



EDITORIAL:

## **Hold the Dutertes accountable, resist the US-Marcos regime!**

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## EDITORIAL:

**Hold the Dutertes accountable, resist the US-Marcos regime!**


Last February 5, a total of 215 lawmakers in the Philippine House of Representatives signed an impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte. While congress ultimately voted to remove Duterte from office, it is worth noting that Marcos Jr. carefully stalled and navigated the impeachment proceedings, ensuring that his administration had secured the military's loyalty and defused tensions to avoid alarming foreign investors, all under the watchful eye of his US imperialist backers. In the end however, it was not Marcos Jr.'s political calculus but the sheer force of the people's outrage that made Duterte's impeachment inevitable.

Prior to this, former President Rodrigo Duterte was convincingly exposed as enabler and participant in the heinous extra-judicial killings in his fake anti-drug war. A February 2024 poll survey showed that majority (59%) of Filipinos favor the country's return to the International Criminal Court where Rodrigo Duterte is charged with crime against humanity. In 2019 then President Duterte announced that the country left the ICC. The impeachment complaint against Sara Duterte on the other hand was based on gross irregularities in disbursing P612.5 million of her confidential funds and later on refused to cooperate in the Congressional hearings.

With this latest development in congress, the Dutertes are indeed in their weakest moment so far. The impeachment of Sara Duterte is a major political blow to one of the country's most notorious political dynasties, but the fight does not end here. While it is necessary to focus the strongest blow on the narrowest target—the Dutertes, who have built their power on brutality, corruption, and impunity—we must not lose sight of the fact that the Marcos Jr. administration is just as culpable. Marcos Jr. may have allowed Duterte's impeachment to proceed for his own political survival, but his administration remains deeply complicit in the continued suffering of the Filipino people. His economic policies favor foreign investors and the elite while leaving workers and farmers struggling under worsening conditions.

Under US imperialist guidance, the Marcos Jr. government continues to bankroll military operations that wreak havoc in the countryside, targeting activists, peasants, and national minority communities in the name of "counterinsurgency."

Marcos Jr. has also proven himself a loyal puppet of U.S. imperialism, deepening military ties through expanded bases under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and aligning the Philippines even further with Washington's geopolitical interests. This subservience ensures that foreign corporations continue to plunder the country's resources while the people are left with the burden of poverty, landlessness, and displacement.

The Duterte clique may have been momentarily weakened, but the broader system of oppression and imperialist domination remains intact. The Filipino people must remain vigilant—not only in holding the Dutertes accountable but in ensuring that Marcos Jr. and his regime also face a reckoning. The Filipino people rightfully welcome the impeachment of Sara Duterte as an initial step toward holding her accountable for corruption and removing her from office. However, the impeachment conveniently coincided with the senate's adjournment, delaying the next stage of the process. This only reinforces the need for sustained and intensified mass actions to ensure that the Senate convenes without delay, and that the impeachment court proceeds with Duterte's trial immediately. The people's vigilance and collective strength remain crucial in seeing this fight for justice unfold through to the end. 

**CPP directs NPA to protect people's interests amid reactionary elections**

With the 2025 mid-term elections closing in, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) issued a statement last January 16 directing the New People's Army to protect the Filipino people's interest and welfare amid the reactionary elections.

In a statement issued by CPP Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena, the CPP underscored how big warlords and political dynasties are locking into each other's horns as the election season brews ever closer and how it poses a great risk to the masses. "In the face of the reactionary election campaign, the CPP directs the NPA to ensure protection of people's rights and interests. Commands of the NPA at different levels across various regions must strictly enforce standing policies of the people's democratic government in relation to the conduct of the reactionary elections within their areas of operation," Valbuena stressed.

Valbuena highlights that all political candidates vying for seats are to be reminded of the revolutionary government's policies when seeking to campaign in areas within the area of operations of the NPA. Nevertheless, "these candidates and their supporters will be allowed to conduct their election campaigns in accordance with established guidelines," said Valbuena.


"Among others, politicians are prohibited from bringing armed goons and police and military escorts that usually serve to intimidate the people. Other forms of coercion, use of armed violence will not be tolerated, especially by bureaucrat capitalists who use public funds against the people. The NPA has standing orders to seize the weapons of candidates and their armed goons."



image: philippinerevolution.nu

In the statement, Valbuena also added that the NPA is directed to target AFP and PNP units, as well as armed goons of reactionary politicians, who will use the election campaign in the guerilla zones as cover for conducting surveillance operations against the Party, the NPA, the people's democratic government and the revolutionary masses.

Politicians seeking to campaign in NPA-operated areas were also reminded to inform and coordinate with local NPA units "to avoid any incidents, including confrontations between armed goons of rival politicians."

Furthermore, Valbuena condemned the AFP for using "the upcoming elections as cover for intensifying counterinsurgency operations marked by heightening political repression and reinforcing military control of rural villages." 

## Secret transfer of US Typhon missile system, condemned

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has condemned the "barefaced betrayal of the Filipino people's independence and the country's sovereignty" of the Marcos regime for "colluding with the US government and military for the secret transfer of the US Typhon missile system to an undisclosed location in the country", in a statement last January 24, 2025.

"The deployment of the US Typhon (missile) system in the Philippines is a reckless provocation against US imperialist rival China. In doing so, the US is using the country as a springboard for its military projection and expansion of hegemonic power. It is a danger to the peace and security of the Filipino people, as well as other people in the region," the CPP stressed.

It added that the Party and the Filipino people condemn Marcos and the AFP for following US dictates in declaring plans to acquire a Typhon missile system costing billions of pesos.

In previous reports, the Marcos regime and its top Armed Forces officials announced last December 23 that it was buying the Typhon missile system that reportedly costs around 500M USD (around 29B Php), an amount more than enough to build more public schools and homes, and agricultural subsidies for farmers especially those left more miserable as a result of recent natural disasters.

The Typhon Mid-range Capability (MRC) missile system has the capability to launch Tomahawk and SM-6 missiles that can fly up to 1,600 kilometers. The US began manufacturing such weapons in 2019, which were previously banned under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a nuclear treaty between the US and the then USSR signed during the Cold War. The US withdrew from this treaty in 2019.

"The Marcos regime must be condemned for acting like an American stooge in allowing the US military to dump and stockpile its weapons in the country, putting the Philippines at risk of being dragged in an inter-imperialist war that serves only the interests of US imperialism.

The Party reiterates the Filipino people's demand that the US Typhon



image: philippinerevolution.nu




missile system be immediately removed from the country as it is a magnet for attack of US imperialist rivals, including China and Russia,” the CPP said.

Progressive groups have emphasized that allowing US troops and weapons in the Philippines tramples on the country’s independent foreign policy and that the GRP constitution prohibits nuclear weapons in Philippine territory.

The Typhon missiles were brought to the country and used in the largest series of Balikatan war games early 2024. Initially concealed, the Typhon missiles have been positioned at the Laoag civilian airport in Ilocos Norte, a region undeclared as a US military base or “EDCA site”, and Bongbong Marcos’ home province.

Recently, Marcos made a bluff that he would “return” the Typhon missiles to the US if China leaves the West Philippine Sea. Critics have said that nobody buys Marcos’ bluff as it is in fact the US that holds sway over Marcos’ armed forces and dictates where and when to position its forces and weapons.

According to reports, the Philippine military has announced that some of its platoons would be trained on using the Typhon system in February this year, ahead of another round of joint exercises with US troops. 

## Gaza ceasefire agreement is a triumph for the Palestinian people - CPP



image: philippinerevolution.nu

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), on 19 January 2025, through its Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena, announced that the CPP, the New People’s Army and all the Filipino people’s revolutionary forces extend militant solidarity to the Palestinian people and their revolutionary freedom fighters, as the ceasefire agreement with Israel takes effect the same day.

Valbuena said, “The ceasefire agreement is a triumph for the Palestinian people who have remained firm in their resistance to the genocidal war waged by the Zionist state of Israel. We are certain that this victory will bolster the Palestinian people’s resolve to stand even more firmly and fight more fiercely in greater struggles in the future.”

The ceasefire agreement brings a pause to the Israel’s relentless aerial bombing and shelling of Gaza Strip over the past 460 days, killing more than 46,000 Palestinians, including close to 20,000 children. The agreement also requires Israel’s forces to withdraw from the population centers of the Gaza Strip. 2,000 Palestinian political prisoners and 33 Israeli citizens will be released. It will also allow for the entry of humanitarian aid, and allow the Palestinian people to return to their communities and rebuild their homes.

Valbuena said, “The Party congratulates the heroic fighters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other revolutionary forces of the Palestinian people. They displayed unwavering commitment to wage armed struggle against the Israeli war machine, backed by billions of dollars from the imperialist US..Let us extol all their fighters whose bravery and brilliance in fighting secured victories for the Palestinian people on both the battlefield and negotiating table. The Palestinian people and their freedom fighters showed that no amount of terrorism by the Zionist state of Israel can break their will to fight and their determination to attain their aspiration for freedom.”

Valbuena added, “We join the Palestinian people in remembering and honoring all their martyrs...and support (their) demand for justice and reparation for all the death and destruction inflicted by the Israeli state. We also support the demand that Israel’s Zionist leaders be held accountable for the war crimes and crimes against humanity, and that they be brought to trial and punished accordingly.

“We call on the Filipino people to celebrate this victory of the Palestinian people and reaffirm their commitment to support their continuing struggle for national liberation. We urge the Filipino people to stand in solidarity with all peace- and freedom-loving peoples around the world. Together, they must remain vigilant and continue to push the Zionist state of Israel to fulfill its ceasefire obligations, while also supporting the Palestinian people’s continuing resistance...The Palestinian people’s resistance for national liberation, like that of the centuries-long struggle of the Filipino people, will ultimately achieve complete victory, no matter how long it takes,” concluded Valbuena. 