



ANG

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

Bayan

English Edition
Volume XLIII Number 24
December 21, 2012
www.philippinerevolution.net

Declaration of Ceasefire

Upon the recommendation of the Negotiating Panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines hereby declares to all commands and units of the New People's Army (NPA) and the people's militias a ceasefire order that will take effect from 00:00H of 20 December 2012 to 23:59 of 15 January 2013.

This ceasefire order is being issued in sync with a similar ceasefire order to be issued by the officials of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) as agreed upon in a special meeting between the NDFP's special representatives and their counterparts in the GPH last 17-18 December in The Hague, Netherlands, hosted and facilitated by the Royal Norwegian Government.

This ceasefire order is being issued in solidarity with the Filipino people's traditional celebrations of Christmas and New Year holidays. This will also enable the revolutionary forces to carry out mass assemblies and public demonstrations to mark the 44th anniversary of the CPP and celebrate revolutionary victories of the past year.

This ceasefire order extends the earlier ceasefire declaration issued by the National Democratic Front-Mindanao for NPA units operating in areas devastated by typhoon Pablo covering the period December 5, 2012 to January 3, 2013. By extending the ceasefire, NPA units in the devastated areas can continue with rehabilitation work

"Declaration..." continued on page 2

Editorial

Condemn the negligence of the US-Aquino regime

Two and a half weeks have passed since a powerful storm ripped through southern and northeastern Mindanao and parts of the Visayas, leaving more than a thousand dead, hundreds missing and millions without sources of livelihood.

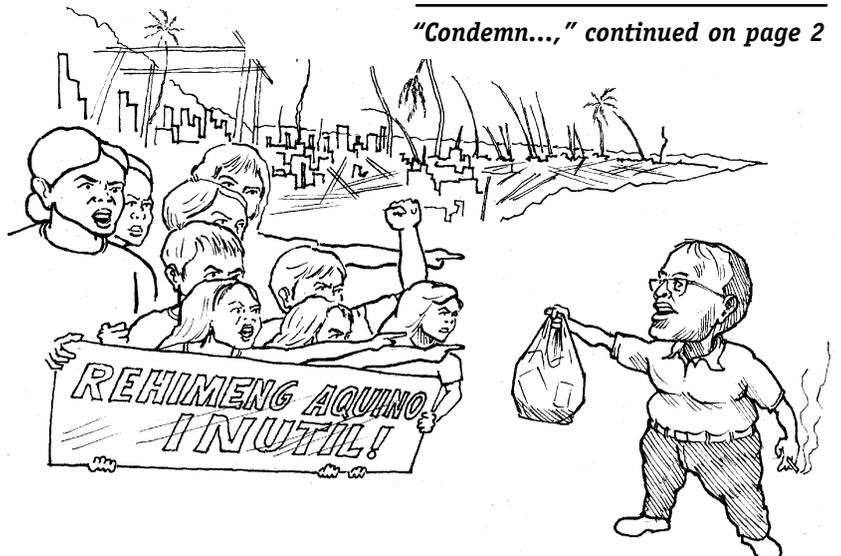
No one could calculate the immensity of suffering that has ensued, with the victims having no food, no shelter and no access to medical treatment for their injuries or the diseases that have befallen them.

Despite the wretched conditions of the people in the calamity-stricken areas, the US-Aquino regime has been markedly and criminally negligent in providing assistance. Rescue and relief operations have been proceeding at a

snail's pace. The government has been excruciatingly slow in accessing the farthest barangays.

The aid that actually reaches the victims is good for only a few days. They comprise a tiny fraction of the billions of pesos worth of natural resources extracted every year from the forests, uplands and agribusiness plantations in the plains of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley, the two provinces most severely hit by the typhoon.

"Condemn..." continued on page 2



and assist the disaster victims in resuming their livelihood.

This ceasefire order is also being issued in support of efforts to jumpstart the NDFP-GPH peace negotiations. The NDFP-GPH talks have been stalled over the past two years as a result of the adamant refusal of the GPH to comply with previous agreements. The revolutionary forces anticipate that the synchronized issuance of a ceasefire order by the NDFP and GPH forces will propel the GPH to release consultants of the NDFP as well as political prisoners who were arrested and continue to be detained in violation of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAHRIHL).

During the ceasefire period, all NPA units and people's militias shall cease and desist from carrying out offensive military operations against the armed units and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other paramilitary and armed groups attached to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Personnel of the AFP and PNP who have no serious liabilities other than their membership in their armed units shall not be subjected to arrest or punitive actions. They may be allowed individually to enter the territory of the people's democratic government to make personal visits to relatives and friends.

While all units of the NPA and the people's militias shall be on defensive mode at both the strategic and tactical levels, they shall nonetheless maintain

a high degree of militancy and vigilance against any hostile actions or movements of the enemy armed forces including encroachment on the territory of the people's democratic government, surveillance and other offensive operations including so-called "peace and development", "civil-military" or "peace and order" operations. Active-defense operations shall be undertaken only in the face of clear and imminent danger and actual armed attack by the enemy forces.

All branches and committees of the CPP, units of the NPA and people's militias and revolutionary mass organizations should closely monitor any hostile actions being carried out by the enemy armed forces. Such information should be reported to the concerned commands of the New People's Army and leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines. **AB**

Despite the tremendous benefits gained by the central reactionary government from the wealth generated by Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines, it has been allocating very few resources to disaster preparedness and in ensuring that the people are not put in harm's way. The government has its much-vaunted geo-hazard maps, but its agencies have failed to put up the necessary infrastructure to control flooding and prevent landslides. Not enough resources have been allotted for the organized evacuation of people before calamities actually strike. The reactionary state contents itself with providing warnings to the public and heaps the blame on them when they fail to heed such warnings.

The US-Aquino regime's biggest crime lies in its aggressive drive to promote large-scale foreign mining and commercial logging despite the widespread clamor to put a stop to them. The imperialist plunder of forests and uplands, which has resulted in the grave destruction of the environ-

	
Vol. XLIII No. 24 December 21, 2012	
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.</p> <p>It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.philippinerevolution.org.</p> <p><i>Ang Bayan</i> welcomes contributions in the form of articles and news. Readers are likewise enjoined to send in their comments and suggestions for the betterment of our publication. You can reach us by email at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">angbayan@yahoo.com</p>	
<p><i>Ang Bayan</i> is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

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ment is the real cause of the disasters that have been devastating the country year after year.

It is the oppressed and exploited people of Mindanao who are now paying the price for decades of profligacy by the imperialists, comprador bourgeoisie and landlords. Landless, they have been constructing their houses on mountainsides, seashores, riverbanks and other areas vulnerable to disaster. Their poverty and lack of other sources of livelihood have forced them to put their lives at stake.

The devastation that has afflicted millions of people has actually been wrought not simply by calamity. Their suffering, exploitation and oppression have rendered them vulnerable to major disasters like typhoons, floods and landslides.

Worse, on top of the US-Aquino regime's criminal negligence, it has seized on the disaster to intensify the militarization of the affected areas. The fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is now being portrayed as the people's saviors. In fact, it has served as the protector and private army of logging and mining companies and plantations in evicting peasants and Lumad and plundering the island's natural resources.

Whatever assistance the regime has provided to the calamity victims has been all for show. Instead of continuously helping the victims and aiding in the rehabilitation of affected communities, government officials briefly visit the calamity-stricken areas to give piecemeal assistance, in exchange for photo or video opportunities. As usual, what reactionary politicians really want is to make money out of the disaster and exploit it in furtherance of their candidacy in the upcoming elections.

The people must strongly

condemn the added burdens caused by the ruling regime's incompetence. They must create a powerful mass movement to hold them and their cohorts in local government accountable for their role in destroying the forests. Their responsibility for the widespread loss of lives and livelihood among the masses must be clearly laid out to them.

Because it is the revolutionary movement that truly represents the people's interests, a major part of its political responsibility lies in ensuring the masses' welfare during times of calamity.

The issue of preventing and dealing with disasters is a matter of arousing, organizing and mobilizing the masses. The issue of disasters must be closely linked to the issues of livelihood, poverty, oppression and exploitation of the masses. We must rouse the masses to the fact that the dangers they face from disaster are directly linked to their oppressive conditions. Their effectiveness in dealing with disasters is intertwined with their struggle for their democratic interests for land reform, wage increases, jobs and free housing, health and education.

We must prepare and mobilize the masses to both avoid and confront the possibility of disaster. We must glean information from the masses on disaster-prone areas in their localities and combine this with information or studies by the experts. We must define the actions that need to be taken to prevent disaster, such as what infrastructure to construct or repair, the rehabilitation

of the environment and bans on operations that are destructive to the environment and the masses' livelihood.

We must underscore all this and hold the reactionary government accountable for failing to undertake the necessary measures.

Plans must be drafted to deal with disasters in an organized manner, including instituting systems for rescue, evacuation and the like. The mechanisms for organized action must be in place during times of actual calamity. There must be plans to rescue victims, provide shelter for children and the elderly, give first aid to the sick and wounded, set up soup kitchens for collective food preparation and the like.

Rescue, rehabilitation and coordination with private and government agencies must be managed in an organized way. There must be appropriate mechanisms for aid to reach the intended beneficiaries and prevent it from being malversed by corrupt officials. The procurement and distribution of aid must be organized to prevent politicians from merely using it for photo opportunities. The masses must be on the alert for anomalies that will surely arise in the process of distributing relief.

The rehabilitation of communities must be undertaken immediately and effectively in order for economic activity to resume soon. The rehabilitation of ruined farmlands, the repair of destroyed infrastructure and the revival of denuded forests and mountains must be given attention.



The times are likewise exceedingly favorable for antifeudal struggles to be advanced more intensively. A particular campaign that can be advanced in the calamity-stricken areas of Mindanao is the conversion of thousands of hectares of banana plantations to rice and corn lands and for planting other crops that would be of benefit to the people.

The anti-militarization movement must also be advanced, because militarization has long been a bane to the people's livelihood and becomes an even bigger burden during times of calamity.

Above all, we must intensify the struggle against imperialist mining, logging and agribusiness plantations. **AB**

NDF mobilizes forces and resources for calamity victims

The National Democratic Front-Mindanao has mobilized all its forces to provide assistance and help in the rehabilitation of hundreds of thousands of families victimized by typhoon Pablo on December 4. NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos called on all revolutionary forces and people to seek donations for the victims. He also said that big mining, logging and plantation companies in the affected areas should be held accountable by requiring them to shoulder a major portion of the expenses for relief and rehabilitation.

The NDF-Mindanao likewise declared a 29-day ceasefire to enable unhampered rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in communities severely hit by typhoon Pablo. The ceasefire took effect at 12:00 noon of December 5 and will end on 12 noon of January 3, 2013. Ka Oris called on all NPA units in the affected areas to help in rescue operations and repairing damaged houses and infrastructure as long as the security situation and their resources allow it.

In a separate statement, the Merardo Arce Command (MAC) of the New People's Army in Southern Mindanao Region announced the areas covered by the ceasefire. These are the provinces of Davao Oriental,

and Davao del Norte; Davao City; Lingig town in Surigao del Sur; and the municipalities of Trento, Veruela, Loreto and Sta. Josefa in Agusan del Sur. The MAC has purposely included parts of the region that were not directly hit by typhoon Pablo to enable the various NPA units to do all they can to deal with the disaster.

The MAC said at least 24 towns in the region, more than 30% of its revolutionary forces and more than a million peasants, workers, Lumad and other impoverished people have been affected. Operations in gold mining plants in Diwalwal, banana packing plants of multinational companies in Compostela Valley and even in the coconut industry in Davao Oriental have come to a standstill because of a massive power outage and substantial damage to infrastructure, leaving hundreds of thousand of farm workers, mining workers and coconut farmers jobless and their families hungry.

Meantime, the NPA in Davao-Agusan (Front 34) belied the military's claims that Red fighters abducted the wife and chil-

dren of a soldier on December 9. A number of Red fighters were then repairing some damaged houses, while others were on watch when a motorcycle with three people and a driver aboard approached. When the motorcycle passed by the Red fighters on guard, the driver suddenly stopped and ran away, leaving his three passengers behind. Because he acted suspiciously, the guerrillas gave chase. They found out after a few minutes that the driver was actually an active soldier when he hurled a grenade at the pursuing Red fighters. The passengers, who turned out to be the soldier's wife and children were turned over by the Red fighters to the barangay officials.

In Northcentral Mindanao Region (NCOMR), the NPA likewise declared a ceasefire in the towns of San Fernando and Talakag and in Valencia City in Bukidnon because these areas also sustained major damage from typhoon Pablo. The announcement was made by NCOMR spokesperson Ka Cesar Renerio on the occasion of the first anniversary of typhoon Sendong, which battered the region in December 2011, leaving more than 1,200 people dead and a billion pesos in damage to agriculture alone.

Meanwhile, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) condemned five fishing companies based in General Santos City for forcing up to 315 workers and crew to sail even if warnings had already been issued about an impending super typhoon. **AB**



NPA-SQBP gains platoon-size recruits

Peasants, women and youth enough to comprise a platoon joined the New People's Army (NPA) in South Quezon-Bondoc Peninsula (SQBP) in the last quarter of 2012. They were the first to respond to a call by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and NPA for a minimum of 100 recruits in six months. The platoon-size recruits are among the most advanced members of revolutionary mass organizations in the barrios, communities, town centers, schools and factories.

The report on the vigorous recruitment campaign was one of the news items carried in December by Diklap (spark), the revolutionary mass paper in SQBP.

Diklap, which will be published quarterly, will serve as a local complement to Ang Bayan and Kalatas (the revolutionary mass paper in Southern Tagalog) in providing direction and revolutionary news to the people of SQBP. **AB**

NPA-Leyte launches 2 harassment operations

The Mt. Amandewin Command (NPA-Leyte) confirmed conducting two simultaneous harassment operations in Albuera and Jaro towns in Leyte on December 6. The NPA harassed the 78th IB Alpha Coy detachment at around 8 p.m., killing eight soldiers. A civilian was wounded in the foot when the troopers indiscriminately fired their weapons all night even after the NPA had withdrawn.

Meanwhile in nearby Barangay Rubas, Jaro town, the NPA ambushed 19th IB troops conducting operations, killing two soldiers and wounding five others.

In Batangas, the NPA Eduardo Dagli Command seized an M16, an M1 carbine and two cal .45 pistols without firing a single shot. The guerrillas raided a chicken and hog farm owned by Barangay Captain Boy Esguerra and his right hand man Teofilo Alonso in Utod village, Nasugbu.

The Red fighters disarmed the despotic businessman and his abusive aide because they oppressed the locals. The chicken and hog farm was

built even if the people opposed it due to the pollution it would cause. Esguerra and Alonso would also beat up the locals, train their guns at them at file major charges against them for minor infractions. Esguerra and his aide are also active military assets, monitoring the movements of the masses and the NPA in the village.

In Capiz, a soldier was killed and another wounded in a sniping operation by a unit under the NPA Jose Percival Estocada Jr. Command based in central Panay on the 61st IB Peace and Development Team in Barangay Acuña, Tapaz on November 29. **AB**



NPA metes punishment on Cojuangco-owned mining firm

RED fighters under the NPA Armando Catapia Command successfully meted punishment on VIL Mines Corporation and its partner Macro Asia at around 4 p.m. on December 11 in Barangay Sta. Monica, Tagkawayan, Quezon. VIL Mines Corporation is owned by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, one of Benigno Aquino III's uncles while Macro Asia is owned by Lucio Tan. Cojuangco and Tan are among the country's biggest comprador bourgeoisie. They are business partners in mining nickel on an 11,126-hectare concession in Cadig mountain.

The guerrillas burned three pieces of earth-moving machinery and destroyed more than P5.1

million worth of company equipment. They also confiscated a pistol and communications equipment. While the punitive action was going on, the Red fighters treated the company workers well. Among them were seven CAFGU elements.

The Armando Catapia Command informed the company of an expulsion order from the People's Democratic Government, which bans foreign and large-scale mining activities in Cadig mountain. VIL Mines Corporation has a permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct exploration activities in Cadig mountain and has allocated P200 million for this purpose. **AB**

Rallyists condemn human rights violations

An effigy of Benigno Aquino III riding a military tank cum backhoe was burned to ashes on December 10 in Mendiola, Manila by thousands of rallyists who had gathered to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Most of the demonstrators came from Mindanao, Southern Tagalog and the National Capital Region.

KARAPATAN led the rallyists in setting fire to the seven-foot tall effigy that symbolized the twin evils wrought by militarization and large-scale mining on the lives of peasants and national minorities.

KARAPATAN blasted Aquino not only for reneging on his promise to give justice to the victims of human rights violations, but for tolerating human rights abuses. The latest example was his promotion of military officers involved in human rights violations.

Aside from Brig. Gen. Eduardo Año (newly appointed ISAFP chief) who was involved in the abduction of Jonas Burgos in 2007, Aquino likewise promoted Brig. Gen. Aurelio Baladad and Maj. Gen. Jorge Segovia, who were both responsible for the illegal arrest and detention of the "Morong 43." Baladad is the new AFP deputy chief of staff for operations and Segovia is the new AFP Eastern Mindanao Command chief.

KARAPATAN also cited Executive Order 79 issued by Aquino which served as a go-signal to the Philippine Army, CAGU and other paramilitary units to suppress people opposed to mining. Aquino has not only given his all-out support to large-scale destructive mining, he has turned a blind eye to the extrajudicial killings and evictions of national minorities perpetrated by big mining companies like Toronto Ventures Inc., Xstrata-Sagittarius Mines Inc. and Philco in Mindanao.

Three days before the commemoration of the 64th anniversary

of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, three more names were added to the list of victims of extrajudicial killings.

At around 12:00 noon of December 7, troops from the 53rd IB shot to death Roland Quijano, a farmer and active member of the Alliance of Farmers in Zamboanga del Sur-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas in Purok 4, Ocapan, San Miguel town. The 53rd IB has long been maintaining a detachment in the village.

On the same day, at around 6:00 p.m., Cheryl Ananayo and her cousin Randy Nabayay were gunned down in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya. Ananayo was targeted

even if she was carrying her baby and had her other child in tow. She was a member of the Didipio Earthsavers Multipurpose Association, which is actively opposed to Oceana Copper-Gold Corporation operations.

Aside from the protest actions launched by human rights advocates and their supporters, political detainees like Ericson Acosta at the Calbayog Subprovincial Jail and the "Batangas 7" held simultaneous poetry reading sessions in their jail cells as a form of protest. Among the other detainees who also read poems in their prison cells were 14 peace talks consultants of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) like Alan Jazmines, Eduardo Serrano, Eduardo Sarmiento, Tirso "Ka Bart" Alcantara, Reynante Gamara and Ramon Patriarca.

Previously, the country's more than 400 political detainees also staged a weeklong hunger strike. (See related article.) **AB**

Political detainees go on hunger strike

Political detainees in Metro Manila and other regions staged a hunger strike from December 3 to December 10, International Human Rights Day.

In a related development, the Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA) assailed the growing number of political detainees, the relentless filing of trumped-up charges and the brutal treatment of persons branded as enemies of the state.

The hunger strikers demanded the immediate release of Ramon Patriarca or his transfer to a regular civilian detention center. Patriarca continues to be held at a military stockade of the AFP-Central Command in Camp Lapu-Lapu in Lahug, Cebu City despite a court ruling ordering that he be remanded to a civilian facility.

SELDA condemned the AFP's dirty tactics in identifying targets for arrest and detention. It cited the case of Rolly Panesa, a security guard who the military claims is "Benjamin Mendoza," allegedly a ranking Communist Party official in Southern Tagalog. Just because of a mole on his nape, Panesa was captured, tortured and imprisoned. His captors have collected the P5.6 million reward for "Mendoza's" capture.

Mass leaders and human rights advocates continue to be slapped with trumped-up cases. The latest victims of this dirty tactic are Roy Velez of BAYAN-NCR and Amelita Gamara of KMU-NCR. **AB**

Corporatization means business, not service

It is the right of every person to have access to affordable and quality health care. It is government's obligation to ensure that this right is enjoyed by all by providing a comprehensive and progressive health care delivery system. But the Aquino regime's policy of corporatizing 26 public hospitals runs counter to these principles.

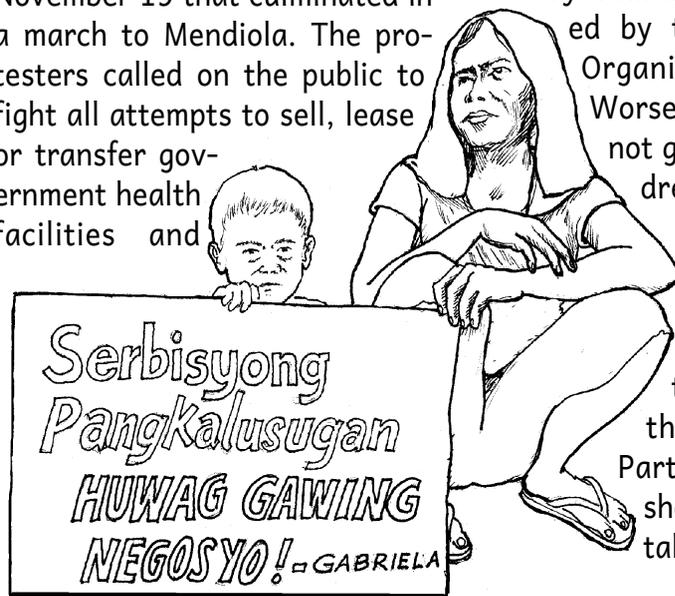
Widespread condemnation

The Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) and the Network Opposed to Privatization (NOP) are leading a campaign to resist the privatization of public hospitals. In a bid to collect a million signatures for the cause, they have been doing the rounds of hospitals and encouraging health workers and professionals to take a stand and resist all attempts at corporatization.

An initial list of 26,000 health workers and professionals nationwide filed a petition on November 13 to stop the privatization of 26 public hospitals in the country.

Since November 12, protest actions alongside the signature

drive have been held in the cities of Baguio, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga and Davao and in the National Capital Region. A national day of protest against privatization was declared on November 19 that culminated in a march to Mendiola. The protesters called on the public to fight all attempts to sell, lease or transfer government health facilities and



services in any form to private businesses and demand that the Aquino regime perform its duty to address the health needs of the people.

Lame excuses for corporatization

Aquino has boasted that the health budget would be raised from this year's P44.4 billion to P58 billion in 2013. But even this bigger amount is equivalent to a mere 62 centavos per Filipino or only around 2% of the Gross Domestic Product—a far cry from the 5% recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Worse, the new budget is not geared towards addressing the health crisis. The additional monies are meant to serve as government counterpart funding for the Public-Private Partnership Program, should there be capitalists willing to in-

Military attacks Negros subvillage

Military troops attacked a sitio (sub-village) in Negros Occidental, strafing houses and illegally detaining its residents on December 13.

According to the results of a fact-finding mission by KARAPATAN, soldiers from the 11th IB Alpha Coy arrived at 7:30 a.m. in Sitio Mahopaho in Barangay San Agustin, Isabela, Negros Occidental, which is home to 91 families belonging to the Maghat minority group. The soldiers rained bullets on their houses and forcibly entered them. They then herded all the residents and detained them at the tribal hall. The raiding soldiers were led by 1Lt. Ryan Von Gomez.

After hours of being held inside the tribal hall, 19 of the residents were arbitrarily arrested by the military and brought to the Isabela Municipal Police Station because an encounter between the NPA and another group of soldiers occurred near

the sub-village. Two soldiers were killed in the clash and four others were wounded, including 1Lt. Shannon Pamitan.

The military accused the residents of involvement in the encounter, even if they were detained at the tribal hall when the fighting took place.

Of the 19 residents detained at the Isabela Police Station, three were minors. Eleven of the detainees were released on December 17 but the others are still in jail.

Meanwhile, six residents of Barangay Runruno, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya were injured when they blocked bulldozers escorted by policemen on December 12. Several residents were buried waist-deep in soil when they were bulldozed and truncheoned by the police who were conducting clearing operations for the gold-molybdenum project of the Australian-owned FCF Minerals, Inc. **AB**

vest in the hospital business. This allocation will even facilitate the government's abandonment of its responsibility to ensure that every Filipino enjoys his or her right to health care.

The Aquino regime claims that corporatization is not the same as privatization. But corporatization is an even more deceptive concept as it alleges the maintenance of government control over health facilities. In fact, the state will be abandoning its obligation to provide health services when it withdraws its subsidies. The hospital will then be run like a corporation whose main purpose is to amass profits and not to provide service.

Philhealth will allegedly shoulder the medical needs of patients. But it can only cover 30% of medical expenses, and patients will have to pay for the remainder out of their own pockets. The Department of Health (DOH) is now obliging all Filipinos to enroll with Philhealth in the next three years. The real objective behind the DOH drive is the complete withdrawal of funds for charity wards and free medication for the poor.

Phihealth actually forms part of the scheme to privatize health services. The government may shoulder part of Philhealth's funding, but most of the insurance monies will be sourced from the regular contributions of workers and employees. Philhealth is being used as a pretext to reduce funding for health services. In the final analysis, the ultimate beneficiaries will be the big capitalists who own and run hospitals and other health care facilities. **AB**

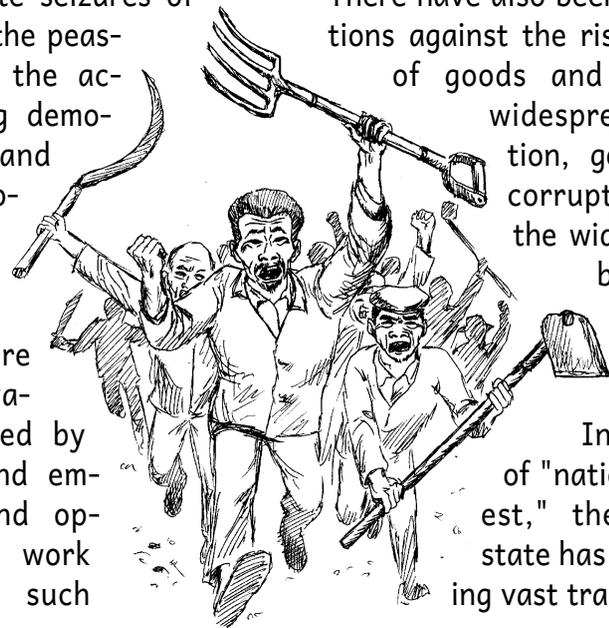
Growing protest actions in China

Protests have been growing annually in various parts of China. In 2011, there were up to 180,000 mass actions reported, or an average of more than 500 daily. The figure is far bigger than the 90,000 protests reported in 2006.

Most of the protests have been held against the widespread state seizures of land from the peasantry and the accompanying demolitions and forced relocations. In the cities, the major issues are the low wages received by workers and employees and oppressive work conditions such

as forced overtime, verbal abuse and the lack of benefits. There have also been mass actions against the rising prices of goods and services, widespread pollution, government corruption and the widening gap between the rich and poor.

In the name of "national interest," the Chinese state has been seizing vast tracts of land



People's health takes turn for the worse

The Department of Health (DOH) has admitted that infant and maternal mortality have been on the rise. There were 221 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births from 2006-2010, compared to 161 in 2000-2005.

Thirty percent of all babies born die before their first birthday, revealing a major problem in infant health care. The bleak figures are likewise closely related to maternal health and nutrition, including proper prenatal care, and sanitary and safe conditions during delivery, especially in the first critical hours after giving birth.

The Philippine health care system is poorly equipped to address the needs of the majority poor, especially mothers and infants. Most Filipinos do not consult doctors unless they are very ill, because doing so would entail huge expenses.

When they fall ill, they first resort to self-medication or consult traditional healers. No less than the DOH admits that seven out of ten patients could not afford to see a doctor. This figure will surely increase with the planned privatization of the country's public hospitals. **AB**

in the countryside to give way to the expansion of pro-imperialist factories and other industries. The revisionist state has distorted the socialist program of public ownership of agricultural land which used to defend the rights of peasants to till the land. Worse, the state has provided very little compensation to the peasants who have been deprived of their right to till. Thus, peasants have joined many uprisings and refused to relocate. The state has been suppressing protests and imprisoning the leaders.

One of the first and biggest landgrabbing cases that led to the massive displacement of peasants was the Three Gorges Hydroelectric Dam (TGHD) megaproject. The dam construction led to the inundation of three cities, 140 municipalities and 1,352 villages.

In 2005, up to ten million people were directly evicted. Many of them did not receive enough compensation due to grave corruption in the local government. Thus, almost half (46%) of those evicted are living in abject poverty. By 2006, landgrabbing worsened when the state opened the countryside to private business.

To dampen the widespread protests, the revisionist state enacted a law that regularized the rights of the state, collective and individual to own public land. But this merely exposed widespread state seizures of up to 200,000 hectares of farmland that was arbitrarily sold to private businesses. Instead of subsidizing, the people's anger further exploded.

One of the remarkable instances of people's resistance took place in December 2011 in Wukan, Lufeng, Guangdong, a province in southwestern China. Residents deposed the local gov-

Worsening poverty in China

More than 172 million Chinese people are currently living in abject poverty. This is despite the country's high economic growth rate for the past 30 years.

Poverty is at its worst in the countryside due to widespread landgrabbing for the expansion of pro-imperialist factories. Another factor is the capitalist state's massive capital investments in the cities, instead of allocating sufficient capital for agricultural production in the countryside. More than 75% of the Chinese population still lives in the countryside.

Layoffs are rampant in the cities. From 1996 to 2000, up to 31 million jobs were lost. But the state provided very little or almost no unemployment subsidies to those who lost their jobs. The state has dismantled the socialist education and health system, depriving millions of these basic services. The number of urban poor dwellers has burgeoned.

At the same time, reports have revealed the corruption and the hidden assets of the highest-ranking officials of the state and the revisionist Communist Party of China (CPC). Ever since the CPC allowed them to become members in the 2000s, wealthy businessmen have dominated the National People's Congress (NPC) and other branches of government. The 70 wealthiest delegates to the NPC own up to \$89.8 billion in assets, several times bigger than the \$7.5 billion combined assets of all state officials in the US. Former president and CPC secretary-general Jiang Zemin has recorded assets worth \$2.7 billion. The family of his successor as secretary-general, Xi Jinping, is reported to own businesses and other property worth up to \$2 billion. **AB**

ernment and local branch of the revisionist Communist Party of China because of their role in the widespread sale of land in the area. The provincial government was forced to investigate the anomalous land sales and call for special elections to replace the officials deposed by the people.

By 2012, protest actions by thousands of workers in factories, mines, docks, stores and malls simultaneously erupted in city centers. Drivers of big trucks, buses and taxis joined the protest.

Protests were also held in schools and various urban poor communities. The most number of protests were held by workers in cities hosting the 14 Special

Economic Zones (SEZ), among them Shanghai, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou and Xiamen and the entire province of Hainan. The most dramatic protest was the workers' uprising at the Foxconn factory in September against their oppressive and militarist treatment in the hands of the pro-imperialist company's management.

Previously, workers had already been waging protests at automobile factories within the SEZs. In 2010, workers at the Toyota, Nissan and other foreign car company plants had successfully struck for higher wages, benefits and other labor rights. Their mass actions inspired workers in other countries to follow suit. **AB**

DSWD uses 4Ps funds to buy high-end cellphones

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) bought expensive Samsung Galaxy smartphones using funds from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

Part of the P39-billion 4Ps budget was used to purchase 30 units of Galaxy smartphones worth P342,000. On top of this, the DSWD also bought planners in 2011 worth P428,750. According to the Consolidated Audit Report on Official Development Assistance for 2011, the purchases were questionable and exorbitant. Instead of taking the DSWD to task for its abusive use of funds, Malacañang spokesperson Edwin Lacierda defended the agency, saying the purchased items were necessary to monitor the distribution of funds under 4Ps.

The same report reveals that not only has the DSWD decreased the subsidy being given to each beneficiary family, it has also reduced the number of families receiving subsidies under the 4Ps program.

The DSWD has also failed to account for P3.77 billion of its funds. It received more than P14.5 billion but could only account for P10.7 billion of its expenditures.

Thousands of bank employees laid off

CITIGROUP Inc. laid off 11,000 of its employees worldwide (or 4% of its staff) in the last quarter of 2012 due to a severe financial crisis. The bank expects to save \$1.1 billion annually as a result. Citigroup is the third biggest bank in the US, based on its assets. The bank has not been able to recover from its bankruptcy despite several bailouts by the US government.

Forty percent of the laid off workers were assigned to technology and operations support. Part of the steps taken by the bank to recover from crisis is to sell or reduce its operations in Pakistan, Paraguay, Romania and Uruguay. It will also be closing down 84 of its branches in five countries, more than half of them in the US.

Citigroup has already resorted to mass layoffs in the past. In April 2007, it terminated 17,000 employees that should have saved it \$4.6 billion. In November 2008, up to 50,000 were fired and in December 2011, up to 4,500 were dismissed.

It is not only Citigroup that is faced with grave crisis and getting rid of its employees. Other big banks had previously laid off 160,000 employees last year.

US, UK found guilty of crimes against humanity

MORE than three million people were killed, 4.5 million lost their jobs, two million were widowed and five million were orphaned in the interventionist war waged by the US and United Kingdom (UK) against Iraq from 1990 to 2012. Among the victims are 750,000 children who died both directly as a result of the illegal war and because of hunger and disease due to economic sanctions against Iraq.

The deaths spurred the filing of a class-action complaint with the United Nations against former US Pres. George Bush, Sr. in 1991 for US violations of Genocide Convention Article II which prohibits the willful imposition of conditions that inflict physical harm on the whole or part of a group. Francis Boyle, a professor of international law at the University of Illinois, Champaign and one of the complainants, said the US and UK violated the legal systems of all civilized nations in the world; the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its Additional Protocol of 1977.

The US and UK maintained the economic sanctions even after their war of aggression in the Gulf region ended in order to step up their plunder of Iraq's economy and oil reserves. These are all violative of the international laws of war and have caused great hardships to the Iraqi people.

