



EDITORIAL:

Reject US Task Force Philippines

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About a year ago, US military officials created Task Force Ayungin, a unit purportedly to assist in the “resupply” operations for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ship BRP Sierra Madre which was deliberately stranded at Ayungin Shoal in the West Philippine Sea. The US has been providing military equipment and other necessary resources, as well as aerial and satellite surveillance support. In short, the AFP’s “resupply missions” are maritime operations directly commanded and controlled by the US military. Then, on October 31, 2025 during the Asean Defense Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, with second fiddler Philippine Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr, announced the formation of the Task Force Philippines, under the US Indo-Pacific Command. This is based on the concept and operations of the Task Force Ayungin, and aimed at directing the AFP’s “external defense” operations from the South China Sea to the Luzon Strait against alleged “coercive and aggressive” actions by China in the region.

The Communist Party of the Philippines condemned the formation of Task Force Philippines as the latest ploy of the imperialist US and is a clear indication of higher levels of intervention in the country. It serves the framework of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy aimed at surrounding its imperialist rival, China, and preventing its growing military and economic power.

“For many years now, the US has been exploiting and exacerbating the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China, in order to justify the use of the Mutual Defense Treaty and other unequal military agreements to strengthen its military presence in the Philippines. It has established at least nine US military bases recognized under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).”


There are more unacknowledged bases and facilities of the US across the country, including an AFP facility on Mavulis Island in Batanes, bases in Ilocos Norte, Aurora, Quezon, Mindoro, Panay, and various parts of Palawan. These facilities are staffed by American officials and soldiers or are equipped with weapons like the Typhon missile system and other powerful weapons. The US also plans to establish ammunition, drone, and other weapon manufacturing sites in the country. Additionally, there are plans for the US to set up a refueling depot in the vast waters of Davao Gulf.

To facilitate countries allied with the US to utilize the maritime and land territories of the Philippines for US-led military operations, Marcos Jr and his predecessors have entered into “visiting forces” agreements with Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and now, Canada.

On November 2, DND Secretary Teodoro Jr and Canadian Defense Minister David McGuinty signed the Philippines-Canada Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA). It also allegedly affirms the earlier Defense Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding signed in January 2024 between the two armed forces and governments.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) condemned the governments of the Philippines and Canada for signing the SOVFA. Bayan asserted that the agreement allows Canadian troops to enter and leave Philippine territory to take part in war games and other types of activities that, according to Bayan, trample on the country’s national sovereignty.

The International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) likewise condemned this agreement. ICHRP said that the agreement “is purported to ‘ensure peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific’. It will do the opposite, and further heighten tensions between the USA and China in the South China Sea.” It called on the government of Canada to uphold an independent foreign policy, to terminate the SOVFA, and to use its diplomacy and influence to call for a just peace in the Philippines.

There is an urgent need for the Filipinos to unite and prevent the US from provoking war and dragging the Philippines into conflict with China. Dismantle all US military bases and send home all interventionist forces. 

CPP calls for ending reign of thieves by revolution

In the aftermath of Zaldy Co’s expose implicating President Marcos Jr. in the current widespread corruption scandal, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) calls for ending the reign of thieves through revolution.

The CPP declared that, “Zaldy Co is a thief who has amassed wealth from bureaucrat capitalism while holding the reins of the congressional appropriations committee in most of the years since 2016—both under Duterte and Marcos. Like all the lower rung bureaucrat capitalists, Zaldy Co could only have carried out his large-scale plunder of the people’s money since 2016, with the direct authorization from the top of Malacañang—Duterte then, Marcos now”.

As of this writing, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin and Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman -- named as operators of Marcos Jr. in corruption in Co’s expose -- resigned, purportedly for “delicadeza” but definitely aimed at deflecting accountability of Marcos Jr..

On a similar note, the militant Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives said it considers the statements of former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co as a “damning exposé that directly implicates President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., (former) House Speaker Martin Romualdez, and other high-ranking officials in the systematic corruption of our national budget through massive illegal insertions.”

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) and other progressive groups demanded President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte’s resignation.

BAYAN chairperson Teddy Casino in a press conference on Monday said the top two elected officials of the country are both corrupt and should be made to resign.

He said they reject constitutional succession frameworks as top government officials are involved in the festering corruption scandal in government.




image: philippinerevolution.nu

To replace them, BAYAN called for the creation of a national transition council that will temporarily govern the country as a democratic civilian authority, rejecting military involvement in the proposed body.

Personalities to compose the council may come from judiciary, congress and political groups with no involvement in corruption, he added.

The former Bayan Muna lawmaker said details of the formation of the council must be discussed with other political forces, citing EDSA I and II as well as suggestions of a transition council to replace the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo government as historical lessons.

"Details will be threshed out in discussions in the next weeks. But first, Marcos and Duterte must go," he said.

As massive anti-corruption protests are ongoing, a transition council must already be discussed for accountability and justice to be achieved, Casino further said. 

Pressure mounts as Filipino migrants face escalating exploitation, detention, and deportations

Across Europe, North America, and Asia, Filipino migrant workers are facing escalating attacks ranging from labor exploitation and medical neglect in detention to aggressive deportation campaigns, sparking growing outrage among migrant rights groups.

In the Netherlands last October 27, the controversy over the 11 Filipino cleaners recruited by luxury gym chain Saints & Stars continues to deepen after the Openbaar Ministerie (OM) or the Dutch Prosecutor's Office decided not to pursue criminal labor-exploitation charges against the employer. The workers were lured from the Philippines and other parts of Europe with promises of decent jobs, only to face 17-hour workdays, passport confiscation, overcrowded housing, and physical abuse.

Migrante Netherlands in a protest action last November 14, slammed the OM decision as a dangerous precedent: "this tells employers they can exploit migrants with impunity." The Philippine government has responded with a "no comment" to the OM decision, which caught the ire of many for its systematic neglect of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) facing distress.

Meanwhile, in the United States, two Filipino detainees, known publicly as Kuya G and Tita Rebecca, have become emblematic of deepening humanitarian concerns in immigration detention facilities.

At the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington, Kuya G was forced to return to ICE custody right after being discharged from St. Joseph's Medical Center, where he was recovering from a toe amputation and other ongoing health issues. Migrante USA say the forced return to detention jeopardizes his life. Migrante USA also criticized the Philippine Consulate for its false promises and inaction on Kuya G's case.


In Georgia's Stewart Detention Center, 71-year-old green card holder "Tita Rebecca" continues to suffer gross medical neglect, including worsening kidney disease and repeated denial of essential medications.

Last November 5, more than 25 Filipino seafarers waged a protest action in front of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) demanding justice after they were forcibly deported from the US without due process. According to Migrante International, "their visas were unjustly revoked and now they have lost their livelihood and jobs. The Philippine government did not defend the, did not provide legal assistance or support."

In Japan, the government's controversial Zero Illegal Foreign Residents Plan is accelerating deportations at unprecedented rates. Deportations more than doubled in the first quarter of implementation, including at least 14 Filipinos, raising alarms that migrants, asylum seekers, and overstayers are being targeted



image: philippinerevolution.nu

in an increasingly xenophobic climate. Migrante Japan in a public demonstration against the said plan last November 16 said that the Zero Plan is “based on the assumption that undocumented migrants and refugees are considered undesirables and causes fear among the people. Worse, migrants are falsely accused as being the reason for the rise in criminality.” 

CPP calls on solidarity groups to expose US-Marcos counterrevolutionary war



image: philippinerevolution.nu

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has urged international solidarity organizations to help expose before the global public the psywar operations, human-rights violations, and political repression being carried out by the Marcos regime and its armed forces. In an interview with the Friends of the Filipino People in Struggle (FFPS), CPP Chief Information Officer Marco Valbuena emphasized that information campaigns abroad can pressure foreign governments to withdraw support for the regime's counterrevolutionary war.

The CPP said solidarity groups can highlight how military repression and so-called “development projects”—including mining, plantations, and energy ventures—intensify land grabbing and worsen the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities. Such exposure strengthens the struggles of areas placed under de facto military rule.

Valbuena noted that Marcos Jr.'s claim that there are “no more guerrilla groups” has backfired, as the New People's Army (NPA) continues to launch tactical offensives, conduct counter-maneuvers, and preserve its forces despite relentless AFP operations. He said most NPA units have maintained secrecy and mobility, while others have broken encirclement through the help of local peasant masses. The NPA is also expanding and consolidating its mass base, reopening old guerrilla zones and entering new ones, with communities welcoming their return.

The CPP warned that the AFP has intensified psychological warfare to project military superiority and discourage resistance. This includes news blackouts, bribery of media outlets, social-media manipulation, and the formation of specialized psywar units. Major platforms' labeling of revolutionary forces as “dangerous organizations” further contributes to censorship, forcing the movement to use alternative

accounts and explore platforms like Telegram and Discord.

Addressing the regime's use of new warfare technologies such as drones, cyber tools, and AI, the CPP stressed that while these have inflicted damage, AFP troops have become overly reliant on equipment that often fails in guerrilla conditions. The NPA, it said, continues to adapt by improving security protocols and counter-surveillance measures.

Complementing these strategic assessments, field-level reports from Ang Bayan provide concrete examples of recent tactical offensives carried out by the NPA. On October 27, the NPA-South Central Negros (Romeo Nanta Command) launched a harassment operation against the 94th Infantry Battalion (IB) in Sitio Cantupa, Himamaylan City, wounding at least two government soldiers. AFP troops responded with indiscriminate fire, including machine guns and M203 rounds. Notably, a separate incident in Negros involved the reported surrender of 15 intelligence assets from the 15th IB to the NPA-Southwest Negros unit, accepted under the condition that they had not committed abuses against civilians.

In the Visayas, the NPA-Leyte (Mt. Amandewin Command) ambushed 14th IB forces in Javier town on October 15, firing from close range and reportedly inflicting multiple casualties. In retaliation, the AFP imposed a hamlet or “lockdown” in Barangay Caraye, restricting civilian movement and agricultural activity. The 14th IB and 802nd Brigade also attempted to downplay their defeat by fabricating claims of recovered firearms and circulating staged photographs online.

Ultimately, the CPP asserted that the decisive factor in the conflict is the support of the masses, whose participation in guerrilla warfare outweighs any technological superiority of the US-backed AFP. 