



EDITORIAL

Duterte's foul lies and cruel fascism

Over the past weeks, Duterte and his fascist cabal have shamelessly twisted facts in their vile aim to slander the Party and revolutionary movement. This is a desperate attempt to justify ever repressive measures to suppress the people's resistance to his tyrannical and terrorist reign.

First, he ridiculously accused the NPA of being behind the October 20 massacre of nine peasants who were fighting for their right to till land in Sagay, Negros Occidental. This is patently absurd, especially considering that the AFP earlier accused the peasants of being NPA supporters. Duterte is washing his bloodied hands in the face of overwhelming evidence that the brutal killings were perpetrated by the SCAA paramilitaries attached to the AFP. The brutal massacre was then followed by the killing by state forces of the lawyer assisting the victims' families.

Recently, Duterte preposterously painted the CPP and NPA as anti-Lumad in a perverse villification campaign. The AFP and their mercenary criminal traitors to the Lumads and Duterte's flunkies are shameless in lying. It is the AFP that has mounted relentless attacks against the Lumads to force them to give up their ancestral land to be plundered by big plantations and mining companies.

Duterte wants to demoralize the masses in slandering the NPA, their real army which has served them selflessly, in an attempt to

"Duterte's foul..." continued on page 2

NPA-Sultan Kudarat attacks Philippine Marines

TWENTY-EIGHT troopers of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 2 (MBLT 2) were killed in offensives by the New People's Army (NPA)-Sultan Kudarat from September-October.

Red fighters ambushed the 3rd Marine Company Reconnaissance Group-Marine Brigade Special Unit in Barangay Batangbagras, Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat last October 14 at 9 a.m. The firefight lasted for 15 minutes during which seven soldiers were killed. The NPA fighters were able to withdraw safely.

Thirty minutes later, the military bombed the ambush site killing its own troops who failed to immediately withdraw from the area. After two weeks of rescue and retrieval,

"NPA..." continued on page 3

smash their unity with the people's army. He seeks to take away their moral right to resist armed suppression, oppression and exploitation.

At the same time, Duterte wants to push the proscription case to declare and tag the CPP and NPA as "terrorists." He plans to use this proscription to restrict the rights of various groups which the AFP accuses of conspiring with the CPP in its "Red October" tale.

Duterte aims to use the Party as a scapegoat to extend and declare nationwide martial law which has been imposed over Mindanao. He is rushing this scheme to ensure the outcome of the May 2019 elections which will guarantee him a congressional majority for his federalism project for perpetuating his power.

Duterte's campaign of spreading barefaced lies against the revolutionary movement is in line with the relentless war of suppression under Oplan Kapayapaan. The AFP has carried out a brutal all-out war

in the countryside marked with widespread killings, torture, arrests and detentions and other military abuses and violations of human rights, and large-scale combat operations with artillery, helicopter and drone support aided and advised by the US military.

To create the illusion of victory, thousands of peasants are being duped or forced to parade as "NPA surrenderees." However, contrary to the AFP's aims, many among their peasant victims are approaching the NPA to complain against military abuses, seek justice and support the people's army.

In the past two years, Duterte has spewed a gargantuan amount of lies. He has used his power and wasted hundreds of billions of pesos of public funds to weave far-fetched tales.

He employs Hitler's fascist doctrine of Big Lies: "Repeat a lie until it becomes the truth; the bigger the lie, the better, because who would imagine a man so impudent to fabricate colossal untruths."

Such tactics are entirely in character for Duterte who is garrulous, foul-mouthed, narcissistic, and a blood-thirsty fascist. Under his reign, the bigger and more ludicrous and vulgar the lie, the filthier and darker the secret. But no matter how big the illusion and dramatics Duterte whips up, he fails keep the secrets of his rotten rule from reeking.

Duterte's constant dramatics serve to hide the decay of the ruling system and his moribund rule. His "war against drugs," "war against corruption," anti-US pretensions and advocacy for sovereignty and peace are pure posturing. These are all complete opposites of the truth.

Duterte is insane if he believes he can completely fool the Filipino people with his deceptions and dramatics. It is clear to the people that he is the overlord of all drug syndicates, mastermind of corruption, a US puppet, traitor to the country and peddler of its sovereignty, and number one fascist.

Duterte is demented if he thinks he can silence or intimidate the people with his lies and use of state violence. Like a broken record, he declares he will crush the NPA by mid-2019, after having failed in his earlier declaration of crushing the NPA before the end of 2018. This is nothing but a pipe dream. In fact, the armed struggle is advancing nationwide.

In the face of worsening economic and social crisis, burdensome taxes and other oppressive policies, bureaucrat capitalist corruption, imperialist intervention and oppression, crime and narco-politics and increasingly cruel armed suppression under Duterte, more and more people are propelled to wage various forms of struggle.

The Filipino people's determination to struggle to end Duterte's tyranny and terrorism is unwavering. They are undaunted and are further galvanized to take the path of revolutionary armed struggle. **AB**

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almost 35 cadavers of soldiers were recovered.

On top of this, the NPA-Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR) confirmed that 21 soldiers of MBLT 2 were killed in Barangay Sangay, Kalamansig in successive attacks launched by the Red fighters against the military last September 16-17. (See article in *Ang Bayan* October 7, 2018).

The MLBT's intensified military campaign is designed to clear the area for the reentry of the DM Consunji Incorporated's massive logging operations. The company's operations have been interrupted for more than two years due to the strong opposition of the Lumad people and the NPA's armed campaign.

According to the NPA-FSMR, the number of military casualties is possibly higher in the face of spontaneous armed resistance of the Lumad Dulangan-Manobo against DMCI and

MBLT 2.

The Lumad Dulangan-Manobo celebrated the defeat of the AFP's campaign to protect Consunji's destructive commercial operations. They continue to support and participate in punitive actions against DMCI and its fascist protectors.

Quezon. The NPA-Quezon successfully foiled an attack by the 92nd IB in Sitio Tiklupan, Umiray, Gen. Nakar last October 27, at 9:49 a.m. Two troopers were killed and three were severely wounded while the NPA sustained no casualties. The firefight lasted for 20 minutes.

Since May, Gen. Nakar has been under constant attack by battalion-sized forces of the 2nd ID to the detriment of peasant and indigenous Dumagat and Remontado residents.

Camarines

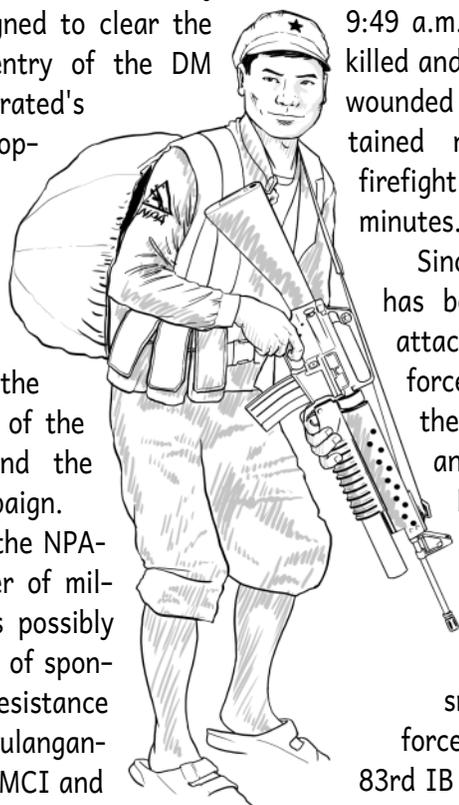
Sur. The NPA sniped operating forces of the Bravo Coy 83rd IB in the boundaries of

barangays Mainit and Sooc, Bato, Camarines Sur last October 22, at 4:40 p.m., killing its commander, 2Lt. Jayson Frederick Pasco. Another soldier was wounded.

After the incident, an additional company of the 83rd IB was deployed to pursue the NPA in the area. More than a week of all-out military operations were mounted in some barangays of Bato. According to the Edmundo Jacob Command, "...because the masses acknowledge the justness of what the comrades are doing for them, they are provided safe haven in the area despite focused operations of the mercenary army."

Negros Oriental. NPA-Negros Oriental almost simultaneously attacked two camps of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFP) 7 of the Philippine National Police in Guihulngan City last October 30.

Red fighters fired at a police detachment in the boundaries of barangays Balugo and Hinakpan at 11:00 a.m. At around the same time, they attacked the headquarters of the RMFB 7 in Sitio Liko, Barangay Bulado. A police officer was severely wounded in the operation. AB



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Duterte's biggest lies

1 "War on drugs"

"I hate drugs" is Duterte's favorite mantra. In reality, however, Duterte has proven himself to be the overlord of all druglords and syndicates. Peter Lim, one of the biggest druglords in the country, is his compadre. Duterte's police officers and death squads has already murdered more than 20,000 individuals, including the alleged heads of drug syndicates in Visayas (Espinosa) and Mindanao (Parojinog). He is using the "war on drugs" as a pretext to threaten and strong-arm syndicates to bow to his overlordship. Duterte targeted local *shabu* manufacturers and controlled the smuggling of the drug. On May 2017, his son (Vice Mayor Pulong Duterte of Davao City) and son-in-law (Mans Carpio, Sara's husband) were implicated in the smuggling of more than P6-billion worth of *shabu* from China. Last June, an estimated 1.6 tons or P11-billion worth of *shabu* was smuggled into the country. Instead of being dismissed, Isidro Lapeña, then chief of the Bureau of Customs when the smuggling case took place, was even rewarded with a promotion in the reactionary bureaucracy. Instead of being thrown in prison, Nicanor Faeldon who was the designated chief of Customs during the previous smuggling case, was ironically appointed as head of the Bureau of Corrections.

2 Marawi siege

Duterte bombed Marawi City for five successive months from May to October 2017 purportedly to defeat the Maute group. He carried out the campaign despite offers from Moro and religious leaders to mediate and hold negotiations to help resolve the armed uprising. In reality, Duterte pulverized the city to destroy residential areas, loot the people's properties and benefit from the city's reconstruction. Bourgeois compradors competed for the biggest contracts. Recently, it was uncovered that included among those awarded with fat contracts is the family of Bong Go, Duterte's personal factotum. It was only this October 31 that the "groundbreaking" ceremony was finally held, which meant foreign and local capitalists can now enter Marawi after almost a year of negotiations with the regime. This is despite the fact that more than 214,000 residents are still considered displaced. Meanwhile, a military camp is now being constructed in the city-center, covering former commercial and residential areas.

3 Boracay "rehabilitation"

Under the guise of "rehabilitation," Duterte ordered the closure of Boracay island and gave the military and police de facto martial law powers to evict small-scale businesses and residents in order to facilitate the construction of business establishments of his favored capitalists. These include the construction of a casino owned by a Chinese businessman and a housing project of the Villar family. To cover-up the series of anomaly exposés, Duterte boasted that he will "distribute" the island to indigenous peoples residing therein. On October 24, less than eight hectares were awarded to 44 Ati families.

On October 26, Duterte "reopened" the island after six months of "rehabilitation." On October 31, the military use for the island became apparent when the Philippine Coastguard announced the construction of a P30-million radar on Mt. Luho, Barangay Balabag purportedly to prevent the entry of terrorists in the island. In reality, the said facility is part of the radar system donated by Japan to the Philippines to guard the Sulu Sea and Pacific Ocean. This system will connect to the radar system previously constructed by the US across Sulu Sea and Palawan to counter Chinese militarization of the Philippine seas and the South China Sea.



4 Anti-US and pro-independent foreign policy

"I will break away from the US," Duterte proclaimed in front of Chinese officials and businessmen in 2016. Since the beginning, this boast was designed to squeeze more funds for the AFP and his own grandiose plans. "It's all about the money," as he put it much earlier.

In reality, Duterte is angling for modern military equipment from the US which he earlier promised the AFP. In time, Duterte reinforced the "permanent friendship" of the Philippine neocolony and US imperialism when President Trump, a fellow ultra-rightist, became US president. Duterte portrayed the "war in Marawi" as "counter-terrorism" to mirror the US' fake war, allow its military to intervene and facilitate aid in form of new weaponry purchased using its gargantuan funds for "overseas contingency operations." Eventually, the US launched the Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines to oversee its intensified military intervention in the country and its increasing presence in nearby territories. Duterte declared the CPP and NPA "terrorist organizations" in compliance with the conditions imposed by the US so that the AFP's counter-guerrilla war can qualify for aid.

Duterte was strident in declaring that he will pursue an independent foreign policy but only to conceal his complete betrayal of the country's sovereignty. This is a hollow declaration as he remains obeisant to imperialist dictates. Just to actualize his ambition to raise billions of dollars, Duterte has been desperately begging for loans from China notwithstanding extremely high interest rates and at the expense of the country's victory in Arbitral Tribunal which recognized the Philippines' claim over islands and other land formations across the South China Sea. In fact, he even contracted an agreement for Joint Exploration which surrenders the exclusive right of the Philippines to develop the marine resources, oil and other minerals within its own economic zone.

5 Anti-corruption gimmick

"I never stole, not even a peso, from the government." Duterte often boasted to pretend that that his regime does not perpetrate corruption. This is despite an exposé revealing the millions of pesos deposited in his and his daughter, Sara's, bank accounts. His pretension that he is merely a "common man" has long been belied by his family's luxurious lifestyle, grandiose vacation trips, shows and parties.

Moreover, his promise to dismiss thousands of government officials once he "catches a whiff" of corruption is also an empty boast. He used this campaign to dismiss appointees of the former Aquino regime and replace them with his own henchmen. His relatives, friends and allies whom he favored alternately occupied various positions. Not a single official whom he dismissed was convicted, while some were even rewarded with promotions.



6 "Mass surrender"

The reactionary state is claiming that more 4,000 Red fighters of the NPA have already "surrendered" and "returned to the folds of law" since 2017. This is a component of its psy-war tactic to make it appear that the armed revolutionary movement is weakening. This estimate contradicts even the AFP's report that the NPA membership has been reduced to "just 3,600" in the beginning of 2018. In reality, majority of those who were paraded as "surrenderees" are civilians who were duped, threatened and harassed by the AFP. Many of them were coerced to "surrender" so as to "clean" their names even in the absence of any warrant or evidence against them. In many cases, residents are promised food and financial aid and are assembled in communities, only to be shocked upon discovering later on that their names are already listed as "surrenderees."

7 Red October

Duterte and AFP officials also used contradicting stories to weave their very own fantastic Red October tale which was their latest attempt to justify the intensification of harassment against legal organizations and alliances and their protest actions. Because of its extreme absurdity, the AFP was compelled to declare that the purported plot has already been "foiled" even before October ended. In reality, what actually failed was its attempt to create an anti-communist hysteria in schools, factories and communities, and moreso among the general public, which it expected to scapegoat for worse fascist plots. All malicious attempts to link strikes, collective cultivation ("bungkalan") movements and protests to Red October were promptly exposed as attempts to legalize the said activities and justify armed suppression against its participants. The regime is also using this as a veil to cloak its accountability to its hideous crimes, including the massacre of nine farmers in Sagay City.

AB

State forces kill Sagay 9 lawyer

One of the lawyers assisting in seeking justice for the recent massacre in Sagay City, Negros Occidental was shot and killed at around 10:50 p.m. last November 6.

Atty. Benjamin Ramos, secretary general of National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL)-Negros, sustained three bullet wounds after being shot by unidentified men in front of a store in Barangay 5, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. He was declared dead on arrival at the Holy Mercy Hospital in the said city.

According to the NUPL, Ramos is the 34th lawyer killed under the Duterte regime. He was among the first to provide help to the victims of the massacre of peasants in Hacienda Nene, Sagay City.

Ramos is also a founding member of the NUPL and served as lawyer for peasants and members of various progressive organizations. He was a lawyer of the "Mabinay 6," who were implicated in an encounter between the AFP and the NPA last March.

Prior to his murder, Ramos was included in a police list of suspected protectors of rebels and drug pushers. This is part of the demolition campaign by the state against human rights defenders. Meanwhile, another Sagay 9 lawyer, Atty. Katherine Panguban, was charged with a fabricated case of kidnapping of a 14-year old massacre survivor.

Killings. A local paramilitary group, Dios Uno, mercilessly killed two farmers in Sitio Canggabok, Barangay Nagbinlod, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental. Apollonio Diosana and Temestokles Seit Jr. were aboard a motorcycle when they were blocked and shot by members of the group. Dios Uno was created by the PNP-Sta. Catalina to assist in its "counter-insurgency" cam-

paign.

Unidentified men shot and killed Danny Boy Bautista, 31, a member of Nagkahiusang mga Mag-uuma sa Suyapa Farms (NAMASUFA) at the Compostela Public Market in Compostela Valley last October 31.

Bautista was an active member of NAMASUFA and participated in the ongoing strike of Sumitomo Fruits Corp. (Sumifru) Philippines workers demanding a stop to contractualization.

Strafing. At around 7 a.m. last November 5, guards of a landlord shot Aboy Mandaget, a 10-year old Lumad child, in Barangay Kawayan, San Fernando, Bukidnon.

According to Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization, 20 armed guards trooped to the land being collectively cultivated by the Lumads for palay production. The guards started destroying the crops, prompting the Lumads to barricade their farm. They were immediately fired upon by the guards. According to witnesses, an individual identified as "Totung" shot Mandaget in the foot. The child was immediately brought to the hospital.

Harassment. Australian nun Sr. Patricia Fox was eventually evicted from the country after being targeted by Rodrigo

Duterte because of her firm stand for the oppressed and exploited under the US-Duterte regime.

Fox, 71, left the Philippines in the evening of November 3, after serving the workers, peasants and urban poor for nearly three decades. This came after the expiration of her visa, which was reclassified from missionary visa to travel visa by the Bureau of Immigration upon Duterte's orders.

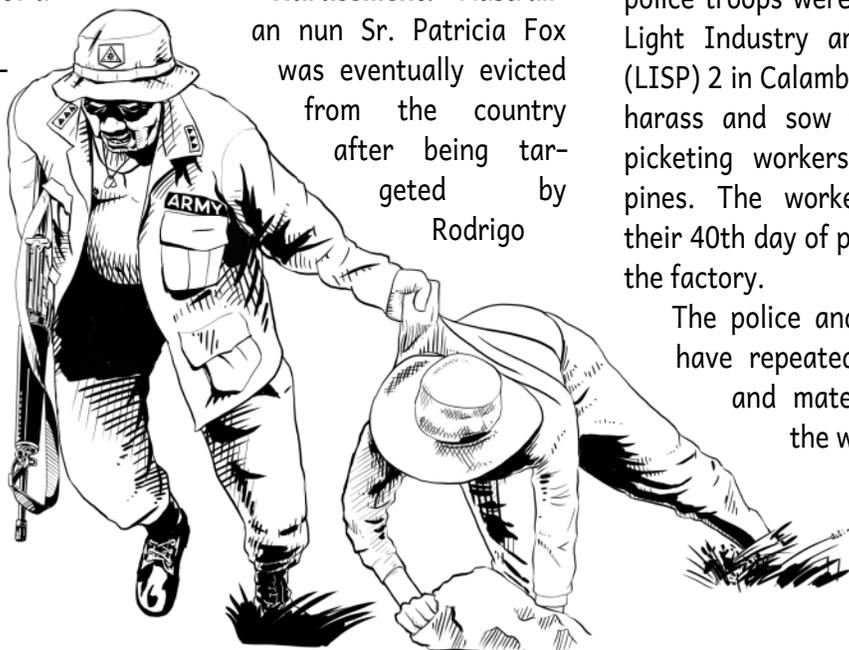
Aside from Fox, the Duterte regime also prevented known Italian critic Giacomo Filibeck from entering the country this year, along with another Australian, Gill Hale Boehringer. This is part of the regime's crackdown on its critics, both Filipino or foreign.

Meanwhile, on October 25, the Salugpongong Ta' Tanu Igkanogon Community Learning Center, Inc. in Talaingod, Davao del Norte received a letter from the paramilitary group Alamara and datus on the AFP's payroll, instructing the teachers and students from 19 Lumad schools to leave. They used Datu Guibang, who is currently being held by the AFP, to terrorize the Lumad families in the area. The military also threatened to arrest known community leader Datu Doloman Dausay.

In Calamba City, Laguna, more police troops were deployed at the Light Industry and Science Park (LISP) 2 in Calamba City, Laguna to harass and sow violence against picketing workers of SMT-Philippines. The workers are nearing their 40th day of protest in front of the factory.

The police and LISP 2 guards have repeatedly blocked food and material support for the workers.

The workers set up their picket after the abrupt



closure of the factory in Calamba City last October while negotiations with the company management were underway. The sudden closure was carried out to evade negotiations with the union and not due to the company's bankruptcy. The SMT-Philippines is a known supplier for Epson and Toshiba.

Abduction. In Compostela Valley, elements of the 71st IB abducted Imelda Hayahay, 53, last October 15 from her home in Purok 1, Star Apple, Barangay Pindasa, Mabini. Hayahay is a member of Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela. Her family is subjected to constant harassment. Hayahay's daughter Jeanyrose, a teacher of the STTICLCI, is being forced to surrender as a Red fighter in exchange for her freedom.

A few days after Hayahay's abduction, Leonardo Mision, 62, a member of Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma ug Lumad sa Laak, was found dead in his farm in Barangay LS Sarmiento, Laak in the same province.

Demolition. Demolition of Sitio San Roque in Quezon City resumed at the start of November. At the height of the typhoon last October 30, personnel of the National Housing Authority (NHA) destroyed the homes of almost 100 families.

The NHA earlier promised to give P30,000 to families who will voluntarily demolish their homes, but the agency retracted its promise and immediately proceeded with dismantling the houses.

The land where Sitio San Roque stands is part of the Quezon City Central Business District, and successive demolitions have been carried out in the area in the past years. Residential lands forcibly grabbed from former residents have been converted into condominiums and shopping malls. A series of demolitions to destroy the remaining 300 houses in the area will proceed until the second week of December. AB

NDF-Negros identifies Sagay massacre suspects

AFTER AN INTENSIVE investigation, the National Democratic Front (NDF)-Negros identified several of the paramilitaries involved in the massacre of nine peasants in Hacienda Nene, Sagay last October 20. Fr. Frank Fernandez, spokesperson of National Democratic Front-Negros, named the suspects as Vito Lotrago, Eduardo Linugon, Rexi Robles, and alias Rako, former members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army and now active members of the Special Civilian Active Auxiliary of the AFP.

At the same time, the NPA-Northern Negros (Roselyn Pelle Command) mocked the P500,000 reward for the suspects provided by Alfredo Marañon Jr, governor of Negros Occidental, and his son Alfredo Marañon III, mayor of Sagay City. This reward is a smokescreen to hide their involvement in the massacre. In fact, the Marañons along with other landlords employ the SCAA to sow terror in Sagay City. SCAA crimes include the murder of peasant leaders Ronald Manlanat and Flora Jemola.

In 2003, the 90-hectare Hacienda Nene was placed under land reform and the Tolentino family was ordered to distribute it to the peasants. On 2013, the peasants were able to assert their right to till which led to the order of the Department of Agrarian Reform to distribute the land to 39 beneficiary-families. To evade the order, the Tolentinos "gave" 70 hectares to their drivers, housekeepers, and other "beneficiaries." These "beneficiaries" then leased the lands to other landlords to be planted with sugarcane under the *ariendo* system.

After 15 years of just assertion, the peasants decided to collectively farm the land for food to temporarily alleviate their families' hunger and poverty. They negotiated with the *ariendadors* to allow them to farm after harvesting sugarcane. AB

According to National Federation of Sugar Workers (NS-FW) in Negros, the farmers have long been tilling idle lands to provide food for their families during *Tiempo Muerto* (period between harvesting and planting of sugarcane.) "*Bungkalan*" or collective farming campaigns have been actively conducted in the island since 2009.

Last April, the AFP attempted to legalize collective farming by declaring that these are "activities" of the New People's Army and associated it with the Red October tale. The NFSW strongly condemned these lies, including the biggest lie that the organization masterminded the massacre by using the peasants as "bait." By repeatedly using contradictory accusations and a pack of lies, the objective of the AFP to hide the crimes of its troops is clear.

Meanwhile, NPA-Northern Negros condemned another case of human rights violation in the island. Residents of Purok Hoodam, Sitio Bideo in Barangay Codcod, San Carlos City were gravely abused and threatened by elements of the 79th IB last October 22. Thirteen residents were mauled and forced to confess as members of the NPA. Five of them were brought to the 79th IB camp in Bato, Sagay City. Almost all houses of the residents were ransacked by around 100 operating troopers. AB

Peasants resist Samar militarization

FROM OCTOBER 30 to November 5, more than 2,000 peasants encamped in the plaza of Barangay San Miguel to demand the demilitarization of their communities in Las Navas and Catubig, Northern Samar.

Amid relentless harassment, the peasants demonstrated their firm unity and collective determination to fight. They said that the continuous operation of the military in their communities will only further strengthen and broaden the resistance as it shall certainly rouse into action not only the residents of Las Navas and Catubig but also those from other towns.

Since Duterte's visit in the province last September, the AFP started to deploy more troops within the area. Detachments and military camps have long existed in barangays San Miguel, Poponton and Taylor in Las Navas, and Barangay Carawag in Lao-ang. Meanwhile, the AFP conducts combat operations, under the guise of "peace and development," in barangays San Miguel, San Francisco, Quirino, Perez, Mag-saysay, San Antonio, Imelda, Capooton, Cuenco, Avelino, Victory and Lakandula in Las Navas; Tubang and Gibunawan in Silvino Lobos; Rumbang, Lanubi and Tangbo in Lao-ang; and Capacujan in Palapag.

The peasants unrelentingly opposed the militarization of their communities which has further aggravated their poverty and hunger.

Last October 18, more or less 100 residents from

eight barrios marched and converged in front of

the municipal hall of Las Navas and submitted their petition to demilitarize their communities. Meanwhile, elements of the 20th IB roadblocked around 30 members of Northern Samar Small Farmers' Association (NSSFA) who were bound to attend a

dialogue with the mayor of Las Navas. They also submitted a petition and resolution to the Commission of Human Rights in Tacloban City.

The residents said that the encampment of the AFP in their communities sown intense fear among them and even affected their livelihood. The troopers also continues to harass and vilify members of Kautungod Sinirangang Bisayas at NSSFA.

Last November 7, elements of the 803rd IBde forcibly brought Alfredo Pajanilla, a barangay official of San Francisco, Las Navas, to their camp to supposedly talk to Major General Raul Farnacio, commander of the 8th ID. Meanwhile, 20th IB troopers roadblocked the convoy of delegates from Northern Samar who were bound to join the mobilization spearheaded by the People's Surge in Tacloban City. The delegates were forced to go home because their drivers were threatened by the soldiers.

In Bicol, the 31st IB occupied no less than nine barangays in Casiguran, Gubat and Barcelona, Sorsogon. The residents said that the soldiers established a Barangay Defense

System wherein residents are coerced to "guard"

their communities. The soldiers also assembled the youth and slandered the revolutionary

movement. Meanwhile, those who they suspect of supporting the NPA are subjected to interrogation. The residents also complained against the anti-social activities of the soldiers in the barangay including their drinking-sprees and cockfighting. **AB**

Anti-usury campaign in Capiz

CORN FARMERS FROM Capiz successfully reduced the loan interest rate imposed by merchant-usurers by half. After a series of meeting-dialogues and negotiations held by corn farmers in the towns of Cuartero, Maayon and Tapaz with traders, a memorandum of agreement was signed by representatives of both parties last October.

The agreement states that the compounded interest rate on seedlings, fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide loaned by farmers from merchant-usurers is reduced from 20% (P5,000) to 10% (P2,500) per planting season (four months).

Moreover, traders are now obliged to comply with the suggested retail price of corn in the local market and reduce the *resiko* (moisture content) rate. Traders are also obliged to issue official receipts to farmers upon payment of their debts. To prevent swindling, it was agreed upon that the traders are now obliged to have their weighing scales recalibrated every month. On the other hand, farmers are no longer obliged to pay loan interests if their farms are devastated by calamities.

Because of this initial victory, the farmers pledged to further advance their campaign against other exploitative arrangements still being employed by traders including overpricing of farm inputs.

The continuing campaign against usury is spearheaded by Pamanggas sang mga Mangunguma sa Panay kag Guimaras and Kahublagaan sang mga Mangunguma kag Mamumugon sa Uma sa Capiz. **AB**



15,000 join protests against martial law

More than 15,000 individuals carrying calls to end martial law and oust Duterte joined protest marches across Mindanao last October 23. Dubbed as the Mindanao Day of Action Against Martial Law, mass actions were held in Davao City, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan and General Santos.

In Cagayan de Oro, more than 5,000 individuals from various democratic sectors including the religious participated in the mobilization. They carried an effigy of Duterte riding a war tank as they marched to Divisoria.

In Butuan City, about 5,000 protesters paraded an effigy of Duterte riding a train depicting the adverse effects of his TRAIN law to the people. To culminate their program, Lumads and peasants destroyed the effigy to signify the people's rage against Duterte's anti-people policies.

Simultaneously, 600 farmworkers from Compostela Valley managed to pass through AFP checkpoints which the military mounted to delay their contingent. The workers later joined the march from Davao City to Freedom Park of more than 3,000 delegates. Cultural workers portraying blood-drenched victims were at the forefront of the

march to portray the state's fascism. The mass action was successful despite the Red-baiting and malicious attacks of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte through social media, and the harassment of Task Force Davao and PNP-Davao.

Various sectors also held a protest march in General Santos City to condemn and demand an end to militarization in their communities. Some of the rallyists were from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato where 8 Dulangan-Manobos were massacred by elements of the Philippine Marines in December last year.



Progressive groups lambast paramilitary-led rally

Various groups condemned a rally at the University of the Philippines-Diliman last October 29 organized by staunch leaders of a paramilitary group. Among them were leaders of Magahat-Bagani which perpetrated the murder of Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development executive director Emerito Samarca, and Lumad leaders Dionel Campos and Aurelio Sinzo last 2015.

The paramilitary leaders trooped to UP to accuse the New People's Army of killing and spreading fear in Lumad communities.

According to the UP Diliman University Student Council (USC), the group led by Duterte's former communications officer, Mocha Uson, blatantly Red-tagged progressive groups and Lumad schools. According to the students, Uson's actions gravely endanger other Lumad groups. The USC also condemned Uson's support to Rodrigo Duterte, a dictator wannabe who has continuously denied the Lumad people of their rights to their ancestral lands.

Anakbayan and the League of Filipino Students staged a counter protest in the university on the same day to belie the allegations that are being peddled by Uson's group.

Protest caravan

A protest caravan led by Kilusang Mayo Uno was held by different progressive groups last October 30, in conjunction with the arraignment of the "Sta. Cruz 5" who were arrested last October 15. The five detained activists are National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Adelberto Silva, Hedda Calderon, Ireneo Atadero, Ediciel Legazpi and Julio Lusania.

The groups criticized the arrest and demanded the immediate release of the five detained. They also added that the cases filed against them are fabricated, particularly that of "illegal possession of firearms and explosives," because the military and police operatives only planted guns and grenade in the victims' vehicle at the time of their arrest.

'Die-in protest'

Last October 25, a "die-in protest" was conducted in front of Iglesia Filipina Independiente National Cathedral in Taft Avenue, Manila to decry the 13 massacres perpetrated under the Duterte regime.

Groups led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Metro Manila lit candles and laid down across the road to depict the killings under his regime.

Based on Karapatan's documentation, 13 massacres were recorded under the Duterte administration since 2016. Among these are the massacre of Lumad peasants in Lake Sebu last 2017, the killing of 7 Tausug youths in Patikul, Sulu last September and the brutal murder of the 9 farmers in Sagay last October. AB

Cultural work in the revolutionary base

Two militia members warmly welcomed the comrades who visited a guerrilla front in the Bicol region last October. After a few minute trek, they were greeted by a platoon commander of the New People's Army with firm handshakes.

Ka Leon, one of the militias, and the platoon commander Ka Bager are both former members of a cultural group in Barangay Lemon. The comrades formed the group 15 years ago. After more than a decade, scores of youth and their elders have become outstanding members of the revolution moulded by revolutionary cultural work in the barrio and its nearby villages.

Sometime in 2002, the leading Party committee in the area deployed a team to form cultural groups in the barrios. This team was integrated within the NPA and participated in the daily task of the people's army. During that time, the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) had just been organized in these barrios. A campaign to lower deductions imposed by compradors on coconut products was then also recently started.

These activities coincided with the formation of the first cultural group. The first piece rehearsed by the members was specifically created for the campaign. They replaced the lyrics of a mainstream popular song with progressive lyrics and choreographed its dance steps. Ka Jabi, one of the organizers, said, "the cultural group's performances in activities related to the campaign were intended not only to entertain a tired audience, but also to highlight the people's culture."

This is the same reason why the founders found it easy to organize their pioneer members. Most of those invited to the group were young children of PKM members. The members' ages range from eight to 18. Aside from being inclined to singing and dancing, the youngsters also understood the struggle of the residents of their village and other neighboring barrios.



Alongside the victory of the struggle of coconut farmers in the cluster of barrios, the group was able to reach out to residents in other areas. Soon enough, they were invited to perform in fiestas and schools. For several times, they were also invited to perform over the radio. Moreover, the group always performs during events held inside the guerrilla zone.

Ka Jabi clarified that the group's tasks are not limited to playing music, singing and dancing. "They were organized into a chapter of Kabataang Makabayan. Meetings are not only meant for rehearsals, but also for National Democratic School educational discussions, planning and others." Included in their main study program are the orientation on revolutionary cultural work, and writings of Mao and Sison on culture. On the organizing aspect, the youngsters themselves volunteer in inviting their village mates, classmates and peers from neighboring barangays.

When the group was organized, two of its members were also part of the local Party branch, making it easy for the group to be guided and managed. In recent years, administration of the group was transferred to the Party Section Committee. Even when the NPA unit and the organizers are in the area, the groups rehearse by themselves.

Over the past years, the members have become equipped with the ability to conceptualize creative movements for their performances through workshops.

More than ten cultural groups have been formed in the guerrilla zone of their front. Most of those recruited to these are the youth, with some cultural groups that are composed of mothers and the elderly. Ka Jabi shared that recently, when they printed out shirts for the group in the cluster of Barangay Lemon, they were able to count more than a hundred current and former members.

Some of the groups were organized after individuals approached the organizers to seek assistance in forming their group. In other towns where organizers were deployed, playing music and songs have been effective. Ka Jabi added, "in new areas, we only started with playing the guitar and singing. The masses know for whom the comrades' songs are dedicated. Discussions always come after these." Because of the peasant masses' inclination towards singing, they are often serenaded by comrades with revolutionary songs.

Once, a mother who was a member of the local parish choir assisted in arranging the voices of the singing group of which her child

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Building the Party in Peryo



This article is a contribution by Party members in the National Capital Region to Ang Bayan's (AB) series featuring outstanding experiences on Party branch building in various fields of revolutionary work. AB's editors encourage all Party committees to contribute to this series by submitting their featured stories.

Gem has been working in Peryo for 12 years, a known food manufacturing company in Metro Manila, when she was dismissed from work along with fellow workers because they asked for just wages and regularization.

The company where Gem was working has 500 employees. Majority are contractual workers and only receive wages below the minimum. The company does not provide benefits such as 13th month pay, holiday pay, service incentive leave pay, PHilHealth, PAG-IBIG and SSS. They were even deprived of meal

breaks during 12 to 14 hours of work.

Aside from low wage and lack of benefits, they also endure dangerous working conditions. Just like any other factory reducing costs, the company does not provide safety equipment. Everyday, workers inhale poisonous chemicals used

to make their products. When accidents or sickness befall workers, the management is quick to hide the incidents and refuse to provide treatments for the victims.

Their working conditions seem to be management's most hidden secret. But eventually, their maltreatment was exposed. When the workers took steps to expose their situation, the management suspended them and accused them of sabotaging factory operations.

There was a workers' union which, however, tolerated the company's inhumane treatment of its workers. Worse, their union leaders are in cohorts with the

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is a member. "We were surprised when we heard them sing the Internationale with blending voices," Ka Jabi enthusiastically recalled. In the barrio pertained to by Ka Jabi, nine members of the group joined the people's army together.

Cultural groups have produced a number of individuals who eventually became fulltime NPA members and active members of the local Party branch. One of the founding members, Ka Raul, is currently a cadre of the Section Committee and a member of the local guerrilla unit. Ka Bager's other siblings, who were also his batchmates in the group, are active members of mass organizations.

How was revolutionary fervor instilled among its members? "Revolutionary culture transforms our methods of thinking, standpoint and action," said Ka Jabi. "The cultural groups' decades of existence has taught its members to be critical. Even in watching television and listening to the radio, the youngsters can distinguish between what is true and not, right and wrong. Even inside the family and the village, members handle problems correctly, for example, by criticizing a parent

who is into vice, or enlightening a fellow youth's wrong impressions of the group."

Also a big factor in shaping the group's revolutionary stand is frequent integration with the people's army. They are witnesses to the nature and tasks of the NPA, thereby encouraging them to enlist at the right age.

Although the members also appreciate bourgeois songs, they mindfully play revolutionary and progressive songs, especially when they gather for rehearsals. Likewise, performing has been very effective in helping the peasant masses' bashfulness. Because of the performances, members are trained from childhood to deal with people. This enhances their ability in undertaking even greater tasks in the revolution such as conducting discussions, confronting landlords, commanding the army and others.

Launching sports competitions is also included in the program of the Party committee. In recent years, basketball tournaments have been held in two adjacent clusters of barrios. At one point, youngsters from a neighboring guerrilla front even visited and joined the compet-

ition.

Current challenges for Ka Jabi and the comrades, aside from sustaining the groups, include raising the level of their performances. The comrades noted that in recent batches, children often become timid upon reaching adolescence. The organizers realized that their performance pieces must also adapt to the performers, and not only the audience. This is why their recent pieces now incorporate rap music, hip-hop dance and other contemporary elements, like the spoken word poetry to catch the interest of the youth. On the other hand, performances like concerts and skits or short plays are still popular to the masses and are still staged.

Cultural work in the guerrilla front will flourish, especially since the groups' rich experience is set to be summed up. The cluster, to which Barangay Lemon belongs, has more than 40 members already. Many more express their interest to join the groups, said Ka Jabi. These cultural groups will remain a deep well of members like Ka Raul, Ka Bager, Ka Leon and the scores of others who are shaping revolutionary culture in the countryside. **AB**

"Peryo...", from page 11

management and sell off their struggles. In the middle of the year, more workers were laid off. This pushed the workers to unite and launch protests. Eventually, they organized their underground revolutionary organization to strengthen their struggle.

Surge of struggles

At the beginning of their fight, a few workers become enlightened and in contact with the revolutionary forces. They studied their present conditions in contrast to the profits of the capitalist. From here they learned of the company's high rate of exploitation.

Their fight for a wage increase and regularization became much more justified. Based on their discussions, monthly salaries of regular and contractual employees differ by 40%. About 60% which should have been given to the contractuales end up as the company's profit. This gap is felt deeply by the workers especially during these times of surging prices of goods and basic services.

It is easy for the workers to come up with the factory's profit based on its capability to pay personalities charging expensive rates for their advertisements and endorsements. "They can pay movie stars and celebrities, but they cannot pay fairly the workers who make their products," exclaimed Gem.

As their struggle progressed, the workers faced legal proceedings to campaign their demand for better working conditions. Through their discussions, the Party branch clarified that the legal aspect of their struggle only serves as complementary to their struggle in the streets, and this is why they need to intensify other forms of protests.

Carrying the lessons from the revolutionary workers' movement, they fought for their rights and consciously utilized the opportunity not only to benefit their work and attain their demands, but also to aggressively increase membership.

Their picket protest is the key.

From a handful of members, their recruitment increased by 350% during the time of their campaign.

At the same time, they endured harassment, intimidation, surveillance and threats from the management and police forces. Private guards also threatened them with violent dispersals. The workers are fully aware that their fight is not only with the capitalist, but also against the laws and policies of the reactionary state.

Being aware of revolutionary struggle

For Gem, her illegal dismissal is a small sacrifice for bigger victories that the workers and the people wanted to attain. Since the first day that she and her co-workers were retrenched, she offered her entire time in arousing and explaining the need for revolution.

She is not alone. In fact, 30% of the workers in Peryo are now full time activists.

Their association was organized during the first quarter of 2018 as a result of workers' party section expansion work in the nearby factory. Along with the growing clamor for regularization, the workers were able to swiftly expand and launch campaigns. Party recruitment was also conducted at the same time.

Even though the Party branch was still fledgling, members are actively recommending new targets. They gather their target recruits and ensure they complete a study program.

The workers realized the correctness of their struggle even more as the campout movement advanced under the guidance of the regional Party organ. They met and were able to relate with other workers from other unions which have the same conditions as them.

Carrying the lessons of rectification and the actual difficulties they experience as workers, they were able to make fellow workers



promptly complete the basic courses and key documents. For them, these lessons serve as beacons of truth.

Since factories are near their homes, the newly-honed revolutionary workers join other workers' struggles in nearby factories. They also attend demonstrations in city centers.

Since the establishment of their Party branch, they were also able to expand to neighboring factories. This is one of Gem's primary task now.

"I am very happy and the introduction of the Party to me is very positive. I regret the years that passed that I was not able to know the organization, but right now I believe that the workers need to join the revolution to push for a society which serves the oppressed," said Gem.

At the moment, the workers are intensively planning on how to speed up and efficiently deepen their proficiency in ideology, because they understand fully that studying theory is key and an accompaniment to strong and triumphant practice.

The workers acknowledge the need for a firm grasp of correct analyses of all aspects of society. In fact, discussions are held almost on a daily basis regarding the state's oppression of workers and they always keep on finding ways on how to practice the lessons they learned. **AB**

Where does the intelligence funds of the regime go?

Based on the recently released yearly report for 2017 of the Commission on Audit (COA) of the reactionary government, the funds allotted in the "confidential, intelligence, and extraordinary and miscellaneous expenses" more than double in 2017 from 2016,

This allocation is also called "black budget" because despite being public funds, the offices and agencies using the money are not obliged to submit reports of its spending.

According to the report, the budget ballooned to P8.98 billion in 2017 from P4.44 billion in 2016, a 101.78% increase, and was used in "confidential and intelligence expenses."

Almost three-fourths (3/4) of the fund was used by the three primary institutions of the reactionary government—the Office of the President (OP), which spent P2.515 billion; the Department of National Defense (DND), spending P2.22 billion; and the Congress using P1.797 billion.

On paper, the funds are used for intelligence operations but more than this, it serves as personal kitty for the president and military officials to spend it on their discretion.

Ballooning secret

Based on data from the Department of Budget and Management

from 2016-2018, Duterte has spent P16.45 billion of the secret and intelligence funds. This is 92% more than the entire expenses of the Aquino regime from 2010-2015.

This 2018, the budget for intelligence has reached P8.08 billion, four times more compared to the P1.58 billion allocation starting 2016. In 2019, the budget is at P6.28 billion.

The Office of the President's black budget is the largest. At the beginning of Duterte's term, it had a P500 million black budget. This 2018, it ballooned to P2.5 billion. The funds' use are directly approved by the president and he is the only one who receives a report on how the money is spent.

Because of the secretive nature of the budget, this multi-billion funding is open for abuse. In fact, one of the cases filed against former president and current House Speaker Gloria Arroyo is the misuse of P325 million black budget under the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office in the last three years of her term.

Several reports have shown that

funding for internet trolls and fake news fabricators are from this hidden part of the regime's budget.

In a report by Oxford Internet Institute, there are 400-500 personnel of the regime who are full-time manufacturers of fake social accounts and fake news and the individual contracts they acquire from the reactionary government costs not less than P10.5 million each. Several experts are claiming that its funding comes from the black budget.

Clas\$ified

The use and existence of the black budget is a direct influence of the imperialist US. In the US, allotment of billions of funds for secret spending is always under debate.

Included in the known usage of US' black budget are espionage, and other activities against other countries, manufacturing of new armaments and bombs, and recently, "astroturfing" or funding of troll accounts in social media and other ways to control public opinion, which they consider as part of "offensive cyberoperations." In reality, the US is spreading these cyberoperations by training experts under its military exercises in semicolonies including the Philippines. The black budget is also the source of funds for developing various forms of torture. AB



Police crimes against women escalate

UNDER THE DUTERTE regime, police crimes against the people, particularly women, are escalating. Police personnel are emboldened to exploit and oppress women further due to Duterte's misogyny.

In a study by the Center for Women's Resources (CWR) last October, 56 police personnel are involved in 33 cases of exploiting women and children since the start of Duterte's term. Half of these are rape cases, while 13 are crimes committed under the "war on drugs." Most recently, the rape of the 15-year old daughter of a suspected drug user by a police officer was exposed. Another 11-year old girl was sexually harassed by four policemen during an anti-drug operation.

The police commit unabated abuses, according to CWR, because they are assured of immunity. In fact, the

state has acted on only one case. Majority of the complaints are junked or do not proceed to the filing of cases.

Duterte is directly responsible for these crimes. He outrightly encourages the police, including the military, not only to violate the rights of the people, but to kill them. In several instances, he ordered them to shoot suspected drug users and dealers and plant evidence against them. Duterte grants his protection to the police and military, including rapists and murderers of children. He even awards some of them with money and promotions. AB