



EDITORIAL:

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Read on page 2

PH vulnerable to Trump's tariff moves amid lack of national industries (p. 2)

NPA continues to bleed state terrorist forces (p. 3)

"Buhay Gerilya" series launched to highlight lives of NPA fighters (p. 4)

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Oppose US military build up in the Philippines! Reject Balikatan!

The US is accelerating its military buildup in the Asia Pacific region, using the Philippines as a key staging ground in its strategy to encircle and provoke China. Behind the rhetoric of routine “defense cooperation” under the Balikatan war games lies a clear agenda: reassert US dominance in the region through increased military presence and the forward deployment of war materiel.


In March, it was announced that the U.S. 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) will debut as the Littoral Rotational Force-Luzon (LRF-Luzon) during Balikatan 2025. As with other US units deployed in the country, the supposed “rotational” nature of their stay masks what is effectively a permanent presence—one that violates Philippine sovereignty. Balikatan 2025 involves around 14,000 US and Filipino troops, with added participation from the Australian Defence Force and, for the first time, the Japan Self-Defense Force. Sixteen other countries, including Canada, India, Germany, and Vietnam, are expected to join the AFP-hosted international observer program, reflecting the broadening scope of US-led military maneuvers in the region.

The Balikatan 2025 will also see the deployment of NMESIS (Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System) and unmanned surface drones for US-led patrols. NMESIS is central to the US Marine Corps (USMC) reorientation toward operations in the Western Pacific. It provides Marine Littoral Regiments with the capability to deny access to key coastal areas and strategic chokepoints. This land-based, remote-controlled, and highly mobile system can launch cruise missiles with a range of up to 180 kilometers, making it ideal for use in contested maritime zones close to China's periphery.

The US had earlier announced the deployment of another battery of the Army's Typhon missile system, in addition to the one already stationed in northern Philippines. The Typhon system—also called the Strategic Mid-Range Fires System—is capable of firing Tomahawk cruise missiles and SM-6 missiles, with a strike range between 320 and 1,500 kilometers.

Further reinforcing this military buildup, on April 1, 2025, the US State Department approved a proposed \$5.58 billion Foreign Military Sale to the Philippines. The deal includes twenty F-16 Block 70/72 fighter jets along with associated weapons, equipment, and support systems.

Marcos Jr.'s collusion with his US imperialist masters is nothing short of unconscionable in the face of widespread poverty, joblessness, and landlessness gripping the Filipino masses. While millions go hungry and lack access to basic services, his regime welcomes US troops with open arms—resources that are not only meant for war preparation against China but are actively being used to terrorize the Filipino masses in the countryside. The same US-led military training and weapons provided to the AFP are deployed against farmers, indigenous communities, and activists fighting for land, justice, and self-determination. This has led to countless violations of international humanitarian law, including bombings of civilian communities, extrajudicial killings, and forced evacuations—crimes committed in the name of “peace and order,” but driven by the US-Marcos war agenda.

It is in the best interest of the Filipino people to stand firmly against the US military buildup and reject any and all attempts to use the country's legitimate maritime disputes with China as a pretext for deeper US military intervention. These disputes must be resolved through peaceful, diplomatic means—not by turning the Philippines into a pawn in an imperialist power struggle. 

PH vulnerable to Trump's tariff moves amid lack of national industries

As the global economy braces for the ripple effects of former U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed push for tariffs, Filipino nationalist group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) issued a sharp warning against potential zero-tariff negotiations with the United States.

Renato Reyes, Secretary-General of BAYAN, cautioned that the Philippines' weak and dependent economy—characterized by a lack of national industrialization and the continued decline of agriculture—would be devastated by any move toward a “zero-for-zero” tariff regime.

“The Philippines' domestic economy would be most vulnerable,” Reyes stated, pointing to the Marcos administration's failure to pursue genuine land reform and industrial development. “Our backward, agricultural and semi-feudal economy would be at the losing end of the influx of imported goods.”

Countries like the European Union, Vietnam, Israel, Taiwan, and Zimbabwe have signaled openness to reduce tariffs in mutual agreements with the U.S. However, Reyes said the Philippines should avoid being pressured into similar arrangements, arguing that it would only deepen the country's dependence on imports while damaging local industries and food producers.

For decades, the Philippines has relied heavily on an import-dependent and export-oriented economy, bolstered by OFW remittances and foreign earnings. Reyes slammed this model as unsustainable, citing the country's stagnant development under neoliberal trade policies like those pushed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

“Free trade is a myth,” Reyes said. “Many industrialized countries




image: philippinerevolution.nu

are returning to economic protectionism. Yet the Marcos regime continues to chase after foreign approval instead of protecting our domestic producers.”

BAYAN also criticized ongoing efforts to amend the Philippine Constitution to allow for more foreign ownership, calling such moves “colonial-minded” and a betrayal of national sovereignty.

“We’ve had 30 years of promises under liberalization, but we are still far from industrialization,” added Reyes.

BAYAN called for a decisive shift toward national industrialization, agrarian reform, and economic self-sufficiency—rejecting what it views as blind subservience to foreign powers.

“Marcos should not sell out the Philippines just to please Trump and get U.S. support...We must chart our own economic path—rooted in the needs and interests of the Filipino people,” Reyes concluded. 

NPA continues to bleed state terrorist forces

Amidst the call of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) for the entire revolutionary movement, particularly the New People’s Army (NPA) to forge ahead with the people’s war and overcome weaknesses, Red fighters have continued to advance and inflict significant casualties (in the period April-March) on state terrorist forces.

Last April 3, a unit of the Eduardo Dagli Command-NPA Batangas valiantly thwarted the ambush of fascist troops of the 59th Infantry Battalion of the reactionary army in a village in Rosario, Batangas province. The guerrillas skillfully maneuvered and overturned the ambush in their favor, returning fire from an advantageous position. They guerrillas were able to withdraw safely without any scars. The fascists suffered 1 dead and four wounded. The guerrillas were investigating the effects of corporate projects and the people’s complaints of human rights abuses by the fascists.

Guerrillas belonging to the Apolonio Mendoza Command in Quezon province engaged fascist troops in an encounter in Mabini village, Lopez town, Quezon. At least 3 fascist troops were killed. After the encounter, the fascist soldiers fired indiscriminately towards the village. The Roselyn Jean Pelle Command-New People’s Army of Negros Island meted revolutionary justice to Jhonhi Montoya last April 2, in Sityo Singco, Barangay Gawahon, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

The People’s Revolutionary Court found him guilty of murdering his brother and attempting to kill his mother December last year.

In Masbate province, from March 15-24, four offensive actions were launched consecutively by the Jose Rapsing Command of the NPA in connection with the 56th anniversary of the People’s Army. The Red Army carried out a combination of harassment, demolition and punishment to punish the combined forces of the military, police and CAFGU. The NPA aims to make the military and all its accomplices pay for their crimes against the Masbateno masses. The actions included the successful bombing on March 24, of the CAFGU detachment in Barangay Manlut-od, Placer. Two paramilitary fascists were killed and two were wounded.

On March 22 the Red Army burned a mixer truck of a construction company in Barangay Estampar, in the town of Cataingan for violating the rules of the revolutionary movement in Masbate. Two days earlier, comrades fired at an enemy detachment in Barangay San Vicente, Dimasalang.

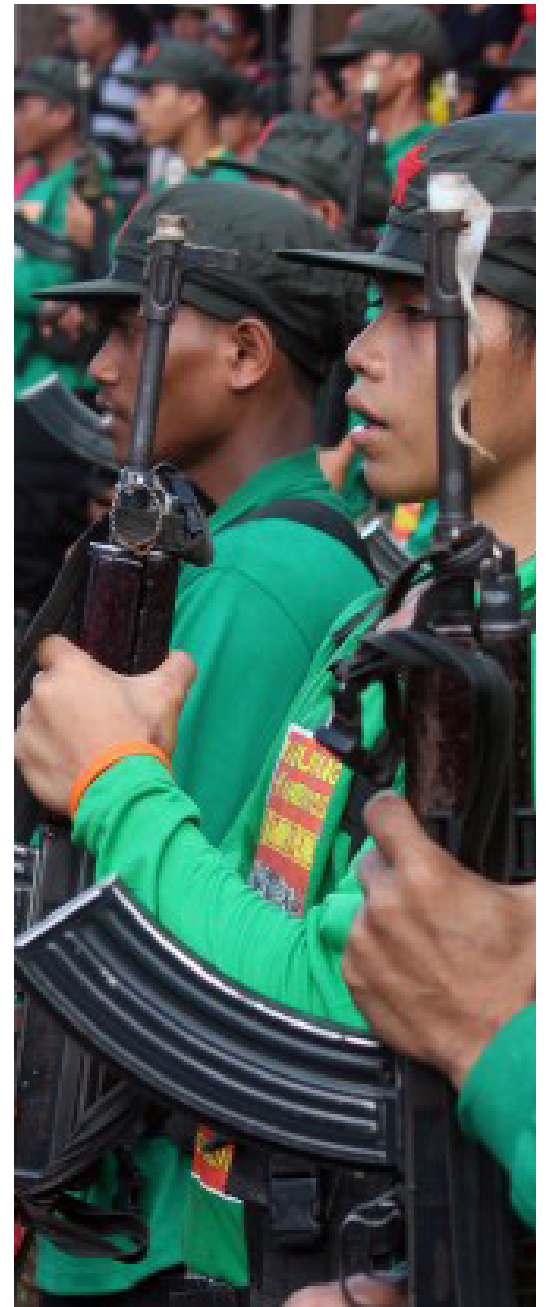


image: philippinerevolution.nu


The guerrilla command extended its deep appreciation to the Masbate masses for their great contribution to the success of the planned actions and to the Red fighters who played important roles in carrying out the tactical offensive plans against the mercenaries, police and CAFGUs.

As the first quarter of 2025 entered, the enemy's operations throughout the province were relentless and continuous. The military is scouring intensively almost every barangay they suspect of having NPA presence. The military, police, and CAFGU have intensified intimidation, threats, looting of houses and torture of civilians.

The victims of violence by the military, police, and CAFGU are happy after the offensive actions were launched and declared that only the revolutionary movement and comrades are truly providing them justice. Above all, it is the NPA that truly serves and protects their lives and livelihoods.

The Red fighters of the New People's Army-West Camarines Sur (Norben Gruta Command) bravely engaged twice fascist troops of the 81st IBPA on February 23 and 24 2025 in Barangay Baya, Ragay, Camarines Sur. The guerrillas skillfully confronted the fascists and were able to safely maneuver away from the enemy advance and encirclement. A few hours after the second battle, the military flew two helicopters and conducted a relentless strafing in the mountains of Barangay Baya not far from the people's livelihoods.

The two consecutive battles resulted in 11 deaths among the fascists, two missing and seven wounded.

Meanwhile, the Norben Gruta Command and the entire revolutionary movement gave their highest honors to Angelo "Ka Kim" Sandiego who bravely faced the highest sacrifice of serving the people during these battles. 

“Buhay Gerilya” series launched to highlight lives of NPA fighters



image: philippinerevolution.nu

The Sine Proletaryo, a video outfit under the auspices of the Information Bureau of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), on 8 April, 2025, launched the first episode of its “Buhay Gerilya”, a series which depicts the lives and struggles of revolutionary fighters and commanders of the New People's Army (NPA) and members of revolutionary organizations.

The series aims to show how the revolutionaries adhere to their principles, face the challenges in waging revolution and live their daily experiences in forging a new society.

The Sine Proletaryo collaborated with NPA-Southern Tagalog (Melito Glor Command) in featuring Comrade Kathryn. Comrade Kathryn, 32 years old, serves as a political officer of the unit. In the interview, she shared her experiences spanning over a decade on the path of armed revolution.

Comrade Kathryn narrated that when she was just a young student, she became aware of the true state of Philippine society due to the hardships caused by rising school fees the price of basic needs and commodities. She realized that as long as society undergoes no

concrete change, the youth will have no proper progress and future. She found answers to these problems in the people's army.

Comrade Kathryn first joined a three-month Tour of Duty (TOD) together with many other fellow youths. During their first immersion activities, they established dozens of organizing groups and active mass organizations in villages. It was then she realized that the revolutionary movement is establishing a people's government.

During the TOD, filled with youthful enthusiasm, she expressed her hope to experience her first military combat experience. For her, this experience would have tested her readiness to become a full-time Red fighter. But nothing happened.

Comrade Kathryn decided anyway to become full-time. She said, “I couldn't let go of that life, the joy in feeling able to help the masses, the gradual building of a new government.” She further shared that during her many years in the NPA, “life in the army is difficult but I embraced that challenge because the masses inspire me.”

Comrade Kathryn heartily answered many more questions, sometimes even jokingly, with her interviewer. Sine Proletaryo's first episode also showed some scenes of Comrade Kathryn performing kitchen duties and other responsibilities within the unit.

According to Sine Proletaryo, netizens who watched the first episode on Facebook reacted positively. “The masses appreciated the video and some even sent ‘requests’ for topics in future videos,” the group stated. The video and series of ‘Buhay Gerilya’ can be viewed on Philippine Revolution Web Central (PRWC), its archive.org account, and social media platforms. 