



EDITORIAL:

US dumping Ukraine is a warning to the Philippine puppet state

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US dumping Ukraine is a warning to the Philippine puppet state


US president Donald Trump's blatant dumping of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky during their meeting at the White House on February 28 should serve as a warning to US lapdog Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on what US imperialism would do to its puppet states – used when convenient, abandoned when no longer needed.

On March 4, Trump declared suspension of all military aid to Ukraine, which cripples the country's capacity to continue the proxy war against Russia. In light of this, the Filipino people must realize that the US's alleged ironclad commitment to defend the country against foreign invaders is a hollow promise.

Holding on to this hollow promise from his imperialist masters, Marcos Jr. has allowed the Philippine-China maritime conflict to be used as justification in expanding the presence and military operations of American troops in Philippine soil. In addition to increasing military bases, Marcos also allowed the launching of large-scale war games, positioning of the Typhon missile system and establishment of command centers inside AFP camps.

The US has long used the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) as a carrot to give the illusion that it will back the Philippines in an event of an all-out war with China. But the US has a long history of selectively upholding or disregarding security agreements based on its shifting geopolitical interests, and the MDT is no exception. While the MDT nominally commits both nations to mutual defense, its vague language – particularly the lack of an automatic military response clause – allows the US significant flexibility in interpreting its obligations. In effect, should Washington no longer find the Philippines strategically beneficial in relation to its war provocations against China, the US can easily downplay its commitments, citing changing defense priorities or budget constraints. The upcoming Balikatan war games this year will also be exploited as yet another provocation by the US to escalate tensions with China. Under the guise of "defensive exercises," Balikatan 2025 will involve full-scale battle simulations, large-scale military drills near contested waters and promises to mobilize the largest ever deployment of American soldiers, effectively bating China into reacting aggressively. This fits the longstanding pattern of US military strategy – escalating conflict it does not intend to directly fight, while ensuring its puppet states and their peoples bear the brunt of retaliation. If an all-out war erupts, it is the Filipino people who will suffer first and foremost.

Marcos Jr.'s shameless subservience to U.S. imperialist dictates is not just a betrayal of national sovereignty—it is a direct threat to the safety and future of the Filipino people. By allowing the Philippines to be used as a pawn in Washington's escalating conflict with China, he is willingly placing the country on the frontlines of a war that serves only foreign interests. At the same time, his regime is plagued by rampant corruption, worsening poverty, and a deepening economic crisis that is crushing the masses under its weight.

But history has shown that oppression breeds resistance. As the contradictions sharpen, more and more Filipinos are rejecting this rotten system, with many choosing the path of armed struggle to fight for genuine liberation. The worsening conditions lay the groundwork for the people's war in the countryside to surge forward, advancing to new and greater heights. In the end, Marcos Jr.'s servility to U.S. imperialism will not save him—it will be his own undoing. 

CPP denounces USAID freeze as sign of deepening US crisis

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has condemned the recent decision by the Trump administration to suspend funding for US Agency for International Development (USAID) programs for 90 days, calling it a reflection of the growing political crisis in the United States. The move, the CPP asserts, is part of the new regime's broader attempt to consolidate control over the bureaucracy and reallocate resources to serve its own oligarchic interests and ultra-conservative agenda.

The CPP argues that USAID has long functioned as a tool of US imperialism, disguised as humanitarian or economic assistance but ultimately designed to maintain US global dominance. The Party denounces USAID's role in promoting neoliberal economic policies, facilitating US corporate expansion, and advancing military and security interests under the guise of foreign aid.

According to the CPP, the USAID budget—amounting to around \$30 billion in 2024—is negligible compared to the staggering \$886 billion allocated for US defense spending. In the Philippines, USAID programs have received approximately \$300 million annually since 2001, which US officials have openly described as "strategic investments" to maintain American influence in the country. The CPP highlights that this funding enables the US to exploit Philippine natural resources, maintain military presence, and secure economic privileges at the expense of Philippine sovereignty.


Beyond economic influence, the CPP asserts that USAID funding serves as a propaganda tool to present the US as a benevolent ally while obscuring its historical role in perpetuating



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poverty and underdevelopment. The Party condemns the US for using aid to push policies that keep the Philippines dependent on foreign debt, unequal trade agreements, and neoliberal economic structures that stifle genuine national development.

The CPP also denounces the hypocrisy of USAID programs that claim to promote “democracy,” “human rights,” and other causes, while the US government simultaneously provides military aid and counterinsurgency training to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). According to the Party, these programs reinforce US imperialist control by strengthening the AFP’s capability to suppress dissent and target progressive forces critical of US domination and the Marcos regime.

The Party warns that the USAID suspension is not a sign of declining US influence but a tactical move to realign US foreign policy under Trump’s aggressive pursuit of raw materials, markets, and investment opportunities. The CPP calls on all patriotic forces to expose and resist the machinations of US imperialism and strengthen the people’s movement against economic and military domination. 

Crackdown on activists amid PH exit from money laundering ‘grey list’

Various groups and activists have denounced the Marcos Jr. government’s use of the anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering laws to justify intensified crackdowns on dissent. This comes after the exit of the reactionary government from the FATF’s (Financial Action Task Force) grey list, which lists down countries that have serious deficiencies in their anti-money laundering laws.

A few weeks back, a memo from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in La Union titled “Project Exit the Greylist,” suggested that the reactionary government’s efforts to meet FATF requirements included increasing trumped up terrorism financing cases. Rights advocates argue that this has been used as a pretext for repression, with at least one case against an activist cited in the leaked document.

In a statement on February 23, the National Union of People’s Lawyers (NUPL) criticized the FATF for congratulating the Philippines without acknowledging the “rampant misuse of counterterrorism financing laws to silence dissent and criminalize civil society.”

“The surge in fabricated terrorism financing cases, arbitrary asset freezes, and instances of financial exclusion are not ‘unintended consequences’ of compliance; they are deliberate tactics used to satisfy the FATF’s mandates at the cost of human rights,” the NUPL’s statement read.


They cited the use of counterterrorism financing (CFT) regulations to target grassroots movements while failing to address large-scale corruption, illicit financial flows and money laundering through Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs).



image: philippinerevolution.nu

“The state’s eagerness to prosecute trumped-up charges of financing terrorism while ignoring financial crimes committed by politically connected elites exposes the hypocrisy of this so-called victory,” the NUPL said.

The latest targets of terrorism financing charges are five activists including peasant advocates Isabelo Adviento and Cita Managuelod, human rights worker Jackie Valencia, Makabayan-Cagayan Valley coordinator Agnes Mesina, and community journalist Deo Montesclaros. In a subpoena issued last January 10, the five were accused of supplying provisions to armed revolutionary groups in 2018. However, no sufficient evidence has been presented to support the allegations. According to Karapatan, at least 112 activists are now facing terrorism-related cases, all of which are based on weak or fabricated evidence.

Beyond targeting activists, critics point to the role of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) in red-tagging organizations and institutions, including constitutional bodies like the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). The NTF-Elcac has accused Comelec of harboring so-called communist sympathizers after the agency refused to disqualify progressive party-list groups from the upcoming 2025 mid-term elections. 

CPP, NDFP urge Filipinos to bring EDSA lessons to their rev conclusion



image: philippinerevolution.nu

On the 39th anniversary of the 1986 EDSA People Power uprising, revolutionary groups reaffirmed that the struggle for genuine freedom and democracy in the Philippines remains unfinished. Both the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) issued statements marking the occasion, calling on Filipinos to draw lessons from EDSA and push for deeper systemic change.

Elias Dipasupil, NDFP Secretary General, criticized how successive administrations have hollowed out the gains of the uprising. While the mass mobilization of millions successfully toppled the Marcos dictatorship, Dipasupil emphasized that the core issues of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism remain deeply entrenched. He called for a genuine social revolution, arguing that only a complete break from the oppressive system can achieve lasting change.

“The gains of the EDSA People Power will be realized only by bringing the uprising to its revolutionary

conclusion. Succeeding regimes have sought to trivialize, coopt, and bastardize this definitive occasion of February 1986 when millions of Filipino people united to topple the fascist Marcos dictatorship,” said Dipasupil.

The CPP echoed this sentiment, stressing that while EDSA ousted a dictator, it failed to dismantle the semi-colonial and semi-feudal system that breeds poverty, injustice, and political repression.

“The Party joins the commemoration of the 1986 EDSA uprising not only to remind ourselves of our history, but also to amplify the call to heighten the people’s resistance against the Marcos puppet and fascist regime. The Party vows to continue to mobilize and organize the masses to unite and wage resistance against the regime’s fascist policies, defend their democratic rights and fight for their urgent demands amid worsening crisis,” the CPP said.

The party honored the Filipino people’s revolutionary spirit but warned against the ruling classes’ attempts to manipulate the historical narrative for their own ends. The CPP further noted that recent years have seen intensified state repression, worsening economic conditions, and efforts to revise history to rehabilitate the Marcos name.

Both groups urged the Filipino people to carry forward the militant spirit of EDSA—not merely as a moment of peaceful protest but as an expression of revolutionary struggle. They called for collective resistance against oppression and a renewed commitment to genuine national democracy and social liberation.

As the country remembers the 1986 uprising, these statements serve as a challenge to move beyond commemorations and toward meaningful action to complete the aspirations of People Power. 