



EDITORIAL:

The liberation of the Filipino people remains urgent as ever

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EDITORIAL:


The liberation of the Filipino people remain urgent as ever

On the 52nd anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), we mark a renewed call to action in the face of intensifying crises. Formed in 1973 amid the fascist terror of the Marcos dictatorship, the NDFP arose as the revolutionary united front fighting for national liberation and democracy. Today, its relevance persists, rooted in the enduring exploitation, landlessness, foreign control, and elite rule that define the Philippines' semicolonial and semifeudal conditions.

The roots of the armed struggle lie in the chronic and systemic injustices that have plagued the Philippines for generations. Despite successive administrations promising reform and development, the fundamental problems of the Filipino people remain unresolved. Land remains concentrated in the hands of a few landlords, forcing millions of peasants to toil under tenancy or informal arrangements. Philippine industry is stunted by foreign monopoly capital and dependence on imported goods, leaving workers with low wages, precarious jobs, and no future. Political power remains the domain of entrenched dynasties and big comprador elites, propped up by US imperialism. The state's response to organized dissent has been red-tagging, imprisonment, torture, and murder. In this context, the people's democratic revolution ceases to become a matter of choice, but of necessity.

Central to the struggle for liberation is the task of building and strengthening Red political power in the Philippine countryside. This involves organizing the masses into NDFP-allied revolutionary mass organizations as well as establishing structures of governance that challenge the authority of the reactionary state. This also includes the implementation of genuine land reform, health programs, and the establishment of people's courts that work to empower the people and develop a self-reliant revolutionary government that operate independently of the corrupt and oppressive reactionary regime. The formation of revolutionary mass organizations therefore serve as the embryonic forms of the people's democratic government. This parallel governance challenges the authority of the reactionary state and empowers the Filipino masses to govern themselves based on their interests, not those of landlords, capitalists, or foreign powers.

The NDFP calls for broader international solidarity and the active participation of Filipino migrants in the people's democratic revolution. As millions of Filipinos are pushed abroad by economic displacement and political persecution, the revolution must expand beyond Philippine borders. Migrants, who often experience firsthand the brutality of global capitalism, are not just victims but vital agents of resistance. They can and must organize, contribute resources, and amplify the calls of the movement back home.

The NDFP stands firm in its vision of a liberated Philippine society, free from imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat capitalism. This struggle for liberation is a long and arduous journey, but the course is clear: the only way forward is through the people's democratic revolution with a socialist perspective. This is the task that lies ahead, and it is a task that the NDFP and the Filipino people will continue to carry out with unyielding determination and revolutionary spirit. 

NDFP, CPP oppose growing US network of war to ensnare China

On April 30, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines International Office (NDFP-IO) strongly opposed the "growing web of war provocations" being spun by US imperialism across the Asia Pacific. "The recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to the Philippines - following the trilateral military framework forged last year between the United States, Japan and Marcos Jr. Regime - marks another thread in this dangerous imperialist design," the NDFP said.

The NDFP also criticized the recent signing of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) between the Philippines and New Zealand on April 30. "Like the existing VFA with the United States, this new agreement with New Zealand will allow their troops to enter, stay and operate within the Philippines under the pretense of joint exercises, humanitarian missions, and disaster response," the NDFP asserted.

"But in reality, it is meant to provide a formal excuse for permanent foreign military presence serving the broader US strategy of military encirclement in Asia," the NDFP added.

According to Marco Valbuena (Information Officer of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]), "This new agreement will serve the purpose of intensifying US military operations, military exercises, and war games in Asia-Pacific surrounding China. The US is dragging more and more countries into this strategy. All these serve to exacerbate military tensions and raise the danger of igniting an armed conflict in the region."

At the same time, the CPP criticized US plans to establish a "strategic defense command" on Philippine soil. "It is clear that the establishment of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) Strategic Defense Command aims to hasten and intensify preparation

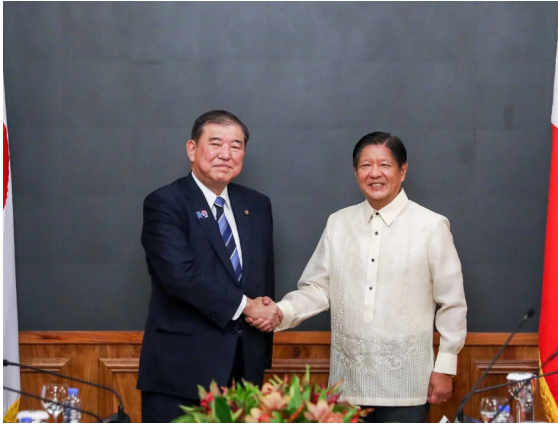



image: philippinerevolution.nu

for the US war against China”, said Valbuena. “Marcos should be denounced for betraying the Filipino people and kowtowing to the Americans.”

In a related development, on April 24, Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo confirmed that China and the ASEAN are both “politically committed” in concluding the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea by 2026. In this regard, the CPP reiterated that China must respect the 2016 ruling of the International Arbitral Tribunal, and that the maritime disputes must be resolved through dialogue and the peaceful means.

The CPP urged the Filipino people to unite among neighboring countries around the South China Sea, and called on the United Nations and other international bodies to press China’s compliance with the ruling in line with UNCLOS, to which it is a signatory and party. 

Filipino workers fight for economic, political demands on Labor Day 2025

Thousands of Filipino workers joined by the youth and students and other democratic sectors marched to the road leading to the Presidential Palace carrying demands for decent wages, decent employment, recognition of the right to freedom of association, right to unionize, respect for human rights, climate justice, and end to trade union repression and and end to political dynasties and corruption, among others.

The militant trade union movement Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU, May One Movement), stressed that the minimum wage should be raised to a living level of Php1,200 (21,56 USD) to adapt to the rising cost of living and decades of stagnant wage increases. It explained that the amount is necessary to ensure that workers earn enough for food, housing, medicine, and transportation.

The Marcos regime has refused to heed the Filipino workers’ plea for a measly addition of Php 200 (3.59USD) across-the-board increase to their starvation pay. Some 15.5 million Filipinos were suffering from hunger and poverty, according to recent surveys.

Filipino workers are not only economically oppressed, they endure political repression as well. A group of relatives and friends of political prisoners, called for the immediate release of 32 political prisoners from the labor sector who are union organizers and unionists who are imprisoned for fabricated cases because they are fighting for decent work, fair wages, and other labor rights.

According to the group, of the 32 political prisoners, 16 are members of the Kilusang Mayo Uno; 9 are from the island of Negros with 7 of them members of the National Federation of Sugar Workers; 3 are from Courage; and the rest are from other labor organizations. There are currently 748 political prisoners in the Philippines. Other trade unionists and workers have been victims of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances perpetrated by state terrorist forces.

Militant Filipino migrant workers in several countries abroad have joined with other working class peoples and migrants of other nationalities in

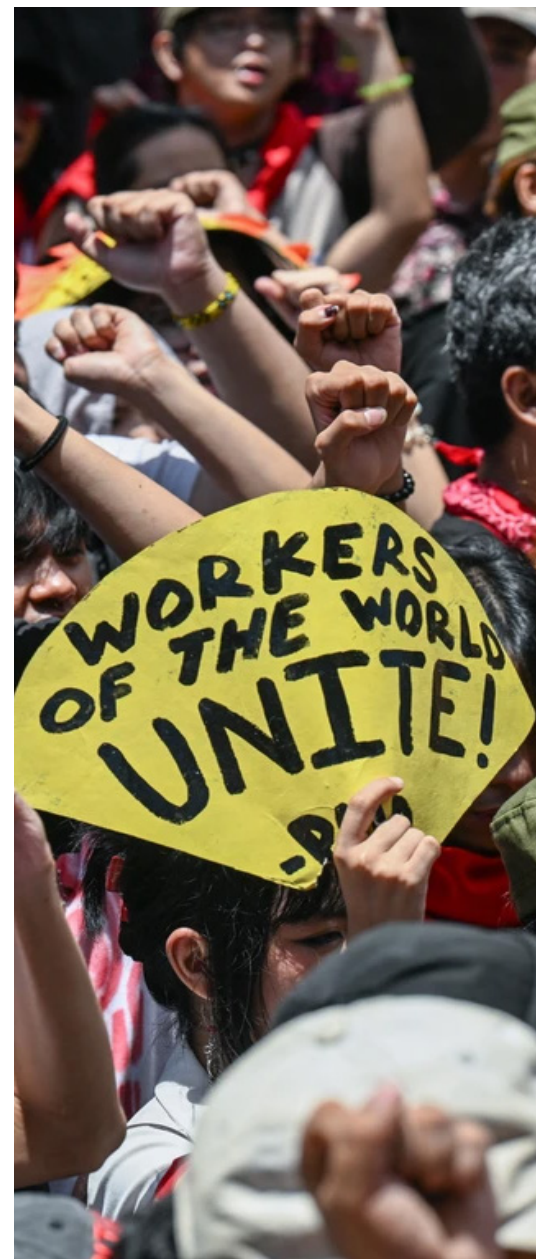



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commemorating May One and echoing the global call for decent wages, regular employment and job security and a stop to repression, fascism and imperialist-instigated wars. About ten percent of the Philippine population of about 15 million are overseas to escape poverty, job insecurity and political repression in the Philippines.

In a message to the Filipino workers and people on May One, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) stressed that along with their union struggles, the political consciousness of the working masses must be raised, and their collective actions must be focused on exposing and resisting the anti-worker, anti-poor, fascist and pro-foreign policies and programs of the ruling US-Marcos regime.

The CPP called on the Filipino working class to place their ranks at the forefront of the people's struggles to push for the increase in the minimum wage and salaries of employees, against the corruption of the ruling regime, against fascist crimes, against the relentless increase in the price of commodities, against the reckless importation of rice, against the Balikatan and the war games of the US, against the puppetry of the Marcos regime to its imperialist master, as well as, in solidarity with the Palestinian people against the genocide of the Zionist state of Israel. Workers must resound the call for genuine land reform and national industrialization and the cry for national democracy.

The CPP said that the popularization of the study of the Party Constitution and the Program for the People's Democratic Revolution, will "teach the working masses that the ultimate solution to the hardships and suffering of the people is the end of the semicolonial and semifeudal system. They must be shown that while strikes and other forms of collective action are important to fight for the interests and welfare of the workers and the people, armed struggle is necessary as the main form of resistance to overthrow the ruling classes and their power based on armed suppression of the people".

The Party further called on the current generation of workers, especially young workers, to go to the countryside and join the New People's Army, as the main embodiment of the basic alliance of workers and peasants, who constitute the majority of the Filipino people. The mass participation and leadership of the working class in the people's war, the CPP emphasized, is crucial in the effort to strengthen the NPA's ability to crush the enemy piece by piece, and to build the people's democratic government step by step. 

CPP condemns US involvement in Aurora, Quezon military ops



image: philippinerevolution.nu

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) through its Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena, on 25 April 2025, strongly condemned the US-Marcos regime for gross violations of Philippine sovereignty in allowing American troops to join counter-guerrilla operations in the provinces of Aurora and Quezon provinces.

Local units of the New People's Army (NPA) reported that American soldiers were seen together with troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducting "clearing operations" in Umiray, Dingalan, province of Aurora in the first week of April. These military operations cover wide interior areas from Dingalan to General Tinio in the province of Nueva Ecija, causing grave hardships for the residents who have been prohibited from working on their fields and swidden farms.

American soldiers were also sighted a few days ago joining AFP troops conducting counterinsurgency

patrols in the towns of Lopez, Gumaca, Macalelon, General Luna and Catanauan in the province of Quezon.

Valbuena pointed out, "The direct involvement of American soldiers in local counter-guerrilla operations of the reactionary armed forces is a brazen violation of Philippine sovereignty, and a dangerous escalation of US military intervention in the country's internal affairs and domestic conflict."

The CPP condemned Marcos and his officials for allowing Philippine sovereignty to be trampled with impunity by the US military right inside Philippine territory. "They are quick to denounce China for its increasing presence in the South China Sea and the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, but are timid when giant American warships sail through the country's territorial waters and inter-island channels."

The CPP exhorted the Filipino people to demand a stop to US meddling, which in the past has led to full-scale military interventions such as during the wars in Korea and Vietnam. "We call on the Filipino people to expose and condemn the US government and military for stoking local counterinsurgency operations against patriotic forces, and for continuing to supply the Marcos fascist regime with weapons, fighter jets and 500-lb bombs used to terrorize the Filipino people." 