

Tactical Offensives | page 4



Marcos Jr. and Duterte stumble further towards international isolation | Page 10



Creating freedom and writing the future for our children | Page 12



More inside

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY-MARCH 2024



Editorial | page 2

**VICTORY IS THE ONLY OUTCOME
OF THE EPIC PEOPLE'S WAR!**

Victory is the only outcome of the epic people's war!

March 29, 2024 is the 55th anniversary of the New People's Army. For the past 55 years our Red fighters have fought the people's enemy with courage and honor. They are the beloved warriors of the masses. We salute their valor, render the highest honor and tribute to the revolutionary martyrs and heroes of the New People's Army, and offer our deepest gratitude for the sacrifices they have given to triumph against the enemy.

The enemy always aims to destroy the revolutionary movement and halt the surge of people's struggle. But no coercive instrument of the state, no matter how brutal and fascistic, can stop the people from fighting for a new social system. It is the brutal violence and intolerable burden of exploitation and oppression by the comprador big bourgeoisie, landlords and monopoly capitalists that drive the masses to persist in the struggle.

The greed of foreign and domestic capitalists dehumanizes the workers, peasants and all toiling masses. The violence of exploitation and oppression against the masses that persists day after day, and the criminal disregard for their abject poverty legitimize the justness of the people's war and thus must be supported. The Filipino people commit themselves to armed revolution not because they glorify wars. They commit to it because they understand that it is only through

armed struggle that their aspirations for a just, developed, and progressive society will be fulfilled. For more than five decades, the revolutionaries and the masses have withstood the onslaughts of the enemy. The hardships and sacrifices of the Filipino people and their army have built a strong foundation for the advance of the national democratic revolution and the creation of the People's Democratic Government.

Imperialism and the local reactionaries may seem like a formidable foe. But we have the people on the side of revolution and once aroused, organized, and mobilized in their millions, they become an invincible force. It is the responsibility of the revolutionary movement to continue arousing, organizing and mobilizing the people wherever they are.

Despite the huge number of the enemy forces, weaponry and heavy support from US imperialism, the revolutionary movement has been able to counter and defeat every strategic counterrevolutionary plan implemented by the regimes from Marcos Sr to Duterte. The current Marcos Jr. regime's "oplans" will suffer the same fate.

The participation and support of the masses for the revolution are unwavering. Additionally, the revolutionary forces abroad, including Filipino migrants,



are greatly inspired by the sacrifices of the New People's Army. Many have expressed their desire to fight alongside the people's warriors.

Indubitably, the boundless courage and daringness of the masses and revolutionary forces in the face of sharpening class contradictions shall be kept in the treasure chest of stories that inspire the revolutionary movement's continued advance.

Rectification and Resurgence

Building on its achievements and founded on the strong support of the fighting masses, the Party has embarked on a rectification movement to address its weaknesses and errors and advance the people's war to even greater heights. This rectification movement strengthens and unites the Party and the people along the correct revolutionary line and steels the fighting will and capabilities of the masses and the people's army to face the enemy. History has shown that revolution advances when rectification is undertaken to correct errors and implement tasks to further advance the people's war, and to prevent deviations from the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism that guide the people's democratic revolution.

Resurgence in all aspects of work for the revolution results from the rectification by the revolutionary movement. Analyzing and summing-up our work, correcting errors and putting stress on what must immediately be done will energize comrades to fulfill their responsibilities and tasks.

People's war is a necessary undertaking in the building of the People's Democratic Government that responds to the needs of the masses. The old social order must be destroyed in order to build upon its rubble and ashes a just, equitable, and pro-people system of governance. Ours is a just war and the people's war of the Filipino people is bound for victory! ☭

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial: Victory is the only outcome of the epic people's war! | Page 2

Tactical Offensives | Page 4

A woman's place is in the struggle | Page 6

New attempt at "Cha-Cha" exposes GRP's rotten political and economic system | Page 7

People's War Not Constitutional Change is the True Answer to the Filipino People's Problems | Page 9

Marcos Jr. and Duterte stumble further towards international isolation | Page 10

Creating freedom and writing the future for our children | Page 12

Ka Joma Lives! Study Movement: Immortalizing Ka Joma's Legacy | Page 15

'Women who struggle are women who can never be defeated': Remembering the life of Kamil "Ka Alex" Manangan | Page 16

Hardtalk: 'We are not for a 'restart' but for a resumption of peace negotiations' | Page 18

Statement of Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (MAKIBAKA) on International Working Women's Day, March 8, 2024 | Page 19

Ka Joma Lives! Study Movement: Immortalizing Ka Joma's Legacy | Page 21

NPA units welcome the year with series of tactical offensives, ambush operations against AFP in Rizal, Masbate and Negros | Page 23

Poem: The Guerilla Is Like a Poet | Page 24

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people's struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

EDITORIAL BOARD
Ma. Lourdes Barros
Hugo Francisco
Jose Emilio Jacinto III
Ricardo Lozano
Raya Andres - Montañosa
Ana Rosario

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL is a publication of the NDFP International Office

Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513 AG, Utrecht,
The Netherlands

Email us at contact@ndfp.org

Tactical Offensives

By Raya Andres - Montañosa

"[T]he NPA makes them suffer casualties and defeats through ambushes, raids, arrest operations, demolition work and other forms of sabotage. The enemy is like a big monster that cannot protect its body parts and is bleeding to death from many wounds."

— Jose Maria Sison, 2021

"Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

— Mao Tse Tung, 1927

In 2023, the New People's Army (NPA) launched numerous victorious tactical offensives causing the fascist enemy to bleed with a thousand cuts.

Recently, the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of NPA - Rizal successfully ambushed the operating troops of the 80th IBPA in Lukutang Malaki, Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal. More tactical offensives are certainly in the offing.

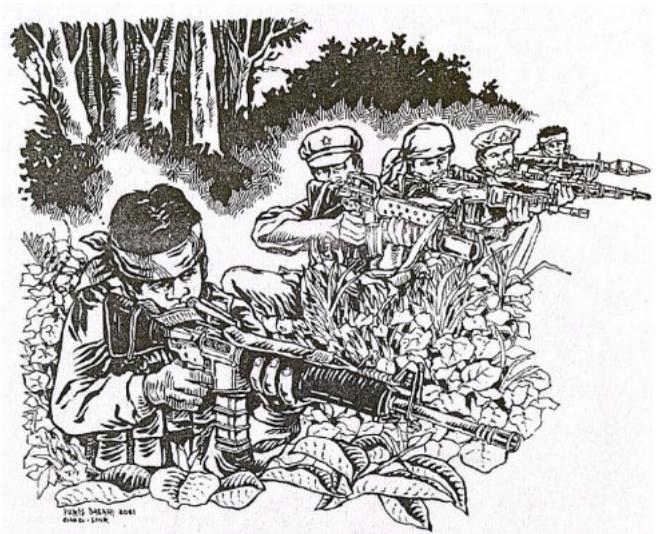
How does the NPA, thus, prepare for a tactical offensive? Liberation International, on the occasion of the New People's Army's 55th anniversary, interviewed a Red fighter to delve into the process of mounting an offensive.

Pre-tactical offensive

Before any tactical offensive (TO) is launched, it is meticulously planned wherein several crucial elements are primarily taken into account, such as political gain, the masses' gain, social investigation and class analysis and the masses' readiness.

Based on these considerations, the responsible command determines which kind of offensive befits the masses' and the NPA's capacities, existing political situation and other security aspects.

A tactical offensive takes months to prepare, depending on the size of an operation. For instance, big, annihilative offensives entail a longer preparation as it involves orientation and consolidation of forces, stockpiling, and identifying areas to retreat, to name a few. When it comes to small actions, a 'window of opportunity', for example, the enemy passes by an area at a given time, prompts swift preparations.



It also depends on the masses. Their determination and assertion can contribute to a swifter preparation. More importantly, without the masses' unwavering support, there would never be a successful tactical offensive. They play a pivotal role in the entire process—from preparing the place, determining the places to retreat, ensuring sufficient food and supply, investigating the security situation, and monitoring the movement of the enemy, to knowing when to strike.

In carrying out all these tasks, the people's militia units, who act as local NPA units in the barrio, along with the self-defense units of revolutionary mass organizations are also mobilized.

Actual tactical offensive

In all tactical offensives, every Red fighter deals with a lot of tension and a lot of things play in their minds which is but natural. The NPA though knows how to handle the situation well. They lift each other's morale, and keep themselves focused on their objective.

During the actual tactical offensive, a great deal of time is spent lying in wait, which can last up to three days or even longer.

Once the operation is mounted, two things can happen—either it is successful or not.

Primarily, a successful TO is measured by the extent of damage inflicted on the enemy or the enemy's reduced fighting capability. The impact on the enemy is, thus, more important than the sheer number of enemy casualties. To illustrate, it is successful if a sizable number of arms are seized from the enemy or if they lose their morale, even if it is a minor tactical offensive, yielding minimal or zero enemy casualties.

Contrarily, the effect is the opposite if it is not successful. If this happens (and in any situation), the most important thing to do is to assess the results to form an objective analysis of the circumstances and to draw lessons. Also, it is important to make the masses understand the lessons from their own experiences, regardless of the results of a tactical offensive.

Aborting or stopping a tactical offensive can also happen. One of the main reasons is the extent of harm to the masses and the NPA. This usually happens when the social investigation is incomplete, or the analysis of the data gathered is wrong. Hence, the importance of conducting a thorough study and analysis to collect information on the enemy's movements, their stop points, the right time to strike them and their vulnerabilities, among others.

Post-tactical offensive

When a tactical offensive is successful, the masses certainly celebrate it. Oftentimes, even the masses who live far from the revolutionary mass base are delighted upon hearing such successes. Resounding and victorious tactical offensives have beneficial effects both on the organized and non-organized masses.

Whether an NPA operation is successful or not, enemy retaliation is always expected. If they can no longer pursue the retreating NPA, they are likely to retaliate against the masses. Even in the preparatory stage, the NPA and the masses prepare for retaliation by ensuring that the masses are ready to face the enemy's threats, intimidation, and harassment. In the areas where there are organs of political power, revolutionary mass organizations prepare for these retaliatory actions through role-playing. Under any circumstances, the masses must realize that safeguarding each other and refusing any attempt to separate them from their community is vital to protecting every one of them.

As for the NPA, the most important thing to do during the retreat is to get the masses' intelligence reports on enemy movements. It is paramount to know, for instance, the enemy's entry point. If the enemy enters the area, the masses communicate this to the NPA immediately.

Sometimes, when the NPA retreats after a bigger offensive, there is a team that stays behind to delay or deliver another heavy blow to the enemy. The enemy, who usually retaliates to exact revenge, is most vulnerable during this time.

The masses are again actively involved in this process. After a tactical offensive, the masses know that the red fighters are tired and hungry. So, they carry their things and keep safe the materials and some arms that are used for the operation, as well as prepare and serve them food. Next to giving intelligence reports, they also get rid of any trace of NPA presence during the retreat to prevent the enemy from locating the NPA. ☠



A woman's place is in the Struggle

On the occasion of the International Working Women's Day on March 8 and the 55th anniversary of the New People's Army, Liberation International offers women Red fighters' insights on building a revolutionary family in the context of waging an armed revolution.

Ka M: "As a mother, I try to attend to my child's needs while fulfilling my duties as a Red fighter. At the same time, we give our full trust to the masses to ensure the safety of our children and that their needs are met."

"As partners, my husband and I are assigned to different guerilla units located far away from each other most of the time. Thus, we make sure that our requests for visits and reunions are put forward to our respective collectives in a timely manner."

Ka Mabini: "First of all, it must be recognized that society puts a heavy pressure on women, especially mothers, that they must be responsible for their children. Especially among the ranks of Red fighters, we must overcome this preconceived notion dictated by society that the woman, the mother is confined only to reproductive roles. In this sense, it is important to understand that the woman's place is in the struggle."

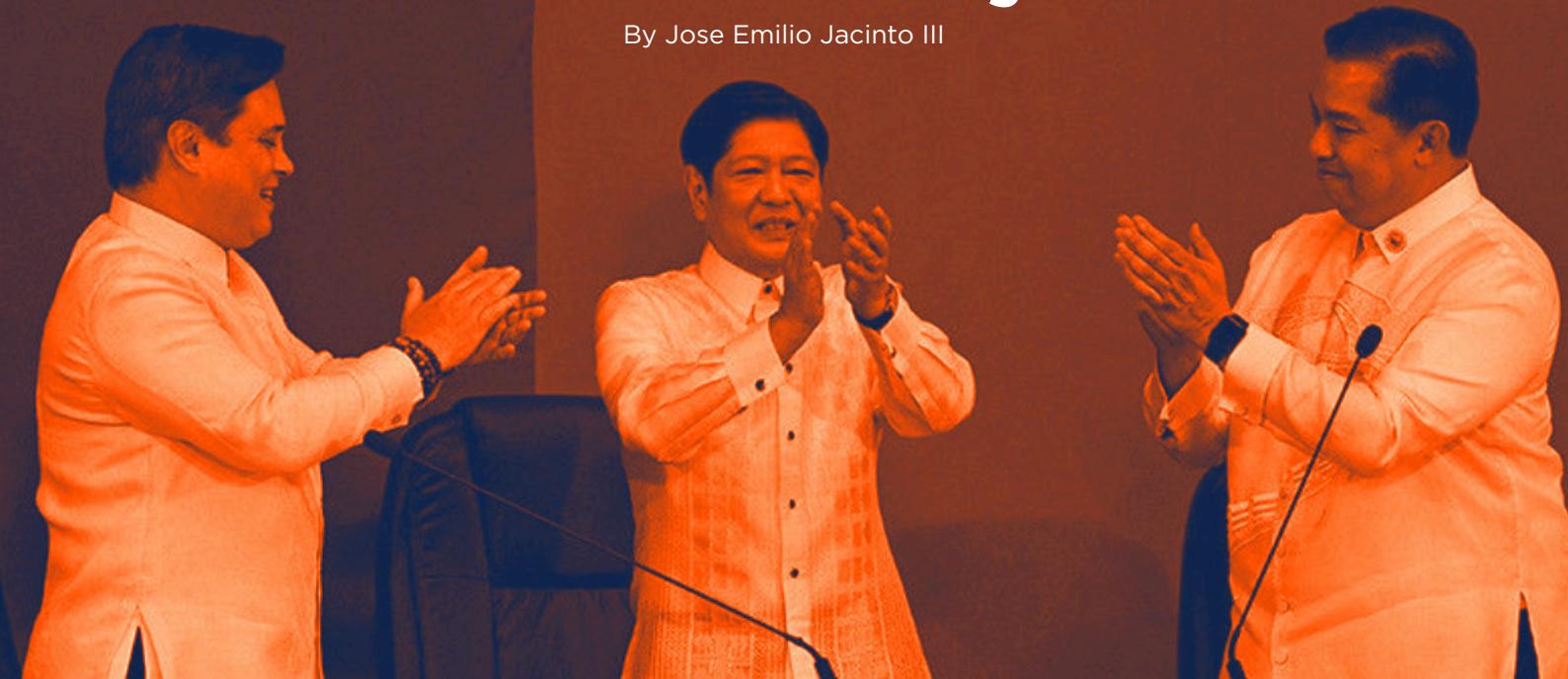
For a Red fighter, it is not only your own child's welfare that counts when it comes to decision-making. As an NPA and Party member, we serve the revolution to secure the future not only of our own children but for Philippine society as a whole. Most of the time, we cannot be with our children, who are usually taken care of by the masses since we are in the midst of a people's war.

Any NPA member has the right to have a family, but it is important to put this in the context of waging a revolution. This means that we are in the context of war where the NPA's duty as well as the welfare of the Party and the entire revolutionary movement prevail over and guide the process of raising a revolutionary family." ☩



New attempt at “Cha-Cha” exposes GRP’s rotten political and economic system

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III



Another attempt to change the 1987 GRP constitution (charter change or cha-cha) is currently underway and has been triggering unrest among the people and within the rotten ruling system.

Cha-cha's have been attempted by every GRP regime after Cory Aquino. The 1987 Constitution was framed precisely to prevent another Marcos dictatorship (the GRP president is limited to one six-year term). Despite its reactionary character, the 1987 GRP Constitution has a clear commitment to patriotism and social justice, and it declared the Philippines nuclear-free.

These attempts followed the same script and ended in failure because of the preeminence of the selfish political objectives of those holding power to perpetuate themselves.

The move to change the constitution began a few weeks ago in early January 2024, when a nondescript YouTube video was posted poking fun at the 1986 “EDSA people power revolution,” which ousted the fascist dictator Ferdinand Marcos, father of Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

A so-called people's initiative started a week later, collecting signatures from the barrios and communities to amend certain provisions in the 1987 constitution, which cha-cha proponents blame as the cause of the country's underdevelopment. A people's initiative is a

scheme that purportedly allows Filipinos to directly propose amendments to the Constitution, without requiring congressional action.

A joint House and Senate resolution has been filed to form both chambers into a constituent assembly to amend several articles in the GRP constitution allowing foreigners full ownership of public utilities, educational institutions, and advertising, among others.

However, progressive people's organizations, political opposition, and the church have argued and stood strongly against cha-cha's revival. They assert that far from being the solution to the Philippines' underdevelopment, it is in fact being railroaded to extend the term limit of Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

According to Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), this revival of cha-cha is no different from the attempts of previous regimes to use it for their selfish political ambitions. The cha-cha revival is in fact initiated by Marcos Jr.'s cousin, Speaker of the House of Representatives Martin Romualdez, who reportedly spent Php20M per district (about USD350,000) to buy the signatures of the people. The Philippines has around 253 congressional districts.

Bayan argues that apart from its ultimate goal of removing term limits of elected officials, cha-cha will

further open the economy to foreign plunder and exploitation and the return of permanent US military bases in the Philippines. According to Bayan, this is the reason why the US is also behind the Marcos Jr. government in this initiative.

Blaming the 1987 constitution for the roots of the country's problems is covering-up the reality of unbridled bureaucratic corruption, feudal and semifeudal exploitation and imperialist control of the political and economic system of the country, Bayan emphasizes.

The GRP has been consistent in covering up these problems when talking peace with the revolutionary movement and blaming the armed resistance as the cause of the country's poverty and underdevelopment. It has tried to trip the revolutionary movement to surrender to the GRP constitution. In fact, the cha-cha attempts show that the GRP wants to mutilate its own constitution.

During the 38th anniversary of the EDSA uprising, thousands marched in the Philippines and overseas to protest Marcos Jr.'s scheme to change the charter. They organized a broad network opposed to changing the 1987 Constitution, which bans political dynasties, sets term limits for public officials and provides other

guarantees to ensure that the state has "checks and balances," and prohibits 100% foreign ownership of land, key infrastructure, strategic industries and facilities in the Philippines.

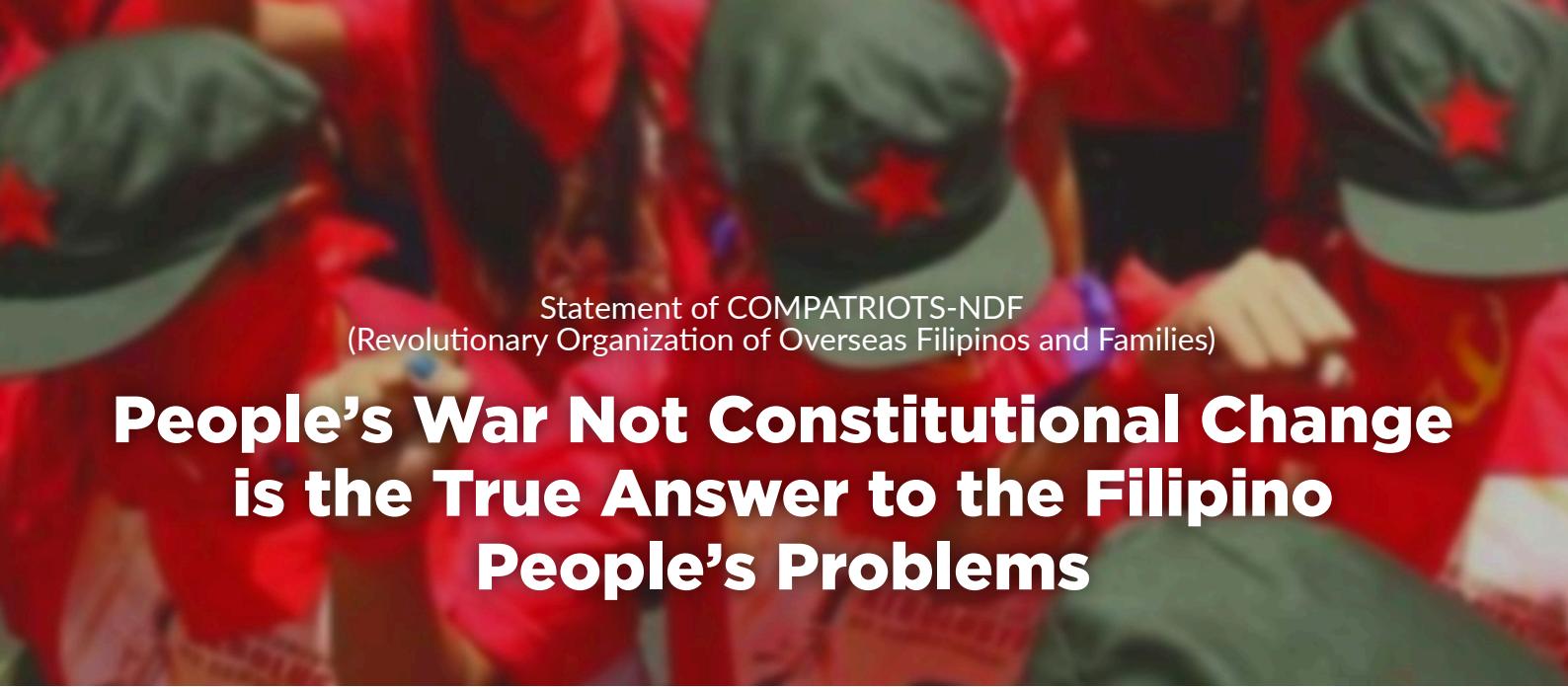
The broad opposition network against cha-cha also asserted that instead of focusing on wrecking the constitution, the GRP should address the people's demands for wage increases, lower prices, and better social services.

They also called for resolving the anomalous 2022 elections which installed Marcos Jr. and Duterte.

As the Marcos Jr. regime remains determined to push for cha-cha despite the failures of previous attempts and amidst the Filipino people's resistance, the people's militant democratic movement and its political allies must intensify their vigilance in opposing and fighting further moves of the regime to perpetuate itself in power and allow further imperialist intrusion into the country's economy and politics.

This current push for cha-cha has only exposed the ruling bureaucrat capitalists' drive to perpetuate themselves in power, further sell the country's sovereignty and integrity to imperialists, and desecrate the people's fundamental rights and freedoms. 





Statement of COMPATRIOTS-NDF
(Revolutionary Organization of Overseas Filipinos and Families)

People's War Not Constitutional Change is the True Answer to the Filipino People's Problems

COMPATRIOTS-NDF, the revolutionary organization of Filipinos overseas and a member of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), believes that the Philippine Constitution is a worthless piece of paper that legitimizes and justifies oppression and exploitation of the Filipino people in a semicolonial, semifeudal society ruled by US imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism and feudalism.

All Constitutions (1934 and 1943) that had been in effect since the United States' creation of a so-called Philippine Commonwealth, then followed by the Philippine Republic, were imposed on the Filipino people to legitimize its neocolonial rule. The 1973 Constitution or Marcos Constitution, which replaced the pre-WWII constitutions, made President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. a one-man ruler. The constitution that Marcos implemented made him a dictator and allowed him to stay in power longer through the declaration of Martial Law.

The Filipino people's anti-dictatorship struggle led to the ouster of Marcos in 1986, paving the way for the Corazon Aquino government and its 1987 Constitution, which included some favorable provisions such as the ban on nuclear and foreign military bases, limiting foreign ownership to 40%, anti-political dynasty and term limits for elected officials including the president. These provisions had been the subject of many devious attempts by previous puppet regimes to amend them.

Marcos Jr. and his allies in his ruling class faction are behind the moves to revise the 1987 Constitution. He aims to tinker with this piece of paper with changes that will enthrone his family and cronies once more in perpetuity

while ensuring the support of US imperialism by allowing the latter and its allies to plunder our resources and complete the annexation of the Philippine archipelago as its military base in the looming inter-imperialist shooting war with China.

The oppressed and exploited classes and sectors of the Philippine society have all the reasons to oppose Marcos Jr.'s Charter Change. Compatriots-NDF believes that the people's opposition against Charter Change is growing and will succeed as it is linked and raised to the anti-imperialist, anti-bureaucrat capitalist, and anti-fascist struggle.

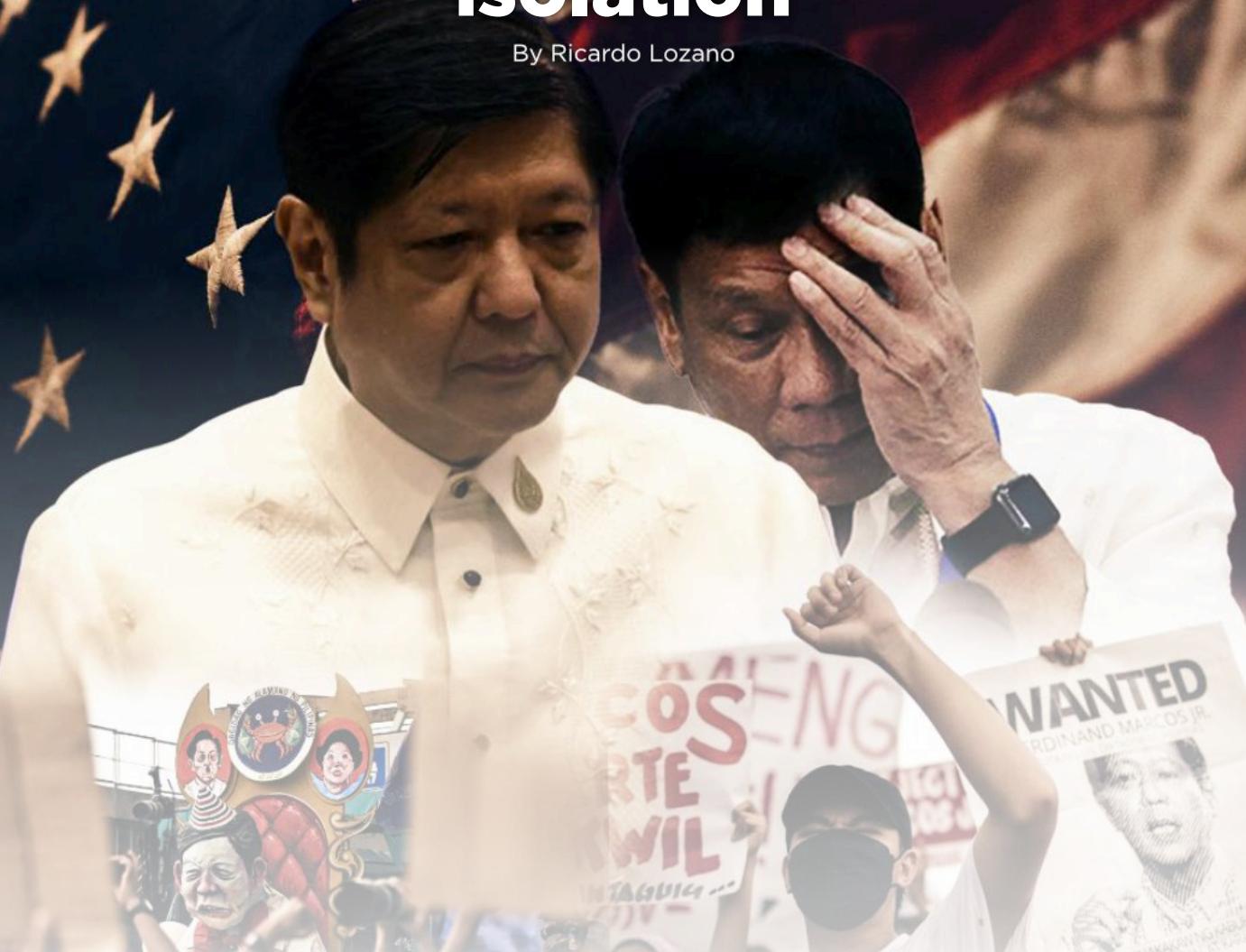
We call on the Filipino People to expose and oppose the Marcos Jr. Regime as US imperialism's new tyrant at the helm of the puppet government of the Philippines. Any changes to the current 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines only aim to consolidate and perpetuate the power of the ruling classes of bourgeois compradors, big landlords, and the bureaucrat capitalist state, and favor the continued plunder and war-mongering agenda of its US imperialist master.

No amendment to the current neocolonial Constitution will provide relief or salvation to the Filipino masses from poverty, destitution, and oppression. The Filipino people's national democratic revolution is the only and true solution to the fundamental economic, political, and socio-cultural problems of the Filipino people.

Onward with the People's War!
Defeat Imperialism!
Advance the People's Democratic Revolution!

Marcos Jr. and Duterte stumble further towards international isolation

By Ricardo Lozano



Last February 29, Australian Greens Senator Janet Rice boldly held a "Stop Human Rights Abuses" placard in front of Marcos Jr. during his address to the Australian Parliament. In her address to the Australian Senate, Rice stated, "The action I took in the House today was deliberate, and it was powerful...I was appalled that President Marcos Jr. was given the opportunity to address our parliament today...it is appalling that a human rights abuser, of a government of human rights abuses, that the President of that government was able to address our Parliament today."

Senator Rice's call out against the reactionary Marcos Jr. regime's human rights abuses, follows a string of international political blows against the Marcos Jr. and Duterte camps demonstrating their increasing isolation in the international community.

Earlier that same month, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression Irene Khan

castigated the Marcos Jr. regime's 'counterterrorism' strategy and recommended the abolition of the NTF-ELCAC (National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict). The NTF-ELCAC was created through Executive Order No. 70 signed by Duterte in 2018 and remains in effect under Marcos Jr.

Before Khan, Ian Fry, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, also recommended the dismantling of the notorious agency on November 2023, citing "private financial interests" as driving the NTF-ELCAC's operations.

In a 19-page letter released on October 10, 2023, six UN special rapporteurs asked the Marcos Jr. administration to explain cases of "judicial harassment, office raids and targeted financial sanctions" and

"seemingly unchecked powers" due to the Anti-Terror Act, which was passed into law during Duterte's time.

The UN experts expressed "serious concern about the seemingly broad and unchecked executive powers...particularly the discretion of the Anti-Terrorism Council to designate individuals and organizations as 'terrorists' and the Anti-Money Laundering Council to adopt targeted financial sanctions thereafter."

The letter was signed by Fionnuala Ni Aolain, special rapporteur on human rights while countering terrorism; Irene Khan, special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Mary Lawlor, special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; José Francisco Cali Tzay, special rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; and Nazila Ghanea, special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

In July 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected an attempt by the Duterte camp to block an investigation into the thousands killed during Duterte's so-called 'war on drugs.' Following the ICC's announcement, Marcos Jr. stated that his regime would not cooperate with the ICC investigations claiming the international court has no jurisdiction in the Philippines.

By refusing to cooperate with the ICC, Marcos Jr. lays bare his culpability in shielding the Duterte regime's reign of state terror that killed 30,000 people and victimized the Filipino toiling masses for six long years.

It can be recalled that this series of diplomatic incidents hounding the reactionary regime was preceded by a falling out between the Marcos Jr. and Duterte ruling factions. First triggered by conflict over the bureaucratic loot in the controversial 'confidential funds' of the Office of the Vice President (OVP) Sara Duterte (daughter of Rodrigo Duterte), the feud between the two ruling cliques has developed into expletive-laden exchanges. Earlier this year, Rodrigo Duterte called out Marcos Jr. for plotting to amend the constitution to lift the president's term limits. He also accused Marcos Jr. of being a drug addict. In turn, Marcos Jr. responded by saying Duterte was fond of using fentanyl, a powerful opioid drug.

The worsening crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines has not only sharpened the contradictions between the Marcos Jr. and Duterte ruling cliques but has also intensified the people's resistance against neoliberal offensives and increasing fascism by the current regime. The unprecedented level of crisis and repression unfolding is only bound to worsen Marcos Jr. and Duterte's isolation from the Filipino masses and from the international community. #



CREATING FREEDOM AND WRITING THE FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN

An interview with
Dahoud Shebab, Spokesperson of the
Islamic Jihad in Gaza

by the Liberation staff

Through the help of friends from the international media, the Liberation staff was able to send a set of questions to the Palestinian resistance movement based in Gaza. The questions focused on the reasons why the October 7 military action against Israeli forces was launched, the unity of various groups and forces in Palestine, the vision of a free Palestine, and the lessons the world could learn from the Palestinians as they wage their war of liberation and self-determination.

The Islamic Jihad is among the various groups within the Palestinian Forces Alliance, which includes Hamas, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Popular Struggle Front, Palestinian Liberation Front, Vanguard for the Popular Liberation War-Lighting Forces, and the Fatah Al-Intifada Movement.



Below is the transcript and translation of the video interview with Dahoud Shebab. Minor copy editing was done for this print version.

Liberation: What was the immediate trigger of the October 7 attack against the Israeli government? Is there a strategic goal behind this?

Dahoud Shebab (DS): October 7 was an expression of the angry Palestinian rejection of all forms of repression and terrorism by Israel over many years against the Palestinian people. October 7 is not isolated from the rest of the Palestinian resistance before October 7.

We must say that the Palestinian resistance is about defending its land and defending its people. The resistance is not a group of killers and killing in itself is not the goal. It is not to cause a state of destruction and ruins. Rather, it seeks to pressure the occupation and use legitimate means to raise its voice to the world and deliver its message, especially in the light of Israel's complete denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and the continued Israeli attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jerusalem, the West Bank; Israel's continuous violations of prisoners' rights; and the continuing siege of the Gaza Strip. All these were done by Israel without anyone in the world doing anything to stop them.

We have been warning and sending messages to mediators, all parties, and the United Nations that Israeli policies will lead to a major escalation and an explosion of the situation. Before, we witnessed great aggression by Israel. There was killing of Palestinians at checkpoints in the West Bank in cold blood. Every day there were victims. Did anyone look at those victims? No. No one looked.

Came October 7. The aim was to tell Israel and send a message to the whole world that the Palestinian resistance can cause instability if Israel continues its terrorism and aggression; and that it is not only the Palestinian people who will pay the price for Israel's crimes. Settlers, the whole region and the whole world may pay the price. All stability will be undermined if Israel continues its attacks.

L: Did you anticipate Israel's counter-attack to be in this magnitude?

DS: We are aware that Israel is a brutal, bloody and criminal state, especially this extremist government. We know what they can do. But we did not know that the Israeli government does not care about its prisoners and soldiers in the Gaza Strip. That it can even resort to killing them if only to ensure that this leadership or the Israeli fascist government achieves political and electoral gains in its internal competitions. Israel has even ignored the humanitarian calls made by the Palestinian resistance since day one of this battle for the release of civilian prisoners or civilian detainees for humanitarian reasons.

We have said this and called for it. Hamas has also called for it. However, Israel has not paid attention and has continued to carry out criminal and bloody bombing and destruction that has made victims even of Israeli civilians and foreign nationalities. Israel did not care at all for its civilian prisoners, not even the military personnel in the hands of the Palestinian resistance.

Indiscriminate and destructive shelling occurred whether there were Israeli prisoners, foreign nationals, or others. Entire neighborhoods were exterminated with its residents, civilians, or prisoners held by the Palestinian resistance. Israel showed no respect even for minimum humanitarian and moral values in the Gaza Strip, especially in the areas of Gaza governorate and in northern Gaza.

L: What is the vision of a free Palestine? What do you intend to do with Israeli residents who were already born and residing in Israel for so long?

DS: To be clear, all this land is for Palestinians and like any country in the world, when we take full rights and sovereignty over our land, then the government chosen by the Palestinian people can decide how to deal with foreign expatriates, whether Jews or non-Jews.

We have no problem with Jews; we have no problem with anyone. Our problem is with Israeli Zionists who occupied our land. We have positive and good relations

with many Jews in the world. They never believe in occupation. They reject the occupation. We have no problem with them.

The problem is with Israeli Zionists who came and occupied our land and established a state on our land. Now when we take the right to our land and be liberated, we can choose our own government. This government, like any government in the world, can decide on these nationals: grant them nationalities or not grant them.

The problem is that Israel is the occupier. We, therefore, treat the Israeli people as occupying our land. They are all occupiers, but upon our liberation, we will decide on it. Like any country in the world, you decide on it.

This matter applies to different countries of the world as well. Also, why is it permissible for a group of countries, such as NATO member states, to establish an alliance with each other and have joint defense agreement but other countries could not? This is a natural right that Palestine exercises when it, too, has entered an alliance with other countries such as Iran, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, and other countries or other powers, to support the cause of the Palestinian people.

L: An alliance of different resistance movements is now formed, are there other political forces working at a different direction? How was this unity achieved?

DS: We welcome any party that wants to support us as Palestinians and we will not stand against it. But it is important that there is no interference in our policies and in our method of work. That is, no one should intervene. The Palestinian resistance has independent positions and are not linked to any foreign agendas as claimed by the Israeli occupation and other countries that support it. We aim to achieve a more comprehensive Palestinian unity.

Today, we are more confident than ever before in our ability to achieve internal Palestinian reconciliation. The great plight of the Palestinian people today as a result of the Israeli aggression requires building true unity, especially as some countries are trying to interfere in our affairs and imposing the form and method of managing ourselves. We know how to manage ourselves and know how to decide our destiny. We will never accept interference from any external party.

Our Arab brothers have many things in common. We all are in consensus on what things may be like in the coming days, and we will not allow Israel to impose on us the form, administration, and method of governance in the next phase.

L: What could possibly threaten this unity?

DS: Israel is the constant threat to Palestinian unity.

Israel, which kills the sons of Fatah, the sons of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the PFLP (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and the DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine-Marxist Leninist organization) and kills all the Palestinian people in the West Bank. Israel is the most serious threat to internal Palestinian unity. It has always been a major obstacle to achieving Palestinian unity.

Today, everyone is fully aware that there is no future for a settlement with Israel and that Israel is a bloody, criminal, and terrorist entity. In the long term, we believe that this conviction will promote greater efforts to overcome internal political differences and lead to building a true Palestinian unity created by the Palestinians.

This is a right exercised by all occupied nations and subjected to aggression but won their independence at the end. There is no occupation that lasts forever, not in all human history. We seek our freedom.

Therefore, our vision is despite all Israeli threats our resistance will be further strengthened. Israel will not be able to end the resistance, because as long as there is an occupation, the resistance will remain. This is a natural thing, and we are confident that we are closer to victory.

L: The struggle of the Palestinians is now at the center stage of the world, gathering millions of supporters. Would you consider this a political victory?

DS: The whole world today is looking at the Palestinian people, the injustice done to them and the need for the Palestinian people to exercise their rights. We are committed to use all our rights throughout our land. This is what we hope to achieve.

Today, there is a great deal of empathy and support for the Palestinian people, including Arabs, foreigners and people of all races and ethnicities. There is great sympathy for the Palestinian cause. There is great support for the right of the Palestinian people to resist, regardless of the positions of the colonial countries.

We do not expect anything from Britain, for example, or the British government. Britain is known to be a colonizing country. France is a colonizing country. The United States of America is the main sponsor of all the chaos that prevails in the world. It created chaos in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Pakistan and in other countries. The American experiments—even when America wanted to create governments in its own mold—failed miserably and put these countries into misery, and their future became sorry and uncertain.

L: Having demonstrated the higher unity and capacity for waging this war of liberation, what are the prospects now?

DS: People always create their freedom with their own hands. Today, the Palestinian people have decided to create their freedom and write the future of their children by their own hands.

We defend the future of our children in future generations. They should live a decent, safe and stable life like other peoples of the world. But to

remain under siege and suffer the injustice practiced against us by Israel, and to remain hostage to the policies of starvation and killing -- all of this must stop.

Yes, today we are making great sacrifices. But these sacrifices will be a light of hope for a real bright future for the next generations.

Today, the world faces the test of whether to be loyal and honest with itself, and to take sides with these values and principles, which were the result of a great deal of wars and bloody, deadly and destructive conflicts.

L: What is your take on the role of Israel's allies and supporters?

DS: We must see the United States of America for what it really is. It is not a civilization, it has not created civilization, it has not created stability, but instead has created ways for itself to dominate the whole world. Today is the time for the world to be free from American domination, from slavery to the US dollar, and for the world to take sides with justice.

There can be no justice in the light of the continued occupation of the land of Palestine, the occupation of the Palestinian people, and the continued suffering of the Palestinian people among the other peoples of the world who are also suffering as a result of American and Western colonial policies.

The whole world is a victim of the policies of Europe and America's colonial policies. They plundered the world's wealth, destroyed the environment, destroyed the world economy, and dominated political affairs.

Today, there is a true awakening in many countries and peoples in the world, and must be strengthened and must continue. ☪



‘Women who struggle are women who can never be defeated’

Remembering the life of Kamil “Ka Alex” Manangan

by Atan Dominguez

Kamil “Ka Alex” Manangan was raised in a petty-bourgeois upbringing and a native of Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila. She studied Business Administration at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) where she actively participated in a young women students’ organization and engaged in political work among her fellow students.

During her organizing work in the urban area, Ka Alex quickly realized the necessity of the national democratic revolution and understood that armed struggle was the only means to fully liberate Philippine society.

She was among the many young revolutionaries who responded to the call of the Third Rectification Movement for the youth to join the armed revolution in the countryside. After attending the Party’s anniversary celebration in Batangas in 2016, she decided to stay in the New People’s Army for six months after which she committed to becoming a full-time Red fighter under the NPA-Batangas Eduardo Dagli Command.

Due to her exceptional skills, Ka Alex quickly rose through the ranks and became a political guide within her unit. She participated in military operations, including a raid on Henry Sy’s security forces in Pico De Loro resort in Batangas. She disguised herself as an officer from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and served as a lookout. Ka Alex was happy and proud to have been part of this historic punitive operation against the Sy Family, owners of the Shoemart Malls and chain of department stores and one of the biggest comprador bourgeoisie families, who grabbed thousands of hectares of land from the peasants in Batangas.

After this breakthrough experience, Ka Alex was assigned to do mass work where she served as a deputy political instructor for her platoon formation in the town of Lian. She led propaganda and mass education work within their area of responsibility.

Ka Alex’s city-life upbringing was totally different from the life of a guerrilla fighter in the countryside. Yet, she would often tell her comrades how all her physical exhaustion would suddenly disappear whenever she talked with the masses about their daily lives and hardships.

Her determination was tested once more in a defensive encounter in Barangay Lumaniag where she and two other Red Fighters, Ka Jessie and Ka Zac, got separated from their unit. She valiantly withdrew her two wounded comrades and ensured their safety. Undeterred by their predicament, she went to nearby houses of the masses to seek help. She did not know the masses in the area, but she used her propaganda skills and experience in mass work to gain their trust. The masses eventually decided to help them by giving medicine, food, lending clothes and providing a phone to contact the others for back up.

Ka Alex once again demonstrated her strength when the fascist AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) troops were closing in on the house where they were staying. She raised the morale of her wounded comrades by singing “Tigreng Papel” (Paper Tiger) and repeatedly reciting the Party’s oath: “I pledge...to safeguard the security of the Party and all my comrades at the cost of my life if necessary...”

Even after her harrowing experience in the face of the enemy troops, Ka Alex showed no signs of retreat or regret. Her experience in the battlefield only further strengthened her determination.

When Ka Alex became a full-time Red fighter, she was elected as a member of the Party’s front committee. After a few months, she was assigned as a political guide for her squad and later as deputy political instructor for her platoon and logistics officer for her unit. Throughout her time in the NPA, she demonstrated exceptional zeal in political work both among the people’s army and the masses.



Ka Alex dedicated her talent and abilities to do painstaking mass work and touched the lives of hundreds of peasant families in Batangas.

As an exemplary revolutionary woman who gave up a comfortable life in the city to be with the masses she vowed to serve, Ka Alex will always be remembered as a hard-working, gentle, and forward-thinking comrade. She will always be remembered for always quoting Mao's words: "The women who struggle are the women who can never be defeated." Ka Alex lived by these words until her very last breath. She was martyred alongside 13 others on November 28, 2017, in an encounter with the mercenary AFP-PNP troops in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Although Ka Alex's time in the people's army may have been short, her life carries profound significance for the masses she served. The strength of her commitment and enthusiasm for revolutionary work is an eternal source of inspiration for the youth and women revolutionaries who persevere in advancing the people's war. ☠

HARDTALK: ‘WE ARE NOT FOR A ‘RESTART’ BUT FOR A RESUMPTION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS’

Liberation International interview
with Julieta de Lima, Chairperson, NDFP Peace Negotiating Panel

Liberation International: The GRP has asserted that any possibility of opening the peace negotiations would be a ‘restart’ of the whole process, including the framework of the negotiations. Will the NDFP Peace Panel table this as a first item (the framework) in initial discussions when both panels meet face to face?

Julie de Lima: We are not for a ‘restart’ but for a resumption of peace negotiations. As the first item when we meet with the GRP team in April, it will be the discussion on the framework of the peace negotiations. The Hague Joint Declaration as the framework for peace negotiations has resulted in several substantive agreements, the most important of which are the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). We cannot consign these to the waste basket. Both the GRP and the NDFP have put in a lot of painstaking and deliberate effort in the course of 36 years. Thus, we will insist on discussing the reaffirmation of all previous signed agreements.

LI: When the Duterte regime scuttled the talks in 2017, both panels have been engaged in discussions on the comprehensive agreement on social and economic reforms, considered to be the “heart and soul” of the negotiations. Has this substantial matter ever been mentioned or discussed in framing the statement recognizing the “serious socioeconomic and environmental issues” facing the Philippines?

JL: I made a brief presentation of the NDFP draft CASER at a meeting with the GRP team in March 2023. We meant this to be among the serious socioeconomic and environmental issues facing our country. But we did not have an in-depth discussion on this with the GRP team.

LI: This year will be the 26th year since the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) was signed by the GRP and the NDFP. In light of recent and continuous reports of aerial bombings, killings and massacres against peasants, activists and hors de combat in the Philippine countryside, how can the broad international solidarity for

the Philippine revolutionary movement hold the GRP accountable for its war crimes?

JL: The current Ferdinand Marcos Jr. regime can be held accountable for violations of the CARHRIHL, which the government co-signed with the NDFP. But since these acts constitute war crimes, he can also be held to account under the Nuremberg principles. Like Duterte, Marcos Jr. can also be charged under the terms of the International Criminal Court. Other avenues including quasi-legal courts of public opinion can also form the basis of future legal actions to hold Marcos Jr. and Duterte for their war crimes.

LI: What would the NDFP consider as the most fundamental and substantial item that needs to be urgently addressed in its draft of the agreement on social and economic reforms?

JL: The most fundamental items that need discussing are agrarian reform, rural development and national industrialization. These form the foundation of the national economy and are the keys to ending poverty and joblessness in the country and ensuring economic growth.

LI: GRP factotums have voiced nervous concerns about the CPP’s current rectification movement, even saying that intensifying the people’s war runs counter to the “spirit” of the peace negotiations, are there bases for them to have cold feet? Would there be implications for the peace talks, as they imply?

JL: The CPP’s current rectification movement is sure to revitalize and lead to the resurgence of the revolution which in turn compels the GRP to address the root causes of armed conflict. Of course, the enemies of the people would be concerned about this.

LI: Should the formal peace talks be convened again soon, is the NDFP ready with its peace negotiating panel?

JL: The GRP has a long track record of undermining the NDFP Peace Negotiating Panel by targeting NDFP consultants and negotiators in clear violation of JASIG.

Nevertheless, I expect that the Negotiating Panel would be completed as soon as the formal peace negotiations start.

Ll: How do you foresee the conduct of the peace negotiations in anticipation that most GRP panel representatives would be coming mostly from the Armed Forces of the Philippines?

JL: We just have to wait and see how they conduct themselves in the peace negotiations. General Ramos, a military man, when he became president enabled the GRP Negotiating Panel to make progress in the peace negotiations. As a matter of fact, the most substantive agreements were made during his term. Just as it was in Ramos' time when many substantive agreements were made, it was also the military that scuttled the talks at the time of Cory, Gloria, Noynoy and Digong. Therefore, it is the seriousness and readiness to engage that the

GRP and its principal approach to the peace talks that matters more than the composition of the panel.

Ll: Should the previous agreements already made in the past rounds of peace talks be 'negated', would there still be basis for the NDFP to continue engaging in the negotiations?

JL: It is the responsibility of both parties to recognize the agreements made during the course of the peace negotiations since Cory Aquino's time because these agreements were signed by legitimate representatives of both parties. Regardless of who is appointed to each negotiating panel at whichever point in time, the effectiveness of such agreements must be recognized in order for the peace negotiations to proceed consistent with the framework provided for by the Hague Joint Declaration. Should the GRP disregard these agreements, then there would be no point for the NDFP to pursue the peace negotiations. ☩

Statement of Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (MAKIBAKA) on International Working Women's Day, March 8, 2024

On the second year of the fascist Marcos Jr. regime, the toiling women continue to participate in the armed and unarmed forms of struggle to advance the people's national democratic revolution!

The intense oppression and exploitation of women in a semicolonial and semifeastal society strengthen and expand the membership of revolutionary mass organizations such the Makabayang Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan (Patriotic Movement of New Women-MAKIBAKA).

Majority of women belong to the poorest strata of society, workers, farmers, indigenous and urban poor. Still to recover from the widespread loss of jobs, falling incomes, and inflated prices of goods and utilities caused by the pandemic, the Marcos Jr. regime intensifies women's impoverishment through the continued implementation of neoliberal agreements and policies.

Marcos Jr.'s subservience to his US imperialist master is blatant in the form of US-directed changes to the country's economic policies. In his current attempt to amend the 1987 Constitution via Charter Change, Marcos Jr. further opens the country's economy to foreign investments in favor of imperialist profiteering.

Decades of neoliberal policies implemented in the Philippines have not resulted in any material development for the people and for the economy. Instead, trade deficits persist and the country's economy is constantly dependent on remittances from overseas workers and from constant foreign borrowing. In the past two years alone, the administration has incurred Php1.82 trillion debt. In 2023, debt levels have reached a total of Php14.62 trillion. Women and the rest of the masses will surely bear the burden of paying these debts for generations to come.

Because the country's economy is tied to the global capitalist system, the crisis of imperialism has a direct impact on the jobs and livelihood of the Filipino people. As the crisis intensifies, so does the capitalist exploitation of the masses. The three biggest apparel manufacturers that comprise 60% of the country's total garment exports implemented mass layoffs between 2019-2024 wherein an estimated 80,000 women workers lost their jobs. This was after the capitalists issued a pull-out order from the Philippines and transfer production to other countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia where labor is much cheaper.

The severe exploitation of the working-class Filipina continues due to contractualization, various forms of

labor flexibilization, low wages, dangerous working conditions, discrimination, and violence. The increasing number of unemployed workers contributes to the creation of a large reserve army of labor that further depresses wages and perpetuates contractualization. The current minimum wage remains grossly insufficient and unlivable especially in the provinces. Minimum wage in the National Capital Region (NCR) is only Php610 (approximately 10USD) while it is only Php316 (approximately 6USD) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

In rural areas, women remain among the most disadvantaged groups among fisherfolk, farmers and indigenous peoples. For decades, rural women have been suffering from severe and consistent economic losses and hunger due to widespread landlessness and the lack of state support for local agricultural production.

The reactionary state has failed in all of its attempts to implement agrarian reform. Since the implementation of Masagana '99 in 1972 by Marcos Sr., the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in 1988 by Cory Aquino, and the subsequent CARP Extension with Reforms by Arroyo in 2009, the reactionary state has only protected the landlords and their haciendas that should have been distributed to the farmers a long time ago. In 2021, there are still 540,000 hectares of distributable land under CARP that have not yet been distributed.

Widespread neoliberal economic reforms are causing widespread joblessness among farmers and farmworkers. Due to the impacts of liberalization, highly subsidized foreign agricultural products are flooding the country resulting in losses for small-scale producers. They are instead forced to sell their products at cheaper prices, despite the high market prices of rice and other basic food commodities.

The emergence of revolutionary women's organizations in the countryside is caused by the starvation of farmers,

who are the producers of the people's food. In the absence of agricultural support from the state, coupled with state-sponsored violence, the reactionary government itself is pushing rural women to participate in armed struggle.

Because the feudal-patriarchal society ties women to housework as the primary caregiver of the family, women are among the first to be affected by sky-high commodity prices and unlivable wages. Women who demand the right to a living wage and a safe workplace are intimidated, fired, arrested, and raped. In the provinces, workers are no longer allowed to work in nearby factories simply because they are unionized or are members of a worker's association.

In this situation, women's participation in social and national liberation to free themselves continue. The severe economic and political crises are pushing them to organize fellow women, participate and lead mass struggles such as in pickets, land occupations and people's strikes, and take the revolutionary path of armed struggle.

Together with all who are oppressed and exploited, it is necessary for the Filipina women to destroy imperialism, bureaucratic capitalism, and feudalism so that they can all be free.

Highest tribute to all the revolutionary women martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the victory of the people's war!

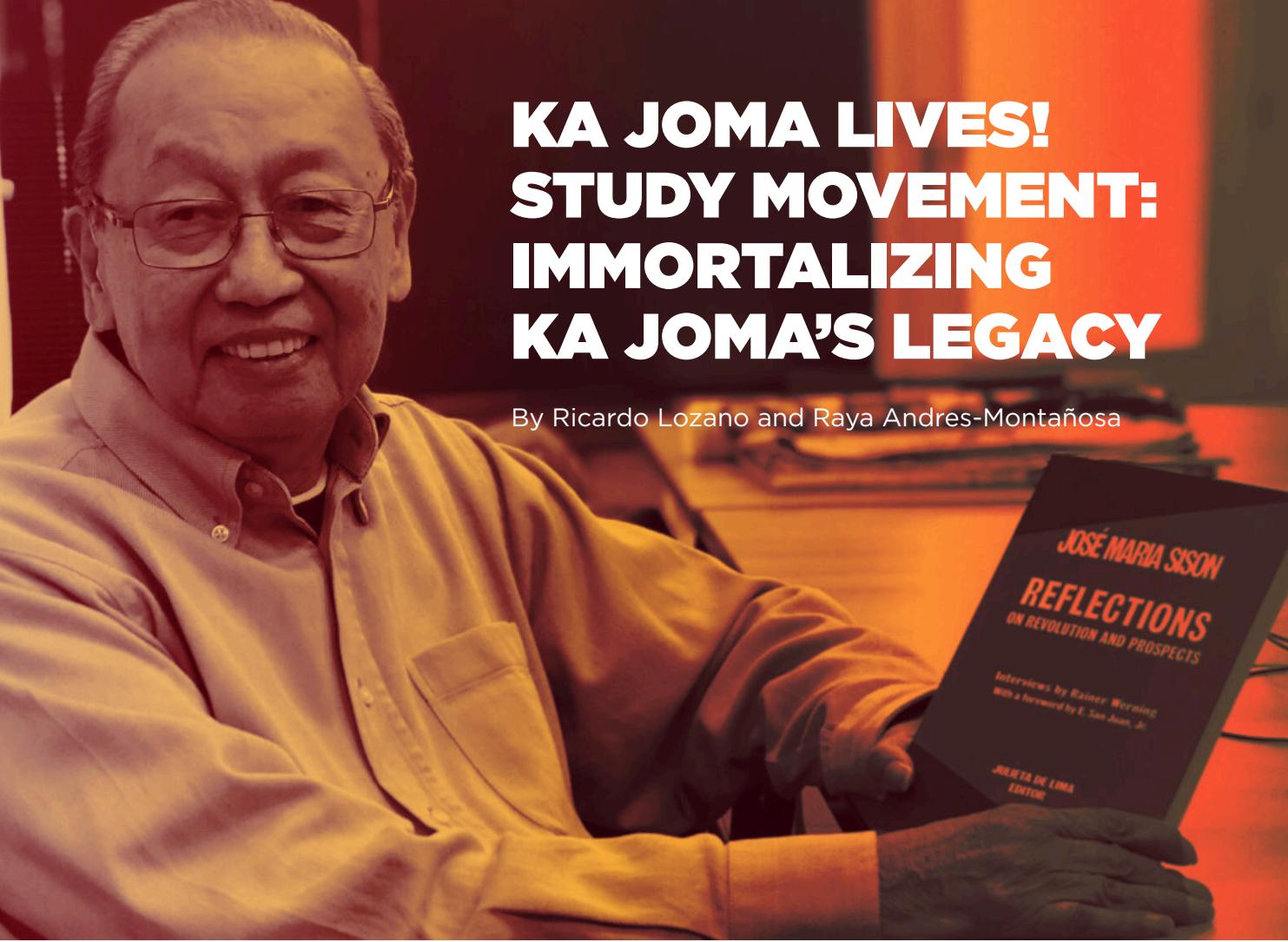
Long live MAKIBAKA!

Long live the national democratic revolution!

Long live the unity of women and people of the world against imperialism! ☮

(This is an abridged version of the original MAKIBAKA statement in Filipino translated to English by Ana Rosario.)





KA JOMA LIVES! STUDY MOVEMENT: IMMORTALIZING KA JOMA'S LEGACY

By Ricardo Lozano and Raya Andres-Montañosa

The passing of beloved comrade, Ka Jose Maria Sison, fondly called Ka Joma, on December 16, 2022, gave birth to a movement that serves to immortalize his legacy and propagate his works and teachings to the Philippines and the world.

Launched by the revolutionary movement in the Philippines and abroad, Ka Joma Lives! is a dynamic and vibrant study movement that conducts campaigns and activities that commemorate his life and contributions to the Philippine national democratic revolution and the world proletarian struggle.

In 2023, Ka Joma Lives! Study Movement organized three major webinars, namely: "The Specific Characteristics of Our People's War", "Our Urgent Tasks", and "Rectify Our Errors, Rebuild the Party!". These events featured his seminal theoretical writings that outline the fundamental principles of waging people's war, carrying out revolutionary tasks, and revitalizing the party.

Next to these webinars, Ka Joma Lives! also launched ten of his books under the Sison Reader Series last year. These books, a compilation of his writings on movements, various sectors,

imperialism in domestic and international settings, internationalism, and rights, justice and peace, are published as Book 12: On the Legal Democratic Mass Movement; Book 13: On the Revolutionary Movement and Mass Work; Book 14: On the Workers' Movement; Book 15: On the Peasant Movement and Agrarian Revolution; Book 16: On the Youth Movement; Book 17: Women in Revolution and National Minorities and the Right to Self-Determination; Book 18: Imperialism in the Philippines; Book 19: Imperialism in Various Global Regions; Book 20: Proletarian Internationalism and International Solidarity; and Book 21: People's Rights, Justice and Peace.

Recently, on March 9, Ka Joma Lives! organized a back-to-back launch of Ka Joma's books, also under the Sison Reader Series. Entitled, Book 22: On Neoliberal Globalization, and Book 23: Intensifying Interimperialist Contradictions, these books contain a collection of Ka Joma's writings on neoliberalism and globalization, and on the possibility of having an interimperialist war, respectively.

Aside from these activities, Ka Joma Lives! leads the commemoration of Ka Joma's birth and death anniversaries.

First death anniversary

On December 16 last year, on Ka Joma's first death anniversary, Ka Joma Lives! hosted the gathering of comrades, allies, and friends of the revolutionary movement in the Philippines at the NDFP International Office in Utrecht, the Netherlands to celebrate his colourful and meaningful life. Through various tributes, songs, poetry readings, and cultural performances, he was honoured and remembered along with several other martyred comrades.

This event also launched Ka Joma Lives!' Poem Project. Inspired by Ka Joma's poem, "Stages of My Life," where he chronicled his political trajectory using the season metaphor, the project invites individuals to add a new stanza to the poem or create their version and interpretation as a way of continuing Ka Joma's legacy.

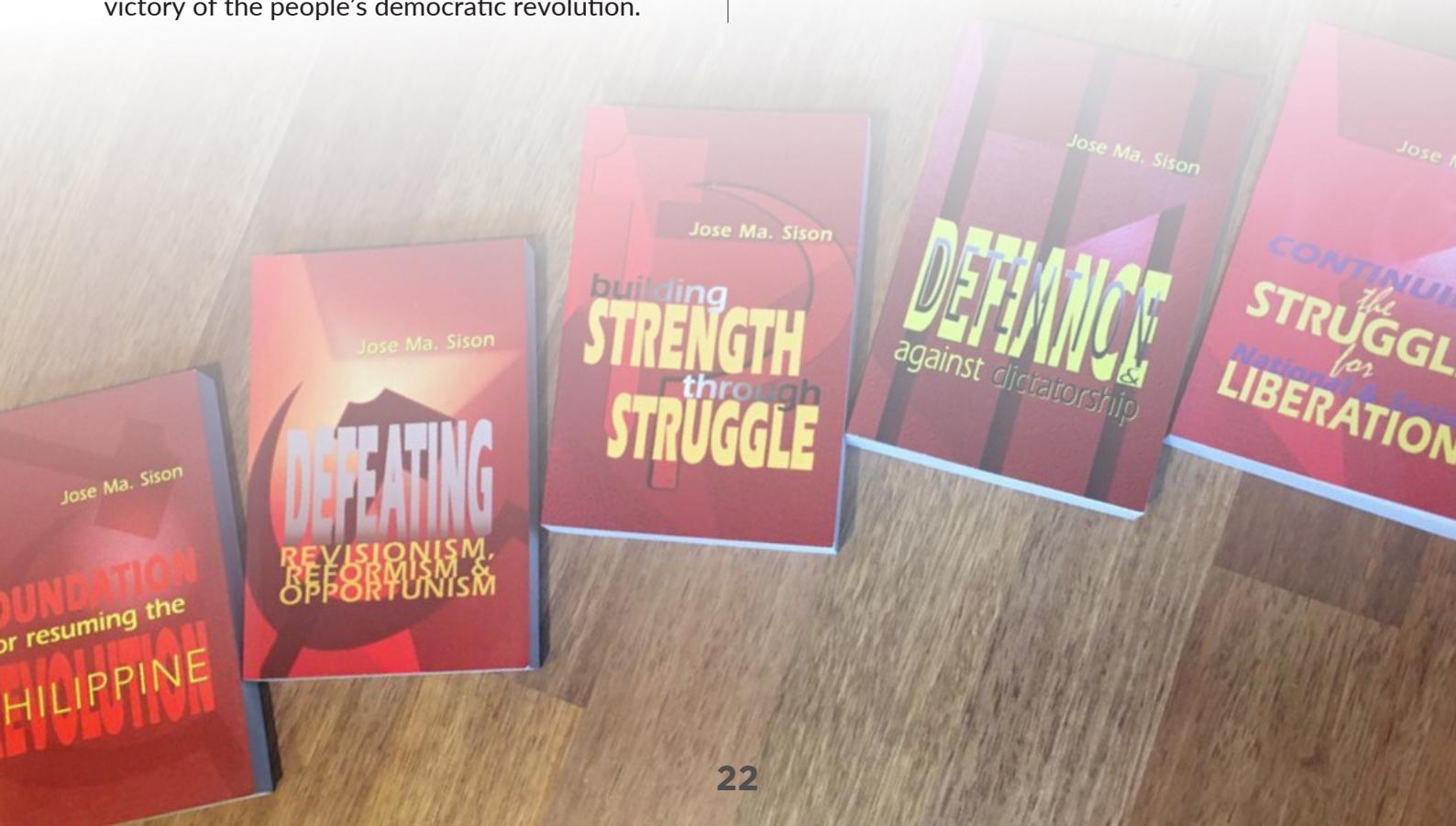
Likewise, in the Philippines, an event entitled "Reflections on Palestine, the Philippines, and the Struggle for a Just and Lasting Peace," was organized. Hundreds of individuals, including veteran and young activists, discussed and reflected on Ka Joma's life and writings. They shared their thoughts and personal anecdotes on his works, such as, "Our Urgent Tasks," "On Revolutionary Violence," and "The Filipino People's Democratic Revolution is Invincible," as well as on his thematic writings, such as on Israel's aggressions and massacre of the Palestinian people, and peace talks between the NDFP and the GRP.

In the countryside, on the same day, CPP and NPA units also conducted various activities to honor Ka Joma, including the renewal of pledges to the Party. Various guerilla fronts across the country reaffirmed their wholehearted service to the Filipino people and their commitment to offer their lives for the victory of the people's democratic revolution.

Ka Joma's birthday

This year, on February 8, Ka Joma Lives! celebrated Ka Joma's 85th birthday by organizing a webinar on Ka Joma's work, "Stand for Socialism Against Modern Revisionism, and a cultural event in Utrecht, highlighting Ka Joma's valuable teachings on the importance of being steadfast in holding an anti-revisionist line and being diligent in studying MLM. The cultural celebration also highlighted the CPP's call for rectification and resurgence, which is an ideological call to (re)study the basic Party and MLM documents to imbibe the proletarian revolutionary attitude and style of work fully and firmly, as well as to actively combat liberalism, conservatism and dogmatism among other ideological corrosives that destroy the Party and the revolution.

His birthday was also celebrated by the revolutionary movement in the Philippines. In a statement, the CPP paid tribute to the continuing relevance of Ka "Joma" and the validity of the struggle for national democracy. Members of Kabataang Makabayan, a clandestine revolutionary youth organization, in Rizal province, conducted an 'OP-OD' or operation paint - operation paste activity where they painted a large portrait of Ka Joma near a public market and the revolutionary slogans, "Viva CPP-NPA-NDF!" and "Join the New People's Army!" on several public walls. Meanwhile, also in a statement, the NDF in Southern Tagalog, brimming with revolutionary commitment and optimism, pledged to continue "forward the rectification movement and advance the people's democratic revolution until victory." ☩



NPA units welcome the year with series of tactical offensives, ambush operations against AFP in Rizal, Masbate and Negros

By Hugo Francisco

Despite repeated promises of the Marcos Jr. regime to "end the armed conflict" in the Philippines, the New People's Army (NPA) continues to advance the people's war by launching consecutive tactical offensives, ambush operations and punitive actions against elements of the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and their agents in Rizal, Masbate, and Negros in the first few months of 2024.

On January 31, a unit of NPA-Rizal Narciso Antazo Aramil Command successfully launched an ambush operation against soldiers of the 80th Infantry Battalion (IB) operating in Lukutang Malaki, Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez, Rizal. Three were confirmed dead among the ranks of the fascist troops. The NPA unit retreated safely and was unharmed.

According to reports, the 80th IB's intense and relentless focused military operations in Rodriguez have been going on for nearly a year. Apart from serving as guards of the Wawa-Tayabasan Dam being built, troops of the 80th IB also protects the interests of the ruling big landlords such as the Aranetas, Villars and Robles, in Lukutang Malaki. The rampant militarization brought fear to locals in the area due to multiple cases of harassment, surveillance, food blockades, population control, and other human rights violations perpetrated by the 80th IB.

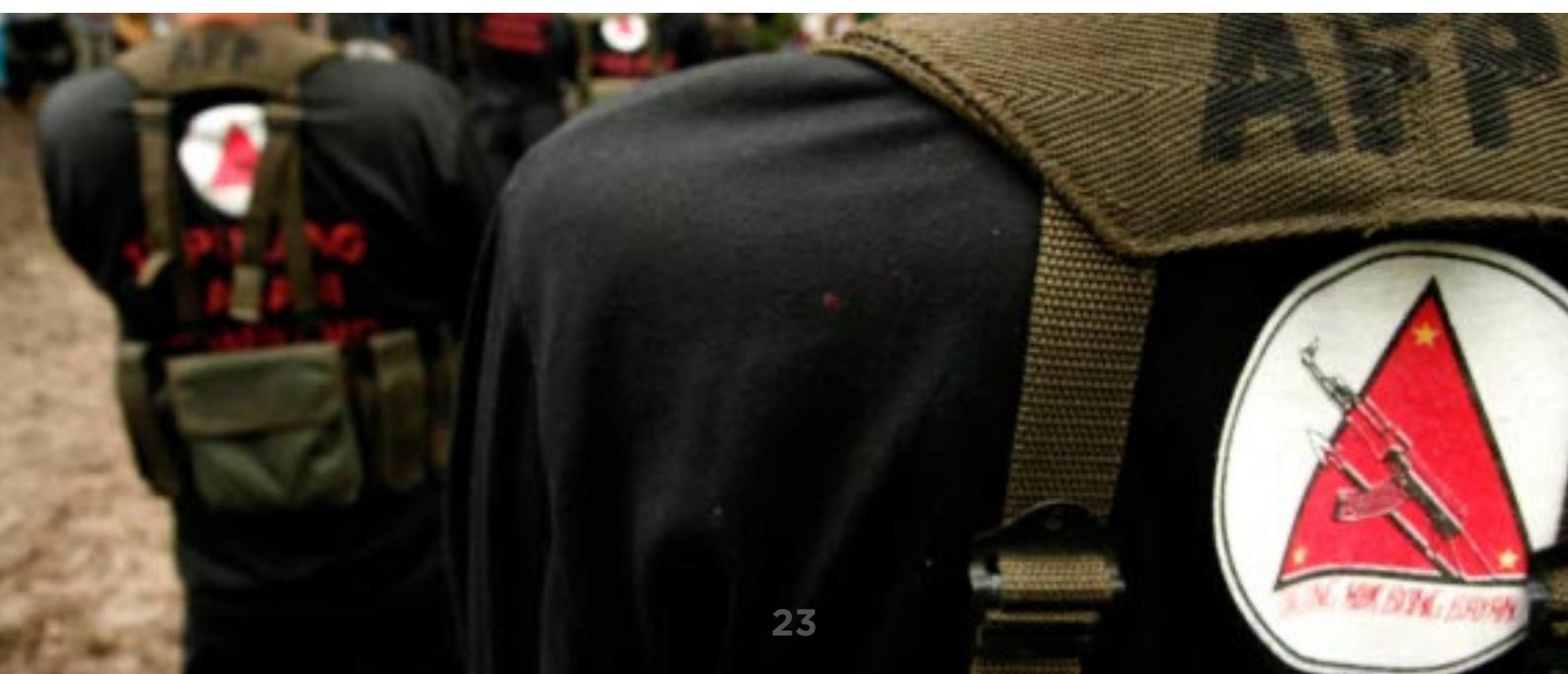
On January 13, a unit of the NPA-Masbate Jose Rapsing Command hit the 96th IB troopers

operating in Sitio Lantawan, Barangay Gangao, Baleno, Masbate. The said military unit immediately hid their casualties to cover up their losses.

According to Ka Luz del Mar, NPA-Masbate spokesperson, the armed offensive is part of their efforts to seek justice for the victims of military abuses in the area and defend the people against ongoing military operations in the province. Among those referred to by Ka Luz include the 24 victims of political killings in Masbate under the US-Marcos Jr. regime. Residents are also indignant at the persistent encampment of "counterinsurgency" units of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in schools in the province - an outright violation of international rules of war. According to reports, prostitution also became rampant in the areas where military camps were being built.

Meanwhile, NPA-Northern Negros Roselyn Jean Pelle Command launched consecutive punitive actions against perpetrators of the Sagay 9 Massacre and other enemies of the people in separate operations last January 2 and February 13. A .22 rifle and 44 rounds of ammunition, a .357 pistol plus bullets, two smartphones and various IDs were recovered by guerilla fighters after the action.

On January 9, 2024, the NPA-Negros Oriental Leonardo Panaligan Command similarly mounted a punitive action against a notorious intelligence asset of the local police in Sityo Mainit, Barangay Bulado, Guihulngan City, Negros Oriental. ■



The Guerilla Is Like a Poet

by Jose Maria Sison

The guerilla is like a poet
Keen to the rustle of leaves
 The break of twigs
 The ripples of the river
 The smell of fire
And the ashes of departure.

The guerilla is like a poet.
He has merged with the trees
 The bushes and the rocks
 Ambiguous but precise
Well-versed on the law of motion
And the master of myriad of images.

The guerilla is like a poet
 Enrhymed with nature
 The subtle rhythm of the greenery
The outer silence, the outer innocence
 The steel tensile in-grace
 That ensnares the enemy.

The guerilla is like a poet.
He moves with the green brown multitude
In bush burning with red flowers
That crown and hearten all
Swarming the terrain as a flood
Marching at last again st the stronghold.

An endless movement of strength
Behold the protracted theme:
The people's epic, the people's war.

