



EDITORIAL:

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No amount of theatrics can conceal the Dutertes' crimes vs. the Filipino people

The implosion of the Marcos-Duterte ruling coalition has become a grand political spectacle that has laid bare the rottenness of bureaucrat capitalism in the Philippine reactionary state. What began as the so-called “UniTeam” tandem of Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte has now unraveled into public bickering and shameless mudslinging. These political squabbles however, no matter how sensationalized, cannot conceal the Duterte family's crimes against the Filipino people.


Sara Duterte's profanity-laced Facebook broadcast last November 23 singled out First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, House Speaker Martin Romualdez and Marcos Jr. himself, claiming they would be the ones responsible should she get killed. By peddling this narrative, Duterte aims to distract the people from pressing governance issues plaguing her office, and the fact that her father and former president Rodrigo Duterte just admitted to mass murder during a congressional hearing on his bloody war on drugs last November 28. This melodrama however is calculated – it shifts public discourse away from the systemic corruption and incompetence of Sara herself. In this context, efforts to impeach Sara Duterte are a welcome development, as they embody the people's outcry for accountability and serve to clarify, amidst the political noise, the urgent demand for justice and genuine change.

On the other hand, Sara's public outrage is a response Marcos Jr. also tacitly allows—and even benefits from. The spectacle of their feud inadvertently redirects public attention away from his administration's glaring failures, including his criminal negligence toward typhoon victims and continuing attacks against peasant communities in the countryside.

The human cost of this political circus is profound. The country's inflation rate accelerated for the second straight month after the typhoons, eating away at the purchasing power of ordinary Filipinos, with food and fuel costs hitting unprecedented levels. The public education system remains grossly underfunded, leaving millions of Filipino children ill-equipped. The country's healthcare system, battered by the pandemic, is still in shambles, and workers are fleeing abroad in droves for better opportunities in other countries.

The infighting between the Marcos and Duterte camps is a clear indication of the worsening economic crisis. As the economic pie shrinks due to rising debt, inflation, and stagnant economic growth, the elite factions are scrambling to redivide their spoils. With the 2025 midterm elections looming, the stakes are even higher. Both camps are greedily maneuvering to secure resources for their respective “kitty funds” to maintain influence and power through vote-buying and patronage politics.

At the same time, the need to bring the Dutertes to justice for their crimes against humanity has never been more urgent. The extrajudicial killings during Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs, Sara Duterte's blatant misuse of public funds, and their brazen disregard for human rights demand urgent accountability. Marcos Jr., however, remains indecisive on whether or not to assist the International Criminal Court (ICC) in its investigation. His dilly-dallying reflects his own vulnerability, as his own administration faces mounting isolation from the masses due to its failure to address their most urgent concerns. This inaction only deepens public frustration and widens the cracks further within the ruling class.

The Marcos-Duterte split is further exposing the rotten politics entrenched in the reactionary Philippine state. It highlights the self-serving nature of those in power, who prioritize factional rivalries over the welfare of the people. For the revolutionary movement, this division presents an opportunity to advance the national democratic revolution. 

NDFP: Oppose US intervention in Venezuela

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines International Relations Office (NDFP-IRO) condemns the recent US proclamation of Edmundo Gonzales as Venezuelan president months after Maduro won the July elections, which flagrantly disregards the fresh mandate given to Maduro by the Venezuelan people and represents a direct assault on their sovereignty and independence.

“This interventionist move follows a pattern of US regime-change operations aimed at enforcing its hegemony in Latin America. Through electoral sabotage, misinformation campaigns, orchestrated street violence by mercenary “commanditos,” and efforts to incite military rebellion, the US has sought to destabilize Venezuela and delegitimize its democratically elected government,” declared the NDFP-IRO.

Under the pretext of restoring “democracy,” the US employs the Monroe Doctrine to justify these aggressive actions, rooted in its historical claim to dominate the Western Hemisphere. Such actions have escalated under successive US administrations, including the Trump regime, which imposed crippling sanctions, orchestrated a failed CIA-backed coup attempt, and declared Juan Guaidó, another US puppet, as “interim president” of Venezuela in 2019. These efforts were designed not only to unseat Maduro but to reassert US control over Venezuela's vast oil and gold reserves.

Venezuela has become the primary battleground in the US' regime-change agenda in Latin America, reflecting its desperation to maintain global dominance. Across the world, US imperialism pursues wars of intervention and aggression, provoking conflicts on multiple fronts, including Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. These acts are




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driven by its obsession to uphold a unipolar world order under its economic and political control.

Yet, the Venezuelan people and their government remain steadfast in asserting national independence. Their defiance echoes the struggles of oppressed peoples worldwide who resist US imperialist domination, fight for self-determination, and seek to reclaim control over their resources. From the Philippines to Palestine, from India to Colombia, oppressed classes and nations are rising against imperialist exploitation and intervention.

The NDFP-IRO added that, “The recent initiative of the Venezuelan government to convene a global conference against fascism and neofascism highlights the urgency of building an international united front against US imperialism. Likewise, the NDFP’s recently concluded International Theoretical Conference on National Liberation from Imperialism represents a vital contribution to efforts to build the broadest united front against US imperialism. Revolutionary forces across the globe must support such efforts to strengthen the collective resistance against imperialist wars and interventions.”

The NDFP IRO stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan people as they resist US imperialism and defend their sovereignty. Their struggle exemplifies the broader fight of oppressed nations striving for liberation from imperialist domination. 

CPP, NDFP condemn ‘fishy’ US military presence in Ayungin

On 21 November 2024, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) through its Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena, strongly condemned the US government and military for outright intervention in Philippine affairs in the South China Sea by directing naval operations in the Ayungin Shoal through the Command and Control Fusion Center (US Task Force Ayungin).

On the same day, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) through its International Office, lambasted the US for creating the Task Force Ayungin to enhance military interoperability amidst successive typhoons that devastated entire communities.

The US, through its Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III, on a visit to Palawan, admitted only on 20 November the stationing of American soldiers and military advisers in the command and control center located inside the Western Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Palawan province. This facility is among many US military facilities around the country that are not officially acknowledged under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), making their existence illegal even under Philippine laws.

This “command and control”, in military context meaning having the overarching authority to set strategic direction and command over tactical operations, strongly suggests that it is the US Pentagon and military itself that is directing the naval and maritime operations and maneuvers being conducted by the AFP and the Philippine Coast Guard in the Ayungin Shoal and the South China Sea, according to Valbuena.

In a vain attempt to diminish the impact of the revelation, the regime’s National Security Adviser Eduardo Año on 22 November told reporters the US had no “direct participation” in Ayungin resupply missions and that the US is just “helping by giving information.”




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On 22 November, the CPP said that the presence and intervention of American soldiers in internal military operations are indicators of the lack of independence in the Philippines' foreign relations and the US dragging of the Philippines in its brazen provocations with China.

Ayungin Shoal has been the center of several standoffs between the coast guards of China and the Philippines this year. The Philippines maintains the shipwrecked BRP Sierra Madre as a military outpost there. The AFP and the US have used these standoffs to justify US military intervention (through the Mutual Defense Treaty) and to rationalize the growing presence not only of the US but also of Japan, Australia, and NATO allies in the South China Sea.

The NDFP expresses solidarity with the Filipino people "...who continue to bear the brunt of successive disasters exacerbated by climate change and the inept response of the Marcos Jr. government.

The CPP concludes, "The Filipino people must protest the US Task Force Ayungin and demand the immediate removal of US soldiers and military advisers in the said command and control center, and the dismantling of all military facilities of the US in Palawan and around the country. They must also protest the newly signed General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), an agreement supposedly for 'intelligence sharing,' which will allow the existence of American spies to brazenly operate within the country. 

NPA military victories belie US-Marcos claims of 'weakening armed struggle'

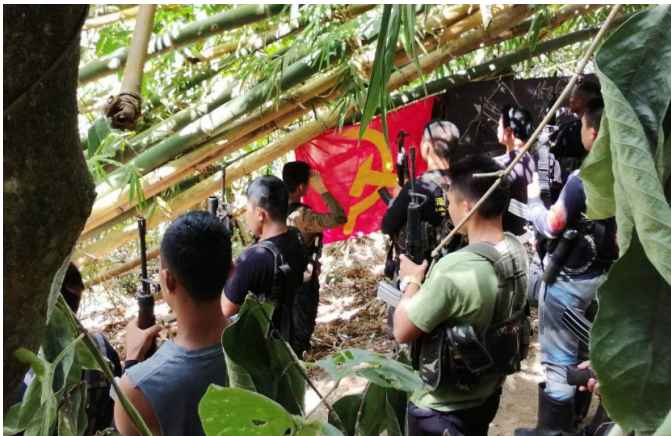


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Successive military victories carried out by various New People's Army (NPA) units across the country in October and November belie the US-Marcos regime's propaganda of supposedly 'weakening the armed struggle' of the revolutionary forces in the countryside.

Last November 22, the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) suffered at least fourteen casualties after the NPA successfully repelled a plan by the 2nd Infantry Battalion (IB) to encircle their defenses in battles in the towns of Uson and Baleno in Masbate province (southern Philippines).

In November 5 and 18 in Mindoro island, the NPA Lucio de Guzman Command delivered at least eight casualties to the fascist enemy's 76th IP and 203rd Brigade in battles in Socorro and Bansud towns in Oriental Mindoro (central Philippines). In response, the AFP turned to the civilian peasants and imposed a food blockade and lockdowns in several towns.

Last October 27, a unit of the NPA Santos Binamera Command repulsed a surprise attack by fascist terrorist troops of the 49th IB in Pio Duran town in Albay province (southeastern Luzon) as the people's army unit was temporarily stationed in a village to mobilize the masses for rehabilitation after

they suffered from the typhoons that hit the region. Two terrorist troops were killed and one wounded. To cover up for their losses and save face, Maj. Frank Roldan of 9th IDPA spread the stale lie that the terrorist soldiers were in the area to conduct relief operations. In fact, the terrorist troops were in the village since 2022 conducting combat operations and implementing the counterrevolutionary Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP).

Last October 25, the NPA West Camarines Sur (Norben Gruta Command) exploded a command detonated explosive to destroy the detachment of the paramilitary CAGU in the village of Mabini, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur province (central Philippines).

NPA units in Bukidnon and Agusan del Sur provinces (northern Mindanao region) seized an R4 rifle, a pistol, and other military equipment and supplies in two armed actions in October. On October 24, NPA Red fighters ambushed AFP terrorists operating in the village of St. Peter, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon province. Three terrorist soldiers were killed.

On October 14, the NPA attacked a 26th IB troop in the village of Binicalan, San Luis, Agusan del Sur province seizing four backpacks and military equipment from the fascists. The 26th IB terrorist forces were entering the area to attack an NPA camp. Instead, the soldiers were ambushed.

In a statement November 23, Marco Valbuena, chief information officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said: With the boundless support of the peasant and indigenous minorities of Bukidnon, a unit of the NPA staged a successful ambush against the fascist troops of the AFP last October 24 in Purok 7, Sitio Mahayag, Barangay Saint Peter, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

"The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) hails and commends the Red fighters for their bravery and guerrilla prowess. The ambush is a strong response to the people's demand for justice and an end to the AFP's reign of unmitigated terrorism in Bukidnon and other parts of the country," the CPP emphasized. 