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Editorial

## Intensify people's war in addressing the disastrous results of the typhoon and government corruption

The Party's leadership and prompt action by the revolutionary forces have enabled the Filipino people to continually advance the revolutionary movement to address the disastrous results of a supertyphoon as well as corruption in Aquino's government.

The people reaped significant gains both in addressing the immediate threat of hunger and the longterm goal of advancing their struggles against various forms of exploitation and oppression. They have thoroughly exposed the US-Aquino regime's incompetence and fought against its criminal negligence.

These gains serve as bases for the people and the revolutionary forces to further consolidate their victories and tread the path of all-sided advance.

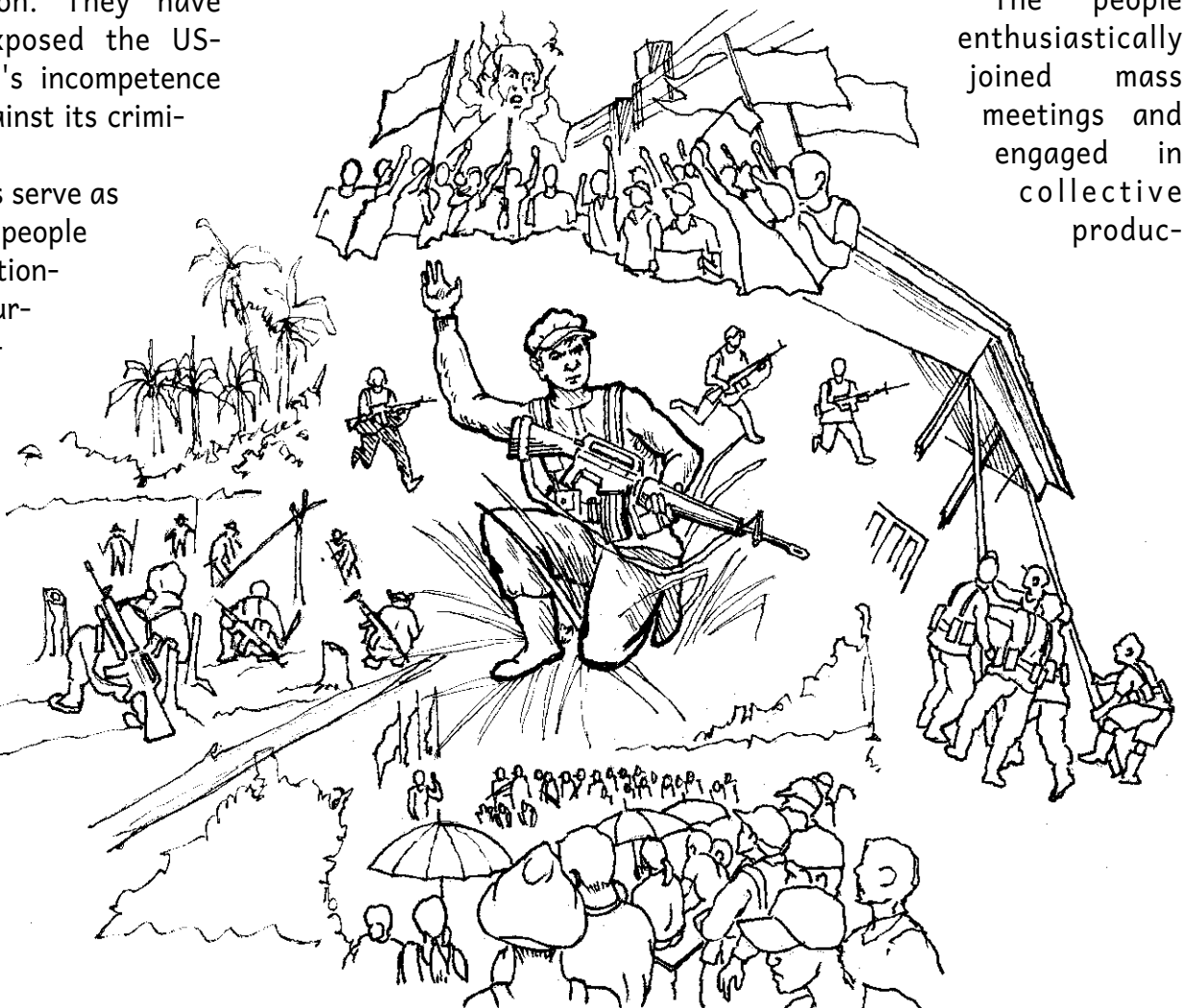
The gains arising from the mass movement's strong momentum both within and outside the guerrilla fronts must be reaped in the

form of the rapid expansion of existing full-fledged mass organizations or the establishment of new ones. These victories must be rapidly consolidated through the establishment of organs of politi-

cal power at various levels.

To address the disaster, plans were drawn to enable the people to collectively resolve their economic problems. The mass organizations formed labor collectives (called *suyuan* or *tiklos* in Waray or *binuligay* in Hiligaynon). Communal farms were opened for the collective benefit.

The people enthusiastically joined mass meetings and engaged in collective produc-



tion. The situation became exceedingly favorable for the formation of many full-fledged mass organizations and for raising them to the inter-barrio or municipal level. Raising their levels is key to building the people's organized strength to render their actions more effective.

The masses assiduously exercised their democratic initiative in forming, maintaining and implementing policies on livelihood and production, defense, security and other aspects of social life. Such democratic initiatives, in essence, were tantamount to using political power and served as training grounds for self-governance.

At its core, to use democratic initiative is to wield Red political power. These initiatives must be consolidated and the people's capacity to run their government and address issues relating to the economy, public education, medical services, culture, defense and advancing warfare further raised. The establishment of barrio revolu-

tionary committees will ensure the consolidation of the gains that have been achieved in collectively addressing the problems caused by the supertyphoon.

The plans drawn up to address livelihood problems were plans to advance the revolutionary land reform program. Mass struggles were organized to fight for the reduction or suspension of land rent and interest on loans or the cancellation altogether of the principal for as long as the peasants have not recovered.

In many areas where land is already being administered by mass organizations, plans were drawn up to raise vegetables, improve production and increase people's incomes. The Party must make sure that poor peasants take the lead in mass organizations in order to guarantee their continued leadership over democratic struggles.

Mass actions must be further invigorated to expand the scope of land reform struggles and ensure that these serve the

interests of the majority of poor peasants.


Advancing land reform is the main content of the democratic revolution and is a priority issue in advancing armed struggle in the countryside.

In the face of the NPA's rapid response to the needs of the masses during the calamity, it became clearer to the people that the NPA is their genuine army. More youth are joining the NPA. New platoons and companies of Red fighters must be rapidly formed in the coming months.

The military capabilities of all NPA units must be raised, and tactical offensives stepped-up. Just as the NPA possessed the initiative in mobilizing the people to address the typhoon, so must the NPA achieve the same initiative in warfare.

The people's capability to wage guerrilla warfare must be strengthened by expanding and fortifying the people's militia. They must be trained and encouraged to seize the initiative in coordinatedly launching tactical offensives that they are sure of winning against enemy units conducting military operations within guerrilla fronts.

The Aquino regime is aware that in the aftermath of the supertyphoon and the government's super incompetence, the situation had become exceedingly favorable for the revolutionary movement's rapid advance. Thus, even if the people were still in the thick of recovering from Yolanda's blows and clamoring for a stop to military operations, the fascist troops of the 3rd and 8th ID did not relent in wreaking havoc in areas where the NPA and the mass organizations were actively addressing and rising above the devastation wrought by the typhoon.

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Enemy troops must not be allowed to launch suppression campaigns and abuse human rights with impunity. Tactical offensives must be intensified to demonstrate the people's overriding anger at Aquino's corrupt government which has failed to address the people's grievances.

Collective revolutionary action is the only way for the people to address calamities and corrupt reactionary governments. This has been proven not only in the actions taken by the people after Yolanda, but also after past disasters like Pablo, Sendong, Habagat and Ondoy.

The Party and the revolutionary forces must hold fast to the lessons and principles learned in addressing disasters caused by typhoons and inutile governments.

The reactionary government's inutility and its indifference to the welfare of the oppressed and exploited classes during calamities must be exposed. The people must see that natural disasters are most severe and brutal to the oppressed and exploited. The so-called equality of all vis a vis nature's wrath is an illusion.

The people's only weapon in demanding rightful assistance to calamity survivors is the protest movement. The demand for appropriate amounts of financial assistance is not mendacity—it is a demand for justice and accountability in the face of the reactionary state's failure to guarantee the people's welfare, safety and livelihood.

Preparing for natural disasters is among the responsibilities of the new democratic people's government. Part of the responsibilities of organs of political power is to build a system of civil defense or mobilizing the people for their own welfare and safety and building organiza-

## Aquino's rehabilitation scheme is an insult to storm survivors

The small fund Aquino has allotted for the rehabilitation of regions devastated by Yolanda is an insult to the mass of people devastated by the storm. The so-called Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (CRRP), which is the regime's latest reconstruction program costs a mere ₱168 billion.

The amount is but a third of the previous Rehabilitation Assistance on Yolanda (RAY), the four-year rehabilitation program announced by Aquino in December 2013. The RAY, which was then based on the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), advocated a ₱361-billion reconstruction fund. But this is only 63% of the agency's own estimate of the total damage wrought by Yolanda (₱572 billion). The CRRP, on the other hand, costs less than 30% of the total damage.

One of the most striking aspects of the CRRP is the absence of funds for agriculture. This, despite the NEDA's own estimate of ₱60 billion in damage sustained by the sector. In a study conducted by the victims themselves, farms and agricultural areas were found to have suffered an estimated ₱144 million in damage in Eastern Visayas alone.

Worse, the CRRP clearly favors big business. The bulk of its funds (₱76 billion) has been allotted to the construction of "resettlement areas" ostensibly for devastated residents of Tacloban City and other areas in Leyte. The majority of those to be brought to these "resettlement areas" are residents of areas targeted for demolition. Among them are residents of 33 barangays in Tacloban within the "no-build" and "no-dwelling zones" along the coastal areas. Big comprador bourgeoisie have already divided these areas among themselves. At least nine corporations are planning to build their own enclaves in the region, among them companies owned by the country's biggest comprador bourgeoisie such as the Gokongweis, Zobel-Ayalas, Aboitizes, Pangilins, Razons and Gaisanos.

Meanwhile, the measly ₱31 billion allotted for livelihood and ₱26 billion allocated for social services will surely be used by favored politicians for their own interests. This is no different from the "cash for work" program, 4Ps and other bogus anti-poverty programs being used by local officials to buy the loyalties of voters in their respective bailiwicks.

**Snail-paced relief and rehabilitation work.** Contrary to the

tions for mobilizing emergency assistance, among others.

The biggest preparation that should be made by the revolutionary forces is to continue strengthening the Party, people's army and organs of political power and advancing and propagating the movement for

land reform.

Most important of all, people's war must be advanced to a higher stage in order to raise the capabilities of the people and their revolutionary movement to address the disasters resulting from supertyphoons and corrupt governments. **AB**

boastful claims made by Aquino and his rehabilitation czar Panfilo Lacson, the most affected communities are still at the relief phase and have hardly begun to recover, one year after Yolanda struck.

According to the reactionary state's own statistics, up to 1.5 million families in 32 provinces were devastated by what has been dubbed as "the strongest typhoon in the history of the world." The majority of the most affected (close to a million families) are in Samar and Leyte. At least 10,000 were killed (18,000, according to People Surge's estimates) and 28,600 injured.

But only up to 14% (of 1.5 million families) have received financial assistance from the regime to rehabilitate their livelihoods.

Not even 1% of Yolanda survivors have been given permanent houses, according to a study by British charity Oxfam. On the other hand, 364 houses have been built by the regime, compared to the 1.2 million houses damaged or destroyed by the supertyphoon. Thus, the vast majority still live in temporary shelters.

According to a research by IBON Foundation, only 5.8 kilometers of national roads have been repaired by the government compared to the targeted 116 kilometers. Only up to 213 classrooms have been repaired compared to the targeted 19,648 classrooms.

Meanwhile, the government has yet to repair more than 80% of damaged public markets and 82% of provincial roads damaged by the supertyphoon. AB

## Movement to rise above supertyphoon Yolanda expands in Eastern Visayas

In Eastern Visayas, the massive devastation wrought by supertyphoon Yolanda especially to the people's livelihoods in the guerrilla zones became an opportunity to strengthen their unity and advance their welfare through collective action and resistance. In the face of plummeting production and the absence of a significant program from the reactionary state, the people have no other choice but to further invigorate the revolutionary mass movement.

With the Party's leadership and prompt action, the people's army and the mass organizations acted as one to resolve the problem posed by the massive destruction of agricultural production and the immediate threat of hunger. In the process, the people further forged their revolutionary unity, expanded their organized strength and steeled their determination even more to further intensify people's war.

**Economic plan: Revolutionary land reform program.** Right after the storm, the anger of the people of Samar and Leyte exploded, giving way to a surge of massive street protests against the Aquino regime's criminal neglect, rank disregard and severely inadequate assistance to the victims.

In the guerrilla fronts, the Party and the seeds of people's

revolutionary government addressed the widespread hunger that came at the heels of the storm. Units of the New People's Army (NPA) were mobilized to investigate and conduct mass meetings. Alongside the mass organizations, they drew up appropriate plans to develop production based on each area's products.

The implementation of the revolutionary land reform program was given impetus. An economic campaign was simultaneously launched in 21 towns covering 119 barangays.

To address the immediate threat posed by the absence of food, the Party and NPA called for planting food crops that could be harvested in one to three months, including rice and vegetables. They also called for planting root crops that could be sold



to enable the masses to earn cash to purchase their other needs. As a medium-term measure, they called for planting more durable crops such as banana.

The Party called on the people to strengthen various forms of collective farming.

In the guerrilla fronts of Narra, Molave and Kamagong, members of peasant associations consistently engaged in the traditional *tiklusan* by forming agricultural cooperatives employing mutual exchange of labor. This was of great benefit to the farmers especially after the storm, since it became doubly hard to clear farms of fallen trees, as well as coconuts and bananas strewn like debris.

The peasant associations saw the importance of opening collective or communal farms or expanding existing ones. At the

same time, the Party and the NPA came up with a long-term plan on how to improve the harvests of individual and communal farms, launch campaigns to demand higher prices for root crops and other agricultural products and form various types of livelihood cooperatives.

At the Molave guerrilla front, up to 90 (from only ten before Yolanda) cooperatives of various types and sizes have been formed. In one village, the various mass organizations decided to put up a cooperative store to bring down the prices of basic commodities in the barrio. Prices of the most needed items like matches, kerosene and soap soared by almost 100% after the typhoon.

In another village, the mass organization members put up an animal husbandry cooperative

where they collectively take care of a few score head of pigs and sell them to nearby barangays. The number of cooperatives for farm tools, irrigation and credit also grew.

Side occupations such as mat, charcoal and basket making was developed, aside from selling firewood and other handicrafts. Bamboo was sold along the highways for use as outriggers for boats and stakes for mussel farming. Part of the particular economic plan for this village is to look for potential markets for their products.

At Narra, farmers planted double what they used to in order to ensure that every family would have enough food for a year.

At Kamagong, the peasants successfully demanded from a big landlord who owned land in three villages the right to farm a plot of more than 70 hectares for three years without paying rent. The farm is currently being run as a cooperative.

**Mobilizing the mass base.** Even before Yolanda struck, the mass organizations had already been urging the most vulnerable residents to seek shelter on safer ground.

In one barrio, the militia units gathered the children and the elderly and brought them and their things to the designated evacuation center. When the winds grew stronger, the militia scoured the village to convince residents living in small and fragile houses to evacuate to the school. The storm caused severe damage to their crops and houses, but there were no deaths in the area.

After the storm, the mass organizations in the village and sub-villages mobilized to collectively rescue their community. Led by the NPA units, the company-size people's militia was mobilized to haul in food aid from

## In solidarity with the survivors of Yolanda

The National Democratic Front-Eastern Visayas (NDF-EV) and the entire revolutionary movement is in solidarity with the thousands of Yolanda survivors. The NDF-EV is one with the survivors in condemning the US-Aquino regime's rehabilitation scheme. The people are completely fed up with the social injustice and corruption surrounding the Yolanda rehabilitation master plan, which is nothing but a means of providing "pork barrel" funds to the regime's politician- and businessman-allies.

The Aquino regime is ripe for ouster, said the NDF-EV, because the reactionary ruling system's deterioration has even accelerated due to the regime's relentless political patronage through the "pork barrel."

The people's determination to attain their democratic demands for land, livelihood, financial assistance and adequate shelter is a matter of justice.

The survivors of Yolanda and other disasters may unite to boost their struggle to demand compensation owed them by the reactionary government and its imperialist master. In the final analysis, only through waging and winning the national-democratic revolution can there be a government that serves the people's interests, ensures agrarian reform and national industrialization and implements policies to protect the people and the environment.

AB

NGOs that had been delivered to the town centers and bring these to barrios and sitios populated by both organized and unorganized masses. To ensure that each family received enough assistance, the food was distributed per head instead of simply giving the same volume to every family.

The mass organizations conducted a series of village meetings to discuss the issues and contradictions brought about by the sudden influx of financial and material aid to their area. With the guidance of Party and NPA units, they collectively managed the resources that were distributed by foreign and local humanitarian institutions and organizations.

**Challenges.** The revolutionary people of Eastern Visayas went full steam ahead to advance their mass movement to address the challenges to their livelihoods posed by their current situation. They demonstrated their broad and firm unity. The Party and people's army and the barrios and sitios likewise demonstrated the ability to lead and lend direction to their mass actions.

Nonetheless, like any other program, the implementation of the Party and NPA's plans has gone through many twists and turns. Although the economic campaign has begun, there is a need to more systematically develop production, raise the level of cooperativization and improve farm production methods. There are broad areas that still need basic

social services which the reactionary state had long deprived them of, and whose availability worsened with Yolanda.

Even as the economic and political plans are being carried out, governance issues have arisen that should be addressed through the formation of barrio revolutionary committees and the further expansion of basic mass organizations. The measures that have been taken and the implementation of plans and policies serve as training grounds for the masses in future self-governance.

Addressing the challenges of Yolanda also poses the challenge of advancing armed struggle. In the face of a stronger protest movement against the Aquino regime's incompetence and the masses' stronger exercise of initiative in production, the 8th Infantry Division massively deployed soldiers to villages within the different guerrilla fronts. The military relentlessly committed human rights abuses. AFP troops conducted innumerable combat operations in these areas to sow terror despite the people's efforts to rise up from the storm's onslaught. AB

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*Based from direct field interviews by AB, statements issued by spokespersons and reports from the staff of Larab, the revolutionary mass paper in Eastern Visayas*

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## Movement for recovery in Panay

**T**he Party in Panay effectively led the movement for recovery from the tragedy of typhoon Yolanda by mobilizing the New People's Army (NPA) and all the revolutionary and allied forces. Progressive organizations and institutions as well as church people in the country and abroad also helped significantly in raising relief goods and funds and providing other forms of service to the 43 out of 50 towns and cities that were severely devastated.

The Party's central leadership in Panay region held a meeting early on to plan ways of addressing the destruction wrought by Yolanda. They decided to cancel all tactical offensives and declare a ceasefire. The mass campaign for recovery was deemed the main priority.

The day after the storm, a disaster mitigation plan was immediately drawn up by com-

rades in Eastern Panay, the guerrilla front that bore the brunt of the devastation. Their plans dovetailed with the calls issued by the island's central leadership. They also quickly coordinated with forces in the city centers to mobilize help from other organizations and NGOs. A meeting of all local Party branches was immediately called to facilitate the cam-

aign's dissemination in the villages.

NPA units immediately assisted the affected areas. Red fighters helped repair damaged houses utilizing materials salvaged from debris from so many other damaged dwellings and buildings. They also helped salvage crops and plant new ones. For days after the storm, the NPA unit's generator set was made available for the victims to charge their cellphones and flashlights.

While the revolutionary forces played a direct role in the conduct of relief and rehabilitation work, the masses were mobilized to hold the US-Aquino regime to its obligation to help the victims. The campaign for accountability was synchronized with the movement against the

pork barrel. The comrades also made efforts to launch antifeudal campaigns such as demanding a reduction in the cost of transporting corn harvests. A hundred families benefited from this campaign.

The campaign for relief and rehabilitation had two phases. The first two months were geared towards providing assistance, including materials for the repair of houses (galvanized iron sheets, nails, wire, hammers and other tools) and seeds in order to jumpstart the food production campaign.

In February 2014, they began a six-month rehabilitation drive consisting of a continuing campaign for livelihood and housing, a parallel campaign to hold the state to its obligations, as well as a politico-military campaign. There are sustained efforts to push for comprehensive recovery.

Up to 53,000 families or more than 265,000 individuals all over the island benefited from the initial recovery campaign. The organized victims of the storm quickly took action to mobilize help from NGOs. They were not mere recipients of aid. They played active roles in soliciting, managing and distributing aid, conducting research and collating data, launching simple forms of cooperation to repair their damaged houses and resuming food production. They also launched scientific education campaigns to prepare for future calamities.

The organization of storm survivors helped organize residents of other areas. Their organizations, which they built from scratch, were formed not only for the purpose of obtaining relief but to raise their level of cooper-

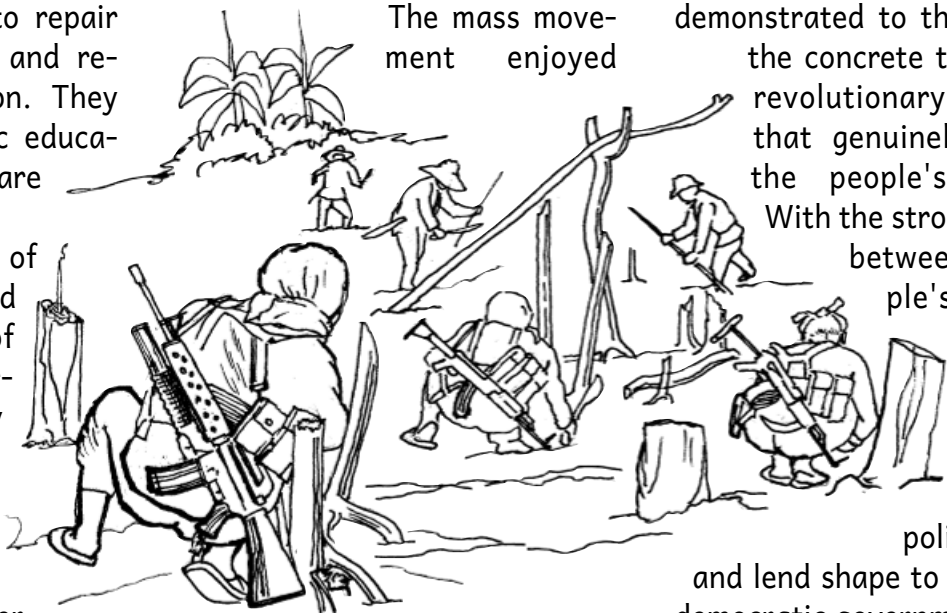
ation in recovering their livelihoods.

Parallel to the recovery campaign was a campaign to denounce the Aquino regime's criminal neglect. They launched petitions and dialogued with municipal and provincial governments. They particularly took to task DILG Sec. Mar Roxas for failing to make good on his promise of providing P30,000 to every family who lost their house, and P10,000 to those whose houses were partially damaged. They actively joined political mobilizations against all forms of pork barrel.

The issue of corruption is very concrete to the people of Panay because of the anomalies surrounding the planned construction of the Jalaur Dam, the construction of the Iloilo Convention Center and Iloilo Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog's beautification project. The people are resisting the construction of the Jalaur Dam, in particular, because it will destroy vast communities.

The protest movement gained strength. Up to 15,500 people joined the May 1 rally (from 7,000 the previous year). The middle forces were also mobilized on a wide scale, including judicial employees, church people, teachers and other sectors.

The mass movement enjoyed



the widest expansion in Capiz, which also bore the brunt of the super typhoon. One rally was joined by up to 7,500.

**Solid victories.** The mass movement for recovery has developed into a broad and comprehensive one. It has provided an opportunity for mass organizations to develop further, especially in terms of antifeudal mobilizations and developing production and livelihood.

Aside from reducing transport costs for corn, a crop-conversion campaign has begun, shifting from BT-corn to peanut and traditional rice varieties. A demonstration farm has shown that farmers could earn more from shifting crops, but more effort is needed to effectively propagate crop conversion. Communal farms have also been developed and labor cooperatives invigorated. The people have also begun planting durable crops.

The Party has expanded. Particularly in Eastern Panay, subsections have been formed in village clusters. Mass organizations and militia units have also been formed. In the course of the campaign, villages that had been temporarily abandoned were recovered, and revolutionary mass organizations reestablished. In sum, the Party has demonstrated to the masses in

the concrete that it is the revolutionary movement that genuinely advances the people's interests.

With the strong solidarity between the people's army and

the masses, the people are able to build Red

political power

and lend shape to the people's democratic government. **AB**

## Ka Yeng—a Red fighter, newly sprung

**E**ighteen-year old Comrade Yeng is a new Red fighter of the New People's Army (NPA). She is one of the beautiful things that have sprung from the widespread devastation left in the wake of typhoon Yolanda.

Comrade Yeng, a working student who was in her second year of high school was at her employer's house when Yolanda struck. Although she was not in Tacloban City, she soon heard news about the death of thousands of people and the massive destruction of houses, buildings and infrastructure due to severe flooding. Ka Yeng saw how distressed people were about the sad news from Tacloban.

Ka Yeng gradually became

aware of the extent of the storm's devastation and the people's grave suffering due to the total absence of aid from the Aquino regime or the extremely long time it took for help to arrive. "Relief work was really sluggish," she said.

Soon enough, Ka Yeng gained a wider perspective. She was able to attend rallies organized by victims of the storm in Tacloban City. Here, she saw and heard the people's grievances and their demand for food and shelter. "I felt their needs and pitied the victims. That's why I decided to help them," she said.



Ka Yeng's decision to help the people victimized by typhoon Yolanda took the form of joining the NPA. She had long known the NPA to be an army that serves the people's interests. Her father was an NPA martyr who was killed when she was only four years old. When she reached her 18th birthday in May, Ka Yeng became a newly sprung Red fighter.

Ka Yeng and other comrades' stories can be viewed in videos to be released by Sine Proletaryo in commemoration of typhoon Yolanda's first anniversary. **AB**

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## Ka Agnes, key cadre in the movement for recovery in Panay

**O**n October 21, throngs came to express their condolences and attend a tribute for Ka Agnes (Salvacion Mendoza) held in the city. Ka Agnes (also known as Ka Rita) died suddenly of pneumonia on October 16 at the age of 59.

Last year, Ka Agnes' main focus was the welfare of the victims of typhoon Yolanda in Panay region. In the entire island, it was their area of operations that bore the brunt of the storm. She was the deputy secretary of the Eastern Panay front committee and was a member of the Panay regional committee.

Ka Agnes was among the cadres who coordinated relief and rehabilitation work all over the island and promptly responded to provide assistance to the victims in the face of the US-Aquino regime's gross negligence. By 2014, they began advancing the mass campaign for recovery. Advancing the rehabilitation movement was framed within advancing people's war because they knew that full recovery from poverty and exploitation could only be achieved by waging revolution.

Up to the time before Ka Agnes was hospitalized in October, she focused on continually advancing the projects that they had begun and aggressively expanding the movement for recovery. She was extremely enthusiastic about fulfilling her tasks and

inspired comrades to persevere and vigorously expand and consolidate their organization.

Ka Agnes served the Communist Party of the Philippines and the revolutionary movement for a long time. In the early 1990s, she and her husband were assigned to the Central Front, and they were among the comrades who led in strengthening and expanding the NPA in the area. She demonstrated excellent leadership qualities in the struggle of the Tumanduk masses to defend their ancestral land from the 3rd ID.

Ka Agnes was transferred to Eastern Panay in 2012.

As a wife and a mother of four, Ka Agnes was her husband's steadfast partner in building a proletarian family. Amid the tremendous pressures of having a family and goading from some of her relatives to lead a comfortable life, she remained firm and never faltered.

The masses and comrades were extremely saddened by her death. Ka Agnes' dedication and resolve in continually fulfilling her tasks for more than three decades remain alive in their memories. Amid their grief, they are determined to live up to the example left behind by Ka Agnes in her heroic and colorful life. **AB**



## 5 soldiers killed in Albay and Bukidnon

FIVE soldiers were killed in various attacks by the New People's Army (NPA) on military troops in Albay and Bukidnon in October and November.

In Albay, two soldiers from the 2nd IB were killed in an ambush by Red fighters of the Santos Binamera Command in Barangay Anislag, Daraga and in a harassment operation on the battalion's tactical command post in Barangay Maopi, Daraga on November 3. Meanwhile, in Burias island, Claveria, Masbate, an element of the PNP 5th Regional Public Battalion was wounded when the NPA Jose Rapsing Command opened fire same day on a security patrol comprising AFP and police forces.

These military actions were accomplished even if Albay is dotted with detachments and military camps, and Masbate has been subjected to intense military operations for seven months now.

In Bukidnon, two soldiers were killed in an NPA attack on a column of the 8th IB in Consolacion, Manolo Fortich on October 20. Another soldier was killed when the NPA sniped a column of the 12th Scout Ranger Coy in Bulunay, Impasug-ong on October 23.

The AFP suffered 11 deaths in seven harassment operations launched by the NPA in Bukidnon from September 22 to October 23. There were no casualties on the NPA side. The NPA in the area has long been demanding a suspension of offensive military and police operations to pave the way for the release of two prisoners of war currently held by the revolutionary movement. **AB**

# US pretenses in the wake of Jennifer Laude's killing

**T**he US is currently scrambling to mollify a people angered by the death of a Filipino, Jennifer Laude at the hands of one of its soldiers, Pvt. 1st Class Joseph Scott Pemberton, on October 11 in Olongapo City.

US officials have been straining to come up with one pretense after another in an attempt to show that American military presence in the country is beneficial to Filipinos. The measures they have taken, however, have only further fuelled the people's anger and brought to the fore the US' subjugation of the Filipino people.

On October 21, the US shrewdly transferred Pemberton to the Joint US Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) compound in Camp Aguinaldo. The USS Peleliu where Pemberton had been held had sailed off that day. The US move was an attempt to feign recognition of Philippine jurisdiction over Pemberton, despite American refusal to cede custody. Although the JUSMAG compound perimeter is surrounded by Filipino soldiers, Pemberton's holding facility is guarded by American soldiers. No one could penetrate Pemberton's quarters without their permission.

This was starkly demonstrated when the Laude family and their lawyers asked to see Pemberton to make sure that he was actually being detained at the facility. The AFP officers they talked with repeatedly told them that they could not show Pemberton to anyone because only the US had the authority to decide on matters pertaining to him.

The US claims that its continued custody over Pemberton

is in accordance with the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), proving once more that the VFA tramples on Philippine national sovereignty.

The Philippines' failure to obtain custody over Pemberton presents a major obstacle to the Laudes and their lawyers' ability to build the case against the suspect. Almost a month has passed but the Olongapo City police has yet to interview Pemberton, take his mugshot and fingerprints, inspect his person and obtain buccal swabs in order to compare his DNA with those found at the crime scene.

**US warship on another port call.** The anger and protests regarding the Visiting Forces Agreement had yet to subside when one of the US' biggest warships made another port call. The USS Washington docked at Manila Bay on October 23 to resupply. To counter protests, the US embassy issued a statement boasting how many thousand liters of bottled water the USS Washington brought in when it arrived in Samar on November 8, 2013 after typhoon Yolanda struck.

In fact, giving out token amounts of relief during calamities forms part of "disaster interventionism." The US uses calamities as a pretext to insinuate itself and justify long-term US military presence and intervention. It used Yolanda as an entry point to enable its warplanes and other military vehicles to use the airstrip at

Guiuan, Eastern Samar for several more months, even if its operations no longer had anything to do with providing relief. Even the Guiuan local government is in the dark as to the nature of the American soldiers' activities in the area. Residents have also been complaining about the noise from the constant landings and takeoffs of US warplanes.

Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs used the occasion to announce a US decision to pay ₱87 million in compensation (equivalent to \$2 million) for the destruction of Tubbataha Reef at Sulu Sea. The reefs were destroyed when a US warship that had sailed in the area without permission ran aground in January 2013.

The amount is a small fraction of the \$16 to 27-million compensation being demanded by progressive groups that filed a petition at the Supreme Court to hold the US accountable for the destruction of Tubbataha. The amount was based on the compensation paid by the US military when a US Navy ship similarly ran aground at a reef in Oahu, Hawaii in 2009. The damage to biodiversity at Tubbataha was more than twice that sustained by the Oahu reef.

These trickles of relief and nickels and dimes worth of compensation are an insult to Filipinos and form part of US attempts to cover up Pemberton's heinous killing of Jennifer Laude. They are also attempts to

obscure the broader damage wrought on the country's sovereignty by unequal treaties between the US and the Philippines, such as the VFA and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

**Brutality.** Meanwhile, Pemberton's lawyer tried on October 27 to have the charges filed against her client reduced from murder (intentional killing) to homicide (unintentional killing).

According to Atty. Rowena Flores, Pemberton's lawyer, none of the elements of murder applies to the case, particularly the use of superior strength or cruelty. The prosecutor presiding over the case denied the lawyers' manifestation, saying that the preliminary investigation had to be completed before determining

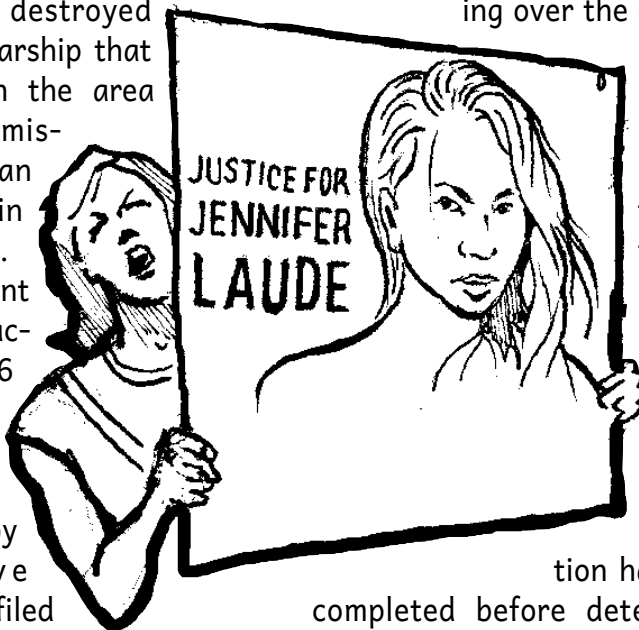
on what charge the suspect would be arraigned.

Whatever the case's outcome, Laude's camp has made sure to inform the public about the brutality suffered by the victim by publishing the details of the autopsy and pictures of Laude's body at the crime scene.

The details of the medico-legal investigation prove the heinous nature of Laude's killing. When Laude's body was found, her head was slumped on a toilet bowl inside the motel where she was killed. The autopsy revealed that she died of asphyxiation due to drowning. Her clavicle and trachea were broken.

Before she was killed, Laude suffered a brutal beating at the hands of Pemberton, as shown by the contusions on her scalp, chest, arm, buttocks and thighs. She also sustained cuts and bruises on her head and neck, including cuts on her tongue, bruising around her eyes and cheeks and abrasions on her left arm and right thigh.

The smaller and slightly-built victim was no match to Pemberton who was taller, more muscular and had martial arts training. AB



## 9 US warships cancel port calls

NINE US warships cancelled their scheduled dockings at the Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo City purportedly due to widespread anti-US sentiments in the wake of the killing of Filipina Jennifer Laude by an American soldier in October.

Four of the cancelled port calls were for November and five for December.

Groups ministering to women victims of prostitution welcomed the cancellations, saying that this would reduce the number of women victimized by violence.

Up to a hundred US warships docked at Subic Bay from January to October this year for military exercises, and to resupply and drop off troops for rest and recreation.

The dockings peaked from June to October, when at least 17 US warships made port calls at Subic each month.

# Surigao Lumad leader slain; 2,000 residents flee militarization

**T**wo members of the Manobo tribe, including a Lumad leader were killed and six others wounded in vicious attacks by the 401st Brigade and the paramilitary Bagani Force in the towns of Lianga, Surigao del Sur and Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur in the last week of October.

Killed in the military and Bagani Force onslaught in San Isidro, Lianga on the morning of October 24 was Manobo leader Henry Alameda. Alameda was an officer of the Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod (Mapasu), an organization opposed to destructive mining in the Manobo ancestral lands at the Andap Valley Complex. The area comprises the upland towns of San Miguel, San Agustin, Marihatag, Cagwait, Tago and Lianga in Surigao del Sur. Mapasu also opposes the forcible recruitment of Manobo tribespeople into the Bagani Force.

A day before the attack, Mapasu leaders received cellphone calls and text messages saying "it is time to put a hole into your chests."

Hours after Alameda's killing, soldiers and Bagani Force elements strafed the house of Alejandro Dumaguit, barangay chairman of San Lorenzo in Prosperidad town. Dumaguit's son Aldren was killed trying to save his father and sister. Dumaguit and one of his other children were wounded in the shoulder.

The fascists also rained bullets on Dumaguit's neighbors, wounding Alfred and Victor Undayon and minors Enggoy and Lynlyn.

Before dark, the soldiers and paramilitaries were seen near the house of Genasque Enriquez, secretary-general of Kahugpungan sa mga Lumad-nong Organisasyon-Caraga Region.

The fascists also beat up a peasant named Ariel Pagalan and burned a piece of farming equipment owned by a cooperative.

Continuing their rampage, the soldiers and paramilitaries torched two small buildings of a school operated by the Tribal Filipino Program of Surigao del Sur in the sub-villages of Kalawahan and Kabuluhan, Barangay San Isidro, Lianga. At least five houses were either burned or torn down by the troops as they made their way through the tribal communities.

About 2,000 Manobo tribespeople have been forced to leave their homes due to the series of killings, attacks and burning of houses and schools in their communities.

The evacuees are currently staying at a gym in Barangay Diatagon, Lianga.

Alameda's wake is also being held at the gym.



## Military threatens, harasses human rights advocate

THE military threatened and harassed a human rights advocate in Sorsogon. Arlene Funelas, a member of the Sorsogon People's Organization, a group allied with KARAPATAN, was summoned on October 30 to the Togawe barangay hall in Gubat town because someone allegedly wanted to talk to her.

When she arrived, soldiers who had been waiting for her locked the door and interrogated her for close to two hours. She was accused of being a tax collector for the New People's Army. The soldiers threatened that something bad would happen to her children should she refuse to cooperate. She was ordered to report daily to the military's headquarters for as long as the soldiers were stationed at her village, and required to observe a curfew.

Funela has asked officials of the Gubat municipal government to put a stop to the violation of her human rights and those of her fellow villagers.

## AFP illegally arrests 2 women

TWO women were illegally arrested by elements of the 701st Brigade and 67th IB at a checkpoint in Manay, Davao Oriental on the night of October 20 and forced at gunpoint to admit membership in the New People's Army (NPA).

Angelita Salientes, 20, and Lovely Jean Madinajon, 19, were on their way home to Caraga town in Davao Oriental aboard a motorcycle when they were stopped at the checkpoint. Salientes is three months pregnant. The only problem at the time was that the driver of the motorcycle they had hired

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# NDF condemns series of abuses by the 93rd DRC in Masbate

"Rabid dogs." This was how the National Democratic Front of the Philippines in Masbate (NDF-Masbate) described the elements of the 93rd Division Reconnaissance Company (93rd DRC) in the course of its military operation and occupation of Sitio Guinawanon, Barangay Danao, San Jacinto, Masbate and other sitios and barangays in Ticao island that lasted more than a week. Ticao is one of three islands comprising Masbate province.

The military operation terrified residents, especially the elderly, children and women, and affected their farming, fishing and copra production.

At 5 p.m. of October 29, soldiers surrounded the house of a Meo Alipin and stole his chickens. The military troops also took all the chicken eggs.

On October 30, Bryan Espenilla, a mentally challenged man, was beaten up and forced to serve as a guide.

On November 2, soldiers mauled Romeo Espenida, who is elderly and ailing. One of the ways he was tortured was by pressing M16 bullets between his fingers. The old man was being forced to admit that he welcomed Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) into his house and allowed them to spend the night.

On the same day, the soldiers

chanced upon Dampy Codillo, a fisherman who had just come back from the sea, and decided to interrogate him. Whenever Codillo could not answer their questions, he was beaten and slapped by Maj. Armando Benito, the deputy commander of Task Force Masbate and deputy battalion commander of the 9th IB.

Also on November 2, the soldiers conducted an illegal search of Comil and Mio Pujol's house, scattering their clothes and rice supply.

Roldan Banoy was also illegally arrested. He was hit with the butt of an Armalite rifle, causing him to throw up blood. Banoy was detained at the house of Baby Lim, a local landlord and landgrabber. The troopers likewise arrested Nono Portal and detained him also at Lim's house. Portal was forced into admitting

that he was an NPA member. Another farmer, Sisoy Espinio was forcibly held at Lim's house after he refused to produce copra for Lim on land that he had seized.

Lim and the officers and men of the 93rd DRC had long been in cahoots. The soldiers serve as security escorts whenever Lim orders copra production on coconut lands he had grabbed from local farmers. Because the locals refuse to work for Lim, CAFGU elements end up producing copra for him.

At 5 p.m. of November 4, soldiers forced their way into Albert Bartolay's house, stealing his generator and other valuable possessions, including his vehicle. At 6 p.m., the troopers beat up RJ Labustro of Sitio Busdak, Barangay Bartolabac, San Jacinto. Bartolay was also being forced to admit that he was NPA.

The NDF-Masbate roundly condemned these grave abuses of human rights saying they were outright violations of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. It called on Masbateños to strongly oppose and resist militarization and demand the pullout from the province of abusive police and military units such as the 9th IB, 93rd DRC, 22nd IB and PNP Public Safety Battalion.

The NDF-Masbate also called on the provincial government, especially its human rights committee to pass an ordinance or resolution to protect the human rights of Masbateños and help victims of military abuse attain justice and ensure that fascist elements of the military and police are punished.

The vicious military operations of the 93rd DRC form part of the 903rd Brigade's Oplan Musang which has been on a rampage in Masbate province since April. AB

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did not have a license. The driver was later released, however, and the two women arrested.

They were brought to the 701st Brigade headquarters where they were interrogated at gunpoint by several men and coerced into admitting that they were NPA guerrillas in exchange for their freedom. They were not given any food all night. Their interrogators also insisted that the women's names were different.

The day after, members of human rights watchdog KARAPATAN went to the military headquarters to check on the victims. The soldiers could not produce an arrest warrant for the two women. The KARAPATAN members immediately brought the two victims to their vehicle and called the police. They went to the Mati Police Station to have the incident blotted and file charges against the military officers responsible for the illegal arrest.

# Progressive groups launch series of protest actions

**W**orkers, peasants, teachers and the transport sector launched a series of protest actions in October.

**Workers.** Members of Wyeth Samahan ng Manggagawang Kontraktwal (SAMA-AKO) picketed the office of the National Labor Relations Commission in Calamba, Laguna on October 22 to condemn Wyeth Philippines for refusing to regularize its long-term contractual employees and for firing 87 workers in May and June. The terminated workers had been employed by the company for at least eight years.

Wyeth Philippines produces infant formula brands Promil, S-26 and Bonna, among others. Since its acquisition by Nestlé in 2012, job security for its workers has worsened. Nestlé is notorious for its widespread enforcement of contractualization.

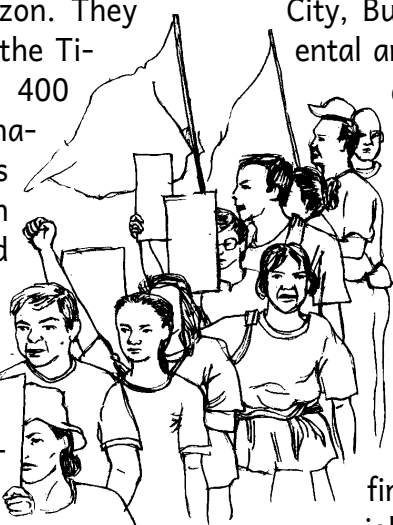
**Workers and peasants.** On October 21, KASAMA/Anakpawis-Timog Katagalugan and other progressive groups launched a protest action at the Quezon City Hall of Justice to coincide with a hearing on a case against Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria-Tiamzon. They called for the release of the Tiamzons and more than 400 other political detainees nationwide. The Tiamzons were arrested on March 22 in Cebu and slapped with trumped-up criminal charges. They are both leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and consultants of the National Democratic Front of the

Philippines.

**Peasants.** On the same day, members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and other progressive groups rallied at Mendiola, Manila and other towns and cities nationwide to demand the immediate enactment of House Bill 252 or the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARB). The GARB is marked by calls for the breakup of vast estates like the Cojuangco-Aquino-owned Hacienda Luisita and free land distribution to the peasantry.

**Teachers.** On the other hand, members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers launched a lightning rally at Mendiola on October 6 to assail the regime for its inaction on its longstanding demand to raise the monthly salaries of teachers from ₱18,500 to ₱25,000 and non-teaching personnel from ₱9,000 to ₱15,000. The protest action was launched to mark World Teachers Day.

**Transport sector.** PISTON launched another massive transport strike on October 27 in Metro Manila, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City, Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental and Surigao del Norte, as well as in Laguna, Albay, Iloilo, Bacolod, Northern Mindanao, General Santos City and Davao City to oppose Joint Administrative Order 2014-01 issued by the DOTC and LTFRB which imposes huge fines for various traffic violations. AB



## Cuba helps fight Ebola Virus Disease

**C**uba immediately dispatched 91 doctors and nurses on October 21 in response to, and in support of, calls by international agencies helping to fight the Ebola epidemic currently spreading in West African countries.

Ebola is one of the most widespread epidemics in the history of humankind. It first appeared in Guinea in December 2013 before spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone. As of October 29, up to 13,500 people have been reported infected and more than 4,900 have died.

Cuba is a country with a broad system of free health care and medical services. It also has a long history of sending doctors and other medical personnel to various countries facing health crises or tragedies.

Cuba's measures stand in contrast to those of the US and UK. Instead of sending medical personnel, the US and UK have sent armed soldiers in response to the Ebola crisis. AB