



**EDITORIAL:**

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## EDITORIAL:

**Arrest of NDFP consultants Tuna and Naogsan violates JASIG, undermines prospects for peace**

The arrest of NDFP peace consultant Porferio Tuna by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on October 2 in Tagum City and the arrest of Simeon “Ka Filiw” Naogsan in Ilocos Norte this October 21 are clear violations of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG). Their illegal arrests raise concerns about the government’s sincerity in pursuing a resolution to the decades-long armed conflict in the Philippines. JASIG is a crucial agreement borne out of the peace negotiations between the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). It ensures the safety of those involved in the peace negotiations.

Ka Filiw is the spokesperson of the Cordillera People’s Democratic Front (CPDF), an allied organization of the NDFP. Ka Filiw actively pushed for genuine autonomy and self-determination of the Cordilleran peoples, opposing big mining concessionaires and infrastructure businesses that are encroaching the mountains and rivers of the Cordilleras.


As NDFP consultant especially during the 2016 negotiations, Tuna provided crucial insights on the conditions of peasants, plantation workers, and national minorities in Southern Mindanao. His contributions helped shape the NDFP’s draft Comprehensive Agreement on Socioeconomic Reforms (CASER), which aims to address the root causes of armed conflict, including by resolving landlessness, exploitation, poverty and the lack of employment and national industries.

By detaining Tuna and Naogsan, the Marcos administration effectively obstructs the path to meaningful socioeconomic reforms in the peace process. Tuna and Naogsan’s arrests are a clear act of reprisal. The charges filed against them are all trumped up cases, which directly contradicts the guarantees provided by JASIG. Signed in 1995 by both representatives from the GRP and the NDFP, the JASIG explicitly guarantees that peace negotiators and their personnel will be free from arrest, detention, or harassment to ensure the continuity and integrity of the peace talks.

Inside jail, reports indicate that Tuna is being subjected to intense psychological torture, coerced by military officers and turncoats working for the US-Marcos regime. Such inhumane tactics highlight the brutal strategy of the GRP, which has long used political imprisonment, harassment, intimidation, abductions, and torture to silence critics and dissidents.

This is also not the first time that the GRP violated the JASIG and other peace agreements in the past years. The arrest of Naogsan and Tuna form part of a disturbing pattern of the GRP’s utter disregard for agreements made in the negotiating table. The killing of NDFP peace consultants Wilma and Benito Tiamzon in August 2022 stands as a glaring example of the GRP’s disregard of JASIG, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and other peace agreements. The Tiamzons, senior NDFP officials, were reportedly captured, tortured, and summarily executed by the AFP. The case of Concha Araneta, an NDFP peace consultant and member of the Joint Monitoring Committee based in Panay Island, follows the same deadly pattern. Araneta, a prominent figure in the peace talks, was also assassinated by state forces on August this year. Similarly, the extrajudicial killing of peace consultants Randall Echanis and Ericson Acosta in 2020

and 2022 respectively, highlights the government’s continued campaign of violence against those involved in the peace process.

Beyond these high-profile killings, countless other NDFP peace consultants have been arrested, abducted, and forcibly disappeared in recent years. Many remain missing, their fates unknown, in what amounts to a systematic attack against the NDFP negotiating panel, its negotiators and consultants. If the Marcos regime is really serious about resolving the armed conflict in the Philippines, it must stop the state-sponsored attacks on peace consultants, uphold the JASIG, and demonstrate its commitment to the peace process by immediately releasing Porferio Tuna, Simeon Naogsan, and all other political prisoners. 

**Marcos enables US-Japan military intervention using ‘disaster response’ pretext**

Philadelphia, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) condemns the Marcos regime and its armed forces, the US and Japanese military forces for holding the so-called Doshin-Bayanihan 2024 military exercises at the Ebuena Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu which started last October 2, and ended on October 7.

These military exercises form part of the continued worsening of imperialist military intervention in the country by the US and its allied powers. These blatantly disregard the country’s national sovereignty and further pulls the country into the vortex of rising inter-imperialist conflict.

More than 1,000 US soldiers and other foreign troops were in the Philippines for the Kamandag 8-24 war games from October 15 to 25. This is another series of war games aimed at countering the rival imperialist power of China.





image: philippinerevolution.nu


The war games will involve 1,150 Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) personnel, 1,150 US Marine Corps troopers, 58 from South Korea, 54 from Japan, eight from the United Kingdom, five from Australia, two from France, and one each from Thailand and Indonesia.

The Mutual Defense Board-Security, composed of military officials from the US and the Philippines, planned the activities for the Kamandag war games, which is aimed at strengthening US military control over the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

According to the PMC, the main activities were held in the area covered by the Northern Command, Western Command Joint Operational Command, and also in Manila and Cavite. These areas are located in the western part of the Philippines, which is closest to the West Philippine Sea, where the conflict is heating up. The activities include combined arms littoral live-fire in Burgos, Ilocos Norte, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Burgos, amphibious assault, raids, and counter-landing exercises in Aborlan and Rizal, Palawan, and a forum at Marine Barracks Rudi Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

From January to August this year, nearly every two days, the US military has launched war games on land, air and water in the Philippines. These war games have been recorded for at least 105 out of 244 days, with the longest and uninterrupted war games from April 7 to June 21 (76 days). At least 21,000 US troopers, Australian soldiers, Canadian, Japanese, French and other foreign troopers participated in these war games.

The US and Japan aim to use the country as a foothold for their imperialist power projection operations, particularly directed against their imperialist rival China.

The Party condemns the use of "humanitarian assistance and disaster response" as pretext for these military exercises which serve the singular purpose of further extending and strengthening the presence of US and Japanese military forces in the Philippines. 

## CPP commemorates 75th anniversary of Chinese rev

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), in a statement issued 10 October 2024, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The PRC was established following the victory of the people's democratic revolution on 1 October 1949 led by the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Zedong. The CPP pointed out that the current leadership of China has veered away from the revolutionary path and has taken the capitalist road since 1978, but the lessons of the people's democratic revolution from 1921 to 1949 remain valid. It guides and inspires the world's proletariat and people in waging revolutionary struggle against imperialism, fascism and all reaction.

The CPP said, "...we reaffirm the correctness of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the necessity of using it as a theoretical and ideological guide to the practical revolutionary action of the Filipino people, as they wage national democratic revolution against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism."

The CPP pointed out that the victory of the revolution clearly proved the correctness and necessity of waging protracted people's war in a semicolonial and semifeudal country. The lessons of the protracted people's war in China have inspired and guided the working class and people in waging revolutionary struggles in semicolonial and semifeudal countries across the world.

After winning against imperialism and feudalism, the Chinese people



image: philippinerevolution.nu

laid down the basis for unparalleled economic, social and cultural growth. They completed in just four years, 1949-1953, the revolutionary land reform that liberated tens of millions of tillers from feudalism. The people's government established state control of the economy.

Chairman Mao, drawing lessons from the rise of modern revisionism and eventual capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union after 1956, led the Chinese workers and people to successfully wage the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1977). It took the line "grasp class struggle, promote production," underscoring the need to fight modern revisionism as key to building socialism.

Modern revisionists eventually took away political power from the proletariat through a violent counterrevolution in 1978. They broke up the communes and cooperatives and workers committees were dismantled. Bureaucrats and managers took away power from the hands of workers and people. One by one, social guarantees were abolished. A state monopoly bourgeoisie emerged from bureaucrats who privately appropriated the gains of socialist revolution, while hundreds of millions of workers and peasants fell into the quagmire of poverty.

The CPP concludes, "As we remember the 75th year of the victory of the Chinese revolution, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Filipino people draw inspiration from the victories of the Chinese people, in waging the arduous struggle to fight and overthrow imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. As the Chinese people stood up in 1949, the Filipino people are bound to rise and put an end to the monstrous and ruthless enemies of national freedom, democracy and socialism. ▲

## Marcos lavish lifestyle amidst rising hunger



image: philippinerevolution.nu

About 59 percent of Filipinos or some 16 million families are poor and hungry, according to a September 2024 survey of social research institution Social Weather Station. This means that these families either do not have the means to buy enough food to feed their family, or whatever meager capacity they have to buy food, food prices are way beyond their reach.

This number of poor and hungry Filipinos is the highest since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country in 2020 and debunks the hype of economic growth claimed by the regime.

Economic think tank Ibon Foundation said the Philippines now ranks as among the most food insecure nations in Southeast Asia from 2021-2023. According to Ibon Foundation, Filipinos cannot buy even the cheapest food. It's not just food availability and the prices, but the purchasing power of the Filipino, it stressed.

The Marcos Jr. regime is in power not to solve hunger and poverty and bring about genuine economic growth and development through land reform and national industrialization but to preserve the semicolonial and semifeudal character of the Philippines.

Amidst rising poverty, hunger, and hardship faced by the Filipino people, Marcos Jr. and his family continues with their never-ending addiction to luxury and extravagance, squandering millions of pesos of the people's money.

Recently, Marcos Jr. built a "resort-like" presidential home in the Malacañang grounds, the so-called "Bahay Pangulo" (Presidential House), which victims of the Marcos Sr. fascist dictatorship have denounced. The Campaign Against the Return of the Marcoses and Martial Law (CARMMA) said the people's welfare has been displaced and disregarded just so the Marcoses could enjoy their self-indulgent lifestyle.

The CPP, in a statement also denounced this latest misuse of the people's money.

"Amid rising poverty, hunger, and hardship faced by the majority of the Filipino people, the Malacañang home-resort, the so-called Bahay Pangulo, stands as an obscene display of the Marcoses' opulence. It reflects the repugnant lifestyle made infamous by Marcos matriarch Imelda. Manang-mana sa ina! He is enjoying his life so much in Malacañang, it will come as no surprise if he is planning to extend his stay," the CPP said.

The CPP also said: Marcos' home-resort is a clear manifestation of how bureaucrat capitalists exploit their positions in the Philippine government to indulge in privilege. Marcos is odious for using public money to jetset, fly helicopters to avoid road traffic, hold private concerts and other lavish spending.

The CPP also stressed that the Marcoses have been using their power and influence to have corruption charges against their family dismissed one by one, paving the way for the retrieval of hundreds of billions of pesos worth of stolen wealth. At least 2.3 billion of people's money are now back in the pockets of the Marcoses.

"By having his Malacañang home-resort built, Marcos erected a grave symbol of the oppression of the Filipino people," the CPP said. ▲