



EDITORIAL:

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## True to Form, new DND chief Teodoro is a US war hound

It comes to no surprise that the recycled defense chief Gilberto Teodoro is not open to peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP). True to his form, Teodoro proves his unrelenting allegiance to US imperialist powers by parroting anti-peace remarks surely to the enjoyment of his masters.

The NDFP has always been clear on its policy of openness to peace negotiations with the Manila government. The NDFP has been consistent in calling for the resumption of the talks and yet, the Marcos II administration chooses to feign ignorance. Instead, they choose to stoke the flame of people's war by first appointing defense chief and US war hound Teodoro who is known for being one of the main implementers of Oplan Bantay Laya. Oplan Bantay Laya was one of the bloodiest counterrevolutionary campaigns launched by the US-Arroyo regime. During Teodoro's term as DND chief from 2007 to 2009, human rights group Karapatan documented at least 24 cases of enforced disappearances, 20 missing persons case, 99 cases of torture, 456 illegal detention victims, and 164 illegal arrests. In addition, 117,133 individuals in the countryside suffered from indiscriminate firing, 148,044 forcibly evacuated and 9,154 documented victims of hamleting. Under Teodoro, the armed forces of the reactionary state used schools, clinics, churches, and other civilian infrastructure as military outposts in stark violation of international humanitarian law.

Secondly, the Marcos II administration has willingly opened the country for the establishment of new US bases while allowing the permanent presence of US soldiers on Philippine soil. US military intervention is one of the biggest stumbling blocks to peace negotiations as they provide direct support to the Marcos II regime's counterrevolutionary attacks in line with the US policy of establishing the Philippines as a theater of war to encircle China. If anything, Marcos II's subservience to US militarist demands is putting the Filipino people's lives and livelihoods at great risk. Allowing the US to preposition its forces across the Philippine archipelago is a clear attempt to provoke China and will further aggravate geopolitical tensions potentially leading to another inter-imperialist war leaving the Filipino people as collateral damage.

Finally, the designation of the CPP-NPA-NDF as 'terrorist groups' and the listing of NDFP Senior Advisor Luis Jalandoni as a 'terrorist' under the draconian Anti-Terror Law must be rescinded in order for peace talks to continue. These claims are baseless to say the least considering the belligerent nature of both the GRP and the People's Democratic Government represented by the NDFP. The 12-point program of the NDFP is clear evidence of this as the systematic expression of the Filipino people's collective aspiration for national freedom and democracy.

But while the revolutionary movement is always ready to talk peace with the GRP, the NDFP will do its part to advance the people's war to defend the Filipino people against more brutal fascist attacks and US military intervention which we expect to intensify with the newly appointed DND chief. 

## Fake 'surrenders,' torture and secret detention persist under Marcos Jr. regime

Marco Valbuena, Chief Information Officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines declared that: "Like many of so-called 'surrendered' who are presented publicly by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Michael Cedrick Casano and Patricia Nicole Cierva, youth activists in Cagayan, were subjected by the military to relentless psychological torture to break their spirit and will to fight for the people."

The civil and political rights of Casano and Cierva were grossly violated by the AFP when they were kept incommunicado for more than 15 days after being taken into custody last May 18. That they eventually "surrendered" and gave up their principles after being broken by their tormentors after 15 days does not change the fact that the 501st Infantry Brigade subjected them to torture while they were under secret detention in violation of all laws of civilized societies.

They were not charged before the courts where they could have a chance to defend themselves in open trial, and instead were tried and adjudged by their military captors in secret dungeons.

In contrast, peasant activist and organizer Arthur Lucenario, who was abducted by agents of the 47th IB last April 14 in San Miguel, Bohol, was summarily killed on May 12, after close to one month of secret detention and torture. The AFP falsely declared that Lucenario was killed in an "armed encounter" with the NPA. Based on local reports, his body bore signs of severe torture. *(continued next page...)*




image: philippinerevolution.nu

(continued from page 2) Also in contrast, Negros NDFP leader Rogelio Posadas, was abducted on the night of April 19 in Negros Occidental. Posadas was summarily killed by the 23rd IB, who later issued false news that he was killed in an armed encounter in a hinterland barangay of Binalbagan town. His companion, Lyngrace Marturillas, and two drivers, Renel delos Santos and Renal Mialen, remain missing to this day.

The above cases are just some of the most recent cases in the increasingly dirty war of the AFP under the Marcos regime, where civilians, activists and revolutionaries alike are being arrested unlawfully, or abducted and detained secretly, where they are made to choose: “surrender or die.”

The AFP uses all means to put pressure on their victims, including kidnapping babies (as in the case Baby Rhea and Baby Marx), harassing their families, and all other tactics to deny them lawyers and prevent them from exercising their rights. Under de facto martial law, these crimes are being carried out by the AFP with utter impunity.

Even the Manila government’s Commission on Human Rights urged state forces to ‘maximize and exhaust all efforts in the search’ for Dexter Capuyan and Gene Roz Jamil de Jesus, before they were surfaced.

In a related development, KARAPATAN calls on CHR to probe secret prisons. The recent abduction cases prove, it is the existence of secret prisons maintained by State forces, in violation of Republic Act 10353 or the Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012. 

## CPP: Oppose US military pre-positioning in Calayan Island


Highlighting US military build-up in the Asia Pacific region, Communist Party of the Philippines Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena cited the 25 hectares of land in Calayan island, northernmost Philippines which was recently acquired by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) last 8 June 2023. According to Valbuena, the said land, which was donated by the local municipality, will allow the US to deploy its armed forces and military hardware in Calayan island.

In a statement issued 8 June 2023, Valbuena stated “claims that the build up of US military forces in the region, especially in the northern parts of the Philippines, are not directed against any country, is false public posturing to obscure the fact that the US is now vigorously pulling the country into a conflict with China. Over the past few weeks, the US has staged back to back war games in the country, together with the Philippines, Japan, Australia and other US allies, conducted in a way that China considers militarily provocative.”



image: philippinerevolution.nu

He also advised, “The Filipino people must oppose any plan to allow the US military to deploy its forces and hardware in the Calayan island, even as they oppose the construction of US military bases and facilities in at least four other areas under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).”

Marco Valbuena also stated “the US military has now deployed at least three aircraft carriers and naval strike groups in the South China Sea, and has pressed the militaries of its allied countries such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom and others to deploy their own troops and military equipment in the area. There is now a rising spiral of military build-up between the US and China, increasing the risk of armed conflict.” 

## Wyeth workers, supporters fight back against mass lay-off



image: [philippinerevolution.nu](http://philippinerevolution.nu)

Members of Wyeth Philippines Progressive Workers' Union (WPPWU) and their supporters mounted a series of mass protests and other activities to demand the reinstatement of 140 workers who were illegally dismissed by Wyeth-Nestlé Philippines on 18 May, 2023 and five other workers who were fired earlier, reported Ang Bayan, official organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines, on 7 June 2023.

The WPPWU fought back with more than 20 picket protests to defend the company jobs of workers and defend the union's previous gains.

Ang Bayan said that the WPPWU protested on 30 May in front of the Nestlé Cabuyao Factory then headed to Calamba, Laguna for the third hearing of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board of Calabarzon on the “notice of strike” filed by the union. Youth groups, church people, other unions and workers, federations, union centers, migrants and artists joined the mass action to demand the reinstatement of the dismissed workers.

Nestlé is notorious worldwide for violations labor rights. In fact, Nestlé has already killed two union leaders in

the country and many others in South America.

The Makabayan Bloc in the Philippine Congress filed House Resolution 1067 on 31 May which called for an investigation into the unfair “cost cutting and restructuring strategy”; used by Nestlé to justify mass layoffs.

Other Nestlé unions in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Lipa gave support and solidarity to the WPPWU. On 26 May, these unions wrote to Nestlé demanding the reinstatement of their fellow workers. They urged the company management in Canlubang, Laguna, to implement their touted policy of open communication and dialogue to safeguard the rights of their workers. Bong Labog, Chairperson of the labor federation Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement) said, “We are aware of Nestlé's reputation as a violator of labor laws, of not honoring agreements and CBAs, of violently breaking strikes, and of killing labor leaders. It earns billions every year, but greed emboldens them to jeopardize the lives of hundreds of workers and their families.” 