

CPP 50th anniversary celebrations to commence

The Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) 49th anniversary of reestablishment will be celebrated on December 26. This will also serve as the start of year-long celebration for the Party's 50th anniversary.

From several advanced activists from the working and petty-bourgeois classes and student youth who first composed this, the still small and young Party weathered the brutal repression of various reactionary regimes to expand and strengthen itself. It organized and led the people's army and the united front, developed itself and learned warfare through warfare. After half a century, it continues to lead one of the longest running armed struggles in Asia, the largest and strongest people's army in Philippine history, and an ever expanding and deepening revolutionary mass base in a scope never before reached even by the Katipunan.

Thus, even in the face of the fascist Duterte regime's intensified attacks, the whole revolutionary movement celebrates this 50th anniversary. The celebration features the creation of new songs, dances and traditional or modern artworks, active and widespread studies on Party history, regional summing-up of experiences and study of local histories, reprinting historically significant articles and dissemination of Party docu-

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EDITORIAL

Resolutely resist and overthrow the fascist US-Duterte regime

The people face unbridled plunder, worsening poverty and intensified ruthlessness of repression this coming year. The fascist US-Duterte regime is fast digging its grave by incessantly abusing and impoverishing an already enraged people.

Duterte pins his hopes on year-long martial law to solve the crisis his regime is facing. By continuing martial law, the AFP will increase its violence and the state will use the full force of the Human Security Act against the civil liberties and democratic rights of those who oppose his fascist rule. Shelling and aerial bombing on communities in the countryside, soldiers' occupation of homes, schools and other civilian infrastructure, forced evacuations, food blockades, illegal searches, arrests and killing are bound to continue and worsen. Fascist terror is bound

to continue and intensify against progressive and democratic mass movements in the cities, specially since they are being maliciously linked to the revolutionary movement to justify the widespread repression against their ranks.

Although formally, martial law is implemented only in Mindanao, in reality many fascist measures already affect the whole country. Nationwide, Duterte wields strong-arm methods like a dictator and AFP executioners run wild in many places. The rubber-stamp congress approves his proposals no matter

how unsubstantiated, and he continues maneuvers to consolidate his hold on the supreme court and the ombudsman.

The fascist dictatorial US-Duterte regime hopes to crush the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army by the end of 2018, first by crushing the forces in Mindanao and afterwards those in Luzon and Visayas, using the new weapons bought by loans from its US imperialist master. Duterte seeks to silence the staunchest forces against its plans and measures to facilitate US imperialist intervention in the Philippines. It carries out political maneuvers for changing the constitution behind the facade of federalism to enable unrestricted entrance of US military bases and completely open the country's wealth to foreign capital investments and ownership, and give his family and cronies free rein to amass profits.

At the same time, Duterte utterly scorns the people's demands for basic socio-economic reforms needed to solve worsening poverty,

joblessness, landlessness, insufficient wages, and rising prices of basic commodities. Despite protests from some congressmen themselves, he railroaded the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) that imposes additional taxes on the people. He also railroaded the 2018 budget filled with insertions for corruption by his puppets in the civilian bureaucracy and his security forces on December 11.

The people remain mired in poverty. Around 22 million Filipinos undergo severe poverty and survive on less than P60/day. More than 11 million Filipinos are unemployed or underemployed. The worst forms of contractualization continue and daily wages are nailed down to the barest minimum. Almost 6,000 Filipino workers leave for other countries daily to look for employment that they cannot find within the country. According to government statistics, around 784,000 jobs were lost during the first half of the year alone.

Landlessness, homelessness and lack of social services abound.

Meanwhile, bourgeois compradors grew wealthier during Duterte's rule. For 2017, the combined wealth of the 50 richest individuals in the Philippines reached \$74 billion.

These conditions increasingly illuminate the justness and correctness of people's war. The people have no other recourse for alleviating their difficulties and achieving progress than to hold their future in their own hands.







In carrying out protracted people's war, the NPA must launch more tactical offensives that are well-planned using principles of guerrilla warfare, relying on deepening and expanding mass base, and carried out by Red fighters with high fighting morale. The much-vaunted high-tech weapons are ineffective against a people's army that is supported by the people and recognized as their own defenders.

The masses must continuously organize and mobilize both in the countryside and cities, in armed and non-armed resistance for their own legitimate demands.

People in the revolutionary bases must continue to launch agrarian revolution and join the people's army. Militia units must be formed to expand the scope of tactical offensives by the regular forces of the people's army. Intelligence networks must be established to frustrate the enemy's operations as well as sapper groups that locate and damage military equipment, especially the modern ones.

In the urban areas, democratic forces must continue to assert their just demands for civil and economic rights, in ever growing mass mobilizations.

In the face of rampaging fascist terror, the Party must lead the broad united front of workers, peasants, youth, women, religious, professionals, patriotic entrepreneurs and other democratic groups and individuals to fight against the Duterte regime's fascist terror. The united front can reach even patriotic soldiers and police, especially those coming from the ranks of the

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poor, who refuse to become cannon fodder or instruments of repression against their fellow poor.

Like Marcos, the copy-cat thug Duterte also relies on his imperialist master while carrying out even more brazen corruption, dirty living and more brutal suppression on the people. But unlike Marcos, he faces a deeper economic crisis brought about by decades of neoliberal poli-

cies, and a larger revolutionary movement that has learned important lessons from its lengthier years of struggle.

In the end, the Marcos dictatorship was helpless against the convergence of various political forces in a broad anti-fascist united front. The fascist US-Duterte regime will likewise be helpless against a people's resolute resistance. **AB**

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ments of the first and second congresses.

Aside from the regional celebrations, *Ang Bayan* will come out with a series of articles as contribution to the celebration. The celebration is expected to raise the Party's and the whole revolutionary movement's unity and will to fight. **AB**

No release for POWs in NEMR

The National Democratic Front-North Eastern Mindanao Region and the New People's Army strongly condemned the AFP's non-compliance with the call for a six-day stand down or temporary ceasefire in several villages to facilitate the release of two prisoners-of-war (POWs).

The NPA-NEMR planned to release PO2 Jhon Paul M. Doverde and PO2 Alfredo L. Degamon of the Philippine National Police-Placer on December 5, but this did not push through due to the AFP's incessant military operations.

Worse, the AFP treacherously attacked the NPA unit tasked with taking care of the prisoners, endangering their lives. The NPA forces had to counter-attack, resulting in two encounters with the AFP on December 5 and 6. All NPA forces were able to withdraw safely. According to NDF-NEMR spokesperson Maria Malaya, the two POWs' release will again be delayed due to

the treachery and non-cooperation of the AFP and the PNP. She guaranteed their families, however, that the NPA's custodial unit is ensuring the safety of the two policemen.

At the same time, Maria Malaya also condemned Proclamation 374 that declares the CPP and NPA as "terrorist organizations." She said the this will worsen human rights violations in the country. Particular in NEMR, the number of victims of political killings, now numbering 10, will surely rise. There will also be additions to at least 35 victims of illegal arrests and detention on trumped-up criminal charges. More peasants and Lumads will be dis-

placed by forced evacuations due to militarization and aggressive expansion of mines and plantations. Even during last year's reciprocal unilateral ceasefires, the AFP had already occupied 70 barrios in the region, and this is bound to worsen now that they are backed by martial law.

At present, additional two AFP battalions have been deployed in the region to attack the NPA. The 401st and 402nd IBde have been continuously carrying out military operations since the proclamation using attack and surveillance drones that create terror among the civilian communities. These are combined with insincere "peace caravans" and display of fake surrenderees. They can only boast of some confiscated firearms and the "capture" of an abandoned NPA camp. In reality, not a single NPA unit has been destroyed. **AB**

Killings and harassment under martial law

Human rights abuses are bound to intensify under extended martial law. The reactionary armed forces continue carrying out killings, harassment, illegal arrests and militarization. Victims of human rights violations will increase especially with Duterte's threat that he will focus on the NPA units for his new helicopters' "target practice." In the past, it was not the NPA that was hit by his bombs but civilian communities.

Killings. On December 17, Karapatan-Southern Mindanao found the body of Jeanni Rose Porras, 39, member of the Compostela Farmers Association (CFA) at a morgue in Nabunturan, Compostela Valley. Before this, Porras' son reported on December 15 that his mother was missing. According to her son, his mother told him on December 14 that she was going to meet someone, but she did not re-

turn the whole afternoon and could not be contacted on her cell phone. Porras was an active defender of the environment against destructive mining and a peasant organizer in the area. Members of Porras' organization have long been targets of killings, illegal arrests and harassment for their anti-militarization, anti-mining and land reform campaigns.

On December 9, the body of

Bernardo Clarion, 24, was found in Barangay Callawa, Davao City one day after reactionary troops raided the house of a friend he was visiting. Clarion's friend was wounded, likewise his sibling. The Clarion siblings were members of the organization Sulo ng Kultura.

In Sorsogon on December 12, elements of the 31st IB and 508th PNP Public Safety Company shot down Jonel Panelo Nuñez and Jun Ventura Gigantones in Barangay Somagongsong, Bulan.

On December 8, at 5 a.m., armed men shot to death Aldrin Sese, Pammalakaya organizer in Barangay Lagundi, Batuan, Masbate.

Illegal arrests and harassment.

On December 19, members of PNP-

San Mariano in Isabela arrested Elmerito Pagulayan, chairperson of Danggayon Dagiti Mannalon Iti Isabela (DAGAMI)-San Mariano. Pagulayan was slapped with trumped-up charges of frustrated murder.

On December 16, 22 civilian-clothed soldiers of the 88th IB forcibly entered the Buffalo-Tamaraw-Limus (BTL) training center in Field 1, Musuan, Maramag, Bukidnon. They looked for BTL chairperson Winnie Loable. The day before, three military agents went to the place and looked for Ebaristo Forten, Limus chairperson.

On December 13, the Marine Battalion Landing Team 7 illegally arrested eight Dulangan Manobos in Sitio Blanga, Barangay Nalilidan, Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat, at 4:30 p.m. Karapatan-Soccsksargen identified the victims as Kuya Gantangan, Anto Gantangan, Jonard Gantangan, Dodo Gantangan, Dinky Gumpay, Palut Saglang, Kasio Ciano and Jitre Gantangan. They are members of Kesasabanay Dulangan Manobo (Keduma), a local organization strongly against the planned expansion and land grabbing of ancestral lands by David M. Consunji, Inc (DMCI).

On December 16, two-year old Joshua Gantangan died from trauma after elements of the MBLT7 barged into their house at Sitio Tinagdanan, Barangay Hinalaan, Kalamansig. He was rushed to the hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival.

On December 12, Bangued, Abra police arrested Sherwin De Vera, writer of Northern Dispatch Weekly and environmental activist. According to the police, De Vera had a warrant of arrest for a rebellion case filed against him in 2014.

On December 18, Radyo ni Juan Network-Davao newsperson Kath Cortez received threat messages on her cell phone about her opposition to government policies and alleged bias for the communists.

In Western Samar on December 10, 14th IB soldiers arrested two peasant members of Asosasyon han

Railroaded bills

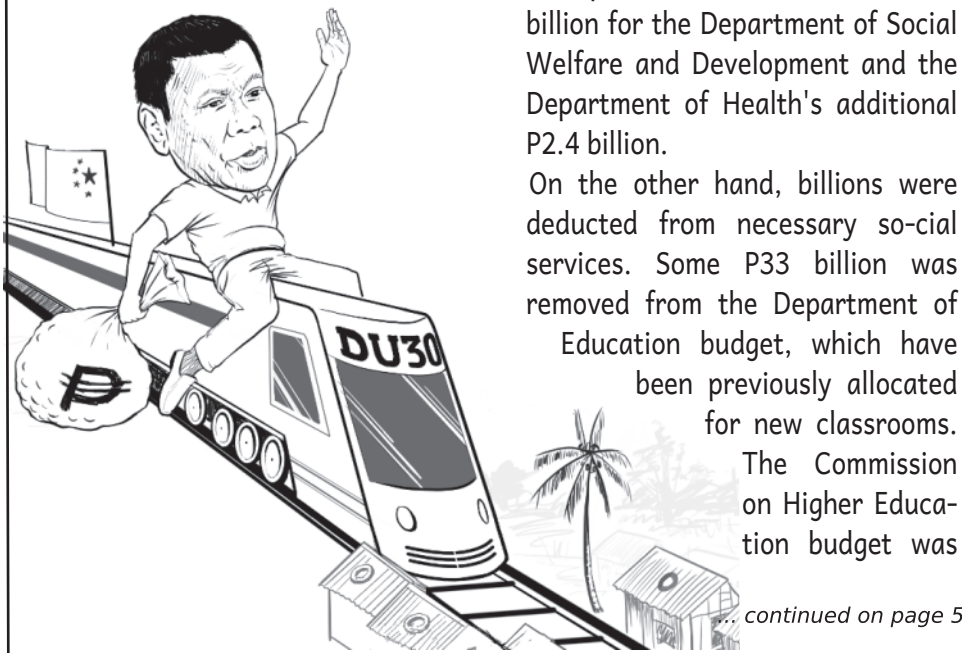
Pork barrel and more taxes

Concurrent with martial law extension, GRP's Rodrigo Duterte also signed into law two other bills that show his regime's extreme corruption and anti-people character. On December 19, the General Appropriations Act or 2018 budget and the TRAIN, his regime's first tax reform package, became law.

Budget for corruption

As with Duterte's other declarations, his pronouncement that he is "anti-corruption" is a big lie. Using the people's funds, he gives out bribes left and right to his sycophants in the house of representatives and senate.

This is very obvious in the recently approved 2018 budget that bristles with "pork barrel" or funds for congressmen's and senator's personal projects in the form of "insertions" that were sneaked in during the budget's last deliberations. These are Duterte supporters' preparations for the 2018 elections.



Progressive parties in Congress estimate at least P46 billion worth of pork barrel" items in the approved national budget. Among these are more than P11 billion additions to the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways, one of the most corrupt state departments. This caused the total 2018 budget to rise to P637.9 billion. An item for construction of roads was also inserted into the allocations for the Department of Agriculture, bringing its budget to P53.3 billion. Allocations were also inserted for agencies that congressmen have long been using in their election campaigns. Some examples are the additional P4.8 billion for the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Health's additional P2.4 billion.

On the other hand, billions were deducted from necessary social services. Some P33 billion was removed from the Department of Education budget, which have been previously allocated for new classrooms.

The Commission on Higher Education budget was

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Kablas nga Parag-uma, Doydoy Edusma and Hosep Harumay. Witnesses saw them being taken away by soldiers in Barangay Tula, Paranas, but they have not been located as of this writing. Edusma was said to be wearing a soldier's uniform while Harumay was carrying a sack of rice which he had intended to bring to his hut that day.

Prior to this on December 6, 11:30 a.m., suspected military

agents tried to enter the house of Reylan Vergara, leader of a human rights organization in Panay. The agents left only when Vergara's in-law went out to meet them.

In Bukidnon on December 3, two peasant leaders were arrested in Don Carlos. Nabbed without warrants of arrest were Welhilmino Espinar, vice chairperson of Kahugpongan ng mga Mag-uuma sa Bukidnon, and Jocelyn Palpagan of Maramag, KADAMAY-NMR leader. **AB**

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also reduced by P6.6 billion despite the recently approved law on free tuition for public universities and colleges.

The budget for the Department of Transportation also suffered a P8.2 billion decrease for the mass transport system. Contrary to the promise of free irrigation, the regime reduced the budget for the National Irrigation Authority by P978 million. Funds were cut for the departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Trade and Industry. Moreover, Duterte allocated huge amounts for himself under the discretionary funds of the office of the president. Progressive

groups have long been criticizing the absence of funds for low-cost housing and agrarian reform.

Additional burdens

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives and the Senate hurriedly passed the anti-people tax reform bill. The house of representatives approved this even without a quorum. There were only 10 congressmen inside the hall when the proposal was passed, according to the ACT Teachers Party.

Among the worst approved provisions were additional taxes for oil products. According to the IBON Foundation, this will mean rising prices of gasoline for as much as

P6/liter in the first year of implementation and P1.75/liter for diesel. Aviation fuel will also rise by P4/liter and LPG by P1/liter. This will affect not only transportation fares but also trade expenses. This translates to increased prices for raw materials, processed foods and other commodities.

A tax of up to P10/liter for sugared drinks was also approved. IBON also estimates that these taxes will cost the people up to P341.6, while the wealthiest Filipinos will be exempted by up to P944 billion annually. Most affected are the 60% poorest Filipinos who are already subsisting on very meager wages and salaries. AB

Drone operations against the people

The terrorist US-Duterte regime has again extended Martial Law in Mindanao. AFP budget for 2018 was bloated to give way for AFP modernization. Duterte continues to spend billions of public funds to buy new equipment from his US master.

Its primary target is the revolutionary movement, particularly the Red army. Expectedly, drones or unmanned aerial vehicle systems, military equipment remotely controlled by a computer, are added to the anti-NPA arsenal.

Drones are used for intelligence data collection, surveillance and attacks on the identified target. Most models can stay 17 hours on air. They can send real-time images to the computer or the military operator.

Drones have been used before in the Philippines. In 2002, a Predator drone crashed in Zamboanga. A spy plane also crashed in Mount Tumatangis, Jolo in 2005.

Through the US Joint Special Operations Command based in Zamboanga, the US army has flown drones from the military camps of the AFP. It was reported in 2006 that the US Predator drone unleashed Hellfire missiles to target their tagged terrorist Umar Patek who was believed to be in Jolo, Sulu. They failed to kill Patek, while his other companions died. Grave

terror was brought to the Moro communities after the bombing.

The AFP started using drones in 2013. They used the Raptor, Knight Falcon and TUAV drones to fight the armed Moro group in Zamboanga and to locate the Moro National Liberation Front.

In 2015, the AFP bought 12 attack drones and 6 surveillance drones. These included 15 Scan-Eagle drones which were used for surveillance. There are also drones with electronic surveillance equipment used to determine the presence and volume of electronic signals in a forest or an area of surveillance, such as electronic signals of cellphones, internet, computers, transceiver radios, and others.

In the Marawi war, military forces used P3 Orion spy planes and Predator drones in their airstrikes. There are photos of US military personnel operating drones while training AFP units. Over the last month, the drones were seen flying around the communities of Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, western part of Misamis Oriental and Lanao del Sur.

The Duterte regime and the

makers of these drones make the people believe that using drones are risk-free and the attacks will be more effective and accurate. But in reality, drones can be regarded as weapons of mass destruction because they cannot differentiate combatants from civilians. In the first decade of using drones from 2001, the US killed almost 4,000 people in 420 "targeted killing operations". In 2010, the CIA admitted in a report that almost 2,500 Pakistani were killed by drones although only 35 people were the real targets. The others were only suspected terrorists.

Even before Duterte declared the revolutionary movement as 'terrorists', his fascist troops have been using attack helicopters and drones against the Red army and the people. Last month, NPA-Southern Mindanao Region reported that along with the large military force in the communities, white-colored drone-like objects flew nightly around their area. They usually flew from 6 p.m. until 4 a.m. Another NPA unit also reported that drones were used to locate

Red army positions. According to them, before this was sighted in the air, they heard a whirring sound slighter than the hum of an attack helicopter. From a distance of 200-300 meters, NPA troops saw a quad drone – with 4 legs and height of 2-3 ft. It surveyed the terrain for 7-10 minutes.

The drones can only recognize their operators, and their controllers can attack without compunction because of their distance from

actual battle. In addition, more than 400 drones have crashed in the last decade.

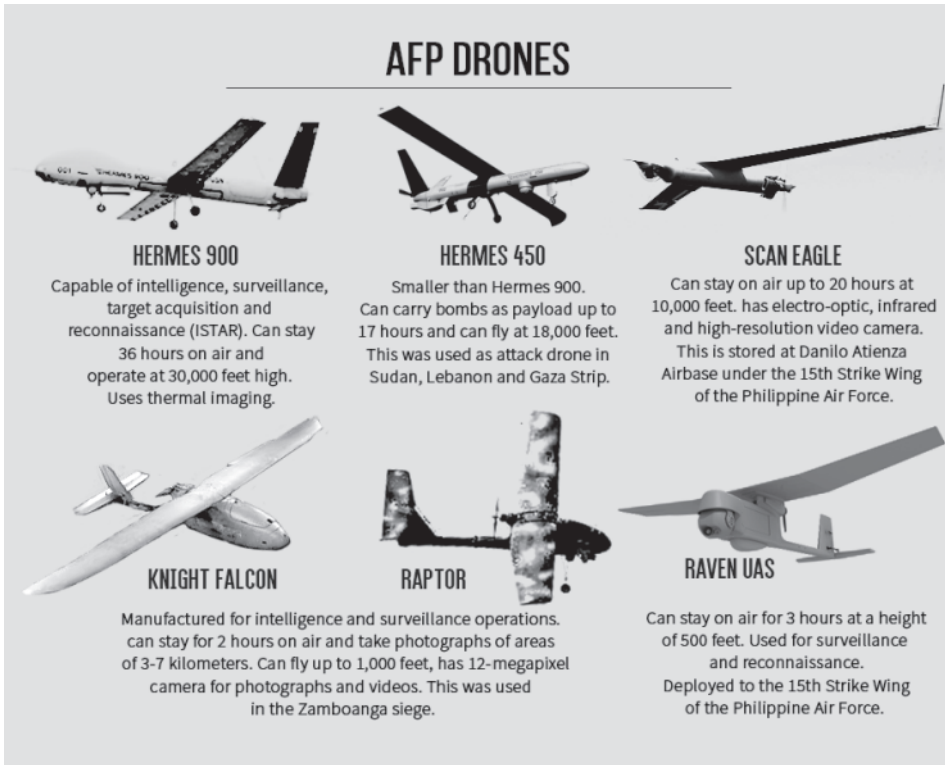
Because the AFP is reactionary, mercenary and does not enjoy the support of the masses, like other fascist armies, it depends on expensive military equipment bought using public funds. The much-flaunted spy drone is nothing but a mechanized informer that can see farther and deliver information faster to its handler.

Like an ordinary spy, it can not see a person behind a rock, a thick wooden wall, huge trees, dense forest, even behind a mirror or aluminum foil if the person avoids direct contact with it. The attack drone's difference from a war plane is that it has no pilot that can be killed by its enemy. The government is intentionally wrapping the new equipment with "mystery" to add to its terror effect on the people.

It is therefore necessary to study different ways of countering the surveillance and attack drones' capacities. The drone terminal and its ground control system should be located in order to attack it. Continuously study and develop methods to evade, frustrate and sabotage the drones.

The presence of drones can be used as an indicator of planned enemy operations and possible danger to NPA camps and units. Necessary measures and communications should be made.

NPA units and local Party branches should urgently report drone operations in their area of responsibility and take necessary steps to frustrate their operations. AB



"Anti-terror war" is big business

Last week, Rodrigo Duterte arrogantly boasted about his purchase of new helicopters that he will supposedly use in blasting the NPA. He and his generals are pleased to high heavens for the US' purported generosity where before he took an angry stance against said country.

He makes it appear that these weapons were "given" or sold at discounted rates when these are dearly paid for by the Filipino people. Billions have been spent on the "modernization" program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which is used for the state's war of repression.

Since 2010, the Philippine government bought three old warships, 17 attack helicopters and two cargo planes under the first phase of the AFP Modernization Act. Funds for these reached P90 billion.

The AFP modernization's second phase will cover 2018 to 2022,

with P600 billion. This will include Duterte's much vaunted additional 23 attack helicopters which the US "loaned," payable in 25 years. According to the AFP list, he will be purchasing Bell 309 King Cobra helicopters built by the American company Bell Helicopters, each costing \$11.1 million in 1995. Prior to this, the AFP procured four Hermes 900 Kochav (Star) drones worth \$42 million (P2.1 billion) each from the Elbit Systems, an American company based in Israel. Added to these are Duterte's planned purchases of new helmets, vests and many other equipment for

night combat and communications. Last June, four M134 machine guns, 300 M4 and 100 grenade launchers arrived in the Philippines under the US "counter-terrorism" program.

A big portion of the newly purchased weapons comes from US companies and their intertwining subsidiaries all over the world. Up to 75% of all weapons bought by the AFP were made by these companies. Before Donald Trump came into office, most of the purchases were through the US' Foreign Military Financing (FMF). The biggest were in 2015 (P50 billion)

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and 2016 (P40 billion). The FMF is a US means to sell off their outdated weapons, ships and airplanes. With these funds, semi-colonies are required to buy their outdated equipment, repairing and upgrading these from their own pockets and paying for shipping costs from the US to their country. Thus, the US profits from dumping its outdated arms while making cosmetic improvements. In 2016, this military aid increased, underscoring the irrelevance of Duterte's anti-US tirades. According to reports, the US shelled out as much as \$127 million from October 2015 to September 2016. According to the US embassy, \$50 million was FMF, \$1.9 million for soldiers' training, \$42 million for naval activities, and \$33.2 million for "counter-terrorism activities." For 2018, the US allocated \$5.7 billion for this. As with other minions, Duterte had to show extreme servility for these funds to be sprinkled his way.

War is an industry

The US remains the biggest arms dealer in the world. This last decade, it doubled its sales, in step with the "counter terrorism war" in the Middle East and Asia. This was biggest in 2011, when US arms companies reached a whopping \$66.3 billion in arms sales, three-fourths of the whole arms trade in the world. A big portion of this went to Saudi Arabia and its other allies in the region. These countries purchased expensive warplanes and missiles that they used to bomb ISIS and pro-ISIS groups near their countries.

While these wars continue, the US rakes in profit. In 2015, it reaped \$46 billion in sales while getting \$40 billion in 2016. In 2016, P33 billion came from sales in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone. These newly purchased weapons were used by Saudi in Yemen, where whole provinces were pulverized in the name of "war against terror." AB

Rallies against fascism in Human Rights Day

Massive protests were held by the democratic mass movement all over the country last December 10 to condemn the US-Duterte regime's worsening repression, violence and killings of the ranks of struggling people. This was followed by a series of protests by the youth and students to call for the puppet and fascist regime's overthrow.

In NCR, Karapatan and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan led a big mobilization in Bonifacio Shrine, Manila, attended by more than 8,000 activists. They were joined by the "Let's Organize for Democracy and Integrity", a new alliance of media practitioners and artists. Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno sent a message of solidarity.

At night, the people marched to Mendiola with a thousand torches. They burned a big image of Duterte as a demon.

In Bicol, more than 15,000 held rallies in six provinces. In Sorsogon, rallyists barricaded the Gen. Escudero Provincial Headquarters of the PNP. They were joined by members of Sorsogon People's Organization. In Naga City, activists held a program at Plaza Rizal. Rallies were also held in Legazpi City and Masbate.

In Panay, more than 1,000 rallied in Jaro, Iloilo led by the Movement Against Tyranny-IloIlo.

In Negros, hundreds marched to Bacolod City where they burned a two-faced Duterte effigy. Before this, PNP-Escalante blocked the People's Caravan that was to join the protest for the International Human Rights Day to prevent them from going to Bacolod. In Cebu, a rally was held in front of the City Hall.

Other forms of protests were also held in different areas in Northern Luzon, such as in Ilocos Sur, Isabela and Baguio.

In Mindanao, there were protests in five provinces. In Soccsksargen, Kaluhhamin, Bayan and Karapatan led the picket-protest in front of the 27th IB camp in Tupi, South Cotabato.

In Zamboanga del Sur,

hundreds joined the rally with the Bishops of Iglesia Filipina Independiente and Karapatan-West Mindanao towards Pagadian City.

In Davao, activists rallied at the Eastern Mindanao Command headquarters in Panaon, Davao City. In Cagayan de Oro, activists held a program in the city.

There were also mass actions in Hayward, California, The Hague in Netherlands, Hongkong and New York.

Last December 18, KMP-Soccsksargen held a picket-protest to condemn the massacre of eight Lumads by the 33rd and 27th IB last December 3, in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. They called Cotabato Governor Daisy Fuentes to launch an investigation regarding the military's protection of the carbon mining companies.

The youth cry: Overthrow Duterte

Last December 16, the annual lantern parade in the University of the Philippines-Diliman was transformed into a mass protest when the activists paraded an effigy of Duterte depicted as a monster wearing military uniform and killing UP students. A lighting rally was also held in UP-Visayas.

Last December 13, the students walked out of their classes as the special session in Congress was held to extend Martial Law in Mindanao. Some of the students joined the picket led by Bayan in Batasan Road in front of the House of Representatives. Students from the UST lit candles along Espana Avenue.

Before this, the theme for the annual Oblation Run in UP Diliman was the call to end the killings and other state-sponsored violence. In UP-Manila, the Oblation Run was

held as a tribute to their martyr, Josephine Lapira.

Last December 9, students from different organizations walked out from their campuses to protest against widespread killings, threats and repression of their rights. According to them, their campuses were virtually under martial rule because of heavy PNP and AFP presence inside and around the campus. Students from UP-Diliman, UP-Manila, UST and other universities joined the walk-out and

marched to Mendiola later in the afternoon. Lumad students under Save Our Schools Network also picketed in Mendiola on the same day.

In Cagayan de Oro, members of Anakbayan and LFS-Northern Mindanao Region held a lightning rally in front of the 4th ID camp.

Last December 14, Anakbayan-Cordillera held a protest to condemn the CHED-UnFAST or RA 10931 which serves the interests of capitalist educators. This was met

with violent dispersal from the University of Cordillera administration and the Cordillera Police.

Workers' actions

Workers under Liga Cavite of Southern Tagalog held a protest-action in front of the Department of Labor and Employment office in Intramuros, Manila. They called for the urgent decision of DOLE regarding the situation of San Miguel Yamamura's contractual workers. AB

Jerusalem: Palestine's Capital, not Israel's - ILPS

The International League of Peoples' Struggles stood firmly with the Palestinian people that Jerusalem is the rightful capital of Palestine. They condemned US President Trump's declaration that the said city is the capital of Israel and the transfer of the US embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

According to ILPS, this declaration exposes the US' utter disregard for international conventions and norms. All Arab countries, including the ultra-reactionary and pro-US Saudi Arabia, have denounced Trump's decision.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLFP) took the pronouncement as a declaration of war against the Palestinians. The PLFP called on the people to "unite their efforts and respond collectively, practically and forcefully to this decision through action and escalation of the momentum of the popular movement." They clamor for a new *intifada* or revolution.

Since 1980, the United Nations (UN) has declared Jerusalem as part of Palestine. The UN Security Council released Resolution 478, one of the seven resolutions that condemns Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem since 1967. They also opposed Israel's "Jerusalem Law" which claims the city as its "fully united" capital. Despite this, Israel built homes in East Jerusalem. Until now, the UN considers this as occupied territory.

Today, more than 200,000 Israeli families are illegally living in the midst of the Palestine community in Jerusalem. In 2000, Israel built walls around the occupied territory and placed this under heavy guard by the Israeli army and police. According to UN records, more than 20,000 Palestinian homes were demolished to build it. The holy lands of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are found in the eastern part of Jerusalem.

Trump's latest decision will further embolden the Zionists to commit even more dastardly crimes against the Palestinian people with impunity, ILPS said. AB