

Warm and extraordinary comrades | page 5



Peasant struggles rage on | page 15



People's war advances amid intensified state terror | page 20



More inside

LIBERATION

INTERNATIONAL

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025



Editorial | page 2

WAGE REVOLUTION TO DEFEAT FASCIST TERROR



Editorial

Wage revolution to defeat fascist terror

On the morning of September 21, the 216 arrested youth protesters stood side by side with thousands of Filipinos demanding change. By that same afternoon, they were battered, handcuffed, and herded into cramped police vehicles, their voices drowned by gunshots, their visions blurred by tear gas, and their dignity assaulted by truncheons. Majority of the arrested individuals are from working class and urban poor backgrounds, 91 of whom are minors. Their only “crime” was expressing anger against the theft of billions, if not trillions, of pesos through corruption-laced flood control projects, confidential funds, and sweetheart deals that enriched both the Marcos Jr. and the Duterte ruling cliques.

Reactionary groups were quick to condemn the people’s militant protests as “unacceptable” or “violent.” They wag their fingers at protesters who blocked roads or clashed with police, yet remain on the side of the ruling class in the face of the daily violence endured by the poor. But what could be more just than the oppressed peoples rising against the everyday violence they endure? Against the corruption that drains resources meant for their survival, against the poverty that chains families in hunger, and against militarization that displaces entire communities? To condemn the people’s resistance while excusing the system that produces

their misery is the highest form of hypocrisy. In truth, the people’s militant response is not only understandable, it is just and it is rightful, for no oppressed class in history has ever won freedom without daring to resist.

Furthermore, the violence unleashed on the Filipino youth protesters once again exposes the fascist nature of the reactionary Philippine state. Contrary to claims of a supposed “democracy” that exists in the country, what prevails in reality is a thin façade of “democratic elections” and “civil liberties” that conceals the iron rule of the landlords, and the big comprador bourgeoisie represented in the state by their bureaucrat capitalist agents. This “democracy” extends only to the ruling class while the majority of the Filipinos – the workers and peasants – are denied even the most basic rights when they dare to demand and assert change.

Lenin reminds us that “the state is nothing but a machine for the oppression of one class by another.” And indeed for the oppressed, freedom of speech ends when their voices and their actions threaten the ruling class, freedom of assembly ends when their gatherings in their millions expose corruption and injustice, and freedom of association ends when their organizations challenge imperialist plunder.



Fascism in the countryside

The fascist terror of the reactionary Marcos Jr regime extends beyond the urban centers and cities. In the Philippine countryside, fascism takes the form of a relentless counterrevolutionary war. Under Marcos Jr., the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has intensified its counterrevolutionary terror among peasant communities resulting in at least 51,206 civilian victims of indiscriminate bombing, 67,024 cases of indiscriminate firing, and at least 45,097 victims of forced evacuation due to military operations.

Under the current National Action Plan on Unity, Peace and Development (NAP-UPD) scheme, the Marcos Jr. regime engages in scorched-earth warfare, the militarization of civilian bureaucracy, and psywar operations. Bombing rice fields, strafing forests, and displacing peasants are acts of terror meant to break the backbone of the peasant masses which form the strongest support base of the people's war. These actions are blatant violations of International Humanitarian Law, which prohibits attacks on civilians, yet the Marcos Jr. regime continues them with impunity.

Behind these bombings lies the hand of US imperialism. American advisers and funding sustain the AFP's relentless military operations while US bases under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) serve as launch pads for surveillance and logistical support.

Why fascism intensifies

The ruling classes resort to fascism because the semicolonial and semifeudal system is in permanent

crisis. The Philippines is shackled by foreign debt, import-dependent, and unable to industrialize. Land remains concentrated in the hands of a few families while millions of peasants till land they do not own. Wages are depressed, prices soar, and jobs are scarce.

Marcos Jr., as the current US puppet, has no solution but to deepen neoliberal policies: foreign investment liberalization, resource extraction, privatization of services, and massive borrowing. Coupled with the massive thievery of state resources by bureaucrat capitalists, these measures exacerbate poverty and inequality pushing more Filipinos to resist and to take up arms. And when the people resist, the ruling classes respond with outright fascist repression, which is their response to their own bankruptcy.

But the more they repress, the more resistance grows. Each act of violence unmasks the state, convincing more people to take the path of armed revolution. The youth beaten in the streets return to organize with greater determination. The peasants bombed in the fields seek refuge in the people's army. Every atrocity brings fresh recruits to the ranks of the revolution.

The massive protests swelling in the cities are not isolated episodes of unrest, they feed into a broader resurgence of the revolutionary movement, including especially the armed struggle in the countryside. While the AFP and Marcos Jr. boast that the people's war is in "decline," the reality on the ground tells a different story. As long as the objective conditions that gave rise to the Philippine revolution (landlessness, poverty, foreign domination, and state violence) remain firmly in place, the armed revolution will not fade but rather will just continue to grow in strength.

Waging revolution is the only path forward

Waging the national democratic revolution is the only path forward to defeat fascist terror. History has shown us that the ruling class will never voluntarily give up their seats of power nor their machinery for violence; they will only sharpen it whenever their power is threatened.

The aim of the national democratic revolution is not simply to replace one president with another but to establish a people's democratic government rooted in the basic alliance of workers and peasants. Such a government will expropriate the wealth of landlords and compradors, distribute land to the tillers, nationalize key industries, and assert genuine independence from US imperialism.

The people's democratic government, built in the midst of war and sustained by the sacrifices of the masses and Red fighters, is already taking shape in the guerrilla zones of the countryside, where revolutionary organs of political power distribute land, run schools, and administer justice.

To counter fascist terror, the Filipino people must intensify their struggle in all forms: from mass protests and demonstrations in the streets, workers' strikes, various forms of cultural resistance, and engage decisively in armed revolutionary struggle. To end state terror, the people must dismantle the old reactionary state and build their own. To secure a future free from corruption, plunder, and imperialist domination, the people must win the national democratic revolution and establish the people's democratic government.

Marcos Jr. may wield the iron fist, but the Filipino people hold the hammer of history. And history has always shown that no fascist regime, no matter how brutal, can outlast and defeat the people's struggle for national and social liberation. 🚩

IN THIS ISSUE

Wage revolution to defeat fascist terror | page 2

Warm and extraordinary comrades | page 5

Postponed, but not forgotten – victims kin, Filipinos in Europe rally as Duterte's ICC hearing stalls | page 9

When the waters rise, so too must the people | page 7

Jose Maria Sison Legacy Museum formally opens in Utrecht | page 12

Peasant struggles rage on | page 13

Communities stand up against rising xenophobia and racism sweeping the imperialist enclaves | page 15

People's war advances amid intensified state terror | page 18

Fragments of a Nightmare by Prof. Jose Maria Sison | page 20

Word Search: BPC (Basic Party Course) Edition | page 20

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

The NDFP is the revolutionary united front organization of the Filipino people fighting for national freedom and for the democratic rights of the people. Established on April 24, 1973, the NDFP seeks to develop and coordinate all progressive classes, sectors and forces in the Filipino people's struggle to end the rule of US imperialism and its local allies, and attain national and social liberation.

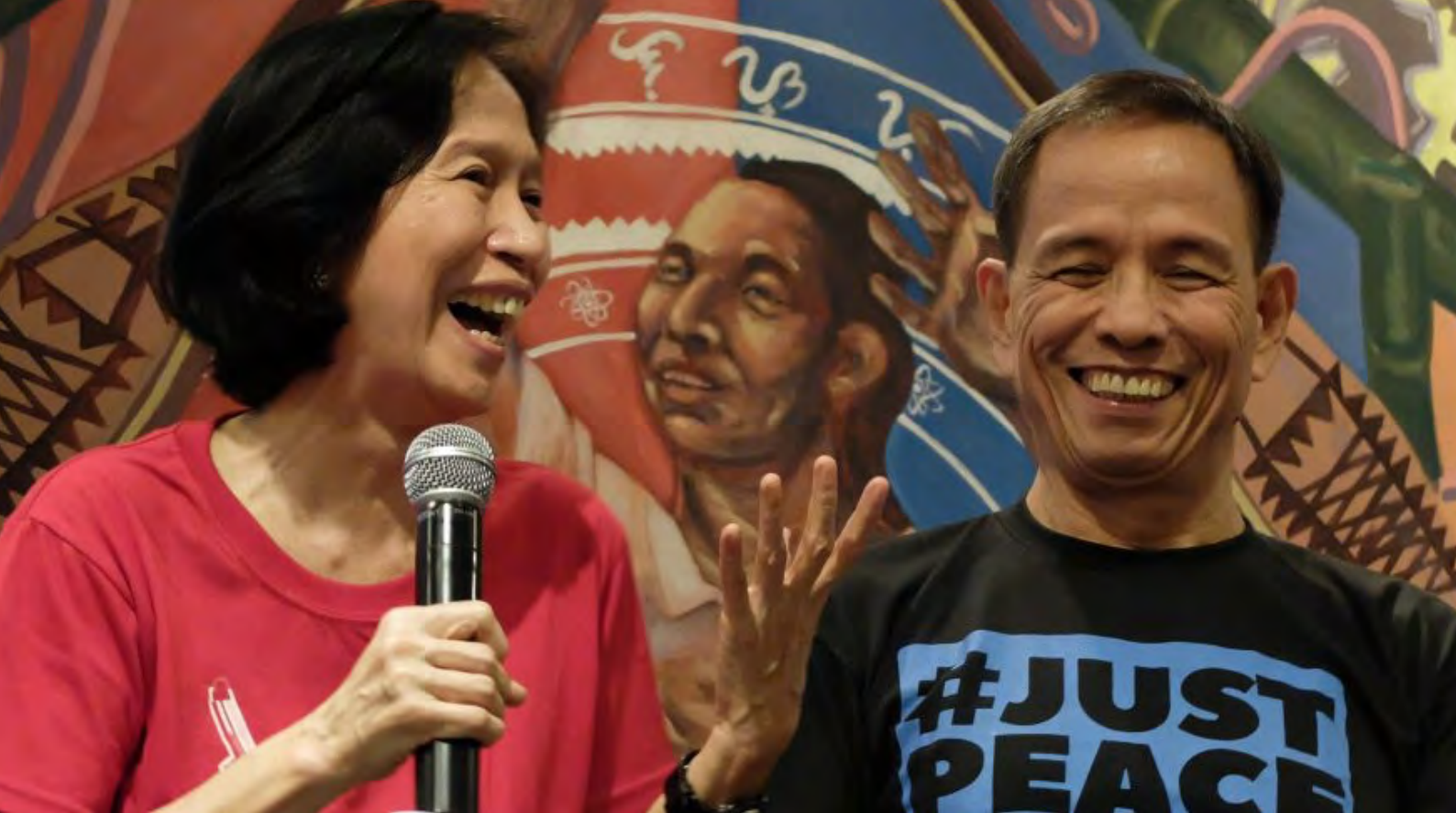
EDITORIAL BOARD

Hugo Francisco
Jose Emilio Jacinto III
Ricardo Lozano
Raya Andres – Montañosa
Ana Rosario

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL is a publication of the NDFP International Office

Amsterdamsestraatweg 50, 3513 AG, Utrecht,
The Netherlands

Email us at contact@ndfp.org



WARM AND EXTRAORDINARY COMRADES

By Mina De Jesus¹

As one listens to the song “Di Pangkaraniwan” (Extraordinary), Wilma and Benny come to mind.

Wilma’s voice and laughter. You would know it was Wilma speaking because she had this unique husky deep voice. Benny was a serious ‘no nonsense’ guy. But he has his funny joking moments. Sometimes, he can really be a comic.

Stories have been told about their excellent revolutionary work in Eastern Visayas especially in applying the correct theories and revolutionary principles, in exercising correct leadership and in arousing, organizing, and mobilizing the masses and their army for people’s war.

They were also among those who pushed for the publication and propagation of materials for Party and mass education. For them, the power of the revolutionary theory of society and the Philippine revolution in awakening all the motive forces of revolution on a mass and widespread basis is incalculable. And indeed, it should and must be the

starting point and stepping stone for understanding other specific conditions and issues among classes and sectors.

For Wilma, her two-year experience in the Manila-Rizal movement provided invaluable lessons and wisdom that served as a long-term foundation for carrying out work in the countryside and at broader levels. For Benny, happiness is in the revolution. He could not think of any other life. There is no other way. For him the revolution is not a burden nor an obligation he performed with a heavy heart. For him revolution came out naturally.

Talking peace with the enemy

One shall never forget the encouragement and guidance Wilma and Benny gave during the early stages of the peace negotiations. How the NDFP peace delegation would receive short messages that contained words that seemed like a pat on the back, sometimes a tap on the wrist or just a word “Galing!” (Very good).

¹ Mina De Jesus is a kasama who worked with Benny and Wilma at the height of the Martial Law dictatorship.

And I often returned the praise to Wilma and Benny especially when they surfaced in 2017 and served as NDFP peace consultant and negotiator, “Ang galing nila!” They carried the interest of the people and the movement with steadfastness, upholding the principles laid down by the organization with regard to the issue of peace, and facing the enemy across the negotiating table with confidence.

Both Benny and Wilma made important contributions to the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations. They were deeply involved in the drafting of the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms (CASER), ensuring that the demands and aspirations of the people were translated into concrete provisions. Their combined sharpness, discipline, and grasp of the masses’ needs made them instrumental in shaping the document, particularly in areas concerning land reform, rural development, and national industrialization. Through their tireless work, they upheld the revolutionary perspective within the peace talks, showing how genuine social and economic reforms were inseparable from the people’s struggle for national liberation and democracy.

Approachable, warm and caring

Benny and Wilma were both very approachable, warm and caring. They will take time to listen to you as you unburden your problems and anxieties. I remember talking to them about leaving the underground and transferring to legal work due to the pressure of family problems especially after my mother’s grave sickness, after just having a baby and a minor case of postpartum depression. This was compounded by the feeling of disappointment for not further developing my ideological, political and organizational capabilities.

But Benny had this ingenious way of contextualizing your problem in relation to the problem of the Filipino people. He would then propose ways of overcoming the problems with practical solutions that are doable and which makes one feel that nothing is insurmountable.

Wilma, on the other hand, was the kind of comrade whose persuasiveness made it impossible to turn away from an assigned task. She had a tireless way of explaining why the work was necessary and how it advanced the revolution, inspiring others to take it on wholeheartedly. She would lay down the

request and enumerate why it was important for you to fulfill the task. No, not with flattery or making you feel you are the only one who can do the work. She would explain how important it was to undertake the task. So even if I was satisfied and happy with the sectoral organizing work which I myself requested, in the end I accepted the task being assigned to me.

I remember the time when I had just given birth, and I told them how admirable they were for their sacrifice of being separated from their children in order to take up countryside tasks. When I told Wilma I did not think I could do the same, Wilma replied: “When the time comes you will make the decision you feel is right for you and for your child.”


When my husband passed away, I received a beautiful letter from Wilma and Benny which not only warmed my heart but also somehow eased the pain of loss for a great man.

Wilma and Benny’s was a beautiful love story that started when they were classmates in high school and which developed deeper as their love for the people and the revolution flourished. They were a romantic couple as much as they were great leaders of the Philippine revolution. One kasama would jokingly tell them their theme song should be Natalie Cole’s “Inseparable” because they truly were inseparable.

At the time of their murder, Benny, 71, was the Chairperson of the CPP Executive Committee, while Wilma, 70, was the CPP’s Secretary General. They were travelling with Ka Divino (Joel Arceo), a subregional secretary in Eastern Visayas, along with Ka Yen, Ka Jaja, Ka Matt, Ka Ash, Ka Delfin, Ka Lupe, Ka Butig (Catbalogan 10), who all belonged to the guerrilla force of the central headquarters.

They were murdered by the fascist butchers of the US-Marcos regime in August 2022. Captured, brutally tortured to death, their bodies thrown on a motorboat full of explosives and detonated in the waters of Catbalogan City, Samar in order to hide all evidence of the brutal crime of the fascist regime.

Wilma Austria and Benito Tiamzon are true heroes of the Filipino people’s revolution. They stood firm to the very end.

Maraming, maraming salamat Wilma and Benny! Tunay na di kayo pangkaraniwan! 

POSTPONED, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

— VICTIMS' KIN, AND FILIPINOS IN EUROPE RALLY AS DUTERTE'S ICC HEARING STALLS

By Ricardo Lozano

What was meant to be a moment of reckoning at the International Criminal Court (ICC) turned into another test of patience for families of Duterte's drug-war victims this month, after judges paused pre-trial proceedings to examine a motion from former president Rodrigo Duterte's legal team that he is "unfit to stand trial." The move has been decried by victims' groups and grassroots campaigners as an "insult to justice."

Despite the postponement, various organizations under the Duterte Panagutin Europe Network travelled from across Europe to fill the streets of the Hague in a four-day "week of action" demanding the resumption of Duterte's hearing, while also calling for Marcos Jr. to also be held to account for ongoing repression under his administration.

"I want them to proceed. I want to see him in court," said one mother who lost children in anti-drug operations and has spent years pushing for justice. "Nine years na kaming naghihintay," (We have been waiting for nine years), one grieving relative told the press. "We are ready at any hour. What we want is for the hearing to go on."

Duterte's lawyer, Nicolas Kauffman, filed for a motion to suspend the hearings on medical fitness grounds last August 18. On September 8, the ICC has agreed to probe those claims before moving forward, effectively postponing the scheduled confirmation-of-charges hearing. The Office of the Prosecutor and lawyers of victims have warned that motions on fitness or interim release can be used tactically to delay court proceedings.

Atty. Kristina Conti, an assistant to counsel representing families before the ICC, warned repeatedly that procedural requests must not be allowed to eclipse victims' rights to an expeditious process. "We would want him alive for the trial," Conti told reporters, while also cautioning that requests for interim release or claims of incapacity should be scrutinized and not treated as automatic grounds to derail the case.

To protest the delay tactics of the Duterte Camp, the Duterte Panagutin Europe Network organized a packed program of demonstrations outside the ICC, a conference commemorating the 53rd anniversary



of Martial Law, and a press briefing to amplify the victims' continuing calls for justice.

Lean Jimenez of BAYAN Europe, speaking at one of the demonstrations, framed the action as both a response to the postponement and as a warning about continuing abuses under Marcos Jr.'s government. "We will not let Duterte's tactics of delay and his political allies rewrite history," Jimenez said, urging Filipino migrant communities to keep pressure on the ICC and warn states that might consider hosting Duterte if interim release were allowed.


Human-rights alliance KARAPATAN, which has long documented drug-war killings and other rights abuses, condemned the suspension as an affront to families who have waited years for accountability. Cristina "Tinay" Palabay, KARAPATAN's secretary-general, told delegates and the press that signatory states to the Rome Statute should not be complicit in enabling evasion of justice. She urged ICC member states not to accept custody transfers motivated by political sheltering and warned against any backroom deals to remove Duterte from the Court's reach.

Palabay and allied groups explicitly linked the dispute over Duterte's court appearance to a

broader fight against impunity in the Philippines, arguing that the same networks that enabled the drug-war killings remain active and that domestic accountability mechanisms under Marcos Jr. remain too weak, if not absent.

Meanwhile, victims' counsels have made clear they will press the ICC to advance procedural stages where permitted by the Rome Statute and the Court's rules. Conti and others argued that certain elements of the confirmation process (including consideration of the prosecution's evidence and victims' submissions) can go forward even if the accused's physical presence remains in question. That approach, they say, protects victims from indefinite postponement while still respecting due process.

One activist-mother at the Hague actions described the long haul of grief: years of unanswered letters, stalled national inquiries, and the sense that justice is always being deferred. "We do not want political theater. We want the truth. We want answers," she said, echoing a chorus of families who said every procedural pause re-opens old wounds.

The ICC judges are set to decide whether to accept the defense's claims about Duterte's fitness, and how that affects the court's schedule. 



WHEN THE WATERS RISE, SO TOO MUST THE PEOPLE

By Ricardo Lozano and Raya Andres - Montañosa

Every year, as super typhoons batter the Philippines, millions of Filipinos brace themselves for devastating floods. In the low-lying communities of Metro Manila, Central Luzon, and coastal areas of the Visayas, muddy floodwaters engulf entire streets and homes, destroying livelihoods along the way. Behind this recurring hardship of inundated communities and displaced families lies the deliberate exploitation of so-called “flood control funds” by corrupt politicians.

Flooding in the Philippines is more than just natural disasters. It is a symptom of bureaucrat capitalism, where politicians run the government like a business, enriching themselves by funneling public funds into their own pockets. Under Marcos Jr.,

flood control projects have become among the most corruption-ridden sectors of public works, lining the pockets of politicians, contractors, and their cronies while leaving the masses perpetually submerged in floodwaters.

In 2024 alone, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allocated over P200 billion for flood control projects, outstripping even road construction funding in some regions. At first glance, this seems like a rational response to worsening climate impacts, but digging deeper reveals that flood control projects have consistently been the most padded, anomalous, and politically manipulated infrastructure programs within the reactionary state.



HOW THE 'KICKBACK' SYSTEM WORKS →

REPEAT CYCLE

When the next typhoon hits, the resulting devastation justifies even larger allocations for the following fiscal year.



SUBSTANDARD OR GHOST PROJECTS

To recoup losses, contractors use inferior materials or fail to finish the project



PROJECT PADDING

Legislators insert massive allocations for so-called "priority" flood control projects into the national budget.



CONTRACTOR COLLUSION

A favored contractor (often a family member or an ally or a dummy corporation) is awarded a contract (after a fraudulent bidding process) with amounts grossly inflated by 50-70 percent.



KICKBACKS

A contractor returns a hefty portion of the contract value to a politician.




The kickback system in Philippine flood control projects typically follows a predictable pattern: a flood control project is first proposed, often by a congressman or a local politician eager to showcase "deliverables" to their constituency. The project is then inserted into the DPWH budget, sometimes via legislative inserts or last-minute additions during budget deliberation, with minimal technical specifications. The contract is fraudulently awarded to a firm linked to the politician or to one willing to share the profits. Even before the work begins, a "commission" or kickback is negotiated, usually as fixed percentage of the contract price (between 20-30%), or through a complex set of charges including bribes to the bidding committee, revenue for the congressional representative, cut for the contractor, and shares for DPWH officials or district engineers.

Funds would often be released in cash through the government-controlled Land Bank of the Philippines, deliberately structured to avoid leaving

a digital money trail. Once withdrawn, the cash was handed over to contractors or middlemen, who then distributed kickbacks to politicians and DPWH officials. To cover the tracks, receipts, vouchers, and liquidation documents were routinely forged, creating the appearance of legitimate disbursements even for projects that were substandard, incomplete, or never built at all.

By the time the funding reaches the community level, it has often been slashed by around 30-40%, resulting in substandard construction materials. Some so-called 'ghost projects' were never built at all, despite being reported as completed. Once a project is declared "completed" on paper, funds are released, and the kickbacks are distributed in cash. The result is often substandard or poorly maintained infrastructure or, in many cases, nothing at all for communities promised protection from rising waters.



BILLIONS LOST DUE TO CORRUPTION UNDER MARCOS JR.

P545 BILLION

allocated for flood control from 2022 to 2025, covering a total of 9,855 projects.

15 CONTRACTORS

cornered about 20% of the entire P545 billion budget.

6,000 PROJECTS

worth P350 billion lacked key details or had duplicate contract costs across different locations.

P42.3 TO 118.5 BILLION

lost annually (2023-2025) due to ghost projects, cost inflation, substandard construction, and related issues.



Even before Marcos Jr.'s term, the Commission on Audit (COA) had already raised red flags over defective, delayed, or mismatched flood control projects as early as the late 2010s including during Duterte's term, particularly from 2017 to 2020. In 2019, anomalies were exposed, alleging around P332 billion in questionable flood-control allocations in the national budget. More recent investigative reports revealed that a small group of just 15 contractors dominated flood-control project awards, cornering P100 billion out of the total P545 billion in public funds since 2019, a pattern of control that persisted into the Marcos Jr. years.

Under Marcos Jr., the pattern not only continued but escalated. By 2023, the flood control budget had swelled to P183 billion, nearly a quarter of the DPWH's entire infrastructure allocation. Investigations revealed that up to 70% of the total budget was lost to corruption.

Since Marcos Jr. became president, an average of about 200 people have died annually from weather-related disasters, including floods. For example, typhoon Agaton which hit Western Visayas in 2022, killed 187 people--especially striking given that billions had already been spent on flood control projects in the region at that time. In 2023, regions like Bicol and the Cordilleras were struck by typhoons Egay and Falcon, causing at least

25 and 30 deaths, respectively. In 2024, typhoons Kristine and Leon left dozens dead across various regions despite billions being spent on flood management projects, once again highlighting the disconnect between funds deployed and lives lost.

Indeed, the rot of bureaucrat capitalism runs deep. In a semicolonial and semifeudal society such as in the Philippines, the ruling cliques treat political positions as investments with clear expectations of returns. Politicians pour millions into their electoral kitty funds to secure government positions, and once elected, they milk the people's coffers for their "returns." Flood control projects, funneled through pork-barrel-like allocations and last-minute congressional insertions during budget deliberations, have become key revenue streams for the corrupt.

The Philippines' flood control projects expose the true nature of bureaucrat capitalism: parasitic, corrupt, and anti-people. Behind every collapsed dike and every displaced family lies a system that thrives on disaster.

But when the waters rise, so too must the people. Against bureaucrat capitalism, against imperialist plunder, against the rotten system that profits from disaster--the Filipino masses must and will rise, like the floods: raging and unstoppable. 🚧



JOSE MARIA SISON LEGACY MUSEUM FORMALLY OPENS IN UTRECHT

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

Jose Maria “Ka Joma” Sison Legacy Museum formally opened its doors to the public on 19 September, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Joma’s comrade-wife Julie de Lima, assisted by Utrecht City Council representative and member of the political party Bij1, Ms. Noura Oul Fakir.

Created and managed by the JMS Legacy Foundation, the JMS Legacy Museum is a space that will generate curiosity among generations to come, stressed de Lima during the ribbon-cutting: “Opening a museum has been an aspiration of the JMS Legacy Foundation since its inception. The JMS Legacy Museum is for everyone. We are very proud to have the museum open to inspire all to learn from Joma’s life and legacy.”

“Professor Sison showed strong enthusiasm to discuss with young Dutch people and students about the Philippine struggle, and the need for social change,” said Dr. Mario Fumerton, assistant-professor at the Center for Conflict Studies in the University of Utrecht, when asked about his impression of Sison, whom he would often invite to speak to his classes at the university.

“Sison was well-loved and respected by the Filipino migrant community in the Netherlands,” shared F. den Hollander, a Dutch artist and long-time solidarity activist.


Slots for the opening tour were sold out as guests composed of young and old solidarity activists, admirers, comrades and friends were treated to a guided tour of the museum. Some highlights of the exhibit were the showing of select videos of Sison’s last interviews, a glimpse into a rare photo showing Sison and wife Julie in a group photo with China’s Mao Zedong and other distinguished international guests during the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Yenan Forum in the People’s Republic of China in 1967, and a question and answer period where guests asked questions about the how the museum materials were chosen, what advice Ka Joma would have to young activists today,

and what are the Foundation’s future projects and plans. At the end of the tour, organizers and guests chanted “Ka Joma Lives!”

According to the Foundation, the JMS Legacy Museum “provides a unique opportunity to take a glimpse into the life of Ka Joma as an ardent revolutionary, committed internationalist, respected public intellectual, and distinguished poet. Through rarely-seen photos, documents, and belongings, the museum weaves together the history of the heroic Filipino people’s struggle with the life of one of its most dedicated proponents, encouraging participants to engage with Ka Joma’s life story and reflect on how every individual has the opportunity to change the world”.

Ka Joma’s lifelong works, stated the Foundation, not only changed the course of Philippine history as it pertains to the Filipino people’s struggle for national and social liberation but also continues to inspire and influence progressive and revolutionary movements around the world. Sison follows in the footsteps of such great Marxist thinkers and leaders as Lenin and Mao whose theoretical works and revolutionary practice had transformed not only their own countries but changed the course of history, the Foundation emphasized.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Central Committee in its tribute to Joma Sison on his passing on December 16, 2022 declared him as “among the greatest of Filipinos of the past century for masterfully and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to the Philippines and the Philippine revolution, and giving the Filipino people the strength to carve the country’s future and attain their aspirations for national freedom and democracy”.

The JMS Legacy Museum in Utrecht is open for walk-ins and guided tours with regular hours starting in October. Interested individuals and groups may organize private tours upon request to the JMSLF. 

PEASANT STRUGGLES RAGE ON

By Raya Andres - Montañosa

99-Year Land Lease for Foreigners

On 29 August 2025, Marcos Jr. signed Republic Act 112252, a law that liberalizes land leases for foreigners for nearly a century. This amends the previous Investors' Lease Act, which allowed foreign investors to lease land for a maximum of 50 years, renewable once for another 25 years. The new law permits foreigners even without making an investment to lease land in the Philippines for up to 99 years.

The peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) vehemently opposed the new law, stating, "The law surrenders Philippine sovereignty and domestic interests at the altar of foreign big business and a few domestic big landlords. Circumventing constitutional limits on foreign land ownership, this law is an outright betrayal of the Filipino people's interests, endangering the rights and welfare of millions of landless poor."

The group also warned that the law "opens the floodgates to even more aggressive land grabbing. This means more evictions, harassment, and violence, especially against peasants, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, and the urban poor, as developers and rentiers are further incentivized to grab land at all costs."

Recent Typhoons Inflict Billion-Peso Damages on Peasants

Since July this year, five typhoons have already hit the Philippines, causing more than ₱1.38 billion in agricultural damage and losses across the country. Over 50,000 peasants and fisherfolk have been affected. The most recent, Typhoon Opong, devastated the Bicol Region, severely impacting the province of Masbate, displacing at least 20,000 people. Nationwide, nearly 400,000 have been affected across several islands in the central Philippines.

Currently, Tropical Storm Nando (international name: Ragasa), the most powerful storm on Earth this year, is ravaging northern Philippines. Its destructive winds and torrential rains threaten harvest-ready palay (rice) crops.

KMP warned of "catastrophic agricultural losses" and criticized the Department of Agriculture (DA) for its grossly inadequate disaster response. According to the group, the DA either provides insufficient subsidies or completely neglects the farmers. They lamented that instead of offering direct support and compensation, the DA merely offers loans to farmers.





KMP also strongly condemned massive corruption in nearly a trillion pesos' worth of flood control projects, allegedly involving DPWH officials, contractors, and members of Congress and the Senate. In Bulacan, for example, 200 barangays were submerged despite an allocation of ₱118.5 billion for flood control-projects that now appear to be ghost projects.

The group stated, "While farmers drown in debt and suffer from losses due to successive typhoons, these corrupt officials and the DPWH have amassed billions of pesos from taxpayers."

They also called for the investigation of EGB Construction Corporation, a contractor red-flagged by the government. EGB is responsible for 97 flood control projects in Region II (Cagayan) and other provinces such as Aurora, Kalinga, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Bataan, Oriental Mindoro, and Zambales, amounting to ₱7.98 billion.

"Billions of pesos are being wasted on overpriced and defective projects while farmers continue to suffer from flooding and the absence of genuine rural support," the group added.

Marcos' Monthly Rice Subsidy a Grave Insult to Peasants


As part of his populist campaign, President Marcos Jr. launched the "Benteng Bigas, Meron Na!" (₱20 rice is available now) project in August. Under this program, rice farmers and farm workers can buy rice at ₱20 per kilo, limited to 10 kilos per month.

However, groups such as AMIHAN and Bantay Bigas viewed this program as a grave insult to farmers, who are calling instead for production subsidies and stronger support for local production to reduce farming costs and increase self-sufficiency.

They asserted that Marcos Jr.'s Rice Liberalization Law is "a plague on farmers, allowing imported rice to flood the country, which drove palay prices down."

"If farmers earn enough due to lower farming costs, they can save enough rice for their own consumption and for the dry months. In this way, local consumers also benefit, as they can afford to buy cheaper local rice—rice that is not controlled by traders and big businesses."

The groups called instead for palay (unhusked rice) farmgate prices of no less than ₱20 per kilo, production subsidies and compensation for disaster-affected farmers, the return of farmers' lost capital, 100% irrigation system development and free irrigation, construction of post-harvest facilities, and increased local procurement of palay and selling of affordable rice by the National Food Authority (NFA).

They also urged the public to unite, hold Marcos accountable, and reject the Rice Liberalization Law and other policies that threaten the livelihood of farmers and the local rice industry. 



COMMUNITIES STAND UP AGAINST RISING XENOPHOBIA AND RACISM SWEEPING THE IMPERIALIST ENCLAVES

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

As the rising wave of anti-migrant and racist sentiments, policies, laws, police operations and

right-wing violence and terrorism continue to sweep the global centers of capitalism, mainly the US and Europe, the people and their communities are fighting back.

Imperialist countries, led by the US, are on strategic decline as a result of their own crisis, and, that as a consequence, significantly diminishing monopoly capitalist profits. They pass on this crisis to the working peoples by keeping wages and benefits depressed, working conditions intolerable, and further slashing social welfare to meager standards. This crisis has led also to the rise of right-wing political groups and politicians who exploit the righteous discontent and indignation of the masses to the ruling imperialist system and the resulting social instability and widening economic inequality. To mislead the working peoples on the roots of the imperialist crisis, these right-wing politicians attack migrants and immigrants as scapegoats, making good use of populism, chauvinism, xenophobia, racism, patriarchy, and anti-communism.

Trump's war on migrants: deportations and resistance in the US

The US under the authoritarian Trump administration is leading the imperialist pack in attacking migrants and immigrants. Since becoming president, Trump has begun implementing his war on the so-called enemy "from within", which includes not only clamping down on his critics, curtailing dissent, and further downsizing welfare benefits, but also the mass deportation of

migrants and immigrants - Trump's centerpiece campaign policy.

Since January, Trump has already deported more than 350,000 people, among these are Filipino and Latino workers and other nationalities. The raids, control, kidnapping and oftentimes illegal detention of migrants and their consequent deportations are conducted by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and police agencies.

US senators, congressmen, mayors, civil servants, workers unions, lawyers, human rights groups and church institutions have stood up to denounce these fascist Trump measures against migrants. Several US judges have ruled the deportations unlawful, while many local government officials, particularly in states and big cities, like Los Angeles, where large concentrations of migrants and immigrants live and work, have expressed anger and have supported efforts to protect migrants in their communities. They have also provided support, even sanctuary to communities, migrant groups and the families of those affected. Eleven out of 50 states in the US have declared sanctuary status, including California.

Protest actions have been spreading in many US states. Migrant-led grassroots organizations, Filipino-American communities and organizations, among them the Tanggol Migrante Movement (Defend Migrants), International Migrants Alliance, and church organizations have organized protest rallies, migrant caravans, and turned labor day celebrations into demonstrations carrying such themes as "No Kings" and "Workers over Billionaires". Organizers have

emphasized that these protests were not only about the widening economic inequality and immigrant rights but are also a fight to defend democracy, civil rights and the dignity of marginalized communities.

Fortress Europe and growing people's resistance

In Europe, many governments have been introducing tougher anti-immigration measures, reintroducing border checks, fast-tracking deportations, and proposing harsher anti-migrant laws, while encouraging the rightist and fascist groups and movements to spread nationalist, populist and xenophobic propaganda.

But the resistance of the European people is also surging. In the Netherlands, in particular, a broad section of Dutch society has been speaking up, organizing and mobilizing to register its strongest opposition to a proposal by the right-wing Dutch government to introduce a new asylum law that not only criminalizes migration and fundamentally erodes refugee rights, but more so criminalizes support and assistance to undocumented refugees and migrants.

The resistance to the proposed law has so far not only drawn the support of hundreds of Dutch institutions, NGOs, the biggest trade unions, churches, migrant organizations, concerned individuals and progressive politicians, but also many local communities and municipalities, with some pushing for "sanctuary" areas. The central Dutch city of Utrecht, for instance, while not yet making a formal, national-level declaration as a "sanctuary city" however, actively promotes refugee integration and inclusion through progressive policies. Protest rallies spearheaded by migrant communities themselves together with the biggest trade unions were held in the country's political capital The Hague. An organization assisting refugees, for instance, has written a petition against the new asylum laws that gathered more than 100,000 signatures, and still gathering support.

Amidst these attacks, progressive Filipino groups have denounced the Marcos Jr. administration for intensifying its labor export policy while refusing to fundamentally address the economic backwardness and political repression that force Filipinos to leave the country. Migrant Filipinos do not enjoy support from the Philippine reactionary state and remains silent in the face of blatant human rights violations committed against its nationals abroad.

In the UK and Northern Ireland, migrants led by Filipino migrant group Migrante have condemned ultra-Right

groups and individuals for the latest incidents of anti-migrant violence in the last week of July, after a false news spread of a migrant stabbing three young women. Similarly, violence targeting migrants erupted in Northern Ireland in June after news of two migrant youths sexually assaulted a young girl.

Migrante International, a global alliance of Filipino migrant organizations, stressed that the recent acts of anti-migrant violence in the UK are a consequence of the rise of far-right governments and anti-migrant policies that are provoking a racist culture of hate and discrimination against migrants. "They are denying millions of migrants their rights to live and work without hate and discrimination" the alliance stressed.

Rising anti-migrant policies in Japan and Australia

In Japan, around 300 activists, Filipino and Indonesian refugees and migrants representing dozens of organizations, joined by 11 members of the Japanese Parliament, protested on September 5 outside the Japanese Parliament to oppose the "Zero Plan" policy, to denounce the worsening xenophobia, and to for call for justice for victims of racism in the country.

Conservative and right-wing political forces in the Japanese government have been pushing for mass deportations and direct discrimination against *gaikokujin* (foreigners) by putting in place the "Zero Illegal Aliens Plan for the Safety and Security of the People" (Zero Plan), a comprehensive policy that aims to deport all "illegal" residents in Japan by 2028. The plan reportedly includes stricter pre-entry screening for foreigners starting in 2028 and measures to tighten immigration control in the country.

In Australia, big solidarity protest actions for all migrants, refugees, Palestine and First Nation people (indigenous people in the country) were held in the cities of Melbourne and Sydney last August 31. These were participated in by Filipino activists from the Bayan-Australia. The solidarity actions served as counter-protests to the anti-migrant mobilization of neo-Nazi, racist, ultra-right and extremist groups, which was launched in different parts of Australia on the same day. These extremist groups blame migrants for the ongoing crisis in housing and infrastructure in the country, rather than the decades-long neoliberal policies and privatization in Australia.

Migrante-Australia stated that the anti-migrant "protest" in Australia manifests the intensifying global white supremacists in the US, Japan, and Europe who use migrants as scapegoats for the economic crisis, and


particular issues like the housing shortage and unemployment.

According to the figures of the United Nations, an all-time record of 68.5 million people were uprooted in 2024 as a consequence of US-instigated wars, persecution and violence in the Middle East, such as in Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, Syrian, Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia. In addition, the US proxy war in Ukraine has threatened the spread of violence in Europe and has stoked the surge of refugees.

Conclusion

The attacks against migrants and immigrants reflect the deep crisis engulfing the capitalist system – a system

that thrives on the exploitation and oppression of the working people. Unable to mitigate their crises, prevent the floodgates of mass resistance from bursting, and maintain their class rule, the political chieftains of the capitalist order ignite the simple strategy of divide and rule – foreigners versus locals, colored versus whites, superior versus inferior, effectively concealing the class divide between oppressors and oppressed.

Decisively aroused, organized and mobilized, communities, peoples' organizations and “woke” individuals and entities would eventually figure out that standing up and resisting the rise of xenophobia and racism, is but a part of the bigger struggle to end capitalist exploitation and oppression. 



PEOPLE'S WAR ADVANCES AMID INTENSIFIED STATE TERROR

By Hugo Francisco

As the US-Marcos regime intensifies its military operations in the countryside, the revolutionary movement continues to achieve more victories as it relentlessly defends itself and the masses against the ever-increasing terror unleashed by the state's brutal and fascist machinery.

AURORA

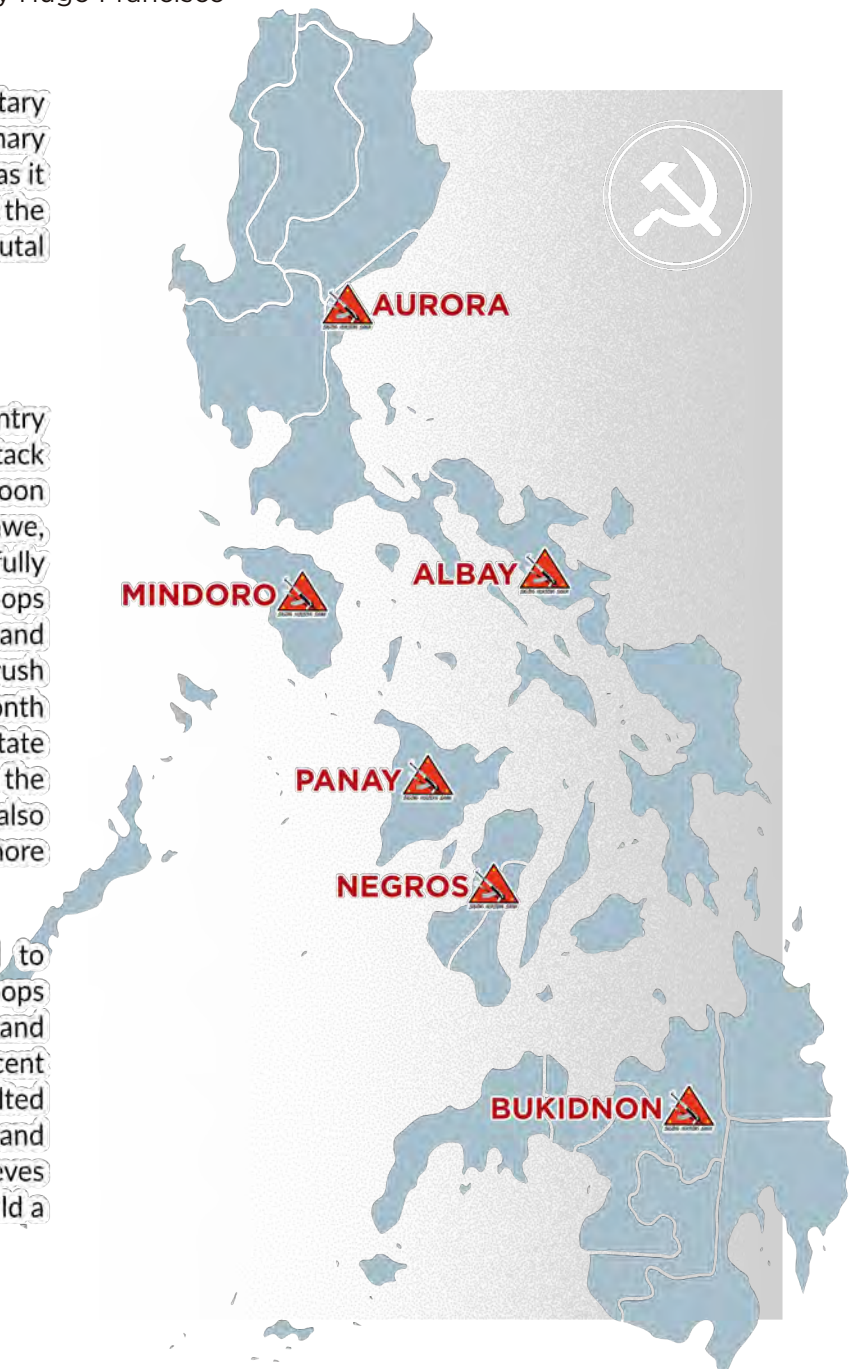
In Central Luzon, a soldier from the 91st Infantry Battalion (IB) was wounded during a counterattack by the New People's Army (NPA) on the afternoon of August 21 in Sitio Aguses, Barangay Matawe, Dingalan, Aurora. The red fighters successfully retreated following the engagement. Fascist troops of the 91st IB have been conducting focused and sustained attacks in their desperate effort to crush the people's army in the region. This three-month military operation has committed significant state resources in an unsuccessful attempt to defeat the red fighters operating in the area. The event also refutes government claims that there are no more active guerrilla forces in the country.

The ongoing military operations have led to numerous human rights violations, including troops stealing food, raiding homes and schools, and harassing locals. These operations, along with recent joint US-Filipino Balikatan war games, have resulted in loss of livelihood, environmental damage, and social issues. The NPA-Aurora strongly believes these actions are part of a long-term plan to build a "Pacific Coast City" for US military use.

MINDORO

In Mindoro, NPA units successfully maneuvered to safety against a series of attacks from military troops. In Oriental Mindoro, an NPA unit successfully evacuated after a clash with military troops of the 4th IB on August 19 in Sitio Pagbok, Barangay Panaytayan, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro. The encounter happened only a few days after the NPA-Mindoro units' successive active defense actions against the attacking 203rd IBde troopers in the town of Baco on August 9 and 12. The clash resulted in three soldiers killed and several others wounded. Local peasants and indigenous masses applauded the action.

On July 13, the NPA-Mindoro ambushed police officers in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, killing two. The NPA stated this action was a direct response to the government's "terrorist campaign" and a refutation of claims that the island is nearing "insurgency-free" status. The tactical offensive is a response to the community's clamor against the intensification of military and police operations, which are meant to secure large-scale mining projects that threaten the land and livelihoods of the community.



ALBAY

On August 21, the NPA (Santos Binamera Command) in Albay ambushed a 16-member army squad, killing at least three soldiers and wounding one in Barangay Palapas, Ligao City. The NPA reported that it detected the 49th IB troopers' attempt to raid the unit's temporary camp, took decisive action, and subsequently withdrew without any casualties, while accusing the military of concealing the true extent of its losses.

NEGROS

On July 11 in Sitio Harvey, Barangay Minapasok, Calatrava, Negros Occidental, the NPA (Roselyn Jean Pelle Command) executed Junsly Vallente, a member of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA), whom they identified as a bandit and intelligence agent for the Philippine military. The NPA stated that the operation was carried out due to Vallente's various crimes against peasant masses, including a 2012 shooting spree, murder, and the killing of farmers' livestock, which severely impacted local livelihoods.

The RPA is an armed group that splintered from the communist movement and later became state collaborators. The government's recent amnesty offer to groups like the RPA-ABB is seen as absolving them of their crimes against the people.

On September 4, the NPA in South Central Negros ambushed a military and paramilitary unit, wounding three soldiers. The NPA spokesperson stated the attack was a response to over three months of combat operations that have sown terror in local communities, operations which were aided by collaborators.

Following the ambush, the military forces reportedly retaliated by firing their guns indiscriminately for nearly two hours, forcing hundreds of residents from three sitios to evacuate. The NPA condemns the military for its hypocrisy, as the same battalion returned the next day with the local government to distribute aid and conduct "peace dialogues."

PANAY


On July 19, the NPA in Central Panay reported repelling an attack by the 12th IB, stating that its unit successfully launched a counterattack against the military forces. The NPA refuted the military's subsequent claims of victory as fabricated lies, specifically denying that any firearms or equipment were left behind and asserting that the photos released as evidence were staged.

The NPA further accused the 3rd ID of a pattern of deception, using these fabricated victories to justify their operations and seek a declaration of stable peace in Panay. These operations are accompanied by real human rights violations, including sowing terror in communities and disrupting the livelihoods of farmers by restricting their access to farms.

BUKIDNON

On July 1, a mobile NPA unit in Bukidnon defended itself in a 15-minute clash with troopers of the 8th IB, resulting in the death of at least seven soldiers. The NPA reported that its unit successfully defended itself and maneuvered to safety during the 15-minute firefight.

In retaliation, the Armed Forces of the Philippines conducted artillery shelling over two days, an action which the Communist Party of the Philippines condemned for terrorizing local farmers and Lumad communities. The Party congratulated the NPA for its defense and called for increased exposure of the military's violations of international humanitarian law.

The recent victories of the revolutionary movement in the countryside are a clear indication of a vibrant revolutionary movement, debunking Malacanang's claim of a declining revolutionary movement. In a statement, the CCP stresses that these victories are clear evidence of the revolutionary movement's solid presence in the countryside, contradicting President Marcos Jr.'s recent claim. An NPA spokesperson credited the success to the unit's vigilance, training, and the crucial intelligence and support provided by the local masses. 



Fragments of a Nightmare

I am forcibly shorn of my shirt
and it is wound around my face.
one more piece of cloth is tightened
across my covered eyes and nape.
my hands are cuffed behind my back
so tightly as to numb them.
I am fixed on a wooden chair
and made to wait for my fate
in utter blindness and helplessness
in the hands of some monster.

all of a sudden sharp fist blows
strike my floating ribs
chest and solar plexus.
then the demons make barrages
of questions, threats and taunts
with more barrages of blows.
my silence, answer or comment
always fetches harder blows,
the demons keep on threatening
to break my skull against the wall.

I hear water gushing against water,
the racket of plastic pails
and the screeches of frantic boots.
a small towel is put across my face
and mouth; and strong hands hold
my head and grasp my mouth.
cascades of water dig into my nostrils
and flood my mouth, throat and lungs.
the torrents of water come with torrents
of questions, threats and taunts.

the cuffs slash my wrist and ankles
as I strain for air again and again
against the stinging rush of water.
I suffer for so many persons, groups,
addresses, villages, mountains
that I do not know or do not want
to tell or confirm to the demons.
they are most vicious and persistent
in trying to extract hot leads,
more prey and more spoils

for more than a thousand times,
the strength of my heart is tested.
as I struggle and scream for air,
American rock music screens my screams
outside the torture chamber.
from time to time, a demon pokes
the barrel of a gun into my mouth;
another keeps on jobbing his fingers
into different parts of my body
to disrupt the rhythm of my resistance.

my struggle loosens the blindfold.
I can see a senior demon gloating,
then a stocky demon sits on my belly.
as my body weakens and I grow dizzy,
the chief interrogator vainly tries
to hypnotize me by repeating words,
suggesting that i am going, going
to sleep and rest my mind in his power.
i resist and keep my wits alive
by recalling the words of battlecry.

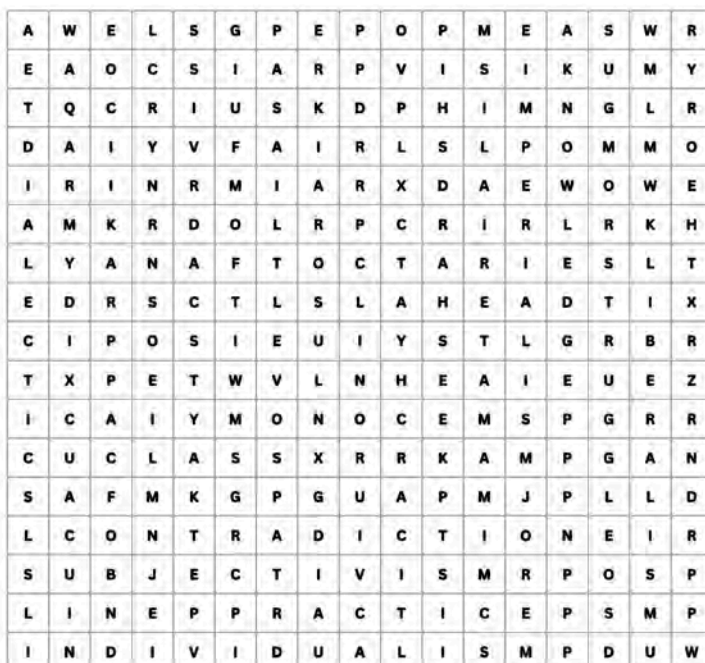
only bedbugs, mosquitos, ants,
cockroaches, lizards and spiders
are my cohabitants in this part of hell
I miss and yearn for my beloved
and think of her own faith.
I long for my growing children;
I long for the honest company
of workers, peasants and comrades.
I long for the people rising
and the wide open spaces of my country.

but still my pain and suffering is small
and i think of those who suffer more
the violence of daily exploitation
and the rampage of terror on the land.
I belittle my pain and suffering
as i think of people who fight
for their own redemption and freedom

and avenge the blood of martyrs.
I belittle my pain and suffering
as i hope to give more to the struggle.

Prof. Jose Ma. Sison
December 1979

REVOLUTIONARY WORD SEARCH: BASIC PARTY COURSE EDITION



This puzzle is a word search puzzle that has a hidden message in it. First, find all the words in the list. The words may run in any direction, and they can share letters or cross over one another. After you've found all the words, take the unused letters from the top of the puzzle and write them into the blanks. These letters will form a jumbled (scrambled) hidden message for you to solve.

CLASS
SACRIFICE
DIALECTICS
IMPERIALISM
PROLETARIAT
POLITICAL
HISTORY
CONTRADICTION
HARDSHIP
MATERIALISM
CRISIS

MASS
ECONOMY
STRUGGLE
KNOWLEDGE
PRACTICE
THEORY
INDIVIDUALISM
LINE
LIBERALISM
SUBJECTIVISM

HIDDEN MESSAGE:

LIBERATION
INTERNATIONAL

www.ndfp.info