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Spread the Flame of the People's War

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EDITORIAL:

Spread the Flame of the People's War




Last 29 March 2023, the toiling Filipino masses, revolutionary allies, Red commanders and fighters in the countryside celebrated the 54th anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA) by honoring hundreds of heroes and martyrs who exemplified wholehearted service to the people and the cause of national liberation and democracy.

For more than five decades now, the NPA has waged intense and relentless people's war against US imperialism and its oppressive client-state of big bourgeois compradors and big landlords. This attests to the iron will and determination of the Filipino masses to put an end to centuries of colonial subjugation and semicolonial domination that has oppressed and exploited generations of Filipinos in the country, and which continue to condemn them to a permanent state of multiple crises and hardship.

From its humble beginnings in 1969, the NPA has spread and grown into a nationwide force of several thousand Red fighters deeply rooted to the broad masses of peasants, workers and toiling people. The NPA is the most powerful weapon of the Party for waging the people's democratic revolution by carrying out protracted people's war along the strategic line of encircling the cities from the countryside.

By adapting to the particular conditions of an archipelagic country as the Philippine islands, it has achieved great successes in carrying out guerilla warfare, building guerilla zones and base areas, and establishing Red political power covering vast areas in the countryside. Every day, the seeds of the people's democratic government are sown in thousands of villages across the country.

With a US-Marcos government in place, the NPA faces ever greater tasks ahead. It must surmount and defeat the intensified campaigns of armed suppression carried out by the US puppet army and accumulate strength by crushing the AFP to bring the people's war to even greater heights.

The objective conditions of abject poverty, widespread joblessness and persistent oppression of the peasant class provides a clear prospect for a new period of revolutionary surge in the Philippines. These factors combined with the correct leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, guarantees continued growth and ultimate victory. More and more of the Filipino toiling masses are joining the armed revolution further spreading the flame of the people's war from the countryside to the cities. 

NPA launches multiple guerilla actions in 5 provinces

In the midst of intensifying militarization and increasing violations of human rights by the forces of the Marcos regime, the New People's Army (NPA) has launched numerous guerrilla actions in the last several weeks in at least five provinces in the Philippines.

According to reports, units of the NPA-Masbate mounted four consecutive operations in the towns of Placer, Dimasalang, and Uson in Masbate province against the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) 2nd Infantry Battalion, CAFGU detachments and police troops.


The AFP poured 500 additional troops in addition to at least five battalions of military and police forces stationed in Masbate. According to the NPA-Masbate, the new and old military troops protect the interests of big businesses, mining companies and ecotourism projects which are detrimental to the welfare of the Masbateños.

Meanwhile, on 5 April, Red fighters from the NPA-Albay successfully ambushed police intelligence officers in Homapon, Legaspi City. In Quezon province, the NPA ambushed forces of the 85th IB in Macalelon on 24 March. A team of the NPA Armando Catapia Command assaulted a detachment of the 9th IB/CAFGU in Labo, Camarines Norte on 1 April. According to NPA-Armando Catapia Command, the said enemy detachment has been *(continued in next page...)*



image: philippinerevolution.nu

(continued from page 2) protecting the re-entry of the mining company Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corporation. The NPA-Mindoro repelled the attack of the Police's 10th Special Action Battalion in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro on 15 March.

In Rizal province near Manila, the NPA-Rizal ambushed the troops of the 80th IB in Rodriguez town on March 31 and defended itself the next day in Montalban. According to NPA-Rizal, the reactionary troops had been harassing the local residents who have been protesting the Wawa and Kaliwa dam projects of big businessmen and cronies Enrique Razon Jr. and Oscar Viologo. Indigenous Dumagat and Remontado peoples are being displaced from their agricultural lands and residences. 

New EDCA sites in the Philippines, vital cog in US war plans vs China

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in a statement, condemned the Marcos regime for colluding with the United States in its plan to construct four more military bases in the country as part of its war preparations against China.

Last week, Malacañang announced four locations considered as additional EDCA sites namely: 1) Naval Base Camilo Osias in Sta Ana, Cagayan; 2) Lal-lo Airport in Lal-lo, Cagayan; 3) Camp Melchor Dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela; and 4) Balabac Island in Palawan.

Collin Koh, research fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said the bases would play a vital role in any potential conflict in the region. "The northern sites are not only aimed at a Taiwan contingency, they have utility in times of a South China Sea conflict," said Koh.

The Bashi Channel in the northern part of the Luzon Strait, closer to Taiwan, is a critical chokepoint, either for Chinese naval forces to break out of home waters and get into the open Pacific to target US military installations on Guam to the east, or for US warships to get into the South China Sea. "The Balabac site allows for intelligence collection and staging of peacetime air and naval activities in the area, which can put Mischief Reef under closer scrutiny," Koh said.

Mao Ning, spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reacting to this development, remarked that Philippines is getting drawn into a "potential conflict" in the Taiwan Strait after the designation of new EDCA sites in Luzon.

Subsequently, Marcos said that he would not allow the country's bases to be used to attack China. The CPP said that Marcos is fooling Filipinos (continued in next page...)



image: philippinerevolution.nu

(continued from page 3)

when he claimed that these US military bases and facilities will be “used for humanitarian and relief operations.” The so-called disaster response program of the US military is, in fact, a big screen to obscure the aggressive push of the US to extend and project its military power.

Likely, the US will construct facilities to launch long-range missiles in one or more of these EDCA locations. Since 2021, the US Indo-Pacific Command has been planning to construct a network of ground-based missile launching systems along what it calls the “First Island Chain” which includes Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and other islands closest to China. In a related development, this year’s Balikatan will be the largest joint military exercise between the Philippines and the US to date, with over 17,600 troops participating. The International League of Peoples Struggles (ILPS) declared that the US is using the Philippines as its pawn and base for its interests and schemes, while trampling on the country’s national dignity and independence.

ICC to resume investigation on Duterte’s ‘war on drugs’



image: philippinerevolution.nu

On 21 March 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) allowed families of victims to comment on the appeal of the Philippine government against the ongoing investigation on former President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs.

In a decision, the ICC’s appeals chamber instructed the Victims Participation and Reparations Section (VPRS) to “collect and transmit... representations from any interested victims and victim groups” which would be included in a report to be submitted by 22 May 2023. The Office of Public Counsel for Victims may also submit written observations in relation to the general interests of victims by 18 April 2023. The Appeals Chamber “considers it appropriate for victims to be involved in these appeals proceedings.”

Last 27 January 2023, the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the ICC authorized ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan to resume the investigation of drug related killings in the Philippines. According to the findings of the ICC, former president Rodrigo Duterte’s violent war on drugs, claimed the

lives of at least 6,252 individuals in police anti-illegal drug operations as of May 2022. Human rights groups estimate between 27,000 to 30,000 Filipinos were killed vigilante-style in the name of Duterte’s so-called drug war.

Human Rights groups welcomed the resumption of the investigation. “That is welcome news. We hope that the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber pursues investigation until former President Rodrigo Duterte is convicted and punished for the deaths of thousands in his regime’s bloody anti-drug war,” Karapatan’s Secretary General Cristina Palabay said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch Deputy Director for Asia Phil Robertson also said in a statement that the ICC investigation “is the only credible avenue for justice for the victims and their families of former President Rodrigo Duterte’s murderous ‘war on drugs.’”

As a reaction to the ICC decision to resume investigation, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. said, “In our view, there is nothing more that we can do in the government. And so at this point, we essentially are disengaging from any contact, from any communication I guess with the ICC.” Human Rights Watch Asia Director, Elaine Pearson immediately reacted saying the Philippine government “cannot say it upholds democratic values but at the same time reject, ridicule and threaten [an] accountability mechanism like the ICC.”

A statement, issued by the Philippine UPR Watch contingent at the UNHRC session, said: “It is becoming increasingly evident that Marcos Jr. has no intention to exact justice and accountability from the perpetrators. In fact, he maintains the same policies and the same climate of impunity that has led Duterte and his minions to get away with murder.” 