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Editorial

Oppose heightened intervention and deployment of US military forces

The arrival of US President Obama in the Philippines for the leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) served as an occasion to heighten US intervention and ensure deployment of more warships into the South China Sea. Several of these ships are being manned and operated by the Philippine military.

The Filipino people reject Obama's empty declaration of "iron-clad commitment to the defense" of the Philippines. This only aims to justify the deployment of its forces in the country. He also announced plans to "transfer" to the Philippines two more junk warships of the US in a patent sales-pitch to favor the lopsided Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

The chief imperialist spoke aboard the Philippine Navy's Gregorio Del Pilar ship upon arrival in the country last November 17. He reaffirmed and reasserted US power and dominance when he boarded and inspected the ship, a former naval cutter of the US Coast Guard, and received treatment like a commander by bootlicking officials of the AFP.

Because of his interminate puppetry to the US, Aquino has earned Obama's approval as "a valuable and trusted friend to the United States."

The Filipino people denounces imperialist chief Obama for making the deceptive claim that the "transfer" of

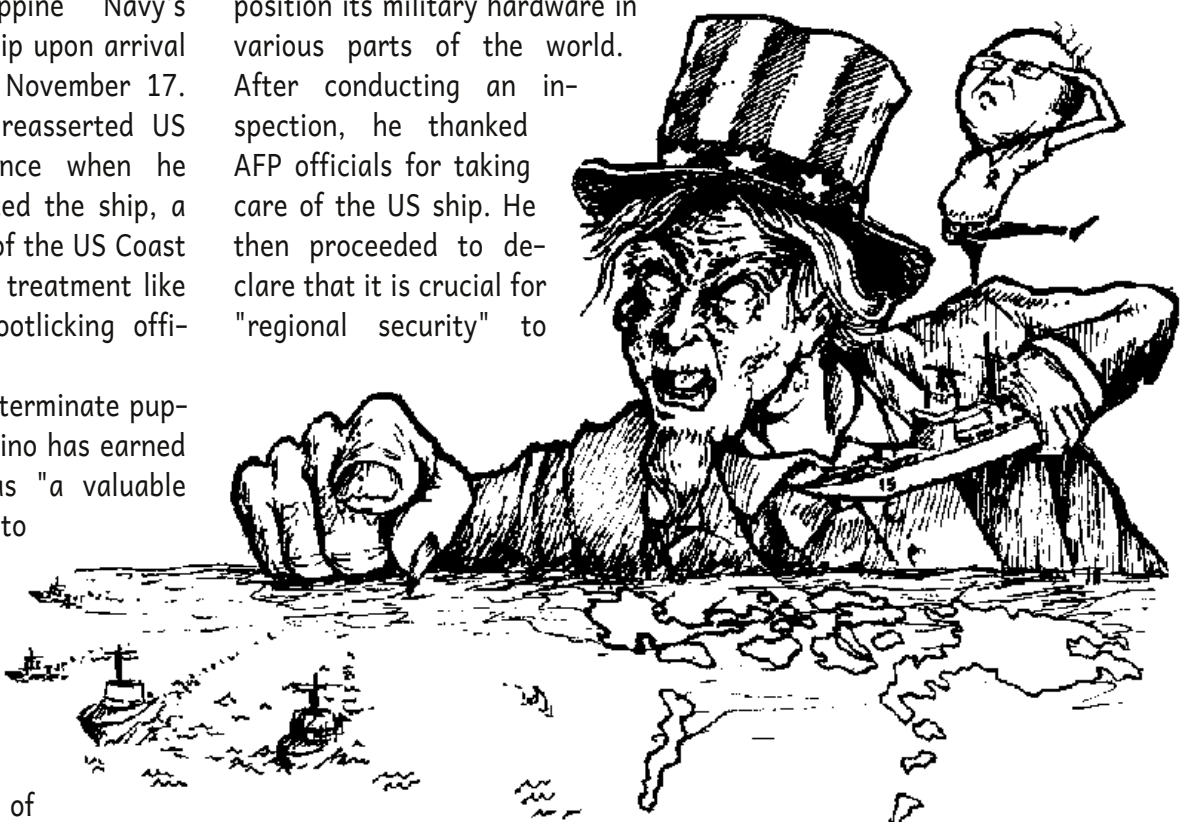
obsolete warships is a big boost to the Philippines. In fact, such transfer is simply a deployment of US military hardware into the region. These are manned by US-trained AFP personnel. The P450 million spent for the transfer of BRP Gregorio del Pilar in 2011 was taken from the Aquino-controlled Malampaya funds.

Obama has further underscored that ships transferred to the AFP are part of the US strategy to preposition its military hardware in various parts of the world. After conducting an inspection, he thanked AFP officials for taking care of the US ship. He then proceeded to declare that it is crucial for "regional security" to

raise the capability of naval forces that cooperate with the US.

The imperialist chief is taking advantage of Philippine assertions of sovereign territory vis-a-vis China and the long-running dependence of the Philippines to the US military. The objective of the US is to project its military forces and push for the deployment of its forces and power-projection operations in the South China Sea and the Asia-Pacific region.

We must thoroughly expose the US claims of pursuing "freedom of navigation" as if these were universal principles when these are nothing but US-concocted ideas to push for US control of trade routes in the South China Sea.



Around the world, the US imposes its control of all trade routes, oil pipelines, sources of raw materials and spheres of investment. US control serves the objective of giving US companies all-out freedom to accumulate superprofits. The US also issues threats of and actually imposes economic sanctions to force anti-US governments such as North Korea, Russia, Venezuela and Cuba to bow before it.

The US is setting-up China as a bogeyman against "freedom of navigation" in the South China Sea and is provoking its ire by surrounding its seas and setting-up a military alliance under US leadership. In his speech, Obama announced the allotment of an additional \$250 million to strengthen the naval forces of the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan,

Malaysia and Vietnam. The Philippines will receive \$79 million, making it the biggest recipient of maritime assistance in the region.

China has responded to the US pivot in Asia since 2011 by aggressively pushing back encircling US warships and strengthening its presence in the South China Sea, to the detriment of Philippine sovereign territory. In out-muscling one another, the US and China are both trampling on the Philippine territorial seas and economic zone as recognized by international laws.

The Filipino people stand against the continuing militarization and arms buildup in the South China Sea by both the US and China.

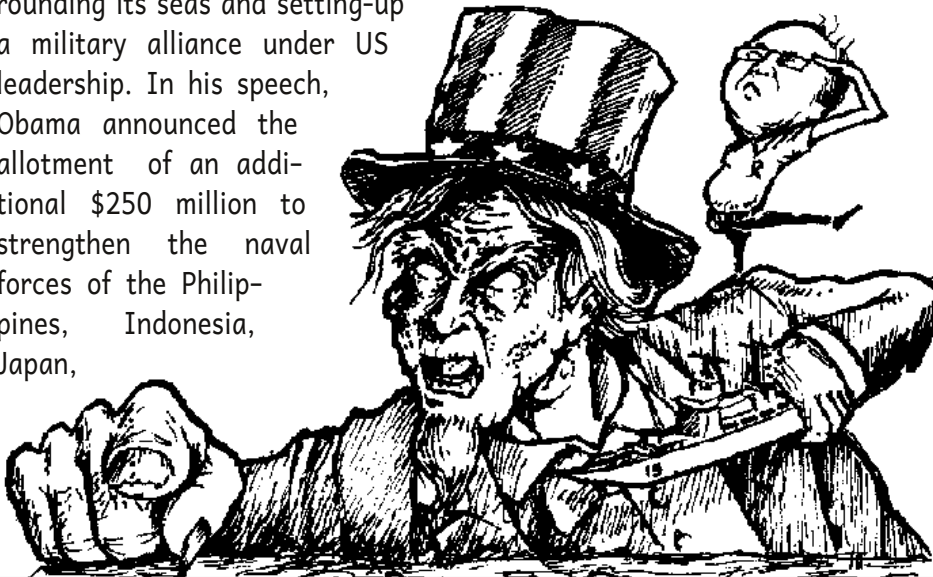
In upholding the aspiration for national freedom, the Filipino people demand the abrogation of the EDCA. The EDCA paves the way for the reestablishment of US military bases and further increases the presence of US troops in the country. The US government is pushing for the EDCA in order to steadily utilize the Philippines as a base for its operations to encircle China and intervene in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Filipino people condemn Obama's interference in pushing the Philippine Supreme Court to affirm the EDCA. They welcome the resolution of 15 senators who asserted that the military agreement should be subjected to a senate vote. This will give the Filipino people an opportunity to thoroughly expose and oppose the EDCA.

The Filipino people must condemn and oppose the puppet Aquino regime. The puppet Amboys in the Aquino government and the leadership of the AFP and PNP are allowing the US imperialists to trample on Philippine sovereignty by allowing all-out economic, political and military intervention.

The Filipino people should advance their struggle for national liberation. They must amplify their call for the withdrawal of all foreign troops, especially American troops and their warships, submarines, jetfighters, drones and other war matériel stationed in the Philippines.

The Filipino people should push for an independent foreign policy, assert national freedom in Philippine territorial seas and extended continental shelf and demand the demilitarization of the South China Sea. AB



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Anti-APEC protesters defy ban

THE US-Aquino regime's repressive ban on street protests against the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leader's meeting were openly defied by various groups who launched successive protest actions despite the regime's earlier declaration of "no-rally zones" and decision to deny rally permits.

On the APEC Summit's last day, November 19, thousands of rallyists jostled with 20,000 policemen and soldiers who were deployed in Metro Manila, mainly at Buendia Avenue, to hold a rally near the meeting's venue. They were able to advance by almost half a kilometer before they were met by water cannons and beaten by truncheon-wielding police who were purportedly in place to maintain "peace and order" for the foreign delegates. More than 15 rallyists were injured. A few weeks earlier, successive anti-APEC protest actions were launched in Metro Manila.

November 18. In the morning, the KMU and other progressive organizations staged a lightning-rally at the corner of Taft and Buendia avenues in Pasay City.

Meanwhile, police along MacArthur Highway in Pampanga stopped a jeepload of Migrante members on their way to join the protests.

November 17. Youth and students staged a short rally in front of the US Embassy in Roxas Boulevard, Manila. This road has been declared as a "no-walking zone" for the duration of the APEC Summit.

They then attended the International Students Day Summit at the National Press Club in Intramuros before returning to the US Embassy at around 5 p.m.

November 13. Thousands of youth and students from schools and universities marched towards Mendiola led by Kabataan Partylist, Anakbayan and League of Filipino Students.

They burned the APEC logo and images of Aquino, Obama and Xi Jinping.

November 12. Gabriela picketed the US Embassy against APEC and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

November 9. Youths belonging to Anakbayan-Metro Manila held a protest at Malacanang's Gate 7 where they burned the APEC logo. They condemned Aquino's six-year rule for promoting neoliberal policies that resulted in people's hardship. They tagged him a "peddler of people."

November 7. Workers under KMU assembled at Liwasang Bonifacio. They declared that neoliberal policies worsen unemployment, depress wages and engender contractualization.

North and south converge

Protesters from Northern Luzon started travelling to Manila on November 17 in a caravan dubbed *Martsa Amianan* (Northern March). They were stopped by the police

several times along the way, including a busload of delegates from the Ilocos Region that was pulled over in Barangay Bio, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur around 8:00 p.m. The caravan arrived in Manila on the next day.

On November 18, groups from Cordillera, Northern and Southern Luzon and the Lumads of Mindanao converged at the Mendiola Bridge in a unity march against globalization. In a ceremony, they exchanged tokens of unity such as the shield and *say-ang* (spear) from the Cordillera people, and the spear and belt of beads from the Lumad.

Before this, a Mangyan group arrived in Manila from Southern Tagalog to hold a protest rally at the US Embassy and the Supreme Court on November 13. On November 16, they marched with the Dumagat indigenous people towards Makati where they were violently dispersed by police.

NDFP Protest

Hundred of members from the underground organizations affiliated with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) held a lightning rally on November 14. They marched the stretch of Avenida Rizal in Sta. Cruz and burned the US flag and the APEC symbol. Activists carried placards and chanted slogans encouraging the youth to join the New People's Army and applauding the Communist Party of the Philippines. **AB**



Regime detains Lumads for APEC

MANILAKBAYAN'S Lumad participants were virtually imprisoned at the Baclaran Church compound in Parañaque City since moving there on November 13. They were prevented from leaving the premises to attend anti-APEC protest actions by hundreds of policemen, four buses and container vans blocking the church gates.

On November 14, Police Chief Supt. Nestor Quimsay of the Police Community Relations Group himself sought out the Lumad leaders at the church to ask them to abandon their plans to hold protests against the APEC. They rejected his request and by night-time, police and trucks arrived to barricade the church gates.

The police stopped about a hundred Lumads on board a jeep bound for the Iglesia Filipina Independiente National Cathedral in Manila that offered them accommodations. The police confiscated the license of their driver who was a Piston member.

The Lumad protesters trooped to the Baclaran church after they were ejected from their camp in Liwasang Bonifacio as part of the US-Aquino regime's "clean-up" for the APEC. They had a permit from the city government to stay until November 22 at the Liwasan where they set up camp after leaving the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. The "clean-up" involved arresting or removing street children. (See related article on page 5.)

They resorted to flying kites with the words "Junk APEC", and "Save our Schools," from the church belfry on November 18 as a

way of joining the protest actions outside. Concurrently, the military flew a drone above the compound to harass and spy on the protesters. They were prevented from joining the big rally on November 19.

On November 15, delegates from the International League of Peoples' Struggles (ILPS) held their press briefing at the Baclaran church grounds. They declared their solidarity with the Lumad struggle.

Before they were stopped by the police in Baclaran, the Manilakbayan was able to hold various protest actions. On November 10, hundreds of indigenous people held a tribute for the Global Day of Action for IP (Indigenous Peoples) Heroes and Martyrs through song, chant, dance and collective oath-taking at the Kampuhan sa Liwasang Bonifacio. Other indigenous peoples joined this activity.

After the tribute, the groups proceeded to a rally in front of the office of Toronto Ventures Inc. Resources and Development, a Canadian firm mining the Subanen lands in Zamboanga, and the DM Consunji Inc., which is known to be responsible for the abduction of John Calaba, a Manobo.

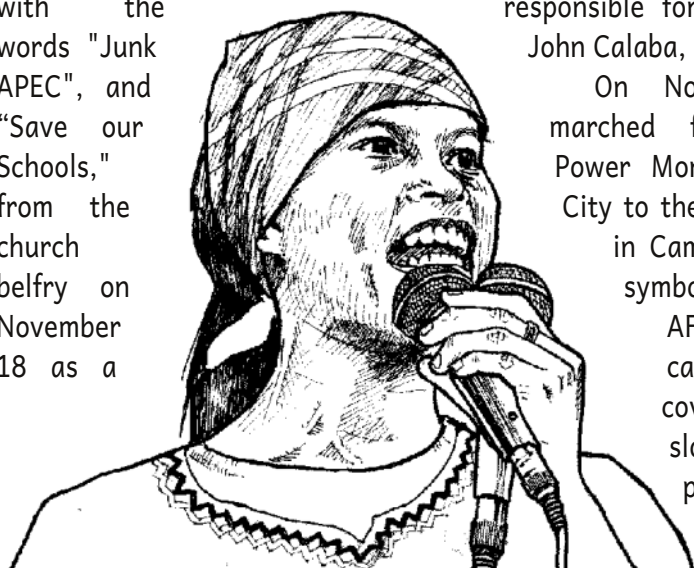
On November 9, they marched from the People Power Monument in Quezon City to the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo. They symbolically speared the AFP seal at the camp's gate, and covered the military slogans with a tarpaulin denouncing Oplan Bayanihan.

On November 6, officials from the Liberal Party (LP) visited the Kampuhan sa Liwasang Bonifacio, offered food, and asked the Lumads to call off their planned protest at the LP office in Cubao, Quezon City. The Lumads continued with the protest on the same day to assert that what they need is for military operations in their ancestral land to end, not food bribes. On November 5, they protested in front of the Department of Justice in Manila.

Since their arrival in Manila last October, the Lumad protests have gained wide support from various sectors for their struggle. At the Kampuhan sa Liwasan where they transferred from the University of the Philippines-Diliman campus, they were visited by many organizations and personalities who expressed solidarity with their struggle.

Among those who expressed support were nuns from the Sisters Association in Mindanao, Manila Archbishop Luis Cardinal Tagle, former Miss Philippines Ma. Isabel Lopez, comedian Mae Paner (Juana Change), Maine Mendoza (known as Yaya Dub) and singer Monique Wilson. On November 8, musicians from Musikang Bayan, Musicians for Peace, Plagpul, General Strike and Tukar Sinati performed at the Kampuhan. Singers Bayang Barrios, Aiza Seguerra and rapper BLKD also performed for the Lumad. In the morning before they left for Liwasang Bonifacio, they were treated to a breakfast by the group Aldub Nation.

On the last day of Manilakbayan on November 20, supporters visited the Lumad protesters for a solidarity night and send-off. The Southern Tagalog delegation was blocked three times by the police before they were allowed to proceed to the Baclaran church. **AB**



Regime illegally arrests and detains urban poor residents

THE US-Aquino regime illegally arrested and detained hundreds of urban poor residents to clear thoroughfares for APEC delegates. "Clearing" operations started in earnest on November 9 when police forcibly confiscated wares of vendors and other residents living and working around the APEC Summit venue and nearby roads used by the delegates.

Police callously confiscated vendors' wares and other private property in brutal clearing operations. The poor were forcibly taken and detained in public facilities and guarded by personnel from the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. They were told that they will only be released after the APEC. Among those arrested are 141 street children.

Prior to this, the DSWD had been driving away street people using the modified cash transfer program. Under this, the DSWD give homeless families P4000 supposedly for a month's rent for them to abandon the streets. According to DSWD records, it has transferred more than 20,000 individuals to other provinces and cities far from the APEC venue.

Human rights organizations and the church denounced the regime's abuse of urban poor residents to "beautify" Metro Manila. AB

ILPS holds assembly simultaneously with the APEC

MORE than 350 activists from 40 organizations in 91 countries arrived in the Philippines this November to hold the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS) fifth assembly. The ILPS meeting was made to coincide with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' meeting in Manila to allow delegates to participate in protest actions.

The conference's theme is "For a Socially Just World, Strengthen the Peoples' Solidarity and Intensify the Struggle Against Imperialist Plunder, Crisis and War."

In Jose Maria Sison's report, he identified the ILPS as the widest and strongest international alliance of anti-imperialist and democratic organizations. He says that while revolutionary forces and peoples should strengthen their struggles within their countries, they should also continue to relate with each other to learn, help and coordinate from each other. Sison is ILPS' International Coordinating Committee president.

According to Len Cooper, ILPS vice-president, they are holding the assembly in time with the APEC because "...it is only shaping a so-called "better" world for the 1% of the richest and most powerful corporations and individuals while the 99%, the rest of us, far from being better off, face environment degradation, rampant militarization, catastrophes like Yolanda, and precarious working conditions..."

Among the ILPS delegates is Leila Khaled, a known Palestinian fighter and member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who is famous around the world as the first female to hijack a plane in 1969.

While in the country, foreign delegates called on the US-Aquino regime to respect their democratic rights, including their right to hold protests against the APEC and the regime itself.

The ILPS also condemned the terrorist attacks on civilians in Paris, France on November 13 while warning the regime not to use the incident to stifle and suppress their and the Filipino people's right to protest.

The terrorists who are attacking civilians are imperialist creations, they say. According to Michelle Allison, ILPS delegate and Kurdish National Congress member, the US-created ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is following the same pattern of groups created, armed and funded by the US which have now spun out of their control. Nevertheless, the US stands to gain more from these groups, particularly in ousting "unfriendly" regimes, like in Syria. The ISIS is behind the terrorist attacks in France and is based mainly in Syria.

The ILPS also denounced the US-backed Trans-Pacific Partnership which is wholly supported by the US-Aquino regime. According to Kate Lappin, regional coordinator of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), "the TPP is about ensuring corporations can take land, resources without any responsibility and ensuring corporations can exploit workers." The TPP is illegal because it allows corporations to trample upon national laws and prohibits governments from making any law in the people's favor as against corporations, she added. AB

Aquino, Obama push Philippine inclusion in TPP

President Aquino and US President Obama jointly announced last November 19 the plan for the Philippines to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Once in effect, this will result in further dismantling of the policies and laws which protect Philippine national patrimony.

The planned membership of the Philippines to the TPP was announced on the occasion of Obama's arrival in the Philippines for the APEC leaders' summit. The lengthy secret negotiations for the TPP ended on the first week of November. Negotiators from 12 economies led by the US approved and made public the 5,500-page TPP deal.

According to the private research organization Ibon Foundation, the TPP is the most intrusive economic deal in history. It removes the remaining obstacles to the unhampered operations of foreign corporations.

Ibon added that the TPP's 30 chapters on the various economic sectors are designed to make it easy for big foreign transnational corporations to profit from the labor forces, natural resources, and domestic markets of member countries. Among the most cruel implementing measures are the following:

1. Removing virtually all trade and investment barriers. Tariffs will be eliminated from 18,000 products including 1,900 agricultural products. Tariffs on other agricultural products, including beef and pork imports, will be reduced by half. New non-tariff import quotas will be created for tens of thousands of tons of rice

and milk from the US and Australia.

2. Promoting opaque and unaccountable international dispute settlement (IDS) that would be controlled by big corporations. There will be no public accountability since this will not be government-controlled. Local laws are expected to uphold investor rights. This will limit government powers and give way to the use of public resources for narrow private corporate benefit.

3. Protecting foreign intellectual property monopolies, thus making medicines, books and computer programs more expensive. An even far-reaching effect is the stifling of domestic science and technology development.

One particular US focus is the intellectual property rights in the belief that its chief economic advantage is in "high-tech." In the field of medicine, the agreement guarantees market exclusivity for patented biologic drugs for at least five years. This includes vaccines and particular cancer cures.

Aside from this, the TPP obligates governments to "adopt or maintain appropriate laws, regulations, policies,

orders, government-issued guidelines, or administrative or executive decrees that provide that its central government agencies use only non-infringing computer software protected by copyright and related rights, and, if applicable, only use that computer software in a manner authorised by the relevant licence." Since Microsoft has a monopoly on computer operating systems, huge profits will be realized since governments will not be able to shift to free or cheaper and open source softwares or computer programs.

Appropriate measures will also ensure the exclusive right of corporations to utilize trademarks even if these are already registered and used by a much smaller firm ahead of a well-known company.

Violators of the agreement will face penalties that include imprisonment, aside from obligatory fines. For "serious" offenses, authorities can order the forfeiture of any assets.

The unauthorized disclosure of company trade secrets will be dealt with severely to prevent whistleblowing. Unauthorized storage and distribution of songs, videos or books through the internet will also be penalized.

The ratification of all 12 of the originators of the TPP is not needed for the agreement to take effect.

Only the approval by the legislature of six economies is required.

The Aquino regime is pushing for the Philippines to be a member of the TPP ever since

it came to power. In the past five years, requisite policies necessary to enter the deal have been



enacted and implemented. These include the alleged law against monopolies, the amendment to the cabotage law, and the further opening of the banking sector to foreign investment and ownership.

US imperialists are blatantly pushing for the revision of the 1987 constitution as a requisite for the Philippines to enter the TPP. Among those actively pushing for charter change is the Partnership for Growth, a global group funded by the US with \$739 million that Aquino joined in 2011. In response, Aquino's minions in the Congress and Senate have attempted on several occasions to pass the "economic charter change" or the removal of the protectionist provisions from the 1987 constitution.

Meanwhile, opposition has swelled against the TPP and the corresponding agreement on the other side of the world, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Experts in the United Nations have declared both the TPP and TTIP as illegal. They stated that the agreement will only further impoverishment, make negotiations for credit more difficult and endanger the rights and livelihood of minority peoples, individuals with handicaps or disabled, the elderly, and other individuals already under vulnerable conditions.

In the US, protest actions were initiated by a coalition with 63 member organizations in Washington, D.C., last November 16-18, coinciding with the APEC summit.

On October 21, some 250,000 citizens took part in a rally against the TTIP in Berlin, Germany, while three million citizens in Europe signed a petition against it.

In Japan, sustained protests are conducted, particularly against provisions concerning the trade in medicine. AB

Kentex victims still denied justice

NOVEMBER 13 marked the six month of the Kentex fire, yet justice still eludes the victims.

According to Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), the cases filed by the workers against the owners of Kentex remain unacted upon in the Valenzuela prosecutor's office. The administrative case filed by workers against Labor Sec. Rosalinda Baldoz and former DILG Sec. Mar Roxas is ignored by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales.

The SSS (Social Security Service) has released the benefits for the workers who died, but fire survivors have yet to receive theirs. Likewise, it has also neglected to file a case against Kentex owners for failing to remit the worker contributions.

Instead of acting on the pending cases, the Department of Justice (DOJ) this November filed a case of copyright infringement against Kentex for imitating the label of Brazil's Havaianas footwear, to show-off to APEC delegates.

On November 1, KMU picketed the DOLE office to remember workers who have perished in different workplace accidents and who continue to be denied justice. The five worst cases of workplace accidents during Aquino's administration are Kentex (more than 74 dead, May 13, 2015), Novo Jeans and Shirts (17 dead, May 9, 2012), Eton Towers (11 dead, January 27, 2011), Semirara Mining Corp. (9 dead, July 17, 2015), and Asia Micro Tech (8 dead, May 30, 2014).

The KMU warned that the policies being deliberated in the APEC will worsen the working conditions and give rise to more accidents because these will undermine and create new ones that will only serve to increase capitalist profit. AB

Peasants commemorate anniversary of Hacienda Luisita massacre

Last November 16, Hacienda Luisita peasants and their supporters commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Hacienda Luisita massacre. A protest action led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) was held at the Ninoy Aquino Memorial Shrine in Quezon City. Delegates of the International League of People's Struggles attended the activity.

According to Rafael Mariano, KMP chairperson, "Aquino and the Cojuangco-Aquino family may forget the incident, but the Filipinos will never forget the Hacienda Luisita massacre... until now, there is still no justice for the victims."

By nightfall, workers of Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) lit candles. They related the ongoing APEC summit to the denial of justice for the victims and the continuing repression of workers' right to unionize. According to the KMU, "the best way to honor the martyrs of Luisita is to continue their struggle for a better world ... against the big foreign and local capitalists and their instruments such as the APEC."

On November 16, 2004, state forces opened fire on striking farmers and workers of Central Asucarera de Tarlac in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City. Seven were killed and hundreds wounded. The case filed against the massacre's perpetrators was dismissed by the Ombudsman during Aquino's administration. AB

Fight Oplan Bayanihan in an all-round way

As the six-year counterrevolutionary Oplan Bayanihan is set to end, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is rabidly sowing fascist violence against the people and revolutionary movement. This is in the face of its failure to accomplish or even come close to accomplishing its stated goal of "rendering the NPA irrelevant" by 2016.

The AFP is deluding itself in stating that from the end of 2014 up to March 2015, it has cut the New People's Army (NPA) forces by half. Its announcement that it is ready to turn over its counter-insurgency campaign to the Philippine National Police (PNP) is nothing but an empty boast.

The reactionary state has thoroughly failed to realize OpBay's political and military goals. In 2012, the AFP leadership itself admitted that it has failed to involve "peace and development stakeholders" in counterrevolution.

In a desperate attempt to meet its targets, the AFP has set in motion an extensive military campaign in war fronts in Mindanao since 2014. It has poured several divisions and other service units under the Eastern Mindanao Command in the belief that "the defeat in Mindanao will cause the collapse of the revolutionary movement in the entire country."

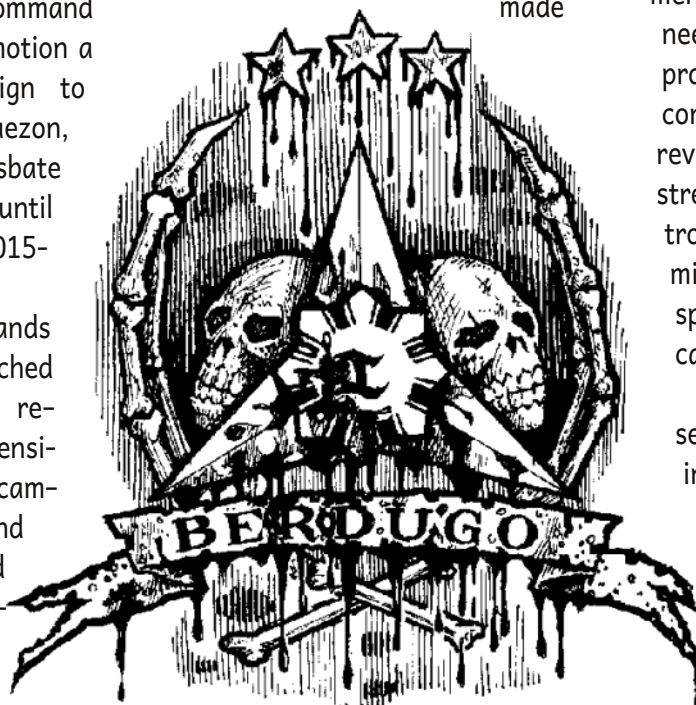
The Southern Luzon Command also declared and set into motion a similarly ambitious campaign to proclaim the provinces of Quezon, Mindoro, Sorsogon and Masbate as "conflict-manageable" until "insurgency-free" within 2015-16.

Other operational commands and Infantry Divisions launched similar campaigns in other regions characterized by intensified "triad operations" or campaigns and intelligence and combat operations combined with civilian-military operations (psy-ops).

Extending the counterrevolutionary program

The enemy is preparing a new operational plan to coincide with the election of the new regime by the second half of 2016. The new regime is expected to continue with OpBay's major aspects, especially the heightened political aspects of intensified military operations.

Through its institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, foreign banks and corporations, the imperialists have poured massive funds into the Philippine psywar project. It aims to destroy the revolutionary armed forces, one of the remaining forces in the world with significant strength. US imperialism and the ruling classes' main and most trusted organization in counter-insurgency is the AFP which has been trained intensively according to US manuals. Based on the AFP's plans, political attacks will be carried out extensively, and sharpened and made



more intricate by focusing on "non-combat military operations" or civilian-military, psywar and intelligence operations while sustaining military pressure on priority areas and targets.

Consequently, there is a need to study in detail the enemy's psy-ops and psywar tactics because the new regime will likely extend the methods that have been proven "effective" in deception and violence.

Bankrupt to its core

The reactionary state and US imperialism have failed to destroy the revolutionary movement through different combinations of military, political, socio-economic, cultural and informational attacks for over 40 years or so. Because of this, they have shifted OpBay from so-called "enemy-centric" operations towards a "people-centered" approach using the "whole-of-nation initiative (WNI)." This is what the regime and the AFP has strengthened, faithfully followed and fine-tuned under Oplan Bayanihan. It has used "people-centered" methods to deceive the people and draw them away from the path of revolutionary struggle.

Under the WNI, different government agencies, stewarded by the military, are mobilized to launch sham programs to create the illusion that the reactionary government is addressing the people's needs. Purportedly, this is an improvement to the "enemy-centric" concept or the destruction the revolutionary forces' military strength through search-and-destroy operations, or using plain military strength, coupled with sporadic civic-action operations carried out solely by the AFP.

The AFP seeks to secure other sectors' support and participation in its counter-insurgency efforts.

It attempts to undermine the support of the broad united front to the revolutionary movement and deprive it of the middle

forces' support and draw away the backward section of the masses. It uses deception, intimidation, murder threats, anti-communist indoctrination, bribery, anti-social activities and practices, and others.

It fully utilizes state agencies such as the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Work and Development and Department of Agrarian Reform in their respective roles. The WNI also uses the civil society organizations and NGOs, especially among the youth and students and the academe, professionals, entrepreneurs, media, religious groups and other reformist and reactionary groups in the ranks of the middle forces.

The AFP established the Philippine Army Multisectoral Board at the national level, which is comprised of known personalities in the academe, media, NGO and others to serve as Oplan Bayanihan's "civilian front." It involves community-based groups, such as municipal and barangay councils, peasant organizations, the religious, civic groups, environmental groups, indigenous councils, Parent-Teacher Associations and the like. These are in addition to existing counterrevolutionary groups like the Civilian Volunteers Organization, CAA, CAFGU, Barrio Intelligence Network and the like.

To deceive the people, the AFP uses methods copied from the NPA units' manner and approach to the masses. Nevertheless, its duplicity is eventually bared as its deceptive "Pro-democracy Counter-People's War" is rotten to the core. It follows strategies laid out on the 2009 US Counter-insurgency Guide.

Fight Oplan Bayanihan in an all-round way

The revolutionary movement and people need to persevere in the fight against Oplan Bayanihan in an all-round way. To defeat it completely, the Party, people's army, united front and organs of political power and the entire revolutionary

mass movement in the cities and countryside, need to plan the battles thoroughly.

There is a need for tit-for-tat engagement in the spheres of ideology, politics, military, economy, culture, propaganda and social media. Oplan Bayanihan is anti-people to the core, though the AFP and the reactionary state describe and popularize it as merely "anti-NPA".

The revolutionary movement needs to mobilize the entire people in the fight against Oplan Bayanihan because it attempts to destroy the only avenue for realizing their aspiration to be free from the perennial and worsening class exploitation and oppression, social backwardness and poverty under a crisis-ridden semicolonial and semifeudal society. There is a need to generate a strong

campaign and mass movement to repudiate the reactionary regime's counter-insurgency policies.

Basically, Oplan Bayanihan's ideology and program is bankrupt and anti-people. It is reactionary and only aims to perpetuate the oppressive, exploitative, anti-national and anti-people social system. It is implemented by a puppet, fascist, deceptive and corrupt regime.

Its reactionary aspect is intentionally concealed as it strives to weaken the NPA and entire revolutionary movement's political base and strength through sham economic projects, deception, repression and violence, while driving the NPA into purely military battles where enemy forces have the advantage in terms of strength and superiority. **AB**

NPA attacks power plant's military guards in Batangas

A unit of the New People's Army-Batangas (Eduardo Dagli Command) fired an Air Force detachment inside the Batangas Coal Fired Thermal (Calaca Power Plant) in Calaca, Batangas last November 14. The military elements serve as plant guards to the 600-megawatt-power plant previously owned by the National Power Corporation. In 2009, it was bought by the DM Consunji company, one of the country's biggest compradors. Residents of Calaca and nearby municipalities have long complained about the negative effects of the plant on their health and livelihood. **AB**



Unabated violence against the Lumads

Killings and repression against Mindanao's Lumads continue unabated. Last November, elements from the paramilitary group Alamara under the 68th IB murdered Datu Manliro Landahay in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Datu Landahay is a council member of the Salugpongan Ta Tanu Igkanugon.

In Cabanglasan, Bukidnon on October 27, Mankombete Mariano, 48, was shot and hacked in front of his 10-year old grandson. The culprit was identified as a member of the paramilitary group De la Mance under the 8th IB.

On November 12, 23rd IB elements and paramilitary groups set on fire the teachers' cottage in an

Alcadev (Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development, Inc.) satellite school in Barangay Padiay, Sibagat, Agusan del Sur. The soldiers also burned the school's backyard nursery and the students' 2,500-square meter demo farm.

Despite widespread calls for the pull-out of military units and

their paramilitary groups from Surigao del Sur, it has further strengthened its presence in the area. This November, the military deployed to the province the 2nd Special Forces Battalion from Bohol. The battalion is set to encamp in Barangay Tina in San Miguel, where some residents have evacuated. Two additional Special Forces companies from the 7th and 9th ID are under its command. The battalion and two companies join the 36th IB and 75th IB operating in the province.

Mining, the root cause of militarization and killings

An international fact-finding mission confirmed the ties between the military, paramilitary groups and mining companies in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur. The Friends of the Lumad in Caraga, together with foreign lawyers from the International Association of People's Lawyers and media personnel from Vice News UK, conducted an investigation in Surigao del Sur's most militarized areas from October 26-30. These areas are located within and around the Andap Valley Complex, one of the final coal-rich areas unspoiled by big mining companies. The IFFI was conducted amidst the military's threats against its foreign delegates.

Under the US-Aquino regime, the Andap was opened further to local and foreign mining operations.

Among those granted with permits to mine coal in the area include the Romualdez' Benguet Mines, Canada's Abacus Coal Exploration and Mining Corporation, China's Great Wall Mining and Power Corporation and SKI Mining and Exploration Corporation. The government granted these permits despite protests from residents and environmental and human rights groups.

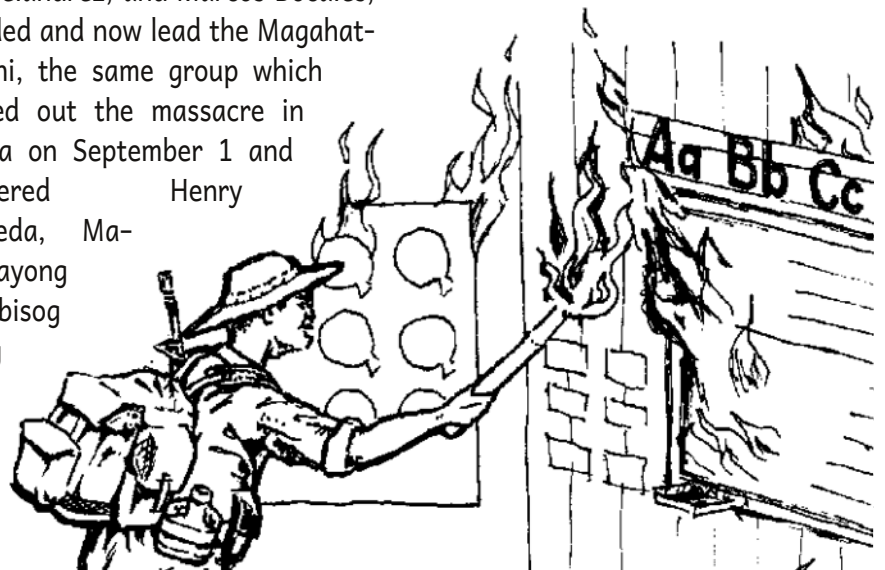
According to the IFFI report, these companies have already positioned their equipment and security forces in areas covered by their mining operations even before the Lumads were made to forcibly vacate their communities..

These companies rely on Lumads already involved in mining and have close ties with the military. One of them is Kalpet Egua, a Lumad operating gold mines at the border of two barangays in Prosperidad and Bayugan. Egua, together with his brother-in-law Marcial Belandrez, and Marcos Bocales, founded and now lead the Magahat-Bagani, the same group which carried out the massacre in Lianga on September 1 and murdered Henry Alameda, Mahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa

Sumusunod (Mapasu) chairperson, in 2014.

Egua, Belandres and Bocales are directly linked to the military and reactionary state. In 2009, the 58th IB introduced Bocales as "commander" of the Task Force Gantangan-Bagani Force (TFG-BG) in a public ceremony attended by local government representatives and residents. According to Col. Benjamin Pedralvez, then 58th IB commander, the TFG-BG was organized to maintain "peace and order" in Mapasu communities.

In 2004, after Egua's group murdered Henry Alameda, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples instructed the Lumads to submit to Egua's authority so that they can go back to their communities. This September, the military presented Belandrez as a "datu" (chieftain) in a press conference to accuse Lumad evacuees as "NPA members" or its supporters. AB



Production in Samar drops

Rice, corn and coconut production has plummeted in the whole island of Samar. The low productivity of the land and the backward, small-scale and individual production continue to worsen. This is further aggravated by destruction brought about by typhoons and the lack of calamity assistance from the reactionary government.

The following were collated from a research by the Party and the NPA in Eastern Visayas (EV).

In 2014, a hectare of lowland

field yielded a mere 51 sacks while upland farms yielded 28 sacks a hectare, an all-time low in Eastern Visayas (EV) region. In coconut

farms, the 2015 yield is expected to be only 25% of the yield prior to typhoon Ruby. It will take a year before the damaged coconut trees fully recover and eight years before the coconut trees planted after the typhoon become productive.

In a guerrilla front, a family usually tills one-fourth of a hectare. A family harvests only seven

sacks of palay annually. This is equivalent to a mere four sacks of milled rice, way below the 24 sacks needed to feed a family of five. It is common for the people to eat rice only twice a day. When the fields were infested by rats, the harvested rice was equal only to the amount of grain used as seed.

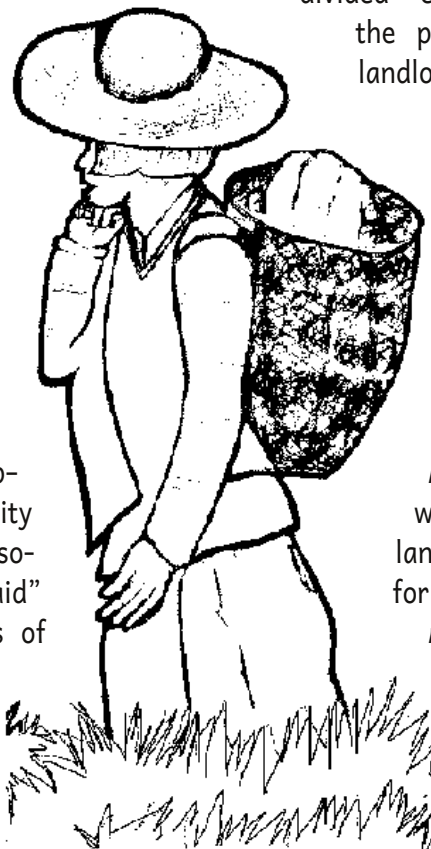
Low income, poverty and hunger

Since typhoon Ruby last December 2014, family earn a measly P62,000 a annually. This is equivalent to P172 a day or P34 per person in a family of five. This is the maximum income even with two family members slaving for eight hours per day. To compensate, children start to help in the fields at the age of 12.

The daily income of P172 is very low compared to the P241 mandated agricultural wages of P241, and worse if compared to the “decent” national living wages estimated at P1,500.

EV has always been poorer than other regions. In fact, it was the second poorest region before typhoon Yolanda. But in 2015, it became the poorest in the whole country. Six out of 10 families suffer from poverty and hunger.

Aside from the US-Aquino regime’s criminal neglect, man-made calamities like logging, extensive mining and militarization continue to wreak havoc, directly ruining the livelihood and lives of the toiling masses. The Department of Social Welfare and Development profits from calamity funds through the so-called “financial aid” loaned out in amounts of P10,000 to be paid in installments of P640 per month for two years, equivalent to a 54% interest rate. To



open opportunities for more corruption, the budget for the repair of infrastructure—such as school buildings—destroyed by the typhoon was allocated to KALAHICIDDS. In other words, donations for the calamity victims are used in the reactionary government’s counter-insurgency program.

Feudal and semifeudal exploitation

Worsening feudal and semifeudal exploitation continues to mire the peasant masses in poverty and hunger.

Land concentration in coconut lands and fields is pervasive, not only along major roads but even in interior barrios. Half of the lands in a barrio along a major road, for instance, is controlled by landlords. Even in interior barrios, one-fourth of the fields is rented out. For this reason, landlords are able to impose exploitative conditions favorable to their class interest.

Take for example a 1.5 hectare coconut farm. From 1,500 coconuts harvested before typhoon Ruby, the yield dwindled to 400 in March. In November, it is estimated that only 600 coconuts will be harvested. The yield is then to be divided equally between the peasant and the landlord.

In sum, the total costs amount to P3,700, where P1,200 goes to labor, P1,750 to food and P750 to *karyada* or *hornal* (farm workers). The landlord only pays for 50% of the *hornal*, while all other production costs are shouldered by the peasant.

A harvest

of 1,500 coconuts produces up to 375 kilos of copra. With the price of copra pegged at P17 per kilo, the peasant’s gross income only amounts to P6,365. Because net profits are split equally, the farmer will end up with a deficit of P137.50. Meanwhile, the landlord, who does not participate in the production process, bags a net profit of P2,812 or 105% of the net yield.

It is not surprising that the peasants are always broke. They are forced to seek credit from usurers. *Perde gana*, a form of usury where cash loans are paid in rice, is widespread in the area. A P300 loan taken during the *kaingin* (clearing) season is paid for by a sack of unmilled rice worth P1,000 during harvest time. This means a 233% interest rate in a five to six-month period.

The peasants’ oppressed conditions are made worse by low farmgate prices of agricultural products. At times, prices are so low that farmers are virtually being asked to give away their produce.

Worse, they are swindled by rice merchants who rig their weighing scales. By reducing a small amount from every small can of rice, a *ganta* of rice will contain only eight to eight and a half *chupas* instead of nine.

When the peasant sells his/her product, a reduction of one or two kilos for every 50 kilos being weighed is commonplace. This does not include the *tarha* or *resikada* (moisture content) arbitrarily imposed on agricultural products such as copra.

Farm workers in the area receive very low wages. In the uplands, the daily wage is set at P100 to P150. There are some areas where a half-day’s wage is only P30. In the lowlands and coconut farms, daily wages range from P100 to P200, compared to the P241 minimum wage for agricultural areas in the country. AB

On Yolanda's second anniversary:

Survivors deplore hardships

Two years after super typhoon Yolanda's devastation, hundreds of thousands remain in dire straits without proper housing, and still waiting for the US-Aquino regime's promised assistance. This was declared by some 100 survivors who trooped to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Office 8 in Tacloban on November 17 to insist on the immediate disbursement of the long-delayed Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) to residents staying at the No Dwelling Zone (NDZ).

After a heated argument, DSWD Regional Director Nestor Ramos agreed to write a recommendation to DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman to release the ESA to NDZ residents, despite the Memorandum Circular No. 24 or ESA Guidelines that disallow extending financial assistance to them.

On November 8, People Surge led thousands in protests held in different places in Leyte and Samar, including a march across San Juanico Bridge. The alliance declared that the victims are united in holding Aquino and his cronies accountable for neglecting the victims.

In Tacloban City, protesting victims and groups of artists from the University of the Philippines-Tacloban painted a mural on the DYVL wall at Noblejas Junction.

In Roxas City, Capiz, more than 5,000 held a rally led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan). In Iloilo, 3,200 participated in two rallies led by Bayan and the Task Force Buliganay, despite the denial of a permit by the city government. The protesters slammed the regime's corruption, politicking and delayed assistance. They like-

wise called for the cancellation of Memorandum No. 24.

In Kalibo, Aklan, 1,000 protesters marched to Crossing Banga-New Washington. Earlier in the morning, hundred people joined the protest run from Pastrana Park to the Kalibo-Numancia bridge.

The protesters also sent small boats down Lagatik River bearing the slogan "Justice for the Yolanda Victims."

On November 6, fishermen of the *Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas* (PAMALAKAYA) held a fluvial protest at Barangay Tambak, New Washington, Aklan. Another fluvial protest was held in Samar. They docked at Cancabato Bay near the Tacloban City Astrodome where they were met by members of People Surge in a "Salubungan" ceremony.

Criminal neglect

The regime's reconstruction and rehabilitation program is thoroughly corrupt. Last July, only P47 billion of the total P170 billion fund allotted for projects was released.

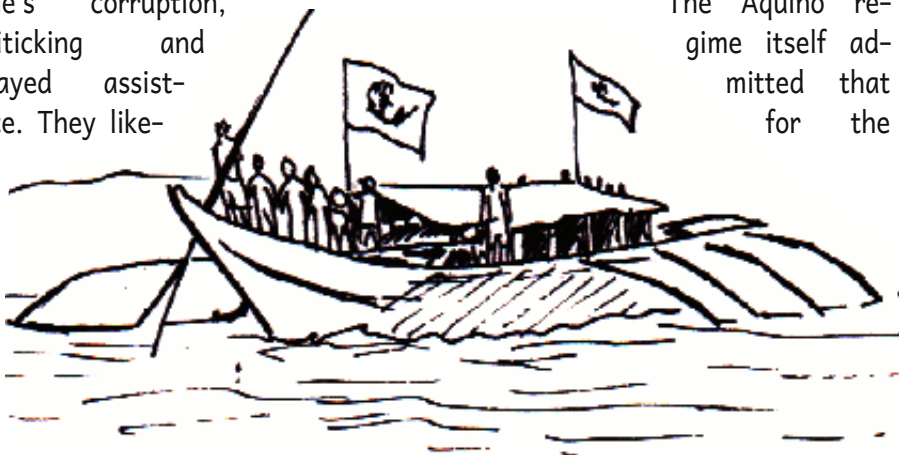
The Aquino regime itself admitted that for the

past two years, it reached only 8.6% of its total housing target. In Tacloban, only a little more than 1,600 houses out of the 16,230 target have been built and only 470 are occupied due to the lack of a water system. In spite of this, the DSWD continues to refuse ESA to those most in need. On the other hand, almost 92% of public buildings have been reconstructed under the Public-Private Partnership program which favors big compradors.

The National Democratic Front-Eastern Visayas (NDF-EV) denounced the US-Aquino regime not only for its continuing criminal negligence of the typhoon survivors but also for imposing further hardships on the people of the region. According to Fr. Santiago Salas, NDF-EV spokesperson, amid the extreme ineptness and corruption, the regime is pushing for the Tacloban-Palo-Tanauan Tide Embankment which will eject scores of families from their seaside homes that stand in its way. The project, which costs P7.9 billion, will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and constructed from 2015 to 2020.

This project is only one among several "foreign aid" which in reality are loans tied to the interests of foreign investors. One instance is the \$500 million loan of the Asian Development Bank for "development" projects in the region and \$372 million for projects focused against the revolutionary movement under the KALAHYON-CIDSS of the DSWD.

Other "counter-insurgency" programs funded by imperialist institutions are reconstruction projects, the establishment of agrarian reform communities, 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) and road projects. Along with these, the US Agency for International Development intervenes in Tacloban and Leyte communities by building classrooms and small retail stores. AB



End the killing of civilians – CPP

THE Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) joins the widespread condemnation of the massacre of around 140 people in Paris, France last November 13. The detonation of a bomb in a football stadium and the gun assault of a concert audience and people in restaurants were claimed by the self-styled Islamic State (IS or ISIS).

The mass killing of civilians is a reactionary and fascist crime against humanity. The perpetrators of such crimes are anti-democratic and anti-people. They are as reactionary and as fascist as the US-led alliance of aggressors which have perpetrated similarly horrific and colossal crimes over the past years in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The CPP condemns the intensified war of retaliation and counter-retaliatioin by both the IS and the US-led imperialist alliance that are directed against civilian populations.

The CPP also denounces French Prime Minister Francois Hollande who has ordered the "merciless" bombing

of Syria in the supposed strongholds of the ISIS. In a brutal display of retaliation, French warplanes dropped at least 20 bombs last November 16 in the city of Raqqa in Syria, killing scores of civilians.

The number of civilians being killed continues to mount in the US-led imperialist war of aggression against Syria. US-led air strikes against Syria over the past weeks have targeted oil pipelines, electrical grids and civilian infrastructure in violation of international humanitarian conventions.

In addition to the large number of civilians killed, the attacks and retaliation being perpetrated by the fascist terrorists are causing widespread hardships to the civilian population. They suffer the most from the air strikes being carried out by the US-led NATO forces as well as from the rifle and bomb assaults of the so-called "fundamentalists" inside Iraq, Syria, Kurdistan, Turkey and elsewhere. Massive numbers of people are seeking refuge outside the war zone.

The CPP calls on the people around the world to rise up against the imperialists and all fascist and terrorist forces and demands an end to the wars of aggression, retaliation and counter-retaliation.

AB

