

ANG

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas  
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

# Bayan

English Edition  
Vol. XLIII No. 21  
November 7, 2012  
www.philippinerevolution.net

Editorial

## Aquino's Marcos-style cover-up of human rights violations

**A**quino recently responded insolently to a flood of complaints on human rights violations by armed agents of the state by dismissing the growing cases of state violence against the people as nothing but "Leftist propaganda."

He even pervertedly accused the people of "violating the human rights of the military and police" by citing as an example urban poor residents throwing stones at demolition teams escorted by state agents armed with guns, tear gas and truncheons.

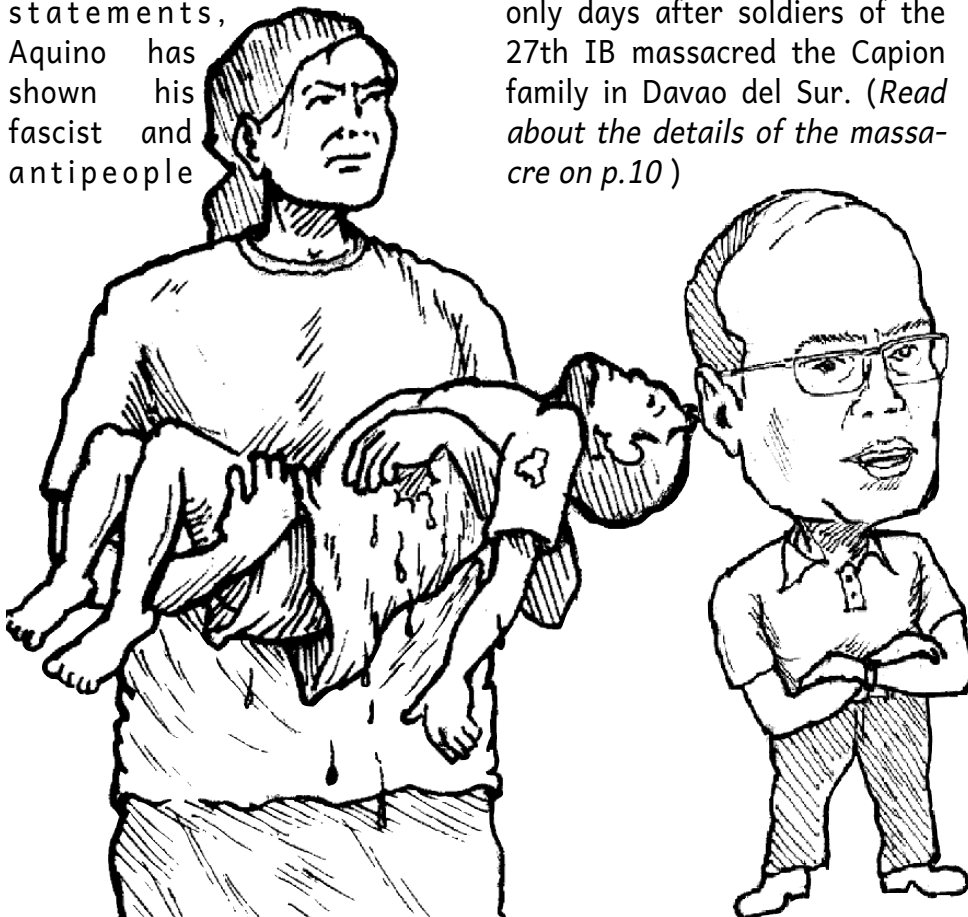
In making such dismissive statements, Aquino has shown his fascist and antipeople

character, his utter insensitivity to the sentiments and cries for justice of the families of victims of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance and other violations of human rights perpetrated by the state.

Aquino manifested his gross disregard for worsening human rights abuses by state forces only days after soldiers of the 27th IB massacred the Capion family in Davao del Sur. (*Read about the details of the massacre on p.10*)

Aquino's denials remind us of how the former dictator Ferdinand Marcos propagated the lie that there were no political prisoners, when up to 70,000 people were imprisoned under martial law.

Like Marcos, Aquino denies the existence of political prisoners under his own regime. In fact, up to 170 political prisoners (out of a total 385) have been incarcerated under his two-year rule. There have also been 114 victims of extrajudicial killing; 127 victims of frustrated extrajudicial killing; 70 victims of torture; and 12 victims of enforced disappearance. In the countryside, hun-



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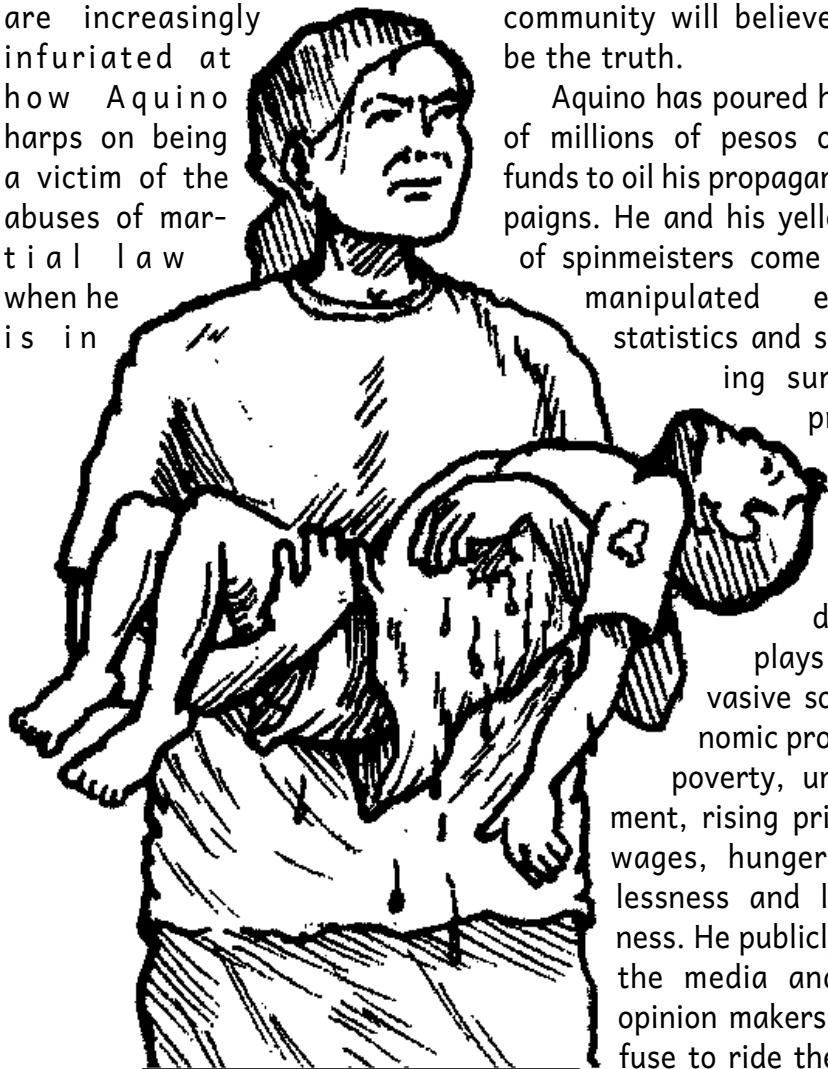
dreds of communities have been militarized, resulting in a reign of terror and abuse against the peasants, especially women and children. The Aquino regime has increasingly employed force in tearing down urban poor dwellings to give way to foreign-funded infrastructure projects.

In showing his indifference to gross violations of human rights by labelling them as mere "propaganda," Aquino is stoking the fascist military and police's unbridled use of force. He, in effect, defends the brutality of military and police operations against the people. His much-vaunted measures, like charging the butcher Gen. Jovito Palparan, is all for show. In reality, it is Aquino and his regime who are "propagandizing."

Despite Aquino's braggadocio, he is unable to conceal the worsening violations of human rights under his regime's Oplan Bayanihan, which involves the outright suppression of peasants, workers, urban poor, students and other exploited and

oppressed sectors who stand up and raise their voices against the reactionary regime's anti-people, antinational and anti-democratic policies.

The Filipino people are increasingly infuriated at how Aquino harps on being a victim of the abuses of martial law when he is in



fact, no different from the former dictator in employing propaganda. He has become an expert at dishing out never-ending lies and half-truths in the hope that the international community will believe this to be the truth.

Aquino has poured hundreds of millions of pesos of public funds to oil his propaganda campaigns. He and his yellow army of spinmeisters come up with manipulated economic statistics and self-serving surveys to project a pseudo-reality that downplays the pervasive socio-economic problems of poverty, unemployment, rising prices, low wages, hunger, homelessness and landlessness. He publicly bashes the media and public opinion makers who refuse to ride the Aquino fantasy bandwagon.

Aquino is so awash in his own lies that he has become increasingly arrogant and overweening in the face of criticism and dissatisfaction over his performance.

On the other hand, he enjoys the full support of his imperialist masters in carrying out his campaign of deception and suppression.

The broad masses of the people have no other recourse but to expose and firmly oppose the human rights abuses and the antipeople and antinational policies of the Aquino regime and continue asserting their national and democratic interests.

AB



Vol. XLIII No. 21 November 7, 2012

Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.

It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:

[www.philippinerevolution.org](http://www.philippinerevolution.org).

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

# Akbayan is Aquino's puppet

The US-Aquino regime's all-out support for Akbayan comes as no surprise after the public disclosure of reports on the sources of the partylist group's campaign contributions in 2010. The Akbayan group reportedly received more than ₱112 million, most of which came from the Aquino family and big businessmen, landlords and personalities known to be close to and supportive of the Aquinos.

Akbayan's biggest contributors are the Aquino sisters Kris (₱10 million), Victoria (₱5 million) and Aurora ["Ballsy"] (₱2 million). Aquino's cousins from the Lopa family also contributed (₱1 million). Also counted among the contributors are Aquino regime officials like Philippine Charity Sweepstakes head Margarita Juico (₱1 million) and Francis Hernando (₱1 million), a high-ranking Pagcor official.

Big comprador bourgeoisie like Banson Choa, Ben Tiu and Ruben Tiu (owners of the Discovery chain of hotels) who contributed ₱15 million, Antonio Cojuangco staff Antonio Samson (₱12 million), former Procter and Gamble president Johni Cua (₱12 million), East-West Bank president Antonio Moncupa (₱2 million) and Phinma Properties Corp. president Willibado J. Uy (₱1 million) also gave significant amounts. So did Belle Group's Gregorio Yu (₱5 million)

and Manuel Gana (₱5 million), whose company is among the corporate giants behind the multi-billion dollar Entertainment City project.

Up to 90% of the Akbayan group's electoral funds were contributed by only more than 20 families or groups supportive of and currently benefiting from the Aquino regime. Thus, during the 2010 elections, Akbayan was able to flood television and radio stations with its expensive political advertisements.

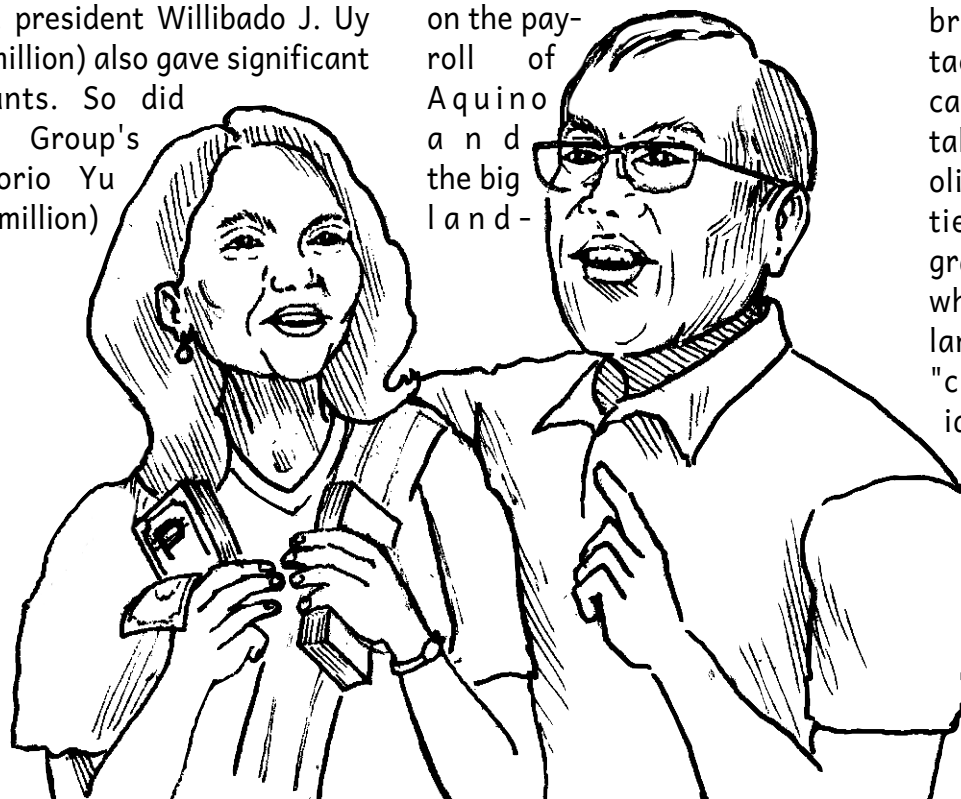
The disclosure of information on Akbayan's election funds has made it exceedingly clear to the people that this party is nothing but a big swindler pretending to be "Leftist" and a representative of the oppressed. It has also become quite obvious that Akbayan is on the payroll of Aquino and the big land-

lords and comprador bourgeoisie to serve as an instrument to deceive the people and create the impression that Aquino enjoys "popular" support. Thus, during Akbayan's assembly, no less than Aquino was invited as the main speaker. It was then that Aquino declared that his principles and those of Akbayan are one and the same.

Akbayan's claims that it is a "socialist" group is pure hogwash in the face of its role as a blind supporter and apologist of Aquino. Because Aquino has it in his pocket, Akbayan has never expressed support for the struggle of the peasants for the free and immediate distribution of land at Hacienda Luisita which is owned by the Cojuangco-Aquino clan. In fact, Akbayan officers even reprimanded some individual members of the group who wanted to side with the Hacienda Luisita farmers.

Despite its claims of being a "democratic" organization, Akbayan has been silent in the face of the Aquino regime's unbridled anti-democratic attacks against the people. How can Akbayan be expected to take a stand against the demolition of urban poor communities when it owes debts of gratitude to big businessmen who have had their eye on landholdings that they want "cleaned" of impoverished residents in order to give way to their projects under Aquino's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme?

Not a few Akbayan officers have been appointed by Aquino to various positions in his government to assist in hoodwinking the



people. One of its ranking leaders, Loretta Ann Rosales now heads the Commission on Human Rights and has done nothing but shield the AFP from myriad cases of human rights violations. Like Aquino, Akbayan turns a deaf ear to the cries for justice from tens of thousands of victims of massacres, killings, illegal detention, torture, demolitions, beatings and other brutalities inflicted by armed agents of the state.

Aquino has likewise appointed Akbayan's founder Joel Rocamora as chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). The NAPC's only role has been to implement the World Bank-funded Conditional Cash Transfer program. Akbayan is Aquino's co-conspirator in deceiving the people into thinking that poverty can be resolved by giving small amounts of doleouts, despite the absence of genuine land reform or without raising the workers' minimum wage.

Akbayan is an active partner in enforcing the Aquino regime's Oplan Bayanihan war of suppression. Its officials are in cahoots with the AFP and various government agencies in suppressing the democratic mass movement and the people's armed revolution. Akbayan uses progressive- or Leftist-sounding words to cover up the reactionary and fascist policies of the US-Aquino regime.

For the past two years under the US-Aquino regime, Akbayan has continually exposed itself as a puppet and mercenary of the ruling regime and the reactionary classes. Its true loyalty lies not with the people, but with its benefactors—the big landlords, comprador bourgeoisie, bureaucrat capitalists and US imperialism. **AB**

## Lessons from the Ramos-Misuari agreement

It is important to learn the lessons of the past to avoid repeating them. Particularly for the Moro people, there are many lessons to be learned from the Moro National Liberation Front's (MNLF) capitulation to the Ramos regime through MNLF chair Nur Misuari's signing of the Final Peace Agreement of 1996 (the Ramos-Misuari agreement). Through this agreement, the MNLF was formally subsumed under the constitution and power of the reactionary state and was eventually gobbled up by the rotten system.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) must constantly hold fast to the lessons of history especially as it enters a critical stage in its negotiations with the Aquino regime, particularly after its signing of the Framework Agreement last October. Although it serves merely as a framework for a final peace agreement, the Framework Agreement already possesses the same basic flaws contained in the Ramos-Misuari agreement of 1996. If these are not rectified, there is danger that the Framework Agreement will be used as a framework for the surrender of the Moro struggle for national self-determination.

The MILF attained prestige as the representative of the Moro people mainly for its repudiation of the Ramos-Misuari agreement and the preceding capitulationist Tripoli Agreement of 1976 between the MNLF and the Marcos regime and for banner-ing armed struggle. It is but fitting to reflect on these lessons because it is not only the MILF's future and integrity as a

revolutionary force that are at stake but the aspirations of the Moro people as a whole.

The MNLF's final agreement of surrender to the Ramos regime in 1996 was the result of relentless pressure from the US to forge an accord that would put an end to the Moro people's armed resistance. The US used as its instruments the reactionary members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (then known as the Organization of Islamic Conference) to push the MNLF to abandon its goal of seceding from the puppet republic and accept autonomy. Both the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 under the



Marcos dictatorship and the Ramos-Misuari final peace agreement give token recognition to the Moro people's aspiration for self-determination. In essence, however, both agreements nullify this aspiration because they call for autonomy for the Moro people under an exploitative and oppressive state.

The Ramos-Misuari agreement stipulated that whatever new entity is established in the Moro people's homeland should comply with the laws of the reactionary state. The contents of the agreement first had to be legislated by the reactionary Congress before they could take effect. It was the reactionary Congress that served as the ultimate guarantee that no provision of the agreement would run counter to the ruling classes' power and interests.

The Ramos-Misuari agreement already contained the formula for rendering the MNLF irrelevant. Aside from subjecting the MNLF to the GPH constitution, the Ramos-Misuari agreement stipulated the annihilation of the MNLF's armed capability and the integration of thousands of its fighters into the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Since the disintegration of the MNLF's armed force, it has lost its political strength and significance, making it easy for the GPH to disregard, reverse or distort whatever agreement it has with the MNLF.

And so both Misuari and the MNLF's political demise became a logical conclusion. Actually, a significant portion of the Ramos-Misuari deal had yet to be legislated, especially parts pertaining to promised financial assistance and the mineral sharing agreement. Up till the MNLF and GPH's latest talks in March, the

reactionary Congress had not enacted a law to regulate mineral mining and revenue sharing in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The MNLF was in a ridiculous bind, as it no longer had any formal role in the ARMM after Misuari's term as governor was cut short in 2002. On this point alone, the MNLF was in no position to negotiate.

In short, aside from a ceasefire, the dissolution of the MNLF's armed force and a watered-down version of autonomy, no other pertinent part of the 1996 agreement has been implemented. From being a revolutionary leader, Misuari had become a traditional politician in the ARMM, the bogus autonomous region set up in a part of the Moro people's ancestral land.

On the other hand, US imperialism and the reactionary state achieved their objectives: the liquidation of the MNLF as a revolutionary and fighting movement, the continued rule of traditional and reactionary clans and warlords in league with the reactionary ruling classes at the national level, the unimpeded dominance of the semicolonial and semifeudal policies and measures of the central puppet state, the perpetuation of the Moro people's oppression and the ever worsening expropriation of the Moro people's resources, and the continued exacerbation of problems and conflicts in Moroland.

The entire Ramos-Misuari agreement was superseded at the stroke of a pen when the MILF and the GPH signed the Framework Agreement last October. Misuari raised hell against the MNLF's abandonment, and even warned of renewed conflict in Mindanao. But

Malacañang merely shrugged off Misuari's rantings.

It is important to note that long before the MNLF's armed force was disbanded, the ruling state had subjected it to prolonged ceasefires to deprive it of military initiative and render it passive. Before the final Ramos-Misuari agreement, the MNLF signed a formal ceasefire agreement in 1993. But as early as 1986, when Corazon Aquino's regime opened peace negotiations with the MNLF anew, the latter had already been put on the defensive politically and militarily. The Tripoli Agreement also called for a ceasefire, although its effectivity was short-lived. Dismantling the MNLF's armed force was therefore merely the last stage in the protracted process of weakening it.

The MILF broke away from the MNLF in 1976 after the Tripoli Agreement was signed. Even then, the MILF was able to grasp the bankruptcy of autonomy under a fascist dictatorship. The MILF's prestige rose and its leadership of the Moro struggle established when it took on the role of continuing the Moro armed struggle for self-determination after the MNLF's formal surrender to the Ramos regime in 1996. The formal alliance between the MILF and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was likewise forged in February 1999 on the basis of the MILF's struggle for the Moro people's liberation and self-determination and its cooperation with the national-democratic revolutionary forces against a common enemy.

There are so many similarities between the Ramos-Misuari Final Peace Agreement of 1996 and the MILF-GPH

Framework Agreement in terms of circumstance and content, because the sinister and deceptive US imperialists and the puppet regime have but one objective—the suppression of the Moro people's armed resistance.

NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos has urgently called on the MILF to learn lessons from the MNLF's experience and not easily relinquish its military strength at the whim of the reactionary government and of US imperialism. Ka Oris said this is the only way the MILF could continue to preserve and defend the interests of its organization and the entire Moro people. Above all else, it must hold in high regard the aspirations of the long-suffering Moro people.

Aside from the very stark lessons from the MNLF experience, a clear indication of the dangers that lie ahead for the interests of the Moro people with the MILF entering into the Framework Agreement is the Aquino regime's recent announcement of its intention to open parts of Liguasan Marsh and the Sulu Sea to the exploration of big oil companies.

There are up to a trillion dollars worth of oil, gas and mineral reserves in the Moro people's ancestral lands. Then and now, big foreign and local businessmen have had their eye on these resources. The ruling regime has had the gall to auction off the Moro people's natural wealth even before a final agreement with the MILF could be concluded. This is just one of the very good reasons why the MILF should proceed with extreme caution. AB

## Coco levy funds being plundered anew



**L**ed by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Kaisahang Pambansa ng mga Magsasaka sa Koprahan (KOPRAHAN), peasants launched protest actions last October to demand the return of the coco levy funds which were plundered by the Marcos-Cojuangco combine during martial law. The peasant protests were timed to coincide with the 40th anniversary of Presidential Decree 27, Marcos' bogus land reform program under martial rule.

In a mass action held at Mendiola on October 21, the peasants demanded the immediate distribution of the P56.5-billion coco levy fund to small coconut farmers. To dramatize their just demand, they showed how difficult it was to make copra and described the poverty of small coconut farmers and copra makers.

**History of the coco levy.** The coco levy was a tax imposed on the sale of copra from 1973 to 1982 that was shouldered by the peasant masses. It was a scheme by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Marcos' close crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. In exchange were promises to develop the coconut industry and income for the farmers from investments that would allegedly be pouring in.

The opposite happened. Cojuangco and his ilk used the accumulated funds to establish the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) headed by big landlords like Danding Cojuangco and Maria Clara Lobregat. Cojuangco also used the funds to buy the majority shares at San Miguel Corporation (SMC), create the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) and 14 holding companies and purchase six oil mills, among others. The CIIF was charged with managing the coco levy fund. Since then, the value of the properties bought with the coco levy monies has ballooned to an estimated P100-150 billion.


The coconut farmers have been fighting to gain possession of the coco levy funds for three decades. In April 2011, the Supreme Court declared Cojuangco as the legitimate owner of the controversial SMC shares. As a result, some 3,000 coconut farmers filed a counter-petition at the Supreme Court and demanded an investigation on this unjust decision. Last January, the Supreme Court ruled that the coco levy funds could only be used for the benefit of coconut farmers and for developing the entire coconut industry. Thus, it was but fitting for the farmers to control the disputed SMC shares since these were bought using funds owned by the peasants.

On October 5, the SMC paid the CIIF P56.5 billion to enable it to gain full control of 24% of the SMC shares. The amount has been deposited at the National Treasury.

**Status of the fund.** Aquino has formed the Presidential Task Force on the Coco Levy Fund ostensibly to manage the fund. The task force's lead agency is the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) through Joel Rocamora, former Akbayan president. According to the NAPC's plans, the Aquino regime will be using P11.17 billion of the funds for government programs such as the DSWD's "Programang Pantawid" and the Department of Agriculture's "land tenure improvement" which already have allotments from the government's general fund. The farmers fear that the fund will merely be used for the coming election campaign.

**The peasants' stand.** The farmers are determined to regain the coco levy fund. They refuse to allow the continued plunder of the fund that should long have been returned to them. The deposit of the P56.5 billion fund in the Aquino government's National Treasury is due to their sustained struggle. But this only forms part of the amount that they should regain and that should redound to the benefit of coconut farmers. The Aquino regime is sure to launch its own maneuvers to prevent the coconut farmers from gaining hold of the fund.

To recover the coco levy fund and other properties acquired using the fund, coconut farmers' groups in various provinces plan to launch intensifying protest actions. They are demanding the immediate enactment of House Bill 3443, which was filed by Partidong Anakpawis and aims to use the coco levy fund as a Coco Farmer's Fund to rehabilitate and develop the coconut industry.

While the protests are directed against Aquino and Cojuangco, they must be closely linked to the overall anti-feudal struggle. Among the other issues that should be resisted are the exploitative *resikada* system and the monopoly of foreign capitalists over the market. The *resikada* system involves arbitrary reductions by merchants in the weight and corresponding value of copra being sold by coconut farmers due to the merchants' fraudulent overestimations of the copra's moisture content. 

## Farmers' protest actions

In Central Luzon (CL), more than 300 farmers from Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) and Partidong Anakpawis-CL launched a three-day protest action starting October 18. The first day of the protest was spent in front of the Clark Special Eco Zone in Angeles City, where other progressive organizations joined in. Their main demands were the repeal of RA 9700 (CARPER) and the enactment of HB374 or the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARB) filed by Partidong Anakpawis.

On the second day, the AMGL and Anakpawis-CL members gathered in Barangay San Roque, Tarlac where a violent demolition claimed the life of 15-year old John Khali Lagrimas. The protesters also condemned the continuing landgrabbing by the Clark Airbase Military Reservation and the Aquino regime's puppetry to the US. They assailed the series of Balikatan military exercises in the region and Aquino's other policies and programs that favor foreign capitalists and cause the eviction of farmers and urban poor.

Among those that joined the protests were leaders and members of Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA) and other peasant organizations from other CL provinces affected by various destructive projects or programs. They went to Angeles City and held a vigil at Barangay Pulung Bulo where they launched another rally.

The next day, the farmers from Central Luzon and peasants Southern Tagalog merged in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) where they condemned DAR's key role in perpetuating the hacenderos' control over vast landholdings. DAR has been massively revoking Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), Certificates of Land Transfer (CLT), emancipation patents and other documents attesting that the land has been distributed to the farmers. They also as-

sailed DAR's role in inciting discord among the agricultural workers in Hacienda Luisita.

They slammed the DENR for allowing destructive mining operations in Zambales and black sand mining in Lingayen, Pangasinan, for disregarding the land problems of national minorities in Bayambang, Pangasinan and illegal logging in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. On the last day, the AMGL and Anak-

pawis-CL joined the KMP's national protest at Mendiola.

The KMP likewise lambasted proposals by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro and Rep. Maximino Rodriguez of Abante Partylist of Mindanao for another five-year extension of CARPER. The KMP said 24 years of bogus land reform has done nothing to solve the land problem. **AB**

## Crisis and imperialist militarism



**T**he US is the most militarist country and the world's biggest arms supplier. The maintenance of a huge military infrastructure in the US is a stark feature of intensifying inter-imperialist rivalries for territory for investments, markets and oil reserves, among others. The US' dominant power worldwide is based on the fact that it far outstrips other countries in terms of military might.

In the face of the current crisis besetting it, the US has stepped up its militarism. Its goal is to consolidate its dominant position in various parts of the globe. The US has openly declared its plans to strengthen its presence and power-projection in the Asia-Pacific. It recently announced that it would deploy up to 60% of its warships in the region, thereby worsening conflicts among imperialists and directly fomenting war.

This year, the US allocated

\$1.3 trillion for "defense." This is almost 40% of its annual budget. It includes \$673 billion for its armed forces, \$166 billion for military projects of other agencies and \$440 billion to service debts incurred during previous wars, among others. There are higher estimates on the actual overall defense budget, especially since almost 40% of the Pentagon's expenses are concealed from the public.

US imperialism has the biggest and the most number of

military bases. It has 539,000 facilities in 5,000 various areas within and outside the US. This number excludes more than a thousand secret bases and facilities maintained by the Pentagon in more than 150 countries. Among these are CSL (co-operative security locations), military equipment depots and communications bases secretly constructed in various countries, including the Philippines. It is estimated that up to \$250 billion is spent annually in running these bases, and another \$100 billion is spent on maintaining its huge warships that patrol all major sea routes in the world.

The arms industry is one of the biggest businesses in the US. Last year, the US earned \$66 billion in arms sales, which is three times what it earned in 2010. Most of the weapons were sold to states in conflict, such as India and Pakistan; and Israel and Egypt. It also sold significant volumes to Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. The massive arms procurement in these countries is due to the US' saber-rattling against Iran.

The defense sector is one of the biggest employers of American workers. More than 1.6 million Americans are directly employed by the US Department of Defense. About 1.4 million di-



rectly serve the various military branches, 73,000 are with the National Guard and 208,000 are members of the special reserve. Meanwhile, up to 370,000 people work in the three biggest defense companies: 123,000 at Lockheed Martin, 174,000 at Boeing and 72,500 at Northrop Grumman. One-third of all scientists and engineers in the US work in the defense sector. The unemployment rate would rise by an estimated 3% without the US military's massive recruitment drives.

The alliance of the monopoly capitalist state and the gigantic defense companies or the so-called US "military-industrial complex" (MIC) buttresses and enhances militarism and warmongering.

Massive arms production for war has already formed part of capitalist production since the 1880s. But a distinct monopoly/alliance for this purpose emerged only during the Second World War when the US strengthened and enlarged its armed forces for its imperialist expansion in Europe, Asia and Latin America. Huge monopoly capitalists in military production arose and merged with the bureaucratic structure of the imperialist state.

The MIC is a product of the continuing monopolization of military production. The worsening of the overall crisis of capitalism and the attendant intensification of imperialist conflicts are promoting the stepped up militarism and warmongering that companies in the arms industry have been profiting from.

Defense companies are partners in, and directly intervene, in forming US defense policies. Defense monopoly capitalists have the biggest say in choosing US defense officials. These companies definitely land the big-

gest contracts through direct negotiations or "closed bidding." As a reward, many former US defense officials are given seats in these companies' board of directors.

The merger of the imperialist state and the defense industry signifies war's central place in imperialist policy. This alliance creates situations of constant tension and war. Such situations pave the way for strengthening US hegemony and enlarging the superprofits of monopoly capitalists.

For the past 30 years, the biggest defense companies in the US hardly changed. In the 1980s, the list was led by the ten biggest companies—General Dynamic, McDonnell Douglas, United Technologies, General Electric, Lockheed, Boeing, Hughes Aircraft, Rockwell International, Raytheon, Martin Marietta, Grumman and Northrop. During Bush's "war against terror" in 2001, the "Big Five" consisting of Boeing, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics became dominant. Currently, in the "New Pacific Century" under Obama, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Raytheon, L-3 Communications and United Technologies are enjoying a heyday.

Like other areas of industry, mergers and the creation of bigger monopolies continue within the MIC. Lockheed and Martin merged in 1995 while Grumman bought Northrop in 1994. Rockwell International and McDonnell Douglas were both gobbled up by Boeing in 1996 and 1997. Parts of General Electric (the 18th company in the current list) were bought by Honeywell, currently the 15th largest company. L-3 Communications is a division of Lockheed Martin. In

the 1980s, there were up to 51 separate giant companies operating within the MIC. By 1997, there were only five, and by 2001, only four. Currently, the biggest defense contracts are cornered by practically three companies: Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing. In 2011, the three companies' estimated combined income was \$143 billion.

These companies monopolize research and arms manufacturing contracts in the US. The value of these contracts is humongous. From January to September 2012, the Obama regime allotted \$245 trillion for contracts with these companies. One of the biggest contracts is for shipbuilding companies like Huntington Ingalls, in line with the US' direction of establishing its military hegemony in the waters of the Asia-Pacific.

As a result, the US state enjoys a monopoly over the benefits of these companies' research and the purchase of the most advanced weaponry in the market. For instance, more than 75% of arms manufactured by defense companies like Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman are bought directly by the Department of Defense and other US departments.

With the size of these companies, the weapons they sell to other countries are enough for them to monopolize the international arms market. More than 60% of the weapons sold worldwide in 2010 came from 44 US-based companies. Foremost among these was Lockheed Martin which sold \$36 billion worth of arms. The ten biggest companies cornered more than half of sales amounting to \$230 billion. Including the sale of military services, defense companies earned up to \$411 billion in 2010. AB

# NDFP condemns unabated killings of children

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) condemned the relentless killings by the Aquino regime of children in pursuit of its antinational and antipeople US-dictated policy of neoliberal globalization.

The latest incident was the massacre of the family of Daguil Capion on October 18 in Barangay Kimlawis, Kiblawan, Davao del Sur (not South Cotabato, as was earlier reported in *AB*). Daguil Capion's pregnant wife Juvi was killed along with two of their children—Jorge ("Pap"), 13, and Jan-Jan, 7. Another daughter, Becky, 5, was wounded.

The entire incident was witnessed by the Capions' 11-year old daughter Ressa.

The massacre occurred when 13 soldiers led by 1Lt. Dante Jimenez rained bullets on the hut where Juvi and her children were sleeping on the morning of October 18. The unit is under the 27th IB led by Lt. Col. Noel Alexis Bravo.

Witnesses said Juvi was still alive after the first volley of fire. She begged the military to spare her children. But when the soldiers entered the hut, they shot everyone one by one. Neighbors and relatives of the Capions who first arrived at the scene were able to hear Lieutenant Jimenez order the soldiers to finish them off. All of those slain had gunshot wounds to the head.

Daguil Capion is a leader of the B'laan tribe. He and his wife Juvi are members of Kalgad, an organization actively resisting the operations of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI). SMI is a multinational company with huge capital investments from Xstrata Plc, a Swiss company based in the United Kingdom, and Indo-phil Resources, an Australian

company.

Days after the bloody incident, Becky and her elder sister Ressa were accosted by Josephine Malid while they were on their way to meet Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez in Marbel, South Cotabato. Malid is a member of Tribal Foundation, an SMI-supported non-government organization.

Ressa and Becky were told to ride a vehicle owned by SMI and brought to the office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Kiblawan. Their grandmother opposed the move, and the two children were transferred to the Social Action Center at the Marbel Archdiocese in South Cotabato.

Ka Coni Ledesma, who heads the NDFP Special Office for the Protection of Children said the Aquino regime and the mining companies are colluding to plunder the country's mineral resources, destroy the environment, kill Lumad leaders and perpetrate the forced evacuation of national minority communities from their ancestral lands, victimizing adults and children alike.

Meanwhile, BAYAN-Socksargen assailed the AFP for excluding 10th ID chief Maj. Gen. Ariel Bernardo from court martial proceedings against those involved in the massacre.

In Bukidnon, the so-called New Indigenous People's Army for Reform (NIPAR) has been formed. NIPAR is a paramilitary

group under the 8th IB's Civilian Active Auxiliary (CAA) headed by Alde "Butchoy" Salusad. The group is responsible for the murder of a number of Lumad leaders, the forced evacuation of communities and the hostaging on October 7 of Julia Manlus-ag, the wife of Sitoy Manlus-ag, and their four children age 9, 6, 4 and nine months.

The hostage-takers' objective was to convince Manlus-ag and his family to return to their village and support the "good works" of the mining, logging and plantation operations of foreign and comprador companies in Bukidnon. Manlus-ag and other Lumad families have been camping in front of the Bukidnon provincial capitol for eight months now to demand justice for Jimmy Liguyon, a Lumad leader killed by Salusad in March.

Ledesma added that the Aquino regime is the biggest violator of children's rights. It is likewise responsible for the unabated killing of children in the course of violating the social, economic and cultural rights of minority peoples. AB



# PAMANA and Kalahi-CIDSS are counterrevolutionary and anti-development

Contrary to the Aquino regime's much-vaunted claims, the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) and Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) programs do not promote development. These two programs are both being implemented as part of the counterrevolutionary war Oplan Bayanihan (OPB).

The ₱1.9 billion fund allotted for these programs are merely used for showcase psywar programs of the US-Aquino regime and squandered by their implementors at the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP).

In Eastern Visayas, the funds are poured into areas believed to be strongholds of the revolutionary movement, including Samar province which has received a ₱17.6 million allotment. In June, PAMANA was launched in 60 villages in six Samar towns to counter the New People's Army. The military, police and local government units all cooperate in its implementation.

Local governments are obliged to allocate the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of their towns or barangays even if the funds are already inadequate for basic needs. In 2010, Kalahi-CIDSS was also launched in Balangiga and Maslog towns in Eastern Samar; and in Laoang, Mondragon and San Roque, Northern Samar.

This program is clearly a part of Oplan Bayanihan since it is mainly implemented by soldiers belonging to AFP Civil-Military Operations (CMO) Battalions instead of agen-

cies and civilian personnel of the reactionary government. In conjunction with these programs, other propaganda activities against the revolutionary movement are conducted as well as the establishment of intelligence networks in the area.

In Samar province, the area must first be mapped and its characteristics described as a requisite for project implementation. For instance, before an area could have a potable water project installed, the proponents must first submit a map of all brooks and natural streams within the barangay, even if these are not being used as sources of water. Military agents join the teams that map and survey the area.

This September, in Leyte, the 19th IB took pictures of residents, who strongly resisted the move by exposing it over the radio.

By 2013, a road-building project along the Northern Samar-Samar-Eastern Samar boundary will be in full swing to facilitate the entry of big mining companies. The AFP is among the main promoters of this project because it also intends to use the roads to rapidly transport its fascist troops during military operations. AB

## 2 killed, 9 wounded in NPA tactical offensives

Two soldiers were killed and nine others were wounded in tactical offensives by the New People's Army (NPA) in Bukidnon and Leyte this October.

In Bukidnon, 1Lieutenant Palar, two soldiers of the 8th IB and six CAFGU elements were wounded in a harassment operation by a team of Red fighters from the Ernesto "Boyboy" Roa Command at the center of Barangay Bunacao, San Fernando on the night of October 24. Among the wounded CAFGU elements were men of the notorious bandit Nonong Salusad.

In Leyte, two soldiers were killed and a trooper wounded in an ambush by the NPA Mt. Amandewin Command on elements of the 78th IB in Barangay Cagbana, Burauen on October 17.

After the ambush, one of the soldiers tried to rape a 12-year old girl from the same village. She was able to escape and report the incident to her relatives. AB



## Times Transit workers launch march-caravan from Vigan to Manila

Fed up workers of Times Transportation Company, a bus firm plying the Ilocos Sur-Manila route decided in the last week of October to launch a march-caravan from Vigan to Quezon City. They reached the office of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) at Banaue Street on the morning of November 5 and immediately held a protest picket.

The workers opposed the NLRC's failure to implement a decade-old Supreme Court decision favorable to the workers. The Times Transit drivers, conductors and mechanics had struck after a deadlock between workers and management during negotiations for a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Meanwhile, employees of Pambato Cargo Forwarders Inc. (PFIC) in Iloilo City launched a protest action to oppose the dismissal of seven workers on October 31.

The company, which serves as a cargo forwarder nationwide claimed that it was losing and had to reduce its workforce. The layoffs were done without going through any democratic process. The workers said that the management and their union had just signed a five-year CBA last month that guaranteed the workers' job security.

The union filed a complaint at the NLRC on October 30 and were supported by KMU and BAYAN-Panay. AB

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## 2 US soldiers face rape charges in Okinawa

Two American soldiers were formally charged by a local prosecutor in Okinawa, Japan on November 7 for raping a woman in Central Okinawa.

The soldiers, Seaman Christopher Browning and Petty Officer 3rd Class Skyler Dozierwalker, both 23, are from Fort Worth Naval Air Base, Texas. They have been accused of raping a 20-year old woman at dawn on October 16. The woman was walking home from work at around 4 a.m. when she was accosted and raped by the two foreigners who she later identified.

The local police arrested Browning and Dozierwalker at their hotel near the scene of the crime, just hours after the rape. The two soldiers remain in the custody of the local police. Browning also faces a separate robbery case.

This is not the first time that American soldiers stationed in Okinawa have been involved in rape. In 1995, a 12-year old girl was gang-raped by three soldiers. In the Philippines, a similar case that also hogged headlines involved the rape of Filipina "Nicole" by Lance Corporal Daniel Smith in 2005.

The Japanese people have long been demanding the pullout of American troops from their country. Half of the total 52,000 American soldiers in Japan are stationed in Okinawa, a region in southern Japan comprising 41 municipalities in the Ryuku island chain. AB

## Olalia-Alay-ay murder case revived

The 26-year old murder case of trade union leader Rolando Olalia and his aide Leonor Alay-ay has been revived after Ret. Lt. Col. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan voluntarily surfaced on October 6. Kapunan is one of the principal accused in the Olalia-Alay-ay killings.

When Kapunan surfaced, AFP officers hedged for days, trying to prevent the fugitive colonel's transfer to a civilian detention facility even if Antipolo RTC Branch 98 Presiding Judge Maria Consejo-Gengos had already ordered him remanded to the Rizal Provincial Jail. Instead, the military had Kapunan transferred to the National Bureau of Investigation detention center.

Kapunan is one of 13 accused in the killing of Olalia and Alay-ay. He was one of the officers of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) which was then led by Col. Gregorio Honasan and Juan Ponce-Enrile, now both senators. The Olalia family has demanded that Kapunan and his co-accused name the real masterminds behind the heinous crime.

Days after their abduction, Olalia and Alay-ay's bodies were found on November 13, 1986 in Antipolo City, bearing marks of severe torture.

Olalia then chaired the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and was president of Partido ng Bayan (PnB). Olalia's killing was part of an attempt then by military groups under Corazon Aquino's regime to block the participation of the democratic mass movement in the 1987 elections.

Olalia and Alay-ay's killings formed part of the brutal fascist campaign against activists under the Corazon Aquino regime. This was followed by the Mendiola Massacre in January 1987 and the Lupao Massacre in February 1987. Months after, fascist soldiers also killed Leandro Alejandro, then the secretary-general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN). The fascist campaign of killings and brutality was further stepped up when Corazon Aquino declared all-out war against the democratic mass movement and the armed revolution also in 1987.



## Health activists slam privatization of medical services

More than 1,000 government health workers walked out of their jobs on October 23 to oppose plans to privatize public hospitals and other medical services. The protest action was led by the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) and the Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD).

More than 500 health workers, patients and members of urban poor groups rallied in front of the Philippine Orthopedic Center (POC). At the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), more than 100 health workers and members of progressive groups joined coordinated mass protests. Health workers and employees of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and National Center for Mental Health also participated.

The AHW belied government claims that privatization will result in better services and will benefit patients, saying that handing over laboratory services to the private sector which charges higher fees will cause patients further hardships. The privatization of public hospitals is in line with the Aquino government's program to privatize medical services throughout the country under the Public-Private Partnership scheme.

At the PHC, room rates have been raised and the employees' hazard pay reduced. At the POC, PGH and San Lazaro Hospital (SLH), charity wards have been phased out and replaced with semi-private Philhealth wards. The bidding process has already begun for the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa, the POC in Quezon City and the SLH in Manila.