



EDITORIAL:

Only the national democratic revolution can end bureaucrat capitalist rule

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Only the national democratic revolution can end bureaucrat capitalist rule

The crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal ruling system is quickly reaching a breaking point. As contradictions among the reactionary factions sharpen, both the Marcos clique and the Duterte camp now find themselves increasingly cornered, isolated, and exposed before the Filipino people and the world.


The exposé by Zaldy Co only affirms what the masses have long known: that Marcos Jr directly benefited from congressional insertions tied to corruption-ridden infrastructure projects. This regime, already notorious for its utter incompetence and flagrant extravagance, is once again unmasked as a machinery of plunder. Marcos Jr has grown desperate to secure the favor of his imperialist masters.

To keep himself afloat, Marcos Jr has surrendered national sovereignty piece by piece by signing one military agreement after another. The most recent Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with Canada and the formation of the US “Task Force Philippines” represent nothing less than the wholesale subordination of the country to US military control. In exchange for US protection and patronage, Marcos Jr has transformed the archipelago into a forward base of US imperialist war, placing the Filipino people directly in harm’s way as the US continues to provoke China into an impending war.

The incompetence of the Marcos Jr regime is equally exposed by the devastation caused by consecutive typhoons and earthquakes in recent months. Relief has been slow, insufficient, or altogether absent forcing ordinary Filipinos to fend for themselves while officials pose for cameras and trade accusations on national media. This deliberate abandonment of disaster-stricken communities exposes the Marcos Jr regime as utterly detached from the people and deepening in its isolation from the masses.

Meanwhile, the Dutertes are scrambling to exploit the chaos and regain lost ground. They rally their own political machinery, hoping that the people can again be fooled, but they badly miscalculate. Rodrigo Duterte remains detained despite the sham theatrics portraying him as a frail old man, a ploy meant to manufacture sympathy and obscure accountability. At the same time, the Dutertes are far from exempt in the unfolding corruption scandals. The stench of their thievery has likewise been exposed in the anomalous flood-control projects in Davao City under Paolo Duterte’s term as mayor between 2020 to 2022, revealing how deeply they, too, have dipped their hands into public coffers. With an ICC arrest warrant closing in on Bato dela Rosa and former allies breaking ranks, the Duterte camp is rapidly sinking into isolation.

But the Filipino people are not condemned to choose merely between factions of their oppressors. The deepening crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal system only underscores that no faction of the ruling class can or will resolve the suffering of the people. The moment demands the necessity of waging the national democratic revolution, dismantling the machinery of the reactionary state, and establishing a people’s democratic government.

As conditions worsen amid spiraling poverty, landlessness, government neglect during times of disasters, the massive theft of public funds, and growing repression, more and more Filipinos are choosing the path of armed resistance. As the legal democratic mass movement surges, so too must the strength of the underground revolutionary forces. The New People’s Army must continue building widespread mass bases in the countryside, carrying out agrarian revolution, fighting for land, and dismantling the landlords’ stranglehold over the countryside. The only genuine path out of this political circus and the end of bureaucrat capitalism, is the advance and eventual victory of the national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective. 

Alternative program to replace Marcos-Duterte presented

The political coalition Makabayang Koalisyon ng Mamamayan (Makabayan) presented an alternative program that, it says, aims to replace the rotten system prevailing in the country. Amid the continuing exposure of the widespread corruption involving the Marcos-Duterte regime, the coalition announced the “Program for National Democracy” at a press conference on November 22.

Makabayan stated that Filipinos are now seeking beyond the superficial or temporary, but for systemic and long-term solutions. “People can no longer rely on politicians who keep robbing and deceiving us. Not Marcos, not Duterte, or politicians like them,” said Makabayan.

As an alternative to the rotten system and politics, the coalition laid out an eight-point program that will promote meaningful economic and political change. The program contains the following:

1. Power to the people! Fight for a nationalist government! End the rule of foreigners and the few, dismantle political dynasties, and hold corrupt and abusive officials accountable. Abolish the pork barrel system and the roots of government corruption. Attain genuine people’s power, especially for workers, peasants, the poor, indigenous peoples, the youth, women, and other oppressed sectors.

2. Nationalist economy, end poverty! Promote national development based on genuine land reform and national industrialization. End foreign dictates in the economy and prioritize Filipino interests. Dismantle feudalism in the countryside that sustains political dynasties.

3. Immediate relief for the people! Raise wages and salaries for workers and employees. Abolish excessive taxes that burden citizens. Provide free basic services, especially education and health. Place electricity, water, and transportation under public ownership and ensure they serve the people’s interest.

4. Defend national sovereignty! Uphold an independent foreign policy and abrogate all unequal agreements with foreign powers. Promote diplomacy as an instrument for resolving conflicts. End the presence of US military bases and



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troops. Uphold sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea.


5. Protect the environment! Uphold the right to a safe environment, stop destructive environmental programs, repeal anti-environment and pro-foreign environmental laws, and enact pro-environment legislation.

6. Uphold human rights and achieve just peace! Seek justice for all victims of human rights violations. Uphold the rights of National Minorities and the Moro people. Dismantle instruments of human rights violations such as the NTF-ELCAC and the Anti-Terror Law. Reopen and resume the peace talks.

7. Advance the liberation of women and the LGBTQ community and the struggle against discrimination, exploitation, and abuse.

8. Promote patriotic culture and education! Support arts and culture that serve the people and national liberation. Advance patriotic, scientific, and mass-oriented education as national policy.

According to Makabayan, the people must persevere in collective action to achieve their national and democratic aspirations. "A nationalist government, composed of the genuine representatives of the people, will pave the way for meaningful economic and political change," it said.

Makabayan's announcement came a few days after various organizations, led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), called for the ouster of Marcos and Duterte from power. Bayan is also pushing for a transition council as a replacement and temporary governing body should Marcos and Duterte be removed from office. Aside from Bayan, several political forces already support the formation of the transition council. 

The November 30 mass protest is just the beginning

On November 30, 2025, different sectors of the Philippine society gathered in Manila for one of the biggest rallies since the EDSA people's uprising in 1986 that toppled Ferdinand Marcos Sr dictatorship. Simultaneous demonstrations were held in the cities of Baguio, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro as well as provincial capitals all over the country and many other places in the country and abroad.

The groups and alliances that led the rallies were the Kilusang Bayan Kontra-Kurakot (KBKK) –or the "People's Movement Against Corruption", "Trillion Peso March Movement", church institutions, youth and student groups, civil society coalitions and NGOs, labor unions and urban poor, and prominent individuals. After the massive demonstrations on September 21, 2025 marking the declaration of Martial Law by the dictator Marcos Sr on the same day in 1972, and more so to protest the massive corruption in the government, students and various groups had been staging class boycott, rallies and other forms of protest actions almost every day leading to the gigantic mobilization.

The people in the rallies, enraged by the trillions of pesos in corruption in recent years in flood control and other public work projects, were not just commemorating Bonifacio Day by linking historical struggles for freedom with present-day fights against corruption. They were variously calling for the resignation of President Marcos Jr and accountability of Vice President Sara Duterte, incarceration of politicians, government bureaucrats and building contractors involved in the contract malfeasance.


A significant portion of the demonstrators led by Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) called for the ouster of Marcos and Duterte and pushed for a Transitional Council, while the Makabayang Kaalisyon ng Mamamayan (Makabayan) presented the "Program for National Democracy" that aims to replace the rotten social system of the country.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) Information Office on November 27, 2025, stated that "as conditions worsen amid spiraling poverty, landlessness, government neglect during times of disasters, the massive theft of public funds, and growing repression, more and more Filipinos are choosing the path of armed resistance. As the legal democratic mass movement surges, so too must the strength of the underground revolutionary forces."

In the following days NDFP forces and units, like the NDF-Negros Island, NDF-Southern Tagalog, NDF-Rizal, NDF-Laguna, NDF-Cavite, NDF-Palawan, New



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Peoples Army (NPA)- Mindoro, PKM (National Peasants Alliance)-Southern Tagalog, Kabataang Makabayan (Patriotic Youth—KM)-Ilokos, KM-Laguna, KM-Cavite, KM-Filipino Migrants and Diaspora Youth, KM-Negros and many others successively affirmed their determination to wage a national democratic revolution and establish a people's democratic government. 

Int'l Tribunal finds USA and Israel guilty of ecocide, forced starvation, genocide



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The International League of Peoples' Struggle, International People's Front and Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty held the International People's Tribunal "Right to Resist: The Palestinian People vs. the Zionist Occupation and the US Government" from November 22 to 23 in Barcelona, Catalonia. Through witness testimonies, this quasi-judicial process provided insight into the far-reaching destruction of Palestinian society. Israel, the United States of America and other complicit entities were found guilty of genocide, ecocide and forced starvation. The United Kingdom, France and Germany were found complicit in aiding, abetting and enabling the crimes. The jury coined the term "metacide" to describe the complete destruction of Palestinian society - a deliberate strategy to not just erase Palestine from the map, but to erase everything. From farms and water sources to hospitals and clinics, nothing was spared from the claws of Israeli aggression.

A total of 16 expert and witness testimonies were presented in the two-day process. These testimonies were varied, ranging from topics such as the direct targeting of civilians through mass bombings, and depriving the Palestinian people of food and other basic necessities. An activist from the Global Sumud Flotilla testified, "There was a lot of help and aid waiting to enter Gaza. The problem is not the lack of aid, but the blockade."

Another witness testified that the fisherfolk were deliberately being targeted in order to exacerbate food scarcity: "Approximately 700 fishing boats have been destroyed by Zionist aircraft... This is a deliberate strategy to create famine, the occupation closes crossings, blocks the entry of food supplies and prevents fishermen from feeding our people." An agricultural infrastructure engineer spoke of agricultural land that Israel has blocked access for everyone.

Bombings by Zionist forces does not only kill people, they obliterate resources to sustain life. One witness testified, "100,000 tons of explosives were dropped on Gaza equivalent to nine bombs the size of nuclear weapons.

80% of the water infrastructure was compromised. Of the 162 municipal wells, only 17% remain functional. About 70% of the agricultural sector was wiped out. Around 140 temporary landfills - holding more than one million tons of waste - are situated near residential areas or on the edges of refugee camps. Massive amounts of explosives generate chemicals hazardous to health. Gaza is being transformed into an environment that is no longer suitable for human life due to widespread, systematic and intentional ecological destruction."

Children approaching aid deliveries from the Gaza Humanitarian Fund were deliberately killed. Over 172 journalists were killed to prevent the truth from reaching the public. Several witnesses had to be anonymous to protect them from repercussions by the IDF. This shows the importance of international peoples' organizations and their ability to give a voice to those who are denied it. The tribunal also exposed the ineptitude and failure of bourgeois institutions to address the grave crimes committed against the Palestinian people. As one witness aptly pointed out, "We are going through a crisis in international law never seen before." Both the ICC and the ICJ have failed to uphold their duty to prosecute the violators of international humanitarian law. The United Nations has failed to unite on a common plan to end the genocide.

"We are here for a People's Tribunal because of the failure of the Haque Tribunal to prevent the genocide and ecocide" as one witness pointed out.

The jury not only found the Israeli, US-American and other western imperialist perpetrators guilty of genocide, ecocide and forced starvation, they also came to the resounding conclusion that the only solution would be the liberation of Palestine. A Palestinian witness declared, "We need support out of solidarity, not charity. This is a political matter, we must extend our political support first and then sympathize. The same oil, mining and timber companies destroying Gaza are destroying the rest of the world." 