



EDITORIAL:

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EDITORIAL:

Let the ruling classes tremble at the sight of the fighting Filipino masses


The streets of the Philippines have erupted once more in a historic show of force that saw over a hundred thousand people march in what has become the largest protest under the Marcos Jr. regime. The September 21 demonstrations was a massive show of the people's rightful outrage against corruption in the reactionary state. What began as indignation over corruption-laden flood control-projects has swelled into a mass movement against bureaucrat capitalism: a collective reckoning with a political system that has long treated public office as private business. Students and young people have again surged to the frontlines. From the campuses of Manila to regional universities, thousands walked out of their classrooms, linking arms with workers, farmers, and the urban poor. Their chants and placards carried not only anger but analysis. They understand that corruption is not simply an act of a few politicians, but the symptom of a system rooted in bureaucrat capitalism.

Their militancy recalls the proud legacy of Kabataang Makabayan (KM), the revolutionary youth organization founded in 1968 that helped ignite the First Quarter Storm against the Marcos fascist dictatorship. Similar to the fiery legacy of KM, this generation of youth knows that the rot of corruption is inseparable from the broader system of bureaucrat capitalism which represents the marriage of big landlords, big comprador bourgeoisie, and bureaucrat capitalists who use the state as their personal fiefdom and in service to US imperialist interests. Outside the Philippines, the fire of protest has spread among overseas Filipinos. In cities from Amsterdam to Hong Kong, from Los Angeles to Doha, migrants and Filipino expats have joined coordinated demonstrations denouncing the same corruption that drove many of them abroad. Their anger is rooted in experience: they labor under harsh conditions, send billions in remittances home, only to watch the wealth they produce siphoned off by corrupt politicians and their cronies.

The upsurge of protests at home and abroad has shaken the ruling classes because it signals a shift from outrage to an organized force capable of ousting them from power. In response, the Marcos Jr. regime deployed thousands of police to harass and inflict violence against demonstrators, and to red-tag youth organizers.

What frightens the ruling classes is not simply the number of people protesting in the streets but the direction of their fury. These protests are not pleading for reform but pointing toward transformation and system change. They now understand that corruption cannot simply be "fixed" without dismantling the semifeudal and semicolonial conditions that breed it. Once again, the specter of people's power haunts the halls of Malacañang. But unlike the past, the people now recognize that merely changing leaders will not end their suffering.

So let the Philippine ruling classes tremble, for the fighting Filipino masses are at their gates. The youth are marching, the workers are organizing, the peasants are rising. The massive protests of September 21 are not the end, they are just the beginning of a new chapter in the Filipino people's struggle to break free from the grip of bureaucrat capitalism, feudalism and US imperialism.

The Marcos Jr. and Duterte ruling cliques may still sit in Malacañang, but the ground beneath them is shaking. 

Groups decry police brutality in Mendiola protests

Human rights group Karapatan condemned the repeated violence, physical assault, and abuse against detainees arrested on September 21 at the Manila Police District (MPD). The group called for an immediate independent investigation and accountability of the perpetrators of these abuses.

According to reports gathered by Karapatan-NCR (National Capital Region), the police are subjecting the detainees to forced labor, extortion in exchange for not being harmed, and threats for confessing to crimes they did not commit. Even persons with disability (PWD) in detention suffer from police cruelty.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) expressed dismay over the 'violent response' of cops during the clash with protesters in Mendiola on September 21.

"Bayan deplors the violent response of the police in handling the young protesters in Mendiola. In some videos circulating on social media, the police were aggressively arresting and dispersing young protesters," Bayan said in a statement.

Bayan further criticized the police's response saying, "So much public resources are spent on security yet the police could not respond to the situation in a restrained and organized fashion. Aside from showing empathy for the sentiments of the youth and ordinary Filipinos... the police could have exercised maximum tolerance."

A few altercations, involving stone-throwing at cops, and ignition of nearby objects, around the vicinity Mendiola ensued after a program against corruption was held near Malacañang Palace.


Bayan claimed that the confrontation in both the Ayala Bridge and Mendiola involved young protesters, and revealed that at least 12 members of the organization were reportedly arrested.

The worst case of police brutality is the killing of Eric Saber, a construction worker who was hit by the indiscriminate firing on young protesters last September 21.



image: philippinerevolution.nu

The group recorded police beating and covering the head of PWD Edzel Santos with a plastic bag. Meanwhile, other PWDs including Alexis Bisuyo and Alvin Karingal endured intense interrogation and mental torture. Karingal has been singled out for gaining social media support after becoming known as “fishball boy.”

The total number of arrests reached more than 216, with over 100 still detained. They were charged with multiple cases. 

Guerillas continue to frustrate military attacks, NPA-ST appoints new spokes

On September 27, a unit of the New People's Army (NPA)-Western Samar (Arnulfo Ortiz Command) engaged 8th ID (Infantry Division) fascist troopers conducting focused and sustained military operations (FSMO) in Sitio San Pedro, Barangay Poblacion 3, San Jose de Buan, Samar. With high alertness and guerrilla readiness, the people's army's attack killed one soldier and injured several other fascist troops.

“The masses and the NPA in Western Samar are determined to confront and continue to frustrate the state's fascist terrorism and advance the people's war,” the unit said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the NPA-Mindoro (Lucio de Guzman Command) frustrated attempts of the 203rd IBde and the 2nd CMO Battalion troopers' attack on the guerrillas temporary camp in Sitio Badyang, Barangay San Roque, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro on October 1 by engaging them in a firefight. NPA-Mindoro spokesperson Ka Madaay Gasic said the military denied the battle took place in order to conceal its unjust large-scale combat operations amid the suffering of the people who were just devastated by a recent typhoon.

Since August, the 203rd IBde has suffered continuous losses and damage against NPA-Mindoro units' active defenses against their attacks.

Earlier, NPA-Mindoro successfully defended against the 203rd IBde forces' attack in Sityo Barayong, Barangay Manuol, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro on September 25 killing three 203rd IBde soldiers and wounding several other fascists. “No amount of concealment can cover the 203rd Brigade's casualties,” Ka Madaay Gasic said. He reported that the Mindoro peasant masses and Mangyan indigenous peoples expressed their praises and celebration over the strike against the 203rd IBde.

Last October 3, the NPA-Southwest Negros (Armando Sumayang Jr) raided the house of 15th IB intelligence asset Garde Francisco in Sityo Lumbia, Barangay Kamansi, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental and punished him for having committed numerous crimes against the revolutionary movement and the Filipino people.


Francisco was instrumental in the killing of National Democratic Front (NDF)-Negros peace consultant Ericson Acosta, and his fellow peasant leader Joseph Jimenez in Sityo Makilo, Barangay Kamansi, Kabankalan City on November 30, 2022.

In related news, NPA-Southern Tagalog (Melito Glor Command) and the Office of the Regional Spokesperson (ORSP) has announced in September the appointment of former NPA-Quezon (Apolonio Mendoza Command) spokesperson Ka Cleo del Mundo as the regional revolutionary army's official spokesperson and representative.

Ka Cleo is the command's fifth spokesperson after the late Ka Roger (1992-2000), Ka Bart (2001-2009), followed by Ka Diego (2016-2019), who is currently imprisoned, and Ka Armando Cienfuego. As a female commander of the



image: philippinerevolution.nu

people's army, Ka Cleo will also symbolize the invaluable and important role of Filipino women in the armed struggle. Ka Cleo has served as the voice of the people's army and revolutionary people in Quezon for over a decade. During her tenure as provincial spokesperson, she responded sharply and promptly to various issues during the past Aquino II and Duterte regimes, and the current Marcos regime. 

Peace forum with NDFP held at European Parliament



image: philippinerevolution.nu

A forum on the “The Quest for Just and Lasting in the Philippines” was held at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels, Belgium last September 24, 2025. Sponsored by the Left Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Pernando Barrena of E.H. Bildu, the forum provided a platform for open discussion on the issue of peace in the Philippines. Several offices of members of the European Parliament, diplomats, human rights advocates, organizations of the Filipino diaspora, church people, and solidarity friends of the Filipinos people attended the Forum.

MEP Barrena welcomed the participants and expressed solidarity with the Filipinos struggle against structural injustices and oppression.

He was followed by IBON Foundation founder and renowned Filipino activist Antonio Tujan Jr., who spoke on the acute crisis in the Philippines as the basis of the widespread unrest and repression which is the reason for conditions of unpeace in the Philippines. He also stressed the importance of lasting peace in the Philippines in relation to the aspirations for regional and global peace amidst the US warmongering against China.

Cristina Palabay of the Philippine Human Rights Alliance KARAPATAN, discussed the impunity of human rights violations of the brutal Duterte presidency and the continuing repressive policies under the present Marcos Jr. regime. She said that, “It is not true that under Marcos Jr. the human rights situation is better. He uses the same playbook as previous regimes which stifles dissent. Extra-judicial killings, abductions, and bombings of communities suspected of supporting the New People’s Army (NPA) continue. De facto martial law is imposed in the countryside.”


National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Peace Negotiating Panel member Coni Ledesma explained that the root causes of revolution in the Philippines should be addressed to achieve a just

and lasting peace. She elaborated on the history of decades of peace negotiations between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and NDFP, which produced the several important agreements, including The Hague Declaration and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

As she ended her speech, Coni Ledesma suggested that perhaps the European Parliament could pass a resolution to support the peace process in the Philippines. In the past, two resolutions on the peace had been passed by the European Parliament.

Ms. Ledesma concluded her speech by saying, “While achieving just and lasting peace the Philippines seems like a dream, it is a dream worth fighting for.” Senator Gorka Elejabarrieta of the Spanish Parliament expressed his support for the Filipinos struggle for freedom and democracy. He shared his insights on the lessons of the Basque national liberation movement in achieving a lasting peace. He noted the significance of the fact that the Royal Norwegian Government (RNG), is the Third Party Facilitator in the peace negotiations between the GRP and the NDFP.

During the open forum that followed, discussions on how to engage the European Parliament and other global institutions were brought up. The issues of Marcos Jr’s violations of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the electoral process in the Philippines were also discussed.

MEP Fernando Barrena’s words of encouragement echoed the audiences thoughts. “The peace process effort is fragile but encouraging. With the help of the international community, a political way out of the conflict could guarantee the respect of the fundamental rights of all the people. This conference hopes to be a contribution towards peace with justice in the Philippines.” 

Ka Joma's legacy immortalized in new museum dedicated in his honor



image: philippinerevolution.nu

A museum dedicated to honor the life and works of the late founding chairperson of the CPP, Jose Maria “Ka Joma” Sison, was formally opened on 19 September in Utrecht, The Netherlands. The museum will generate curiosity among generations to come and is cherished to inspire all to learn from Joma’s life and legacy, stressed Joma’s comrade-wife Julie de Lima during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. She was assisted by Utrecht City Council representative and member of the Dutch political party Bij1, Ms. Noura Oul Fakir. Dr. Mario Fumerton, assistant-professor at the Center for Conflict Studies in the University of Utrecht said Professor Sison showed strong enthusiasm to discuss with young Dutch people and students about the Philippine struggle, and the need for social change, when asked about his impression of Sison, whom he would often invite to speak to his classes at the university.

“Sison was well-loved and respected by the Filipino migrant community in the Netherlands,” shared F. den Hollander, a Dutch artist and long-time solidarity activist.

Young and old solidarity activists, admirers, comrades and friends were treated to a guided tour of the museum during the inauguration of the museum. Some highlights of the exhibit were the showing of select videos of Sison’s last interviews, and a glimpse into a rare photo showing Sison and wife Julie in a group photo with China’s Mao Zedong and other distinguished international guests during the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Yanan Forum in the People’s Republic of China in 1967.

The JMS Legacy Foundation, which manages the museum, said, it “provides a unique opportunity to take a glimpse into the life of Ka Joma as an ardent

revolutionary, committed internationalist, respected public intellectual, and distinguished poet. Through rarely-seen photos, documents, and belongings, the museum weaves together the history of the heroic Filipino people’s struggle with the life of one of its most dedicated proponents, encouraging participants to engage with Ka Joma’s life story and reflect on how every individual has the opportunity to change the world”.

Ka Joma’s lifelong works, stated the Foundation, not only changed the course of Philippine history as it pertains to the Filipino people’s struggle for national and social liberation but also continues to inspire and influence progressive and revolutionary movements around the world. Sison follows in the footsteps of such great Marxist thinkers and leaders as Lenin and Mao whose theoretical works and revolutionary practice had transformed not only their own countries but changed the course of history, the Foundation emphasized.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) Central Committee in its tribute to Joma Sison on his passing on December 16, 2022 declared him as “among the greatest of Filipinos of the past century for masterfully and creatively applying Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to the Philippines and the Philippine revolution, and giving the Filipino people the strength to carve the country’s future and attain their aspirations for national freedom and democracy”.

The JMS Legacy Museum in Utrecht is open for walk-ins and guided tours with regular hours starting in October. Interested individuals and groups may organize private tours upon request to the JMSLF.

Please visit <https://josemariasison.com/> 