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Editorial

Intensify people's war nationwide!

The New People's Army (NPA) in Mindanao launched a series of resounding tactical offensives this July. According to initial reports, it launched six tactical offensives in three regions in a week (July 7-15), seizing 58 firearms of various caliber and inflicting at least 30 enemy casualties.

Simultaneously, Red fighters in Luzon, the Visayas and other parts of Mindanao were also able to launch big and small tactical offensives. The more frequent tactical offensives of the NPA demonstrate that it continues to possess the initiative in the battlefield. This is

especially striking in Mindanao, which has been pummeled by more enemy battalions since

January in the AFP's effort to lay siege to a

number of guerrilla fronts. By keeping the initiative, the

NPA is continually able to enjoy

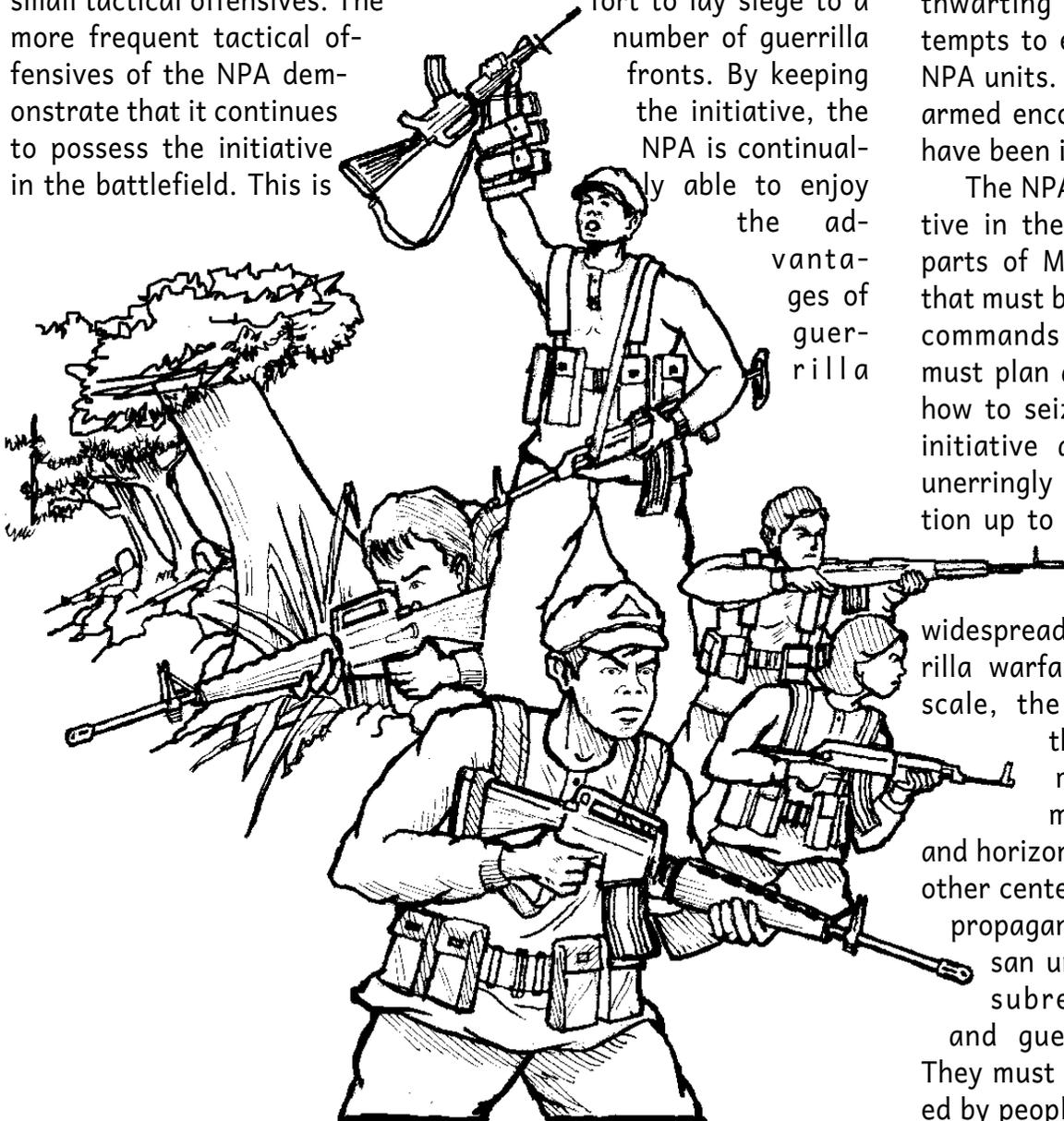
the advantages of guerrilla

warfare in maneuvering, launching small and big tactical offensives and mobilizing the armed masses.

Through the Party and the corresponding NPA regional, subregional and front command's firm leadership, the NPA has been able to continually intensify guerrilla warfare, thwarting the enemy's attempts to encircle and besiege NPA units. The vast majority of armed encounters in Mindanao have been initiated by the NPA.

The NPA's continuing initiative in the battlefield in most parts of Mindanao is a lesson that must be grasped by all NPA commands nationwide. They must plan at the regional level how to seize and maintain the initiative and implement this unerringly and without exception up to the most basic NPA units.

In launching widespread and intensive guerrilla warfare on a nationwide scale, the NPA must ensure that its regional commands are able to mobilize all vertical and horizontal forces as well as other centers of gravity, armed propaganda units and partisan units at the regional, subregional/provincial and guerrilla front levels. They must likewise be supported by people's militia units.



The enemy's regular units and deployments must be identified and regular and frequent tactical offensives launched monthly. Even more frequent tactical offensives must be launched when the enemy is mobile and penetrates guerrilla zones and bases. Red fighters must always be on war footing whenever the enemy launches military operations. The NPA must quickly plan and deploy forces in order to launch tactical offensives on short notice (ambushes, harassment, sieges) when the enemy is rapidly moving and on the attack. When the enemy comes in and conducts operations, confronting, resisting and thwarting him becomes the main task of the NPA and the revolutionary forces.

The NPA must endeavor to launch tactical offensives that are annihilative, and that lead to arms seizures and have high political relevance or impact. Some types are ambushes, sieges or raids, disarming, sabotage and sapper operations that require detailed prepara-

tion and which ensure the element of ruse or surprise in order to raise the probability of victory and the preservation of forces.

The NPA must combine annihilative operations with many attritive or other smaller military actions such as harassment, punitive actions on enemy intelligence assets and arms seizures from isolated and small enemy forces. Special operations must be conducted against military and police commanders and intelligence officers, destructive and plunderous businesses and industries, especially those owned by representatives of the ruling classes that are big, despotic, counterrevolutionary and in power.

Enemy forces encamped within barrios can be subjected to various forms of military and mass action. Their officers must be targeted and their forces subjected to nightly harassment operations.

Tactical offensives must encompass the plains, highways, coastal areas and town centers.

Partisan, commando and sparrow-type operations must be revved up.

Even as the NPA launches tactical offensives, it must likewise expand and consolidate guerrilla zones and bases, mass organizations and organs of political power, advance agrarian revolution and launch mass struggles. The Party must continually be strengthened and expanded as the key requisite for success in our tasks and our further advance.

Even when at the height of launching tactical offensives and confronting intense enemy attack, sufficient time must be allocated for undertaking ideological and political agitation and education within the NPA's ranks. Rest periods must be devoted to internal political work.

To intensify armed struggle is to respond to the people's demand for justice against the fascist military's rampant violations of human rights—the repeated bombings of civilian communities, massacres, forced evacuations, torture, enforced disappearances and killings, the destruction and theft of the masses' crops, property and farm animals, intimidation and the occupation of schools, places of worship and homes.

Guerrilla warfare must be further intensified throughout the archipelago in the face of the worsening political crisis of the reactionary ruling system. This serves as the NPA's contribution to the struggle being advanced by the democratic mass movement to oust the US-Aquino regime. The intensification of tactical offensives nationwide is a demonstration of the people's anger at the US-Aquino regime's rabid puppetry, exploitation, corruption and brutality. **AB**

																																					
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<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>																																					
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NPA seizes 24 firearms; captures 4 policemen in Surigao del Sur



Red fighters under Front 16 of the New People's Army (NPA) in Northeastern Mindanao Region (NEMR) seized 24 firearms of various caliber in a raid on the Philippine National Police (PNP) station in Alegria town, Surigao del Sur on July 10.

After a ten-minute firefight, two wounded policemen surrendered. Carted away from the station were four M16s, an M14, an M4, five shotguns and six handguns. A Red fighter was wounded and eventually died in this gunbattle. Two of the NPA's rifles—an M16 and an AK47—were also damaged in the fighting.

Meanwhile, four policemen aboard a jeep were disarmed and arrested by the NPA blocking force. The policemen who have been declared prisoners of war are PO3 Vic Calubag Concon, PO1 Rey O'niel Morales, PO1 Joen B. Zabala and PO1 Edito F. Roquino. Seized from them were three M16s and four pistols.

The vehicle the retreating NPA troop was riding stalled between Kit-charao and Alegria towns, forcing the Red fighters to alight. They were then fired upon by five policemen who mingled with students nearby, preventing the guerrillas from returning fire. Another Red fighter was killed at this point. The retreating guerrillas had to leave behind the bodies of the two fallen comrades, the damaged rifles and some backpacks.

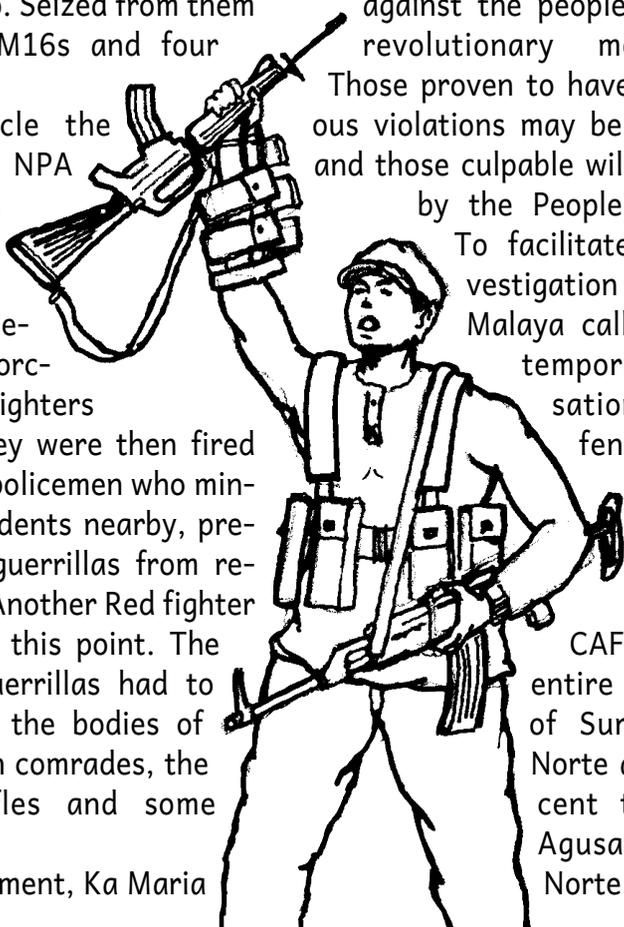
In a statement, Ka Maria

Malaya, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-NEMR congratulated the Red fighters on the successful raid. She also assured the relatives and friends of the captured policemen that the prisoners are in good condition. Malaya said they were being treated well in accordance with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), the NPA's rules and the international rules of war.

She added that the prisoners would be investigated on their possible involvement in crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement.

Those proven to have no serious violations may be released and those culpable will be tried by the People's Court.

To facilitate the investigation process, Malaya called for a temporary cessation of offensive operations by the AFP, PNP and CAFGU in the entire province of Surigao del Norte and adjacent towns in Agusan del Norte. **AB**



CAPIZ: 3 firearms confiscated

Three firearms were confiscated by a unit under the Nonito Aguirre Command in Eastern Panay in a disarming operation against a drug lord in Barangay Carataya, Cuartero, Capiz on May 19.

The target was Darwin Celiz, who deals illegal drugs and seizes firearms which he uses to harass people.



Confiscated from Celiz's group was an M16 Ba-

by Armalite equipped with an aiming scope, a KG9 machine pistol and a handgun with magazines and ammunition.

It was after 2 p.m. when Celiz's Toyota Vios passed by a checkpoint set up by the NPA. The vehicle was stopped and Celiz and his two companions ordered to alight. A search of the car yielded the firearms and ammunition.

The NPA warned Celiz regarding his drug dealing activities, his despotic treatment of people who owe him money and his seizure of firearms which he uses to intimidate and at times fire at other people.

On the other hand, the military exposed itself as a protector of criminal elements within its jurisdiction after Maj. Ray Tiongson of the 3rd Infantry Division condemned the NPA's disarming operation against Celiz. **AB**

17 firearms seized from Bukidnon plantation



Red fighters under the South-Central Bukidnon Subregional Command seized 17 firearms in a raid on an outgrower compound of Del Monte Phils. Pineapple Plantation in Sitio Kiantig, Barangay San Jose, Quezon, Bukidnon on July 15.

The raid was successful despite the compound's proximity to the 23rd IB's headquarters in Maramag, the Quezon town police station and the 1st Special Forces command post in Salawagan. The NPA guerrillas, who arrived aboard a forward truck and a ten-wheeler truck mounted a quick and furtive raid on the compound at 10:30 a.m.

The Red fighters confiscated six M16 rifles, three carbines, six shotguns and a pistol from the compound guards. They also carted away five VHF radios and rounds of ammunition. Meanwhile, the guerrillas destroyed the chemicals bunker, the security bunker, a tractor, several

motorcycles and other plantation machinery.

For a number of minutes, the Red fighters exchanged fire with some company guards who resisted, resulting in the death of two of the guards.

Del Monte was punished because its contract grower Pablo "Poling" Lorenzo is a landgrabber. Using his goons, he harasses legitimate owners of lands targeted for the plantation's expansion. Even nuns, students and the farmers' supporters have been victimized in several strafing incidents involving his goons.

Second, Lorenzo violates several labor laws. Almost all of

his workers are not regular even if they have been working for him for a long time. Instead of making them regulars, he requires them to join a "labor cooperative"—the Kiantig Services Multipurpose Cooperative (KIS-MUCO). Through Lorenzo's control over the cooperative, he has managed to depress the workers' wages. The workers are also required to meet a quota before receiving their wages. They do not receive any benefits and SSS and Philhealth contributions deducted from their pay are not regularly remitted. The company fired workers who protested in 2011 without bothering to address their grievances.

Third, there has been frequent flooding in San Jose and nearby localities, with a number of houses swept away since the Del Monte plantation began its operations. Luwan-luwan Spring, from which Quezon residents source their fresh water has also been polluted by chemicals from the company. **AB**

2 Bukidnon detachments harassed

Two successive harassment operations were launched by units under the South-Central Bukidnon Subregional Command (SCBSC) against the 1st Special Forces Battalion and CAA in July.

On July 8, at around 12 midnight, a unit under the SCBSC harassed the 1st SF Battalion-CAA detachment in Sitio Binungkasan, Barangay Canangaan, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, wounding a fascist trooper. On the other hand, the comrades were able to make a quick and organized withdrawal without suffering any casualties.

Only minutes earlier, a team of Red fighters used command-detonated explosives on a detachment of reactionary soldiers in Sitio Malilong, Barangay Zamboangita, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon on July 7 at around 11:45 p.m. The explosive's massive impact prevented the soldiers from returning fire at once and made it difficult for them

to use their weapons. The comrades safely withdrew after the harassment operation. Because it was pitch dark, it was not known how many casualties were incurred by the AFP.

Amid the SCBSC's widespread and intense guerrilla actions, the reactionary soldiers have been resorting to mounting fake surrenders of civilians in a feeble attempt to show that they are reaping "victories" under Oplan Bayanihan.

Three fake surrender ceremonies have already been held in Cabanglasan and San Fernando this year. The latest was held last July 9 at the 403rd Brigade headquarters in Malaybalay City where 53 civilians were sworn in. In fact, the "balik-baril program" where each person who turns in a firearm is paid ₱5,000 is nothing but a milch cow for officer-thieves. Only a small amount is given to the fake surrenderees, with the bulk of the money stolen by military officers. **AB**

NPA mounts simultaneous raids on 3 private armies in NEMR



Three groups of private armies were simultaneously raided on July 15 by the New People's Army-Northeastern Mindanao Region (NPA-NEMR) in two towns in Agusan del Sur to dismantle them completely and put a stop to their antipeople activities.

The targets were an armed group under Lumad Calpet Egua based in Sta. Irene, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur; another Lumad group armed by Egua in Sitio Inagawan, La Purisima, Prosperidad; and a bandit group in Bitan-agan, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. The NPA conducted the simultaneous raids at dawn.

In La Purisima, Prosperidad, an NPA unit successfully raided a Lumad private army supplied with about 20 firearms by Egua. The NPA seized seven M16s, an M14 and two pistols. Some of the armed men ran away, but one of them opened fire, killing a Red fighter. A number of the bandits have criminal liabilities.

In San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, bandit leader Re-

nato Villaverde was killed in the raid mounted by a platoon of NPA guerrillas. The Red fighters also seized a carbine, a cal .45 pistol and a 9 mm KG. A guerrilla was wounded in the fighting. The other bandits ran away. The group is responsible for several cases of highway robbery in San Francisco and adjacent towns.

In Sta. Irene, Prosperidad, an NPA platoon raided Egua's compound which served as his private army's stronghold at exactly 5:50 a.m. The raid was a failure and resulted in ten Red fighters killed and some wounded. On the other hand, four elements of Egua's private army were

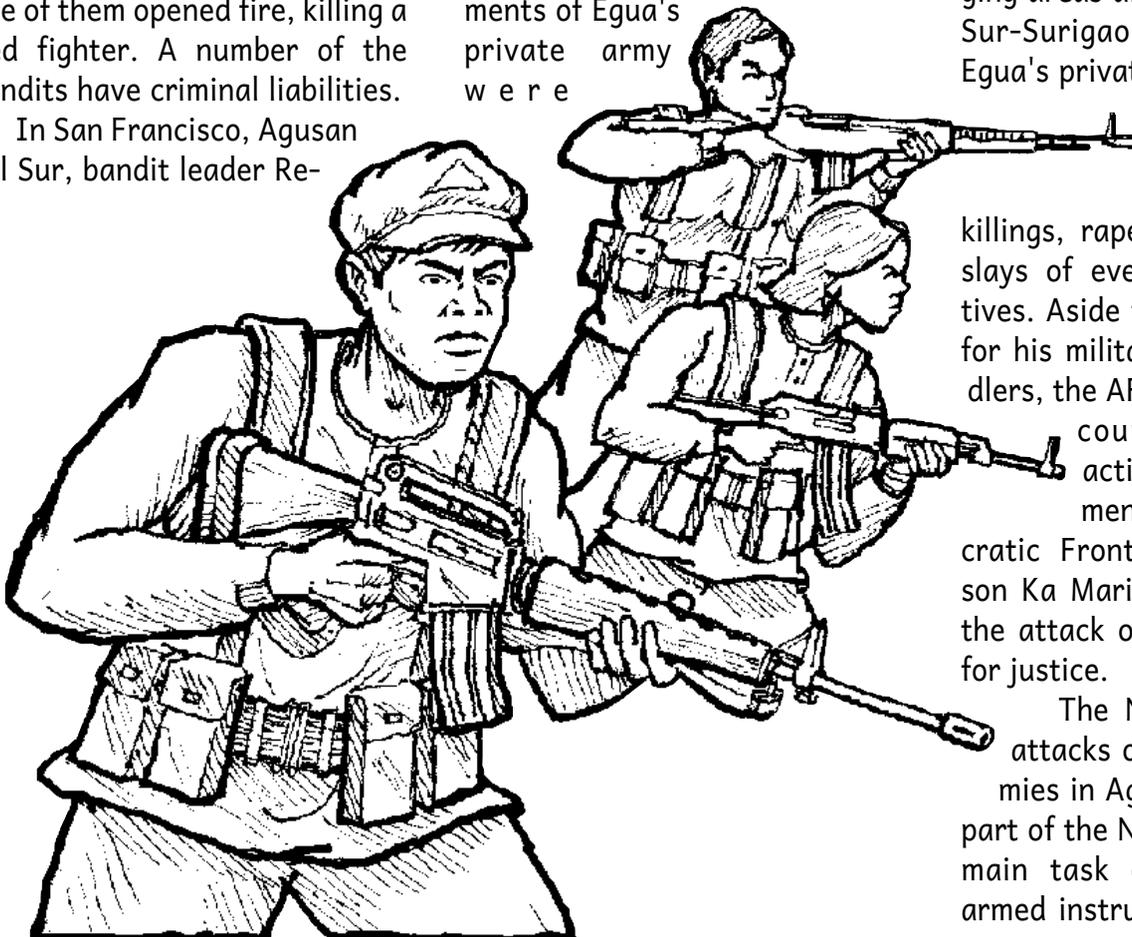
killed, including his brother who, like him, was also a murderer. A civilian driver was caught in the crossfire and killed.

The NPA incurred still another casualty when the military attacked the NPA blocking force in Barangay Hamugaway, Bayugan City. The other NPA blocking force in San Salvador, Prosperidad also engaged in a fire-fight with the military, but it was the AFP that suffered one dead and one wounded. There were no casualties on the NPA side.

Egua's private army was organized with the help of the Philippine Army, the Philippine National Police and the local government to enable Egua to control the mining areas in Manhulayan and make money for his handlers. When Egua became a powerful warlord, he seized areas held by other Lumad, including those of other mining businessmen. He was quickly able to expand his private army to more than 60 armed men, enhancing his control over mining and logging areas along the Agusan del Sur-Surigao del Sur border. Egua's private army is responsible for many

crimes like massacres, extrajudicial killings, rape and the ambush-slays of even his Lumad relatives. Aside from making money for his military and police handlers, the AFP also used him for counterrevolutionary activities. In a statement, National Democratic Front-NEMR spokesperson Ka Maria Malaya said that the attack on Egua was a blow for justice.

The NPA's simultaneous attacks on three private armies in Agusan del Sur forms part of the New People's Army's main task of dismantling all armed instruments of the reac-



tionary state being used to defend the interests of landlords, big comprador bourgeoisie and US imperialists. This latest endeavor by the NPA to dismantle private armies cost the lives of 14 Red fighters, including a civilian driver. Nonetheless, said Malaya, this will not diminish the NPA's determination to dismantle private armies that threaten the interests of the broad masses of the people.

She hailed the heroism of the martyred Red fighters who gave up their lives to liberate the broad masses from exploitation and oppression. She called on the relatives, friends and comrades of the slain Red fighters to turn their collective grief to revolutionary courage in order to advance the aspirations begun and left behind by the revolutionary martyrs.

Meanwhile, Malaya also apologized to the family of the driver who was caught in the crossfire and killed in the incident, and said that they would try their best to extend financial assistance. She also apologized to the owners of vehicles rented by the NPA for the raid and promised to find ways of fulfilling their financial obligations to them.

She also explained to the general public that there was an ongoing civil war, where the people's army—the NPA—launches tactical offensives to dismantle the armed instruments of exploitation and oppression, and gradually gain strength in order to raise its capability to demolish the armed strength of the ruling classes. **AB**

NPA disarms retired PNP colonel

THE Western Agusan Norte-Agusan Sur (WANAS) Subregional Command of the New People's Army seized a cal .45 pistol, ten rifle grenades, ammunition for an AK47, an ammunition link for an M60 machine gun and a box of TNT powder for making explosives in a raid on the house of a retired colonel of the Philippine National Police in Barangay San Vicente, Butuan City on the morning of June 26.

The target, ex-Col. Leon Viajar, has several cases pending before the people's court, among them leading a bandit group and raping three housemaids. Two of them remain missing to date. Viajar is also a notorious drug lord whose operations extend beyond Butuan City. He currently works at the National Bureau of Investigation.

2 BULIF elements punished

TWO punitive operations were launched by the Western Agusan Norte-Agusan Sur Subregional Command in Butuan City on July 13 against Loloy Odioma and Eddie Cagat, both rabid elements of the paramilitary Bungkatol Liberation Front (BULIF).

Two civilians were killed by Odioma, a resident of Stanpoler, Barangay Manila de Bugabos, Butuan City. Among his murder victims was a seven-year old child from KM 1, Barangay Tungao, Butuan City. Odioma is likewise a smuggler of illegal drugs. The revolutionary people's court ordered the NPA to arrest Odioma but he resisted.

Meanwhile, Cagat, a resident of Tul-od, Barangay Tungao faced major cases against the revolutionary movement. Aside from being an active element of BULIF, he organized criminal elements in order to use them against the revolutionary movement in the barrio. He also seized land from two families. Cagat also led a raid against the NPA in Davao that resulted in the death of a Red fighter.

At around 5 p.m. of July 13, Cagat was ambushed and killed by an NPA team.

Policeman killed, 8 others wounded in Palawan and Quezon

A policeman was killed and eight enemy elements wounded in three military actions by the New People's Army (NPA) in Palawan and Quezon in May and June.

Four elements of the 44th Marine Company were wounded in a raid by Red fighters under the NPA Bienvenido Valleber Command in Barangay Pancol, Taytay, Palawan on June 4.

Earlier, on May 12, a policeman was killed and another one wounded when the NPA ward off an attack by the PNP in the same town. The guerrillas seized five pistols.

Meanwhile, in Quezon, three soldiers of the 1st IB were wounded in an encounter with a unit under the NPA Mario Corpus Command in Sitio Sulog, Barangay San Marcelino, General Nakar on July 12.

25th IB ambushed twice in ComVal; 84th IB waylaid in Davao City



Two ambushes were mounted by Red fighters under the Comval-North Davao-South Agusan Subregional Command on fascist troops of the 25th IB on the night of July 14 in Laak, Compostela Valley.

At around 8:15 a.m., five NPA Red fighters in Barangay Mabuhay positioned themselves some five meters away from an approaching Kennedy military truck. Two of the ten soldiers aboard were killed on the spot and fell off the vehicle when the NPA opened fire. Three more soldiers were likewise killed later.

At exactly 8:16 p.m. of the same day, another NPA unit used command-detonated explosives (CDX) and destroyed the second of two KM40 military trucks traveling with 25th IB troops on board. The fascist

soldiers had just returned from their operation in Barangay Ampawid.

Earlier, a member of a Re-engineered Special Operations Team (RSOT) of the Philippine Army was wounded in an NPA sniping operation on July 9.

The RSOT had then been occupying the barangay hall for a month. The soldiers threatened the residents, accusing them of being communists and conducted other forms of psywar.

The 25th IB is also responsible for the arrest and torture of civilian Rodino Diner, a resi-

dent of Purok 9, Barangay Mabuhay, Laak. Fascist soldiers seized Diner at around 1 p.m. of July 15 and released him only after 12 hours of interrogation. Diner's head was wrapped with plastic sheet and a knife was aimed at his neck during the interrogation.

Meanwhile, six fascist soldiers were killed on the spot and six others wounded in an ambush by Red fighters under the Mt. Apo Subregional Command at 1:30 p.m. of July 8.

The company-size troop under the 84th IB was first lured into entering Purok 1, Baracatan, Toril District, Davao City. When the soldiers came in, the Red fighters sidestepped and took ambush positions. After an hour-long gunbattle, the NPA seized a stag ARM Bushmaster M4 rifle and an M203 grenade launcher, two backpacks, two vests, two ammunition chains for K3 machine guns and a GPS. **AB**

34 soldiers killed in ICR



Thirty-four soldiers were killed and at least three wounded in four tactical offensives launched by the Antonio Licawen Command (ALC) at the Benguet-Abra-Mountain Province-Ilocos Sur (BAMPIS) quadri-boundary from April to June against a massive attack by the 50th IB in the area. BAMPIS is part of the Ilocos-Cordillera Region (ICR).

Twenty-three of the casualties were killed between Dilong, Tubo, Abra and Malideg, Quirino, Ilocos Sur when the KM450 truck they were riding fell into a ravine after the NPA rained bullets on it on May 2. It was the biggest casualty suffered by the 50th IB in any gunbattle. Earlier, five soldiers had also been killed in another NPA ambush in Remedios, Cervantes, Ilocos Sur on May 1.

The NPA operation was successful despite the ambush site's proximity to the 50th IB's headquarters. Out of extreme embarrassment, Lt. Col. Richard Sibayan, 50th IB chief, admitted a casualty count of only one dead and a few wounded.

In the latest NPA tactical offensive in the area, five troopers were killed and at least two wounded when Red fighters waylaid the 50th IB at Mt. Layaban in Tubo, Abra on June 28.

One other soldier was killed and another wounded in a harassment operation by the ALC against the 52nd Division Reconnaissance Company near Balingayan, Tubo, Abra on April 5.

BAMPIS is on the 5th ID's list of priority guerrilla fronts to be dismantled in the second phase of Oplan Bayanihan this year. The reactionary state had already tried but failed twice to "neutralize" or "crush" BAMPIS (in 2009 and 2011). **AB**

Aquino's defense of DAP further fuels the people's anger

More than a week after the Supreme Court issued its decision declaring the unconstitutionality of parts of the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP), Aquino delivered a speech on television on July 14 to defend his use of pork barrel funds ostensibly for the people's benefit and for economic development. The Supreme Court declared on July 1 that Aquino's practice of pooling and reallocating so-called savings is violative of the constitution.

Aquino's defense showed a cacique drunk with power and beside himself with anger in the face of questions regarding his prerogative as Pork Barrel King. He berated the Supreme Court, accused it of impeding the people's development, questioned its knowledge of the law and threatened its justices with impeachment should they fail to overturn their decision.

In the past three years, Aquino was able to extract up to ₱170 from various agencies, projects or programs. He categorized these funds as "savings" and reallocated them to projects that he wanted to prioritize. In arrogating the power to juggle budgetary funds, he has been able to benefit favored politicians and consolidate their support for him.

Instead of gaining the people's sympathy for his DAP, Aquino has only succeeded in fuelling their anger for his anomalous system of juggling public funds. His speech has been roundly repudiated and flailed by various sectors.

Aquino's obstinate defense of the DAP manifests his morbid fear of being deprived of the power to transfer billions of pesos of public funds without Con-

gressional approval. His threats against the Supreme Court showed how far he was willing to go to defend his power and privilege.

Aquino's defense of the DAP has likewise brought the contest to a critical level. In another speech he gave on July 15, Aquino called on the people to show their support for him by wearing yellow ribbons. The widespread ridicule that met Aquino's call prompted his people to revoke it.

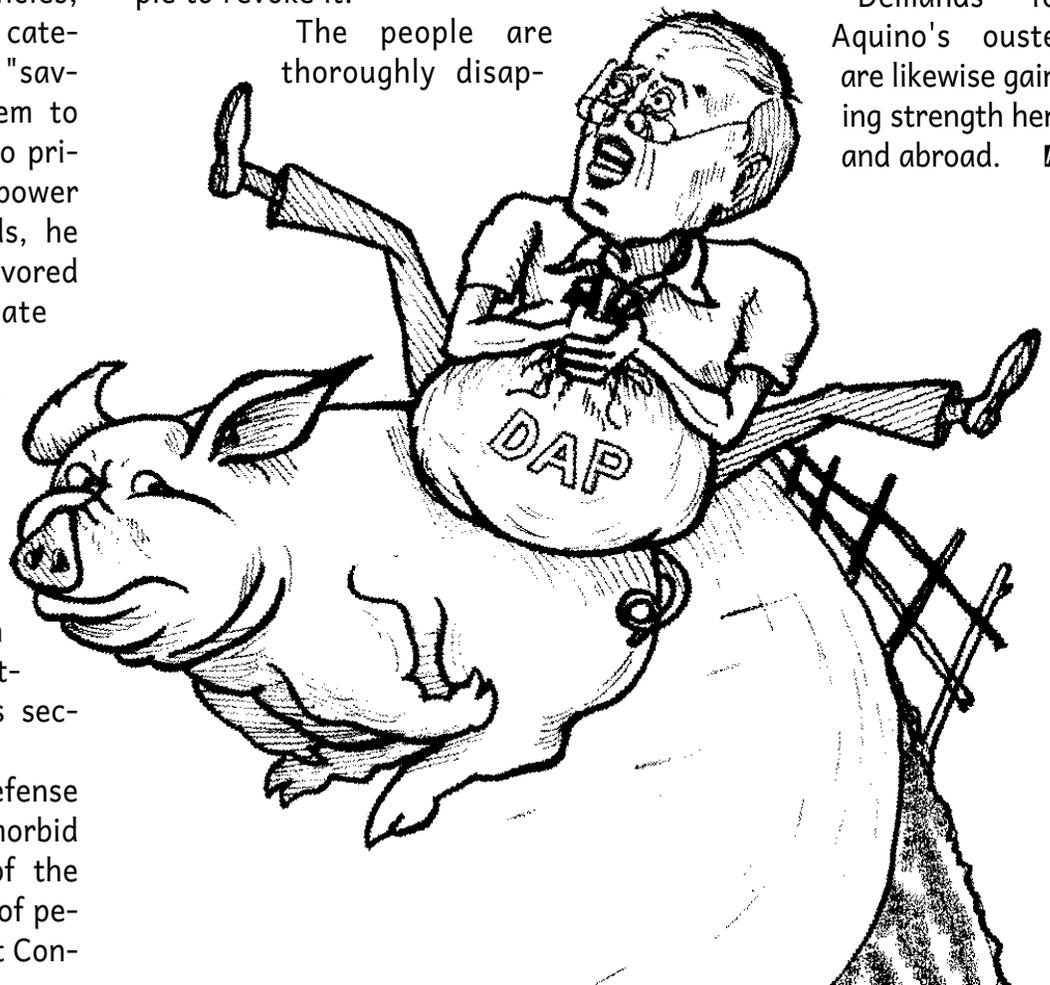
The people are thoroughly disap-

pointed with Aquino's false promises and at mounting disclosures of corruption and abuse of power, especially amid widespread poverty, unemployment, low wages, landgrabbing, spiralling prices of commodities and the comprehensively worsening socio-economic crisis.

Aquino's arrogant and bull-headed defense of the DAP underscores the need for the Filipino people to forge ahead in fighting the DAP and the entire bureaucrat capitalist system under Aquino.

Aquino is prodding the growth of protests against his rule. Weekly protests are now being planned by court employees nationwide after Aquino threatened the Supreme Court. Simultaneously, there are widespread demands for a full accounting and audit of the DAP funds utilized by Aquino. An impeachment complaint set to be filed against Aquino in Congress is also gathering the people's broad support.

Demands for Aquino's ouster are likewise gaining strength here and abroad. **AB**



Leader of coconut farmers' group in Albay slain

Military elements killed the leader of a coconut farmers' group in Albay. Edgardo Lopez, 40, who chaired the Bicol Coconut Planters Association in the province was shot dead by men aboard a motorcycle in Barangay Mayon, Darraga, Albay on July 13.

According to KARAPATAN-Bicol, Lopez was able to give a statement before he died. He said that a soldier riding a motorcycle shot him while he was standing at a store. KARAPATAN-Bicol added that Lopez had long been receiving threats from the 901st IBde. His house was under surveillance in April and he was warned against joining protest actions.

Lopez is the 50th victim of extrajudicial killing in Bicol under the Aquino regime.

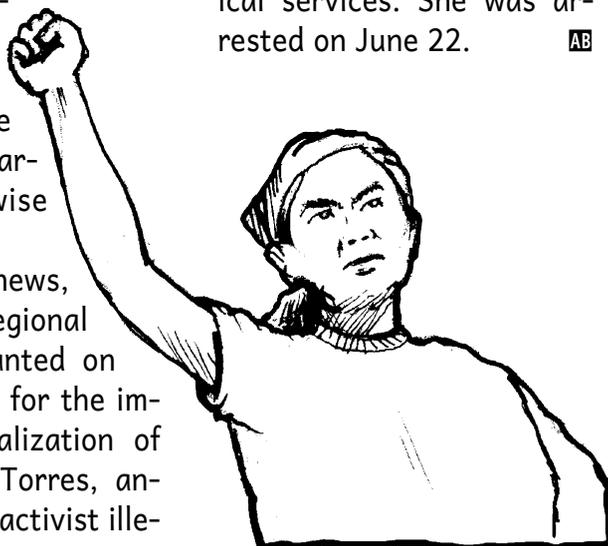
Kidnapping case vs Andrea Rosal dismissed

The Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 266 dismissed on July 10 the kidnapping with murder charge against Andrea Rosal for lack of evidence. Rosal, who was arrested in March, is the elder daughter of the late CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal. The military has accused her of being a New People's Army leader in Southern Tagalog.

Rosal has not been released because she still faces murder charges filed in a Mauban, Quezon court. Her lawyers led by Atty. Edre Olalia of the National Union of People's Lawyers expect this murder case to be dismissed as well since like the first, the charges are likewise fabricated.

In related news, the Infanta Regional Trial Court granted on July 2 a motion for the immediate hospitalization of Maria Miradel Torres, another pregnant activist ille-

gally arrested by the military. Torres was then detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. Like Andrea, she suffered difficulties due to inhumane prison conditions and lack of medical services. She was arrested on June 22. **AB**



Antimining activist harassed

THE 71st IB harassed Rogel Otero, leader of Indug Kautawan (People Rise), one of the organizations actively resisting open-pit mining by the National Development Corporation-St. Augustine Gold-Copper Ltd. and Napnapan Mineral Resources Inc. in Pantukan, Compostela Valley. Otero said Lt. Ari Ben Hernaez no less of the 71st IB talked to him and told him that he was on the military's "OB list" or roster of persons targeted for liquidation. The military is also accusing Otero of being a member of the people's militia and interrogated him about a firearm allegedly in his possession.

Otero has filed criminal charges against the 71st IB for harassing him.

Military harasses 2 UP-Mindanao professors

TWO professors at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao denounced their harassment in the hands of the military. In a press conference, Profs. Myfel Paluga and Andrea Malaya Ragrario disclosed that they were followed by suspected military men while on the way home after conducting research reconnaissance in General Santos City on July 6.

They said that they were returning to Davao City when they noticed men aboard a motorcycle tailing their vehicle. When they decided to go to a mall in Digos City to lose the tail, the men still managed to follow them. They later realized that there were five men following them relentlessly.

The two professors raised concern about their experience. Both are known for their advocacy of people's issues, including the anti-militarization struggle in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. Ragrario is a columnist for online newspaper *Davao Today*.

South African miners win 5-month strike

More than 70 miners celebrated on June 24 after winning a five-month strike in Rustenberg, South Africa against three foreign mining companies. Rustenberg is the center of platinum mining.

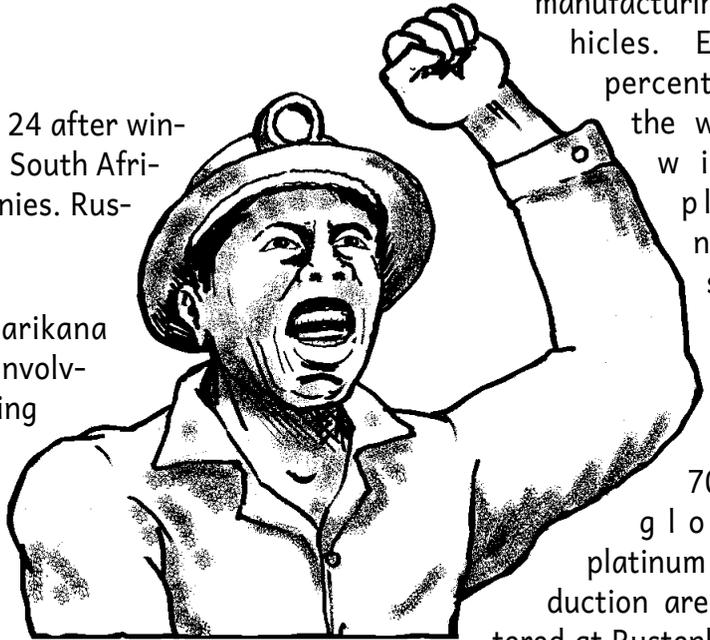
In accordance with an agreement reached between the strikers and the mining firms, the three companies Anglo American Platinum (Amplats), Impala (Implats) and Lonmin will grant wage hikes over the next three years. A monthly hike of 1,000 rand (\$93.85 or ₱4,082) will be granted monthly until 2015 to workers receiving less than 12,500 rand (\$1,173 or ₱51,027) monthly. By 2016, a 900-rand raise (\$84 or ₱3,674) in the monthly wage will be given to all miners. This raises the minimum wage from 6,250 rand (\$586 or ₱25,513) to 8,000 rand (\$750 or ₱32,657). The rand is South Africa's official currency. One rand is equivalent to ₱4.08.

The strike which began on January 23 was led by AMCU (Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union). It was the longest strike in the history of the African labor movement in 130 years. Due to the strike's breadth and length, it caused a 0.6% shrinkage in the country's economy in the first quarter of 2014. Up to 11 persons were killed and more than 50 wounded in repressive attacks by armed groups employed by the companies and scabs sent in by rival unions.

The strike was a continuation of the miners' determined struggle for minimum wages in August 2012, when the infa-

mous Marikana Massacre involving the killing of 34 striking miners occurred.

Platinum is a very pre-



rious metal used in manufacturing vehicles. Eighty percent of the world-wide platinum supply and more than 70% of global platinum production are centered at Rustenberg.

Israel invades Gaza City anew

A thousand Israeli troops attacked Gaza City in Palestine on July 18 using tanks and relentless artillery strikes. Up to 24 Palestinians were killed on the first day of the Israeli attack. Israel is ready to mobilize up to 40,000 troops for this operation.

The invasion came close on the heels of a ten-day bombing campaign that began on July 8, killing 271 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and destroying houses and other civilian structures.

Gaza City is one of Palestine's main cities surrounded by Israel, which occupied the city from 1967 until Palestine reclaimed it in 1993. Israel has imposed an economic blockade on Gaza City and invaded it in December 2008. In October 2012, it launched similar air strikes and deployed 30,000 troops to its border.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is in solidarity with widespread demands for an immediate stop to the Israeli bombings and invasion. It also expressed support for the Palestinian people for their firm and collective stand against plans by the Israeli government to invade, occupy and impose Israeli rule in Gaza City. The CPP likewise supports Israelis opposed to the Netanyahu regime's policy of driving the Palestinians from their homeland.

The CPP also condemned the US imperialists' duplicity for offering to serve as mediators in negotiations since the US is complicit in Israel's colonization of Palestine and its war crimes against the Palestinian people. For almost half a century, Israel has been the largest recipient of US military assistance. In 2013, the US provided \$3.1 billion in military assistance to Israel. **AB**