs of political power and triumphantly launched agrarian revolution for the development of the poor peasants and national minorities.

The CPI-M cited the following victories:

PLGA expands and strengthens armed capability. The number of tactical offensives and other armed actions launched by the PLGA has significantly grown ev-

ery year. From September 2008 until September 2009 alone, more than 300 troops of the reactionary army and police were killed while many more were wounded.

Most striking among these is the coordinated raid on three police stations, an armory and a police college and several more police detachments in the town of Nayagarh, Orissa on February 15, 2008. PLGA guerrillas seized more than 1,100 firearms and more than 100,000 rounds of ammunition in these raids. The PLGA demonstrated precise and excellent planning when its fighters brought the whole town of Nayagarh under its control for two and half hours.

According to reports, the vast majority of the more than 600 armed fighters who carried out the coordinated raid were from the local militia—referred to as the "base forces" of the PLGA. The PLGA is comprised of the "main force" (fulltime platoons for offense and defense), and the "secondary force" which serves as the bulk of the PLGA.

The raid in Nayagarh was the sixth of the coordinated military actions launched by the PLGA since the CPI-M was established. The first was launched in the town of Koraput, also in the district of Orissa on February 6, 2004. One of the latest was in Riga, Bihar's Sitamarhi on March 31, 2007. Another victory of the PLGA was an





ambush on June 24, 2008 on two units of the Greyhounds, known for being the elite commando units of the reactionary army. (One unit is comprised of 35 "Greyhounds.") The PLGA laid out a trap by circulating a rumor that there was a meeting of the CPI-M taking place in Orissa. The central government dispatched the Greyhounds to reinforce the police forces in Orissa. Coming in aboard a ship, the Greyhounds had no idea that they were falling into a trap. The ship sank when PLGA forces fired on it. Thirty-eight Greyhounds were killed while the others were seriously wounded.

Another bold action was the "area ambush" conducted by a company-size force of the PLGA in Maanpur, Rajnandgaon on June 12, 2009.

Twenty-five weapons were taken by the guerrillas and 30 policemen, including the superintendent of that town were killed in the area ambush.

The operation consisted of four ambushes in three separate places consecutively carried out by the PLGA. The first ambush was against a police detachment at around 6 a.m. The second was an ambush on the reinforcements while they were traveling, 15-20 kilometers away from the first ambush. The reinforcements also became targets in the third and fourth ambush. These all took place before 3 p.m.

Mass base expands and consolidates. The *janathana sarkar* (organs of political power) were established in several hundred villages and were consolidated at the area and division level. Departments of Trade and Industry were set up in the *janathana sarkar* that were formed. This reflects the level of development attained by the communities under Red power and the people's capability for self-gov-

ernance. A newsletter, the *Lokur Adhikar*, was established to become an active conduit for exchanging experiences among the *janathana sarkar*.

Mass movement advances and gains strength. In the past five years, the mass movement led by the CPI-M has become a mighty force against the plunder of foreign companies in collusion with the reactionary government and the local ruling class.

The people's struggles against the widespread landgrabbing and dislocation caused by foreign big companies were successful. Among these mass actions were those launched against mining operations in different parts of the country which have caused the widespread displacement of peasants and national minorities. The Party has become active in the struggle against the schemes of the reactionary government of India to further sell the country's natural resources to foreign corporations in the name of "development" such as in the establishment of export processing zones.

Particularly in Nandigram, West Bengal, the local ruling party failed in its plans to seize the lands of the impoverished peasants for the construction of the export processing zones of foreign corporations. Everyone became witness to the historical armed uprising of the peasantry and national minorities in 2007 which targeted the state military and police forces. Using traditional weapons, several thousand peasants barricaded more than a hundred villages and blocked the entry of soldiers and policemen to the area for almost a year.

Thousands of peasants also marched from Nandigram to Kolkata, the center of West Bengal to demand the withdrawal of state

projects from their communities. Resistance in these places has paved the way for a new form of struggle where thousands of people spontaneously join armed actions. A prominent feature of these actions is the exposé of the rottenness and impotence of the ruling Communist Party of India-Marxist (which is not a genuine communist or Marxist party but a social-fascist party). Along with actively defending their communities, the people have also been implementing projects to improve their lives such as roads and irrigation dams, health centers and schools for indigenous children.

The revolutionary movement in India is today facing a greater challenge. Because of the unwavering and persistent struggle of the revolutionary forces against the pro-imperialist and reactionary regime, the ruling regime of India has declared all-out war to wipe out the CPI-M and the PLGA. In what has been called Operation Green Hunt, the reactionary state has initiated the deployment of paramilitary groups to identified PLGA bases. In November 2009, it sent out 18 companies of the Central Paramilitary Forces to areas pinpointed as bases of the revolutionary movement. The CPI-M and the leadership of the people's army have prepared for this eventuality.

But the CPI-M and the revolutionary movement it leads are readying themselves for something more. As the merger Party enters its sixth year of armed struggle, its Political Bureau has set forth the key objectives of the revolutionary forces and people of India. These are to establish and expand base areas, transform the current stage of guerrilla warfare towards mobile warfare and transform their guerrilla army into one with a regular character. **AB**

Earthquake ravages Haiti

Hundreds of thousands are feared dead and a total of up to three million severely injured by the earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12. This is one-third of the country's population. Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince was nearly wiped off the map, as many houses, offices, workplaces, schools, hospitals and most of the infrastructure was destroyed.

The country today is a picture of tremendous suffering and deprivation. Food, water, medicine and other essential needs are in short supply. Bodies are scattered on the streets and many of those buried in the rubble have yet to be found. Hopes of finding survivors from beneath the collapsed buildings are fading as days go by.

The earthquake, however, is but the latest of the disasters that have long been causing widespread suffering among the Haitian people.

This despicable plight is the result of the country's servitude at the hands of imperialists for hundreds of years.

France made Haiti a colony for more than a century. It began as France's richest colony in the western hemisphere. Back then, a quarter of France's entire wealth was sourced from the excess profits gained from the extensive plantations of sugar, coffee and other products that were set up by France and developed through the blood and sweat of Black slaves. This led to even more suffering for the colony.

The French colonialists' extreme cruelty spurred a series of slave revolts that culminated in Haiti's independence from France in 1804. The first independent republic in Latin America and the world's first Black republic was established.

The US has long wanted to subjugate all of the countries in its

"backyard". It was also concerned by France's continuously strong influence on Haiti, the rising influence of other powers (chief among them Germany) and Haiti's growing debt to US banks. Thus, in 1915, at the prodding of US banks, the US exploited the unrest that resulted from the assassination of the country's president and sent American troops to invade Haiti.

The US dismantled the government and directly colonized the country. One of the first things that the attacking forces did was to occupy the Haitian National Bank, confiscate "for safekeeping" the \$500,000 held in its vaults and bring the money to the the US immediately. The US also drafted a new constitution that gave tremendous privileges to the colonialists, including permitting foreigners to own land.

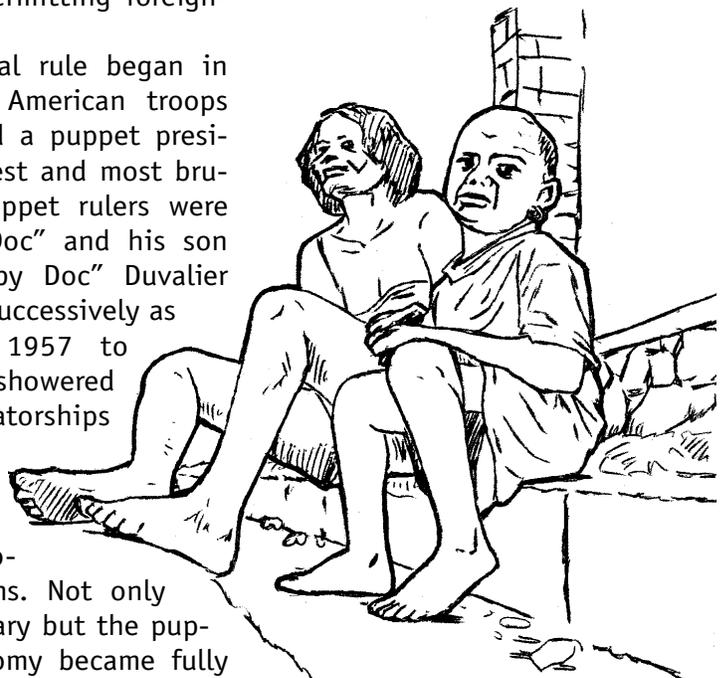
US neocolonial rule began in 1934 when the American troops left and installed a puppet president. The greediest and most brutal of Haiti's puppet rulers were Francois "Papa Doc" and his son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier who held power successively as dictators from 1957 to 1986. The US showered the Duvalier dictatorships with huge amounts of military aid in exchange for economic concessions. Not only the Haitian military but the puppet state's economy became fully

dependent on aid from the US.

The US turned the country into a dumping ground of its agricultural surplus. Haiti's already limited agricultural sector was reserved for the production of crops for export to the US. By the 1980s, US imperialism had systematically destroyed Haiti's self-reliant agriculture through the massive dumping of surplus food products from the US.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of Haitian farmers lost their livelihood and flocked to the city. They served as a source of cheap labor for the semimanufacturing ventures of foreign corporations.

In 1990, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a former priest, was elected president of Haiti. Aristide implemented several reforms with the objective of establishing a self-reliant economy. The victory of the popular anti-imperialist president spurred a widespread mass movement for change in Haiti. Angered, US imperialism instigated a coup six months after Aristide was sworn in, which resulted in his ex-





ile from the country. This set off three years of unrest in Haiti which ended only when the US was compelled to allow Aristide to return to power.

Aristide won once again as president in 2000. This time, the US concocted new tactics to weaken his leadership. It cut off all aid to Haiti to incite widespread discontent throughout the country. Because 30-40% of Haiti's budget is funded by foreign aid, mainly from the US, the cessation of aid resulted in the termination or further deterioration of social services and infrastructure. Another coup d'etat directly launched by the US once again ousted Aristide in 2004.

The second overthrow of the popular anti-imperialist president triggered widespread disorder anew. Since then, at the goading of the US, Haiti has been formally placed under United Nations supervision, with the US continuing its maintenance of a puppet leadership and its own military presence in the country.

Haiti became the most impoverished country in the western hemisphere after colonizers and imperialists leached it of its resources and made it a dumping ground of their surplus products.

Even before the earthquake, 80% of the population was poor. The majority of Haitians earn less than a dollar a day (equivalent to P45). Half of the population does not know how to read or write.

Almost half of those who die perish because of highly preventable or treatable illnesses. Ninety percent (90%) of children are afflicted with water-borne diseases and suffer from parasite infestation. The number of people with

tuberculosis is ten times higher compared to other countries in Latin America.

Such abject poverty and rotten social services and infrastructure have been derailing the country's efforts to uplift itself and assist the earthquake victims. The bankrupt puppet government severely lacks hospitals, ambulances, fire trucks and rescue equipment. Large ships carrying food aid and medicines could not dock because the earthquake has further damaged its already deteriorating port. Airplanes carrying supplies for the victims could not land because the main airport in the capitol of Port-au-Prince is poorly constructed and obsolete.

The Haitian people's desperation and anger are already inciting widespread unrest in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. Scattered corpses are being piled on the streets to serve as barricades. Already anticipating the possibility of massive unrest, the US immediately deployed an initial 10,000 military troops to directly wrest control of the country anew.

It is very important that the people of Haiti rise up and fight to break out of the US' onerous national domination, exploitation and oppression, become independent and advance on the road of self-reliant development.

In the process of their upliftment and struggle, the Haitian people must make the imperialist powers, principally the US, and its puppet leaders accountable for their criminal responsibility in the mounting poverty and misery now being suffered by the Haitian people. AB

Civilian casualties in Afghanistan mounting

THE number of civilians killed in Afghanistan in the nine-year war of aggression by US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces continues to grow.

As many as 2,412 civilians were killed in 2009, the most numerous in the nine-year war, according to data from the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (Unama).

Children comprise most of the victims. A total of 1,050 children no older than 18 years old were killed in 2009. Three children die each day, according to the Afghanistan Human Rights Watch.

Most were killed during air raids on civilian communities by occupation forces.

US troops are also conscripting ever growing numbers of children to become soldiers. Children are likewise sexually exploited, deprived of education and health needs and illegally detained.

Civilian casualties are expected to grow this year due to the addition of 37,000 US and NATO troops in 2010. The US and NATO plan to deploy a total of 150,000 troops to Afghanistan. In this regard, US Pres. Barack Obama has ordered an additional \$33 billion to support the war in Afghanistan and Iraq this year. This is aside from the \$708 billion budget Obama is requesting from the US Congress for the Department of Defense in 2011.

Gloria Arroyo faces new plunder raps

NEW plunder, graft and administrative cases were filed against Gloria Arroyo and Sec. Arthur Yap of the Department of Agriculture (DA) on January 6. The case has to do with the purchase by the DA's National Agri-Business Corp. (NABCOR) of 98 ice-making machines worth ₱455.7 million in September 2009.

The plaintiffs were led by Rep. Rafael Mariano and Joel Maglunsod of the Anakpawis party. Also among the complainants are Anakpawis secretary general Cherry Clemente; and Fernando Hicap and Salvador France, PAMALAKAYA national chair and vice chair, respectively.

The complainants charged that the accused allowed the continuance of the contract despite irregularities in the bidding which favored the Integrated Refrigeration System and Services, Inc. (IRSSI). Each machine which was bought at the price of ₱4.65 million was overpriced by ₱2.3 million. In total, the machines were overpriced by ₱225.4 million.

The fact that IRSSI was incorporated only a day before the anomalous bidding was also cause for suspicion.

Also charged were the officials of NABCOR and IRSSI.

Supreme Court stops RFID

THE Supreme Court ordered the Land Transportation Office (LTO) on January 12 to stop charging motorists registering their vehicles ₱350 for the Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID), aside from the ₱169 computer processing fee. The RFID is a mechanism for accessing vehicle registration data.

The Supreme Court approved the petition filed by the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (PISTON) and progressive parties for a temporary restraining order on fee collections for the RFID.

The Supreme Court said there was no public bidding held for the project and the fees are an additional expense to the motorists. It also ordered the LTO which was behind the project to reimburse those who had already paid the RFID fee. PISTON said the ₱519.00 RFID fee should be refunded immediately to the motorists. It said that if the LTO is quick to charge for the RFID, it should also be quick at giving back the fees it had illegally charged the motorists. PISTON also asked the Supreme Court to scrap the RFID altogether. In total, the LTO has already collected ₱46.7 million from this project.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo plans to file a case against the LTO and its chief Arturo Lomibao for charging illegal fees for the project.