

NPA seizes 84 firearms

THE NEW People's Army confiscated 84 firearms from military actions in the past two weeks in the provinces of Quirino, Cagayan, Iloilo, Bukidnon and Davao City.

In Davao City, three simultaneous armed actions were launched by the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion (PBB) of the NPA-Southern Mindanao Region last April 29 against armed goons and facilities of landlord-comprador Lorenzo family.

At 2 a.m., Red fighters attacked two factories and a ranch of the Lapanday Foods Corp. Thirty nine firearms were seized from these three targets, aside from various military equipment.

The 1st PBB first attacked Lapanday Foods Corp.'s box plant in Brgy. Mandug. Almost at the same time, another unit of the 1st PBB attacked the Lorenzo's Macondray Plastic Plant in Brgy. Bunawan. Operatives of the NPA set afire two buildings and facilities of Lapanday. At past 3 a.m., another unit of the 1st PBB raided the Lorenzos' plantation and ranch in Brgy. Pangyan in Calinan District.

According to the NPA-SMR's Ka Rigoberto Sanchez, the 1st PBB implemented the action against the Lorenzo family's company which has a long record of grabbing farmers' and Lumad lands, and exploitation of its workers. The Lorenzo family has amassed its wealth through intense exploitation and land-

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EDITORIAL

Intensify peasant mass struggles under the Duterte regime

GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte seemed to endorse the collective actions launched recently by peasants and farm workers to claim their land when he threatened the "oligarchs" that, if they fail to pay their taxes after three months, he will call on the people to occupy their lands.

It is upon Duterte to prove that his words are not empty. He must undertake concrete measures to show he is not simply riding on the people's grievances and aspirations. In the face of left and right peasant struggles across the country, he must prove his word not after three months but immediately.

Duterte must name those oligarchs he has denounced and identify the public lands they occupy illegally. He must also be made aware that genuine land reform is not limited to public lands. This is a matter of liberating millions of peasants

from feudal and semifeudal exploitation by dismantling the land monopolies of big haciendas and plantations. Most of these are not public lands, rather wide swathes of agricultural land forcibly taken from the peasant masses.

As of now, the peasant masses do not see Duterte using his powers to extend concrete help to their struggles. He has not extended decisive support for the peasants especially as they confront the big landlords and plantation owners who stubbornly occupy their lands. This is despite orders of the GRP's courts or

agencies to subject said lands to re-form and distribute these to the peasants.

These past weeks, outstanding mass actions were carried out in the Lorenzo's Lapanday plantation in Davao Norte and in the Cojuangco's (and Lorenzo's) Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. Both in Luisita and Lapanday, the peasants and farm workers not only stand on just grounds, but possess, as well, the legal papers of the GRP which support their land claims.

The Luisita and Lapanday peasants failed to regain their lands. They are dismayed by Duterte's utter lack of support. In Lapanday, the local police stood idly by and did nothing as the Lorenzo's employed 700 armed guards prevented farmers from claiming their land, even if they were accompanied by DAR's Sec. Paeng Mariano. Armed guards of RCBC prevented the peasants and farmworkers as well from claiming their lands in Barangay Balete in Hacienda Luisita.

These experiences only underscore the need for the peasant masses to further advance their

struggles for genuine land reform under the Duterte regime. The Party calls on the peasant masses to intensify their struggles to demand the dismantling of Hacienda Luisita and all other feudal haciendas and plantations. They must also intensify their collective struggle against "agribusiness venture agreements" and other schemes that prevent peasants from claiming, controlling and benefitting from their lands. They must also struggle to get back the land taken away from them such as Hacienda Looc and Yulo King Ranch. They must advance their struggles in the "bungkalan" (cultivation) areas to demand their right to the land.

In areas under the power of the people's democratic government, the revolutionary forces will continue to carry out the minimum and maximum land reform program. The Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) is organized in all areas in the countryside to unite those who do not have or lack land. The PKM and its affiliate organizations are the main force of the movement for genuine land reform.

Together with the New People's Army (NPA), they launch agrarian revolution to overthrow and smash the feudal power of the despotic landlords and continue to establish and spread the people's democratic government at the barrio, interbarrio or municipal, district and higher levels.

Part of advancing agrarian revolution is launching armed actions against the despotic landlords and the plunderous and landgrabbing big bourgeois compradors, such as those carried out by the NPA against the Lorenzos. The aim of such measures is to stress upon the likes of the Lorenzos that their all out suppression, exploitation and oppression of the peasants, farmworkers and workers won't go unpunished. As much as it can, the NPA will launch measures against the big despotic landlords and bourgeois compradors to support the struggle of the peasant masses.

The people's democratic government will continue to implement the program for genuine land reform as a response to the principal demand and need of the peasant masses. Carrying out genuine land reform is the main reason for the continuously broadening and deepening support of the masses for their revolutionary government. Under the land reform program, free land distribution, wherever practicable, and defense of the people's ancestral land is undertaken. Policies to lower land rent, raise production and increase peasant income are implemented. Programs for literacy and education, health and other public services are implemented as well.

The question of genuine land reform and national industrialization are among the main programs being asserted by the NDFP in peace negotiations with the GRP. The revolutionary forces demand that an agreement be forged containing a common program for agrarian reform and socio-economic reforms that will be implemented separately or jointly within the scope of each other's political power. AB

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grabbing in many parts of the country. Its ranch also serves as haven for the family's goons involved in the murder of plantation workers.

Last April 21, the Lorenzos employed 700 armed men in collusion with the local police in order to block more than a hundred farmers who took action to reclaim their 145-hectare land taken by the Lorenzos in Brgy. Madaum, Tagum City. Last December 12, 2016, personnel of the Lorenzos opened fire at protesting farmers.

The NPA-SMR also said Lapanday engaged in wanton environmental plunder as communities around its plantations complain of poisoning due to the company's unrestrained aerial spraying and use of other harmful chemicals. Meanwhile, the NPA-SMR expressed its apologies to the family of Larry Buenafe, the fish vendor who was accidentally hit during an NPA ambush against military reinforcements. The NPA-SMR is ready to indemnify the Buenafe family for this unfortunate accident.

In Mati City, Davao Oriental, eight firearms were seized by the NPA from security forces of the destructive Del Oro Mining Corp. in Brgy. Macambol last May 6 at 6:00 a.m. Seized were two carbines and six shotguns. The Red fighters also confiscated and destroyed nine of the company's heavy equipment.

In Maddela, Quirino, 10 firearms were seized by the NPA in a successful raid on the Philippine National Police municipal station of the said municipality last April 30 at around 10 p.m. Killed in the fire-fight was intelligence officer PO2 Jerome Cardena.

In a report by the Venerando Villacillo Command, the Red fighters were able to confiscate six M16 rifles and four 9mm pistols.

Meanwhile, six firearms were seized by the NPA-Cagayan Valley in a raid on a PNP sub-station at



Brgy. Bonacao, San Fernando.

Brgy. Annafatan in the town of Amulung West, Cagayan last May 4, 5:15 p.m. The NPA was able to easily pin down eight police officers who were at the detachment during that time. Two of the police officers who surrendered were humanely treated by the NPA, while not firing upon those who ran off. Confiscated by the Red fighters were three M16 rifles, one M14 rifle and two 9mm pistols.

In Bukidnon, the NPA-South Central Bukidnon (SCB)-North Central Mindanao Region disarmed the Dasia Security Agency in Purok 17, Hindangon, Poblacion, Valencia City in the evening of May 3. Confiscated from the agency were two AK-47s, one M16, three shotguns and three .38 calibre pistols. While the raid was going on, another unit of the NPA-SCB set up a road checkpoint. A 9mm pistol from a police officer was confiscated.

Last April 28, seven members of a paramilitary group surrendered to Section 5 under the NPA-SCB. They gave up seven firearms including one improvised M79 and grenade launcher rounds, two M14s, one Garand, two shotguns and an improvised M16.

The following day at 7:30 p.m., Section 3 NPA-SCB disarmed brothers Edgar and Erick Ordinisa in Nakabuklad, San Fernando, Bukidnon. Confiscated were two carbines and a shotgun. The Ordinisas were employed by Valentine Ordinisa and used these firearms in threatening farmers who pass by the property of their boss. Aside from this, the same unit of the NPA-NCMR launched a harassment operation against the 60th IB last April 23 in

The NPA-Comval-Davao East Coast Subregional Operations Command also successfully raided a detachment of the 67th IB and 72nd IB in Brgy. Aliwagwag, Cateel, Davao Oriental last April 26. The raid was carried out at around 5:00 a.m. One CAFGU element was killed while three others were wounded in the battle. An M14 rifle was confiscated by the NPA.

In Panay, three consecutive tactical offensives were launched by the Napoleon Tumagtang Command (NTC) against enemy units under the 3rd ID. Last May 3 at 1:15 early in the morning, Red fighters attacked the headquarters of the 12th IB's Bravo Coy in Brgy. Pitogo, San Joaquin, Iloilo. Prior to this, another unit of the NPA-NTC attacked the patrol base of the 82nd IB's Charlie Coy in Sitio In-sobrehan, Brgy. Igcabugao, Igaras, Iloilo last May 1 at past midnight. The NPA-NTC also attacked a camp of the 82nd IB in Brgy. Igtalongon, Igaras at past midnight last April 30.

In the face of the successive NPA offensives, NDFP Chief Political Consultant Ka Jose Maria Sison said that "The people and revolutionary forces have to defend themselves and take the offensive wherever and whenever they can."

Moreover, Ka Joma likewise said that continuing the peace talks has become more important. "It is better," he said, "to negotiate peace and work out the interim joint ceasefire agreement in connection with the Comprehensive Agreement on the Social and Economic Reforms and the amnesty of the political prisoners." AB

CA's rejection of Gina Lopez lambasted

THE COMMISSION on Appointment's rejection of Gina Lopez as Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary earned widespread condemnation. Large mining companies used millions of pesos and influence to ensure that she will not be able to continue her pro-environment and pro-people policies in the DENR.

The rejection came after months of campaigning by mining companies to unseat her. Among the hype spread by their officials and propagandists include the allegation that local governments will lose revenue and there will be massive unemployment if the mines are closed. A million people will purportedly starve and the government will be burdened with huge legal bills since mining companies are sure to challenge Lopez's orders in court.

These excuses have long been proven false by government statistics no less. Mining contribution to the gross domestic product and employment is low, if not insignificant. Sectors destroyed by mining, such as agriculture and tourism, contribute more. It is also untrue that mining contributes much to the fight against poverty in their areas. One example is the Surigao Chamber of Commerce and Industry who claims to contribute 32.5% to the local GDP. But according to Ibon Foundation, this contribution does not translate into uplifting the people's quality of life. In fact, CARAGA, which has the most number of mines, has the second largest number of poor residents in the country. Up to 40% of the people living in the region are considered poor.

With Lopez's exit from the DENR, the people and the revolutionary movement lost a friend in the GRP who is willing to defend the environment and people's livelihood. However, as long as she perseveres in this struggle, she will always find a friend in the people and the national democratic movement.

The CPP assures the people that, alongside the NPA, it will continue to defend the people and the environment ruined by destructive mining.

NPA successively releases 2 POWs

THE TWO remaining prisoners of war (POW) in Mindanao were successively released on separate occasions this end of April.

On April 27, the New People's Army-North Central Mindanao released PO2 Anthony Natividad in Dominorog, Talakag, Bukidnon. He was received by the Region 10 peace and order council led by Talakag Mayor Oscar Moreno and other intermediaries led by Bishop Felixberto Calang. Natividad was captured by Red fighters in a checkpoint in Bukidnon last January 29.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Northeastern Mindanao also released Pfc. Erwin Salan in Brgy. Camam-onan, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte last April 30. Hundreds attended the program where he was turned over to provincial officials and to Bishop Rey Timbang of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente. Salan's release was presided over by Comrade Rey Calaste (Ka Oto), NPA-NEMR Front Committee 16's spokesperson. The NPA captured Salan last January 29 in Brgy. Budlingin, Alegria where he was taking part in combat operations.

Both POW releases were announced earlier in February in support of the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the GRP. But both were delayed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines' continuing combat operations and the latter's refusal to declare a suspension of military operations.

Lapanday, bane of the people

Even before the billowing smoke dissipated from the gutted down buildings and equipment of Lapanday Foods Corp. (LFC) in Brgy. Mandug, Davao City on April 2, the ruling elite have spewed out condemnations left and right following the action carried out by the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion (PBB) against the facilities and properties of the Lorenzo clan.

They gloss over the many decades that the family immensely prospered from the sweat and blood of the hundreds of thousands of peasants and workers in order to expand its companies. In 2011, Lapanday raked in P127 million in net income from its plantations in Mindanao.

LFC's landgrabbing against

peasants who are declared by the GRP as "beneficiaries of agrarian reform" in Madaum, Tagum City is downright disgusting. The peasants under Madaum Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries, Inc. (Marbai) are presently in Manila to demand from GRP Pres. Rodrigo Duterte that they immedi-



ately be reinstated in their lands. Marbai's planting contract with Lapanday is overly oppressive and exploitative. Aside from being compelled to procure all saplings and pesticides from Lapanday, their

produce is bought at extremely low prices. A 13-kilo box of Cavendish banana sold by Lapanday to its foreign clients at more than P600 is bought from Marbai at a measly P100, resulting in very low incomes for the farmers.

The destitute situation of workers in Lapanday facilities is not very different. For instance, in its plants in Brgy. Mandug, Davao City, the company earned a net income of P105 million in 2015. Majority or 69% of its workers are contractual even though the jobs they perform are essential to the company's operations. The Lorenzos are currently big partners in Hacienda Luisita which is owned by the Cojuangcos.

In 2011, the total assets of Lapanday amounted to P5 billion. Being a large Philippine company that exports food, it has its own laboratories and facilities for research and development. In addition, it operates its own private ports and storage facilities for its clients in Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, China and Russia, Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East.

Fascist domination

Like all big landlords and compradors, the Lorenzos are experts at employing violence in order to maintain control over thousands of hectares of peasants' land and ensure their superprofit at the expense of the workers.

On March 11, 2008, the NPA arrested retired MSgt.

Jose Manero, who was at the time LFC's chief security officer. Ten high-powered firearms were seized during the action. While an NPA prisoner of war, Manero divulged Lapanday's numerous murders of peasants and workers in their plantations. Despite the condition of indemnification as provision for Manero's pardon, not one of their victims was remunerated by the Lorenzos.

Poisoning communities and the environment

In 2000, a study revealed that the use of poisonous chemicals by the Lorenzo's Lapanday Development Corp. (LADECO), resulted in numerous deaths and affliction of 150 Manobo families in Brgy. Kamukhaan, Hagonoy in Davao del Sur. Since 1981, LADECO's unabated use of various pesticides poisoned the soil and water supply and killed crops, farm animals and fish.

The reactionary state, especially the politicians who are rabid defenders of the ruling classes, claim that the militant actions of the peasants and the tactical offensives of the NPA are disastrous to peasants and workers themselves. They conceal the fact that in the face of decades of expansion of companies like Lapanday, the national economy and the masses' livelihood remain woefully backward. That they insist that the NPA's punitive action will hardly make a dent on the obscene wealth of the Lorenzos is more proof of the monstrous extent of their abominable exploitation of the peasant and the working classes. AB

6 civilians killed by the AFP in Masbate and ComVal

Five farmers, including two children, were killed by soldiers in military operations under the 9th ID in two incidents in Masbate province last April 15 and 20. Meanwhile, a Lumad activist was killed anew by reactionary forces in Compostela Valley.

Last April 20, soldiers belonging to the 3rd Scout Ranger Company under the command of Lt. Karlito John Cabillo indiscriminately fired upon the houses in Sitio Lubigan, Brgy. Panan-awan, Cawayan after suffering casualties in an encounter with an NPA unit nearby. Killed in the said shooting were 71-year old Lita Villamor Pepito and two of her grandchildren, Reden Luna, 9, and Rechillen Luna, 11. Lolita's husband Paulino, 72 years old, was seriously wounded.

According to Paulino and the other witnesses, his wife was still alive after being wounded, but sol-

diers finished her off. Some residents were also illegally arrested and were released only in the evening.

Meanwhile last April 15, the 2nd IB brutally killed brothers Titing and Bongbong Tagalog, farmers residing in Brgy. San Carlos, Misamis Lagros. Titing was beaten to death while Bongbong was peppered with bullets.

According to the residents, the indiscriminate firing by the soldiers bring them fear. Most of the residents have already fled their village because of terror. Last April 16 at around 10 a.m., a civilian was accosted by the soldiers, and was made to run while being shot at.

Meanwhile, residents from the nearby village of Tigbao reported the 2nd IB soldiers' theft of their goats and chicken.

In Compostela Valley, activist and Lumad leader Federico "Pandi" Plaza was killed last May 3 at 4:00 p.m. in Brgy. Poblacion, Maragusan. Plaza was active in agrarian reform campaigns as a member of Hugpong sa Mag-uuma sa Walog Compostela (HUMAWAC). As a Lumad leader, he was active in the successful eviction of the AFP's deceptive Peace and Development Outreach Program in their area.

According to Karapatan-Southern Mindanao Region, Plaza is the 21st victim of activist killings in the region. Soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are the primary perpetrators of targeting peasant leaders who are active in mass campaigns.

Meanwhile, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte spewed out personal at-

tacks against Radyo ni Juan broadcaster Dodong Solis.

The personal attacks are the Duterte siblings' response to Solis' commentaries regarding the agrarian dispute between the farmers and Lapanday Foods Corp. and the NPA's military action against the Lorenzo family.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines expressed concern regarding this. According to the group, attacks and threats by the Dutertes are alarming, most especially because Sara has a record of physical assault and public humiliation.

May 1, 2017 calls

Jobs, decent wages and housing

An estimated 100,000 workers and urban poor flooded the streets of different cities and towns on the occasion of the 113th International Labor Day last May 1. Led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno, the rallyists called for the reinstatement of the national minimum wage, an end to contractualization and distribution of free housing to the poor. They also expressed their dismay over the regime's neoliberal policies.

The workers stand firm on the just demand that the national minimum wage be set at P750/day for the private sector and P16,000 for the public sector. According to researches by Ibon Foundation, this demand will only amount to P447 billion or 27% of the total profit of all corporations. The top 1000 corporations rake in up to P1.63 trillion in profits per year.

The setting of a minimum wage will mean an additional P8,332/month to the workers' current wages or P108,316/year, including 13th month pay. This amount is much-needed to lessen the workers' and their families' poverty.

Alongside the commemoration of the 113th Labor Day, the workers also celebrated the centenary of the Russian October Revolution which

gave birth to the first socialist state under proletarian leadership. KMU also celebrated its 37th founding anniversary. The labor center was founded in a gathering of 30,000 workers in Quezon City during the Marcos dictatorship in 1980.

In Metro Manila, up to 50,000 gathered in Liwasang Bonifacio for a program attended by representatives from progressive parties and cabinet members. Among those who attended were urban poor residents from various parts of Metro Manila. A large contingent of urban poor from Bulacan who occupied vacant houses the previous month was also present. About 200 peasants from Madaam, Tagum City fighting for their rights to their own lands also participated. A group of demonstrators marched to the US embassy to denounce US-dictated neoliberal policies, particularly the flexibilization and liberalization of labor. Towards the afternoon, they marched to

Mendiola, in front of Malacañang.

In Bicol, more than 15,000 members of the KMU and other national-democratic organizations marched in the town centers of Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Sorsogon and Masbate.

In Davao City, up to 10,000 workers, including delegations from other Mindanao areas, marched to the People's Park to seek dialogue with GRP's Pres. Rodrigo Duterte. They planned to present him the KMU and the Filipino workers' demands.

In Laguna, up to 10,000 workers from different enclaves in the region led by Pamantik-KMU gathered in Crossing Calamba. Prior to the program, protests were held in Sta. Rosa, Cabuyao, Los Baños and Calamba to call on the residents to join the gathering.

In Baguio, workers and the people turned the streets red in their struggle against neoliberal attacks on labor. In Angeles City, thousands marched from Clark Air Base to the city center. Similar protests were held in Tacloban, Cebu, Iloilo, Aklan, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Surigao and General Santos City.

On April 30, in Balintawak, police blocked some 7,000 urban poor residents from Bulacan who were on their way to join an anti-ASEAN protest on that day and the May 1 protests on the following day in Metro Manila. That day, workers picketed in front of the US embassy in line with the 30th meeting of ASEAN leaders. ASEAN's primary agenda is the formation and approval of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership which pushes for further liberalization of local economies and other neoliberal policies.



Imperialist conquest of the world

(This is the second part of the article "Revisiting Lenin's Critique of Imperialism". Read the first part in the previous issue of Ang Bayan.)

Conquest of the world is an imperialist feature. If the export of commodities was prevalent during the earlier capitalist stage, in the time of imperialism or monopoly capitalism, the export of capital has become more common, and this has given impetus to the division of the world among big monopoly combines and among imperialist powers.

In Lenin's work *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, he wrote "surplus capital will be utilized not for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the masses in a given country, for this would mean a decline in profits for the capitalists, but for the purpose of increasing profits by exporting capital abroad to the backward countries. In these backward countries profits are usually high, for capital is scarce, the price of land is relatively low, wages are low, raw materials are cheap."

Division of the world changes according to the strength of each monopoly combine and the country representing its interests. As an example, from 1884 to 1914, Great Britain's share in the international steel cartel shrunk from 66% to 53.5%, while that of Germany grew from 27% to 28.8%, and Belgium's from 7% to 17.67%. Towards the later part, France was afforded a share, and in 1905, J.P. Morgan's United States Steel Corporation, the biggest steel corporation in the US, came in.

Foreign capital loans are another method of capital export. Capital loaned by monopoly capitalists have specific allocations. They come with contracts to procure arms, technology, needed machinery, or consumer goods exclusive from the lending country or corporation, or to supply them raw materials. Therefore, while shoveling in profits from loans, monopoly capitalists also earn from the sales of their products.

In 1910, the oldest capitalist

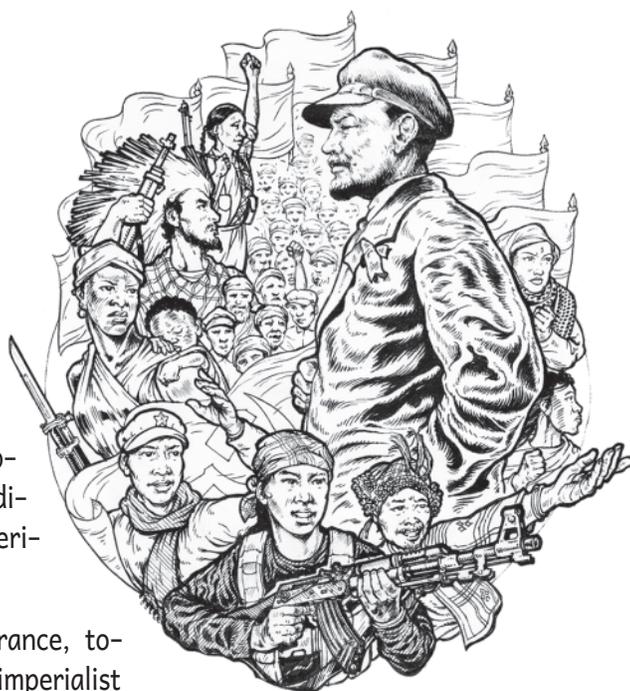
countries, England and France, together with the two rising imperialist countries, United States and Germany, owned nearly 80% of the world's finance capital. In a sense, they are global usurers.

This became more glaring after World War II (WWII) upon the establishment of the International Monetary Fund, which is controlled by imperialist countries, to systematize lending to underdeveloped countries. Every loan comes with onerous and oppressive conditions on the debtor states themselves.

Division of the world among imperialist powers

Each monopoly combine controls sources of raw materials to make it impossible for their rivals to compete, especially non-renewable resources such as oil, minerals, coal and land. They control not only previously discovered resources, but even potential ones, because of rapid technological development. For them, what is useless today may be valuable in the future, given enough technology and capital. This provides them guarantee against all contingencies in the struggle with competitors, including the contingency from laws establishing a state monopoly.

Extracting profit is certainly easier when an underdeveloped country loses its political independence. This is indicated by the emergence and prevalence of colonies—which are directly controlled by imperialist states, and semicol-



nies—countries that claim they are "independent" but whose economy, politics and culture are kept in check by imperialists. With a puppet government, the imperialists stunt the economy, plunder the wealth, wring out cheap labor from the toiling masses, and corrupt the minds of the people to accept their rule.

The years 1884-1900 marked the epoch of intensified "expansion" of the chief European states. By 1900, 90.4% of Africa, 98.9% of Polynesia, 56.6% of Asia, 27.2% of the Americas and the whole Australia have been colonized. The Philippines was also colonized by the US during this period, through a war that decimated almost one-sixth of the Filipino population. So strong was the outcry from the American people that Lenin mentioned the Philippines in his work.

Since the start of the 20th century, the oligarchy's frenzied colonial expansion had used up all territories "open" to colonization in different countries. In the era of imperialism, the division of the world has become complete. This can only change if one seizes the territories of another "owner."

Imperialism means war

The efforts of imperialist states for domination extend to the most industrialized regions. This is not only for their own positioning, but to undermine and limit their rivals and to achieve hegemony. Lenin showed that imperialism is based on eco-

conomic domination, but its system includes politics and culture, and military world positioning. This race for domination fuels unending wars and preparations for war.

The First World War of 1914-1918 was an inter-imperialist war. This was one of the most violent and destructive wars in the history of Europe and was followed in a few years by WWII in 1939-1945 that included the Philippines. After the war, the US had gained additional territory.

The so-called Cold War after WWII, the wars of aggression against Korea and Vietnam, up to the proxy wars in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, and many other countries in Africa are wars for redivision of imperialist territory. Imperialist states launch different types of overt and covert wars for world domination. Aside from the established imperialist powers such as Great Britain, France, Germany and US, new powers Russia and China have entered the scene. Military spending from these powers reached \$1,686 billion in 2016, the biggest of which was US' at \$611 billion.

According to the US Department of Defense in 2016, aside from its soldiers launching war in Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait and Syria, the US has 150,560 military per-

sonnel in foreign soil. US Joint Chiefs of Staff data also show that special operations forces are undertaking intervention or aggression in 134 countries.

Imperialism is the enemy of the world

Imperialism inflicts extreme oppression and exploitation not only upon the workers of capitalist countries but also upon the peoples of the colonies and semicolonies. Lenin's exposition of the features of imperialism which has been validated by the victory of the 1917 October Revolution remains relevant to all who are striving for freedom from imperialism's clutches today. The crisis of the capitalist world brought about by monopoly capitalist insatiable greed, the hardships and destruction this has wrought on the people, prove the validity of the urgent call of the times that revolution is the only road to freedom. Inspired by the 1917 October Revolution, it is the role of the workers and people of the world to bring about the resurgence of the anti-imperialist movement against a moribund enemy. AB

This article is the sixth in a series commemorating the centennial of the 1917 October Revolution.

Celebrate Karl Marx's 200th birthday

The Communist Party of the Philippines launched last March 5 a one-year commemoration and celebration of Karl Marx's 200th birthday on May 5, 2018. According to the CPP, "The whole revolutionary movement must salute Karl Marx' and Marxism's great role in history and in the continuing world struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat and the entire humanity."

This celebration will be used as an opportunity to study Marxism and use this to examine the country's and the world's present conditions and crises. The Party called to reproduce books, articles and other readings by Marx, likewise those of other great communist teachers who developed Marxism. In the coming year, regular seminars, classes and discussions will be held to study Marxism. The Party also called for the creative application of Marxism to investigate, research and analyze the present national and world situation, sum up experiences and lay down the tasks of the working class in advancing socialist revolution across different parts of the world.

Marx is the most important socialist philosopher because of his theories that shook the founda-

tions of the capitalist world and initiated a new epoch in revolutionary history. Foremost among these were dialectic materialist philosophy, materialist conception of history, and class struggle.

Marx practiced his declaration that "philosophers have hitherto tried to interpret the world. The point, however, is to change it." He investigated and studied the life of workers in England and Germany and discovered therein the laws of development of the capitalist mode of production. Despite persecution by different states, Marx established the First International (International Workingmen's Association), that paved the way for an unprecedented growth in breadth and strength of the workers' movement in all countries of the world and the creation of socialist

labor parties in individual national states.

The Communist Manifesto which he co-wrote with Friederick Engels in 1848 became the guide of communist movements all over the world. The Manifesto outlined the world-historic role of the proletariat as creators of the new communist society. It was here that he first declared the now-famous call: "Workers of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!"

He was the bourgeoisie's most hated and most calumniated man of his time. Various governments—Germany, Belgium and France—deported him from their territories, and the bourgeoisie vied with one another in heaping slanders upon him. When he died on March 14, 1883, he was mourned by millions of revolutionary workers from Siberia to California and all parts of Europe and America who loved and revered him. Communist leader Frederick Engels declared at Marx's burial, "though he may have had many opponents, he had hardly one personal enemy. His name will endure through the ages, and so also will his work." AB