



# UPDATES PHILIPPINES

RELEASED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES

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## EDITORIAL

### @NeverForget: Fascism, dictatorship and neocolonial puppetry

The German Embassy to Manila recently offered an international perspective to the barrage of historical revisionism and social brainwashing currently plaguing the Philippines. In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law by President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr, the Germans recalled, “The heavy legacy of the Martial Law period in the Philippines and the records of thousands of victims, killings and enforced disappearances are a call to responsibly engage in and learn from this dark period for a brighter future.”

They quoted Philippine National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal, “Those who do not know how to look back from whence they came will never reach their destination” and stressed, “Remembering and learning from the past is the first step in ensuring that such events will never happen again.”

It is just as well: the Filipino people and its revolutionary movement have never forgotten!

We distinctly remember how US imperialism propped up the Marcos fascist dictatorship until its overthrow by the Filipino people in 1986. We remember how it coddled the deposed dictator until his family’s return to the Philippines in 1991. We remember the staunch US support for the successive equally repressive, corrupt and anti-Filipino regimes of Corazon C. Aquino, Gen. Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada, Gloria M. Arroyo, Benigno Aquino III and Rodrigo Duterte. We are thus keenly aware how US President Joe Biden welcomed Marcos, Jr. as their new neocolonial puppet.

No, the Filipino people have never forgotten and we will fight on!

The Communist Party of the Philippines was re-established in December 1968 and the New People’s Army was formed in March 1969, during the first presidential term of Marcos, Sr. Half a century on, the Philippine revolutionary movement has persevered, expanded across the archipelago and grown stronger despite the darkest periods of Martial Law. It remains the most powerful weapon of the Filipino people in remembering and learning from the past and in forging the path forward to a brighter future.

Germany reminded us correctly, Never Forget is the first step. Indeed, we are taking the next steps. In the midst of our constant battle against fascism and dictatorship, we are also building the new democratic order in the rural villages and towns. Collectives for land reform, rural production, environmental protection, health care, education, self-defense and public order are governing communities in 72 provinces of the total 81 provinces in the country.

The Filipino people will fight on for a brighter future: free from armed conflict, fascism, dictatorship and neocolonial servility. And we are looking forward to forging solidarity with other nations on the basis of cooperation, mutual sustainable development and international peace. **UP**



## ICC rejects Manila government request to stop investigations

International Criminal Court Prosecutor Karim Khan rejected on 22 September the request of the government of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr, to stop the resumption of the court’s investigation on crimes against humanity allegedly perpetrated by the past Rodrigo Duterte regime. [In a 21-page statement](#), Khan rejected as “having no merit” the arguments of the Marcos II regime that cite lack of jurisdiction, admissibility and complementarity.

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Khan said the Manila government did not demonstrate “that it has conducted or is conducting national investigations or prosecutions that sufficiently mirror the investigation authorized by the Chamber.”

Local and international human rights organizations report that from 12,000 to 30,000 Filipinos have been killed in relation to Duterte’s ‘anti-drug’ war. These killings continue under the current regime, already claiming at least 79 victims, including three minors. **UP**



Photo: Jose Santos | bulatlat.com

## Protests mark 50th Martial Law Anniversary

Thousands of people joined protest actions in various parts of the Philippines and around the world on 21 September, marking the 50th anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law in 1972 by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Sr.. Protesters in Australia, Thailand, Hongkong, the Netherlands, USA and in the Philippines, decried the Marcoses’ return to power, condemning the historical revisionism and whitewashing of the atrocities committed during the dictatorship.

In Metro Manila, Philippines, some 8,000 took to the streets, chanting “Never Again, Never Forget”. In Cebu City, in central Philippines, protesters were chanting, “Reject Marcos!” In Cagayan de Oro City, in southern Philippines, youth and religious groups organized a prayer rally, commemorating the many victims of Martial Law and uniting against state repression.

Marcos Sr. declared Martial Law on 21 September 1972, curtailing public associations, public assembly, closing down the press and padlocking the Congress. Human rights groups documented around 70,000 victims of prolonged detention, 34,000 tortured and over 3,200 political killings.

On 18 September, a few days before the 50th Anniversary of Martial Law, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. spoke before the UN General Assembly in New York, USA. He also used the occasion to meet with US President Joe Biden and to speak in different US cities.

Protesters met Marcos, Jr. every step of the way. In New York, protesters condemned the abuses of Martial Law while Marcos, Jr. was speaking before the UN General Assembly. Three of them were arrested, leading to more protests and calls for their release. The three were eventually released.

At the New Jersey Performing Arts, protesters confronted Marcos, Jr. about his family’s stolen wealth and the current economic problems in the Philippines.

The youth group Anakbayan called on the Filipino youth “to be vigilant and to continue the fight that has been raging since Marcos Sr’s bloody dictatorship... We must combat historical revisionism by uplifting the truth and by continuing to wage the people’s struggle,” Anakbayan stated. “Just as young people made the choice to resist against an oppressive regime under Marcos Sr., we must now make that same choice to fight for a Philippines that is truly free and democratic.”

Christina Palabay, Secretary General of Philippine human rights alliance Karapatan, said, “Marcos Jr. used the world stage to talk about lofty universal ideals and principles that he and his family refuse to live by.”

She said, “He continues to justify the human rights violations committed during martial law, while keeping the billions of people’s money stolen by his family and their cronies. It is a grand show of hypocrisy, another act meant to deodorize the atrocious crimes of plunder, massive human rights violations, and exploitation of the Filipino people.” **UP**



## Manila court dismisses terrorist tag against CPP, NPA

Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Marlo Magdoza-Malagar dismissed on 21 September the petition of the Department of Justice to declare the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army as terrorist groups. The court stated that the Manila government

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failed to establish any basis for their petition, classifying the struggle being waged by the CPP and NPA as “rebellion” and not terrorism.

The court concluded that they are waging armed resistance with clear political aims, and directs their attacks against armed agents of the Manila government, and not against civilians. Judge Magdoza-Malagar also cited the CPP’s Constitution and Program, saying these contain “reasonable aspirations of any civilized society.”

Reacting to the news, CPP Information Officer Marco Valbuena, clarified that the CPP is governed by the laws of the People’s Democratic Government and therefore does not recognize the case filed by Department of Justice. He however welcomed the decision of Judge Magdoza-Malagar as “reasonable and fair”.

He said, “It is important to underscore how the decision concluded that the CPP and NPA are not terrorists... this decision has far-reaching legal and political implications.” Valbuena also cited the judge’s condemnation of the “pernicious practice of red-tagging” by the security officials of the Manila government, threatening the security of individuals and organizations critical of the actions of a sitting government.

“The decision,” Valbuena added, “can serve as basis for Filipinos and their friends in the US, Australia, New Zealand and Europe to push for the removal of the CPP and NPA from the ‘list of terrorist organizations’ that are unjustly being maintained by their governments.”

It also serves to strengthen the local and international campaigns against the terrorist listing of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, CPP Founding Chairman Prof. Jose Maria Sison and NDFP Chief International Representative Luis Jalandoni. **UP** [Photo: cpp.ph]



NPA in the Bicol region. Photo: cpp.ph

## NPA launches 4 consecutive armed offensives in Sorsogon, Negros and Agusan

The New People’s Army launched four consecutive armed offensives against security forces of the Manila government in the provinces of Sorsogon and Agusan del Sur, and in Negros Island in the period between 5 to 14 September.

NPA-Sorsogon mounted a partisan operation on 5 September resulting in the death of Philippine National

Police Executive M/Sgt. Israel Rebosura in Sityo Cagduyong, Ginablan village, in Pilar town, Sorsogon. Rebosura is an armed intelligence agent setting up a network of police informants in the villages of Pilar.

In Negros Occidental, the NPA ambushed more than 30 soldiers under the Armed Forces of the Philippines 94th Infantry Battalion while it was patrolling Buenavista village, Himamaylan City on 6 September. The soldiers scampered away, bringing along their casualties.

On 10 September, the NPA Leonardo Panaligan Command in Negros Oriental launched a sniping operation on a PNP station in Sityo Parkingan, Trinidad village, Guihulngan City, killing one police officer. The next day, a soldier of the AFP 62nd Infantry Battalion was killed in another NPA sniping operation in the village of Tuko Gamay. The AFP soldiers were encamped near the community in clear violation of international humanitarian law.

Meanwhile in Agusan del Sur, NPA Red fighters ambushed the combined troops of the AFP 26th Infantry Battalion, 41st Division Reconnaissance Company and Special Forces in the mountainous area of Moretola village, in San Luis town, on 14 September. **UP**



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